



# ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

# MISSION STATEMENT

As the only association encompassing the national judicial training institutions of the European Union Member States, and while fully respecting the independence of the judiciary, the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) serves as the principal platform and advocate for the development, training, and exchange of knowledge and skills within the EU judiciary. It thereby makes a significant contribution to strengthening the European area of justice by developing and promoting a common European judicial culture.

## VISION

1. As an institution, EJTN aims to serve the European interest in the field of judicial training.
2. EJTN aims to further strengthen its status as a recognised and respected actor in the field of judicial training at European level, acknowledged for its expertise, innovation and contribution to a common judicial culture.
3. EJTN operates with full autonomy in identifying the training needs of the European judiciary and setting its own strategic priorities while fully upholding the principle of judicial independence and maintaining constructive alignment with the priorities set by European institutions.
4. EJTN respects the different capacities, missions and structures, as well as the different needs of individual member institutions that may have an impact on their involvement in EJTN's activities.
5. EJTN's role in European judicial training for the foreseeable future will remain EJTN's *raison d'être*, that is, the initial and continuous training of EU judges, prosecutors and court staff. It will also combine forces to achieve better and more effective results in judicial training in the European area of justice.
6. EJTN will continue its drive to offer high quality, innovative training activities that provide added value to training offered at national level, while appreciating that primary and principal responsibility for the provision of such training activities lies with national training institutes.
7. The EJTN Members have a legitimate interest in using the Network as their forum for networking. It is therefore considered vital that EJTN continues to provide a platform and adequate tools that enable an exchange of concepts and best practices, which should have a wider scope beyond European law.

# VALUES OF EJTN

Core values are the fundamental beliefs that guide the Network in pursuing its vision and mission, and they also influence its activity and strategic decisions.

EJTN's values align with those of the European Union, which include human dignity, freedom, equality, human rights, democracy and the Rule of Law.

The Network is founded on the following values:

## **Unity and Togetherness**

EJTN fosters internal unity and coherence by promoting shared goals, values and mutual understanding. All decisions are taken collectively, based on common understanding and consensus.

## **Independence**

EJTN operates with full autonomy in identifying the training needs of the European judiciary and setting its own strategic priorities while fully upholding the principle of judicial independence and maintaining constructive alignment with the priorities set by European institutions.

## **Integrity**

EJTN is committed to building a trustful network that acts and operates according to the highest moral and ethical principles and is always striving to deliver a training offer in response to the real needs of justice practitioners (judges, prosecutors, court staff, trainers) and their professional challenges. All individuals involved in EJTN activities are expected to uphold the standards of conduct befitting members of the judiciary, including in their interactions with other participants

## **Transparency**

EJTN strives for clarity, precision and truthfulness in all information provided to justice practitioners (judges, prosecutors, court staff, trainers), stakeholders and partners.

## **Accountability and Financial Responsibility**

EJTN is committed to openness and transparency in training activities and assumes responsibility for its work and decision-making, including on financial matters.

## **Professionalism**

EJTN demonstrates the highest competence, efficiency and excellence in defining judicial training offers in line with the Judicial Training Principles and in delivering these trainings. Moreover, EJTN focuses on innovative, high-quality and timely delivery of training and exchange activities aiming to meet the needs, expectations, and preferences of justice practitioners (judges, prosecutors, court staff, trainers). The Network remains responsive to both internal and external developments, adapting as necessary to uphold this principle.

## **Diversity and inclusiveness**

EJTN recognises and respects the diversity of European legal systems and traditions as well as the variety of judicial training institutions in the EU, including their different capacities, missions and structures.

EJTN commits to promote and respect human dignity and the fundamental rights of every individual, regardless of their sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.

EJTN commits to ensuring that the social and cultural diversity of the EU in terms of gender, geographical regions, age and special interest groups are represented in the activities organised by the Network.

## **Equality and Mutual Trust**

EJTN is committed to treat each member of the Network with respect and on an equal footing. Each member should be equally respected and trusted.

## Cooperation

EJTN is determined to combine forces to achieve better and more effective results in judicial training in the European area of justice through close cooperation, dialogue, consultation, consensus-building, and engaging diverse partners in a participatory way. It is committed to cooperating and making the best possible decisions for the development, training and exchange of knowledge and skills for all EU justice practitioners (judges, prosecutors, court staff and trainers) and judicial training institutions.

## Sustainability and Environmentally Friendly

EJTN is committed to its responsibility to strike a balance between the important activities of the Network and the protection of our natural resources. It therefore strives to minimise the impact on people, nature and the environment, and works towards a sustainable development of the European judicial training culture that meets the real needs of the present generation without compromising those of future ones

Overarching principles supporting EJTN activities:

EJTN is committed to embedding a set of overarching principles that ensure the coherence and integrity of its mission. These include: **access, effectiveness, efficiency, equality, dignity, fairness, reliability and respect**. Together, they shape the implementation of all EJTN activities and decisions, promoting a judicial training culture that is inclusive, responsive and grounded in fundamental rights, for the benefit of both current and future generations of justice practitioners.