

FINDEX II

This 2-years project was proposed to the European Commission (DG Justice) and was accepted in October 2021. It will be carried out from March 2022 to February 2024. The project cost is 364 176.64 €

The project is based on the following statement: Although judicial experts play an indispensable role in civil and criminal justice, there is no common definition of « Judicial expert » (also called «expert witness» or forensic expert) across Europe. As courts mostly rely on the result of the expertise when rendering their decision, it is of crucial importance for a fair justice in Europe that experts giving their opinion to courts meet basic professional principles such as competence, independence, impartiality and integrity as well as a minimal level of professional standards.

Another essential aspect is the possibility for the court to select the "right" expert, i.e. the one that will be able to answer the court's question on a given case quickly and efficiently

In order to enhance and converge these aspects throughout Europe, EEEI and EuroExpert as both major European actors of expertise propose to work on:

- A common understanding of expertise and the use of experts in the judicial field,
- Convergence of nomenclatures, i.e. the lists of expertise fields
- Requirements of a future IT-search tool for expert.

The pilot Member States are : **Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Poland and Romania**

The project is divided into 6 major Work Packages. One of the highlights will be the consensus conference which will take place in a big European city in spring 2023, where the essential aspects that will have been developed about items 1 to 4 will be discussed in order to find a consensus.

The partners are:



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

The project's major outputs will be:

- 1/ A definition of the minimum criteria for a person to qualify as a "judicial expert", in terms of competence, specific knowledge on procedural rules and ethics
- 2/ A list of standards to be met by bodies in charge of keeping experts' directories in each Member State
- 3/ A business plan for creation of the European register of judicial experts and operating it.
- 4/ Convergence ways between the nomenclatures of experts' specialities of the Member States, up to the definition of a process allowing the existence and maintenance of a common nomenclature of the fields of expertise at the EU level;
- 5/ A demo IT-tool based on 6 pilot Member State in order to interconnect national lists and to implement a European search engine for judicial experts, including a proposal to ensure the sustainability of the project.