

## AIKOS PROGRAMME

### BULGARIA – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE



#### Description and objectives of the AIKOS Programme

The EJTN AIKOS Programme is addressed specifically to future and early-career judges, giving them the opportunity to learn about other judicial systems and training curricula, enhance their knowledge of EU law and judicial cooperation instruments as well as meet with their counterparts and develop useful contacts for their future professional life.

The AIKOS Programme's objectives are:

- To bring together future or newly appointed judges from different EU Member States;
- To foster mutual understanding of different European judicial cultures and systems;
- To raise awareness of the European dimension of their (future work).

#### Specificity of the host institution

- Judicial academy for candidates for junior judges, prosecutors and investigators as well as all newly appointed magistrates;
- The trainees are around 70 each year who have just won a nationwide competition for the judicial system entry. The permanent trainers are five – 2 judges, 2 prosecutors and 1 investigator;
- AIKOS is a non-compulsory training activity but is getting steadily more popular.

#### Key points for the host institution's programme

- Offering dynamic atmosphere where all participants are encouraged to share their experience and opinion;
- Active participation of the foreigners (participating in workshops and presentation of their judicial and training systems);
- Insight into specific Bulgarian approaches to domestic and international judicial issues.

#### Content of the host institution's programme

- National judicial system
- Initial training system
- Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters
- Court visit and discussion with the participating judges
- Judgecraft workshop
- Mediation and restorative justice workshop
- Stress management and personality development
- Guided tour of Sofia
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European Judicial Training Network



**Additional information**

Interactive environment is the goal of the exchange as well as getting together the various nationalities into a common judicial culture. Getting in touch with nonjudicial auxiliary activities is parred with deep insight into the profession of the Bulgarian magistrate.



*With financial support from the Justice Programme of the European Union*