

Modernisation of EU Justice

Earlier this month the EU Commission adopted a package to modernise EU justice by boosting training of justice professionals.

The Commission set out ambitious targets in its European Judicial Training Strategy 2021-2024, published the Annual Report 2020 on European Judicial Training and launched a new European Training Platform.

Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice said: “ *Fair and efficient justice depends on justice professionals whose knowledge, skills and tools are suited to face major 21st century challenges, such as the growing use of artificial intelligence for predictive justice or the urgent need to favour digital over paper. I trust that the package we adopted today will help to promote a common European judicial culture, based on the rule of law, fundamental rights, and mutual trust. Efficient serving of justice across the EU will benefit our end users - companies and citizens.*”

The new [EU Strategy on Judicial Training](#) sets new, ambitious objectives to further improve justice professionals’ training on EU law and enlarges the training scope to new topics, such as digitalisation, artificial intelligence or judge craft.

The Strategy is based on a four-strand approach: (1) training substance addressing broad areas of EU law, providing a flexible response to emerging and continuous EU law training needs; (2) training audience addressing broad range of justice professionals enlarging geographical coverage and aiming to boost judicial training for young practitioners; (3) training methodology promoting high quality, effective training activities, using modern training methods benefiting from digitalisation; (4) sharing responsibility for judicial training between Member States, training providers, national and European justice professions’ organisations, and the EU.

Early December, the Commission also published the [Annual Report 2020 on European Judicial Training](#) of DG Justice and Consumers, which shows that in 2019 more than 180,000 justice professionals – 12.9% of all EU justice professionals – were trained on EU law or on the law of another Member State. All in all, since 2011, 1.2 million justice professionals were trained on EU law, and the EU reached its target of training half of all legal practitioners in the EU already in 2017.

Justice professionals will also be able to search for training courses on EU law via the [European Training Platform](#), launched on 2nd December for a first test phase during 2021. Professionals will keep up to date on the training activities organised by the four recognised EU-level judicial training providers: European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), Academy of European Law (ERA), European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) and European University Institute (EUI). The European Commission will also feed ready-to-use training materials or handbooks on EU law into the platform.

As responsibility for judicial training is shared between Member States, training providers, national and European justice professions’ organisations the Commission invited us to carefully study this package and encourage us to strengthen our efforts contributing to achieve the objectives set.

The Commission appealed to us to disseminate this package among our network.

The Commission will organise an EU conference on judicial training in spring 2021, together with the Portuguese Presidency, which will be the occasion to discuss the paths to take in achieving those ambitious goals.

W.R.