



Judicial training structures in the EU

Spain

Entity name: Centro de Estudios Jurídicos, CEJ (Centre for Legal Studies).

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Target group

Prosecutors, Judicial Counsellors, Government lawyers of the Government Legal Service, Forensic Doctors and other members of the staff working for the Justice Administration.

Initial /induction period training

- Existence of initial/induction training period: Yes
- Length of such period:
 - Prosecutors: 2'5-3 months of theoretical training and 4 months of internship.
 - Judicial counsellors: 2 months of theoretical training and 4 months of internship.
- Existence of a curriculum: Yes
 - Various methodologies are applied, including the real study of practical cases in small groups, simulations, mock trials, communication workshops, roundtables, conferences and visits.
 - Curriculum for Prosecutors:
 - Strategic skills: The Prosecutor's Office; procedural and criminal law; the role of prosecutor in juvenile court, in civil courts and as guarantor of citizens' rights.
 - Instrumental skills: languages and computer skills.
 - Other skills: Legal and forensic medicine, penitentiary surveillance, international judicial cooperation, immigration matters, mediation.
 - Curriculum for Judicial Counsellors:
 - Functions of the Judicial Counsellor in the Justice Administration.
 - General Council of the Judiciary and Justice Administration.
 - Skills in Information and Communication Technologies.
 - Other functions of the Judicial Counsellor in the Justice Administration.
 - Organization and functioning.
 - Directive skills.

- Language training: Yes
 - Online language training: English, French, Italian, German (to choose at least one)
- Internship periods: Yes (4 months)

Continuous training

- Compulsory: No
- Existence of a yearly programme: Yes
 - Continuous and specialised training for members of the Justice Administration is based on the annual plans that set down the activities programmed for the year. The plans are subdivided according to each career. Besides subjects that are strictly linked to law, the Centre for Legal Studies also gives training in areas that include foreign languages, computer tools and management skills.
- Average number of training activities every year: 280-320 (306 in 2016)
 - National continuous training activities: 190
 - International continuous training activities: 87
 - Online continuous training activities: 29
- Average number of persons trained every year: 4.550
 - National continuous training: 3.400
 - International continuous training: 350
 - Online continuous training: 800

International partnerships/agreements

- One priority target of the training that is given is to increase the international capacity of the professionals attached to the Justice Administration. This activity takes place within the EU Area of Justice, in other European and third-party countries and as part of the policy on cooperation for development in the Justice sector. In its statute, which was adopted by Royal Decree 1276/2003 of 10 October, the Centre for Legal Studies provides the possibility of maintaining training exchanges with students and professionals from similar institutions in other countries:
 - European Judicial Training Network (EJTN): The CEJ belongs, together with the Judicial School, to the EJTN (a network that groups together the official European institutions responsible for training judges and public prosecutors). The participation of the Centre for Legal Studies in various working groups enables its involvement in the corresponding training projects and activities.
 - ERA (Academy of European Law): The CEJ is part of this European institution and sits on its Governing Board in representation of the Ministry of Justice. Spanish

prosecutors and Judicial Counsellors take part every year in different activities organised by the ERA in the framework of a cooperation agreement or EU funded projects.

- RECAMPI (Ibero-American Public Ministry Training Network): The CEJ sits on the Management Committee of this Ibero-American network, which is made up of the training centres of the various public ministries (public prosecution services).
 - AECID (Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development). The Centre for Legal Studies participates in the PIFTE Programme (Ibero-American Specialised Technical Training Programme). This training activity has been designed to strengthen institutions through the specialised technical training of Ibero-American professionals, in this case, in the Justice sector.
 - Euro-Arab Network: This network designed to increase training activities for training centres and schools in the countries of the European Union and the League of Arab Nations.
 - EU funded projects: for the implementation of EU funded projects related to judicial training the CEJ have signed different cooperation agreements with other judicial training centres such as the ERA, the ENG, the ENM or the Spanish Judiciary School.
- Participation of foreign professionals in some training sessions possible: Yes

History and good practices

- History:

The Centre for Legal Studies in Madrid originated from the so-called Judicial School that has trained members of the Judiciary and the Public Prosecution Service since 1944.

In 1994, the school separated the training of public prosecutors from that of judges and the Centre for Judicial Studies began to operate as the Centre for Legal Studies of the Justice Administration. It also began to provide training for other Justice Administration staff. The resolution was then adopted for the creation of the Judicial School, which was to be located in Barcelona and opened in 1997.

In 2003, today's Centre for Legal Studies assumed its own statute, which were adopted by Royal Decree 1276/2003 of 10 October and which constituted it as an autonomous body attached to the Ministry of Justice (the Secretary of State for Justice) with the main function of collaborating with the Ministry for the selection, training and improvement of the members of the Public Prosecution Service, the Judicial Counsellors, Forensic Doctors and other members of staff working for the Justice Administration. Its function also includes the continuous training of the State Counsel.

As an autonomous body, the Centre for Legal Studies has a differentiated legal personality, its own equity and budget and independence of management. Although its headquarters is based in Madrid, it works across Spain.

- Good practices:

- Adoption of innovative methodologies both in initial and continuous trainings: study of practical cases in small groups, simulations, mock trials, communication workshops, roundtables, conferences and visits.
- Increasing participation in international activities: seminars, exchanges, language trainings, etc.
- Adoption and reinforcement of e-learning activities.
- Teaching of languages adapted to the legal field.
- Open library of training papers accessible through the CEJ website.
- Subscription of cooperation agreements with other national and international institutions.
- Strategic planning and annual planning.
- Reporting and accountability.

Contact details

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- Number of staff: 36
- Ministerial department/independent structure: autonomous body attached to the Ministry of Justice. The Centre for Legal Studies has a differentiated legal personality, its own equity and budget and independence of management.

Source: Centro de Estudios Jurídicos, CEJ (Centre for Legal Studies).