



Advanced Training in EU Law for Judges and Prosecutors

PRELIMINARY RULING PROCEDURE, CHARTER
OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF
LAW

Vilnius, 12-14 May 2025



EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW¹

Speakers

Lina Dzindzelėtaitė-Šaltė, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

Filippo Fontanelli, Senior Lecturer, International Economic Law, University of Edinburgh

Neringa Gaubienė, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University

Lydia Heuveling van Beek, Honorary Judge at the District Court of The Hague and honorary judge at the Court of Appeal in Amsterdam

Roland Klages, Legal Secretary, Chambers of the First Advocate General Szpunar, Court of Justice of the EU, Luxembourg

Magdalena Ličková, Legal Secretary, Chambers of Advocate General Emiliou, Court of Justice of the EU, Luxembourg

Pekka Pohjankoski, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Helsinki, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Turku

Beatrice Ramașcanu, Judge, Trainer at the National Institute of Magistracy, Bucharest

Aleksandra Sołtysińska, Judge, District Court in Cracow, Assistant Professor of EU Law, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Key topics

- Preliminary reference as the core of the EU judicial system
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights in practice
- Recent case law on the rule of law
- Judiciary in the digital era

Language
English

Event number
425DT02

Organiser
ERA (Karolina Rokicka) in cooperation with NCA, EPGO and TMCPs

Venue
National Courts Administration
L. Sapiegos g. 15
Vilnius



Advanced Training in EU Law for Judges and Prosecutors

Monday, 12 May 2025

- 08:30 Arrival and registration of participants
- 09:00 **Welcome and introduction of participants**
Karolina Rokicka

I. PRELIMINARY RULING PROCEDURE

- 09:45 **Preliminary ruling procedure as a useful tool within the national judicial system – Part 1**
- Keystone of the EU judicial system
 - Judicial independence
 - Change in competences
- Beatrice Ramaşcanu*
- 10:15 Discussion
- 10:30 **Preliminary ruling procedure as a useful tool within the national judicial system – Part 2**
- Admissibility
 - Act claire and act éclairé in the light of recent jurisprudence
- Beatrice Ramaşcanu*
- 11:00 Discussion
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:45 **Tips and recommendations on a preliminary reference**
Roland Klages
- 12:15 Discussion
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 **WORKING SESSION: Case study and exchange of best practice**
Beatrice Ramaşcanu, Roland Klages and Pekka Pohjankoski
- 15:00 Coffee break

II. RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

- 15:30 **Legal framework of the rule of law in the European Union**
Pekka Pohjankoski
- 16:15 Discussion
- 16:30 End of first seminar day
- 19:00 Seminar dinner

Tuesday, 13 May 2025

III. CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

- 09:00 **The fundamental and human rights protection mechanism in the European Union**
Filippo Fontanelli
- 09:30 Discussion

Objective

The objective of this seminar is to train judges and prosecutors from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania together in EU law in order to strengthen the effective and coherent application of EU law. As a result, this advanced training aims at contributing to building a network of EU law trainers and coordinators in these Baltic states.

Who should attend?

58 participants: 25 places are reserved for Lithuanian judges and 10 places are reserved for Lithuanian prosecutors, 3 places are reserved for Estonian judges and 5 places are reserved for Estonian prosecutors, 10 places are reserved for Latvian judges and 5 places are reserved for Latvian prosecutors. A limited number of places can be filled in by assistants to judges or prosecutors, with priority given to judges and prosecutors.

You will learn...

- how to apply EU law correctly
- how to improve your preliminary reference
- how and when to apply the Charter in your national case
- what the recent case law is with regard to the rule of law and judicial independence

Conference dinner

After a day's intensive exchange, enjoy our joint dinners on 12 and 13 May at restaurants in the city centre.

Explore Vilnius



Discover the rich history and vibrant culture of Vilnius, Lithuania's charming capital, as you explore the UNESCO-listed Old Town, baroque architecture and iconic landmarks such as the Gediminas Tower. Wander through Užupis, the city's bohemian district, where art, quirky cafes and a spirit of independence create a truly unique atmosphere.

- 09:45 **The Charter of Fundamental Rights as a useful tool for judges and prosecutors**
Filippo Fontanelli
- 10:45 Discussion
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 **The scope of application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights**
Magdalena Ličková
- 12:15 Discussion
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 **WORKING SESSION: Case study on the scope of application**
Magdalena Ličková and Filippo Fontanelli
- 15:00 Coffee break

IV. RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

- 15:30 **Recent jurisprudence of the CJEU and ECHR in the area of the rule of law**
Lydia Heuveling van Beek
- 16:30 Discussion
- 16:45 End of second seminar day
- 19:00 Seminar dinner

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

V. RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE (cont.)

- 09:00 **The grey zones of judicial independence**
Aleksandra Sołtysińska
- 09:30 Discussion and exchange of experience
- 09:45 **WORKING SESSION: Case study**
Aleksandra Sołtysińska and Lydia Heuveling van Beek
- 10:15 Coffee break
- 10:45 **WORKING SESSION: Case study (cont.)**
Aleksandra Sołtysińska and Lydia Heuveling van Beek

VI. JUDICIARY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

- 11:45 **Members of the national judiciary in the digital era**
Neringa Gaubienė and Lina Dzindzelėtaitė-Šaltė
- 12:15 Discussion
- 12:30 End of seminar

For programme updates: www.era.int
Programme may be subject to amendment.

Your contacts



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Partners

Beneficiaries:

Estonian Prosecutor
General's Office



Training Centre
for Civic Society



National Courts
Administration of
Lithuania



Associated Partners:

Supreme Court of
Estonia



Public Prosecutor's
Office of Latvia



Prosecutor General's
Office of Lithuania



Application for

Advanced Training in EU Law for Judges and Prosecutors

Vilnius, 12-14 May 2025 / Event Number: 425DT02



Applications can be made until **31 March** only via the project partners.

www.era.int/?133410&en



Location National Courts Administration L. Sapiegos g. 15 Vilnius	Participation Participation will be subject to a <u>selection procedure</u> by the project partners, since the number of places is limited. In addition, you will need to register online via the ERA website in order to participate in the seminar. We strongly advise you <u>not</u> to make any travel arrangements before your registration is confirmed.
Language English	Registration fee There is no registration fee.
Contact Christel Wilson Assistant cwilson@era.int +49 (0) 651 93737-425	Travel and accommodation - Participants will receive a <u>fixed contribution</u> towards their travel expenses and will be asked to book their own travel after receiving confirmation from ERA. The condition for payment of this contribution is to sign <u>all</u> attendance sheets at the event. No supporting documents are needed. - For those travelling <u>within</u> Lithuania, the contribution for travel is fixed at €20. Please note that no contribution will be paid for travel under 50km. - The contribution to the travel costs for Estonian participants is fixed at €220, for Latvian participants at €150. - The accommodation will be booked by the project partner. - Please note that <u>no payment</u> is possible if the registered participant cancels their participation for any reason.



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Baltic Network of EU Law
Experts

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Justice Programme of the
European Union (2021-2027).

Calendar of events 2024-2025

- **Seminar in Riga**, 19-21 June 2024, 56 participants
- **Seminar in Tallinn**, 30 September – 2 October 2024, 51 participants
- **Seminar in Vilnius**, 12-14 May 2025, 58 participants
- **Study visit in Trier and Luxembourg**, 14-17 October 2025, 40 participants
- **Webinars**: Throughout 2024 and 2025:
 - **12 June 2024, 13:00-16:30 EEST**: Digital Skills: European Legislative Search Tools and Judicial Portals
 - **30 October 2024, 13:00-16:30 EET**: Digital Skills: FRA's Online Tools
 - **10 December 2024, 13:00-16:30 EET**: Digital Skills: Focus on the EIO and e-CODEX
 - **26 March 2025, 13:00-16:30 EET**: Digital Skills: Focus on Electronic Evidence
 - **17 September 2025, 13:00-16:30 EEST**: Digital Skills: Focus on ECRIS

Participants: Judges and prosecutors from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Language: All events will be held in English and the webinars will also include interpretation into Latvian

Application: Application is possible only via the project partners.