



ANNUAL REPORT CYPRUS JUDICIAL TRAINING SCHOOL

2020-2021-2022



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



CYPRUS JUDICIAL
TRAINING SCHOOL

CYPRUS JUDICIAL TRAINING SCHOOL

Annual Report

2020 - 2021- 2022

This Report is submitted
by the Director of the Cyprus Judicial Training
School to the Supreme Court, pursuant to
Article 9 of Law 101(I)/2020 on the
Establishment and Functioning of the
Judicial Training School

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Composition of the 1st Council of the Cyprus Judicial Training School From 14/8/2020-15/7/2022

President of the Council

Persefoni Panayi - President of the Supreme Court

Members of the Council

Leonidas Parparinos - Judge, Supreme Court

Antonis Liatsos - Judge, Supreme Court

Rea Limnatitou - President, District Court

Alexandros Panayiotou - President, District Court
(President of the Cyprus Judges Association)

Menelaos Tsangarides - President, Family Court

Christiana Hadjigeorgiou - District Court Judge

Agni Efstathiou - Administrative Court Judge

Dr. Constantinos Kombos - Academic, University of Cyprus

The first official Meeting of the Council of the Cyprus Judicial Training School took place on May 20, 2021.

Composition of the 2nd Council of the Cyprus Judicial Training School From 15/7/2022 - 31/12/2022

President of the Council

Antonis Liatsos - President of the Supreme Court

Members of the Council

Lena Demetriadou - Andreou - Judge, Supreme Court

Nicholas Santis - Judge, Supreme Court

Rea Limnatitou - President, District Court

Alexandros Panayiotou - President, District Court
(President of the Cyprus Judges Association)

Menelaos Tsangarides - President, Family Court

Christiana Hadjigeorgiou - District Court Judge

Agni Efstathiou - Administrative Court Judge

Dr. Constantinos Kombos - Academic, University of Cyprus

Staff of the Cyprus Judicial Training School



George Erotocritou

Former Judge of the Supreme Court
Director of the Cyprus Judicial Training School



Phani Hadjiphani

Legal Officer



Savvas Savva

Administrative Officer



Elia Papasavva

Senior Stenographer
Director's Personal Assistant



Elena Neokleous

Clerical Officer



Charitini Demetriou

Messenger

1. Preface by the Director of the Cyprus Judicial Training School

The establishment of the Judicial Training School was a vision embraced by the Supreme Court of the time (2007-2017), initially under the presidency of the late Petros Artemis and later by Mr Myron Nikolatos, who succeeded him.

A vision that took 10 years to be realised. Evidently, there were some hesitations along the way that caused a delay in having the proposed Bill voted, which eventually became Law in 2020.

It was wise to establish the School, as judicial training, which is of utmost importance, is now placed on a more sound and professional foundation. As it is known, the Judicial Training School is based on the Universal Principles of Judicial Training.

Judicial training is an integral element of judicial independence, because it ensures Judges' competence and efficiency, and improves the image of justice in general. A competent and well trained judiciary can deal with disputes before the court justly and at a proportionate cost. This leads to greater public confidence in the judiciary and safeguarding the rule of law.

Current requests for judicial training received from the Judicial Service, various governmental bodies and other agencies are so many that the School, with the limited resources available, is unable to satisfy them all.

The staff of the School make heroic efforts to meet the demands of the times, placing particular emphasis on our European obligations arising from the respective strategic goals of the European Union. The overreaching goal of training programmes is to support all Judges and Court Staff in meeting the challenges of the 21st century and addressing their needs.

This Report presents the work carried out by the Cyprus Judicial Training School during the three-year period 2020-2022. At its early stages of operation, in addition to the common challenges faced as a newly established School, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in late 2019 and its spread in 2020 posed further problems and challenges. The School managed to cope with these challenges using technology and available resources, thus ensuring the smooth delivery of trainings through online platforms.

In 2021, the activities of the Judicial Training School intensified, as, further to the School's scheduled seminars, the training course on the New Rules of Civil Procedure was added to the Training Programme. The training on the new Rules was part of the Reform of the Courts under the SRSP3 Project, which was funded and supported by the Directorate-General for Structural Reform (DG Reform) of the European Commission and by the Council of Europe. In implementing the specific training course which addressed the entire Judiciary, the Judicial Training School collaborated with experienced Judges and Lawyers from both Cyprus and from abroad.

In 2022 the Cyprus Judicial Training School faced new challenges, as the relaxation of the Covid 19 pandemic -related restrictions allowed for the organisation of face-to-face training seminars. Leveraging the experience from previous years, the School managed to successfully implement an ambitious and demanding training programme, which included training for newly appointed Judges, training for judges of specialised jurisdiction and seminars on the New Civil Procedure Rules. In addition, the School continued its cooperation with European and International Organisations and Institutions. Lastly, the organisation of seminars with the participation of high calibre speakers, such as the Chief Clerk of the



Supreme Court of Scotland, Lady Dorrian, who was the main speaker at the Seminar on «Children-Vulnerable Witnesses», is considered of great importance.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the former President of the School Council, Mrs Persefoni Panayi, under whose presidency all procedural matters were handled to implement and enforce the provisions of the law, allowing the School to take shape and form. I also extend my thanks to both, the Supreme Court and the President and Members of the Council for the trust they have shown in the School.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Trainers of the School, who have exceeded all our expectations in their efforts to train judges in particular, the newly appointed ones.

Lastly, I thank once again the staff of the School, whose dedication never ceases to amaze me.

George Erotocritou
Former Supreme Court Judge
Director of the Cyprus Judicial Training School

2. Background

The Judicial Training School was officially established on the 14th of August 2020, following the adoption of Law 101(I)/2020, which provides for its establishment and operation. However, the first training seminars, organized and coordinated by the Judicial Training School with Cypriot trainers, were held in early October 2018.

One of the first actions taken towards the establishment of the Judicial Training School, was the preparation of a relevant Report dated 15 October 2012, by Mr. George Erotocritou, - Judge of the Supreme Court at the time and current Director of the School. The Supreme Court adopted the content of the Report and decided to promote the idea of establishing a School for Judicial Training for Cypriot Judges.

Subsequently, the Training Office of the Supreme Court was established, with the Director of Training having, amongst other things, the responsibility of implementing the decision of the Supreme Court concerning the establishment of the School for Judicial Training.

The 2017 Report of Professor Jeremy Cooper, which listed recommendations to the Supreme Court for the establishment and functioning of the School, is considered another milestone. These recommendations were approved in their entirety by the Supreme Court in July 2017, resulting in their gradual implementation by August 2020, when, with the enactment of the Law, the School was officially put into operation.

The Judicial Training School is based on the model of the Judicial College of England and is supervised by the School Council, whose Members are appointed by the President of the Supreme Court.

The training provided by the School is based on the Judicial Training Principles, which have been documented and adopted by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and the executive committee of the European Networks of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ). The trainers in each seminar consist of Cypriot judges of the School who have undergone special training, as well as expert judges from abroad.

In its three years of operation, the School's training programs have extended to include, not only Cypriot Judges, but the rest of the Court staff, such as Legal Officers, Registrars, Bailiffs, as well as the administrative staff. Additionally, the School hosts, on an annual basis, seminars organized by international educational organizations, whilst also participating in exchange programmes for judges, coordinated by EJTN.

The Judicial Training School has also developed a wide network of cooperation with international organizations, such as the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) of which it is a member, the Council of Europe and in particular with the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), the Judicial College of England, the Academy of European Law (ERA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and other organizations focusing on judicial education. Also noteworthy is the cooperation with domestic education providers, such as the Cyprus Academy of Public Administration (CAPA), the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Bar Association regarding education of its members.

The goals of the Judicial Training School for the future are to continue to provide at least 2 days of annual training to all Cypriot judges, with the quality and content of training remaining at a high level. Moreover, the School will strive to continue engaging highly competent trainer judges, which up to today, remains one of the biggest challenges that the School faces.



3. Mission and Vision of the Cyprus Judicial Training School

Mission

To contribute to the continuous and/or lifelong training of judges, through the preparation of specialized training programs.

Vision

The vision of the Cyprus Judicial Training School is to continuously provide a high level of professional education and training, thus contributing to the creation of an efficient judiciary that will contribute to maintaining the independence of the judiciary and promoting the rule of law.

4. Judicial Training Principles

To safeguard the principle of judicial independence, in 2015 the EJTN appointed a Working Group, which, in cooperation with the ENCJ Executive Committee, recorded the basic principles on which judicial training should be conducted. In 2016, the specific principles were adopted by both Organizations and today they are universally accepted. The Cyprus Judicial Training School and the preparation made for training of Cypriot judges are based on these Universal Principles, which are as follows:

- 1. Judicial training is a multidisciplinary and practical type of training, essentially intended for the transmission of professional techniques and values complementary to legal education.**
- 2. All judges and prosecutors should receive initial training before or on their appointment.**
- 3. All judges and prosecutors should have the right to regular continuous training after appointment and throughout their careers and it is their responsibility to undertake it. Every Member State should put in place systems that ensure judges and prosecutors are able to exercise this right and responsibility.**
- 4. Training is part of the normal working life of a judge and a prosecutor. All judges and prosecutors should have time to undertake training as part of the normal working time, unless it exceptionally jeopardises the service of justice.**
- 5. In accordance with the principles of judicial independence the design, content and delivery of judicial training are exclusively for national institutions responsible for judicial training to determine.**
- 6. Training should primarily be delivered by judges and prosecutors who have been previously trained for this purpose.**
- 7. Active and modern educational techniques should be given primacy in judicial training.**
- 8. Member States should provide national institutions responsible for judicial training with sufficient funding and other resources to achieve their aims and objectives.**
- 9. The highest judicial authorities should support judicial training.**

2020 ACTIVITIES

5. 2020 Activities

5.1 Seminar on Environmental Law – How to handle Court Proceedings invoking non-compliance with EU Nature Protection Law: Focus on Site & Species Protection



Organisers, Trainers and Participants in the Seminar on EU Environmental Law

On 14 January 2020, a full day Training Seminar on the Environment entitled «How to handle Court Proceedings invoking non-compliance with EU Nature Protection Law: Focus on Site & Species Protection», was organized by the Training School and the Academy of European Law (ERA) and held at the Supreme Court.

This specialised and important Seminar with expert speakers: Mr G. Kouninioti and F. Papoulia from DG Environment of the EC, Mr D. Pyrgaki, Associate Councillor of the Council of State of Greece, Dr. K. Pouikli from the Academy of European Law (ERA), Mrs E. Stylianopoulou from the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and Mr P. Anayiotos from the Game and Fauna Service - Ministry of Interior, addressed topics

related to the protection of species in Natura 2000 areas, to the EU and the international framework on the illegal capture, killing and trade in species and also on the enforcement of the Habitats Directive.

Judges from both the District Courts and the Administrative Court, Legal Officers of the Supreme Court and Members of the Law Office of the Republic participated in the Seminar and had the opportunity to follow the presentations and discuss various topics in the context of practical and scenario-based exercises. The topics were examined from both the EU and the national point of view, with the aim to facilitate Judges and prosecutors when handling future disputes before national courts in these fields.

5.2 Informative Seminar on Economic and Financial Issues



Mr Constantinos Herodotou addressing the participants in the Seminar on Economic and Financial Issues

On 3 February 2020, an Informative Seminar on Economic and Financial Issues took place. The Seminar was organised jointly by the Training School and the Central Bank of Cyprus, in which Judges and Court Registrars participated. The aim of the Seminar was to provide Judges with basic knowledge in economic issues and help them understand the functioning of the economy, for instance, locked funds resulting from the backlog of court cases and other relevant issues like the law of insolvency.

The speakers at this specialised and significant Seminar were experts in economic and financial

issues from the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance. During the Seminar, the participants had the opportunity to follow the presentations and discuss economic and financial matters with the experts.

The presentation of Dr Giorgos Kyriacou, Director of the Department of Economic Analysis and Research of the Central Bank, focused on general economic and banking issues, like the cycle of economic flows, the role of the banks in the economy, interest rates and the monetary policy transmission mechanism, time value of money and inflation as well as other basic economic concepts.

Mr Stelios Georgakis, Assistant Director at the Bank Supervision Department of the Central Bank and Mr Kleanthis Ioannides, Team Leader at the same Department, presented the basic bank operations and also the challenges faced such as the non-performing loans.

Lastly, Mr Andreas Charalambous, former Director of the Financial Stability Division of the Ministry of Finance, presented the topic «Judiciary, Economy, Banks» and focused on the legal framework for non-performing loans, on banks' systemic risk and also on justice as lever of growth.



Dr Giorgos Kyriacou making his presentation

5.3 Training Seminar on Trafficking in Human Beings



Mr Giorgos Erotocritou, Director of the School addressing the participants at the start of the Seminar

On 4 March 2020, a full day Training Seminar on Trafficking in Human Beings was held at the Supreme Court and was organised by the Training School upon the initiative and in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and with the support of the Embassy of the United States of America in Cyprus. District Court Judges and Judges of the Family Courts as well as Legal Officers of the Supreme Court participated in the Seminar.

The seminar's trainers, Judge Michelle Brewer from the U.K, Judge Jamie L. Cork and Assistant U.S. Attorney Ms. Laura Provinzino from the

United States, were all experts in the field of "Human Trafficking", which is considered a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights, affecting millions of victims worldwide.

The three esteemed trainers presented and analysed the topic in light of European and International Conventions and legal instruments, as well as case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Moreover, they analysed the issue of 'trauma', they discussed judicial challenges and presented good practices that are applied in other countries, focusing on the protection of victims of human trafficking.



Judge Michelle Brewer making her presentation at the Seminar



The Trainers and the Participants in the Seminar on Trafficking in Human Beings

5.4 Seminar on “Judicial Conduct and Ethics”

On 6 October 2020, a full day Training Seminar on «Judicial Conduct and Ethics» was held at the Supreme Court, as part of the Judges’ initial training.

Newly appointed Judges of District Courts and of the Administrative Court of International Protection participated in the Seminar. Mrs Lena Demetriadou, Mr Angelos David and Mrs Marina Papadopoulou, who were all District Court Presidents at the time, were the trainers at the Seminar and presented and elaborated on the

topics of: «The Code of Judicial Ethics», “The Use of Social Media by Judges” and «Unconscious Gender Bias».

The participants had the opportunity to acquire deep knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of judicial conduct and ethics, through hypothetical scenario analysis and case studies, group exercises and discussions, and to develop critical thinking as regards the use of social media along with the role of unconscious bias.



Mr George Erotocritou with the Trainers at the Seminar: Mrs Lena Demetriadou, Mr Angelos David and Mrs Marina Papadopoulou



Participants during the Seminar

5.5 HELP e-learning Training Course of the Council of Europe on “Data Protection and Privacy Rights”

The HELP e-learning Training Course of the Council of Europe on “Data Protection and Privacy Rights” was launched in January 2020. The HELP Programme is the main training platform of the Council of Europe for European standards on Human Rights and is directed at the judiciary and all legal professionals.

This Course was the first e-learning Course organised by the Judicial Training School. A kick-off meeting was held for the participants on 21 October 2019 and Mrs Ana-Maria Telbis, Course moderator, attended the meeting on behalf of the Council of Europe.

Judges, Legal Officers of the Supreme Court, Lawyers of the Law Office of the Republic and also members of the Cyprus Bar Association participated in the Course, which lasted for 3 months. The Course was led by Certified HELP Trainers-Judge Elias Georgiou, President of District Court at the time on behalf of the Judicial Training School, and Mr. Nicolas Tsardellis on behalf of the Cyprus Bar Association.

The Training Course consisted of ten sections and one final exam. It concluded successfully on 30 March 2020 and almost all the participants expressed their complete satisfaction.



5.6 Participation in Seminars organised by European and International Organisations

In addition to organising Seminars in Cyprus, the Judicial Training School cooperates with European and International Organisations and Institutions. It is a member of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), it maintains excellent relations and cooperation with the Academy of European Law (ERA), the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and with other organisations that are active in the field of justice and training.

In this regard, the Training School selects Judges,

Legal Officers and Court Staff to participate in selected Seminars organised by European and International Organisations abroad.

In particular, in 2020, the Judicial Training School participated in 38 Seminars organised abroad, out of which 3 took place as face to face activities, while the remaining 35 were held on-line due to the measures taken worldwide to prevent the spread of Covid. In total, 56 Judges, 8 Legal Officers of the Supreme Court, 8 lawyers of the Law Office of the Republic and 7 Court Staff members from Cyprus took part.

2021 ACTIVITIES

6. 2021 Activities

6.1 *HELP Course on “Procedural Safeguards in Criminal Proceedings and Victims’ Rights”*

The second e-learning tutor led HELP course which was held for Cypriot legal professionals was a course on «Procedural Safeguards in Criminal Proceedings and Victims’ Rights», and was launched on 15 January 2021 with a joint opening ceremony taking place online.

The Course was funded by the United Kingdom and took place with the assistance of Certified HELP Trainers. To this end, Mrs Sofia Kleopa, Senior District Judge at the time and Mr Nicolas A.P. Georgiades, District Court Judge at the time,

underwent special training to run the online Training Course on behalf of the Judicial Training School, with Mr Nicolas Tsardellis, Soteris Georgiou and Dimitris Lohias undergoing the same training to run the course on behalf of the Cyprus Bar Association.

Judges, Members of the Law Office of the Republic, Supreme Court Legal Officers, Lawyers and Police Officers participated in their respective online courses, which consisted of 6 Sections and a final exam.

6.2 *Seminar on “The Effectiveness of Court Sentencing in Dealing with Fatal Road Traffic Accidents”*

On the occasion of the new Road Safety Strategic Plan of the Republic of Cyprus for the period 2021-2030, the Judicial Training School decided to contribute substantially in this effort, by organising on 18 March 2021, a training Seminar on «The Effectiveness of Court Sentencing in Dealing with Fatal Road Traffic Accidents ».

The speakers at the Seminar focused mainly on sentences and considered whether these sentences could play a role in effectively dealing with fatal road accidents and preventing them. Mr Andreas Kapardis, Emeritus Professor at the University of Cyprus depicted the Cypriot reality, relying on numerous interesting statistical data related to fatal road accidents, underlying that, the three main causes of fatal road accidents are: excessive speed, careless driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol.


Mr Nicholas Santis, Supreme Court Judge, delivered a very thorough presentation in relation to the case law of the Supreme Court and the data deriving from it with regards to the uniformity

and deterrence of sentences. He stressed that it is necessary to make significant changes and redefine the perspective of a crime whilst also mentioning that increasing the maximum imprisonment sentence through legislation, is a potential option left and at the discretion of Legislature.

In his extremely interesting presentation, Mr Julian Roberts, Professor of Criminology at Oxford University, elaborated on the parameters relating to the element of deterrence in sentencing but also in relation to conditions necessary to achieve deterrence.

He then went on to analyse the role of deterrence and the usefulness of the «Guidelines» applicable in England and Wales on sentencing and in particular in cases of fatal road accidents.

He explained the Guideline methodology and then referred to their numerous advantages. Lastly, he made specific reference to the English case R v. Gard, in which a ten-year imprisonment



sentence was imposed on a driver with a criminal driving record, who was involved in a fatal road accident, whilst texting at the time of the crash.

The participants at the Seminar, who were District Court Judges, had the opportunity,

through the discussions held after the presentations to deepen their knowledge concerning the various factors that must be taken into account when imposing deterrent sentences in cases of fatal road accidents.

6.3 Online Training Seminar on “Assessing Administrative Recourses on Substance – The practice in the Greek Courts”

On 6 April 2021, the online Training Seminar on «Assessing Administrative Recourses on Substance – The practice in the Greek Courts» was held for Judges of the Administrative Court, Judges of the Administrative Court for International Protection and Legal Officers of the Supreme Court.

Mrs Varvara Boukouvala, Judge of the Administrative Court of First Instance in Greece and PhD holder in Law at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, was a speaker at the Seminar. During the first part of the Seminar, Mrs Boukouvala, focused on the trial of administrative

disputes which are heard in the Regular Administrative Courts in Greece in relation to the substance of such cases focussing on tax disputes, while the second part of the Seminar was mostly on topics related to International Protection and how such cases are handled by Greek Courts.

During the discussion that followed the participants had the opportunity to learn best practices with regards to the handling of administrative cases, and in particular trying administrative disputes on substance.

6.4 Training Seminar for Court Staff on “Managing Time, Workload and Work Related Stress”

In the framework of training offered to Court Staff, the Judicial Training School in cooperation with the Cyprus Academy of Public Administration organised a three-day online Workshop on «Managing Time, Workload and Work Related Stress» on 25, 26 and 27 May 2021.

The workshop was addressed to Court Staff and aimed at familiarising and equipping the participants with basic planning and organising techniques and assisting them in distinguishing between different organisational models and setting out the causes of work stress.

Furthermore, by actively participating in discussions in plenary, in individual and group exercises, in case studies and other interactive activities, the participants became familiar with various techniques and strategies to manage work related stress, to develop emotional intelligence, to organise their time and increase their productivity.

The online training seminar was run by Mrs Anna Xinisteri, an associate of the Cyprus Academy of Public Administration.

6.5 Online Seminars on “Briefing the Trainers (Judges, Court Registrars and Lawyers) on the New Civil Procedure Rules”

On 7 & 8 July and on 15 & 16 September 2021, the Cyprus Judicial Training School in collaboration with the Supreme Court and the Cyprus Bar Association, organised online Seminars with the aim of briefing the Trainers-Judges, Court Registrars and Lawyers, on the New Civil Procedure Rules.

The objective of the Seminars was to inform and prepare the trainers for the upcoming scheduled training Seminars addressed to Judges, Lawyers, Court Registrars and Court Staff on the new Rules of Civil Procedure.

The Seminars fell under the EU Project (SRSP3), which was part of the Reform of the Courts and were held with the support and co-funding of the Directorate General Structural Reform (DG Reform) of the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

A group of experts, composed of Judges and Lawyers from England and Ireland were tasked with briefing the trainers. The experts comprised of the Lead Expert and Trainer of the Course, Judge Nic Madge (former trainer at the Judicial College of England and Wales), Sir John Gillen (former Judge at the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland), Judge Seamus Noonan (Court Appeal Judge of the Republic of Ireland), David McIlroy (Barrister, Head of Chambers, Forum Chambers, London) and Darragh Connell (Barrister, Forum Chambers, London).

The Seminars were attended by Judges, Lawyers and Court Registrars, who were appointed as trainers and were to have an active role in the scheduled Seminars on the New Civil procedure Rules. Once the experts concluded their presentations, discussions on the case studies followed amongst the groups.

6.6 Seminar on “The notion of ‘habitual residence’ of the child within the meaning of the (EC) 2201/2003 Regulation, in the light of case law of the CJEU”

On 16 November 2021, the Cyprus Judicial Training School organised a Seminar on «The notion of ‘habitual residence’ of the child within the meaning of the (EC) 2201/2003 Regulation (Brussels IIa) on international jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and in the matters of parental responsibility, in the light of case law of the CJEU». Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Seminar was held in hybrid format with the majority of the participants taking part with physical attendance at the Supreme Court whilst others opting for online participation.

Mrs Evgenia Tsiora, Appeal Judge at the Court of Appeal in Thessaloniki and Trainer at the National School of Judiciary in Greece, who visited Cyprus in the framework of the EJTN Exchange

Programme, was the Speaker at the Seminar. During her presentation, Mrs Tsiora stressed that the guiding principle of the Regulation is ‘the best interests of the child’. She focused on the concepts of «parental responsibility» and «habitual residence of the child». In addition, the scope of the Regulation was determined, and she extensively explained Article 9 «continuing jurisdiction of the child’s former habitual residence» and Article 10 «jurisdiction in case of child abduction».

Presidents, Judges and Court Registrars of all Family Courts in Cyprus as well as Legal Officers of the Supreme Court participated in the Seminar. During the training workshop, the participants were given the opportunity to interact and take part in mock trials, with scenarios based on cases already tried by the CJEU.



6.7 Training Course on the New Civil Procedure Rules

The Training Course on the New Rules of Civil Procedure which was organised jointly by the Cyprus Judicial Training School, the Supreme Court, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the Cyprus Bar Association was concluded on 2 December 2021.

The aim of the Seminar was to provide Judges, Lawyers, Court Registrars and Court Staff the with the opportunity to become familiar with the New Rules of Civil Procedure, which would come into effect in September 2023.

The Training Course, which began on 22 September 2021, was held online and comprised of three recurring two-day Seminars for Judges and Legal Officers of the Supreme Court, ten recurrent seminars for 500 Lawyers - members of the Cyprus Bar Association, one seminar exclusively for Court Registrars and two one-day seminars for the Registry Court Staff and the Court Bailiffs.

Due to the demanding nature of the Course, its duration as well as the large number of seminars, it was deemed necessary to cooperate with experienced and competent trainers from Cyprus and abroad.

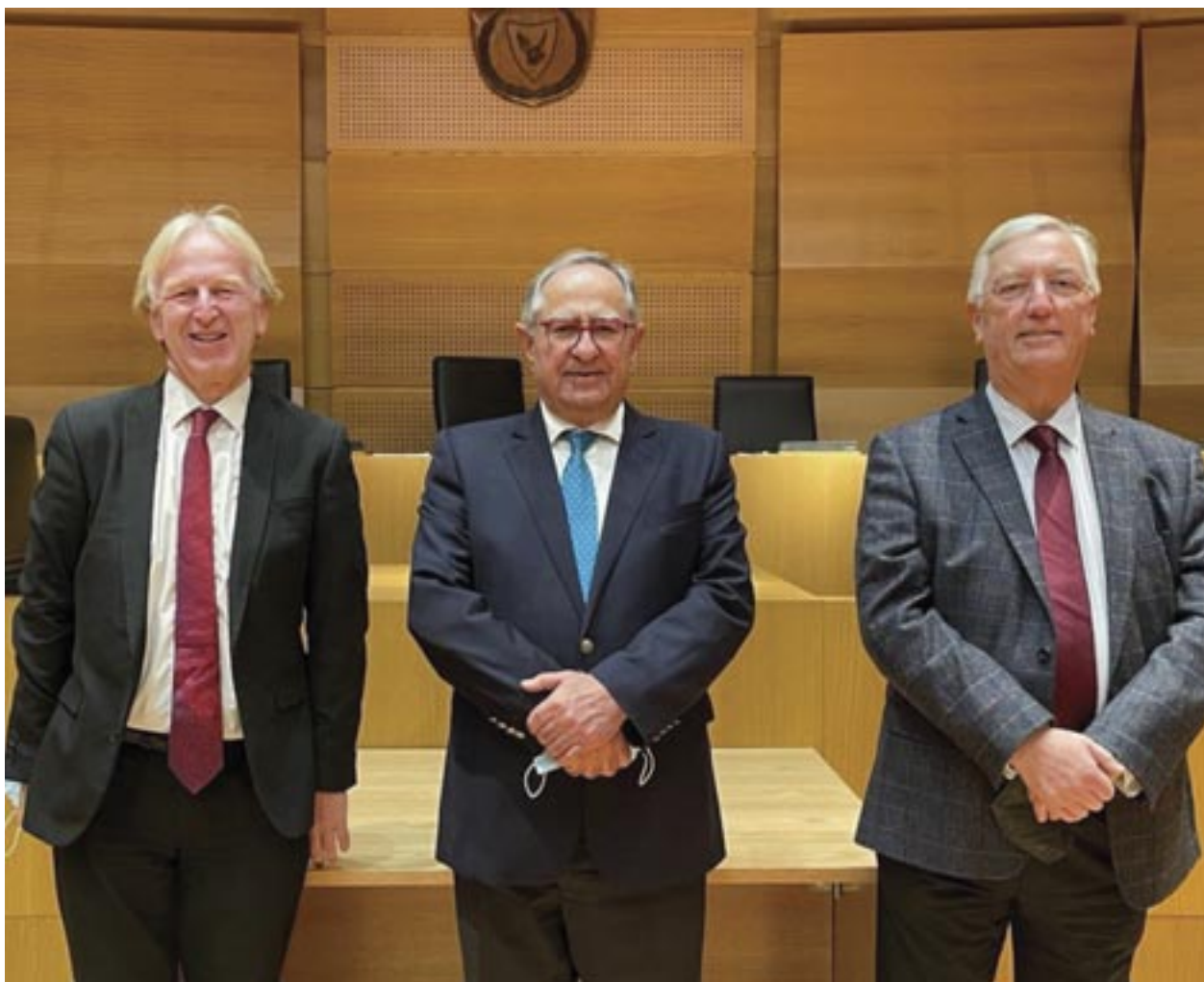
More specifically, the training of Judges, Legal Officers, Lawyers and Court Registrars was undertaken by Mr Nic Madge, former Judge and trainer

at the Judicial College of England and Wales, Sir John Gillen, former Judge of the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland, Mr Seamus Noonan, Court of Appeal Judge in the Republic of Ireland and Mr David McIlroy and Darragh Connell, two distinguished practicing lawyers from London. Cypriot Judges and Lawyers who received special training, acted as facilitators and moderated the discussions during the group exercises and case studies in all the training seminars.

In addition, Cypriot trainers undertook the training of Court Registrars and of Registry Court Staff.

The training of the participants focused mainly on the most important principles of the New Rules of Civil Procedure with the aim of highlighting the change in the philosophy and the culture arising from the application of the new Rules once entered into force. A new training cycle on the new Rules started in 2022 and was organised by the Cyprus Judicial Training School.

All Seminars were part of the SRSP3 Funded Project which fell under the Reform of the Cypriot Courts. They were funded and supported by the Directorate General Structural Reform (DG Reform) of the European Commission and the Council of Europe.



Mr George Erotocritou with the Trainers: Mr Nic Madge and Mr Seamus Noonan

6.8 EJTN Exchange Programme

The EJTN Exchange Programme is considered one of EJTN's most important activities and has developed rapidly over the last years. «Immersing» in a foreign judicial environment, results in exchanging and transferring best practices in all areas of Judges' daily work and competencies. In addition, it contributes to developing a common European judicial culture.

In 2021, the Cyprus Judicial Training School participated in the EJTN General Exchange Programme and hosted in the Cypriot courts, from 15 to 19 November 2021, Mr Achilleas Zisis, Deputy Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of

Greece and Mrs Evgenia Tsiora, Appeal Judge at the Court of Appeal of Thessaloniki.

The two eminent guests had the opportunity to witness trial proceedings at the Supreme Court as well as at the Assize Court of Nicosia and had the opportunity to meet with Judges prior to the hearings and discuss the cases listed for trial.

Mr Zisis and Mrs Tsiora were also given a tour of the Supreme Court premises by the Director of the Judicial Training School, Mr George Erotocritou and a courtesy meeting was held with the President of the Supreme Court, Mrs Persefoni Panayi.



Mr George Erotocritou with Mr Achilleas Zisis and Mrs Evgenia Tsiora, during their visit to Cyprus in the framework of the EJTN Exchange Programme for Judges

6.9 Participation of Bailiffs in the Course: "Train in your language: multilingual transnational training in EU civil and commercial law" (Trail) Justice Action Grant-2019

The Cyprus Judicial Training School participated in the European Project "Train in your language: multilingual transnational training in EU Civil and Commercial Law", with the participation of 6 bailiffs from Cyprus. Each bailiff participated in an online seminar, according to his or her respective professional level (Primary Stage or Intermediate/ Advanced Stage). The online seminars ran from May to July 2021.

The course aimed at providing training on Commercial and Civil European Law to Lawyers,

Notaries and Bailiffs who not only have limited participation in transnational training seminars but also encounter language barriers.

The goals of the Project were achieved through the organization of transnational training activities with easy language access and training the trainers, as well as by the development of easily accessible training material in the partners' national languages. The partners from the 5 Member States were Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia and Poland.

6.10 Participation in European and International Organisations' Seminars in 2021

In 2021, all States took strict measures to prevent the spread the Covid-19 pandemic. This resulted in many seminars, which would otherwise have taken place abroad, to be held online. 38 Judges, 6 Legal Officers of the Supreme Court, 2 Court Registrars,

2 Members of the Law Office of the Republic and 7 Court Staff members participated from Cyprus, in a total of 24 online seminars organised by European and International Organisations or other judicial and training Institutions.

2022 ACTIVITIES

7. 2022 Activities

7.1 Training Seminar: “Judicial Conduct and Ethics”

The Cyprus Judicial Training School successfully organised a training seminar on «Judicial Conduct and Ethics» on March 29th 2022 at the Supreme Court. The training was directed to the newly appointed judges of the District Courts and the Administrative Court for International Protection in the framework of their initial training.

Trainers of the Seminar were Mrs Lena Demetriadou, Justice of the Supreme Court, who presented the «Code of Judicial Conduct» and Mr

Angelos David, District Court President at the time, who spoke about the «Non-binding Guidelines on the Use of Social Media by Judges» published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The participants had the opportunity to acquire profound knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of judicial conduct and ethics and to elaborate and develop critical thinking for the use of social media, through hypothetical scenario analysis, group exercises and discussions.



The Director of the Judicial Training School with the Trainers and the Participants in the Seminar on «Judicial Conduct and Ethics»

7.2 Completion of the training "Project on Supporting the successful implementation of the New Rules of Civil Procedure in Cyprus"

On 30 March 2022 the Official Closing Ceremony for the training project entitled "Project on Supporting the successful implementation of the New Rules of Civil Procedure in Cyprus" was held at the Supreme Court.

The project pertaining to the creation of a self-learning online course was implemented jointly with the Council of Europe, the Cyprus Judicial Training School and the Cyprus Bar Association and it was funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom via the British High Commission in Cyprus.

The event aimed at presenting the completed training course hosted on the HELP electronic platform of the Council of Europe. The main objective and function of the course is to provide information on the New Rules of Civil Procedure, and to present English case law and case law of the European Court of Human Rights pertaining to procedural matters on fair trial.

The course is expected to be an important additional tool for Judges, Lawyers, Scholars and Students, giving them access to information on the philosophy of the New Rules and to the main innovations/changes that have been introduced.



The home page of the training course on the New Rules of Civil Procedure as it appears on the Council of Europe HELP online platform

7.3 Training Seminar on “Judgecraft”

The full day Training Seminar on «Judgecraft», organised by the Cyprus Judicial Training School for the second time, was successfully held at the Supreme Court on 5 April 2022.

The Seminar, which together with the Training Seminar on «Judicial Conduct and Ethics» held on 29 March formed part of the initial training of judges and too was attended by the newly appointed Judges of the District Courts and of the Administrative Court for International Protection.

Trainers at the Seminar were Mr Nicholas Santis, Justice of the Supreme Court and District Court Presidents at the time Mrs Elena Efrem, Mr Stavros Stavrou, Mr Michalis Ambizas and Mrs Marina Papadopoulou, all of who significantly contributed to the success of the seminar.

The Seminar matrix included four sessions: the

first thematic session focused on the highly interesting topic of «Unconscious Bias» which was led by Mr Michalis Ambizas. In turn, Mr Stavros Stavrou presented an equally interesting topic entitled «How Likely is Likely» followed by Mrs Marina Papadopoulou who tackled the very useful topic on «Judicial Resilience». The Seminar concluded with the topic of «Ex tempore Judgements», which too is of great importance and was presented by Mr Nicholas Santis and Mrs Elena Efrem.

Interactive material was available throughout the sessions and the participants had the opportunity to get involved in interesting exercises and discussions, both in small groups under the supervision of the Facilitators but also in plenary and to become familiar with the topics of the Seminar.



The participants carrying out an exercise during Mrs Marina Papadopoulou's presentation

7.4 Online Seminar on “Judgment Writing”

Considering the current demands and the increasing challenges that the Judges have to face, the Judicial Training School proceeded with organizing an online Seminar on «Judgment Writing».

The majority of the Judiciary participated in this the two-hour Seminar which was held on 3 May 2022.

The two speakers, Mr Tefkros Economou and Mr Nicholas Santis, Justices of the Supreme Court focused on the layout, and on the matters in issue related to a judgment and on the assess-

ment of the witnesses’ credibility, whilst at the same time touched upon the various ways to write a judgment.

In his presentation, Mr Economou focused on the layout of a judgment, and did not omit to mention the various tools that can assist judges in writing a judgment.

Judge Nicholas Santis followed with an extremely thorough presentation in which emphasis was placed mainly on the credibility assessment of witnesses, which is considered one of the most important elements of a judgment.

7.5 Seminar on «Children – Vulnerable Witnesses»



Mr George Erotocritou with Lady Dorrian and the other participants in the Seminar: «Children – Vulnerable Witnesses»

On Tuesday 17 May 2022 the Training Seminar on «Children–Vulnerable Witnesses» was successfully held at the Supreme Court, which was organised jointly by the Cyprus Judicial Training School and the Council for the Implementation of «Foni» National Strategy. Official guest and keynote speaker at the Seminar was Lady

Dorrian, Lord Justice Clerk of the Supreme Court of Scotland.

In her presentation titled «Dealing with Children as Witnesses», Lady Dorrian described the Scottish experience and the modernisation efforts made. She talked about the progress accomplished and

she pointed out in detail the challenges faced by the Courts, such as the need for change with regards to the process of dealing with children as witnesses, the efficiency of the New Rules without affecting the right to a fair trial and the need for Judges to have the knowledge and the tools in order to deal with minor witnesses.

Mrs Elena Efrem, District Court President at the time also participated as a speaker. Mrs Efrem's presentation focused on the case law of the Supreme Court with regard to dealing with children as witnesses, the assessment of their testimony and the experts' role pertaining to children's behaviour in cases of abuse. A short

presentation on the "Children's House" followed by Mr Marios Nicolaou, Senior Social Worker and co-ordinator for the "Children's House", while Mrs Tania Masia, Psychologist-Psychotherapist and co-ordinator at the «Children's House», elaborated the very sensitive and interesting topic «The behaviour of a child as sexual abuse victim».

The Seminar was attended by Judges of District Courts and Judges of Assize Courts.

After the presentations, the participants had the opportunity to take part in the discussions and get involved in case studies, both in small groups and in plenary.



Mr George Erotocritou with Lady Dorian during their meeting in Poulia Building



7.6 Seminar on the L.55(I)/2021 Law: “Children in Conflict with the Law”

Having considered the crucial issue of «Child-friendly Justice» and also its obligations pursuant to the recently enacted legislation pertaining to the training of Judges, the Cyprus Judicial Training School organised an online Seminar on the «Children in Conflict with the Law, L. 55(I)/2021» on 21 June 2022.

The speakers at the Seminar were Mrs Despo Michaelidou, Commissioner for Children’s Rights and District Court Presidents at the time Mrs Giota Kyriakidou and Mrs Lia Marcou.

The speakers highlighted the objective and the essential articles of the Law. The presentation of the key speaker, Mrs Despo Michaelidou, Commissioner for Children’s Rights, was of special interest, covering a wide spectrum of topics pertaining not only to procedural topics but also to children’s fundamental rights deriving from both the Convention and the Law, in particular the special treatment that the children have to enjoy and the way to communicate with them. Mrs Michaelidou underlined in her speech the importance of the Law, as it is a milestone for child-friendly justice system.

Mrs Lia Marcou presented the philosophy of the Law and the guidelines, and talked extensively about the implicated institutions in accordance with the Law, so that to give appropriate consideration pertaining to their involvement.

Mrs Marcou noted in her speech that, in order to

ensure the best enforcement of the Law, the institutions invited to comply with the law, should ‘be very knowledgeable of the easily understood and of the scientifically and widely known fact that children are different from adults and dealing with them in a different way is justified’.

Mrs Giota Kyriakidou followed and elaborated in detail on the provisions of the Law pertaining to Judges, whilst highlighting with special emphasis the obligations of Judges of the Children’s Courts, the procedure to be followed in accordance with the Law, measures and sentences that may be imposed by the Court and lastly the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Law, in particular in imposing alternative sentences on children. She also stated that *«Law 55(I)/21 has resolved many of the initial concerns as, with its correct application, it provides for the possibility for children in conflict with the law to be committed to reformatory schools pursuant to the prescribed procedures but it also ensures the respect of children’s rights»*.

District Court Judges participated in the Seminar and had the opportunity during the discussion that followed, to deepen their knowledge on the application of Law 55(I)/2021 and to discuss the problems that arise during court proceedings following the implementation of specific provisions of the Law.

7.7 Two-day Training Seminar for Judges of the Administrative Court and of the Administrative Court for International Protection

A two-day Training Seminar for Judges of the Administrative Court and the Administrative Court for International Protection, organised jointly by the Cyprus Judicial Training School and the Greek National School of the Judiciary, which was held at the Supreme Court, successfully concluded on 8 July 2022. Mrs Polina Frida and Mrs Katerina Koutsopoulou, Administrative Courts Judges of First Instance and members of the Independent Appeals Committee as well Mr Spyros Vlachopoulos, Professor at the School of Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens were the trainers at the Seminar.

The Programme of the Seminar on the first day differed for the Judges of the two Administrative Courts. The speakers: Mrs Frida and Mrs Koutsopoulou who delivered the Seminar for the Judges

of the Administrative Court for International Protection focused on international protection-related topics, whilst Mr Spyros Vlachopoulos, who was the trainer of the Judges of the Administrative Court focused mainly on the topic of public procurements.

All the Judges jointly attended the Seminar on the second day where, Mr Vlachopoulos, initially presented the topic of «Annulment disputes and disputes on substance: The extent of control and the consequences of a judgment» and then the topic on «Preparation and layout of Judgements–Judicial Reasoning». After the end of each section there was a discussion and an exchange of views between the participants and the three speakers.



The Trainers with the Participants in the Seminar organised for the Judges of the Administrative Court and of the Administrative Court for International Protection»

7.8 European Seminar in cooperation with the EJTN, entitled “Introduction of the concept of training Judgecraft”

On 29-30 September, the Cyprus Judicial Training School hosted the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), Seminar on «Introduction of the concept of training Judgecraft ».

Mr Robert Sandell of the Judicial Training Academy-Swedish National Courts Administration and Mr Richard Simms of the Judicial College of England and Wales were the trainers at the Seminar. Judge-Trainers from 10 European countries participated.

The aim of the Seminar was to provide the basic tools for judicial trainers wishing to introduce a

judgecraft training programme for their national institutions

The first day of the Seminar focused on introductory concepts pertaining to Judgecraft and also the presentation of adult learning principles and best practices in planning, delivering and evaluating the training. The participants had the opportunity to work in groups during these 2 days. During the first day, the participants were involved in creating a Judgecraft matrix and on the second day they designed a complete training course on Judgecraft.



Mr George Erotocritou addressing the participants in the Seminar «Introduction of the concept of training Judgecraft»



The participants in the Seminar with the trainers

7.9 Training Course on the New Civil Procedure Rules

The Training Programme organised by the Cyprus Judicial Training School on the New Rules of Civil Procedure concluded on 14 October 2022.

The Training Programme, which started on 11 October comprised of 4 repeated one-day Seminars addressing all the Judges of District Courts, Assize Courts, Family Courts, Rent Control Tribunals and Industrial Disputes Tribunals.

The Programme forms part of the Judges' continuous training on the New Civil Procedure Rules, which will take effect in September 2023.

The School collaborated with Mr Nic Madge, former Judge and trainer at the Judicial College

of England and Wales to develop the training curriculum. The District Courts Presidents: Mrs Elena Efrem, Mr Angelos David and Mrs Marina Papadopoulou but also Senior District Judge Mrs Georgia Korfioti were actively involved as trainers.

The programme of the training Seminars included, not only the analysis of some of the important provisions of the new Civil Procedure Rules, but also the very important topic of "Judicial Case and Time Management".

At the end of the presentations, the participants had the opportunity to take part in discussions and case studies, in small groups but also in

plenary. Cypriot Judge-facilitators who received special training were moderating the activities.

The Judicial Training School is preparing further Seminars pertaining to Judges' training in the

New Rules of Civil Procedure, with a new training cycle envisaged to take place during the first semester of 2023. The New Rules will take effect in September 2023 as already announced.



Participants in the Seminar on the New Rules of Civil Procedure



Mr George Erotocritou with Mr Nic Madge, Mrs Elena Efrem (PDC) and Mrs Georgia Korfioti (SDJ)



Participants in the Seminar on the New Civil Procedure Rules

7.10 Seminar organised in collaboration with the Academy of European Law (ERA) entitled “Essential EU Competition Law – Seminar for the Cypriot Judiciary”

The Cyprus Judicial Training School, in collaboration with the Academy of European Law - ERA and with the funding of the European Commission, organised a Seminar on «Essential EU Competition Law – Seminar for the Cypriot Judiciary», which was held on 18 October 2022.

The Seminar aimed at providing the Cypriot Judges with an overview of the application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU and the relevant secondary legislation, as well as the national legislation transposing the Damages Directive into Cypriot law, and equipping them with the necessary tools to deal with State aid cases.

The speakers in the Seminar were: Mr Efthymios Antonopoulos, Vice President of the Council of State, Mrs Maria Ioannidou, Lecturer of Competi-

tion Law at Queen Mary University in London, Mr Dimitris Loukas, Partner in the Potamitis-Vekris Law Firm in Athens and Lecturer in the Greek National School of the Judiciary, Mrs Efstathia Pantopoulou from the Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission and Mrs Anna Tzanaki, Lecturer at Lund University in Sweden.

The Seminar was attended by Judges of the District and Administrative Court.

The seminar is part of a large-scale project to provide training to national judges on EU competition law, organised on behalf of the European Commission. It consists of 26 training programmes addressed to 26 different Member States, taking place over a period of 4 years.



Participants in the Seminar organised jointly with the Academy of European Law (ERA)

7.11 European Funded Project: CHILD Front - “Child-friendly Justice in Greek and Cypriot Courts”

The Cyprus Judicial Training School is currently participating in an EU funded Project titled CHILD Front. The official launch meeting of the project took place in 2022. The project aims at promoting the efficient and cohesive implementation of European policy and legislation on child-friendly justice.

The need for such a project arose as the two participating Member States, Greece and Cyprus, had the lowest scores in child friendly justice, in accordance with the 2020 Justice scoreboard. The Project focuses on the two beneficiary countries, with Bulgaria and Italy contributing as partners. For the successful achievement of its goals, the Child Front Project consists of multilateral exchange of best practices as well as interdisciplinary transnational training of 8 trainers and 235 judges and prosecutors.

The interdisciplinary approach of the project ensures that all the aspects of child-friendly justice are recognised and dealt with in the best possible way. The consortium consists of specialised institutions from the sectors of judicial training, child psychology and rights of the child. The Centre for European Constitutional Law-Themistokles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation coordinates the Project in cooperation with the Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, the Cyprus Family Planning Association, the Organisation Save the Children Italy and the Centre for the Study of Democracy from Bulgaria with the active support of the Hellenic Ministry

of Justice, the National School of the Judiciary in Greece and the Cyprus Judicial Training School.

One of the project actions in 2022 was to identify the training needs of the target group in Greece and in Cyprus. A research plan which comprised a combination of research methods (research of secondary data, interviews, focus groups and questionnaires) was established to achieve the objective. Data was collected under this research plan, providing knowledge from different perspectives regarding the type, frequency, and the focus of judicial training on topics like child-friendly justice, on institutional, legislative and practical obstacles for child-friendly results and such specific challenges and sectors needing further support as identified from the evaluation of the target group. With regards to the participation of Cyprus, 5 Judges and 4 Members of the Law Office of the Republic were interviewed, while 6 Judges took part in the Focus Group.

The main conclusion from the interviews is the undeniable need for interdisciplinary training in child-friendly justice, which is confirmed from both the focus groups and the questionnaires. Child-friendly justice has just recently become a priority in the judicial trainings of the two countries. The initial training in Cyprus is at its early stages, despite the fact that child-friendly justice is a significant subject for all the professionals involved in legal proceedings.



8. Recovery and Resilience Plan

The Judicial Training School participates in the Recovery and Resilience Plan for the period 2022-2025. The School's commitment under the Plan relates to the training of at least 110 Judges on the New Civil Procedure Rules and additional training on judicial skills. The above stated benchmark should be reached by 2025.

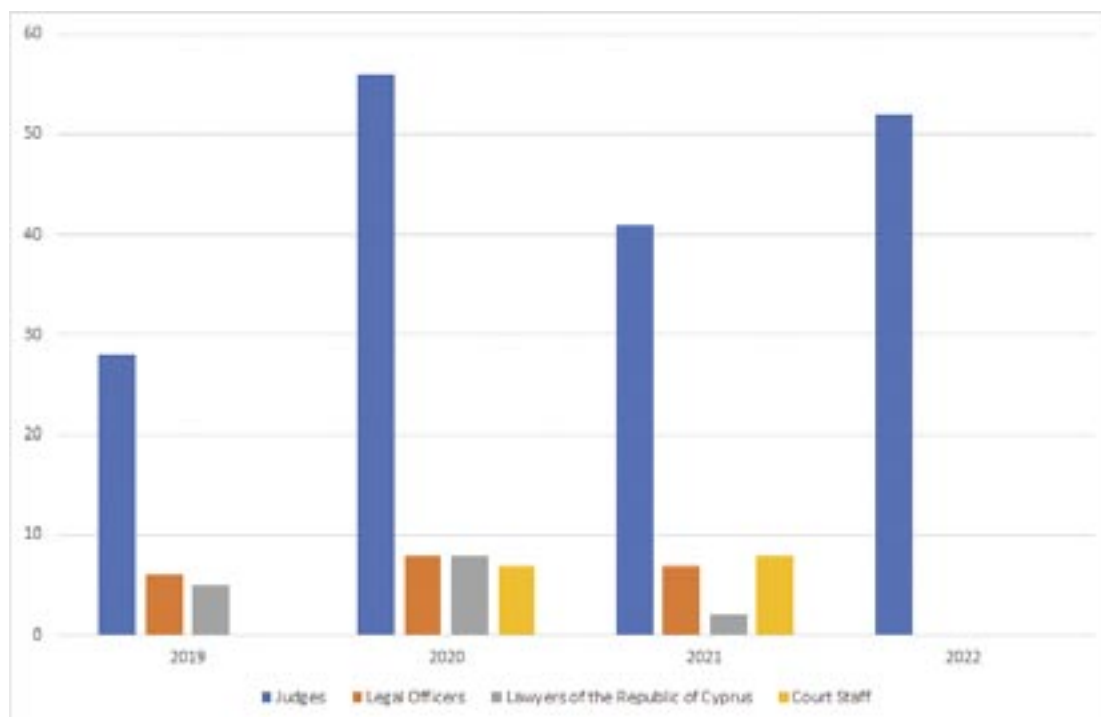
7 out of 9 Seminars organised by the School in 2022 fall under the Plan, whilst 2 Seminars

organised jointly with the EJTN and the ERA are excluded.

A total number of 114 out of 130 Judges of first instance have so far attended the Seminars exclusively on the New Civil Procedure Rules, while for the other Seminars, 229 judges' attendances have been recorded, indicating that most Judges had attended more than two Seminars in 2022. Therefore, the benchmark stated in the Recovery and Resilience Plan for 2022 has been exceeded.

9. Statistical Data

Chart 1: Participation in Seminars organised by foreign Organisations and Institutions.



The Judicial Training School's main priority is to provide high level training to Judges. Hence, it is self-evident, and also depicted in the above graphs that the participation of the judiciary in Seminars organised abroad compared to the other three groups, will be comparatively higher. However, the Judicial School ensures and, where it deems necessary, encourages the participation of Legal Officers of the Supreme Court and Court Staff in training seminars related to their field of work. In addition, the School maintains close cooperation with the Law Office of the Republic, as it also promotes the participation of Lawyers of the Republic of Cyprus in relevant Seminars held abroad.

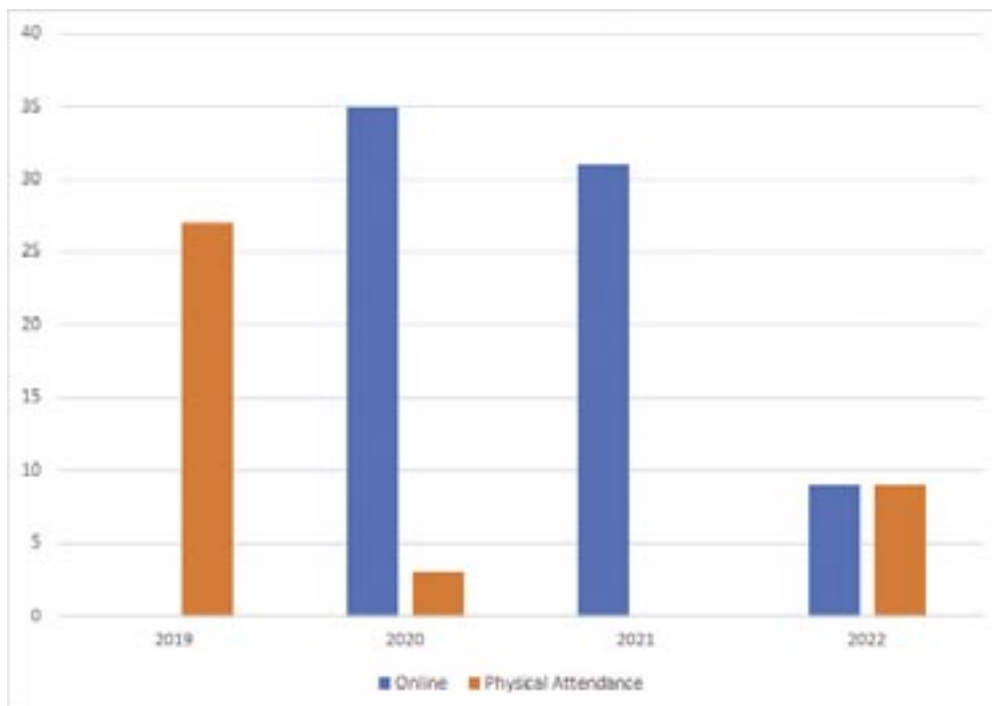
In 2019, participation in Seminars organised by foreign Organisations and Institutions was limited as consideration was given to the associated costs and excessive workload.

The increased participation observed the following year – from 28 Judges who participated in 2019 to 56 in 2020 – is mostly due to the delivery of online Seminars (Graph 2 – 35 online Seminars held in 2020 as opposed to 2019 when the number was insignificant). Safety and easy online attendance contributed to the increase in the number of participants.

In 2021, when the Covid-19 pandemic still had a great impact, we notice that the number of participants remains relatively the same as in 2020 for all the target groups (Graph 1) as did the number of Seminars held online.

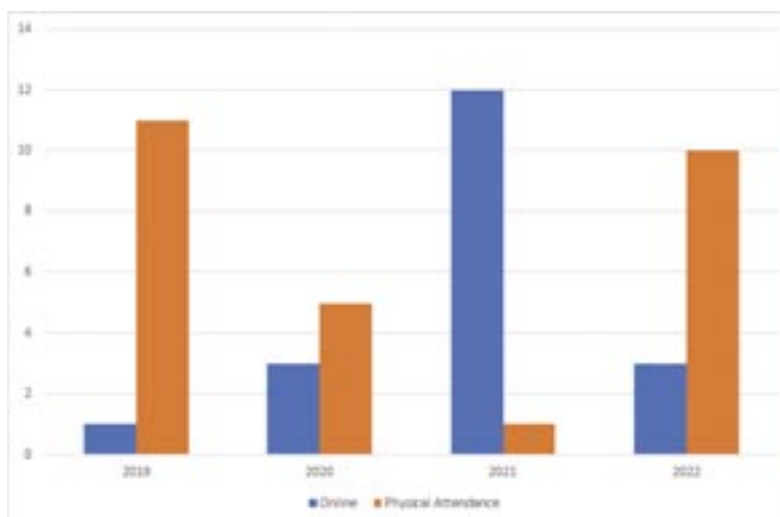
Participation in Seminars held abroad in 2022 was of interest exclusively to Judges and the lifting of the basic measures adopted to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic, made it possible to attend face-to-face Seminars.

Chart 2: Method of conducting Seminars organised by foreign Organisations and Institutions.



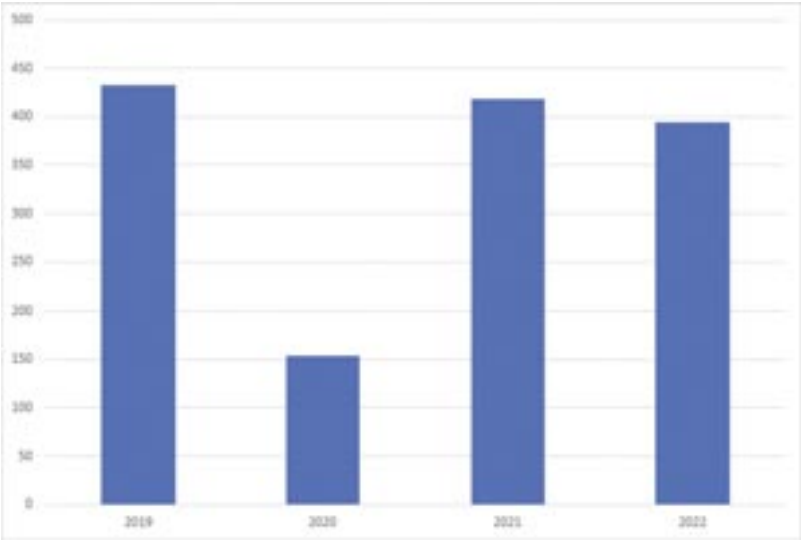
The crucial influence caused by the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, pertaining to the method of conducting Seminars is illustrated by graphs 2 and 3. In 2019 all Seminars were physically attended by the trainees in the respective European cities, while holding online seminars was the only solution with the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Chart 3: Method of conducting Seminars organised by the Cyprus Judicial Training School



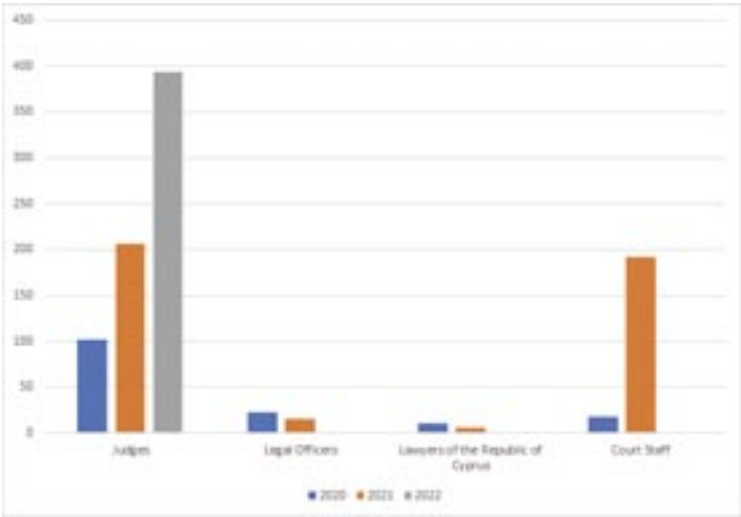
The Covid-19 pandemic had a serious impact on the School's training programme, which resulted in all 2021 Seminars, including those on the New Civil Procedure Rules, to be held online, except for the Seminar on «The concept of 'habitual residence' of the child within the meaning of the (EC) 2201/2003 Regulation, in the light of ECJ case law», which was held in hybrid form. The easing of the restrictions in 2022, allowed the School to organise ten face-to-face Seminars and three online.

Chart 4: Total number of participants in Seminars organised by the Cyprus Judicial Training School



sThe significant declining participation of trainees observed in 2020 was also related to the Covid-19 pandemic, as the Judicial Training School was forced to limit any activities scheduled due to the measures that were taken. Recovery was definitely regained in 2021, because of the organisation of online Seminars. The teleconference platforms and applications were, and still are, widely used, which are an important training tool.

Chart 5: Attendance per specialty in Seminars organised by the Cyprus Judicial Training School



Regarding the above graph, we notice that the increased number of Judges and Court Staff participating in Seminars held in 2021, is mainly due to the training programme for the New Civil Procedure Rules. Participation in the specific training programme was compulsory, which resulted in increased numbers of participants compared to 2020.

The training programme of the School in 2022, focused mainly on Judges and particularly on the New Civil Procedure Rules, which resulted in an insignificant number of participations within the other 3 target groups.

10. Future Activities

10.1 Training Course 2023

In preparing the annual Training Programme, the School tries to take into account the current needs of the Judiciary as well as the obligations arising from the Supreme Court, its cooperation with other training institutions (EJTN, ERA etc.) and any obligations arising from any enacted legislation providing for the training of Judges.

As far as practically possible, the School tries to include, in every annual Training Programme, training not only for Judges but also for Legal Officers, Court Registrars and the other Court Staff.

Taking into account all the above to the extent possible, a total of 9 Seminars have been scheduled for 2023, out of which two will be repeated for 4 days. These include:

(1) Seminar on Judicial Conduct and Ethics

(2) Seminar on Judgecraft

The two above stated Seminars address the newly appointed Judges and are included in the initial training of Judges.

(3) Briefing the Trainers on the New Civil Procedure Rules.

This online Seminar is held before the start of the Seminars on the New Civil Procedure Rules and aims at the preparation of Cypriot trainers and facilitators by the Lead Trainer of the CPR Course, Mr Nic Madge

(4) EJTN Seminar on “Training trainers to train Judgecraft”.

As in 2022, the Judicial Training School will organise, in collaboration with EJTN, a two-day Seminar on Judgecraft in Cyprus

(5) Four one-day Seminars on the New Civil Procedure Rules

These Seminars fall within the training exclusively on the New Civil Procedure Rules and are repeatedly organised and scheduled to be held in June 2023 that is 2 months before the New Rules come into force.

(6) Seminar on the New Civil Procedure Rules for Legal Officers and Court Registrars.

(7) Seminars on Ex Tempore Judgements

These Seminars will be held repeatedly and they will address all First Instance Judges. Group exercises will be included in the Seminars and all judges will be invited, after the presentation of a case study, to give their ex tempore judgement before their colleagues.

(8) Training Seminar for Judges of the Family Courts

(9) Training Seminar on the eOasis System.

This training Seminar aims at training the Court Staff on the eOasis system, which focuses on an automated document management system.



10.2 *Trainers at the Judicial Training School*

As for identifying the best trainers but also with regards to providing training to Cypriot trainers, both in relation to topics of ethics and conduct as well as matters of substance related to each topic, the School is planning to organise in the near future a seminar entitled «Train the Trainers» with experienced and skilful trainers from abroad.

The objective of the Seminar is to expand the pool of Cypriot trainers, having observed the mobility over the last years regarding the promotion of Judges to Senior Courts, which results in a loss of experienced trainers.

10.3 *Providing the School with equipment*

The continuous upgrading of the School with modern equipment is a main goal for the future, in particular after the unprecedented conditions created by the Covid-19 pandemic in the area of training.

In particular, the great need to organise online Seminars led the School to accept the proposal from EJTN to supply the Cyprus Judicial Training School with equipment for teleconferences and for organising hybrid Seminars.

According to the EJTN proposal with the in principle agreement of the European Commission, the installation of the necessary equipment and software in each School at its own expense is envisaged, so that a virtual classroom may be operational via the Zoom platform.

The specific equipment will be provided for free in the form of a long term loan and will comprise a PC, whiteboard, 3 screens with TV stands, camera, microphone and the Zoom Room software.

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