

# The Exchange Programme in brief

NAME OF ACTIVITY	TARGET GROUP	LENGTH	LOCATION	LANGUAGE
Short-term exchanges (group and individual)	Judges, prosecutors and judicial trainers	10 or 5 days	Courts, prosecution offices, judicial training institutions of EU MS	Host country's language or common language (English or French)
AIAKOS Programme	Future or early-career judges and prosecutors	2 weeks (1 week abroad and 1 week at home)	Training institutions and courts of EU MS	English
Study visits	Judges, prosecutors	2 to 5 days depending on host institution	CJEU, ECHR, Eurojust, EU institutions	English or French
Long-term training periods	Experienced judges and prosecutors	3 to 12 months depending on host institution	CJEU, ECHR, Eurojust	English or French

## Practicalities

### Financial conditions

The expenses of the participants during their exchange (travel, accommodation, meals, etc...) are covered by EJTN through the payment of a lump sum and, where applicable, reimbursement of travel expenses on a real cost basis.

**“I can only recommend to all colleagues to participate in an exchange. This is a great opportunity to look once at the bigger picture and to gain new impressions”.**  
- A judge from Germany -

### How to apply?

The conditions for participating in one of the Exchange Programme activities are a strong motivation on a professional level and good knowledge of the language in which the activity takes place.

A call for applications is circulated annually for all the Exchange Programme activities during the autumn of each year through partner training institutions and the EJTN website. EJTN works with its partners to preselect and allocate applicants according to available places in the participating countries/institutions.

- All application forms must be sent to the Exchange Programme contact point in your home country
- Check the EJTN website in the autumn for updated information on the call for applicants and details for national-level Exchange Programme contact points.



#### More information

European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) –  
Rue du Commerce 123, B – 1000 Brussels  
<http://www.ejtn.eu/>

#### Exchange Programme team:

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## The Exchange Programme for Judicial Authorities



With financial support from the Justice Programme of the European Union

# History and objectives

The Exchange Programme for judicial authorities is the EJTN flagship activity. Launched at the initiative of the European Parliament, the Exchange Programme was first implemented in 2005. In 2006, the European Commission granted EJTN a de-facto monopoly position for the implementation of exchanges between judicial authorities.

The Exchange Programme's main purpose is to enhance the European judiciary's practical knowledge of other judicial systems as well as European and human rights law through direct contacts, exchange of views and experiences between judges, prosecutors and trainers from different 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.

The Exchange Programme comprises short-term exchanges in the courts/prosecution offices and judicial training institutions of the EU Member States, study visits and long-term training periods in European courts, EU institutions and agencies as well as a specific programme for the future and early-career judiciary.

**1600 participants in the Exchange Programme annually – a tenfold increase over the past decade.**

## Activities

### Short-term exchanges in the courts, prosecution offices and judicial training institutions of the EU MS

They allow participants to gain knowledge of other judicial systems and share experiences and judicial practices with their counterparts.

- **Gain knowledge of EU judicial systems**
- **Exchange best practices**
- **Enhance your professional network**
- **Improve language skills**

### The AIAKOS Programme

The programme is addressed specifically for future and early-career judges/prosecutors, giving them the opportunity to learn about other judicial systems and training curricula, enhance their knowledge of EU law and judicial cooperation instruments as well as meet with their counterparts and develop useful contacts for their future professional life.



◀ A group exchange in Venice, Italy



◀ Mock trial performed by participants in the AIAKOS programme, Bordeaux, France

Two schemes of short-term exchange are available:

- **Group exchanges:** a group of judges and/or prosecutors from several EU MS receives an introductory course to the judicial system of the host country followed by a practical programme in a court/prosecution office.
- **Individual exchanges:** the visiting judge/prosecutor shadows a counterpart in his/her daily work. The exchange can be tailored to the area of specialisation of the participant.

Judicial trainers have the opportunity to learn about the host country's training methodologies, tools and programmes as well as to share best practices with their colleagues.

### Training activities in European courts, EU institutions and agencies

**Study visits** are organised for groups of participants from different nationalities at the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Eurojust and several EU institutions in Brussels providing beneficiaries with insight into the host institution's functioning and procedures.

**Long-term training periods** are offered on an individual basis at the CJEU, the ECHR and Eurojust allowing for an in-depth immersion of the participants into the work of the host institution.



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