



European Network of Councils
for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils
de la Justice (RECJ)

4 February 2013

Invitation to participation in a Regional Seminar on Timeliness

Re Regional Seminar on Timeliness for Baltic and Nordic countries in Warsaw, 22-23 April 2013

In 2011 ENCJ published a Report on Timeliness. The report deals with the problems connected with delayed judgements and backlogs. These problems are in most European countries a major threat to effective access to justice and thus to the rule of law. The report examines the hindrances to timely judgements and the remedies that may be used to overcome the hindrances. Securing timeliness in the judiciary is a task that requires the joint effort of all stakeholders, not only courts, advocates, and prosecutors, but also councils for the judiciary, court administrations, and politicians in governments and parliaments. The report concludes in a set of best practices, recommended by ENCJ. The report is published at the ENCJ

website: http://www.encj.eu/images/stories/pdf/GA/Vilnius/report_on_timeliness.pdf.

With a view to increase awareness of the problem, to deepen the understanding of causes and remedies, and to discuss the recommendations and the cooperation between stakeholders, and thus to further the implementation of the recommendations ENCJ has decided to organize Seminars on Timeliness inviting representatives of all stakeholders. It has been decided that the seminars should be organised at a regional level with participants from countries within a region with comparable culture and legal traditions. On such Regional Seminars the participants may approach the problems in a more concrete and operational manner. A Regional Seminar on Timeliness for Baltic and Nordic countries will be held 22-23 April 2013. The National Council of the Judiciary of Poland has most generously offered to host the seminar in Warsaw.

The participating countries comprise Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The purposes of the seminar – focussing on solutions – will be

- To increase awareness of the problem of timeliness
- To deepen understanding of the causes and the remedies to the problem
- To discuss recommendations on timeliness and the balancing with other quality features and independence
- To discuss the cooperation between stakeholders in improving timeliness

The participants invited from each countries will be representatives of

- ENCJ Members and Observers
- Judges' and Magistrates' Associations
- Prosecutors' Associations or Central Bodies
- Advocates' Associations
- Politicians (National Parliaments' Committees for Justice)
- Ministries of Justice

There will be submissions on relevant themes, please, see the enclosed program for the seminar.

The seminar will include workshops with discussions in smaller groups on issues chosen and each with participation of the different groups of stakeholders, please, see the seminar program for details..

In my capacity of coordinator for the project I invite you to participate in the seminar by representatives from among your active members. I enclose a registration form to be sent ENCJ by mail. We kindly ask you to **register, if possible, before 18February 2013**. Please note that immediately after that date you will receive a confirmation of participation by mail and a list of recommended hotels in Warsaw.

There is no fee for participating in the Seminar, but travel and accommodation costs shall be paid by the participants to the Seminar.

With kind regards

Niels Grubbe