

# The Exchange Programme in Brief

ACTIVITY      LENGTH      LANGUAGE      TARGET AUDIENCE      APPLICATION PERIOD

Exchanges				
General exchanges	5 to 10 days	Agreed language	Judges, prosecutors and court staff	September-October
Specialised exchanges	5 days	Agreed language	Judges and prosecutors	September-October
Presidents & Chief Prosecutors' exchanges	3 to 5 days	Agreed language	Court presidents or chief prosecutors	September-October
Trainers exchanges	3 to 10 days	Agreed language	Trainers for judges, prosecutors or court staff	September-October
Project-based exchanges				
Bilateral exchanges	5 days	Agreed language	Judges, prosecutors and court staff	September-October
Regional exchanges	3 to 5 days	Agreed language	Judges, prosecutors and court staff	All year long
Judiciary learning grant programme	up to 5 days	Agreed language	Judges, prosecutors, court staff and judicial trainers	All year long
EJTN-CEPOL joint exchanges	5 days	English	Prosecutors and criminal law judges	January-February
Initial training				
AIAKOS programme	5 days abroad (and 5 days in home country)	English	Future or early-career judges and prosecutors	According to national training institutions
Training activities in European and international organisations				
Long-term training periods	3 to 12 months	English or French	Judges and prosecutors	September-October
Study visits	1.5 to 5 days	English or French	Judges, prosecutors and court staff	2 calls: November-December May-June



Study visit at the EU institutions, Brussels, Belgium

## Financial Support

EJTN supports participants' travel and daily expenses through the payment of a per diem or, where applicable, on real-cost basis.

## How to Apply

Several calls for applications are open throughout the year, depending on the activity, and are communicated to EJTN Members, Associate Members, and partner institutions, as well as being announced on the EJTN website.

Highly motivated judges, prosecutors, and court staff with a good knowledge of the working language of the activity are invited to apply using the Exchange Programme online application form.

The selection of participants is the sole prerogative of the EJTN Member institutions.

## Learn more!

Visit the EJTN website at [www.ejtn.eu](http://www.ejtn.eu)



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The Exchange Programme  
for Judicial Authorities



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Study visit at Eurojust. The Hague, Netherlands

## ABOUT

Launched in 2005 at the initiative of the European Parliament, the Exchange Programme for judicial authorities is the EJTN's flagship programme. Through this programme, EJTN provides high-quality activities that meet current and future needs of European judges, prosecutors, and court staff. Today, EJTN is recognised as best placed to implement exchanges between judicial authorities.

### What the programme offers ...

- ▶ Gain knowledge of EU judicial systems
- ▶ Exchange best practices with peers across Europe
- ▶ Broaden your professional network
- ▶ Improve your language skills

The Exchange Programme's main purpose is to enhance our participants' practical knowledge of other judicial systems as well as EU law and instruments through direct contact, exchange of views, and experiences between judges, prosecutors, trainers, and court/prosecution staff from EU Member States (EU MS).

The Exchange Programme also aims at developing a European judicial culture based on mutual trust between judicial authorities in the common European judicial area.

**”** EJTN brought us together, we exchange knowledge and opinion in an excellent multinational, very European environment, having the solid belief that we are different but united. We reaffirmed our belief in the European Union and appreciated once more its unification role.

A Greek court staff – General exchange in the Netherlands

## ACTIVITIES INCLUDE...

### Judicial Exchanges

**Exchanges** in the courts, prosecution offices and judicial training institutions of the EU MS allow participants to learn about the judicial system of the host country, attend court hearings, and exchange views and expertise with their peers.

Several types of exchanges are offered depending on the profile of the participants:

- ▶ Participants in **General exchanges** are given a general introduction into the judicial system of the host country;
- ▶ Participants in **Specialised exchanges** can build on their expertise in a specific area of law;
- ▶ Exchanges for **Presidents and Chief Prosecutors** aim at shaping participants' leadership and management skills;
- ▶ Exchanges for **Judicial trainers** focus on training methodologies and educational tools and programmes.

Judges, prosecutors, judicial trainers, and court staff of the EU MS can also propose an exchange with a court, a prosecution office, a judicial training institution or with a peer of another country on their own initiative. Those **project-based exchanges** include:

- ▶ **Bilateral exchanges:** A group of judges, prosecutors, and court staff from the same jurisdiction visit a court or prosecution office in another country and exchange best practices on a topic of common interest;
- ▶ **Regional exchanges:** Participants residing close to a border can discuss common issues and practical problems arising from cross-border cases with peers from the neighbour country;
- ▶ **Judiciary learning grant programme:** Participants have full autonomy to self-identify and create individualised learning opportunities;
- ▶ **EJTN-CEPOL joint Exchange Programme:** Criminal law judges and prosecutors have a unique opportunity to exchange views and practices with law enforcement officials.

**”** The EU can only work when there are strong relationships between the people of the Member States.

An Austrian judge – Regional exchange in Italy



AIAKOS exchange. Sofia, Bulgaria

### AIAKOS Programme

The programme specifically targets future and early-career judges and prosecutors, giving them the opportunity to learn about other judicial systems and training curricula, strengthen their knowledge of EU law and judicial cooperation instruments, and develop beneficial contacts with counterparts that will enhance their future careers.

### Study Visits

Organised in cooperation with European and international organisations such as the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), Eurojust, the EU institutions in Brussels, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), and the Max Plank Institute for Social Anthropology (MPI), study visits provide participants with insights into the functioning and procedures of the host institutions.

### Long-Term Training Periods

Long-term training periods represent a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the work, procedures, and decision-making of the CJEU, the ECtHR, and Eurojust. The participants are usually assigned to the Cabinet of a Member of the Court, the Registry, or the office of a National Desk, and they help carry out the tasks assigned to them.

**”** I had the priceless opportunity to take part in the Exchange Programme. I received many ideas that should be changed in our national system and I will surely discuss these topics in my office.

An Estonian trainer – Exchange for Trainers at the Academy of European Law