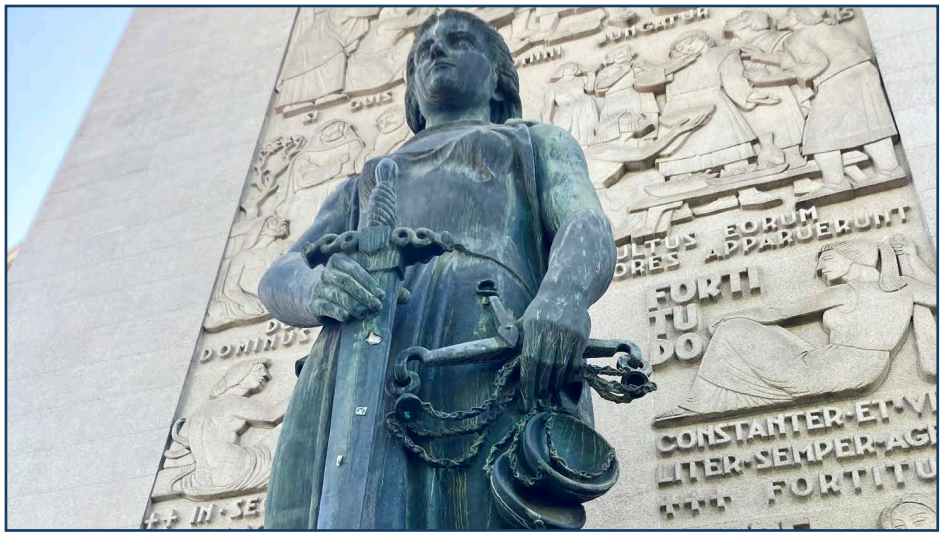
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON LEGAL CO-OPERATION (CDCJ)



STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

CAREER AND TRAINING OF JUDGES

Join the event

Join members of the CDCJ, judges and experts to explore the findings of the first thematic review on the career and training of judges under the Council of Europe Plan of Action on strengthening judicial independence and impartiality (Sofia Action Plan).

Topics in focus

- Career safeguards and judicial governance
- Gender equality in the judiciary and objective criteria in selection and appointment
- Judicial training and capacity-building
- Artificial intelligence, ethics and integrity
- Key findings and next steps under the Sofia Action Plan

Who should attend?

Judges, members of judicial councils, justice-sector professionals, judicial trainers, policymakers, legal practitioners and others working to promote judicial independence and impartiality.

LAUNCH CONFERENCE

Report of the first thematic review under the Sofia Action Plan

17 NOVEMBER 2026
14:30 - 17:30

STRASBOURG
Palais de l'Europe
Room 11

& ONLINE

TO REGISTER

Scan the QR code

This initiative contributes to the New Democratic Pact for Europe

PROGRAMME

14:30 – 14:50

OPENING SESSION

Daniele Cangemi, Head of the Department of Human Rights and Justice Standards - DGI, Council of Europe

Signe Öhman, Chair, European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

José Igreja Matos, President, Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)

14:50 – 15:00

PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REVIEW REPORT

Julie Devys, Judge, Administrative Court of Strasbourg

15:00 – 15:45

SESSION I: JUDICIAL CAREERS

Moderator: Guillaume Vieillard, CDCJ member

Career safeguards and judicial governance

Duro Sessa, Judge, Supreme Court of Croatia; CCJE member

Gender equality in the judiciary

Ivana Jelić, Vice-President, European Court of Human Rights

Selection and appointment based on objective criteria

Fabio Giovagnoli, Member of of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission); *Ad hoc* Judge, European Court of Human Rights; CCJE and CDCJ member

Q&A

15:45 – 16:15

—— COFFEE BREAK ——

16:15 – 17:00

SESSION II: JUDICIAL TRAINING

Moderator: João Arsénio de Oliveira, CDCJ member; Chair of the CEPEJ Working Group on quality of justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)

Judicial training and capacity-building

Ana-Maria Telbis, Head of the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals Programme (HELP), Council of Europe

Artificial intelligence and emerging challenges

John Sorabji, Associate Professor of Law, University College London

Ethics and integrity in judicial training

Panagiota Vatikalou, Member of the Bureau of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO); Judge, Court of Appeal of Athens

Q&A

17:00 – 17:30

CLOSING SESSION

Daniele Cangemi, Head of the Department of Human Rights and Justice Standards - DGI, Council of Europe

Summary of key findings and next steps under the Sofia Action Plan

Lennart Houmann, Vice-Chair, European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)

Closing remarks

Francesco Depasquale, President of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Closing keynote address

Margaret Satterthwaite, UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers