

Background note for the Call for Applications

to establish a Group of Experts to support the ICF-EIPA Consortium working to deliver the creation and development of training e-Capsules on EU law for the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)

Context of the call

In its Communication ‘*Ensuring justice in the EU - a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024*’, the European Commission underlined the importance of European judicial training opportunities that enable legal practitioners to understand the role of EU law in their daily practice [...] and to ensure that the rights and obligations stemming from EU law are respected in national judicial proceedings.

The Directorate General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) of the European Commission launched a procurement (JUST/2022/OP/0006) for the **design and development of a model of e-learning courses** (referred to as **e-Capsules**) covering all relevant areas of EU law*. This project, which has been awarded to the consortium formed by ICF and EIPA, foresees the **creation of a Group of Experts** composed of both subject matter experts and training experts who, together, will provide assistance and insight on the needs and priorities for legal professionals.

Scope and Mandate

This Group of Experts should represent the different justice professions concerned by the training need (judges, prosecutors, court staff, lawyers, notaries, bailiffs but also academics and/or staff of associations providing legal support) and will intervene on an ad-hoc basis and at defined times to share their experience and point of view on the training needs and the appropriate format these online trainings should take.

Your involvement as a member of this Group of Experts will therefore be limited and will consist of **participation in mostly online focus groups/meetings** on the content and format of these training e-Capsules. The estimated working time would correspond to a maximum of **6-8 days over the period June 2023 to June 2024**. The Project Manager will act as the Secretariat of the Group of Experts and will provide you and all members with progress reports and agendas for the meetings/discussions to come.

The Group of Experts may be invited to provide feedback and/or express their views, as appropriate, during all project implementation phases, through a mix of (online) formal meetings and ad-hoc short calls for inputs. This mechanism will ensure a continuous dialogue among the Group of Experts, so that latest developments in the field are also reflected in the results of the project.

It is envisaged that the complete Group of Experts meets once (hybrid) at the beginning of the project (June 2023) and then 2 to 3 times between June 2023 and June 2024, possibly with some online ad-hoc meetings in smaller settings (when content and learning outcomes of the e-Capsules will be discussed and defined).

The Group of Experts would, more specifically, be asked to:

- Provide advice and feedback on the conceptualisation of the e-Capsules training on EU law, including through online workshops and similar meetings.
- Provide advice and feedback on the identification of e-Capsule topics, including:
 - Discuss the methodology of the training needs assessment

- Provide views and suggestions regarding the stakeholder consultation strategy
 - Contribute to the initial development of Learner Profiles per area of EU law and per legal profession
 - Verify the final Learner Profiles developed are correctly based on the Training Needs Assessment
 - Participate in the assessment of the extent to which existing e-learning tools are up to date and in line with the e-Capsules
- Provide supervision on the substance of the e-Capsules, including shaping the content, learning objectives and outcomes of each e-Capsule.

Organisation and work of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts will be composed of diverse profiles including, indicatively, up to 35 individuals who, collectively, will cover the following three profiles:

- 1. Experts in the training of justice professionals** (indicatively 21 members)
 - Solid experience in the training of legal professionals, ideally in one of the three relevant areas of European legislation (civil law, criminal law and fundamental rights). Both 'traditional' judicial trainers ('judicial training expert') and trainers with more specific e-learning development and implementation experience ('e-learning training expert') are invited to apply.
- 2. Academics** (indicatively 6 members):
 - Involved in graduate and postgraduate university legal education and specialising in the subjects covered by the 3 areas of EU law (as listed on last page of this call for application).
- 3. Senior practitioners** (indicatively 6 members)
 - Practicing as judge, lawyer, prosecutor, notary, court staff, etc in an EU Member State.

The Group of Experts will be divided into **three sub-groups**, the composition of each reflecting the representative ratio of the three profiles above. As the e-Capsules should promote inter-professional training, these sub-groups will therefore be organised by area of European law (a sub-group dedicated to civil law, a sub-group to criminal law and a sub-group to fundamental rights).

The Consortium in charge of this project invites applications from individuals meeting the below requirements with a view to recruiting members of the Group of Experts to advise the Project team, on a voluntary basis, on the identification of relevant EU topics for the development of the e-Capsules.

While participation in the Group of Experts is not remunerated, the selected experts will have the opportunity to make their role as experts public and visible, and their inputs will be acknowledged on the platform where the e-Capsules will be hosted.

Natural persons interested are invited to submit an online application by 8 June in accordance with the rules set out in this notice for the purpose specified above. The awarded Consortium will draw up a list of experts (who meet the criteria laid down in Annex II) for approval by DG JUST.

Annex I – The areas of European law covered in this project

EU Civil Justice

- Jurisdiction, recognition, and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial cases
- EU family law – parental responsibility
- EU family law – matrimonial matters
- EU family law – child abduction
- EU family law – maintenance
- Succession
- Insolvency
- European civil procedures (EPO, ESCO EEO, EOAP)

EU Criminal Justice

- European Arrest Warrant surrender procedure
- European Investigation Order – collecting evidence
- Pre-trial measures – supervision order, freezing of assets
- Post-trial measures – protection order, disqualification, recognition of custodial and non-custodial sentences, probation
- Victim protection
- Procedural guarantees in criminal proceedings
- Pre-trial detention and detention standards

EU Fundamental Rights

- Scope and application of the EU Charter
- Rights of the child Right to fair trial.

Annex II – The application criteria per profile

Profile	Academic background	Fields of expertise	Professional background	Affiliation
Judicial and e-learning training expert	A law degree or other relevant academic background (e.g., social sciences, behavioural sciences, education, psychology) from an EU Member State.	Proven experience relevant to your profession in one or more of the following areas: EU civil justice, EU criminal justice or EU fundamental rights as appropriate.	At least 5 years of experience in the role as judicial training expert or at least 3 years of experience as e-learning training expert.	Judicial training experts from organisations specialised in training of members of the judiciary at national/European level in the areas of EU law relevant to this call or similar. E-learning training experts with ideally recognised professional credentials in conceptualising and developing digital learning and e-learning trainings and materials or equally meaningful professional experience.
Academics and senior practitioners	A law degree from an EU Member State.	For e-learning training experts, though experience in the above areas of EU law is highly desirable - relevant e-learning/digital training experience in areas outside of this list that fit the purpose and scope of this call will be adequate.	At least 10 years of experience in the role.	Academics from universities and research institutes working at EU level carrying out training activities for the judiciary and/or being involved in the implementation of projects and programmes at EU level with a component related to the training of legal professionals relevant to this call. Senior practitioners coming from the justice profession , e.g., judges, prosecutors, lawyers, public notaries, bailiffs and court staff, leading figures of networks and/or professional representations.
For all profiles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fluency in English. ▪ Valid citizenship of an EU/EEA/EFTA Member State. ▪ Motivated to actively contribute to the working group, commit to agreed meetings and deadlines. 				