



# 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**

Country: **Spain**

April, 2014

Title of practice	Combining Training on EU Law and International Co-operation with Legal Language Training
<i>Key features:</i>	<p>The combination in <b>Spain</b> of training on EU-law and international co-operation was introduced by the Spanish Judicial School several years ago. Currently, the School is undertaking the project 'Driving judicial performance in the European area of justice: mutual assistance in civil and criminal matters that produces results', with EU financial support.</p> <p>This course comprises three phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>A theoretical phase</i>, led by a judge and a linguist that includes training in language terminology and discourse (French and English), training on the legal systems of France and England and on EU law (including substantive and procedural law, judicial co-operation instruments and the corresponding jurisprudence of the ECJ). Practical and theoretical training is combined as participants carry out practical exercises, such as presenting arguments on proceedings or simulations of hearings based on the French and British systems.</li><li>▪ <i>A one-week internship</i> in a court in France or England in order to acquire first-hand knowledge of the functioning of the local institutions and of the legal systems which have been studied in the previous stage. Judges from the host countries act as tutors to the participants in this practical phase.</li><li>▪ <i>A linguistic immersion phase</i> aimed at reinforcing and consolidating the knowledge acquired in the previous phases.</li></ul> <p>As a follow-up, a secured internet forum is available to course participants, in order to allow them to keep in contact with each other and continue to</p>

	<p>exchange their experiences.</p> <p>This course forms part of the national continuous training programme, although participants from the various EU member States are admitted.</p> <p>This model inspired the EJTN's Linguistic Project Series, aimed at improving the participants' linguistics skills (oral and written), mastering specialised vocabulary related to judicial co-operation in criminal and civil matters (in order to facilitate direct contacts and communication between judicial authorities and enhance mutual trust).</p> <p>By developing the linguistic skills of legal practitioners within the target groups, the project familiarises the participants with the various legal instruments in the field of judicial co-operation in criminal matters in Europe as well as with the online tools available on the web.</p> <p>The EJTN seminars consist of a one-week face-to-face course taking place in an international environment addressed either at the criminal area or at the civil area. The course combines theoretical and practical sessions, directed in partnership by a legal and a linguistic expert, focusing on selected legal issues and the four basic language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in terms of legal terminology.</p>
<p><i>Available direct internet link</i></p>	<p><a href="http://www.ejtn.eu/en/Resources/EJTN-recommended-training-curricula/">http://www.ejtn.eu/en/Resources/EJTN-recommended-training-curricula/</a></p>
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<p><i>Other comments</i></p>	<p>This <b>GOOD PRACTICE</b> is currently being applied in continuous training but is perfectly suitable for initial training.</p>

The Spanish scheme involves a higher financial cost due to the internship mechanism foreseen in the module, but it may still be suitable and affordable if enhanced co-operation or a better understanding of the legal system of another country is required.

Furthermore, as a result of the previously-mentioned EJTN project, two handbooks containing the majority of the exercises offered in the seminars are available, thus making the transferability of the practice considerably easier. This tool constitutes a common EU asset and is available to every single EJTN member.

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)