

## **Exchange Programme for Judicial Authorities 2021**

### **PILOT PROJECT ON REGIONAL EXCHANGES**

#### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

In 2021, the European Judicial Training Network is developing a new project to create regional exchanges. This new type of exchange is designed to develop direct cooperation and trust between practitioners located on two sides of a border. A pilot project will be implemented in 2021 before a full implementation in the Exchange Programme 2022.

The pilot project on regional exchanges aims at:

- Fostering mutual trust and cooperation at local level and establishing a long-term cooperation between practitioners;
- Identifying and solving practical problems arising from cross-border cases;
- Creating conditions for direct cross-border cooperation.

In the framework of this pilot project, a call for applications is launched amongst the national training institutions taking part in the pilot project.

#### **1. Eligible border areas**

The following institutions are taking part in the pilot project:

- Austria, Bundesministerium für Justiz (judges and prosecutors)
- Belgium, IFJ/IGO (judges and prosecutors)
- Bulgaria, National Institute of Justice (judges, administrative judges, and prosecutors)
- Germany, Federal Office of Justice: Länder of Baden-Württemberg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, North Rhine-Westphalia (judges, administrative judges, and prosecutors)
- Greece, National School for judges (judges and administrative judges)
- France, Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature (judges and prosecutors)
- Italy, Scuola Superiore della Magistratura (judges and prosecutors)
- Portugal, Centro de Estudos Judiciários (judges and prosecutors)
- Spain, Centro de Estudios Jurídicos (prosecutors)

Before applying, please make sure that your close neighbouring country is in this list and that your function (judge or prosecutor) is also available in this country.

## 2. Eligibility of the pilot projects

Each project will have to be explained and supported in the application form. Applicants will have to demonstrate the relation with the border country in their daily work, the added value of such an exchange and the potential issues and questions that will be tackled during the exchange.

### A. Eligibility criteria

The mandatory criteria to take part in the pilot project are:

- Courts or prosecution offices located close to a border. No distance has been set to define the border but the relation with it has to be justified;
- Part of the daily work and issues in relation to the neighbouring country;
- Implementation of the exchange by 31 December 2021.

### B. Matching and reciprocity

The Regional exchanges project is a unique activity in the Exchange Programme because it brings together for the first time two components: the matching principle and the reciprocity.

- The matching principle:

Before applying, each applicant is invited to have a first contact with a potential hosting court/counterpart and introduce a project in the neighbouring country. Applicants who do not have a counterpart on the other side of the border are still invited to apply and to indicate potential courts or prosecution offices for an exchange. A matching process will be then organised between the applicants without a counterpart.

- The reciprocity:

To create and develop a stronger relation between the participants on both sides of the border, reciprocity will be applied to regional exchanges, i.e. participants will visit their counterpart in the neighbouring country and host them in turn in their court/prosecution office. The two exchanges shall take place within the same year<sup>1</sup>.

## 3. Format of the exchange

### A. Length

The length of an exchange can be set between 3 and 5 working days in the same work week per participant. Each applicant is invited to mention his/her preferred length according to the expected programme. The Exchange Programme does not provide any guarantee to the applicants as regards to the length of the exchange.

The framework of the exchange, including the length and the hosting city might change according to the hosting capacities of the institutions. This information will be confirmed at a later stage of the pilot project.

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<sup>1</sup> Flexibility will be given to the pilot project in 2021 and the reciprocity principle will be strictly implemented as of 2022.

#### B. Number of participants

Pilot projects are open to individual participants visiting another judge or prosecutor, or to groups of participants coming from the same country.

#### C. Language

The working language shall be determined by the participants involved in the exchange. Interpretation costs will not be covered by EJTN.

#### D. Financial Conditions

The [Financial Conditions related to one-week exchanges](#) will be applied.

### 4. Application procedure

The call for applications will be disseminated through the national training institutions participating in the pilot project.

In case of a group exchange, each member of the group will have to submit an application.

**The applications and all accompanying documents shall be sent to the national training institutions who make a pre-selection to be submitted to EJTN.**

### 5. Assessment of the pilot project

Each participant will have to provide a report and a post-activity survey after the exchange.

Being part of a pilot project, each implemented project will be thoroughly assessed. Additional questions, i.e. related to the agenda, the journey, the finances, the topic discussed during the exchange, the format of the exchange, may be requested in the assessment phase of the projects. For this purpose, participants may be individually contacted by EJTN Secretariat to provide more details on their activity.

### 6. Calendar

The exchanges shall be implemented by 31 December 2021.