



Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Implementation of Training Tools to Favour the Correct Application of EU Law and International Judicial Co-operation**

Type of practice: **Good Practice**

Country: **The Netherlands**

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Title of practice	Ensuring Visibility of EU Law Content in Domestic Law Courses
<i>Key features:</i>	<p>In the Netherlands the Dutch Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary (SSR) integrates European law as much as possible into its regular courses on (national) law topics.</p> <p>This approach raises the awareness of Dutch judges and prosecutors of the fact that European law is national law. However, the inclusion of European law in national law courses made European law somewhat ‘invisible’.</p> <p>Therefore, in order to indicate that European law forms part of a certain course, in SSR’s digital course catalogue, an EU flag is included at the top of the course description.</p> <p>As a result of this practice, the visibility of European law in the curriculum of SSR has increased. Moreover, it also has increased awareness amongst SSR course managers that wherever appropriate, European law has to be included in the courses they develop and revise.</p>
<i>Institution contact details</i>	<p>Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary (SSR) Postal address: Postbus 5015 3502 JA Utrecht Visiting address: Uniceflaan 1 3527 WX Utrecht Phone: + 31 88 361 3212 E-mail: ssr.international@ssr.nl Website: http://www.ssr.nl</p>
<i>Other comments</i>	<p>This GOOD PRACTICE is extremely easy to adopt and its transferability makes it highly recommended.</p> <p>According to the SSR experience, the introduction of the practice was fairly</p>

simple, although its material implementation was more difficult and time-consuming.

In order to implement it, for all continuous education courses the SSR course managers and their (external) pool of trainers had to assess the extent to which European law formed a part.

In 2011 the amount of courses in continuous education was 531, so it has taken substantial time and effort to make the necessary assessments, in particular for the courses where the inclusion of European law was not so obvious.

At times there was some doubt as to whether a flag should be placed in the course description, as it could be argued that almost all national law is influenced to a larger or smaller extent by European law. That has caused some resistance but also stimulated some interesting discussions on the specific relations between national law and European law.

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "*Lot 1 – Study on best practices in training judges and prosecutors*", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)