

**Call for the selection
of 2 experts specialized in the field of access to justice for vulnerable groups,
Judicial Training and Capacity Building project,
Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021**

The Romanian Superior Council of Magistracy, acting as Project Promoter, in partnership with the Romanian National Institute of Magistracy, the Romanian National School of Clerks and the Norwegian Courts' Administration are launching a call for the selection of **2 specialized experts for the implementation of the activity 3.2 *Organizing 2 conferences on access to justice of Roma population and other vulnerable groups***, within the implementation of the pre-defined project *Judicial Training and Capacity Building*¹ project, financed under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

Potential candidates are requested to submit their applications and all the required documents until the 13th of October 2023, in electronic format, by sending an e-mail to: norwaygrants@csm1909.ro.

1. Project description

The general objective of the project is to strengthen the Romanian judiciary, by improving its efficiency, as well as to develop the concept of European legal culture within the Romanian judicial system. The professional training provided within the project (more than 130 activities) consider the correlation between the European and national perspective, allowing judges, prosecutors and other legal and non-legal professionals to have a more comprehensive understanding of and to apply European legal concepts in their professional activity.

2. Scope of the selection procedure and specific tasks

Output 3 of the pre-defined project addresses the main topic of access to justice for vulnerable groups, with the focus on Roma population. The training already provided in a series of workshops was designed for representatives of local authorities and other entities competent in this field, in order to promote access and understanding of relevant information for the target

¹ Detailed information on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism - <https://eeagrants.org/>. Additional information on the pre-defined project - <https://sites.google.com/csm.csm1909.ro/mfn-2014-2021-en/home>.



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groups and to build upon their capacity to respond to their specific legal and/ or administrative problems.

Complementary to the above-mentioned activities, the project also provides for the organization of **2 conferences on access to justice of Roma population and other vulnerable groups**. The conferences will ensure the framework for debates between legal and non-legal professionals on EU and national law on access to justice of Roma population and other vulnerable groups (marginalized groups, socially excluded, with limited opportunities and income, suffering from different kind of abuse, bias or discrimination). The events will cover, for example, the national Roma inclusion strategy (objectives, specific measures stakeholders), as well as European and national legislation applicable in this field, ECHR jurisprudence, Council Directive 2003/8/EC of 27 January 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such dispute; 2004/844/ Commission Decision of 9 November 2004 establishing a form for legal aid applications under Council Directive 2003/8/EC, Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty. One of the two conferences will also serve as a publicity event in order to present the status of the project's implementation - progress, achievements and results.

Target group: approximately 100 judges, prosecutors and non-legal Romanian professionals

Experts involved: national and international

Timeframe: first conference (also visibility event) – estimated for 11th of December 2023. Second conference – estimated for the 12th of February 2024. Duration: maximum 8 hours/ day/ conference. Dates may vary, subject to prior consultations of the team of experts.

Specific tasks of the experts:

- To attend one preliminary meeting of the team of experts, in order to establish a plan for each of the two events (topics, agenda, distribution of tasks, methods, time planning, materials/ instruments to be used and/ or prepared). The 1-day preliminary meeting can be organized either face to face, in Bucharest or via virtual meeting platforms, depending on availability of the experts.

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- To attend one or both conferences and moderate discussions, according to the distribution of tasks and closely cooperate with the team of experts and representatives of the Superior Council of Magistracy.
- To draft presentations and/ or supporting materials, while observing the specific templates/ visibility elements of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, according to the Communication and design manual.
- Submitting the necessary documents for payments and other supporting documents, according to the specific contractual provisions.

3. Profile of the expert and procedural aspects

Eligible candidates shall observe the following **minimum professional experience requirements**:

a) Relevant educational qualifications and general professional experience in the legal field;

b) Specific experience – at least 3 years – in the field of human rights, judicial remedies, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

c) Proper knowledge of English.

Candidates will submit their applications consisting of:

- A **cover letter**, providing detailed information about the qualification and experience related to the position subject to this selection procedure, motivation and relevant background;
- A **CV**;
- A **conference plan**, providing information on the candidate's approach for the two conferences, including, but not limited to, topics, methods and instruments to support presentations.
- Other supporting documents (certifications, references/ letters of recommendation, etc.).

Please note that all documents must be submitted in English.

The selection procedure will be based solely on professional requirements, without any form of discrimination and will be performed by a commission appointed by the Superior Council of Magistracy for this purpose, in two stages:

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I. **Admissibility:** the commission will assess the compliance with the submission deadline, the required documents and minimal professional requirements.

Failure to comply with any of the above listed criteria are grounds for inadmissibility. The evaluation commission reserves the right to ask, at anytime during the evaluation process, for additional information, references and/ or relevant supporting documents concerning one's professional experience.

II. An **interview** before the evaluation commission, conducted via virtual meeting platforms, looking at the following criteria:

- a) relevant professional experience in the field;
- b) training skills and the ability to moderate similar events;
- c) communication and cooperation skills;
- d) knowledge of English;
- e) availability and willingness to collaborate within the team of experts.

Awarding criteria. Candidates who will achieve a minimum of 8 points (out of 10) in the evaluation procedure will be selected, ranked according to the grades and within the limit of positions available under the present call. In case of equal score, candidates with experience in similar activities will take precedence.

4. Financial matters

The following costs are covered by the budget of the pre-defined project:

- a) fees for attending the preliminary meeting of experts (2 days – 1 day for preparative works and 1 day for the preliminary meeting) and for attending the two conferences (1 day/ conference, a maximum of 8 hours), in the amount of maximum 350 Euro/ day;
- b) per diem for attending the preliminary meeting of experts and the two conferences, in the amount of 175 Euro/ day;
- c) reimbursement of travel (international and national) expenses up to 700 Euro/round trip/ person/ activity.

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All financial benefits will be granted under the specific provisions of the contract to be concluded between the expert and the Superior Council of Magistracy – Project Promoter and the National Institute of Magistracy – Project Partner and payments will be made considering the Romanian regulatory financial and fiscal framework.

5. Intellectual property rights

The ownership of all materials and/ or documents produced by the expert in the context of the implementation of the pre-defined project, including electronic or hardcopy, as well as of any results foreseen under the contract shall remain the exclusive property of the Project Promoter. Are subject to ownership, but not limited to, copyright and/ or any other intellectual property rights obtained in the implementation of following the implementation of the contract.

6. Final provisions and contact details

The processing of personal data is carried out for the sole purpose of the present selection procedure. The personal data collected in the context of the present call will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 *on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.*

For further information and correspondence, please e-mail norwaygrants@csm1909.ro.

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