



European Criminal Law for Defence Lawyers

Training activities for defence lawyers in Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union



www.training-for-defence.era.int

About the project

The training of defence lawyers with special regard to European criminal law has gained more and more importance over the years. This increasing importance of training defence lawyers in European criminal law is not only attributed to the growing number of measures concerning European instruments of mutual recognition and cooperation in criminal matters such as the EAW, the EIO, and the EPO, but also to the common application of these instruments, resulting in a rise in the number of cases where they are involved in the proceedings.

Also, as there is no full harmonisation of national legislation in the field of criminal and criminal procedure law (and most probably won't be soon), there is a rising number of cases that in themselves show the need for clarification in certain references to EU law.

Objectives

- To train ca. 500 defence lawyers from all over the EU by organising 15 interactive training activities on EU criminal law matters
- To raise awareness of European criminal law amongst defence lawyers in the EU, leading to better application of EU criminal law and a better understanding of national differences
- To enhance mutual trust through providing networking opportunities for defence lawyers
- To provide a platform for discussion on the need for further EU measures in the area of criminal law.

Partners



The Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB)



The Budapest Bar Association



The Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates



The Lithuanian Bar Association



The European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA)



HRVATSKA ODVJETNIČKA KOMORA

The Croatian Bar Association



The Portuguese Bar Association



Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania



Methodology

The project will offer six face-to-face seminars across the EU providing training on different issues such as procedural rights, current developments in criminal proceedings (e.g. digitalisation), and looking at milestones of European criminal justice such as the EAW.

Six afternoon webinars providing an overview on how to combat key crimes in the EU will also be offered.

Two further events, a face-to-face seminar on the case law of the CJEU in criminal matters and its preliminary ruling procedure, as well as a face-to-face seminar on the difference in the application of the right to legal privilege in criminal matters in the EU Member States, will complete the training offer.

In addition, selected recordings of the webinars as well as an introductory e-learning course will be made publicly available.

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

The introductory three-hour e-learning course will provide a basis of understanding for everyone seeking an introduction to European criminal justice. It provides a guide through the fundamental characteristics of EU criminal law and shows that EU criminal law does not mirror national criminal law systems. Instead, EU criminal law is a body of legal instruments and supporting EU-level actors influencing and facilitating the work of national criminal justice actors.

The course is divided into an introductory video, learning modules and a quiz for self-evaluation. All sections of the course will make reference to the specific needs of lawyers in private practice.

The course will be publicly available on the project website from April 2024.



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.



2024

Barcelona
6-7 May 2024

Milestones of
EU criminal justice

Lissabon
8-9 July 2024

Procedural Rights in
the EU

Marbella
3-4 October 2024

Protection of legal
privilege in criminal
proceedings in the EU

Vilnius
7-8 November 2024

Current developments
in digitalisation in
criminal proceeding

2025

Zagreb
1-2 April 2025

The role of lawyers in
protecting and promoting
the rule of law and mutual
trust

Riga
June 2025

The scope and application
of the EU Charter of
Fundamental Rights

Budapest
25-26 September
2025

Instruments of mutual
recognition: EAW, EIO

Trier
8-10 October 2025

The role of the CJEU for
defence lawyers



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-hour webinar format will allow for easy access for anyone interested throughout the EU.

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



2024

Online
24 April 2024

Cross-border
procedures and the
EAW

Online
2 July 2024

Taking evidence
in cross-border
procedures

Online
25 September 2024

Representing foreign
citizens in criminal
procedure

2025

Online
January 2025

Anti-money laundering
in the EU

Online
April 2025

Freezing and
confiscation in the EU


Online
July 2025

Computer crimes

Project website

ERA is implementing this new training project for defence lawyers under the Justice Programme together with the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA), the Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB), the Budapest Bar Association, the Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates, the Lithuanian Bar Association, the Croatian Bar Association, the Portuguese Bar Association, and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania .

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.

15

training activities

7

countries
directly involved

6

different venues

500

defence lawyers
trained

1

e-Learning course
on European criminal
justice

12

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 and be citizens of the EU (except Denmark; Danish citizens are not eligible for funding under the Justice Programme) or Kosovo.

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 project's website.

Travel, accommodation and catering

The training programme is co-funded by the European Commission. 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.

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