ERA
Academy of European Law

NETWORKING POSSIBILITIES FOR DEFENCE COUNSEL IN THE EU

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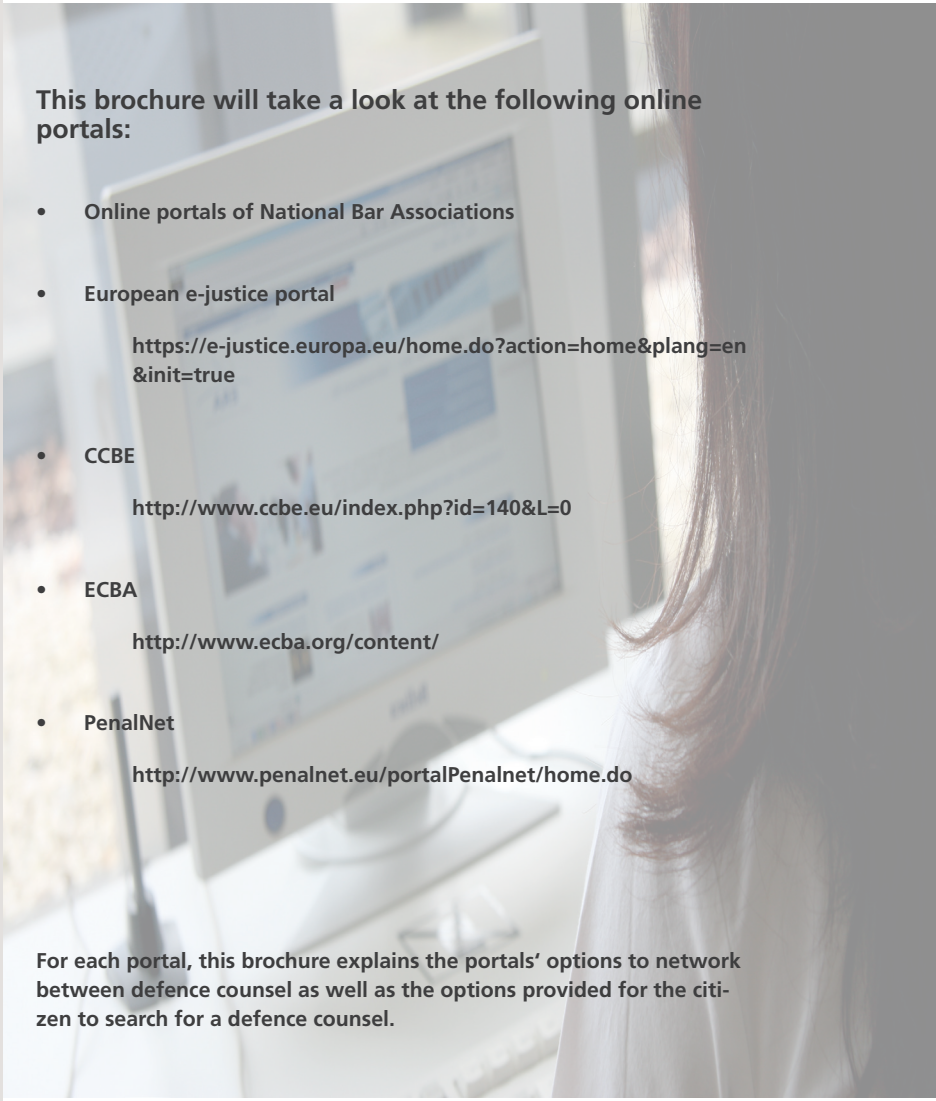
Structure of the brochure



This brochure will take a look at the following online portals:

- **Online portals of 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

For each portal, this brochure explains the portals' options to network between defence counsel as well as the options provided for the citizen to search for a defence counsel.

National Bar Associations

1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers

Most National Bar Associations have committees on criminal law. However, these committees are usually nationally oriented and do not offer the possibility to network with lawyers from other countries**.**

2. Lawyer-search by citizens:

Almost all bar associations offer a search portal on their websites. However, the websites and search functions are usually only available in the national language.

European e-justice Portal

Content:

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

The European e-Justice Portal provides provides information on justice systems and improving access to justice throughout the EU, in 23 languages.

It contains useful information for:

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

Factsheets - Rights of defendants in criminal proceedings

The e-justice portal includes factsheets on the rights of the defendants in criminal proceedings in all Member States and in 23 languages. These factsheets take you through the criminal process and the various steps involved. They explain the rights and obligations of the suspected or accused person at each stage, from the time of pre-trial investigations, right through to after the trial. The factsheets also provide information on how minor offences, such as road traffic offences, are dealt with.

1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers

There is no specific possibility for lawyers to network with each other. Nevertheless, for instance through its „find a lawyer" function, it can also be a useful portal for lawyers, in order to find contact information.

2. Lawyer-search by citizens: project „Find a lawyer"

https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_find_a_lawyer-114-EU-en.do?init=true

The „Find a lawyer" search interface of the European e-Justice Portal allows the user to easily find a lawyer in - at the moment - 20 EU Member States.

Search functions include the country and city/postal code. If applicable, contact data incl. website and e-mail address is provided. Participating bar associations take care of the update. The functionality is available in 23 languages.

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

The Criminal Law Committee of the CCBE is a political committee consisting of criminal law specialists with long-standing international experience making statements concerning relevant actual EU measures. It is not a general communication platform for criminal law specialists.

2. Lawyer-search by citizens:

The website of the CCBE refers to the European e-Justice Portal.

https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_find_a_lawyer-114-EU-en.do?init=true

ECBA (European Criminal Bar Association)

http://www.ecba.org

The ECBA is an 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.

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.

2. Lawyer-search by citizens: „Find a lawyer"

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

The ECBA website includes a search functionality 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)

If applicable, contact details including website, e-mail address, language abilities, bar affiliation, and date of qualification is provided. The functionality is only available in English.

Penal.Net

www.penalnet.eu

1. EU-wide networking between criminal lawyers

Penal.Net is an online-platform for criminal lawyers and lawyers who work in the field of criminal law, which is meant to enable a save and confidential communication through its ciphering system. Access is foreseen via an e-IdentityCard that is issued by the participating national Bars.

Penal.Net I was co-financed by the EU and started with 5 participating bar associations (FR,HU, IT, RO, ES). It is available in 6 languages (English, French, Romanian, Italian, Hungarian).

It was planned to extend the portal to further national Bars. At the moment, there is no information available if this extension will take place.

2. Lawyer-search by citizens: „Find a lawyer"

There is no function for the citizens to find a lawyer.

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