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NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION CHAPTER 23: JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

JUSTICE REFORM IN PROGRESS: THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL OF MAGISTRATES AND JUDICIAL INTEGRITY IN THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS

20 June 2025

Marriott Hotel Tirana

12:00 - 14:00

The School of Magistrates and the European Movement in Albania have the pleasure to invite you to the upcoming meeting of the Working Group on Chapter 23, within the framework of the National Convention for European Integration supported by the European Union.

The Roundtable on Chapter 23 represents an important platform that enables the involvement of non-state actors in the negotiation process, as academia and lecturers, civil society actors, legal professionals and other relevant stakeholders. Its aim is not only to inform about the process but also to actively engage civil society and other stakeholders in providing recommendations and comments on the legal framework and adopted policies, as well as in monitoring the process throughout its various stages.

This roundtable aims to bring together representatives of the School of Magistrates, magistrates and legal professionals, civil society organizations, academia, and law students to explore the role of judicial training in ensuring integrity and accountability in line with EU integration benchmarks.

The event will serve as a platform to share insights, challenges, and recommendations on how professional standards and ethics are developed and implemented through institutional training, both in Albania and across EU member states. A special focus will be placed on the exchange of best practices, including the participation of an expert from Slovakia, who will share concrete models and experiences from the EU context. Your presence and contribution will be a valuable addition to this open and forward-looking dialogue.

This WG session takes place within the framework of the project "Building Partnership on Fundamentals: Empowering CSOs for the EU accession process", with the financial support of the European Union - IPA Civil Society Facility 2021, which is implemented by the European Movement in Albania and in cooperation with the Academy of European Integration and Negotiations, Slovak Foreign Policy Association and the Center for Transparency and Freedom of Information





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11:30 - 12:00

Registration and Welcome Coffee

12:00 - 12:15

Opening Remarks

Ms. Borana Mustafaraj, Head of Professional Training, School of Magistrates in Albania

Mr. Gledis Gjipali, Executive Director of European Movement Albania

12:15 - 12:40

Integrity as the main characteristic required of a magistrate - The role of the SoM in selecting candidates with integrity and providing their training

- Integrity as a criteria for becoming a candidate for magistrate.
- Challenges in assessing integrity and suitability for the magistrate profession.
- Training of magistrate candidates and sitting magistrates on ethics and integrity.
- The new composition of the judiciary, with many newly appointed magistrates, highlights the need for specialized training modules.

Ms. Borana Mustafaraj, Head of Professional Training, School of Magistrates in Albania

12:40 - 13:00

Ensuring Judicial Integrity: EU Member State Experiences in Magistrate Training and Ethics

- Judicial integrity as an EU accession requirement: standards and expectations
- Training models and best practices from EU Member States, with a focus on Slovakia
- Lessons learned from judicial reforms and the role of training institutions in upholding integrity

Mr. Pavol Žilinčík, Lecturer of Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic and Member of Judicial Selection Committee

13:00 - 13:30

Interactive Discussion with lecturers and civil society actors, legal professionals, and other stakeholders

13:30 - 14:00

Closing of the Roundtable and Networking Cocktail

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