

**CALL FOR EXPERTS**  
**Judicial training on the EU *acquis* in the field of civil law**

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<b><u>Project:</u></b>	Pilot Action on Judicial Training IPA/2021/425-032 (Western Balkan II Project)
<b><u>Purpose:</u></b>	Design and implementation of a training on EU civil law for a group of judicial professionals interested in becoming trainers on EU civil law in Serbia and Montenegro
<b><u>Duration:</u></b>	<u>Curricula design:</u> 1 September 23 - 15 October 23 (8 working days)  <u>Seminar implementation phase:</u> 15 October 23 - 15 December 23 (8 working days)
<b><u>Reporting to:</u></b>	Project Leader, Mr. Giovanni Pasqua Project Manager, Ms. Vanja Tekic
<b><u>Number of experts:</u></b>	2 (two)
<b><u>Deadline for applications:</u></b>	Monday, 15 August 2023 – 17:00 CEST (UTC/GMT+2h)
<b><u>Reference Number:</u></b>	WB/2023/01

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**I. Project Background:**

The Project was launched in March 2022 for a period of three years. It is implemented within the “IPA II Multi-country Action Programme 2020” and benefits from the financial support of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

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The main goal of the Project is to strengthen the capacities of the judicial training institutions in the Western Balkans for delivery of effective and efficient judicial training to judges and prosecutors on the EU *acquis*, including on the rule of law, with a view to support the enlargement and stabilisation and association process, as well as the Western Balkan Strategy of the European Union.

The Project works across two closely related components. The first component, which identifies the Serbian Judicial Academy (JA) and the Montenegrin Centre for Training in Judiciary and State Prosecution (CTJSP) as the primary beneficiaries of the action, aims to strengthen the already-existing capacities of these institutions to conduct training needs assessments (TNAs) on the EU *acquis*, and therefrom design and implement training on EU law at the national level. The second component facilitates participation of representatives from all Western Balkan IPA II beneficiaries to EJTN events, and specifically targets members of the judiciary who can successfully strengthen institutional ties among the Western Balkan judicial training schools and their EU peers.

The present call seeks out judicial training experts (judges and/or judicial trainers) from European Union Member States who will assist with the implementation of the first component of the Project.

More information about the Project can be found on the EJTN website: [www.ejtn.eu](http://www.ejtn.eu)

## II. Scope of the Call

Under direct supervision of the Project Leader and the Project Manager, the Experts will contribute to the achievement of Outcome 1. and Output 1.1., as specified in the Description of Action:

- Outcome 1. – The Serbian Judicial Academy (JA) and the Montenegrin Centre for Training in the Judiciary and State Prosecution (CTJSP) effectively deliver strong, adequate, and efficient judicial training to judges and prosecutors, mainly on EU *acquis*.
- Output 1.2. – JA/CTSJP are able to design, deliver, implement and evaluate strong training programmes on EU *acquis* for judges and prosecutors.

In 2022, two TNAs on the EU *acquis* were conducted in Serbia and Montenegro within the framework of the Project. Following the conclusions of the TNAs, two training programs on EU

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law, each consisting of 5 face-to-face seminars and 1 online training, will be implemented in 2023 and 2024 by JA and CTJSP with Project support.

The overall aim of the programs is to strengthen JA's and CTJSP's capacities to continue to develop seminars on EU law and embed EU law training in their continuous and initial training offer.

To that end, the training programs will target judicial professionals who are willing and able to support JA/CTJSP to develop a cohesive strategy for training on EU law, identify the right priorities and sequence of training provision during the EU accession process, and create relevant and effective trainings which draw meaningful parallels between domestic and European law in the field of specialization. At the end of the program, JA/CTJSP should be able to rely on a core group of trainers specialised in EU law who can continue to lead the process of training in this area.

The Program also aims to foster the establishment of quality criteria for EU law training and provide JA/CTJSP with the necessary tools to avoid inconsistent, *ad hoc* training provision and variations in quality. To that end, each seminar will adopt a singular approach to EU law training, ensuring that participants receive not only knowledge and skills on the subject-matter, but best-practice guidelines and methodologies for developing future training on EU law. The exact modality of training is described in more detail in section III. Training Description.

The following seminars are included in the Program:

Judicial Academy of Serbia:

1. Training of Experts on EU law (TOEE) – Criminal Law Group
2. Training of Experts on EU law (TOEE) – Civil Law Group
3. Training of Experts on EU law (TOEE) – Administrative Law Group
4. Training of Experts on EU law (TOEE) – Commercial Law Group
5. Training of Experts on EU law (TOEE) – EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
6. Roadmap on EU law e-Course

Centre for Training in the Judiciary and State Prosecution of Montenegro:

1. Training of Experts on EU law (TOEE) – Criminal Law Group
2. Training of Experts on EU law (TOEE) – Civil Law Group
3. Training of Trainers (TOT)
4. EU Intellectual Property Law
5. EU Consumer Protection Law
6. Roadmap on EU law e-Course

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Each seminar will be designed and carried out jointly by domestic judicial trainers from Serbia and Montenegro and leading experts from EU Member States (judges and/or judicial trainers) with vast experience in training in the area of EU law. Each seminar will be implemented over 1½ days and target a group of 20 participants for a total of 100 accreditations per country. The training will be implemented locally, in the local language with simultaneous interpretation provided by the Project.

**The present call seeks out 2 (two) judicial training Experts from EU Member States who will assist with the design and implementation of the second seminar in both Serbia and Montenegro (Training of Experts on EU law – Civil Law Group).**

### III. Training Description

The Training of Experts on EU Civil Law should improve participant's knowledge of EU legal instruments and jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the field of civil law, and develop skills needed to find relevant sources of EU law and design and implement interactive training (hypothetical case studies and judicial writing workshops).

The training should balance out the need to establish a basic level of understanding of the civil law field in the EU and keep the training interactive through in-depth discussion of case law on one or more of below-mentioned sub-topics. The former is needed to give direction for future development of EU law courses at the CTJSP/JA and provide context for active participation during workshops, while the later ensures that the training addresses immediate training needs and provides valuable resources and practical examples for resolution of judges' daily tasks.

The training will therefore first provide a **big picture overview of the civil law EU *acquis*** - key legislation and landmark decisions regarding EU common standards of civil procedure, the evolving role of European agencies and judicial cooperation mechanisms (institutional framework, tools and instruments), and harmonization of substantive civil law provisions in the EU (family, employment, inheritance, contract and tort law). The training will not “zoom in” nor provide significant detail on each subject, but rather serve as a roadmap for planning of ongoing training on EU law.

Participants will then be asked to partake in **three practical workshops** with reference to one or more of these sub-topics: defamation and damage to reputation, divorce proceedings and protection of children in mixed marriages, workers' protection, including protection against mobbing and whistleblowers protection, temporary measures in labour law, and/or property

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law, including the right to adequate housing. In the workshops, the participants will examine the legal instruments and jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union in more detail in the specific area(s) of specialization.

The three practical workshops include the following:

1. Case studies workshop - how to prepare a hypothetical case study for EU law training;
2. Judicial writing workshop - how to prepare a judicial writing workshop for EU law training;
3. EU legal research workshop - How to access and use EU legal instruments and CJEU jurisprudence.

Target Group: Judicial Trainers in Serbia and Montenegro

Training Duration: 1,5 days

#### **IV. Scope of the Work**

Each Expert will work for 16 days, during which (s)he will conduct 2 two-day missions to Serbia (1 for design and 1 for implementation), and 2 two-day missions to Montenegro (1 for design and 1 for implementation).

During the assignment, the Experts will lead the process of design and implementation of the training and provide necessary supporting materials (e.g., Regulations, Directives, jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union, relevant national case law and good practices from EU Member States, materials for training on judicial skills and judicial training methodologies, and any other written content needed to implement the training, such as assignment forms, evaluation forms, etc.).

Experts will work jointly with domestic trainers on elaborating quality written content which can be reused and made available for wider distribution by the JA and CTJSP. The training materials should incorporate modern e-learning techniques which make learning unexpected and engaging and enable participants to evaluate their progress (e.g., pre- and post- multiple-choice module testing, branched scenarios).

Experts will also support national judicial trainers to adapt the seminar to the national legal environment and discern priorities from the above-mentioned subtopics to be covered in the

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practical workshops. Each seminar will be tailored to the Serbian/Montenegrin judicial and legal system and consider the status of the EU integration process in these countries.

## V. Main Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Support JA and CTJSP and the appointed national judicial trainers in Serbia and Montenegro to design the seminar “*Training of Experts on EU law – Civil Law Group*”, and to that end, be responsible for the content development, including the substantive legal content and the methodological and andragogical aspects of training design;
- Work closely with the national trainers in Serbia and Montenegro to tailor the training content to the domestic legal environment and judicial culture, especially taking into account the approximation of national law to the EU *acquis* and the immediate training needs of the judges in both countries;
- Support national trainers to prioritize the sub-topics of training from the list of legal subjects identified during the 2022 training needs assessment in Serbia and Montenegro, and, if necessary, review reports from the judicial training institutions and/or conduct additional interviews with judges to prioritize the legal content and maximise the impact of the training;
- Provide state-of-the-art expertise on judicial training, including best approaches to design of case studies, judicial writing, legal research and other practical workshops for adult learning;
- Together with the national trainers, co-create a well-documented and comprehensive training package, including assignments and examinations for evaluating participants’ progress, and ensure that such materials are compatible with self-paced online learning. For example, the training materials: 1) divide content into logically defined sections or modules, which contain both lecture style material designed to transfer new concepts or “know how” to the learner and exercises designed to encourage “learning by doing”, 2) facilitate and enable the use of modern techniques for learning, such as branched scenarios<sup>1</sup>, which make learning unexpected and engaging, 3) enable participants to evaluate their progress, most commonly through multiple-choice pre- and post- module testing, and 4) include a range of media, to keep learners engaged with the content while learning in isolation;
- Participate in the development of video or audio training materials by the Project, especially by recording presentations; and/or review such content to ensure accuracy and compatibility with training objectives;

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<sup>1</sup> Branched scenarios use real-life examples to display content and test knowledge of learners by challenging them to make a decision - new situations and choices are then presented based on the preceding decision made by the learner. Branched scenarios teach learners about the immediate consequences of their decisions and reactions.

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- Present lecture materials and facilitate workshops on judicial training during the seminar(s) which will be held in Serbia and Montenegro from October to December 2023;
- Consider the target audience throughout the assignment and, to that end, adjust training content and lecture style to reflect the level of seniority, knowledge and skills of the participants;
- Review and apply EJTN and other relevant judicial training standards throughout the assignment; and
- Report regularly on the progress made and difficulties encountered to the Project Leader and Project Manager.

## VI. Deliverables

- Training package, including well-documented written materials covering the roadmap on EU law in the field of civil law and three training workshops on chosen sub-topics as described above in *sections III. Training Description, IV. Scope of Work and V. Main Tasks and Responsibilities*;
- Post-event reports with conclusions and recommendations for further actions on the basis of a model to be provided by the Project Leader and Project Manager.

## VII. Eligibility Criteria:

### Essential:

- Judge and/or judicial trainer with proven practical experience in design and implementation of judicial training in the field of EU civil law;
- Holistic and in-depth knowledge of European integration in the field of civil law, including a thorough understanding of EU common standards in the field of civil procedure, the evolving role of European agencies and judicial cooperation mechanisms, and harmonization of substantive civil law provisions in the EU;
- Practical experience of working on one or more of the following sub-topics as a trainer or judge: defamation and damage to reputation, divorce proceedings and protection of children in mixed marriages, workers' protection, including protection against mobbing and whistleblowers protection, temporary measures in labour law, and/or property law, including the right to adequate housing;
- In-depth, state of the art knowledge of judicial training methodologies and judicial training on the EU *acquis*;
- Excellent communication skills and ability to transfer knowledge to others; and
- Excellent written and oral command of English.

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### Advantageous:

- Knowledge of and/or experience applying EJTN's handbooks, guidelines and principles on judicial training and evaluation;
- Experience in capacity building projects, adaptation of EU law training to EU candidate countries and/or identification of priorities and sequence of training provision during the EU accession process; and
- Knowledge and experience of the Serbian and/or Montenegrin judicial system or Serbian and/or Montenegrin language.

### **VIII. Duration of Assignment**

It is expected that the assignment will commence by 1 September 2023, and no later than the 15 September 2023.

Each Expert will work for a period of 16 working days on the design and implementation of the training, until 15 December 2023.

The exact dates of the visits to Serbia and Montenegro are to be confirmed after Experts' appointment and in agreement with the Judicial Academy of Serbia and the Centre for Training in Judiciary and State Prosecution of Montenegro.

### **IX. Location**

Home-based, with travel to Serbia and Montenegro (2 two-day missions to Serbia and 2 two-day missions to Montenegro).

### **X. Remuneration**

The Experts will receive expert fees charged on a per working day basis of 360€ for services rendered, and travel and subsistence allowances (per diems) for participation to meetings abroad in accordance with the EJTN scheme.

More information about the EJTN scheme can be found here: [EJTN Corporate Financial Policy](#).

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## **XI. Application Rules / Selection process**

All interested applicants are hereby invited to send their applications via email to [vanja.tekic@ejtn.eu](mailto:vanja.tekic@ejtn.eu) no later than the **15 August 2023** – 17:00 CEST (UTC/GMT+2h).

The subject of the email should include the reference to this call (WB/2023/01 – Call for Experts), followed by the candidate's surname.

The application needs to contain the following:

- Letter of interest; and
- CV outlining relevant knowledge and experience.

Applicants should indicate if they have any significant schedule restrictions in the period from 1 September 2023 to 15 December 2023 which may restrict their ability to travel to Serbia and Montenegro.

All submitted applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria described in Section VII.

The shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in interviews, which will be held from 15 August 2023.

The contract will be awarded to the most suitable Experts for the position based on the knowledge, skills and expertise as demonstrated in the selection process.

Candidates will be informed about the outcome of the appointment no later than the 15 September 2023.

## **XII. Code of Conduct and Disclaimers**

The applicant once appointed shall work as an Expert of the Project and present themselves as such in his or her professional capacity when dealing with matters related to the Project. This should also be reflected in any communication, publication, article, interviews, or whenever his or her name is mentioned. In all written articles, papers, interviews, publications, etc. the usual disclaimer shall appear as follows: *“The contents and views expressed herein reflect only those of the expert(s) and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of these contents and views”*.

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The advice provided to the project partners will be non-prescriptive. Against this background, the Expert will avoid to give the impression that the provided advice represents the perceptions of the European Union, the European Commission or EJTn.

The Expert shall strictly consider the following confidentiality rules: No information or advice stemming from or relating to the assignment is to be communicated to any other organisation(s) or individual(s) without prior consent of the EU Commission and EJTn. No public statement or presentation is to be made without prior agreement with the European Commission and EJTn.

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