

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

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SUMMARY

The aim of the training programme is to enhance the awareness of non-competition national enforcers (judiciary staff and law enforcement staff) regarding competition matters through training activities and study visits. These activities intend to improve the non-competition national enforcers' ability to identify potential anticompetitive behaviour by understanding what information and evidence would be valuable for enforcing EU competition law.

By increasing the knowledge of non-competition national enforcers and fostering investigative cooperation, this initiative aligns with the EU's strategic objective of strengthening the ex-officio enforcement carried out by the European Commission and National Competition Authorities (NCAs). This is achieved by involving more enforcers in detecting and prosecuting anticompetitive actions. The European Commission particularly seeks to reinforce the collaborative efforts with non-competition national enforcers, encouraging them to share information and evidence related to potential infringements of EU competition law with the European Commission and NCAs.

The information and evidence gathered by these enforcers during their routine investigation activities in economic and financial matters (non-competition related investigations and under criminal regimes) hold paramount importance for the ex-officio enforcement of EU competition rules. In the Exotic Fruit case, the European Court of Justice has also validated this form of enforcement cooperation, confirming the utilization as evidence by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP) of the information transmitted obtained by national non-competition enforcers.

Specific Objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Training addressing both management and operational personnel of the non-competition national enforcers (senior and middle managers of investigators as well as investigators).
- **Objective 2:** Training of personnel of the non-competition national enforcers managing or conducting investigative activities in economic and financial matters, under criminal regimes, as core daily tasks.
- **Objective 3:** Training of personnel of the non-competition national enforcers employed throughout the National territory of the Member State.
- **Objective 4:** Publication of internal guidelines for non-competition national enforcers.

OVERVIEW

8 training sessions in the judicial training schools of the EU Member States and 3 study visits at the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission are foreseen in the framework of the programme. Below is an overview of the programme:

Event	Format	Number of participants	Target audience	Overview
Training Sessions	8 hours over 2 half-days	40	Prosecutors managing or conducting investigations in economic and financial matters, as core daily tasks.	By combining presentations on EU Competition rules and practical cases of investigation cooperation between the European Commission and national non-competition enforcers, the training will raise the participants' awareness in EU Competition matters and increase their ability in identifying potential anticompetitive behaviour by understanding what information and evidence would be valuable for enforcing EU competition law. The training will be designed and delivered by officials of DG Comp. In order to allow a free exchange of opinions, participants will be invited to get acquainted with "Chatham House Rules" and make use of it. None of the training sessions will be recorded.
			Investigative judges* managing or conducting investigations in economic and financial matters, as core daily tasks.	
			Law enforcement personnel managing or conducting investigative activities in economic and financial matters, as core daily tasks.	
			Operational personnel of the non-competition national enforcers.	

Study Visits to DG Comp	4 hours (1 half-day)	10	Chief Prosecutors, Prosecutors managing or conducting investigations in economic and financial matters, as core daily tasks.	The study visit at the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission will enable participants to get an overview of DG COMP's competences and mission. The study visit will comprise a high-level ad hoc training session on EU competition enforcement by DG COMP's officials and managers of other investigation units. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to meet with DG COMP officials and managers of the 'Data Analysis and Technology' unit to strengthen relations and connectedness between the two institutions in view of future cooperation activities.
			Investigative judges* managing or conducting investigations in economic and financial matters, as core daily tasks.	
			Senior and middle managers and law enforcement personnel managing or conducting investigative activities in economic and financial matters, as core daily tasks.	

**When referring to judges, it is worth mentioning that it is applicable only in jurisdictions in which these professional profiles carry out these investigative activities.*

WORKING LANGUAGE:

The working language of all training sessions and study visits will be English.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

The training sessions and study visits shall not be addressed to the personnel of the non-competition national enforcers following induction courses (or initial training courses) at the time of joining the beneficiaries.

Each participant is allowed to attend not more than one training session. Additionally, they will not be allowed to attend study-visits if already attended the training session.

Other exclusion criteria:

- Prosecutor or judges not managing or conducting investigations in economic and financial matters, as core daily tasks
- Judges not managing investigations
- Trainees
- Junior management law enforcement personnel

CALENDAR

Dates	Type	Venue/Country	Deadline to apply
2-3 July 2024	Training session	Belgium (Brussels)	28/06/2024
12-13 September 2024	Training session	Belgium (Brussels)	19/08/2024
26-27 September 2024	Training session	Greece (Athens)	19/08/2024
10 October 2024	Study visit	DG COMP (Brussels)	10/08/2024
24-25 October 2024	Training session	Italy (Naples)	30/08/2024
12-13 November 2024	Training session	Belgium (Brussels)	13/09/2024

REGISTRATION

Interested candidates are invited to apply through their national training institution. Once selected, they will receive an official invitation to the event including a link to register their participation on the EJTN platform.

REIMBURSEMENT

Participants are responsible for booking their travel to the venue. Travel costs incurred for participation are to be claimed after the event through the same platform used for registration.

Accommodation and meals, as a general rule, will be booked for participants and covered by the project. When this is not possible, participants will be informed before the registration to the event and they will be asked to book themselves their accommodation.

The reimbursement will be taking place according to the actual costs encountered by the participants, but not more than what was foreseen. Participants will be informed about the ceiling foreseen for each event.

The reimbursement procedure will be disseminated to each participant before the registration and can be requested also by email at any moment.

DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union.

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.