Dear XXXX,

As practitioner in the field, you are cordially invited to participate in a series of three seminars, taking place in Germany, Romania and Portugal over the next eighteen months, to raise awareness off - and expertise in - the use of the European Arrest Warrant tool. The seminars form part of the EAW AWARE Project, building a community of practitioners in this field.

**What Is EAW AWARE?**

Cross-border cooperation between courts and law enforcement agencies has been one of the most fundamental yet progressively more complex tasks in modern European criminal justice. The introduction of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) in 2002 put this cooperation on a new footing, but use of the EAW tool comes with attendant issues and responsibilities.

The ECJ has clarified in Cases C-404/15 and C-659/15 PPU, Aranyosi and Căldăraru, that the European arrest warrant procedure does not exempt the courts of the Member State of enforcement from the obligation to check the imprisonment conditions of the person pursued in the issuing Member State, specifically exposure to a genuine risk of inhuman or degrading treatment within the meaning of Article 4 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union: particularly the surrender procedure of a EAW is not a ‘no questions asked’ mechanism.

Drawing on multi-agency practitioner experience the EAW AWARE project will develop thematic seminars on these challenging points of implementation and policy:

• Obligations to examine conditions of detention, and broader standards of detention issues

• Sources of decision-making information

• Use of existing provisions in national law and informal judicial cooperation

• Harmonisation of practice and the development of jurisprudence

By bringing users of the EAW tool together on these issues, the seminars you would attend are designed with the broad aims of supporting mutual trust and recognition of decision between neighbouring European judiciaries, and of promoting consistent use of European bodies.

**EAW AWARE Seminars**

In each of the three seminars, up to 25 European experts will work together on a prioritised agenda developed in consultation with practitioners. These will take place in Germany, Romania and Portugal, each containing an embedded prison visit so that practitioners learn by seeing detention conditions as part of their broader learning. This is your invitation to find out more about our seminars and to apply to join us.

**EAW Assessment Tool and Information Booklets**

EAW AWARE will build on the information and projects already available on use of the tool, and by the end of the project will develop three information booklets covering aspects of our learning, and a checklist to support practitioners in their application of the EAW.

**Who are the EAW AWARE partners?**

Over two years, EAW AWARE brings together organisations from four EU Member States:

• [Bremen Ministry of Justice](https://www.justiz.bremen.de/) with the [Bremen Higher Regional Court of Appeal](https://www.oberlandesgericht.bremen.de/) (Germany)

• [Assozione Antigone (Italy)](https://www.antigone.it/)

• [Romanian Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) (Romania)](https://www.csm1909.ro/)

•  [IPS (Portugal)](http://www.prisonsystems.eu/)

The [National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution (KSSIP)](https://www.kssip.gov.pl/angielski) represents Poland and [The University of Loyola Andalucia](https://www.uloyola.es/en/) both sit on EAW AWARE’s Advisory Council, and experts from other EU Member States will guide our progress over the course of the two years.

Each of EAW AWARE’s partner countries are relatively high issuers and executors of the EAW tool, and this high usage casts a wide net for both the exchange and provision of surrender procedure information, and for potentially transferrable good practice. Each organization in our partnership can deliver a unique perspective on – and networks in – practitioner and end-user practice.

**When are EAW AWARE Seminars taking place?**

The EAW AWARE training is split into three blocks over eighteen months and participants are encouraged to attend all three seminars – **participants who are able to commit to attending all three seminars will be prioritised**.

**21.10 – 25.10.2019 Bremen, Germany**

**23.03 – 27.03.2020 Bucharest, Romania**

**28.09 – 02.10.2020 Lisbon, Portugal**

**Who covers the costs?**

If you are selected to participate, the costs of accommodation, flights and meals will be covered by the EAW AWARE project. These will be booked centrally, not directly by you. Costs such as transfers from the airport and supplementary expenses will not be reimbursed by the project.

We aim to make the selection process as transparent as possible, as such our criteria are:

* A Participant has daily or regular contact with the EAW tool
* A Participant is able to attend all three seminars
* A Participant can briefly show how s/he would take learning back from seminars, and share this with colleagues at home
* Most participants will be from the four EAW partner member states, however 6 participants may be selected from other European member states

**Next steps: I’m interested; how do I register to participate the EAW AWARE seminar series?**

**Please click on** [**this form**](https://form.jotformeu.com/91281948743366)**, and** **submit by 15.07.2019**.

**You can find further details here:** [**https://www.eawaware.eu/**](https://www.eawaware.eu/)

**Information will be posted on our European Arrest Warrant LinkedIn group here: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8768048/**