



European Network of Councils
for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils
de la Justice (RECJ)

1. Projects 2026-2027

The General Assembly in Paris adopted the **ENCJ 2026-2027** work plan, which includes the set-up of several projects.

1. Project on the Independence and Accountability & Quality of the Judiciary

Coordinators: Independence and Accountability – (ENCJ Office), Team assisting judges
Rvdr Netherlands
Quality – Sodni svet
Court users survey – CSM France

Preliminary meeting calendar for the year 2026/2027:

For Independence and Accountability

- 1-2 October 2026, Madrid (hosted by the CGPJ Spain)
- Online meeting on 7 December at 13:00hrs CET online meeting
- In-person dialogue groups meetings to be organised in January & February 2027
- Plenary meeting on 15 & 16 April 2027 (in-person, venue to be determined).

The activities for 2026/2027 are:

For Independence and Accountability

- In accordance with the continuous improvement cycle, dialogue group meetings will be organised in 2026-2027.
- Where needed, improvement plans will be developed to address weaknesses and/or to build on strengths in the period from January until June 2027.
- The plenary will also focus on a specific topic: the team assisting judges in carrying out adjudication (their functions, formation and training, limitation of their tasks).

Court User Surveys across Europe

- Volunteer jurisdictions will be invited to carry out the ENCJ Court users' surveys and share results.
- Taking into consideration the experiences of all jurisdictions and the lessons learned, the ENCJ Court users' survey may be revisited.

For Quality

- In accordance with the continuous improvement cycle, dialogue group meetings will be organised in 2027.



- Where needed, improvement plans will be developed to address weaknesses and/or to build on strengths in the period from January until June 2027.
- The plenary of the project group will also focus on a specific topic: the workload of a judge. It will review the existing arrangements (mechanisms) to assess the workload of a judge and look into possible recommendations for setting an optimal workload.
- A schematic overview of quality related activities of the Councils for the Judiciary will be updated (Annex of the Quality framework).

Registration for this project remains open (see 2. Registration). The registration for this project is limited to a maximum of 2 participants per ENCJ Member and 1 participant per ENCJ Observer.

2. ENCJ Digital Justice Forum

Coordinators: CPGA Italy and CGPJ Spain

The Forum aims to:

- Provide a network for the exchange of information and advice for national experts dealing with digitisation;
- Promote dialogue on challenges and opportunities – balancing efficiency and access to justice and independence;
- To monitor developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence and the challenges and opportunities it may provide for the judiciary;
- To exchange best practices and developments at the national level;
- To provide a judicial perspective on e-Justice to the European Commission;
- To liaise with CEPEJ Cyberjustice working group, CCBE, Unit E-Justice DG JUST EC.

The activities for 2026/2027 are:

- To finalize the development of guidelines (recommendations) for the use of technology within the judiciary;
- To enhance a network for the exchange of information and advice for national experts dealing with digitalisation;
- To tackle specific topics of concern for the judiciary, such as cyber security, data protection and use of AI;
- To exchange best practices and developments at the national level;
- To provide a judicial perspective on the digitalisation of justice to the European Commission.

Dates of meetings:

- **29&30 October 2026 meeting in Brussels,**
- **18&19 February 2027, venue to be determined.**

Registration for this project is limited to a maximum of **2 participants** per ENCJ Member and **1 participant** per ENCJ Observer

To ensure continuity in the implementation of this ongoing project, the Office will maintain the participation of currently designated members. Councils that have not yet appointed a representative may do so through this call for registration. If a Council wishes to change its existing member, a new registration is required for the replacement.



3. Thematic dialogue group: Disciplinary standards

Coordinators: CGPJ Spain

CSM Portugal

and CSM France

Promoting a European Judicial Culture based on shared values and shared experiences by setting up thematic dialogue groups in which a small number of representatives of the ENCJ members share experiences and best practices.

The Thematic Dialogue Group on Disciplinary Standards started its work in September 2025 on updating the 2014-2015 standards for disciplinary proceedings of judges in light of the developments of CJEU and ECtHR case law. While the group has advanced well in 2025/2026, additional time is necessary to finalize the review.

Dates of meetings:

- **In-person meeting 15&16 October 2026 in Brussels,**
- **Possible meeting in January 2027, date to be determined.**



To ensure continuity in the implementation of this ongoing project, the Office will maintain the participation of currently designated members. Councils that have not yet appointed a representative are welcome to do so through this call for registration, keeping in mind that the work of the group is well advanced. If a Council wishes to change its existing member, a new registration will be required for the replacement.

Registration for this project is limited to a maximum of **1 participant** per ENCJ Member/Observer. If more than one representative is registered, the institution is free to choose which representative will come to the in-person meetings, while participation in online meetings is offered to all registered participants.



4. Thematic dialogue group on revision of standards on selection of judges

Coordinators: OBT Hungary and TP Latvia

This project group will start its work in September 2026. The ENCJ standards on the selection and appointment of judges were developed in 2011-2012. The development of the case-law of the CJEU and ECtHR in the area, together with the changing reality in relation to attracting and recruiting the best candidates, warrants its revision.

Dates of meetings:

- **23 October 2026 at 13:00hrs online meeting;**
- **18&19 January 2027 in person, venue to be determined;**
- **Depending on the advancement of the group, an additional in-person meeting may be held in Spring 2027.**

Registration for this project is limited to a maximum of **1 participant** per ENCJ Member/Observer.

5. ENCJ Lunch seminars

Coordinators: arranged by the ENCJ Office, chaired by a member of the Executive Board

To promote mutual knowledge and trust among the ENCJ Members and Observers, especially in times of remote meetings, the ENCJ started to organise regular online lunch seminars. On the 3rd Tuesday of the month, a seminar around a central theme is organized. External speakers and other stakeholders are invited to join. The seminars aim to discuss issues of common interest, for example, national practices or recent developments.

The character of the lunch seminars is informal. Six lunch seminars are foreseen for the year 2026-2027. Invitations to register will be sent to the ENCJ Members and Observers before every lunch seminar.

2. Registration

Registration for the projects is now available through the ENCJ website. The deadline for registration is **Friday, 11 September 2026**. We kindly ask you to use the **registration system provided**.

The first **meeting of the project on Independence, Accountability and Quality of the Judiciary will take place on 1-2 October in Madrid (hosted by the CGPJ of Spain)**. Please register for this meeting using the form on the website.



IMPORTANT. We kindly ask you to make sure that the email addresses provided in the system are correct. If you wish all e-mails regarding the events to be sent to your international department or the assisting team, please make sure to enter the respective email as an alternative (assistant) email. **Please note that once the mailing groups are formed at the end of the registration, the emails are always automatically sent to everyone in the specific group, and it is not possible to alter these lists.** Only a follow-up e-mail may be sent to the participants who have participated in the concrete meeting.

Project team members

To enable fruitful meetings and constructive dialogue, we remind the Members of what was decided at the General Assembly in Lisbon. The participation per ENCJ Member in the IA&Q project and the Digital Justice Forum is limited to a maximum of 2 participants. For the other projects, the limit is set at 1 participant per ENCJ Member.

In the interest of the well-functioning of the projects, Members are kindly requested to ensure that ***the same representatives participate in the project team meetings during the entire year.*** Please ensure that representatives have the relevant competencies to contribute to the work of the project team.

3. Rules of reimbursement

In 2026/2027, the following reimbursement rules apply.

The ENCJ was selected to be awarded an operating grant under the new Framework Partnership Agreement 2026-2028 with the European Commission. The eligible countries for this grant are the EU Member States minus Denmark.

Twice per year, the ENCJ Members will be invited to send in their reimbursement requests relating to the ENCJ project teams and organs (July and December). Members have to use the reimbursement form provided by the ENCJ Office.

The requests for the expenses incurred until 31 July 2027 will have to be sent to the Office **before 1 September 2027**. The requests for the expenses incurred from 31 July 2027 to the end of the year will have to be sent to the Office **before 10 January 2028**.

The European Commission has decided on a set of rules for the calculation of the costs for travel/accommodation and subsistence (meals). The new calculation (meaning the amount that the ENCJ will be eligible for the subvention) is based on unit prices set by the [European Commission](#).

Supporting documents that ENCJ needs to keep for the calculation of the units and for reporting to the European Commission are:

- For travel: registration forms and signed participants' lists (indicating the place of origin) to justify the travel unit costs
- For the accommodation costs: proof for the number of nights (agenda & travel connections) as this unit cost is per night spent for the meeting
- For subsistence cost: the agenda and programme of the event and the list indicating the number of participants to justify the number of units per day (24hrs)



Therefore, participants always need to make sure that they have signed the list of participants.
Without the signature, reimbursement will not be possible.

Project team meetings

Travel

The ENCJ will reimburse the costs for travel for **1 participant per ENCJ Member** per activity. The reimbursement will be calculated on the basis of the unit costs for travel set by the European Commission. The ENCJ will not make any travel arrangements.

Accommodation

The reimbursement will be done on the basis of the unit costs set by the European Commission (annex). For one-day meetings (even if spread over two days), in principle, 1 night will be reimbursed unless more nights are needed because there are no available flights (the burden of proof lies with the ENCJ Member).

In order to claim reimbursement for any night, it is necessary to prove that travelling on the date of the event was impossible. It is for the ENCJ Members who register for the event to prove that there were no reasonable flights. Flights requiring traveling late/ in the middle of the night are not seen as reasonable.

Screenshots of the flight schedule websites (for example, Skyscanner) can be used to prove that an extra night was necessary. Please note that written explanations are not sufficient. Requests with no supporting documents will not be accepted.

Meals/Subsistence

ENCJ will pay for the meals provided to the hosting institution. The amounts will be calculated based on the unit costs for subsistence set by the European Commission. The amounts are calculated on the basis of the number of participants per 24 hours, for longer meetings, the amount will be rounded off to the closest full day (24hrs).

The ENCJ can pay directly for the meals provided at the events hosted by ENCJ Members or Observers, up to a unit price set by the EC, subject to prior agreement.

