



Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Innovative Training Methodology**

Type of practice: **Good Practice**

Country: **Germany**

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Title of practice	Media Communication – Interactive and Multi-layer Media Training
<i>Key features:</i>	<p>In Germany, interactive media training sessions are organised which last four-to-five days. Usually, there are at least two media trainers present (often journalists) and the attendees are allocated to ‘rotating’ thematic working groups of a maximum of 8 to 12 people (meaning that at the end of the course, everyone will have actively dealt with each topic).</p> <p>Videotaping and individual feedback highlight strong points as well as errors or deficiencies. Typical interactive working group topics are ‘Giving a TV or radio interview,’ ‘Making a TV statement,’ ‘Making a press statement,’ ‘Portraying a new court leader,’ ‘Informing the public while safeguarding data protection rights,’ ‘Learning to cope with aggressive counterparts’, etc.</p>
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For media training, the concept of *learning by doing* is increasingly becoming more relevant than most of the other 'soft skills'. Often, judges and prosecutors are not the most natural communicators and an awkward public performance in this domain is regrettably rather often seen in practice. In addition, judges and prosecutors often deal with very sensitive and delicate matters. Any form of data protection needs to be reconciled with the legitimate information needs of the general public. Practice-oriented and multi-layer media training focusing on typical patterns and enriched with objective feedback enables the attendees to get some kind of routine and to feel more confident in front of the camera or at a press conference.

This **GOOD PRACTICE**, established to tackle certain problems, has a good effectiveness rate but is rather expensive because of the logistical resources it involves. It can target only a small group of participants at one time and is especially aimed at magistrates who perform the role of spokesperson for courts and prosecution offices.

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)