



Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the EU (ACA-Europe)

Information provided by the ACA-Europe

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A. General information

Name of network	Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union – (ACA-Europe)
Date of constitution	2001
Legal Statute	Not-for-profit International Association a.i.s.b.l. under Belgian law
Legal Seat	Rue de la Science, 33 B – 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Website	http://www.aca-europe.eu/index.php/en

B. Goals of the network

The purpose of the Association is to promote within its financial limits exchanges of views and experience on matters concerning the jurisprudence, organisation and functioning of its Members in the performance of their judicial and/or advisory functions, particularly with regard to Community Law.

Within this framework, the Association may initiate or promote studies and publish a review or juridical collections.

Recognizing each other's independence, the Association shall promote contacts and exchanges of information between its Members or Observers and with the European Union authorities.

Every second year in principle, or at intervals to be established by the General Assembly, it shall organise a colloquium to consider matters falling within its terms of reference.

The Association shall set up a data bank, consisting principally of decisions, advices and studies by its Members relevant to the purpose of the Association, reports and conclusions produced during the colloquiums of the Association as well as any other useful information.

C. Membership structure of the network – Overall number of current members (with a breakdown by nationalities)

Members:

The members of the ACA-Europe are: the Court of Justice of the European Union and the supreme jurisdictions and Councils of State of the Member States of the European Union which are empowered to adjudicate in the final instance in disputes concerning the activities of public administrative bodies or which are acting in an all-round legal advisory capacity as far as the drawing up of normative texts is concerned.

There shall not be more than two Members from each State.

- European Union – The Court of Justice of the European Union
- Austria – The Administrative Court
- Belgium – The Council of State
- Bulgaria – The Supreme Administrative Court
- Croatia – The High Administrative Court
- Cyprus – The Supreme Court
- Czech Republic – The Supreme Administrative Court
- Denmark – The Supreme Court
- Estonia – The Supreme Court
- Finland – The Supreme Administrative Court
- France – The Council of State
- Germany – The Federal Administrative Court
- Greece – The Council of State
- Hungary – the Curia
- Ireland – the Supreme Court
- Italy – the Council of State
- Latvia – The Supreme Court
- Lithuania – The Supreme Administrative Court
- Luxembourg – The Council of State the Administrative Court
- Malta – The Court of appeal
- Netherlands – The Council of State
- Poland – The Supreme Administrative Court
- Portugal – The Supreme Administrative Court
- Romania – The High Court of Cassation and Justice the Legislative Council
- Slovakia – The Supreme Administrative Court
- Slovenia – The Supreme Court
- Spain – The Supreme Administrative Court
- Sweden – The Supreme Administrative Court
- United Kingdom – The Supreme Court

Observers:

The Jurisdictions and Councils of State similarly empowered of States which are engaged in negotiations with a view to their actually joining the European Union can be admitted as Observers. As soon as the State to which it belongs has joined the European Union, the Observer becomes automatically at its request a Member of the Association.

Observers:

- Montenegro – The Supreme Court
- Turkey – The Council of State

Guest courts:

- Norway – The Supreme Court
- Switzerland – The Federal Supreme Court

D. Governance and bodies of the network

The Association is managed by a General Assembly, a Board and a General Secretary.

E. Brief resume of the judicial training activities developed (if applicable) by the network

The activities of the ACA-Europe are specifically oriented towards the training of judges in particular to:

- Enhance access to knowledge in the implementation and application of European law, particularly with regard to the effective implementation of the fundamental rights of the European Charter. This Charter is a fundamental part of all European law. The national judge ensures compliance with this Charter as a trial judge of Union law (environment/telecommunication/foreigners/public health, etc.). (Databases/ periodical “REFLETS” /Forum/meetings);
- Improve knowledge about the judicial system of each member court (Tour of Europe) and to deepen the *acquis* by comparing experiences and practices (meetings / exchange of judges / Forum);
- Organise an exchange programme for judges between member supreme courts targeting the continuous training of judges. This programme gives the judges a concrete experience in all phases of the judicial procedure of concrete cases handled by the supreme court host;
- In-depth study of the knowledge tools (*self-learning/exchange of good practices*): *updating the databases* (DEC-NAT/JURIFAST)/ boosting the Forum.

The knowledge tools mentioned above are organised in two axis.

1. First axis: access to the knowledge tools

- **Database DECNAT**

A collection of about 27,000 national judicial decisions is available on the ACA-Europe website (www.aca-europe.eu) (possible access via Eur-Lex).

Ongoing project to realise a link between DECNAT data and national databases and vice versa, carried out on an experimental basis with 3 member high courts.

Target group: all of the judges of the member supreme courts, the European citizens and specially the entire community of law practitioners (academics and firms of the public or private sector)

- **Databank JURIFAST**

A collection of 1,500 judicial decisions is also available on the ACA-Europe website (www.aca-europe.eu) (possible access via Eur-Lex).

Target group: the same like DECENAT

- **Forum**

ACA-Europe Internal network of corresponding judges (in way of dynamisation): each member court appoints a corresponding judge for "Forum" with a double mission: management and animation of the Forum;

Regarding the management, the corresponding judge shall attend to a fast answer questions;

Regarding the animations, the corresponding judges mention once a month topical legal subjects and draw attention of the others judges on interesting events about EU law (new statute of the Court of justice, major judgments of the Court or of the ECtHR or of their court, assumption of a position by the constitutional courts in relation with EU law, etc...)

The corresponding judges for Forum play a role for the input stimulation of **JURIFAST**.

Targeted public: the community of the judges of the supreme courts

- **"Reflets" review**

Reflets is an online document published by the CJEU that gives readers an overview of recent national and international case law, of new national legislation, and of some articles of doctrine. This document originally only existed in French, but ACA-Europe and the CJEU agreed that it will be translated into English and made available via its website www.aca-europe.eu.

Targeted public: ditto DECENAT and JuriFast.

2. Second axis: learning by knowledge exchange

- **Organisation of seminars (two or three times a year) and a colloquium (every two years)**

Topical legal theme closely linked with the implementation of EU law.

Targeted public:

By seminar: 40 ACA-Europe judges (direct effect of participation except external/internal benefits)

By colloquium: 75 ACA-Europe judges (direct effect of participation except external/internal benefits)

- **Organisation of a judicial exchange**

Active participation of the trainee judge in the works of the host Court (training in methods of operation of the host court/ access to cases file/ formative support to the apprehension and understanding of the object of appeal/ access to hearings / organisation of the hearings feedback) ended by a training report published on the website www.aca-europe.eu.

Targeted public: 12 judges (direct effect except external/internal benefits)

"Internal benefit" means the dissemination of information by the trainee judge inside his court.

"External benefit" means the access, via the website, especially for the whole community of law's practitioners (academic sector and firms from private/public sector), to the exchanged datas for and during the event.

F. Highlight of the network's statutory provisions that make reference to judicial training / Concerns of the network referring to judicial training

Under Article 3 of its Articles of Association, the main purposes of the Network are to promote exchanges of views and experience on all matters concerning the case law, organisation and functioning of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union in the performance of their judicial or advisory functions, particularly with regard to EU law.

It also promotes contacts and exchanges of information between its Members or Observers as well as between them and the European Institutions, by providing the latter with the opportunity to consult its members on all questions regarding the harmonisation of substantive and adjective law.

G. Brief resume of the trends of cooperation and/or regular contacts established by the network with major judicial networks involved in the current project

ACA-Europe closely collaborates with the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union, the European Network of the Councils of Justice and the European Judicial Training Network.

ACA-Europe attends the general assemblies of the two first networks and has with them regular exchanges of views in the context of judicial training. ACA-Europe is taking part, via member courts of the Association, in training cycles organised by the EJTN, besides the judges exchange programme set up by ACA-Europe.

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "*Lot 4 – Promotion of cooperation between judicial stakeholders concerned by European judicial training* ", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)