



Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Innovative Curricula or Training Plan in any Given Area**

Type of practice: **Best Practice**

Country: **Hungary**

April, 2014

Title of practice	Simulated Mock Tribunals
<i>Key features:</i>	<p>In Hungary, court secretaries (assistant judges) have to practise at a court for at least one year in order to be eligible to apply for an effective judge's position.</p> <p>During the court secretary's period of practice they have to take part in mandatory training organised by the Judicial Academy, including mock trial sessions.</p> <p>This particular module lasts for one week. The mock trial takes place at the Hungarian Academy of Justice where two training rooms are permanently furnished as courtrooms.</p> <p>The court secretaries who take part in the training work on the basis of a case study and play all the roles: e.g. in the case of a criminal procedure the victim, the accused person, witnesses, the defence lawyer, the prosecutor and the judge (panel).</p> <p>The mock trial sessions are video-recorded and played back to the participants for analysis with the help of tutor judges and psychologists. At the end of the training each participant receives a DVD containing his/her 'first court trial'.</p>
<i>Institution contact details</i>	<p>National Office for the Judiciary (Hungarian Academy of Justice) Postal address: 1363 Pf.: 24 Budapest, Visiting address: Szalay u. 16 1055 Budapest Hungary Phone: + 36 1 354-4100 Fax: + 36 1 312-4453 Email: obh@obh.birosag.hu Website: http://www.birosag.hu/obh</p>

Other comments

The use of mock trials is already a training practice in use in the great majority of the national training institutions within the EU.

Although there may be other ways to achieve a similar result, the described mechanism prepares the trainee well for leading court hearings. Because of its particular characteristics and the way it involves trainees in every aspect of the simulation, we consider this to be a **BEST PRACTICE**.

This practice is transferable but it would be more lifelike if proper training rooms (furnished as courtrooms) were available at the training centres.

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)