



Justice Programme (JUST)

Call for proposals

Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on training of justice professionals covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights

(JUST-2027-JTRA)

Version 1.0
21 October 2026



HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	Publication Date	Change	Page
1.0	21.10.2026	▪ Initial version.	



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

JUST.H.3 – Budget, Programmes and Financial Management

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of European judicial training under the **Justice Programme (JUST)**. It supports the implementation of the objectives set in and actions called for in the [European Judicial Training Strategy 2025-2030](#)¹, creating a supportive environment for the [DigitalJustice@2030 Strategy](#)².

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))³
- the basic act (Justice Programme Regulation (EU) [2021/693](#))⁴.

The call is launched in accordance with the 2026-2027 [Work Programme](#)⁵ and will be managed by **the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)**.

The call covers the following **topic**:

- **JUST-2027-JTRA - Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights.**

We invite you to read the call **documentation** carefully and, in particular, this Call document, the [Model Grant Agreement](#), the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call document](#) outlines the:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
 - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
 - award criteria (section 9)
 - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
 - how to submit an application (section 11)
- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the:
 - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
 - recommendations for the preparation of the application

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2025) 801 on the European Judicial Training Strategy 2025-2030 creating a supportive environment for DigitalJustice@2030

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2025) 802 on DigitalJustice@2030

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 21).

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision C(2025) 8078 final of 01.12.2025 on the financing of the Justice Programme and the adoption of the work programme for 2026-2027.

- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
 - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc.*)

You are also encouraged to visit the [Justice Programme 2014-2020 Project Results](#) and [Justice Programme 2021-2027 Project Results](#) websites to consult the list of projects funded previously.

1. Background

It is one of the core missions of the Commission as “Guardian of the Treaties”⁶ to monitor and ensure that EU law is correctly and coherently applied throughout the EU. The work of judges and justice professionals applying EU law is essential to the well-functioning of a common area of justice. The EU-wide cross-border training of justice professionals is therefore fundamental to create a common understanding of how to correctly and uniformly interpret and apply EU law in all Member States. Only this way, mutual trust is created to successfully work together in cross-border judicial cooperation procedures⁷.

This call for proposals is the second one directly supporting the implementation of the **European Judicial Training Strategy for 2025–2030, creating a supportive environment for the DigitalJustice@2030 Strategy**, both adopted on 20 November 2025⁸. Digitalisation can contribute to making judicial proceedings more efficient and to facilitate access to justice, in particular across borders. Countries which have effective justice systems, guarantee access to justice, and ensure a high quality of justice and transparency, are more likely to attract investment. Digitalisation can therefore contribute to growth and the competitiveness of EU economies. It is also important for making justice more resilient to crises, as illustrated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This call supports the European Judicial Training Strategy 2025 – 2030, which – among other priorities – supports the digitalisation of justice through training. This means it strives strongly to help justice professionals acquire the digital skills to use digital and artificial intelligence tools in the workplace, develop knowledge and understanding of the legal framework that has been adapted to the needs of the digital economy and society and be aware of the benefits and impacts of digital justice.

To further increase the impact and effectiveness of training, this call – in line with the European Judicial Training Strategy 2025–2030 – places great importance on a better coordination and integration with other EU-funded training and/or with national training, to create synergies and maximise the impact of judicial training and available budgets. Applicants are therefore requested to explain how their proposals create synergies with other training offers, e.g. funded by any EU operating grants, action grants or funded nationally. This goes further than just avoiding overlaps with other training offers, as requested in previous calls. To create synergies, proposals could e.g. provide a cross-border component to national training courses, bringing participants from various Member States together to practice real-world scenarios of cross-border cooperation, identifying and addressing difficulties encountered, focus on the European context of a legislative instrument, or differences in the application of EU law in the Member States. Coordination with other EU-funded projects could concentrate on addressing disparities of the level of training offers or training participation between Member States and/or geographic areas or regarding professional groups that are not

⁶ Article 17 of the Treaty on European Union.

⁷ Articles 81(2)(h) and 82(1)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/document/1248005c-38c5-4f74-9417-997cc6ad34ad_en and https://commission.europa.eu/document/95918716-ce7d-401b-b6d5-e23effae5b36_en

and

sufficiently trained by existing networks/organisations, and filling gaps. Personal contacts and a common development and planning to coordinate training offers funded from different EU or national sources can be very useful for a meaningful coordination that creates synergies. The proposal should describe in detail how synergies will be created and in which way effective integration with other existing or planned training projects has been prepared. It can be very useful for a meaningful coordination that creates synergies.

Sharing best practices is an important element of training under this call, in order to reduce costs and increase efficiency. This is particularly pertinent, where there are different levels of knowledge, experience and maturity among Member States concerning priority topics of this call. Especially as regards justice professionals working confidently and efficiently in a digital environment, there are significant differences across the EU. Training in this context must deliver appropriate approaches for justice professionals of different levels of digital maturity to leave no one behind. Sharing of best practices and step-by-step approaches are equally fostered in other areas covered by this call.

The Commission, in fulfilling its obligation under Article 11(2) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2844, identifies judicial training on the efficient use of the decentralised IT system alongside the use of digital tools and infrastructure as one of the objectives of this call. The provision of such training is likewise a legal obligation for Member States under Article 11 of the same Regulation and Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 (AI Act)

At the same time, there is a persistent need for continuous judicial training on fundamental rights, as laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, as well as on the implementation of EU secondary legislation in the area of civil and criminal law. The latter is driven by the necessity to ensure the correct and effective application of EU law, foster mutual trust in cross-border proceedings, and support the implementation of EU values and principles, such as the rule of law. The rule of law is an essential safeguard for the well-functioning of our democracies, the protection of individual rights, and hence for the vitality and prosperity of our societies and economies. Competent justice professionals are crucial for upholding the founding values of the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy across the EU. The call will accordingly also be used to fund projects on judicial training on fundamental rights⁹ the rule of law as well as civil and criminal law.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

Objectives

The objective of this call is to contribute to the effective and consistent application of EU law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in line with the new Judicial Training Strategy. This call finances also training activities and tools for training providers to be then rolled out at national level.

The application of the relevance award criteria will be guided by these objectives, taking into account the priorities of the European Judicial Training Strategy 2025-2030 and ensuring appropriate funding for all objectives.

⁹ As specified in Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, COM/2020/711 final, and its mid-term review (2025).

Training topics

Training can cover one or more of the following topics, in line with Judicial Training Strategy 2025-2030:

(1) Digitalisation

- *Digital skills*

All justice professionals must have the possibility to acquire the necessary IT- and AI-literacy skills to apply digitalised cross-border procedures and tools, including with regard to the decentralised IT systems established by Union law. According to their professional roles they should be able to manage cases digitally, e.g. correctly assess, transfer and process digital documents and carry out hearings via videoconferencing in accordance with the relevant provisions of EU law¹⁰, while ensuring that procedural rights and safeguards for suspects, accused persons, convicted persons, affected persons and victims, as well as accessibility for persons with disabilities, and adherence to data protection requirements are guaranteed.

Training should also enable justice professionals to generate efficiency gains from the use of AI tools, while promoting the efficient and responsible use of AI tools in justice, in compliance with the EU legal framework. When deploying AI systems, justice professionals as well as other staff of judicial administrations must have a solid knowledge of how to use AI tools both efficiently and responsibly within their respective working environments. Training initiatives should prioritise the development of AI literacy and the skills needed to understand, evaluate and appropriately apply AI tools. Training initiatives on the efficient and responsible use of AI should also shed light on potential biases stemming from source data. Attention should be paid during training sessions on forestalling any form of discrimination, including gender-based discrimination and racism, when using AI tools for decision-making.

Electronic court filing requires staff of judicial administrations to be trained to operate e-filing systems effectively and ensure they are used to their fullest potential¹¹. Staff need to be well trained in order to manage judicial data correctly, for instance to publish judicial decisions online and make such information accessible in a structured, machine-readable and downloadable format which will also then feed into the European Legal Data Space. To understand the interaction between systems and data, judicial training should cover the topic of interoperability.

To strengthen the digital competencies of justice professionals in the exercise of their duties (or 'e-judgecraft'), training topics should include e-case management, e-courtroom management, leadership, communication using electronic means, ethics, cybersecurity and resilience. Leaders and managers in the justice sector must also develop change management skills to effectively adapt to technological advancements, implement new practices, and guide digital transitions both within judicial administrations and in collaboration with all justice stakeholders.

- *Legal knowledge in the context of the digital economy and society, procedural rights and cross-border cooperation tools*

¹⁰ In the area of criminal law, these constitute in particular: Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2844, Article 24 of Directive 2014/41/EU and Article 17 of Directive 2012/29/EU.

¹¹ CEPEJ Guidelines on electronic court filing (e-filing) and digitalisation of courts, CEPEJ(2021)15, CEPEJ Guidelines for the Online Publication of Judicial Decisions Aiming at Furthering Legal Knowledge CEPEJ(2024)9.

Justice professionals need a solid knowledge of new or changed EU-legislation regulating the use of new technologies in many fields of the digital economy and society.¹²

Justice professionals must also have a thorough understanding of procedural law and cross-border cooperation enabled by digitalised justice environments, including by using the decentralised IT systems established under Union law. This comprises the Taking of Evidence¹³ and the Service of Documents¹⁴ Regulations, requiring judicial authorities to communicate electronically from 1 May 2025, and the e-evidence Regulation¹⁵ which applies since 18 August 2026. It is therefore important that justice professionals, in addition to being proficient in the legal framework established by those Regulations are also well-trained in using the respective decentralised IT systems.

The same judicial training is also needed with regard to the Joint Investigation Teams collaboration platform¹⁶ and the decentralised IT systems established by amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2131 as regards digital information exchange in terrorism cases¹⁷.

- *Awareness raising*

Justice professionals need to be aware of the potential, relevance, impact and utility of digitalisation to simplify their work and increase efficiency. The impact of AI, on justice professionals' roles and responsibilities should be understood. All justice professionals should be aware that they need solid digital skills in order to master a digital working environment. Training should also target leaders and managers in the justice sector to enable them to actively promote the digital transition and to design inclusive transformation processes.

The proposed training activities should promote tools and information available on the [European e-Justice Portal](#), such as the European Training Platform, the webpages of the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters, the Judicial Atlas, online

¹² Examples are the AI Act - Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence, Data Act - Regulation (EU) 2023/2854 on harmonised rules on fair access to and use of data, Interoperable Europe Act - Regulation (EU) 2024/903 laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union, Digital Markets Act - Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector, Digital Services Act - Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 on a Single Market for Digital Services, Directive (EU) 2019/770 on certain aspects concerning contracts for the supply of digital content and digital services.; Directive (EU) 2019/771 on certain aspects concerning contracts for the sale of goods, Directive (EU) 2024/2853 on liability for defective products and repealing Council Directive 85/374/EEC, Regulation (EU) 2021/784 on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). Directive (EU) 2016/680 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, Directive (EU) 2019/882 on the accessibility requirements for products and services, as well as Directive (EU) 2016/2102 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System (e-EDES) developed by the Commission for voluntary use by Member State competent authorities in the context of the European Investigation Order (Directive 2014/41/EU) and mutual legal assistance;

¹³ Regulation (EU) 2020/1783 on cooperation between the courts of the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters (taking of evidence).

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters.

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) 2023/1543 on European Production Orders and European Preservation Orders for electronic evidence in criminal proceedings and for the execution of custodial sentences following criminal proceedings.

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2023/969 establishing a collaboration platform to support the functioning of joint investigation teams.

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2023/2131 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 and Council Decision 2005/671/JHA, as regards digital information exchange in terrorism cases.

forms, interconnected registers, competent court database, the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) search engine, the European Electronic Access Point that will become applicable as of 2028, etc.

(2) Fundamental Rights, including non-discrimination and equality and Rule of Law

This training topic comprises the EU acquis on fundamental rights, including non-discrimination and equality. It covers the application and content of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights including procedural rights and redress mechanisms, and related EU secondary legislation.

This topic is based on the specific training needs identified in the [Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU](#) and its mid-term review (December 2025).

As the European Commission will support the provision of training for judges and other justice professionals on EU non-discrimination, EU gender equality and EU disability legislation through a dedicated call of tenders, these topics will not be given priority under this call.

Training could include:

- Training to enhance knowledge of the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU](#), its scope of application or specific rights, including the case law of the CJEU and the interplay between the Charter and the European Convention on Human Rights as well as existing remedies.
- Anti-bias and other training in relation to protected grounds of discrimination (for example, gender, ethnic origin, religious belief, sexual-orientation, colour of skin, age; sexual identity).
- Training on the effective implementation of the EU acquis on non-discrimination and equality. (e.g. Directive (EU) 2023/970 of 10 May 2023 on strengthening the application of the principle of equal pay through pay transparency). Training on the effective implementation of Directive 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence, including the types of adverse human rights impacts to be identified and addressed, the due diligence measures required and remedies.
- Training on the effective implementation of the [Directive \(EU\) 2019/1937 on the Whistleblower protection](#) to support a correct treatment of reports, ensure confidentiality and provide for adequate protection to prevent or remedy retaliation, including by applying adequate legal remedies applicable to whistleblowers, in particular, the reversal of the burden of proof and interim relief.
- Training of justice professionals on child-friendly justice, in line with the [EU Strategy on the rights of the child](#) and in line with the Commission Recommendation on [integrated child protection systems](#)¹⁸ and Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children in criminal proceedings (see chapter *Towards increasingly child-friendly justice*)¹⁹. Training can highlight the cross-sectorial and multiagency dimensions²⁰ of child-friendly justice or focus on certain areas of EU law or certain topics (e.g. access to justice, legal aid, support

¹⁸ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/1238 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child.

¹⁹ Children can be victims, witnesses, suspects, accused, perpetrators, or parties, either in criminal, administrative or civil proceedings. Particular attention needs to be paid to children with specific vulnerabilities. Applicants shall take into consideration the EU legal and policy framework on child-friendly justice, the international and European standards in the field (UN Convention on the Rights of the child, Council of Europe Child-friendly justice Guidelines)

²⁰ Cover various sectors holding specific responsibilities in child protection, such as education and training, social, health (including mental health), digital, justice and law enforcement.

for child victims of crime, correct implementation of procedural rights and safeguards of children who are suspects or accused persons, in particular the right to an individual assessment, hearing of the child, right to information, child-friendly communication and proceedings, including evidence taking or use of non-custodial measures for children in contact with the justice system, common framework for cooperation and coordination between professionals working with or for children in legal proceedings or interventions that involve or affect children).

- Training on the effective investigation and prosecution of hate offences, as defined in the Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.
- Training on the guidance on the right of free movement of EU citizens and their families to ensure the effective and coherent implementation of that fundamental right (Article 45 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 20(2)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) by justice professionals, also in view of frequent preliminary references to the European Court of Justice.
- Training on victims' rights and the specific needs of victims of crime as referred to in the EU acquis on victims' rights, in particular in Article 25 of the Victims' Rights Directive revised in 2026 (Directive (EU) 2026/1472), and in the EU Strategy on victims' rights.
- Training on the effective application of the right to a fair trial and the rights of defence, including the effective implementation of the EU acquis on procedural safeguards for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.
- Training on correct application of the right to protection of personal data and EU Data protection law in judicial procedures and practices including training on legal and practical issues raised by the processing of personal data and the identification of potential data protection issues.
- Training on the correct implementation of the Commission Recommendation on procedural rights of suspects and accused persons subject to pre-trial detention and on material detention conditions.

(3) Criminal and civil law

The training topics are:

Civil law

- The correct application of Regulation (EU) 1215/2012 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (Brussels I Recast);
- The interplay between the different legal instruments in family and succession matters;
- Regulation (EU) 2019/1111 on jurisdiction, the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, and on international child abduction (Brussels IIb);
- Council Regulation (EC) 4/2009 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations;
- Council Regulation (EU) 1259/2010 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of the law applicable to divorce and legal separation (Rome III);
- Council Regulations (EU) 2016/1103 and 2016/1104 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes and of the property consequences of registered partnerships;
- Regulation (EU) No 650/2012 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and acceptance and enforcement of authentic

instruments in matters of succession and on the creation of a European Certificate of Succession.

Criminal law

- Regulation (EU) 2024/3011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 on the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters
- Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA on the application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention,
- Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders;
- Regulation (EU) 2023/1543 on European Production Orders and European Preservation Orders for electronic evidence in criminal proceedings and for the execution of custodial sentences following criminal proceedings;
- Directive (EU) 2023/1544 laying down harmonised rules on the designation of designated establishments and the appointment of legal representatives for the purpose of gathering electronic evidence in criminal proceedings
- Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters
- Directive (EU) 2024/1226 on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures and amending Directive (EU) 2018/1673;
- Directive (EU) 2024/1203 on the protection of the environment through criminal law and replacing Directives 2008/99/EC and 2009/123/EC;
- Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law;
- Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO');
- Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2002/187/JHA, as subsequently amended;
- Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA on the organisation and content of the exchange of information extracted from the criminal record between Member States;
- Regulation (EU) 2019/816 establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons (ECRIS-TCN).
- Training on the effective implementation of the EU acquis on detention-related matters, namely Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States; Council Framework Decisions 2008/909/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union; Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions and Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA of 23 October 2009 on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention.
- Training on the effective implementation of the Council Framework Decision 2009/948/JHA of 30 November 2009 on prevention and settlement of conflicts of exercise of jurisdiction in criminal proceedings

- Training on the effective implementation of Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA of 24 February 2005 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties.

Judicial training principles

Training should be designed and planned in cooperation with training providers of justice professions, justice professions' associations or bodies, or judicial authorities. Training should primarily be delivered by justice professionals who have been previously trained for this purpose, involving non-judicial experts where relevant. The support of non-judicial experts could be relevant with regard to training on digitalisation, e.g. when designing the training courses or giving hands-on training courses on digitalisation related matters or teaching relevant IT-background knowledge to understand the functioning of digital tools or AI tools.

Gender mainstreaming

The assessment of training needs must include a [gender equality analysis](#). Findings from this gender analysis are expected to inform the project's design and implementation. When designing the training content, the applicant shall consider, the differences in situations and conditions for women and men (or girls and boys) that are involved in legal processes²¹. Applicants are expected to consider their differing needs, which could have an impact on the application of the law and consequently on the training needs of justice professionals. Thereby, unintended negative effects of training activities on either gender should be forestalled (do no-harm approach).

Given the call's attention to the use of AI, applicants are encouraged to reflect on potential risks and biases linked to the use of AI that could lead to (gender-based) discrimination. Proposals that consider in their design and implementation a gender perspective, are deemed more impactful (see also section 9). Applicants are encouraged to consult the key questions listed on the EIGE²² website when conducting their gender analysis.

Applicants interested in more guidance are encouraged to consult the DG JUST [online workshop](#) on gender mainstreaming projects.

Target group

This call supports training of members of the judiciary and judicial staff, meaning judges, prosecutors, court and prosecution offices' staff, other justice professionals associated with the judiciary, such as lawyers in private practice, notaries, bailiffs, insolvency practitioners and mediators, as well as court interpreters and translators, prison, and probation staff. The target group comprises also leaders and managers in justice sector, as well as leading personnel of the judiciary and associated professions, who are responsible for the digitalisation of their organisation, multipliers, such as judicial trainers or EU law court coordinators, where there are guarantees that the multipliers will pass on their competences to justice professionals in a systematic way.

The group of court-and prosecution offices' staff is particularly important in the context of digitalisation of justice.

²¹ The situations in which women and men, girls and boys find themselves in front of the law could be different because of their gender and also be impacted by gender stereotyping. Ensuring that professionals in the legal system have sufficient knowledge about gender equality issues and know how to link them to court settings is of the essence for fair trials.

²² <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits>

Non-justice professionals cannot participate in the training activities as participants whose participation costs are eligible unless there is a duly justified exception acknowledged at the moment of the grant award.

Each project should describe the planned participants' selection process. When identifying its target group (planned participants), the applicant shall consider gender balance, striving for gender parity among participants to the extent possible.

Distribution of financial support between different topics

The assessment of the relevance of the proposals will follow the objectives as mentioned under heading 'Objectives' taking into account the priorities of the European Judicial Training Strategy 2025-2030 and ensuring appropriate funding for all objectives. A fair balance between topics within the listed objectives and/or target audiences shall be sought. Moreover, priority will be given to projects that do not duplicate other training offers or on-going projects but that complement them with regard to training topic, target group or geographic area, create synergies with other training offers and/or that contain innovated methodology, or that produce deliverables to be rolled out at the national judicial training level.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

Each project should include training activities that are tailored to the daily professional needs or identified challenges in the application of EU law²³ and should be practical, interactive, and accessible to all learners, including practitioners with disabilities, irrespective of the format(s) of the activities: face-to-face, blended²⁴, hybrid²⁵ or online format.

The gender equality perspective should be considered when designing the 'format' of the training activities and gender balanced participation in training activities must be promoted and ensured²⁶. Moreover, a gender-sensitive approach should be taken for the identification of good practices, data collection (including [sex-disaggregated statistics](#)) and information dissemination.

Training activities must include participants from different participating countries. Where necessary travel and accommodation costs of the participants should be planned.

This call may support training activities such as:

- Coordinated training activities on the use of digital justice tools, in particular with regard to the priority topic set out above.
- Pilot innovative training using latest methodologies and tools.
- Organisation of interactive, practice-oriented seminars.
- Multilateral exchanges of justice professionals.
- Training activities aimed at leaders and managers of justice organisations/bodies responsible for the digitalisation of their organisation/body.
- Activities aimed at the exchange or dissemination of experiences/best-practices of among Member States regarding judicial training, particularly on the digitalisation of justice.

²³ Application and implementation reports for EU legal instruments can provide guidance in this respect.

²⁴ Mixing the face-to-face and online formats.

²⁵ Simultaneously face-to-face and online.

²⁶ For the format, the applicant shall take into account the social roles of males and females in the society, to make the training course easily accessible for everyone. For example, as in the society women are often attributed a role of the principal children caregiver, a training course lasting until 18:30 or one lasting five days in a row outside of the place where they live, may render it more difficult for women to participate.

- Cross-border initial training activities (online, face-to-face activities or exchanges), covering as many Member States as possible, to create a common European legal culture from the moment of entering a justice profession.
- Cross-professional training, to stimulate discussions across justice professions about the application of EU law and contribute to a European judicial culture across professional boundaries on precisely identified topics of relevance to the concerned professions.
- Joint study visits to European courts (such as the CJEU and the ECHR) by justice professionals from as many different Member States as possible.
- Creation of training material, whether for presential learning, blended learning or elearning, ready-to-use either by trainers or by practitioners for self-learning, in combination with the organisation of training activities, including the creation of 'Capsule' e-training (short, up to date, tightly focused) to address justice professionals' immediate needs in the context of a concrete case.
- Update and/or translation of existing training material possibly combined with adaptation to national settings, in combination with the organisation of cross-border training activities.
- Creation of tools or activities for training providers (for example: train-the-trainers on active and modern adult learning techniques, train-the-trainers on online training skills and tools, tools to support the organisation of cross-border training, etc.), including to facilitate their cooperation at EU-level.
- Approaches to efficiently evaluate training activities on the basis of the participants' satisfaction, increased competence and long-term impact on their performance.
- Training activities to enable leaders and managers in the justice sector to develop management skills to effectively adapt to technological developments, implement new practices and guide digital transitions, both within judicial administrations and in collaboration with all justice stakeholders.
- Activities that are aimed to coordinate training activities funded from different sources to create synergies.
- Activities that are aimed to build-up or sustain European training networks, which provide training and coordinate training activities of their national members in line with the objectives of this call and the Judicial Training Strategy 2025- 2030. The funded activities should work to align EU-funded and nationally funded training initiatives and establish structured communication channels between the EU institutions and national training providers.

In line with the Judicial Training Strategy 2025 – 2030 and the information above under 1. Background, this call places importance on a better coordination of judicial training funded from various sources. Applicants should therefore avoid duplication of training courses, e.g. of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)²⁷, and concentrate on justice professionals that are not sufficiently covered by other training projects. This does not exclude that applicants offer coordinated training courses to professional groups that complement other training offers and create synergies. However, these training activities will be funded only when there is no equivalent activity already covered by the EJTN in their publicly available catalogue of training activities for the year 2027²⁸, or by training offers funded by other Commission programmes, such as e.g. the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program (CERV), or by the Internal Security Fund (ISF).

Training activities can take place in the context of initial training (pre-service or induction period – for example training activities to familiarise newly appointed justice professionals with EU legislation and judicial cooperation instruments) or continuous training of the participants (for example more specialised training activities for practicing justice professionals).

²⁷ <https://www.ejtn.eu>

²⁸ [Online Training Catalogue - EJTN](#)

Training methodology

The applicants shall set out a strategy to ensure quality, consistency, and methodologic coherence – yet adapted to the professional target group - across all training activities.

An evidenced-based training needs assessment for the topic of the training activity is always required. It should have already been carried out and should be outlined clearly in the project applications. Attention should be paid to addressing disparities and gaps in EU-law training between Member States, professional groups and geographic regions. Disparities among candidate countries, including in the digitalisation of justice, should also be taken into consideration when incorporating them into relevant training activities. Especially, regarding the digitalisation of justice the needs assessment should take into account, whether and to what extent a Member State had received funding under the Recover and Resilience programme 2021 – 2027.

The planned training methodology should be designed to achieve long-term learning impacts. Face-to-face training is essential in EU-funded training and should be complemented by distance learning to prepare face-to-face training activities and measures that facilitate and promote follow up training at national level refreshing or deepening the learning effects. More information is given under heading 'Sustainability'.

Further long-term impacts could be realised by integrating the sharing of best practices, professional exchanges and cross-professional training. AI could also be used to help professionals learn and stay updated on legal developments, to generate interactive real-world simulations or to allow professional skills to be practised and developed. Digital tools and AI could be used, where appropriate, to accommodate different learning styles and needs or to make judicial training accessible to practitioners working in isolated or remote areas of a Member State. Practical, hands-on training should be integrated. Discussions, exchanges of best-practices and networking among the participants in small groups should be part of the learning experience, including for online activities.

Planned training activities should be of easy linguistic access (for example, by providing interpretation in the languages of all participants, national breakout groups, translation of training materials or linguistic programme components) to attract also justice professionals to cross-border training activities that are reluctant to participate in an activity in a foreign language and therefore have not been reached by previous cross-border training activities.

EU-funded training proposals should be the drivers of innovative training approaches and could pilot new training methods. In addition, training providers are encouraged to develop ready-to-use or adaptable training materials translated into several EU languages and make these available for national training purposes. Such materials could be designed to accommodate specific national contexts, legal frameworks and practical circumstances, and be tailored to or adaptable to the needs of different categories of justice professionals.

Applications should notably consider handbooks and guidelines on judicial training, especially:

- [The Advice for training providers of DG Justice and Consumers of the Commission](#).
- The [good practices](#)²⁹ identified by the EU pilot project on European Judicial training.
- [The EJTN Handbook on Judicial Training Methodology in Europe](#).
- [The EJTN Distance Learning Handbook 2020](#).
- [The EJTN Guidelines for Evaluation of Judicial Training Practices](#).

²⁹ Good judicial training practices on the European e-Justice Portal

- [The EJTN Handbook on Medium to long-term evaluation of judicial training](#).

Evaluation of training activities

All training activities must be evaluated using state-of-the-art evaluation methods like those developed by the EJTN. Applicants should present a practical solution to evaluate long-term impacts, that does not only rely on participants' feedback to questionnaires. Experience has shown that this evaluation method does not produce robust results, as the response rate usually is too low to be representative. New approaches that ensure a representative response rate are encouraged.

The effective evaluation of results requires a realistic definition of the objectives of the project and individual training activities. in particular of face-to-face training events (see also further down under heading 'expected impact').

Applicants shall apply a robust evaluation framework. Indicators should cover

- participation in and completion of training activities, including for online participants. The beneficiary will – at request of the Commission – communicate in a timely manner statistical data on trained participants broken down by professional group and Member State -, for the purposes of producing the European Commission's annual Judicial Training Report.
- participants' satisfaction as well as long-term learning outcomes, while ensuring a sufficiently high and representative response rate.
 - Long-term learning outcomes should include an assessment of the relevance and practical usefulness of the training for participants' professional practice.
 - To support the achievement of long-term learning outcomes, it is important to select participants, who are regularly engaged with the project's topics and objectives in their professional work.
 - Where long-term learning impacts can only be achieved through follow-up and refresher training activities, indicators should also measure to what extend other training providers take up and re-use of the training content and materials produced by the project, and in how far it is ensured that the knowledge acquired and the materials developed are integrated into national training practices.

The contractor shall explain how evaluation findings will be used to improve the training during implementation, and in subsequent national follow-up training contexts.

Sustainability

The beneficiary shall have an effective strategy to ensure that training material and training outputs produced are taken up, adapted and re-used by other training providers, especially in national training contexts, and/or made accessible to other justice practitioners. This would include the translation of training material and outputs into relevant languages.

The sustainability is one of the evaluation criteria of the projects' applications. A stock-taking of the results of judicial training 2021- 2024 has shown that there is room for improvement.

It is the aim, that beneficiaries produce good quality self-standing training material that can be advertised by the European Commission on the [European Training Platform](#). The beneficiaries will provide the support and information needed to link their training material and relevant outputs to the European Training Platform.

Expected impact

Training objectives

The beneficiary shall set out for each activity and target group realistic training objectives that can be reached by EU-level training. This includes realistic benefits of the participants that can be reached by EU-level training as well as the effective uptake and further use of the deliverables by national training providers

The project shall be designed to contribute to

- Support of proper implementation of the decentralised IT systems established under Union law.
- Strengthened “digital capacity” of justice professionals, thus indirectly supporting the digitalisation of national justice systems.
- Increased knowledge of justice professionals on substantive EU-legislation regulating digitalisation of various economic and societal fields, and thus effective justice in these areas.
- Increased knowledge of procedural law related to digital judicial procedures and of digital cross-border cooperation instrument, as well as the ability to apply them correctly and efficiently.
- Increased knowledge of EU civil and criminal law related to digitalisation, including the knowledge and ability to apply related digital instruments correctly and efficiently.
- Increased awareness of the benefits and efficiency gains related to the digitalisation of justice, as well as awareness of the need to master digital tools at the workplace.
- increased expertise on the scope of application and contents of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and on existing remedies, as highlighted in the Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU.
- Increased knowledge among justice professionals on the rights and needs of all victims of crime, including on improved methods of communication with victims in an impartial, respectful, trauma-, gender-, disability-, child- sensitive manner.
- Increased knowledge of EU acquis on non-discrimination and equality, as well as the ability to apply them correctly and efficiently.
- Increased knowledge of other topics of the EU-acquis, including the application of EU law in daily practice, and the knowledge of new and revised EU legislation and relevant CJEU case-law.

Broader impact

- Contribution to the transition to digital judicial training methodologies.
- Improved mutual trust between justice professionals in cross-border judicial cooperation.
- Improved cooperation of training providers of different justice professions and funded from different sources to coordinate their training offers to create synergies.
- Improved long-term impacts of judicial training and maximised impact of available funding through improved coherence and coordination of EU-funded and nationally funded training courses.
- Increased legal certainty for citizens and businesses.

3. Available budget

The indicative available call budget is **EUR 4 075 000**.

We reserve the right not to award all available funds depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	28 October 2026
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>4 March 2027 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	March-June 2027
Information on evaluation results:	July 2027
GA signature:	September-November 2027

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- **Application Form Part A** — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries, and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- **Application Form Part B** — contains the technical description of the project (*template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **KPI tool** — contains additional project data regarding the project's contribution to EU programme key performance indicators (*to be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*some templates are available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
 - **detailed budget table** (*template available in the Portal Submission System – to be re-uploaded filled out in the format xlsx*);
 - **CVs (standard) of core project team** (or, where the key personnel is not yet known, a job profile description);
 - **activity report of last year of the coordinator** (unless it is a public body);
 - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in Part B)
 - for participants with activities involving children (below the age of 18): child protection policy covering the four areas described in the [Keeping](#)

[Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#) (for private bodies: copy of their policy; for public bodies: child protection policy declaration)

 Please note that an annual activity report is NOT a financial audit report or balance sheet, but a report highlighting the activities and projects of your organisation.

Please be aware that since the detailed budget table serves as the basis for fixing the lump sums for the grants (and since lump sums must be reliable proxies for the actual costs of a project), the costs you include **MUST** comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6](#)). This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must comply with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and be free of any conflict of interests. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grant may be reduced (even later on during the project implementation or after their end).

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible, and printable**, please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded.

Proposals are limited to maximum **45 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages. Shorter proposals are welcome.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs), excluding Denmark)
 - non-EU countries:
 - countries associated to the Justice Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list of participating countries](#)).

 Please check the list regularly, to get the latest status on countries in the process of association.

- and comply with other eligibility conditions:
 - a) Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit-oriented organisations;

- b) the applications must be transnational and involve organisations from at least two participating countries;
- c) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 100 000.

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc. (*see section 13*).

Specific cases and definitions

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e., sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons³⁰.

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members (like for instance networks) may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'³¹. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations (*see list above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)³². Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors, or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

EU conditionality measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to measures adopted on the basis of EU Regulation 2020/2092³³. Such entities are not eligible to

³⁰ See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

³¹ For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

³² Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list, and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

³³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94).

participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.) Currently such measures are in place for example for Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain (see [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#), as of 16 December 2022).

Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium complying with the following conditions:

1. The applications must involve minimum two entities (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities, i.e. one coordinator and at least one partner) from different eligible countries.
2. The consortium must include at least one public body, private non-profit organisation, or international organisation as beneficiary or affiliated entity.

Note: Consortia that consist of a coordinator and (i) one or more affiliated entities, and/or (ii) one or more associated partners are **ineligible**. Please be careful when filling part A of the application form and make sure you add a partner to your consortium.

Eligible activities

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

In addition, one meeting with the Commission under the work package for management and coordination can be foreseen.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as the respect of EU values, environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*). Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters *E.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc.*)³⁴

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*).

Duration

Projects should normally range between 12 and 24 months. Applications for longer projects are accepted provided that a thorough explanation for the longer duration is provided in the proposal. The maximum duration is 36 months.

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

³⁴ See, for instance, [Guidance on funding for activities related to the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policy](#).

Project budget

Requested grant amount cannot be lower than € 100 000. There is no upper limit. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Ethics and EU values

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards
- EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and
- other applicable EU, international and national law (including the General Data Protection Regulation [2016/679](#)).

Projects must seek to promote gender equality and non-discrimination mainstreaming in accordance with the [Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit](#). Project activities should contribute to the equal empowerment of women and men in all their diversity, ensuring that they achieve their full potential and enjoy the same rights. They should also seek to reduce levels of discrimination suffered by particular groups (as well as those at risk of multiple discrimination) and to improve equality outcomes for individuals³⁵. Proposals should integrate gender and non-discrimination considerations in proposals and target a gender-balanced representation in project teams and activities. It is also important that individual data collected by the beneficiaries are broken down by sex ([sex-disaggregated data](#)), disability or age whenever possible.

Applicants must show in their application that they respect ethical principles and EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article of the 21 EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Participants with activities involving children must moreover have a child protection policy covering the four areas described in the [Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#). This policy must be available online and transparent to everyone who comes in contact with the organisation. It must include clear information about the recruitment of staff (including trainees and volunteers) and include background checks (vetting). It must also include clear procedures and rules to staff, including reporting rules, and continuous training.

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

³⁵ [Non-discrimination mainstreaming– instruments, case studies and way forwards](#)

The check will normally be done for coordinators, except:

- natural persons
- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional, or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the project requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
 - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
 - prefinancing paid in instalments
 - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)
- or
- propose no prefinancing
 - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications, and resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- applicant's activity reports of last year (if applicable)
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in Part B).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate³⁶:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct³⁷ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social, or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted³⁸ an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that³⁹:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call, and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

³⁶ See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

³⁷ 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

³⁸ 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering, or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check, or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing, or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

³⁹ See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Full compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (*see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)*). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

- 1. Relevance:** extent to which the proposal matches the priorities and objectives of the call; clearly defined needs and robust needs assessment; clearly defined target group, with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account; contribution to the EU strategic and legislative context; European/trans-national dimension; impact/interest for a number of countries (EU or eligible non-EU countries); possibility to use the results in other countries (potential for transfer of good practices); potential to develop mutual trust/cross-border cooperation, building synergies and avoiding duplication with previous projects (40 points)

- 2. Quality:** clarity and consistency of project; logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed (logical frame concept); methodology for implementing the project with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account (organisation of work, timetable, allocation of resources and distribution of tasks between partners, risks and risk management, monitoring and evaluation); ethical issues and measures/policies to guarantee compliance with EU values are addressed; feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; financial feasibility (sufficient/appropriate budget for proper implementation; cost-effectiveness (best value for money) (40 points)
- 3. Impact:** ambition and expected long-term impact of results on target groups/general public; appropriate dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability and long-term impact; potential for a positive multiplier effect; sustainability of results after EU funding ends (20 points).

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	25	40
Quality	n/a	40
Impact	n/a	20
Overall (pass) scores	70	100

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance': 25/40 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance' AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). The action should start within 6 months following the Grant Agreement signature except in duly justified cases). A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: *see section 6 above*.

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

Work packages, milestones and deliverables

Activities must be grouped into work packages which are major sub-divisions of the project (e.g.: Project Management and Coordination; Communication and Dissemination, etc.). The coordination and management costs of WP1 should not be higher than 10% of the total cost of the proposal.

For each work package, an objective, list of the tasks/activities, milestones and deliverables must be defined. The deliverables must be quantifiable and measurable. The structure should be logical and guided by identifiable outputs with clear indicators.

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The following deliverable will be mandatory for all projects:

- Report on the EU Survey on Justice, Rights, and Values

Beneficiaries will have to ask attendees in events to participate in the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. This survey allows the granting authority to closely monitor training, mutual learning, and awareness-raising events. The beneficiaries will receive a weblink to the survey, to be forwarded to the attendees. They will have access to the survey results for their project and can use it for their project evaluation. The granting authority will aggregate the results of all the projects financed under the Justice programme.

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (requested grant amount): *see section 6 above*.

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a lump sum grant. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount, based on a lump sum or financing not linked to costs. The amount will be fixed by the granting authority on the basis of the estimated project budget and a funding rate of 90% (or lower requested grant amount, if any)⁴⁰.

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

Budget categories for this call:

- Lump sum contributions⁴¹

⁴⁰ When applicants contribute own resources to the project, they may request a lower EU contribution in the Part A budget table than the lump sum shares calculated by the Excel tool; e.g. for Applicants with a funding rate of 90%: The minimum amount to contribute as own resources is the share of the total eligible costs that is not funded by the grant (i.e., 10%). If you contribute only this minimum amount, the amount to be entered in the Part A budget is the lump sum share calculated by the Excel tool. Any additional own resources, beyond the minimum defined above, must be subtracted from the lump sum share calculated by the Excel tool. The result is the amount to be entered in the Part A budget.

⁴¹ [Decision](#) of 30/09/2022 authorising the use of lump sums for actions under the Justice Programme (2021-2027).

Specific cost eligibility rules for this call:

- the lump sum amount must be calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in the lump sum decision and using the detailed budget table provided
- the lump sum calculation should respect the following conditions:
 - for lump sums based on estimated project budgets: the estimated budget must comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6](#))
 - for lump sums based on estimated project budgets: costs for financial support to third parties is not allowed
 - communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for separate project websites are not eligible
- personnel costs:
 - volunteers' unit costs⁴² are allowed (without indirect costs)

The details and the breakdown of the 'Other cost' items from headings A.1 and C.3 should be provided in the 'any comments' sheet of the detailed budget table.

Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).

After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **80%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no pre-financing). The pre-financing will be paid within 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required)— whichever is the latest.

There may also be **additional prefinancing payments**, especially in case of a weak financial capacity.

There will be no **interim payments**.

For projects with duration of 24 months, you will be expected to submit one progress report not linked to payments after 12 months.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if you or one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (see *art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done.

Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation, and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

⁴² [Commission Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646)

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement.

Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5)*:

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination, and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5)*:

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

Other specificities

- n/a

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).



For more information, see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 4 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities, and associated partners⁴³) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online.
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file.
- KPI tool containing additional project data. To be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed.
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type. Detailed budget table must be re-uploaded filled out in the format .xlsx.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System, otherwise the proposal may be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed, and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

⁴³ See section 13 for more information on consortium roles and the roles of coordinator, affiliated entities, and associated partners.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) in proposals

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilised.

Specifically, applicants are required to:

- Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies.
- Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by the AI tool. Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.
- Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work.
- Be respectful of personal data and confidential information by not entering these on AI platforms that are not managed on proprietary servers.
- Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.

12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- Topic Q&A on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Call and Topic pages regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates, including an invitation to the info session for applicants (if any) after the opening of the call. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: EC-JUSTICE-CALLS@ec.europa.eu.

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important

IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g., congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Call and Topic pages regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant

Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g., own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding** — It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants; projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).

Organisations may participate in several proposals.

BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).

- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced, or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of

efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with Regulation [2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation, and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).