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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION
of the
2011-2020 European judicial training strategy

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The aim of evaluating the European judicial training strategy was to assess the extent to which the strategy was successful in its implementation from 2011 to 2017 and whether it is still fit for today's challenges.

To do this, the European Commission drew up a stakeholder consultation strategy including an Expert Group on European judicial training, an open public consultation and a targeted consultation, meetings and a stakeholder conference. A supporting study was carried out by a contractor.

Effectiveness

The **strategy's operational, specific and general objectives were achieved to a good extent** overall. The target of **training half of all legal practitioners** on EU law between 2011 and 2020, in itself a driver of political change, was achieved two years ahead of time. Over the 7 years, almost all the justice professions the strategy focused on reached the annual target of 5% of practitioners in each profession receiving training. The quantified objective of 1200 judicial exchanges per year has been surpassed and there has been an ever-increasing growth in the number of training activities. The strategy led to an **almost doubling of EU funds** available for training legal practitioners and **significant improvements in the capacity of networks and training providers** such as the **European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)**. Some other operational objectives were achieved to a certain extent, such as improved national regulatory frameworks and increased support for training on legal terminology in foreign languages. Overall, the strategy has helped increase **knowledge of EU law** while **increasing mutual trust** between legal practitioners.

Efficiency

The costs associated with implementing the strategy were **considered proportionate and justified overall**, given the number of legal practitioners trained.

Relevance

Stakeholders consider the strategy's scope, objectives and tools to be **highly relevant**. There was some room to improve the strategy's objectives. The evaluation confirmed the need to **better reach some categories of justice professionals**, notably lawyers, court staff, and **further focus on topics such as the rule of law**, fundamental rights, judgecraft and legal terminology. While supporting the strategy's geographical focus on EU Member States, the evaluation highlighted the need to extend priorities to non-EU countries that wish to adhere to European values.

Coherence

The strategy is **coherent** overall. It fits well with other relevant EU instruments in the field and with other strategies that have training objectives and it is coherent with the judicial training policies in the EU Member States.

EU Added Value

The **strategy brings EU added value**. The political interest it triggered enabled EU funds to be allocated in this area. Most of the strategy's objectives would not be achieved to the same extent or at all at national level if the strategy did not exist. The strategy offered **EU-level networks and training providers** a framework to coordinate their efforts and work towards common goals.

Sustainability

The strategy's **lasting effects** are visible in improved **knowledge** of EU law, strengthened **mutual trust** and an increased level of **cooperation** among justice professionals in the EU Member States. Training providers and networks also consolidated their capacity for delivering training on EU law.

Conclusion

The results of the evaluation of the 2011 European judicial training strategy were widely acknowledged as highly positive and support the case for continuing efforts in this field.