



SUNAJUST

SUPPORTING NATIONAL JUDGES ON STATE AID

The EU State aid framework has been part of the EU legal order since the entry into force of the Treaty of Rome in 1958. These rules are enforced by the Commission and the national courts.

The responsibility of national judges has grown over the years because of a significant expansion of exempted aid as well as exceptional crisis rules. In addition, the complexity of State aid measures has gradually increased. Against this background, it is well-established that the enforcement of EU State aid law by national courts faces practical and legal difficulties.

In follow-up of SUNAJUST I and II, SUNAJUST III develops a training programme in which national courts are immersed in their role as 'European State aid judges'. The project develops engaging course materials, i.e.:

- An update of the existing manuals
- Knowledge clips
- Presentations

The topics include, among others:

- The notion of aid

- The State aid prohibition and its exceptions
- Notification procedures
- The General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)
- Services of General Economic Interest (SGEIs)
- The Commission as public enforcer
- The role of national courts
- The cooperation tools

With these updated and extended materials and building on our experience of SUNAJUST I and II, basic and advanced workshops will be organised as well as a closing conference and study visit, and this to cover all aspects of the role of national courts as enforcers of EU State aid law. The location and set-up are chosen to encourage broad participation of judges from all eligible countries. In addition, a SUNAJUST Hub will be created as a knowledge sharing and networking platform.

In summary, the Project aims to develop tools as well as connect judges interested in the EU State aid rules, not only those with a basic knowledge of these rules, but also those who are looking for a more advanced programme and networking opportunities.



EVENTS COMING UP

EVENT	DATE
Krakov basic workshop	7-8 April 2026
Bergen basic workshop	3-4 September 2026
Budapest basic workshop	7-8 December 2026
Innsbruck advanced workshop	17-18 December 2026
Naples advanced workshop	30-31 March 2027
Thessaloniki basic workshop	27-28 May 2027
Helsinki basic workshop	3-4 June 2027
Tallinn advanced workshop	17-18 June 2027
Luxembourg conference and study visit	TBA December 2027

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:

- National judges
- Prosecutors
- Apprentice national judges
- Staff of judges' office or of national courts

 Limited places available. Reserve quickly

Interested, contact via email: sunajust@vub.be

Link website: <https://bccp.research.vub.be/supporting-national-judges-on-state-aid>



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