



MEDIATION IN THE EU: LANGUAGE, LAW & PRACTICE

- Language training for judges
- Focus on civil and commercial mediation

Sofia, 15-17 March 2023



EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW⁷

Speakers

Alessandro Bruni

Attorney-at-Law, Arbitrator and Mediator, Trainer for Mediators, Rome

Renate Dendorfer-Ditges

Attorney-at-Law, Arbitrator and Commercial Mediator, Ditges Rechtsanwälte, Bonn

Anna Plevri

Attorney-at-Law, Arbitrator and Mediator, Trainer for Mediators, Thessaloniki

Eva Samaniego Fernández

Professor, Department of Foreign Languages, National Distance Education University (UNED), Madrid

George Stanimirov Niagolov

Senior Assistant Professor and Lecturer, Department of English and American Studies, University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia

Key topics

- Legal framework of cross-border civil and commercial mediation
- Key features and different phases of the mediation process
- Mediator skills and negotiation techniques
- Interaction between mediation and civil proceedings
- Online dispute resolution schemes
- English legal terminology in mediation

Language
English

Event number
123DT03

Organisers
ERA (Anastasia Patta) in cooperation with the Bulgarian National Institute of Justice

Location
National Institute of Justice,
14, Ekzarh Yossif str., 1000 Sofia



Co-funded by the Justice Programme
2014-2020 of the European Union

Mediation in the EU: Language, Law & Practice

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

- 08:45 Arrival and registration of participants
- 09:00 **Opening session and introduction to the programme and project**
Representative of Bulgarian National Institute of Justice
Anastasia Patta, ERA
- 09:30 **Key legal terminology in EU civil law**
Eva Samaniego Fernández
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **The mediation landscape in the EU**
 - Legal framework of cross-border mediation in civil and commercial cases
 - Mediation Directive*Alessandro Bruni*
- 12:00 **DISCUSSION ROUND: National procedural frameworks and the latest legal developments in the participating EU Member States**
- 12:30 Lunch break
- 13:40 **GROUP A: Preparing a mediation procedure – the key to mediation success**
Practical session based on an international sales and distribution contract dispute
 - Different phases of the mediation process
 - Opening of the procedure and building trust
 - Scope and borders of confidentiality*Alessandro Bruni*
- 13:40 **GROUP B: Legal language training (Part I)**
Oral and written exercises
Eva Samaniego Fernández
- 15:10 Coffee break
- 15:40 **GROUP A: Legal language training (Part I)**
Oral and written exercises
Eva Samaniego Fernández
- 15:40 **GROUP B: Preparing a mediation procedure – the key to mediation success**
Practical session based on an international sales and distribution contract dispute
 - Different phases of the mediation process
 - Opening of the procedure and building trust
 - Scope and borders of confidentiality*Alessandro Bruni*
- 17:10 End of the first day

Thursday, 16 March 2023

- 09:00 **GROUP A: Key features of civil & commercial mediation**
 - Mediation concepts for business mediation
 - Mediator skills and negotiation techniques
 - Dealing with power imbalances*Renate Dendorfer-Ditges*
- 09:00 **GROUP B: Legal language training (Part II)**
Written comprehension & exercises
Eva Samaniego Fernández
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **GROUP A: Legal language training (Part II)**
Written comprehension & exercises
Eva Samaniego Fernández

Objective

The purpose of this interactive seminar is twofold: first, to introduce participants to the law and practice of cross-border civil and commercial mediation and, secondly, to improve their English language skills.

Participants will be encouraged to make use of mediation techniques and procedures, while also receiving the tools to and developing the ability to communicate effectively in English in cross-border situations.

Who should attend?

Judges from Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Spain and Romania nominated by the project partners.

Your contact persons



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11:00 **GROUP B: Key features of civil & commercial mediation**

- Mediation concepts for business mediation
- Mediator skills and negotiation techniques
- Dealing with power imbalances

Renate Dendorfer-Ditges

12:30 Lunch break

13:40 **WORKSHOP** (coffee & tea will be served during the workshop):

Solving an employment dispute out of court

- The role of the lawyer, the mediator and the parties
- Negotiation techniques and efficiency by caucus
- Drafting a settlement agreement

Renate Dendorfer-Ditges

17:00 End of the second day

19:00 Dinner

Friday, 17 March 2023

09:00 **GROUP A: Interaction between mediation and civil proceedings**

- Effects of mediation on limitation and prescription periods
- Enforcement of settlement agreements
- **WORKSHOP – Online dispute resolution schemes in a cross-border consumer dispute**

Anna Plevri

09:00 **GROUP B: Legal language training (Part III)**

Preparation of short oral presentations & exercises

George Stanimirov Niagolov

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **GROUP A: Legal language training (Part III)**

Preparation of short oral presentations & exercises

George Stanimirov Niagolov

11:00 **GROUP B: Interaction between mediation and civil proceedings**

- Effects of mediation on limitation and prescription periods
- Enforcement of settlement agreements
- **WORKSHOP – Online dispute resolution schemes in a cross-border consumer dispute**

Anna Plevri

12:30 **DISCUSSION ROUND: Judicial, court-annexed or extra-judicial mediation? Experiences in the Member States**

Coordinated by George Stanimirov Niagolov & Anna Plevri

13:15 End of training

For programme updates: www.era.int
 Programme may be subject to amendment.

Project partnership

EU-wide networks

EJTN – European Judicial Training Network

GEMME – European Judges Group for Mediation

MiKK – International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction

National judicial training institutions

Belgium – Judicial Training Institute

Bulgaria – National Institute of Justice

Estonia – Supreme Court

Finland – National Courts Administration

Greece – National School of Judges

Latvia – Judicial Training Centre

Lithuania – National Courts Administration

Poland – National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution (*Beneficiary*)

Romania – National Institute of Magistracy

Spain – General Council for the Judiciary

Bar associations

Czechia – Czech Bar Association

Greece – Thessaloniki Bar Association

Latvia – Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates

Lithuania – Lithuanian Bar Association

Slovakia – Slovak Bar Association

Spain – Barcelona Bar Association

Registration

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Registration procedure

This seminar series is co-funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020). The following terms and conditions of participation apply:

Interested judges from the partnering Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Spain and Romania) may register via their national judicial training institutions. Interested members of the Association of European Judges for Mediation (GEMME) may register via GEMME. Participation is subject to selection.



Project description

Within the framework of the Justice Programme the European Union is co-financing a series of nine language training activities on cross-border mediation.

Each seminar will last 2.5 days and will be organised in the partnering Member States. The number of participants (judges, lawyers and mediators) will be limited to 30 per event.

The training activities will combine interactive language training and legal training with a focus on cross-border mediation.

More information about the project on:

<https://era-comm.eu/mediation-project/>

This publication has been produced with the financial support of the European Union's Justice Programme (2014-2020). The content of this publication only represents the views of ERA. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

Location

National Institute of Justice,
14, Ekzarh Yossif str., 1000 Sofia

Language

English

Contact Person

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Participation

Participation is free of charge. Please note that the **number of places available is limited**. Participants should have a working knowledge of English.

Travel expenses

Selected judges will receive a significant contribution to their travel costs upon receipt of the original invoices, tickets and receipts. Participants are asked to arrange their own travel.

Accommodation

Accommodation for a maximum of 3 nights will be booked and covered directly by ERA. Coffee breaks and lunches are included. ERA will organise and cover a joint dinner for all participants.