

## AIAKOS PROGRAMME

### ESTONIA – PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE



#### **Description and objectives of the AIAKOS Programme**

The EJTN AIAKOS 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 AIAKOS 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 AIAKOS Programme in Estonia**

In Estonia, the AIAKOS Programme is organized by the Prosecutor’s Office of Estonia.

The Prosecutor’s Office of Estonia is a government agency in the area of government of the Ministry of Justice. The Prosecutor’s Office is independent upon performance of its duties assigned by the law, and its actions are based on laws and on legal acts adopted on their basis.

The Prosecutor’s Office directs pre-trial criminal proceedings, ensuring lawfulness and effectiveness thereof; represents public prosecution in court, participates in planning surveillance activities necessary for prevention and identification of crimes, and performs other duties assigned to the Prosecutor’s Office by the law.

As a body directing criminal proceedings, the Prosecutor’s Office guides investigative bodies in gathering evidence and, according to identified circumstances, decides on bringing charges against a person.

The Prosecutor’s Office is a two-tier body, consisting of the Office of the Prosecutor General as the higher tier and four district prosecutor’s offices as the lower tier. The jurisdiction of the Office of the Prosecutor General is the entire Estonia; the jurisdictions of the district prosecutor’s offices are identical to those of prefectures.



The Prosecutor's Office is directed by the Prosecutor General who is appointed to office for a term of five years. Office of the Prosecutor General is actively participating in international cooperation in fighting against crime. In everyday work Estonian prosecutors are doing active cooperation with neighboring countries and organize meetings between different specialized groups of prosecutors.

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

- Knowledge of the legal system and criminal procedure in Estonia, the everyday work of the prosecutors, recruitment and trainings of the Estonian prosecutors, the career and motivation systems etc.
- Different criminal proceedings.
- Innovation and digitalization in the judiciary and prosecution.
- The cooperation between prosecutors and police.
- The work of the Bar Association and private lawyers.
- The Relationship with the press and media relations.

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

- Meetings in different Prosecutor's Offices
- Meeting in the Ministry of Justice
- Meetings and hearings at court. Participants are taken to the court hearings to see how these are held in Estonia
- Meetings in the Bar Association
- Visit to the Forensic Science Institute
- Possible visits to prisons and different police stations

