

Find an Expert II

The consensus conference

Cologne, 2 June 2023

The European partners

[CEL](#), [CNCEJ](#), [CNEJ](#), [CNEJITA](#), [CNPI](#), [COGITI](#), [EFIC](#), [LRGD](#), [Ministry of Justice of Romania](#), [High court of cassation and Justice of Romania](#)



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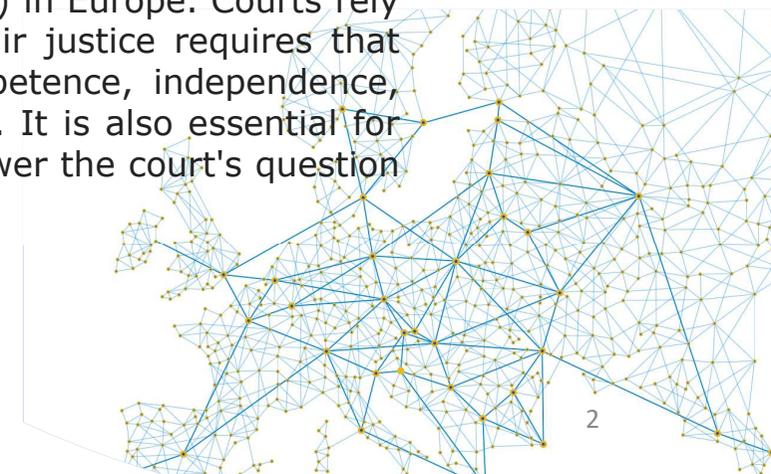
FindExII

The [Find an Expert I](#) project was carried out from 2017 to 2019 and concluded with the publication on the e-Justice portal of information sheets on expertise procedures in the various European States.

The [Find an Expert II](#) project is now the successor to this project, integrating judicial experts in the e-justice case resolution. This two-year project was proposed to the European Commission (DG Justice) and accepted in October 2021. It is running from March 2022 to February 2024. It is a new opportunity to bring together expertise stakeholders to build consensus on expert rules and practices.

The project is based on the following observation:

Although judicial experts play an indispensable role in civil and criminal justice, there is no common definition of the "judicial expert" (also called "expert witness" or forensic expert) in Europe. Courts rely mainly on the outcome of the expert opinion when making their decision. Fair justice requires that experts giving their opinion respect the basic professional principles of competence, independence, impartiality and integrity as well as a minimum level of professional standards. It is also essential for the court to be able to select the 'right' expert, the one who will be able to answer the court's question quickly and efficiently in a given case.



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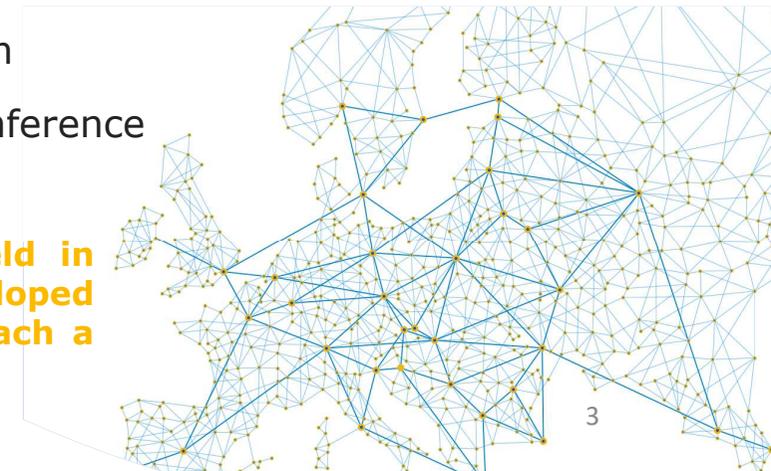
In order to improve and converge these aspects across Europe, EEEI and [EuroExpert](#), as actors of expertise in Europe, propose to work on :

- a common understanding of expertise and the use of experts in the judicial field;
- convergence of nomenclatures, i.e. lists of fields of expertise;
- the requirements of a future IT expert search tool.

The project is divided into six Work Packages dealing with the following aspects

1. Project Management & Coordination
2. Convergence work national registers
3. Nomenclature convergence
4. IT tool
5. Communication
6. Consensus Conference

One of the highlights will be the consensus conference to be held in Cologne on 2 June 2023. The key aspects that will have been developed earlier in sub-projects 1 to 4 will be discussed there in order to reach a consensus



Organizing Committee (OC)

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➤ Project leaders (PL) :

Jean-Raymond Lemaire
jr.lemaire@experts-institute.eu

Wolfgang Jacobs
jacobs@bvs-ev.de

Project assistant (PA) :

Aurélie Dardenne
a.dardenne@experts-institute.eu

➤ Project managers (PM) :

Bernhard Floter (operations)
secretary-general@euroexpert.org

Béatrice Deshayes (coordination)
b.deshayes@experts-institute.eu

Pawel Rybicki
pawel.rybicki@efic.pl

Project secretary (PS) :

Nathalie Sillon
n.sillon@experts-institute.eu

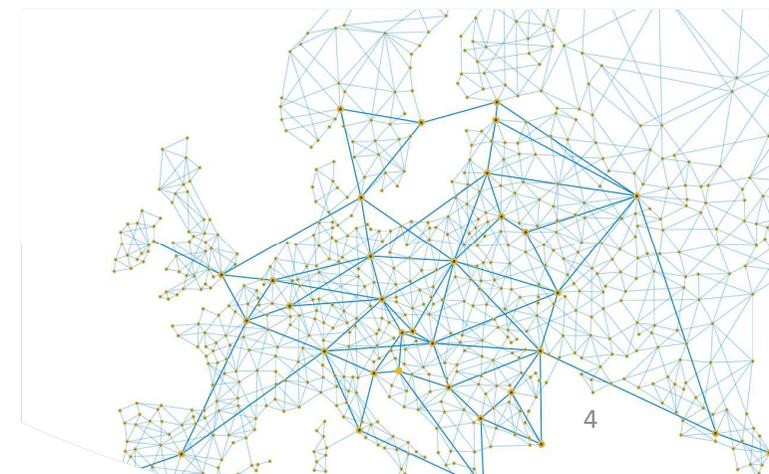
➤ Communication team (CT) :

Martine Otter
m.otter@experts-institute.eu

➤ Project controller/Financial management (PC) :

Philippe Jacquemin
philippe.jacquemin@lca-icsi.com

➤ **Scientific supervision: Scientific committee of EEEI, led by Prof. Gilles Cuniberti, not a member of the SteerCo**



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What is a "consensus conference"?

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→ "A standardised method to scientifically pilot a collective debate in order to discuss controversial issues and provide public recommendations".

→ The method used in this project has been adapted for the field of justice from a method that has been largely used in the field of health.

→ This is the third time a consensus conference is implemented by the EEEI.



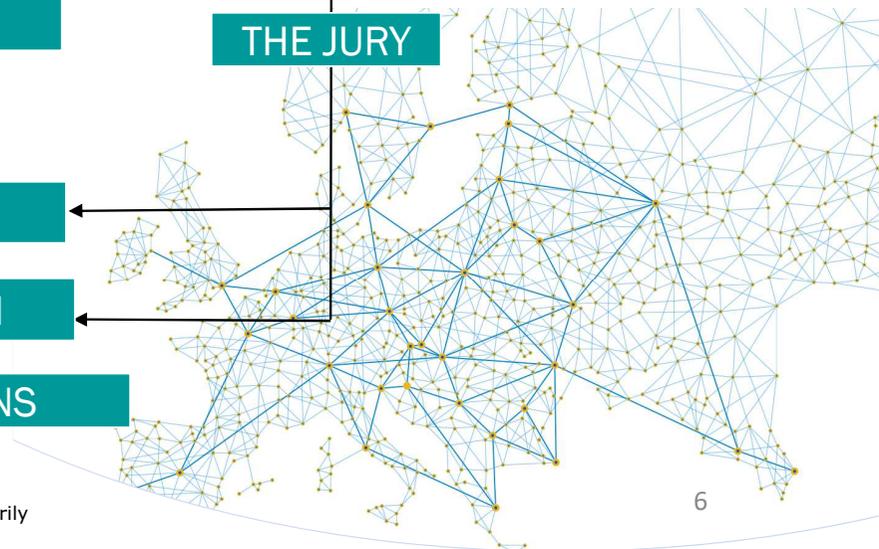
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Organisation

Preparation

Conference



Promoters: *EEEI & EE*

Methodology:

Choose the topic, set the targets and define the main questions to be addressed.

Find means to fund the project (co-funded by the EC).

Define the dissemination strategy in cooperation with the Organizing Committee.

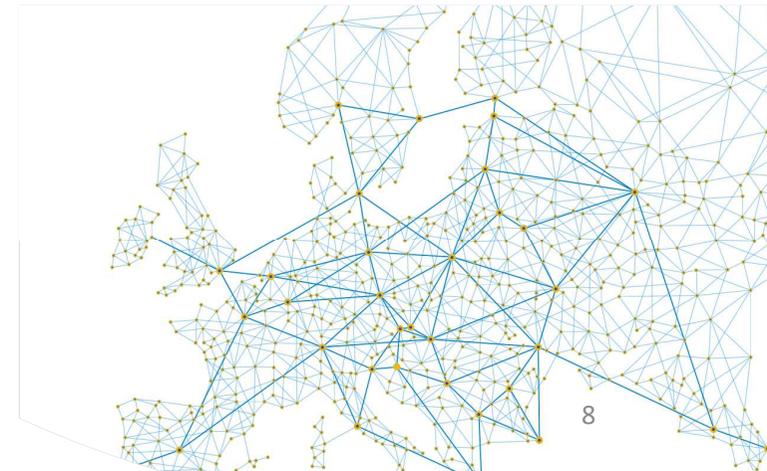
Set the deadlines for carrying out the work and for publication, in accordance with the contract signed with the European Commission's DG Justice.



The Jury

Method:

- 10 members, chosen by the OC
- Provides consensual text: the recommendations
- Bound to confidentiality about the Jury deliberations

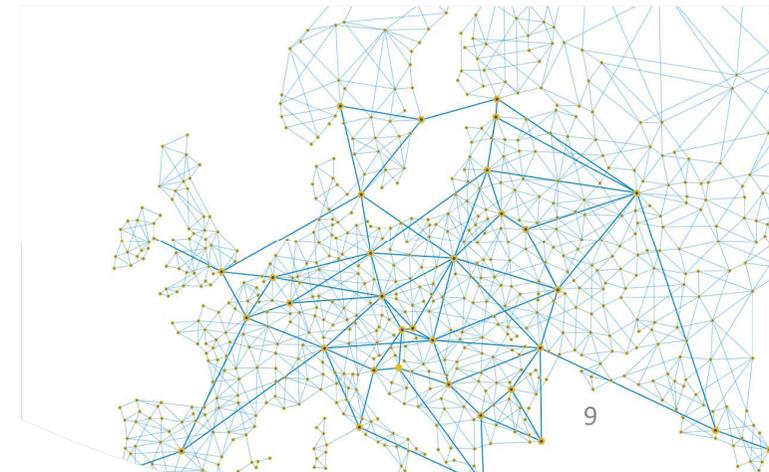


In camera Jury deliberation

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Methodology:

- The Jury draws up a text answering the questions that were raised, thus forming the recommendations
- Provides one long text and one short text
- Defines the degree of consensus
- Support by an effective secretariat – Project Assistant
- About 3 meetings



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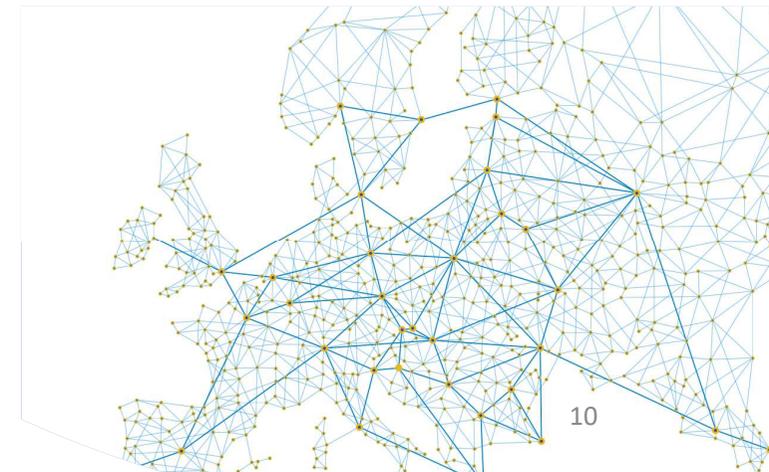
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Public for the Plenary conference

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Method:

- Invited by the Organizing Committee and the Promoters;
- Largely representative and competent;
- 100/200 people



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www.experts-institute.eu



contact@experts-institute.eu



5, Résidence Petite Place
78000 Versailles - France
Tel: +33 (1) 41 49 96 01



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