

AIKOS PROGRAMME

BELGIUM – JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE



Description and objectives of the AIKOS Programme

The EJTN AIKOS Programme is addressed specifically to future and early-career judges, giving them the opportunity to learn about other judicial systems and training curricula, enhance their knowledge of EU law and judicial cooperation instruments as well as meet with their counterparts and develop useful contacts for their future professional life.

The AIKOS Programme's objectives are:

- To bring together future or newly appointed judges from different EU Member States;
- To foster mutual understanding of different European judicial cultures and systems;
- To raise awareness of the European dimension of their (future) work.

Specificity of the host institution

IGO-IFJ is the Belgian judicial training institute for judges, prosecutors and court staff and provides initial and continuous training to judicial trainees, magistrates and court staff.

It is however important to notice that IGO-IFJ is not a magistrate school. IGO-IFJ only trains trainees who already succeeded in the admission exam and are already attached to a jurisdiction.

It is equally important to observe that administrative judges are not a part of the judiciary according to Belgian law. Therefore, the AIKOS programme does not provide any topics on administrative law.

The AIKOS programme is mandatory for Belgian trainees, who act as hosts of the foreign participants.

Key points for the host institution's programme

IGO-IFJ fully adheres to the general objectives of the AIKOS programme and reflects this in its programme. We emphasize and encourage the networking component of the programme and aim to contribute to the creation of a network of young European magistrates who can easily contact and liaise with each other in informal and personal ways in order to enhance and facilitate international cooperation between EU magistrates.



The activities in the program are designed in a way that favours personal contacts between all the participants. IGO-IFJ also integrates a full day of lectures on the topic of radicalisation and terrorism, as we consider this subject highly important and relevant for the future generation of European magistrates.

Content of the host institution's programme

- **Getting- to know each other day**, including presentations by the participants, initiation courses on the Belgian legal system given by Belgian trainees and workshops on understanding legal systems of the EU where concrete cases are discussed in small groups gathering participants of different nationalities. The first day is closed by an optional common dinner.
- **Belgian Justice in practice day**, with a visit of the Palace of justice. Participants will attend court hearings in small groups, guided by Belgian trainees. The day is closed by a visit of the city of Brussels.
- **European Day**, with lectures and workshops on the EU-legislation in civil and commercial matters, followed by a visit to the European parliament.
- **Terrorism day**, with lectures on radicalisation and combating terrorism from a judicial point of view, with practical case studies presented by experienced magistrates.
- The last day, participants take part in a **fictitious murder trial** where they act as a jury, enhancing language skills and the understanding of other legal systems. A topic on **judgecraft** will also be included.

Additional information

Due to the large size of the group (around 50 participants), the program is mainly based on lectures, followed by practical exercises in smaller groups. The theoretical part is alternated with visits (palace of justice, court hearings, the city and the European parliament). The content is solely focused on civil and criminal law, as administrative judges are not part of the Belgian judiciary.

