



Digitalisation of Justice: Transforming European Cross- Border Civil Procedures

Legal English for Court Staff and Bailiffs

Sofia, 27 May – 29 May 2026

EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW

Speakers

Cristina-Izabela Chiriac

Court Clerk, Romanian National School of Clerks, Bucharest

Aude Fiorini

Senior Lecturer in Law, Dundee Law School

Eva Samaniego Fernández

Professor, Department of Foreign Languages of the National Distance Education University (UNED), Madrid

George Stanimirov Niagolov

Senior Assistant Professor and Lecturer, Department of English and American Studies, University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia

Maarja Torga

Consultant, Supreme Court of Estonia, Tartu

Key topics

- Legal framework of cross-border civil cases
- Digitalisation of judicial cooperation
- Digital by default
- E-CODEX
- Brussels I Regulation (recast)
- Service of documents
- Taking of evidence
- European Payment Order
- European Small Claims Procedure

Language
English

Event number
126DT125

Organisers
ERA (Jaroslav Opravil) in
cooperation with the Bulgarian
National Institute of Justice (NIJ)



Wednesday, 27 May 2026

- 08:45 Arrival of participants
- 09:00 **Opening session: welcome words and introduction to the project**
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Jaroslav Opravil, ERA
- 09:10 **Key legal terminology in digitalised EU cross-border civil procedures**
Eva Samaniego Fernández
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **Setting the scene: Digitalisation of judicial cooperation in civil matters**
- Key aspects of Brussels I Regulation (recast) and the EU *acquis* in civil matters
 - Digital by default mandate
 - e-CODEX system and JUDEX
- Maarja Torga
- 12:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 **GROUP A: Cross-border service of documents**
Forms and methods of service with a focus on e-service
Maarja Torga
- GROUP B: Legal language training (Part I)**
- Core terminology used in cross-border civil proceedings
 - Common phrases and structures in EU judicial communication
 - Avoiding typical language pitfalls in written and oral exchanges
- Eva Samaniego Fernández
- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:30 **GROUP A: Legal language training (Part I)**
- Core terminology used in cross-border civil proceedings
 - Common phrases and structures in EU judicial communication
 - Avoiding typical language pitfalls in written and oral exchanges
- Eva Samaniego Fernández
- GROUP B: Cross-border service of documents**
Forms and methods of service with a focus on e-service
Maarja Torga
- 17:00 End of the first day
- 19:00 Seminar dinner

Thursday, 28 May 2026

- 09:00 **GROUP A: Taking of evidence abroad**
- What falls under 'evidence'?
 - Requesting evidence via the digital channel
- Cristina-Izabela Chiriac
- GROUP B: Legal language training (Part II)**
- Core terminology used in cross-border civil proceedings
 - Common phrases and structures in EU judicial communication
 - Avoiding typical language pitfalls in written and oral exchanges
- Eva Samaniego Fernández
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **GROUP A: Legal language training (Part II)**
- Core terminology used in cross-border civil proceedings
 - Common phrases and structures in EU judicial communication
 - Avoiding typical language pitfalls in written and oral exchanges
- Eva Samaniego Fernández

Objective

The purpose of this interactive seminar is twofold: first, to introduce participants to the law and practice of digitalised cross-border civil procedures and, secondly, to improve their English skills.

Participants will be encouraged to solve practical case studies on the subject matter, while also receiving the tools and developing the ability to communicate effectively in English in cross-border situations.

Who should attend?

Court staff and bailiffs from EU Member States who need to apply EU law procedures to fulfil judicial or procedural functions. Participation is only possible upon nomination by the project partners.

Your contacts



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Eva Healy
Event Coordinator
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Location

National Institute of Justice,
14, Ekzarh Yossif str., 1000 Sofia

GROUP B: Taking of evidence abroad

- What falls under 'evidence'?
- Requesting evidence via the digital channel

Cristina-Izabela Chiriac

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 GROUP A: Solving case studies and practical exercises on service of documents and taking of evidence

Cristina-Izabela Chiriac

GROUP B: Legal language training (Part III)

- Core terminology used in cross-border civil proceedings
- Common phrases and structures in EU judicial communication
- Avoiding typical language pitfalls in written and oral exchanges

George Niagolov

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 GROUP A: Legal language training (Part III)

- Core terminology used in cross-border civil proceedings
- Common phrases and structures in EU judicial communication
- Avoiding typical language pitfalls in written and oral exchanges

George Niagolov

GROUP B: Solving case studies and practical exercises on service of documents and taking of evidence

Cristina-Izabela Chiriac

17:00 End of the second day

19:00 Seminar dinner

Friday, 29 May 2026

09:00 Legal language training (Part IV)

- Core terminology used in cross-border civil proceedings
- Common phrases and structures in EU judicial communication
- Avoiding typical language pitfalls in written and oral exchanges

George Niagolov

10:30 Coffee break

10:45 Recovering cross-border debts electronically

- Enforcement of judgments: Brussels I (recast) and Regulation (EU) 2023/2844
- European Payment Order
- European Small Claims Procedure

Aude Fiorini

11:45 WORKSHOP: Solving case studies on the European Payment Order

Aude Fiorini

12:30 Discussion of the workshop results in plenary

13:00 Closing remarks

Jaroslav Opravil

13:15 End of the seminar

About the Project

The seminar is part of a large-scale project co-funded by the European Commission entitled "Training court staff and bailiffs/judicial officers on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal law procedures". The project brings together 25 organisations from different countries that will tackle the deficiencies of court staff and bailiffs' training by adopting a modern and practical approach to EU judicial training. 10 language training events and 4 pan-European legal academies will be offered in face-to-face, hybrid and online formats.

Project partnership

Beneficiaries

Belgium: Judicial Training Institute

Bulgaria: Institute of Justice

Poland: National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution

Romania: School of Clerks

UEHJ: European Union of Judicial Officers

Associated partners

Albania: School of Magistrates

Austria: Federal Ministry of Justice

Czechia: Judicial Academy

Estonia: Office of the Prosecutor General

EJTN: European Judicial Training Network

Spain: Centre for Legal Studies

EUR: European Union of Rechtspfleger

Finland: National Courts Administration

France: National School of Clerks

Croatia: Judicial Academy

Lithuania: National Courts Administration

Latvia: Judicial Academy

Moldova: National institute of Justice

Malta: Court Services Agency

The Netherlands: Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary

Slovenia: Ministry of Justice - Judicial Training Centre

Ukraine: Prosecutor's Training Center

Ukraine: National School of Judges

Kosovo: Academy of Justice

Project webpage

If you are interested in more information about the seminar project or would like to have free access to the specially developed training materials, please visit our project webpage under the following link:

csab.legaltraining.eu

Programme may be subject to amendment.

The content of this seminar represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

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Sofia, 27-29 May 2026 / Event no.: 126DT125



Terms and conditions of participation

Selection

1. Participation is on selection and free of charge. The number of places available is limited (22 places). Participants should have a working knowledge of English.
2. Interested court staff may register via their respective national training institutions. Interested bailiffs may register via UEHJ. Applications should be submitted before **18 March 2026**. A response will be sent to every applicant after this deadline. **We advise you not to book any non-refundable travel or accommodation before you receive our confirmation.**

Travel and Accommodation

3. Participants will receive a fixed contribution towards their travel expenses and are asked to book their own travel. The condition for payment of this contribution is to sign all attendance sheets at the event. The amount of the contribution will be determined by the **EU unit cost calculation guidelines**, which are based on the distance from the participant's place of work to the seminar location and will not take account of the participant's actual travel costs.

No travel and accommodation cost is paid for local participants travelling less than 50 km one way from their place of work to the venue.

Participants travelling a distance of 50-400 km one way from the place of work to the venue receive contributions according to the EU's respective unit costs. (Brussels, 31.7.2024 C(2024)5405 final)

A fixed sum of €365 is paid for travel of a distance of 401-1600 km one way from the place of work to the venue.

A fixed sum of €429 is paid for travel over a distance of 1600 km one way from the place of work to the venue.

4. In Sofia, a fixed sum of €110 per night is paid for accommodation (maximum 3 nights). Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation
5. Successful applicants will be sent the relevant claim form and information on how to obtain payment of the contribution to their expenses. Please note that no payment is possible if the registered participant cancels their participation for any reason.

Other services

6. Beverages consumed during the event, two lunches and two joint dinners are offered by the organiser. No per diems will be offered. Participants will receive seminar documentation.

Participation

7. Participation at the whole seminar is required and participants' presence will be recorded.
8. A list of participants including each participant's address will be made available to all participants unless ERA receives written objection from the participant no later than one week prior to the beginning of the event.
9. The participant will be asked to give permission for their address and other relevant information to be stored in ERA's database in order to provide information about future ERA events, publications and/or other developments in the participant's area of interest.
10. A certificate of attendance will be distributed electronically after the end of the seminar.

Location

National Institute of Justice,
14, Ekzarh Yossif str., 1000 Sofia

Language

English

Contact

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