

EJTN STUDY VISITS 2022
PRESENTATION, CALENDARS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. STUDY VISITS AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECtHR)

Presentation

The study visits will be organised in collaboration with the European Court of Human Rights. The aim of these visits is to provide a deeper knowledge of the Court, its functioning, and its case law.

Two half-day sessions will focus on:

- Presentations on the Court's competencies, procedures, and case law
- Presentation of the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe

Requirements

To participate in study visits with the ECtHR, you need to be:

- A judge, a prosecutor, a judicial trainer, or court staff

Calendar

Five study visits will be organised during 2022 at the ECtHR, amongst which three in the 1st semester. In agreement with the host institutions, the format of the study visits of the 1st semester is to be confirmed at a later stage depending on the COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the visit. The schedule for the first semester and the working language is listed below:

Period	Location	Length	Working Language	Number of places available
1 – 2 March	Online (to be confirmed)	2 half-days (mornings)	English	35
3 – 4 May	Online (to be confirmed)	2 half-days (mornings)	French	35
21 – 22 June	Online (to be confirmed)	2 half-days (mornings)	English	35

Financial conditions

In the case of a virtual study visit, no reimbursement of any expense will be paid as virtual study visits are not subject to the EJTN financial conditions.

In the case of a face-to-face study visit, a daily allowance of 190 € will be paid. Transport costs will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis up to a maximum of 400 € upon receipt of original transport documents.

National participants will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis. Further information can be found in the Financial conditions document.

Deadline for applications

The deadline for applications is **Monday, 31 January 2022, 18:00 Brussels time.**

The application process for the study visits in autumn will be published in the second call for applications to be released in the spring of 2022.

2. STUDY VISITS AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CJEU)

Presentation

The study visits will be organised at the Court of Justice of the European Union. The aim of these visits is to provide a deeper knowledge on the powers, organisation and functioning of the Court. The visits will include:

- Presentations on the Court's competencies, procedures, and case law
- Attendance to a hearing session

Requirements

To participate in study visits at the CJEU, you need to be:

- A judge, a prosecutor, a judicial trainer, or court staff

Calendar

Five study visits will be organised during 2022 at the CJEU, among which three in the first semester. In agreement with the host institutions, the format of the study visits of the 1st semester is to be confirmed at a later stage depending on the COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the visit. The schedule for the first semester and the working language is listed below:

Period	Location	Length	Working Language	Number of places available
14 – 15 March	Luxembourg (to be confirmed)	1.5 days	English	35
2 – 3 May	Luxembourg (to be confirmed)	1.5 days	French	35
4 – 5 July	Luxembourg (to be confirmed)	1.5 days	English	35

Financial conditions

In the case of a face-to-face study visit, a daily allowance of 180 € will be paid. Transport costs will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis up to a maximum of 400 € upon receipt of original transport documents. National participants will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis. Further information can be found in the Financial conditions document.

In the case of a virtual study visit, no reimbursement of any expense will be paid as virtual study visits are not subject to the EJTN financial conditions.

Deadline for application

The deadline for applications is **Monday, 31 January 2022, 18:00 Brussels time**.

A second call for applications for the study visits of the second semester will be issued in the spring of 2022.

3. STUDY VISITS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

Presentation:

The study visits will be organised at the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) and the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF). The study visits are designed to provide beneficiaries with an insight into the EU law making process and the host institution's functioning and procedures. The role of the European Anti-Fraud Office will also be explained.

Requirements

To participate in study visits in EU Institutions, you need to be:

- A judge, a prosecutor, a judicial trainer, or court staff

Calendar

Two study visits will be organised during 2022 at the EU institutions, amongst which one in the 1st semester. In agreement with the host institutions, the format of the study visits of the 1st semester is to be confirmed at a later stage depending on the COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the visit. The schedule for the first semester and the working language is listed below:

Period	Location	Length	Working Language	Number of places available
25 – 27 April (to be confirmed)	Brussels (to be confirmed)	3 days	English	35

Financial conditions

In the case of a face-to-face study visit, a daily allowance of 180€ will be paid to participants by EJTN. Transport costs will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis up to a maximum of 400 € upon receipt of original transport documents. National participants will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis. Further information can be found in the Financial Conditions document.

In the case of a virtual study visit, no reimbursement of any expense will be paid as virtual study visits are not subject to the EJTN financial conditions.

Deadline for applications

The deadline for applications is **Monday, 31 January 2022, 18:00 Brussels time**.

A second call for applications for the study visits of the second semester will be issued in the spring of 2022.

4. STUDY VISIT AT THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)

Presentation

The study visit will be organised at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna, Austria. It will be complemented by a visit at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The aim of the study visit is to introduce the participants to the work of the visited institutions in the judicial context. Among the topics tackled will be the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, FRA's work in the area of Non-Discrimination, LGBTI, Access to Justice, Asylum and Migration, Hate Crime, the Rights of the Child and Data Protection.

Requirements

To participate in this study visit, you need to be a judge, a prosecutor, judicial trainer, or court staff

Calendar

Two study visits will be organised at FRA in 2022, among which one in the 1st semester. In agreement with the host institutions, the format of the study visits of the 1st semester is to be confirmed depending on the COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the visit. The schedule for the first semester and the working language is listed below:

Period	Location	Length	Working Language	Number of places available
27 – 28 April	Vienna (to be confirmed)	2 days	English	40

Financial conditions

In the case of a face-to-face study visit, a daily allowance of 170 € will be paid. Transport costs will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis up to a maximum of 400 € upon receipt of original transport documents. National participants will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis. Further information can be found in the Financial conditions document.

In the case of a virtual study visit, no reimbursement of any expense will be paid as virtual study visits are not subject to the EJTN financial conditions.

Deadline for applications

The deadline for application is **Monday, 31 January 2022, 18:00 Brussels time**.

A second call for applications for the study visits of the second semester will be issued in the spring of 2022.

5. STUDY VISIT AT MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY “The Best Interests of the Child and Diversity in the Courtroom”

Presentation

The study visit will be organised at the **Department ‘Law & Anthropology’ at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (tbc)**. The Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, located in the city of Halle in Eastern Germany, is a leading centre for research in socio-cultural anthropology. The Department ‘Law & Anthropology’ aims to offer a stimulating interdisciplinary forum where both anthropologists and lawyers can engage constructively and conduct cutting-edge, policy-relevant research linked to intensified interactions within and between societies, communities and cultures in contemporary Europe and beyond. These interactions call for an in-depth assessment of the ways in which different normative orders and systems of morality coexist at various levels of decision-making.

The aim of the study visit is to provide deeper knowledge and comparative perspectives on how to address cultural and religious diversity in the courtroom, in particular when the principle of the best interests of the child is at stake.

Through a mixture of presentations, collaborative team-work exercises with Department researchers, self-study and joint discussion sessions, participants are offered the opportunity to develop in-depth contextual understanding of diversity dimensions that are of direct relevance to their judicial practice. Crucially, participants will be encouraged to engage in mutual exchange about their experiences and shared challenges.

For the year 2022, the following study theme will be offered for participants:

“The Best Interests of the Child and Diversity in the Courtroom”

Changing notions of childhood have made their way into (western) social and legal thinking, especially since the end of the twentieth century with the strengthening of the human rights discourse. From possessions of the family, children have gradually been recognised as independent subjects with their own rights and interests. This shift has gone hand in hand with the establishment of the principle of the best interests of the child. As enshrined in Article 3 of the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the best interests of the child “shall be a primary consideration” in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, or legislative bodies.

Being deliberately framed as an indeterminate notion, the ‘best interests’ principle has been subject to varying – often contrasting – judicial interpretations. If, on the one hand, its inherent indeterminateness is essential to ensure a fact-based assessment of what is in the best interests of a given child, on the other hand, its open-texture has been criticised for serving as an alibi for dominant ideologies, allowing for individual arbitrariness to the detriment of non-conventional family arrangements and practices.

How does this indeterminateness play out in the courtroom *vis-à-vis* the heightened cultural and religious diversity in contemporary European societies? Does it make room for the accommodation, recognition and valorisation of diversity? Does it trigger a judicial rethinking and pluralisation of what makes a family relationship legally relevant? Or, does it allow for reinforcing a monolithic understanding of what is in the child’s best interests grounded on certain (dominant) cultural values, but not others?

The indeterminateness of the ‘best interests’ principle, coupled with the increasingly diverse European landscape, makes the task of judges called on to determine matters related to children challenging and opportunities-rich, at the same time. Even if able to rely on expert evidence, judges remain responsible for translating expert findings into a judicial reasoning and outcome and, therefore, the decision of what arrangement better serves the best interests of the child concerned ultimately falls on them. This is all the more intricate when elements of culture and religion come in, thus adding an extra layer of complexity to the determination of the child’s best interests.

The aim of the Judicial Study Visit Program is to enable judges to jointly explore some of the questions they are confronted with in their home jurisdictions. Diversity is to be seen not only as coming from the outside, but also one that is specific to internal developments within European societies.

Requirements

Judges and prosecutors with a keen interest in questions of sociocultural and religious diversity in judicial practice and a strong motivation to building bridges between legal practice and academia. Applicants are asked to submit a short letter of motivation in which they indicate which of the above-mentioned field they are interested in and how/why this theme is relevant in their own judicial practice/experience. Good working knowledge of English is required as the selected participants will be expected to actively contribute throughout the study visit, including but not limited to, presenting case materials from their own jurisdiction as well as comparative background information on their home jurisdictions.

Calendar

One study visit will be organised at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in 2022:

Period	Location	Length	Working Language	Number of places available
25-29 April	Halle (to be confirmed)	5 days	English	10 places

Financial conditions

In the case of a face-to-face visit, a daily allowance of 160 € will be paid to participants by EJTN during the whole period of the study visit. Transport costs will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis up to a maximum

of 400 € upon receipt of original transport documents. National participants will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis. Further information can be found in the Study Visits Financial Conditions.

In the case of a virtual study visit, no reimbursement of any expense will be paid as virtual study visits are not subject to the EJTN financial conditions.

Deadline for applications

The deadline for applications is **Monday, 31 January 2022, 18:00 Brussels time.**