



**Naples, Castel Capuano, 19 / 23 May 2025**

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The Italian SSM would summarize the idea that sustains the Aiakos program with three key words: trust, cooperation, and dissemination of the culture and values of the human being.

The exchange program that the European network organizes every year among young European magistrates is central to EJTN's policy, aiming to foster a sense of trust and cooperation among magistrates living in different countries, with different legislations, but all representing "justice."

For this reason, the Network intends to disseminate some basic and shared values among all European judges. It means not only knowledge of European Union legislation and the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, but also the sharing of common values that every judge must uphold in their work.

The project that will bring young magistrates to Naples is called "Aiakos." This too signifies the transmission of a common European culture. Greek culture is a shared heritage in Europe. The tragedy of Aiakos, narrated by Sophocles, is a work that is performed in Italy and will also be staged this year at the Greek theatre in Syracuse.

Who is Aiakos? Why was the network's project named after him?

Aiakos, in the opinion of SSM, represents a person with all his weaknesses—a man, a heroic warrior who wants to assert his value. He considers the decision to hand over the weapons of his friend Achilles, who died in battle, to Ulysses to be unjust and wishes to kill Ulysses. But due to divine deception, Aiakos loses his ability to distinguish reality and ends up killing a herd of animals instead of his enemy. Upon realizing the deception, he cannot bear the shame of his actions and decides to take his own life.

Ulysses neither pities nor mocks him but respects the tragedy of that man and persuades Agamemnon to grant him a proper burial.

Thus, the justice of Aiakos is not human justice. Aiakos chooses to end his life in an attempt to defend his dignity against perceived injustice. He wants to oppose what and who (Ulysses) he believes to be without honor.

On the other hand, Ulysses does not mock Aiakos; rather, he respects him and recognizes the value of his enemy, saying: "Aiakos is like me and holds the same values as I do!"

It is necessary to underline with strong emphasis the core values of dignity, respect, and memory, which are crucial in the judiciary context. Highlighting these values through the broader historical and ethical framework will definitely add depth to our project. It seems that Project Aiakos of EJTN is not just about understanding different judicial systems but also about embedding these fundamental values in judicial practice.

In other words, the sense of justice within the tragedy of Aiakos could truly demonstrate the complexity of justice that all of us exercise every day—a justice that must navigate national and supranational laws, fundamental rights charters, national high courts, and the rulings of the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights.

The tragedy of Aiakos should be understood by every judge, demonstrating that the search for truth is indeed complex and difficult. The truth that Aiakos faces—deceived by the gods—is different from the “true truth” he believed in. This is precisely the difficulty of judging: to be able to discern the truth within the facts being examined, interpreting them through the laws and jurisprudence of the courts, while also ensuring that all laws respect fundamental human values. It is a difficult, demanding task that the European Judicial Training Network aims to promote through this initiative, bringing together young judges from different countries.

SSM will open the doors of Naples, and our guests will have the opportunity to explore the judicial system of the city in a way that allows young judges to have direct contact with Italian justice. They will be able to discuss with legal experts topics such as freedom of expression for the judiciary, ethical questions, and issues related to AI and the relationship between the judiciary and social media.

More specifically, the use of Artificial Intelligence in data collection and management raises several critical issues, particularly in terms of reliability, accuracy, and transparency. AI models may misinterpret language, alter the meaning of words and phrases, or introduce inaccuracies in punctuation and sentence structure. Furthermore, the quality of audio recordings and overlapping voices can negatively impact transcription and data processing outcomes. So, the advancement of AI offers new opportunities, such as automated content summarization and classification, but also raises concerns regarding neutrality and oversight. The reliance on general-purpose AI models risks producing biased or inconsistent results, making it necessary to adopt domain-specific AI for specialized fields such as law, medicine, and engineering. For these reasons, technology should serve as an instrument to enhance legal knowledge and efficiency, without replacing human judgment but rather integrating in an ethical and responsible manner within legal and institutional frameworks.

SSM will try to share ideas and suggestions of legal experts in this topic, because a critical and regulated approach is essential, ensuring continuous human oversight to maintain compliance with fundamental principles of fairness and justice.

There will be also a visit to the Herculaneum excavations and the MAV, the Virtual Archaeological Museum. During the visit, an introduction to the recovery of stolen cultural assets will be held, offering insight into the importance of protecting historical and artistic heritage.

The fourth day, the topics covered will be connected to Judicial Cooperation in civil and criminal matters, the role of the CJEU, the preliminary ruling procedure, and the future perspectives of the EU legal order. In the morning, there will be lectures to introduce the different topics, and in the afternoon, workshops will be held under the supervision of a Coordinator. These workshops will focus on discussing a case to be solved, based on points of law previously prepared by the session Coordinators and delivered to the trainees.

Finally, the participants will meet Guido Raimondi, the former President of the European Court of Human Rights.

For this reason, SSM sincerely thanks the decentralized training division of the judiciary school of Naples for the support that it and other colleagues will provide in organizing the visit to Naples's judicial institutions.

Finally, SSM hopes to strengthen the sense of trust and cooperation among European judges—the same feeling that will ensure true justice for European countries and their citizens.

Below are some details about the program

### ***MONDAY – May 19, 2025***

The first day, after a welcome greeting from the representatives of the Board Members of the Italian School of the Judiciary and a brief introduction to the programme from the Activity Coordinator, there will be a lecture about the Italian selection system of the Ordinary Judiciary.

To allow an interactive participation, the trainees - invited in advance to prepare a 10 minute presentation about the mechanism of selection of the Judiciary in their respective Member States - will work together at their State's presentation and one or two of each different State of origin will briefly expose their system.

Under the supervision of a Coordinator, a debate will follow to focus on how is granted the independence and the professionalism of the Judicial Authorities in each European State participating.

### ***TUESDAY – May 20, 2025***

The second day, the topic chosen is “The use of AI and Digital Innovations in the Judicial System: challenges and opportunities, one year after the adoption of the Artificial Intelligence Act”.

There will be some lectures to introduce the topic. The presentation would be very interactive and tailored to stimulate the participation of a large number of participants.

In the afternoon the trainees will be divided in groups to participate in different workshops, each group, under the supervision of a Coordinator, will discuss and try to solve practical cases prepared by the coordinators.

At the end of the workshop each group will present his case and the proposed solution to the plenary assembly.

Handouts on legal points prepared by the session Coordinators will be distributed in advance to help the trainees analyse the cases and tackle the issues during the workshops.

### ***WEDNESDAY – May 21, 2025***

The third day the participants will visit the New Palace of Justice of Naples, they will be welcomed by colleagues and in particular by the representative of the Court of Naples' Section of the Italian School of the Judiciary, under the coordination of the Gaius Expert in Criminal law, and will attend trials and/or hearings. Neapolitan colleagues will offer a brief but exhaustive presentation of the "The Italian Judicial System".

In the afternoon there will be a visit to the Herculaneum excavations and the MAV, the Virtual Archaeological Museum, one of the most avantgarde museums in Italy, that merges archaeology with technology to provide a unique immersive experience and allows visitors to journey back in time to the moments before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. During the visit an introduction to stolen cultural assets recovery will be held.

### ***THURSDAY -May 22, 2025***

The fourth day, the topics covered will be connected to the Judicial Cooperation in civil and criminal matters, the role of the CJEU, the preliminary ruling procedure and the future perspectives of the EU legal order.

In the morning there will be lectures to introduce the different topics and in the afternoon workshops under the supervision of a Coordinator to discuss a case to be solved, based on points of law previously prepared by the session Coordinators and delivered to the trainees.

After the presentation from each group speaker to the plenary on the possible solutions of the case, there will be a debate.

Finally, the Coordinators will present a wrap up of the session.

Handouts on legal points prepared by the session Coordinators will be distributed in advance to help the trainees analyse the cases and tackle the issues during the workshops.

### ***FRIDAY -May 23, 2025***

The fifth day, the topics addressed will be "Ethics and Rule of Law"

The principles and rules governing judges' professional conduct, in particular ethics, incompatible behaviour and impartiality will be covered. A *lectio magistralis* will be delivered by the Coordinator Guido Raimondi, former President of the European Court of Human Rights and President of Section of the Italian Court of Cassation on ethics and/of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law.

Final discussion and feedback. Greetings.