



European Network of Councils
for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils
de la Justice (RECJ)

Format Dialogue group meetings

Purpose of the dialogue groups

The purpose of the dialogue groups is to discuss the results of the application of the indicators and identifying the problems facing the independence and accountability of the Judiciary in each country and identifying remedies. The remedies will be made concrete by developing specific objectives to be reached and activities to be undertaken to reach the objectives. Objectives and activities are to be included in the yearly plans of the organisations concerned. These plans will be presented at the General Assembly 2018.

Programme

Depending on the eagerness to participate of the Members and Observers, there will be 4-6 different dialogue groups consisting of four countries per group. The dialogue group will meet one whole day. A dinner will be organised on the evening before the meeting to get acquainted with each other. Meetings will start at 9:00 and will end at 17:00hrs.

Participants

Participation for Members will be confined to the (vice) president and the ENCJ liaison of the Council for the Judiciary. In the case of the observers, a representative at decision level of the actual governing organisation and the ENCJ liaison of the country concerned. Each dialogue group will consist, in principle, of 4 Members/Observers and will be chaired by a moderator from a different country than the ones participating in the dialogue.

Materials

The outcomes of the questionnaire (scorecards), the survey among judges and the overall report presented at the previous General Assembly will serve as the basis for the discussion. Also the filled-in questionnaires of the countries involved will be shared among the participants to provide deeper insight into the institutional arrangements. A format for the action plans will be shared in advance.

Process

Preparations

- 6 weeks before the dialogue meeting the materials (scorecard, questionnaires, survey results and the 2016/2017 I&A report) are distributed to the participating Members/Observers by the ENCJ office.
- 4 weeks prior to the meeting each of the participating institutions sends a note to the moderator (through the ENCJ office) indicating which of the three focus issues they want to discuss in particular, and whether in addition they would like to address a

country specific issue. If possible, for each issue a clear indication should be given of the dilemma's and remedies they would like to discuss. Furthermore, participating Members and Observers should confirm who will participate in the dialogue group meetings. If necessary, adjustments to the group composition will be made and will be communicated

- 2 week prior to the meeting the notes among the dialogue groups will be shared with the 4 participants of the dialogue groups and the participants will be asked to study them.

The dialogue group meetings

- Determine the issues to be discussed during the meeting.
- Address each issue in the following steps:
 - Problem analysis
 - Remedies
 - Select best remedy/remedies, and develop objectives and activities per remedy
 - Discuss follow-up, including (share) commitment
- Draw conclusions and a message to the project team/ENCJ board

Report of the meeting

The report of the meeting will consist of the identified problems per country and the identified, most effective remedies. The chair country of each dialogue group will make the report.

Confidentiality

The discussions in the dialogue groups will be confidential, except for the report as such. All other information about the discussions regarding a country can only be made public by the participants of that country.