On 31 May 2022, the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) held a conference called “Contemporary Challenges of Legal Education,” which was also the inaugural edition of LubLaw Day 2022. Several hundred people participated in the event, including students, judges, prosecutors, advocates, notaries, bailiffs and academics.

The intention of LubLaw Day initiator and organiser – the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of the Catholic University of Lublin – is to make it an annual meeting of the legal community in Lublin. This community is very numerous: there are two faculties of law in Lublin (at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University – UMCS), common courts and general organisational units of the prosecutor’s office at all levels, a provincial administrative court, professional corporations (advocates, legal advisers, notaries and bailiffs) and the Centre for Continuous Training and International Cooperation of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution. Despite that, no platform for cooperation has been created so far. LubLaw Day is supposed to fill this gap and be a space to meet and discuss common interests.

The subject of LubLaw Day 2022 was legal education. It is an issue that concerns both the academic community and institutions responsible for vocational education in legal professions.

The conference was divided into two main parts. The first one included meetings of students of the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Lublin with a career counsellor and representatives of various legal professions: advocates, legal advisers, notaries, bailiffs, judges and prosecutors. Career Adviser Marta Wziątek presented the offer of the KUL Career Office, which helps, among others, in choosing the right path of legal professional development, and representatives
of individual legal professions: Advocate Maciej Chorągiewicz (Lublin District Bar Council), Legal Adviser Ewa Urbanowicz (Lublin District Chamber of Legal Advisers), Notary Public Marcin Wysocki (Lublin Chamber of Notaries), Bailiff Katarzyna Ryń-Kowalska and Bailiff Wojciech Piłat (Lublin Chamber of Bailiffs), Judge Robert Pelewicz (Regional Court in Tarnobrzeg, Deputy Director of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution for Judicial Training) and Prosecutor Czesław Kłak (Public Prosecutor of the Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office in Rzeszów, Deputy Director of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution for Prosecution Training) presented the specificity of each profession and the way to reach to them.

The second part of the conference was opened by Prof. Ewa Trzaskowska, Vice-Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin for Education. This part consisted of two discussion panels. The first one, “Challenges of University Education,” was moderated by Prof. Andrzej Herbet, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of the Catholic University of Lublin. During the discussion, Prof. Paweł Nowak (Department of Media Communication, UMCS) spoke about the need to simplify legal communication; Dr. Małgorzata Torój (Institute of Psychology, KUL) pointed out that adults learn through experience, and therefore their teaching should contain as many practical elements as possible; Dr. Piotr Mamcarz (Institute of Psychology KUL) talked about the necessity to train law students in social competences; Marcin Wojtasński from the KUL Career Office presented the University’s experience in implementing tutoring. A dozen or so people took part in the plenary discussion following this part of the conference.

After the break, the participants discussed the consistency of the legal studies curriculum with the expectations of legal training institutions. The discussion topic was “Which Study Programme to Choose? From Academic Education and Initial Training in Legal Professions.” This part of the session was moderated by Prof. Anna Przyborowska-Klimczak, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration of UMCS, and the panel session was attended by Dr. Tomasz Kałużny and Dr. Justyna Kulińska-Kulesza. They presented an innovative system of judicial practice developed at the University of Białystok. The conference was also attended by representatives of legal corporations (Advocate Maciej Chorągiewicz, Legal Adviser Justyna Rokita-Kasprzyk, Notary Public Marcin Wysocki, Bailiff Katarzyna Ryń-Kowalska and Bailiff Wojciech Piłat) and the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution (Judge Aneta Michalek). The debaters agreed that they expect more practical knowledge from legal studies graduates. The panellists also agreed that during the studies, more classes should be done using the case method. Everyone participating in the conference found the LubLaw Day initiative worth continuing in the future.