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**Building a network of contacts among advocates in  
Europe: opportunities and approaches**

10 May 2013

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**ERA Seminar: *EU criminal law for defence counsel***

# Why network?

- Increase the number of cross-border cases
- Essential for a local lawyer in each jurisdiction to guarantee effective defence
- Knowledge of the law and practices in force
- Savings in time and resources



# Good and bad networking

## (+)

- Personal contacts
- Mutual recognisability
- Trust
- Regular meetings
- Exchange of experience
- Possibility of further recommendation

## (-)

- Yellow Pages
- Lack of direct communication



# Who benefits from a network of contacts?

1. Lawyers
2. Citizens



# Organisations / internet platforms

- Bar Councils
- CCBE (Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe)
- CCBE, European Lawyers Database
- ECBA (European Criminal Bar Association)
- ERA (The Academy of European Law)
- PenalNet
- Fair Trials International
- E-Justice Portal
- IBA (International Bar Association)



# Bar councils

<http://www.nra.pl>

- Supreme Bar Council
- Regional Bar Councils



# CCBE

Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

<http://www.ccbe.eu>

## 1. Poland in CCBE

- Maria Ślązak, legal adviser, joint candidate of both Polish law profession councils: National Chamber of Legal Advisers and the Supreme Bar Council elected Vice-President of CCBE. Soon she will become President of CCBE – each newly-chosen Vice-President serves later as President
- Last year, Maciej Laszczuk, adwokat and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Supreme Bar Council was appointed member of CCBE's Finance Committee.



# European Lawyers Database

CCBE

## 2. European Lawyers Database search portal

tool on CCBE's website assisting in searching for bar councils and national solicitors' chambers in European countries and others





# European Criminal Bar Association

ECBA

<http://www.ecba.org>

- Independent organisation bringing together European defence lawyers (within Council of Europe Member States)
- Membership fee
- Newsletter
- Two conferences annually
- *Find a lawyer* (<http://www.ecba.org/contactslist/contacts-search-country.php>)



# ERA

The Academy of European Law

<https://www.era.int>

The Academy of European Law is a not-for-profit foundation, organising courses in European law for practising lawyers



# PenalNet

<http://www.penalnet.eu>

- **Secure email communications** guaranteed by a digital signature, ability to send confidential information and to organise multi-video-conferences with other platform users
- **Externally accessible** general information and part of the digital collection in the library
- PenalNet operates pursuant to Council of Europe initiatives and in line with European Interoperability Framework guidelines



# Fair Trials International

<http://www.fairtrials.net>

- Promotion campaigns regarding the right to a fair trial, through campaigns, publications, case examples, films, training workshops
- Website of Fair Trials International (in English, French, German and Spanish) is accessible free of charge



# E-Justice Portal

European e-justice portal

<https://e-justice.europa.eu>

- Provides simple definitions and links to their respective EU pages and to websites of EU Member States
- Can assist both experts and other users, such as: citizens, companies, legal professions, courts.
- Use of the portal's resources is free and it has been translated into all official languages of the EU.



# IBA

International Bar Association

<http://www.ibanet.org/>

## Committees

- Business Crime
- Criminal Law
- Human Rights Institute
- Human Rights Law





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Thank you for your attention

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