

JUSTICE Project

Since 1 September 2018 the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-European Institutions office) is implementing a two-year project “*JUSTICE: Judges Uniting to Stop Terrorism with International, Constitutional and European law*”. The project seeks to ensure judicial **cooperation in criminal justice to counter terrorism** in a manner that is both effective and compliant with the European Union (EU) law, the rule of law and international human rights obligations. It focuses mainly on the implementation of the EU Directive 2017/541 on combating terrorism by judges and other legal professionals within the European Union. The project primarily covers five main countries, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Germany and Belgium, as well as France, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic and Romania on a second-tier level.

The project seeks to develop, together with national judges and other legal experts, **practical Guidelines** for a harmonised and fundamental rights compliant implementation of the EU Directive 2017/541 on combating terrorism and related EU law. By the end of the project judges and lawyers in the selected countries would have access to and would be aware of comparative analysis and best practices, through a **network of legal professionals and experts**, in implementation of EU counter-terrorism legislation in compliance with human rights.

Four **multinational roundtable discussions** will be organised throughout 2019 to discuss best practices in the implementation of EU counter-terrorism law in accordance with human rights law. Each event will focus on a specific challenge:

- *The material elements and the mens rea of EU terrorism offences*, 12 April 2019, Pisa (Italy)
- *Investigative procedures and procedural rights*, 27 September 2019, The Hague (Netherlands)
- *The impact of counter-terrorism law on freedom of expression and association*, October 2019, Madrid (Spain)
- *The impact of counter-terrorism law on specific groups, including children, victims of trafficking, women, ethnic and religious groups*, November 2019, Brussels (Belgium)

Each of the roundtable discussions will bring together some 30 judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals in criminal justice to counter terrorism, mainly from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Spain. It will be a unique opportunity for the participants to discuss the practices and challenges they face in implementing EU counter-terrorism laws in their national legal systems and to contribute to the development of implementing Guidelines.

This project is implemented in cooperation with different **partners**: [Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento \(SSSUP\)](#) in Italy, [Nederlands Juristen Comité voor de Mensenrechten \(NJCM\)](#) in the Netherlands, as well as [Human Rights in Practice](#) as international partner. The project is further supported by associate partners: [Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés \(MEDEL\)](#), [Juezas y Jueces para la Democracia](#) in Spain, [Neue Richtervereinigung e.V. \(NRV\)](#) in Germany and the [International Commission of Jurists \(ICJ\)](#).

