



Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Innovative Training Methodology**

Type of practice: **Promising Practice**

Country: **The Netherlands**

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Title of practice	Small Teams – Decision Writing
<i>Key features:</i>	<p>This practice used in the Netherlands applies to the initial training phase and targets the writing of final decisions in the civil area.</p> <p>Teams are formed consisting of a small number of participants, with a similar level of knowledge and experience. After a general theoretical two-day-course on writing civil verdicts, each team has five sessions at regional or local level, held every two weeks. In these sessions, they work together with a trainer on practical assignments based on real cases. This encourages a collective learning experience on how to draft a good, analytically sound and well-motivated verdict.</p> <p>The trainees' workplace mentor is also involved in the learning team sessions.</p>
<i>Institution contact details</i>	<p>Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary (SSR) Postal address: Postbus 5015 3502 JA Utrecht Visiting address: Uniceflaan 1 3527 WX Utrecht Phone: + 31 88 361 3212 E-mail: ssr.international@ssr.nl Website: http://www.ssr.nl</p>
<i>Other comments</i>	<p>This PROMISING PRACTICE is of particular interest for countries with systems involving an initial training that relies exclusively on mentors in the courts, or that are organised on a dual basis in the initial training phase. This means that the trainee is placed at the court but simultaneously attends several common training sessions at the central or regional training centre.</p>

In this case, the above methodology provides a good connection between education/training at the workplace and at the training centre, due to the fact that the workplace mentors and course trainers work together in the learning teams.

However, the methodology of working in small learning teams with a safe learning environment with a focus on learning from each other rather than from a trainer can be adopted in any system of initial training, as well as in continuous training activities.

The adoption of such procedures required the setting-up of a project group consisting of SSR staff (a seconded civil law judge, a course manager and an educational scientist) and a court clerk.

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)