



Networking for European defence lawyers: possibilities and strategies

Structure of the presentation



Two functionalities will be presented for each platform:

1. The networking possibilities for lawyers
2. Lawyer-search by citizens

Platforms



- National Bar Associations
- European e-justice portal:
<https://e-justice.europa.eu/home.do?action=home&plang=en&init=true>
- CCBE
<http://www.ccbe.eu/index.php?id=140&L=0>
- ECBA
<http://www.ecba.org/content/>
- PenalNet
<http://www.penalnet.eu/portalPenalnet/home.do>

National Bar Associations



1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers

- Criminal law committees of National Bar Associations:
 - Problems:
 - mostly only nationally oriented
 - not every bar has a criminal law committee

2. Lawyer-search by citizens:

- National search portals are available in almost all countries
 - Problem:
 - national search portals are mostly available in the national language and only sometimes also in another language

European E-justice portal - Content



Website:

<https://e-justice.europa.eu/home.do?action=home&plang=en&init=true>

Useful information for:

- citizens (legal action; legal aid; procedural costs...)
- companies (e.g. business register, land register...)
- legal occupations (jurists, EJM, register...)
- courts (EJM, legal training, European Judicial Atlas in Civil Matters...)

Concept:

Easy explanations with additional links to the corresponding websites of the EU and of the member states

Languages:

Available in all official EU languages

European E-justice portal



1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers

- Not available at the moment

2. Lawyer-search by citizens:

➤ Useful information for the citizens:

- “How do I find a lawyer...?” https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_find_a_lawyer-114-EU-en.do?init=true
 - General information about the role of lawyers
 - Additional link to the search portal of the CCBE
- **NEW**: Fact sheets - [Rights of defendants in criminal proceedings](#)

CCBE (Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe)

<http://www.ccbe.eu/index.php?id=12&L=0>



1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers:

- Criminal Law Committee of the CCBE
 - Problems:
 - no general communication platform for criminal law specialists but a political committee consisting of criminal law specialists with long-standing international experience making statements concerning relevant actual EU measures

2. Lawyer-search by citizens: European Lawyers Database of the CCBE

Website: <http://www.ccbe.org/index.php?id=140&L=0>

Content: European search portal where citizens can look for lawyers in the EU, in the European Economic Area (EEA) and in different applicant and third countries

Languages of the European Lawyers Database of the CCBE: German, English, French, Italian, Slovakian

Concept: For each country, one can find links mostly to the national bar associations and to the existing national search portals

- **Problem:** the national search portals are mostly available in the national language and only sometimes also in another language

3. Lawyer-search by citizens: European Lawyers Database of the CCBE - examples

The Netherlands:

In Dutch: <http://www.advocatenorde.nl/consumenten/vind-uw-advocaat/>

Ireland

In English:

<http://www.lawlibrary.ie/members/>

<http://www.lawsociety.ie/Pages/Find-a-Firm/>

UK

In English:

<http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/>

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law>

<http://www.lawsoc-ni.org/>

http://www.lawscot.org.uk/wcm/lssservices/find_a_solicitor/Core/directory.asp

4. Lawyer-search by citizens: project “Find a lawyer”

Content:

This project of the CCBE is financed by the Commission in order to create a search portal of lawyers for the citizens and is destined to be integrated into the European e-justice portal. 13 bar associations have joined the pilot project.

Concept:

Search functions through name, country, title, languages, subject; if applicable also through city, zip code etc. If applicable, contact data incl. website and e-mail address will be provided. The chambers will take care of the update, which means lawyers who aren't allowed to practise anymore will be automatically deleted from the platform when deleted from the chamber register. Even though it is aimed at the citizen, it can also be a useful portal for lawyers, in order to find contact information.

5. Lawyer-search by citizens: project “Find a lawyer”

Languages:

“Find a lawyer” will be available in all EU-languages

Effective:

Not online yet, but shall be available online within the next few months

ECBA (European Criminal Bar Association)

<http://www.ecba.org>



ECBA

Independent association of criminal lawyers from Council of Europe countries, with about 250-300 members covering 35 countries of the Council of Europe, as well as about 600 criminal attorney contact details. The purpose is to promote the rights of blamed, accused and convicted people; to advice and to lobby at EU-level; to promote the interests of criminal lawyers.

The membership is open to all interested lawyers and costs €160/year for lawyers who have been active for more than 5 years and €85/year for those who have been active for less than 5 years or who don't practise.

ECBA (European Criminal Bar Association)

<http://www.ecba.org>



1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers

- Networking possibilities: 2 conferences per year in different EU-states, open for members and non-members
- The ECBA website provides the possibility to contact and to exchange information, to ask questions and to debate
- The ECBA newsletter informs about the latest developments in the field of European criminal law
- The website offers access to relevant draft laws, texts etc.

ECBA (European Criminal Bar Association)

<http://www.ecba.org>



2. Lawyer-search by citizens: “Find a lawyer”

Website: <http://www.ecba.org/contactslist/contacts-search-country.php>

Content: search portal for citizens looking for criminal lawyers and lawyers with a specialization in criminal law covering all Council of Europe countries (at the moment almost all EU-member States + 10 other States)

Concept:

- search functions consisting of country, city, surname, office
- contact details, website, e-mail addresses, language abilities, chamber affiliation, date of qualification

Languages:

Only available in English (=problem)

Penal.Net

www.penalnet.eu



Video on Penal.Net:

http://www.abogados.es/portaIABOGADOS/printPortal.do?urlPagina=/S005024001/1316518113359_es_ES.html

1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers

Content

[Penal.Net](http://www.penalnet.eu) is an online-platform for criminal lawyers and lawyers who work in the field of criminal law, which is meant to enable a safe and confidential communication through its ciphering system.

Penal.Net I was co-financed by the EU and started with 5 participating bar associations (FR, HU, IT, RO, ES). The future Penal.Net II will provide the opportunity to participate to an additional 10 bar associations which will have to meet certain requirements. Chambers that wish to participate have to pay an application fee of €5100. Individual members have to pay a fee that is determined by their national Chamber.

Penal.Net

www.penalnet.eu



Concept:

- Index: to find colleagues and their contact data
- Safe e-mail: the communication with colleagues is coded with electronic signatures, sending of confidential information and a coded multi-video-conference-function with other members
- Public area: general information, library...

Access:

Via e-IdentityCard that will be issued and possibly confiscated by the national Bar according to CCBE standards

- Problem: at the moment it is mainly used by lawyers of the 5 participating chambers

Languages :

Available in 6 languages (English, French, Romanian, Italian, Hungarian)



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