



ERA Young European Lawyers Academy



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 yela.era.int

About the project

Young European Lawyers Academy (YELA)

The European Young Lawyers Academy (YELA) is a training opportunity within the Young European Lawyers Project (YELP). In this project a series of intensive courses consisting of a webinar and an eight-day seminar will be organised in Trier (Germany), providing initial training on EU law to 35 young lawyers per group. It will provide a platform for the exchange of best practices, information and knowledge, creating close contacts among young lawyers from different jurisdictions.

- **Intensive 8-Day Course and Webinar:** Deep-dive into EU law and digital competencies
- **Apply the Law:** Learn how to use EU law and digital developments to your advantage in your daily legal practice
- **Exclusive Access:** Visit the CJEU and European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to discuss the future of law in personal meetings with the judges of the courts

The courses are practice-oriented and offer a mixture of training methods, varying from lectures to group exercises presented by EU and national legal experts, including experienced lawyers in private practice.

The academy helps the participants build their practical understanding of the role of EU law in national legal systems, the rule of law *acquis* and their role as European justice practitioners as well as how to address the impact of digitalisation and new technologies on the legal landscape.

The **Young European Lawyers Project (YELP)** is an initiative by the Academy of European Law (ERA), CCBE, EYBA, partnering Bar associations and the European Commission designed to empower the next generation of legal professionals across Europe and bridge the gap where EU law meets digital innovation.

YELP isn't just another training programme - it's a launchpad for young lawyers to thrive in an increasingly digital and interconnected Europe.

The project focuses on three critical areas:

- **Digital Mastery:** Equipping lawyers with cutting-edge tech skills
- **EU Law Expertise:** Ensuring confident and effective application of EU legislation
- **Advocacy Skills:** Learning from peers how to convince, conduct negotiations and plead before a judge.

Why YELP matters

YELP is a crucial initiative that addresses current gaps in the training of young legal professionals across the European Union. The project will reduce the gaps in training of young lawyers identified by the European Commission's European judicial training strategy for 2024 by giving young lawyers "a grounding in the EU legal system and legal culture in the course of their initial training" while addressing new developments such as digitalisation and new technologies.

More on www.young-lawyers.eu



Methodology of YELA

YELA will be implemented using blended learning. Our programme combines in-person and digital learning to create a dynamic, flexible, and engaging experience for young lawyers across Europe:

Online materials: brush up on basic EU law knowledge with e-presentations, video podcasts and introductory e-learning courses to prepare for the webinar and intensive course. **Webinar:** raise questions regarding the video podcasts, get to know each other, and work together on a case study.

Intensive course: follow a practice-oriented course which offers a mixture of training methods, varying from lectures to interactive workshops and tutorials led by European and national legal experts. In workshops, you will learn how to apply EU law in practice with the aim of developing the key skills of a lawyer, such as analysing and summarising a case, adequate preparation for a hearing, listening skills, applying and arguing the correct legal basis, communicating clearly, and being aware of national and European legal environments. **Experienced speakers:** Gain insights from legal experts who specialise in various fields and leverage their extensive experience.

Visit to European institutions: Get exclusive access to the CJEU and ECtHR, meet lawyers working at the courts as well as judges and discuss with them the reality of working for international institutions and the future of European law.

Benefits for participants

- **Future-Proofing Careers:** The legal landscape is evolving rapidly. YELP prepares you for the digital transformation of justice systems.
- **Practical, Hands-On Learning:** Move beyond theory with real-world exercises and case studies.
- **European Network:** Connect with fellow young lawyers as well as experienced professionals from across the continent, building valuable professional relationships.
- **Creating new training material:** Use the new materials for further training of lawyers in all EU Member States. The dissemination will increase self-learning opportunities and tools for indirect beneficiaries in all EU Members States and beyond.

Participation

Participation

The project focuses on lawyers in private practice at the beginning of their career. 'Young lawyers' are those who are, at the time of registration, considered trainee lawyers under national law, including those who are in an induction or apprenticeship period; in jurisdictions in which initial training does not include a period of legal practice, newly qualified lawyers with less than three years of experience can apply.

The organisers reserve the right to request proof of apprenticeship or qualification during the application process.

Participation Fee

- Young lawyers nominated by Bars financing the project participate free of charge or will be reimbursed by their Bar.
- For participants applying on their own or through other Bars, a fee of €275 will be charged.

Language

Participants should have a working knowledge of English.

Locations

- ERA Conference Centre, Trier
- European Court of Justice, Luxembourg
- European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg

Other services

Lunches, social dinners, beverages offered during the event, documentation and transfer to Luxembourg (return) and Strasbourg (one way) are offered by ERA.

Travel & Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided from Sunday evening till the end of the course for all young lawyers (whether nominated or applying independently). The costs for accommodation in both Trier and Strasbourg are booked by and paid for by ERA.

Participants are asked to arrange their own travel after they have received ERA's confirmation to book, and will receive a fixed contribution based on distance. For further information on the contribution, please see the terms and conditions.

The nearest airports close to Trier:

- Luxembourg (40 km, 1 hour 20 minutes by bus and train),
- Frankfurt Hahn (76 km, 2 hours by bus and train),
- Cologne (167 km; 3.5 hours by train),
- Frankfurt am Main (185 km, 3-3.5 hours by train).

The nearest airports to Strasbourg:

- Strasbourg (16 km, 10 mins by train),
- Stuttgart (150 km, 2-3 hours by train),
- Frankfurt am Main (212 km, 2-3 hours by train).

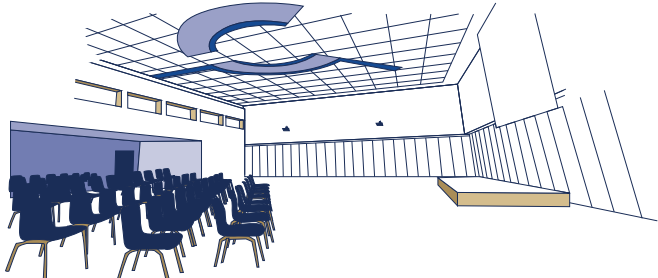
Calendar of activities

Events 2026	
Start of application period	15 September 2025
End of application period	15 January 2026
Announcement of successful participants (division into YELA 3 and 4)	15 February 2026
YELA 3 (Event no. 426DT012)	Webinar: 3 March 2026 Intensive Course: 15-22 June 2026
YELA 4 (Event no. 426DT014)	Webinar: 13 October 2026 Intensive Course: 9-16 November 2026

Application*

- YELA 3:
Participants applying independently [Apply here](#)
- YELA 4:
Participants applying independently [Apply here](#)

** Participants nominated by their Bar association will receive the application forms directly. Participants can apply for both 2026 events by filling in the applications forms for both events.*



Terms and Conditions

Eligibility to participate:

1. Citizenship of, residency in or place of work in should be a country eligible for the Justice Programme (all Member States except Denmark; including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Moldova** and Ukraine).
2. The academy is open to lawyers in private practice at the beginning of their career. 'Young lawyers' are those who are, at the time of registration, considered trainee lawyers under national law, including those who are in an induction or apprenticeship period; in jurisdictions in which initial training does not include a period of legal practice, newly qualified lawyers with less than three years of experience can apply. The organisers reserve the right to request proof of apprenticeship or qualification during the application process.
3. Participants should have a working knowledge of English.

Participation costs

4. Young lawyers nominated by Bars financing the project participate free of charge or will be reimbursed by their bars. For participants applying independently or through other Bars, a fee of €275 will be charged, no discounts are given.

Travel, Accommodation and Catering

5. Applicants will be subject to a selection procedure. ERA will send confirmation of selection to each participant individually. Confirmed participants are eligible to receive a fixed contribution towards their travel expenses following the event, upon receipt of travel and accommodation costs (invoice, ticket or boarding pass).
6. Accommodation will be provided from Sunday evening till the end of the course for all young lawyers (whether nominated or applying independently). Accommodation in both Trier and Strasbourg are booked by and paid for by ERA.

* this designation is without prejudice to positions on status

7. All young lawyers (whether nominated or applying independently) selected to participate in the course will receive a contribution to their travel costs depending on the distance from their place of work. Participants can use any form of travel. YELA starts in Trier and finishes in Strasbourg. Travel should be booked accordingly. Participants are obliged to confirm their participation by submitting their travel arrangements, otherwise a different candidate will be chosen. Should the participant cancel their participation for any reason, no travel contribution will be paid. The precondition for payment of the travel cost contribution is confirmed attendance at all events (webinar, academy, social programme). Travel cost contributions are based on the distance between the place of work and the event venue (distance only one way – reimbursement amount is for the total travel cost) location and will not take account of the participant's actual travel costs. Please note that no contribution can be paid for travel under 50km.

The contributions will be calculated as follows

51-199 km	€ 100
200-399 km	€ 200
400-600 km	€ 245
601-800 km	€ 261
801-1200 km	€ 276
1201-1600 km	€ 288
Over 1601	€ 369

To calculate the distance please click [here](#):
As YELA has two event venues (Trier, Strasbourg), please use the mean distance between your workplace and Trier, and your workplace and Strasbourg.

** this designation applies to the extent that participants do not replace the European quotas provided for.

8. Successful applicants will be sent the relevant claim form and information on how to obtain payment of the contribution to their expenses. Please note that no payment is possible if the registered participant cancels their participation for any reason.
9. Catering during the day is provided by ERA. For more information on dinners and social programmes please check the detailed programme. Breakfasts are included with the accommodation.
10. No per diem or daily allowance is offered.

Participation

11. The selected participants will be asked to book their travel as soon as possible and confirm their itinerary to ERA. Participants are obliged to confirm their participation by submitting their travel arrangements, otherwise a different candidate will be chosen.
12. Participation at the whole academy (webinar and intensive course) is required and participants' presence will be recorded.
13. A list of participants, including each participant's working address, will be made available to all participants unless ERA receives written objection from the participant no later than one week prior to the beginning of the first event.
14. Participants are asked to give permission for their address and other relevant information to be stored in ERA's database in order to provide information about future ERA events, publications and/or other developments in the participant's area of interest.
15. A certificate of attendance will be distributed after the end of the academy.



Project partners

Austrian Bar Association

Barcelona Bar Association

Bar of Ireland

Bar of Slovenia

Budapest Bar Association

Council of Law Societies (CCBE)

Ecole des Avocats Grand-Est

Estonian Bar Association

German Bar Association

European Young Bar
Association (EYBA)



Haute École des Avocats
Conseils (HEDAC), Versailles

Latvian Bar of Sworn Advocates

Lithuanian Bar Association

Malta Law Academy

Dutch Bar Association at the Brussels Bar

Paris Bar

Portuguese Bar Association

Romanian National Union of Advocats

Slovak Bar Association



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