



CERTIFICATE COURSE

BEST PRACTICES FOR REMOTE JUDGING

START DATE:

15 OCTOBER 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021



INTRODUCTION

This four and a half month blended learning course (mixing online and onsite sessions) aims to equip judges with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct remote judging with the best practices in mind for the Central & Eastern Europe context. The overarching aim of the CEELI Institute's Judicial Network Exchange program is to enhance judicial integrity, strengthen public confidence and promote accountability and transparency in the judiciary across Central &

Eastern Europe. Mindful of the Network's mandate, CEELI has sought to support the judiciary in responding to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on their work by helping to increase competency and promote access to justice in ethical and rational ways. The increased emphasis on technology and remote judging has heightened the need for specific judicial training in these areas. Promoting uses of technology that enhance the justice system and enable more efficient, timely and accessible justice for all is a key responsibility of any modern judiciary. Encouraging the use of

technology and online hearings where appropriate to ensure access to justice and transparent open justice is essential. However, technology must be introduced thoughtfully and carefully. It is of critical importance to human rights, fair trials and the rule of law that any deployment of IT has a clear legal basis and inherent risks associated are evaluated for impact and revised accordingly. This course will emphasize compliance the international standards and legal obligations necessary to ensure fair trials, including European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND APPROACH TO LEARNING

‘CEELI Online’ our dedicated learning platform will facilitate an effective learning environment that maximizes the opportunities for members of the judiciary and faculty to connect, engage and share key knowledge. The training will comprise a structured directive program of study with a number of online modules (both live and recorded) featuring a weekly release of materials on Thursdays. The

flexible, interactive online content will be supplemented by ‘live’ online sessions, including monthly workshops, roundtable discussions and podcasts. Participants who successfully complete the online component will be invited to join a 3-day in-person training and conference symposium at the end February 2021. This in person event will be held onsite at the CEELI Institute in Prague.

COURSE OUTLINE

MODULE 1:

Introduction, Overview of Current Situation in Courts

- Overview of emergency and exceptional measures
- Fair trial, international standards; the scope of international obligations of States under international human rights law, including the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and the Procedural Rights Directive, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- Prioritisation and urgency

MODULE 2:

What is Remote Judging? Practical and Realistic Technological Matters from CEE Perspective

- E-Filing and its impact, case management systems

- Appropriate IT, equipment, platforms, connection
- Lack of training, literacy for judiciary and legal professionals
- Specific procedural and legislative requirements in CEE
- Privacy and data security

MODULE 3:

Elements of a Remote Hearing or Trial

- Court etiquette
- Remote courtroom and managing participants
- Facilitating communication
- Witness testimony and documentary evidence
- Delivery of judgments
- Public access to proceedings

MODULE 4:

Best Practices

- Best practices and lessons on remote judging and remote hearings
- Practical skills training for judges to manage and ‘read’ the remote courtroom



WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Places are limited to 24 participants, and a selection process may be necessary. Interested judges are invited to complete the [Application Form](#) by the 15 September 2020. If you have questions or issues regarding the application, please contact freda.grealy@ceeli.eu. Complete the application form [here](#).

FACULTY

The course will be led by Dr. Freda Grealy, the CEELI Institute, and Professor Rachel Murray, Consultant and Director, Human Rights Implementation Centre School of Law, University of Bristol. The wide-ranging, regional and international faculty will include judges, lawyers, academics, researchers, and leading voices from NGO and CSO organizations together with subject matter experts from European Institutions.