

Central & Eastern European Judicial Exchange Network Annual Conference

“Justice in Transition – A Time of Peril and Progress in Central and Eastern Europe”

23 June 2021, 4:30pm – 7pm CEST

Online via Voiceboxer

4:30pm – 4:40pm

Welcome

Christopher Lehmann

Executive Director, CEELI Institute

Judge John Tunheim

Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota

4:40pm – 5:10pm

Panel One: Judicial Independence – Spotlight on Poland

Sabine Donner

Senior Expert, Bertelsmann Transformation Index

Judge Dariusz Mazur

Criminal Division, Regional Court Kraków, Poland

Lukasz Bojarski

Research Fellow, Department of Private Law, University of Oslo
(Project: Judges under Stress JuS – the Breaking Point of Judicial Institutions)

5.10pm – 5:40pm

3-minute intervention slots* / Question & Answers

5:40pm – 5:50pm

Coffee/Tea Break

5.50pm – 6:20pm

Panel Two: Digitalization and the Courts in CEE

Dr Freda Grealy

Senior Program Manager and Legal Advisor, CEELI Institute

Judge José Igreja Matos

Court of Appeals, Porto, Portugal, President of the European Association of Judges

Judge Ksenija Makitan Flack

Commercial Court, Varaždin, Croatia

6.20pm – 6:50pm

3-minute intervention slots* / Question & Answers

6:50pm – 7:00pm

Wrap up and Conclusions

* Conference participants who have registered in advance will be invited to contribute their 3-minute interventions

2021 Judicial Network Annual Conference Speakers



Chief Judge John Tunheim
U.S. District Court of Minnesota

Chief Judge Tunheim serves on the U.S. District Court of Minnesota. He was selected by President Clinton for a federal judgeship in 1995 and later appointed chief judge in 2015. He has spent a substantial amount of time on international rule of law initiatives and election law, working with officials from many countries to strengthen their judicial systems and improve elections. He has worked on rule of law development projects in Kosovo, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Russia, Montenegro, Jordan, Hungary, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Lithuania, Nepal, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Ukraine.



Judge José Igreja Matos
Court of Appeals, Porto, Portugal; President of the European Association of Judges

Judge José Igreja Matos serves on the Court of Appeals of Porto in Portugal. He was appointed a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in April 2018. He has been President of the European Association of Judges since October 2016 and the First Vice President of the International Association of Judges since 2018. He has served in the Portuguese judiciary since 1989.



Judge Ksenija Flack-Makitan
Commercial Court, Varaždin, Croatia

Judge Ksenija Flack-Makitan has been on the Commercial Court in Varaždin (Croatia) since 2002, and she has held the title of Deputy President of the Court for over 10 years. She participated in introducing diverse digitalization projects to implement at the court, and she was the first judge of that court to hold a remote hearing. Her daily work consists mainly of civil litigation cases, bankruptcy cases and court registrar cases, and she has published several articles related to those fields.



Judge Dariusz Mazur
Criminal Division, Regional Court in Krakow, Poland

Judge Dariusz Mazur serves on the Third Criminal Division of the Regional Court in Krakow. He is also the spokesperson for the second-largest association of judges in Poland, "Themis". He previously served as a lecturer for the International School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution and for the European Judicial Training Network—focusing on international cooperation in criminal matters, protection of human rights, and asylum and immigration matters.



Sabine Donner
Senior Expert at Bertelsmann Stiftung

Sabine Donner is a Senior Expert involved in the Shaping Sustainable Economies Program at Bertelsmann Stiftung. She has developed and coordinated its Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) since the inception of the BTI project in 2001. The BTI “analyzes and evaluates whether and how developing countries and countries in transition are steering social change toward democracy and a market economy.” Donner studied German Literature, Political Science, and Russian Language and Literature at the University of Freiburg, and her particular area of interest is transition processes in post-Soviet countries.



Lukasz Bojarski
Research Fellow at the University of Oslo, Department of Private Law (Judges under Stress JuS Project)

Lukasz Bojarski is a Research Fellow in the Department of Private Law at the University of Oslo. His current PhD thesis focuses on judicial resistance in Poland, and he is a member of the research project Judges under Stress JuS—the Breaking Point of Judicial Institutions. Over the past 25 years, he has held an assortment of professional positions in research, consultancy, advocacy, and training in legal and judicial reform, human rights, legal profession, legal aid, and law related education. His expertise and curriculum development for training programs have served over twenty countries around the globe. He currently serves as the President of INPRIS, a legal think tank he co-founded.



Christopher Lehmann
Executive Director

Mr. Lehmann has served as the Executive Director of the CEELI Institute, in Prague, since 2014. He previously served as the Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Programs (OPDAT), in Washington, D.C., where he managed justice sector reform programs across the world. His work at the Department of Justice also included tours as Resident Legal Advisor at the U.S. Embassies in Islamabad and Moscow, and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a board member of the Bakala Foundation (Prague), the International Legal Assistance Consortium (Stockholm), and the US-Czech Fulbright Commission.



Dr Freda Grealy
Senior Program Manager and Legal Advisor, CEELI Institute

Freda Grealy joined the CEELI Institute in September 2019 and manages the Judicial Network Exchange Program. She practiced law for 10 years and then moved to the Law Society of Ireland as Head of their Diploma Centre where she managed continuing professional development courses in specialized areas of law and developed online and blended learning solutions to the solicitors' profession. She qualified as a lawyer in Ireland and in England and Wales, as well as an Attorney at Law in New York State.