

Judicial Independence and Impartiality

5-week online course

Starting 2 October 2023 – 2.5 hours per week

OVERVIEW

The CEELI Institute is organizing an online course on Judicial Independence and Impartiality from 2 October to 9 November 2023, for judges and other legal professionals from Central and Eastern Europe as well as other regions. This training is organized as part of the CEELI Institute's Central and Eastern European Judicial Exchange Network activities. The overarching aim of the Network is to enhance judicial integrity, strengthen public confidence, and promote accountability and transparency in the judiciary across Central and Eastern Europe. The independence of the judiciary is an inherent element of the rule of law, and indispensable to the functioning of the judicial system. The aim of this online course is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of the members of the judiciary in the Central and Eastern Europe region on the judicial vetting process, disciplinary and performance evaluation, how to counter the external pressures and threats towards the judiciary, and how to engage with the media—including social media—while maintaining judicial independence.

MODULES

The course will consist of 5 modules, each composed of:

- A reading/resource list
- An online discussion forum with 3 questions, running over a week.
- A live webinar with experts

MODULE 1: What is Judicial Independence?

This module will consider various standards developed on the independence of the judiciary, placing these in the context of the right to a fair trial.

MODULE 2: Enhancing Judicial Integrity through Transparent Vetting Processes

Judicial vetting has been recommended as a way of managing corruption, entailing an examination of the disclosure of assets and financial resources of members of the judiciary, background checks, as well as assessment of proficiency, among others. This module will consider such approaches and how they can comply with the right to a fair trial and Article 8 rights of judges themselves.

MODULE 3: Managing Pressures and Potential for Corruption

In this module, the various internal and external pressures to which a judge may be subject will be analyzed, and the potential for corruption. We will consider

forms of political interference (such as reduction of the budget, reassigning court presidents, and lack of security of tenure), as well as appointment processes, remuneration, and case allocation.

MODULE 4: Balancing Judicial Accountability and Independence in Performance Evaluation

The fourth module will examine disciplinary processes to which judges are subject, and how performance is evaluated including through quotas. The internal hierarchy of the courts, and the role of court presidents, will also be considered, as will the impact of career progression and internal pressures on judicial independence.

MODULE 5: Communication and the Media

Engaging with various forms of the media, including social media, whilst maintaining independence will be the topic of this module. It will consider how to balance freedom of expression with avoidance of impropriety, in court as well as in one's own private life.





PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND APPROACH TO LEARNING

This 5-week course from the CEELI Institute will use *CEELI Online*, our dedicated learning platform, to facilitate an effective learning environment that provides the opportunities for members of the judiciary and faculty to connect, engage and share knowledge. The training is comprised of a structured program of study with online modules (both live and recorded) featuring a weekly release of materials. Each week comprises of 2.5 hours of materials including reports, recorded interviews, and discussion forums, with a live 1-hour webinar panel every Thursday from 12 October. The course will be conducted in English.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The main target audience are judges from Central and Eastern Europe, however, the subject matter may also appeal to judges in other regions, together with prosecutors, court personnel, academics, NGOs, CSOs and others. The online nature of the course allows us to cater for to a large number of participants. To maximize the benefit of this course participants must have a solid grasp of English.

HOW TO APPLY?

Participants should register [HERE](#) by 22 September 2023. All applications are reviewed and subject to approval.

FACULTY

The course will be led by Marcela Entlichová, Program Manager, the CEELI Institute, and Professor Rachel Murray, Consultant and Director, Human Rights Implementation Centre School of Law, University of Bristol. The wide ranging regional and international faculty will include judges, practitioners, researchers, and academics together with subject matter experts from European Institutions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Marcela Entlichová Marcela.Entlichova@ceeli.eu or Arlind Puka Arlind.Puka@ceeli.eu

Please note the full webinar title (Judicial Independence and Impartiality) in the subject line of your email.

