



# Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Innovative Training Methodology**

Type of practice: **Good Practice**

Country: **Spain**

**April, 2014**

Title of practice	<b>The Judge in Society: Deontology, Ethics and Relations with the Media</b>
<b>Key features:</b>	<p>This practice applies in <b>Spain</b> to initial training and the methodology used calls for the co-operation and active participation of each participant.</p> <p>It is divided into two parts.</p> <p>The first part focuses on the analysis of deontology and judicial ethics. A set of short stories is used giving descriptions of different behaviours hypothetically adopted by judges and prosecutors when facing several typical situations of daily life.</p> <p>Students are asked to identify the deontological principle involved in the behaviour and to deduce its principal characteristics. The activity is performed by small groups of 6-8 participants supervised by a professor of the school. Each activity concludes with an exposition of conclusions and broad debate.</p> <p>The second part deals with the judge in society and focuses on his/her relationship with the media. Direct presentations with discussions are used in a round table format with acting judges, press officers at the courts and journalists experienced in justice matters. It focuses on issues such as the exercise of freedom of information and the right of free expression. The application of ethical codes at national and European level is analysed, along with the national and European case law (ECJ and ECHR) issued in this area.</p> <p>In addition, a Moodle platform is used to provide discussion forums involving speakers and students.</p>

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<b><i>Other comments</i></b>	<p>The evaluation made by the Spanish School of this <b>GOOD PRACTICE</b> is very positive, emphasising its interactive component.</p> <p>With regard to the first part of the activity, the drafts of the suggested stories are of great importance. These should be concise and short but sufficiently complex in relation to the problems raised, in order to stimulate discussion. The methodology can also be used for developing arguing skills whenever participants are asked to take opposite stances on the behaviour described.</p> <p>In the second part, the training activity tackles the problems that arise between judges and prosecutors and the media. For example, it aims to raise awareness of the role of the journalist and of how to provide information related to judicial matters in respect of their legal obligations.</p>

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)