



Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Innovative Training Methodology**

Type of practice: **Best Practice**

Country: **Spain**

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Title of practice	Blended e-Learning
Key features:	<p>In Spain since 2004, the Spanish Judicial School has been organising continuous training courses on specific areas of European Law using the 'blended e-Learning' tool, notably with the support of EU grants. These courses have two different phases: the first phase is completed through an online campus which lasts for eight weeks. All participants who successfully complete the first phase are granted access to the second phase, which consists of a two day face-to-face meeting at the Judicial School. Each online module contains a practical presentation of the subject and any related documents. It is also possible to participate in a forum to debate the practical or theoretical issues. Finally, participants are required to complete exercises both individually and within a group.</p> <p>The objectives of this system are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Create learning materials that may be enhanced each year due to the outcome of the interaction between staff (tutors) and participants.▪ Allow each participant to manage at his/her own discretion the time that is required for learning.▪ Allow for reorganising and use of these materials, both at the initial and in continuous training.▪ Manage large and small groups.▪ Create public and private dialogues between staff and participants.▪ Build a flexible structure capable of adapting itself to different situations and people.

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<i>Other comments</i>	<p>Such a BEST PRACTICE may involve considerable expense in its preparation and for the translation of materials if the course is offered in several languages.</p> <p>Nevertheless, since the majority of materials produced can be used in following years, the initial cost may be considered a good investment.</p> <p>The experience only requires the availability of very basic IT tools which should be familiar to every European judge or prosecutor. It may allow the participation of people from different countries, thus enriching the training experience. It offers very specialised and detailed content, something that is less easy to achieve in a normal face-to-face training activity.</p> <p>The methodology has been successful so far, as it combines online learning and face-to-face sessions. The latter allows a more in-depth approach to some subjects, along with answering questions and, most importantly, sharing personal experiences.</p> <p>At the present moment, a large number of judges and prosecutors from different EU member States are taking part in the Spanish online programmes on European Law.</p>

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)