



European Judicial Training Network

INFORMATION ON THE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2007

General Presentation

The realisation of a common area of freedom, security and justice in Europe is amongst the most important areas of activity of the European Union in the coming years.

Launched in 2003 at the initiative of the European Parliament and funded for the 3rd consecutive year by the European Commission, the main objective of the Exchange Programme is to develop mutual trust between judicial authorities in order to promote the mutual recognition of judicial decisions by getting to know each other better and working together.

In 2007 and for the 2nd consecutive year, the EJTN, which is composed of the judicial training institutions in the European Union, will implement this Programme and enjoys a “*de facto* monopoly” position for its implementation as recognised by the Commission Decision of 11th July 2006.

The Exchange Programme for 2007 is organised in direct collaboration with **30 partners**.

- Austria : Bundesministerium für Justiz / Unabhängiger Verwaltungssenat Wien UVS
- Belgium : Conseil Supérieur de la Justice / Conseil d’Etat
- Bulgaria : National Institute of Justice
- Croatia : Judicial Academy, Ministry of Justice
- Czech Republic : Justicni Akademie
- Denmark : Domstolsstyrelsen
- Germany : Bundesministerium der Justiz
- Estonia : Prosecutors’ Office / Estonian Law Center Foundation
- Finland : Oikeusministeriö
- France : Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature / Conseil d’Etat
- Italy : Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura
- Latvia : Latvian Judicial Training Centre

- The Netherlands : Studiecentrum Rechtspleging
- Norway : National Courts Administration
- Portugal : Centro de Estudos Judiciarios
- Romania : Institut National de la Magistrature
- Slovakia : Judicial Academy
- Spain: Centro de Estudios Jurídicos / Escuela Judicial del Consejo General del Poder Judicial
- Sweden : Domstolsverket
- UK (Scotland): Judicial Studies Committee
- Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union
- European Network of the Councils for the Judiciary
- Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union
- Eurojust
- Court of Justice of the European Communities.

In order to achieve the ambitious objectives of the Programme, the EJTJN has drafted rules, administrative and financial procedures in close cooperation with its network of contact points appointed by each partner of the Programme. It has also recruited a team of 4 people in order to ensure the design, implementation and coordination of the Programme.

In total, 400 exchanges (an increase of 45% with respect to 2006) are foreseen in 2007. Once again, the Programme will allow European judges and prosecutors – from the youngest to the most experienced – and judicial trainers at national and decentralised levels to share, for a period of one or two weeks, the work of their colleagues in another EU Member State or candidate country in order to become acquainted with a judicial system that is different from their own, to understand how it works and thus to assess their own professional practices, deontology, as well as the way they deal with the main societal issues. Moreover, for the first time, the 2007 Programme will allow for the participation of administrative judges, public prosecutors that are not members of the judiciary, as well as members and staff of the Councils of the Judiciary. Plans are also currently being examined for the organisation of experimental exchanges for a longer period of time (6 months to 1 year) in Eurojust and the European Court of Justice.

In addition, approximately twelve meetings will be organised in the framework of the Programme between judicial training actors in Europe in order for them to meet, to exchange experiences, to identify best

practices, to work together on innovative pedagogical projects and to improve their coordination and the quality of their commitment to European projects.

Finally, the EJTN website will be further developed in order to provide European judges and prosecutors with online learning tools, most notably, on European law, judicial cooperation instruments and language issues, as well as information on the different judicial systems at the national level and training at the European level.

The call for applications was diffused by each partner in early 2007. The candidate fills in the application form in which he/she indicates his/her motivation, his/her wishes for the exchange (general or specialised exchange, trainers' exchange at national or decentralised level) and his/her linguistic skills as they cannot be accepted if they do not have sufficient knowledge of the language of the host country. The selection is made by each partner who informs the EJTN of the selected candidates. During the meeting of the Exchange Programme follow-up group on 20th and 21st March 2007 in Brussels, the allocation of places in each country will be made. The participants selected will be invited to make contact with the contact point of the partner organisation and the referent (contact person in the host country) in order to concretely organise the exchange. They will also receive administrative documents, information about the host country, as well as an allowance covering their transport and accommodation costs from the EJTN. At the end of the exchange, the participants are required to submit a report of the exchange that will be published on the EJTN's website (www.ejtn.eu).

The LIBE Committee has invited the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) to present the Exchange Programme during its session on 20th March 2007. This will also provide an opportunity to present the evolution of this initiative since the first Exchange Programme in 2005.

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