



# Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Implementation of Training Tools to Favour the Correct Application of EU Law and International Judicial Co-operation**

Type of practice: **Good Practice**

Institute: **Academy of European Law (ERA)**

April, 2014

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| Title of practice    | Development of EU Law Training Materials at the Pan-European Level for Subsequent Incorporation at the National Level   |
| <i>Key features:</i> | <p>ERA has been developing two sets of stand-alone training modules: on EU legislative instruments for cross-border co-operation in civil matters and on EU environmental law.</p> <p>The methodology was devised by the European Commission and ERA took part in its implementation, all fully funded by the EU. In 2013, in co-operation with other EJTN members, ERA applied for an action grant for a project with a similar methodology on civil justice instruments.</p> <p>The training modules are structured as a 'training package' to be published and made available for future use by any training institution interested in the provision of judicial training in these areas of European law.</p> <p>The training modules on civil law topics consist of a trainer's pack with information and guidelines on how to organise a workshop to implement the module, a proposed workshop programme and recommendations on methodology, an introductory e-Learning course, a list of background materials for the training recipients, examples of former trainers' PowerPoint presentations, case studies with their suggested solutions as well as a national section providing information on legislation, jurisprudence and representative publications on the application of European family law in 26 Member States.</p> <p>Each training module may be implemented through workshops with a suggested duration of 2.5 days. These face-to-face presentations are combined with practical exercises and interactive sessions possibly IT-supported.</p> <p>In order to offer existing training modules in the EU official languages, a translation company was engaged. This company required two months to</p> |

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|  | <p>finalise the versions of the training materials and set up of the e-Learning courses.</p> <p>A similar organisation has been arranged for the training module project on EU environmental law.</p> <p>In 2013, for the implementation of a new project on EU civil justice law, ERA secured the partnership of national judicial actors from eight Member States and received an EU grant. Furthermore, 9 external experts were engaged for the development of the training materials, to be more specific, the materials that will be used for the workshop exercises and the contents of the e-Learning courses. 34 national experts will be involved in the preparation of each training module pertaining to each national section.</p> <p>In order to assess the efficiency of the materials, ERA has planned to organise 10 implementation workshops during a nine-month period; to test the two modules in different contexts (pan-European and regional); to apply various language regimes and target different groups (judges and/or lawyers in private practice).</p> |
| <p><i>Available direct internet link</i></p> | <p><a href="https://www.era-comm.eu/EU_Civil_Justice_Training_Modules/index_.html">https://www.era-comm.eu/EU_Civil_Justice_Training_Modules/index_.html</a><br/> <a href="https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?_SID=e2757a345521a62f1e434f7307f1841c1894d26d00277219702342&amp;_sprache=en&amp;_bereich=artikel&amp;_aktion=detail&amp;idartikel=124138">https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?_SID=e2757a345521a62f1e434f7307f1841c1894d26d00277219702342&amp;_sprache=en&amp;_bereich=artikel&amp;_aktion=detail&amp;idartikel=124138</a></p>   |
| <p><i>Institution contact details</i></p>    | <p>Academy of European Law (ERA)<br/> Metzer Allee 4<br/> D-54295 Trier<br/> Germany<br/> Phone: + 49 651 93737-0<br/> Fax: + 49 651 93737-773<br/> E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@era.int">info@era.int</a><br/> Website: <a href="https://www.era.int">https://www.era.int</a></p>  |
| <p><i>Other comments</i></p>                 | <p>These two projects on EU civil justice and environmental law have been developed and financed under a framework contract with the European Commission's DG JUST and DG ENV. They enabled co-operation with high-level experts on the production of materials, the creation of online tools such as the e-Learning course and the national sections and the translation of the training material into more languages. Without this financial support, it would not be possible to proceed with the development of further training modules.</p> <p>The crucial elements for the success of this practice are the comprehensiveness and flexibility of the training materials produced.</p>  |

Although they are not tailored to the specific needs of a certain group of judges, the training modules contain a variety of elements that support training providers, ranging from ready-to-use case studies to recommendations on methodology and proposals on the programme for the workshops.

The training modules are meant for continuous training. In this form, the practice has limited transferability – only at the pan-European level. However, where appropriate, judicial training institutions could adopt the idea of producing trainers' packs at national level for training at local or regional level.

It constitutes a **GOOD PRACTICE** but due to its wide scope, it may only be put into place either by a European training stakeholder or by a consortium of national training centres.

This requirement also emphasises a most desirable decentralised planning of training activities that gathers the best expertise provided by a large number of Member States, in order to assure its European added value.

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "*Lot 1 – Study on best practices in training judges and prosecutors*", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)