

# Best Practices for Remote Judging

14 October 2021 to March 2022

5 month lended learning course – mixing  
online & onsite sessions



## INTRODUCTION

This 5-month blended learning course (mixing online and onsite sessions) is the repeat of our successful Remote Judging course launched in October 2020. It aims to equip judges with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct remote judging in the Central & Eastern Europe context as they respond to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on their work. The increased emphasis on technology and remote judging has heightened the need for specific judicial training in

these areas. Promoting uses of technology that enhance the justice system and enable more efficient and accessible justice is a key responsibility of any modern judiciary. This program will help facilitate the use of technology and online hearings where appropriate, but still ensuring access to justice, and adherence to international standards of human rights and fair trials. The course will emphasize compliance with relevant international standards and legal obligations, including European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence.

This program is offered as part of the [CEELI Institute's Central & Eastern European Judicial Network Exchange](#), which promotes judicial integrity and transparency, and strengthened public confidence in the judiciary across the region.

# Program Structure and Approach to Learning

The program will use 'CEELI Online,' our dedicated learning platform, to facilitate an effective learning environment that maximizes the opportunities for members of the judiciary and faculty to connect and share key knowledge. The structured directive program will consist of a number of online modules (both live and recorded), featuring a weekly release of materials

on Thursdays. There will be 'live' online sessions, including monthly workshops, roundtable discussions, and podcasts. Participants who successfully complete the online component will be invited to join a **three-day in-person symposium in Prague** at the end February 2022. The in-person event will be held onsite at the CEELI Institute's headquarters at the Villa Grebovka.

## Course Outline

### MODULE 1:

#### Introduction, Overview of Current Situation in Courts

- Overview of emergency and exceptional measures
- Fair trial and international standards; obligations of states under international human rights law, including the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- Suitability of cases for online hearings and examination of CEELI Publication 'Practical Guidelines for Remote Judging'

### MODULE 2:

#### What is Remote Judging? Practical and Realistic Technological Matters from CEE Perspective

- E-Filing and its impact, case management systems

- Appropriate IT, equipment, platforms, connection
- Lack of training, literacy for judiciary and legal professionals
- Specific procedural and legislative requirements in CEE
- Privacy and data security

### MODULE 3:

#### Elements of a Remote Hearing or Trial

- Court etiquette
- Remote courtroom and managing participants
- Facilitating communication
- Witness testimony and documentary evidence
- Delivery of judgments
- Public access to proceedings

### MODULE 4:

#### Practical Guidelines

- Practical Guidelines and best practices for remote judging and remote hearings
- Practical skills training for judges to manage and 'read' the remote courtroom



### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is open, without cost, to judges from Central and Eastern Europe who are members of the CEELI Institute Judicial Network. Places are limited to 24 participants, and a selection process may be necessary. Interested judges are invited to complete the [Application Form](#).

### FACULTY

The course will be led by Dr. Freda Grealy, Senior Program Manager, the CEELI Institute, and Professor Rachel Murray, Director, Human Rights Implementation Centre School of Law, University of Bristol. A wide-ranging international faculty will include judges, lawyers, academics, researchers, and leading voices from NGOs, together with subject matter experts from European Institutions.

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