

Judicial Workshop Training Series

Central & Eastern
European Judicial
Exchange Network

October 2021
– September 2022

OVERVIEW

We are pleased to launch our Judicial Workshop Series 2021 – 2022. This series of four in-person 2-day workshops in Prague will examine ways to support and strengthen judicial independence and integrity, exchange good practices and experiences, and serve as a catalyst for positive impact to support the rule of law.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Each of the 4 workshops will take place onsite at the CEELI Institute in Villa Grebovka, Prague, from Thursday evening to Saturday late afternoon. The teaching and learning methodology employed at the sessions will consist of mini-talks and lectures, group discussion, presentations, role play, and panels, along with ample time for informal networking opportunities. A central goal of our approach is to facilitate regional and international knowledge exchange. The workshop series will enable judges to develop and export successful models for addressing issues related to judicial performance, ethics and independence.

FACULTY

The international faculty will include judges, academics, researchers, and other subject matter experts. We are particularly keen to hear from current CEE Judicial Network members who have subject matter expertise in any of the workshop topics (below) and would like to put themselves forward as faculty.

Please send your details to
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APPLICATION PROCESS & WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The workshops are open to judges from Central and Eastern Europe who are members of the CEELI Institute's Judicial Exchange Network or who wish to join. A registration form will be available for each workshop. Places are limited to 30 participants on each session - please note that we might proceed to a selection process if the demand exceeds the limited number of places available. The trainings will be accessible for those fluent in English and South-Slavic languages, with simultaneous translation provided.



WORKSHOP #1

Judicial Skills: Effective Communication with the Media and Public

October 28 – 30, 2021,
in Prague

▶ REGISTRATION CLOSED

This workshop will focus on development of media-relation skills of judges in order to better communicate with the public, increase effectiveness when engaging with the media, and increase transparency in the judiciary. This workshop is particularly relevant for judges acting in public relations or spokespersons roles for their courts, those in prominent positions with their Judicial Council, or those in leading roles for their Judicial Association. The workshop will address topics such as utilizing new media tools to engage and inform the public, the threats and opportunities of social networks and media platforms, and practical tips and pointers on communications skills for judges, providing judges with related tools and resources such as CEELI's Social Media Guidelines. The program will be mindful of the need to act strategically and proactively in order to promote trust and confidence in the judiciary. In addition, we will analyze the positive example of the Judicial-Media Council in North Macedonia in strengthening judicial transparency, accountability, and openness.

WORKSHOP #2

Judicial Ethics: Conflicts of Interest and Unconscious Bias

June 10 – 12, 2022,
in Prague

▶ REGISTRATION CLOSED

This workshop will examine factors and conflicts that may undermine judicial integrity. We will examine issues most likely to affect ethical judge-craft, including conflicts of interest; declaration and disclosure of assets, income, liabilities, and interests; the Bangalore Principles; and prohibition of activities antithetical to the rule of law. The program will also encourage judges to develop an awareness of natural biases and learn to spot and remove risk factors that enable bias to influence the decision-making process. Self-knowledge of unconscious biases will assist judges in recognising conflicts that may compromise their independence and test their impartiality. This workshop is particularly relevant for judges who are involved with their Judicial Associations or Judicial Council working in the area of professional conduct, discipline, or engaged with any efforts to promote ethical standards amongst colleagues.

WORKSHOP #3

Adjudication Skills for Complex Fraud and Corruption Cases

June 24 – 26, 2022,
in Prague

▶ NOT YET OPEN
FOR REGISTRATION

This workshop aims to increase the skills and competencies of judges in dealing with complex fraud and corruption cases. The workshop will facilitate the exchange of practice and knowledge between the participants and faculty, providing tips on how to best limit the scope and schedule of complex proceedings into a manageable caseload for all parties. The course will also look at existing examples of systems in place to deal with fraud and corruption crimes, such as the High Anti-Corruption Court in Ukraine.

WORKSHOP #4

Adjudication of Transnational Crimes: Environmental Law Crimes in Central and Eastern Europe

September 23 – 25, 2022,
in Prague

▶ NOT YET OPEN
FOR REGISTRATION

This workshop is designed for judges faced with handling cases involving transnational crimes. We will use environmental crimes case studies that involve both domestic and international law. It will examine the challenges of adjudicating such crimes, including cross-border issues, determining individual and state responsibility, and the limitations of international law in addressing obligations of non-state actors such as businesses and transnational corporations. It also addresses linkages between human rights law and the environment, like the growing trend in using Europe's system for protecting human rights to tackle environmental problems on the legal stage.