



European Criminal Law for Defence Lawyers in a transforming digital landscape

Training activities for defence lawyers in Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union



www.training-for-defence.era.int

About the project

The project offers a range of training activities and formats covering key topics in European criminal law. It aims to strengthen defence lawyers' ability to apply EU law in a digital environment, enhance their digital skills in dealing with new technologies, and deepen their knowledge of cross-border cooperation in criminal matters, including the European Investigation Order, e-evidence and the use of videoconferencing. It also provides opportunities to exchange best practices, network and discuss current challenges.

Through participation in the project activities, defence lawyers will:

- Enhance their knowledge of EU criminal law and its practical application
- Gain confidence handling cross-border cases
- Exchange experiences and solutions with colleagues from different jurisdictions
- Build professional connections across Europe

Partners



The Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB)



The Lithuanian Bar Association



The Portuguese Bar Association



The European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA)



The Bar Association of Albania



The Croatian Bar Association



The German Bar Association



The Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates



The Bar Association of Moldova



The National Association of Romanian Bars



The Bar Association of the Republic Srpska



The Ukrainian National Bar Association



Methodology

The training programme includes three face-to-face conferences held across the EU. These focus on digitalisation in European criminal justice, differences in the application of legal privilege in criminal matters, and the European Public Prosecutor's Office from the perspective of the defence.

In addition, seven webinars introduce key issues in European procedural and substantive criminal law. Topics include representing victims in the EU, the transfer of criminal proceedings, cross-border procedures and the European Arrest Warrant, EncroChat/SkyECC/ANOM, money laundering as well as freezing and confiscation, representing foreign citizens in criminal proceedings, and the European Investigation Order together with the use of videoconferencing.

The programme is complemented by a seminar on the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in criminal matters and its preliminary ruling procedure, including a visit to the Court.

All training activities are interactive and practice-oriented, combining different formats and using learning methods tailored to the needs of legal practitioners. Selected webinar recordings will also be made available.

An introductory e-learning course on European criminal justice, developed under a previous project, will be offered in a blended learning format to participants prior to their involvement in the project activities and will also be accessible to other interested parties.

About the Academy of European Law (ERA)

We are a centre of expert knowledge and debate in European law that provides you with the opportunity to learn, discuss and network with top speakers about the ever-changing legal framework.

We are a non-profit foundation established in 1992 to serve the European public interest by ensuring that legal practitioners (lawyers in private practice, in-house counsel, judges, prosecutors, court staff, national civil servants, national regulators, staff of the EU institutions and agencies, probation and enforcement officers) across the EU have the necessary knowledge and training to apply EU law.

Now supported by all 27 EU Member States and other stakeholders, we offer face-to-face training events, hybrid training events, online-only training events and distance learning products. Our events are attended by participants from all over Europe.

Find out more and visit us on www.era.int.

Calendar of activities

e-Learning course

This introductory eLearning course offers defence lawyers a clear and accessible entry point into European criminal law. In a concise format, it provides a practical overview of how EU criminal law functions and how it influences everyday legal practice.

The course guides participants through the key features of EU criminal law, highlighting its distinct nature and its impact on national systems. It combines core concepts with practical insights, helping participants better understand the framework within which they operate.

Structured in short modules, the course allows for flexible, self-paced learning and can easily be integrated into a busy schedule. It is available online and open to all interested participants.



Face-to face seminars

This series of face-to-face events will focus on specific aspects of cross-border criminal law matters.

They will be held in English and will be hosted by the consortium in various EU Member States.

Each event will have a duration of 1.5 days. The final seminar on the role of the CJEU for defence lawyers will have a duration of 2.5 days and include a visit to the Court in Luxembourg.

All events will be held in English.



2026

Barcelona
15-16 October 2026

Digitalisation in
European Criminal
Justice

2027

Vilnius
4-5 March 2027 (tbc)

Differences in the
application of the
right to legal privilege

Trier
21-22 October 2027

EPPO and the
defence

Trier
1-3 December 2027

The case law of the
CJEU in criminal
matters and its
preliminary ruling
procedure



Webinars

In parallel to the organisation of the face-to-face events, a series of webinars will be implemented focusing on key issues in European criminal justice for defence lawyers.

The 3-hours webinar format will allow for easy access for anyone interested throughout the EU.

Selected presentations of the webinars will be recorded and made publicly available on the project website.



2026

Online
2 June 2026

Representing victims
in the EU

Online
1 October 2026

Transfer of criminal
proceedings

Online
11 November 2026

Cross-border proce-
dures and the EAW

2027

Online
24 February 2027

EncroChat / SkyECC /
ANOM

Online
2 June 2027

Money laundering,
freezing and confisca-

Online
10 November 2027

Representing foreign
citizens in criminal

2028

Online
26 January 2028

The EIO and videoconferencing in
cross-border criminal matters

Project website

ERA is implementing this new training project for defence lawyers under the Justice Programme together with the Bar Associations of Barcelona, Lithuania and Portugal, and in cooperation with the Albanian, Bosnian, Czech, German, Latvian, Moldovan, Romanian and Ukrainian Bar Associations as well as the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA).

More information about the training activities and free access to the specially developed training materials are available under:



www.training-for-defence.era.int



Our project in numbers

Our mission is to train around 500 defence lawyers by organising interactive and practical legal training activities on criminal law matters.

3

face-to-face
conferences

7

webinars

1

seminar

500+

more than 500
defence lawyers trained

1

e-Learning course
on European criminal
justice

14

recordings



Contact



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How to apply?

General Information on the participation conditions

The number of places available is limited; participation is based on selection. Interested defence lawyers may register via their respective bar associations or, if your bar does not participate in the programme, directly via ERA.

Participants should have a working knowledge of English. Participation is only open to lawyers in private practice from eligible EU Member States (Denmark does not participate in this Eu Justice Programme), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Ukraine.

Please note that different terms apply depending on the type of activity (face-to-face or online).

The concrete conditions for participation in each training activity can be found on the ERA website for the event.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Travel, accommodation and catering

For the face-to-face events, participants need to pay a moderate fee after their registration has been approved and they receive an invoice from ERA. ERA will cover the travel costs and accommodation up to a certain amount, and participants will receive a fixed contribution towards their travel and accommodation expenses after the seminar. Beverages consumed during the event, lunch, and dinner are offered by the organisers, and no per diem will be offered for the participants.

Participants must book their own travel and accommodation and will receive the contribution after the seminar.

The condition for reimbursement is to sign all attendance sheets at the event (daily).

Please note that no payment is possible if the registered participant cancels their participation for any reason.

The amount of the travel and accommodation cost contribution will be determined by the EU unit cost calculation guidelines for each seminar based on the distance from the participant's place of work to the seminar location and will not take account of the participant's actual travel and accommodation costs.

We will send successful applicants the relevant claim form and information on how to obtain payment for their expenses.



More information about the seminar series and free access to the specially developed training materials, available under:



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