

Digitalisation in European Criminal Justice

Training for Defence Lawyers

Barcelona, 15-16 October 2026



EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW⁷

Speakers

María Barbancho, Criminal Lawyer, Member of the Committee of International Relations, ICAB, Barcelona

Raimundas Jurka, Professor, Mykolas Romeris University; Defence Lawyer, Vilnius

George M.R. Zlati, Partner, ZIC Legal, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences (UAB), Romania

Boudewijn de Jonge, Public Prosecutor, Liaison Officer, Madrid

Key topics

- How digitalisation is changing criminal justice systems and defence practice in Europe
- Handling electronic evidence and cross-border investigations in the digital age
- Protecting defence rights in remote and technology-driven proceedings
- Encryption, digital surveillance, and self-incrimination challenges
- The growing role of artificial intelligence in criminal justice
- Using digital and AI tools effectively in defence practice

Event number
326DT054

Organisers
ERA (Cornelia Riehle) in cooperation
with the Barcelona Bar Association
(ICAB)



Digitalisation in European Criminal Justice

Thursday, 15 October 2026

08:45 Arrival and registration of participants

09:00 **Welcome and introduction to the programme**
Representative of ICAB & Cornelia Riehle (ERA)

PART I: Digital Transformation of Criminal Justice Systems in the EU

Chair: Cornelia Riehle

09:15 **Digitalisation of Criminal Justice Systems in Europe: State of Play and Challenges**

- Transformation across investigations, prosecution, and judicial proceedings
- Comparative overview of national and EU developments
- Impact on procedural fairness and defence rights, including EU legal framework

George Zlati

PART II Legal Frameworks and Defence Challenges in Cross-Border Investigations

Chair: NN

09:45 **Cross-Border Judicial Cooperation in the Digital Age: Practical Functioning**

- Core EU and international legal frameworks governing electronic evidence
- Cooperation with service providers, including production and preservation orders
- Legal constraints: data protection, sovereignty, refusal grounds, and third-country cooperation

Boudewijn de Jonge

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **EU & International Frameworks on Electronic Evidence**

- Core legal instruments governing electronic evidence in the EU and beyond
- Direct cooperation between law enforcement and service providers
- Production and preservation orders in practice
- Legal constraints: data protection, sovereignty, and refusal grounds
- EU-US and third-country cooperation frameworks

Boudewijn de Jonge

11:45 **Defence Rights in Cross-Border Investigations**

- Defence access to digital evidence in cross-border proceedings
- Challenges to jurisdiction, admissibility, and evidence transfer
- Equality of arms and strategic defence approaches in complex cases

María Barbancho

12:30 Lunch

PART III: Digital Evidence, Encryption and Artificial Intelligence

Chair: George Zlati

14:00 **Encryption, Compelled Access and Self-Incrimination**

- Encryption as an investigative and evidentiary challenge
- Limits of compelled disclosure under ECHR self-incrimination standards
- Procedural safeguards and cross-border enforcement issues

Raimundas Jurka

14:45 Discussion

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 **Artificial Intelligence in Criminal Justice: Risks, Regulation and Reliability**

Objective

Gain a practice-oriented overview of how digitalisation is transforming criminal justice systems and defence practice across Europe. The seminar examines electronic evidence, cross-border investigations, encryption, remote proceedings, and the challenges these developments create for procedural fairness and defence rights. Dedicated sessions address artificial intelligence in criminal justice, including automated decision-making, deepfakes, and the implications of the EU AI Act. Participants will also explore practical digital tools and emerging best practices for defence lawyers in modern criminal proceedings.

About the Project

Training defence lawyers with special regard to European criminal law has gained more and more importance in recent years. Hence, this seminar is part of a large-scale project co-financed by the European Commission entitled "European Criminal Law for Defence Lawyers". Fifteen interactive, practice-oriented activities will be implemented within this project ranging from face-to-face seminars and conferences to webinars and eLearning courses. For more information, see: <https://training-for-defence.era.int/>

Who should attend?

Defence lawyers, who are citizens of eligible EU Member States participating in the EU Justice Programme (Denmark does not participate), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Ukraine.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Venue

ICAB Training Centre
Carrer de Mallorca 283
08037 Barcelona
Spain

CPD

ERA's programmes meet the standard requirements for recognition as Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Participation in the full programme of this event corresponds to **10 CPD hours**. A certificate of participation for CPD purposes with indication of the number of training hours completed will be issued on request. CPD certificates must be requested at the latest 14 days after the event.

- Use of AI in investigations and evidence analysis, including predictive tools
- Risks: deepfakes, synthetic evidence, and automated decision-making
- EU AI Act framework and admissibility/reliability concerns in criminal proceedings

16:30 Discussion

16:45 End of Day One

20:00 Dinner offered by the organisers

Friday, 16 October 2026

PART IV: Digital Criminal Justice in Practice

09:00 **Best Practices in Digital Criminal Justice Systems**

- Practical models of digital criminal justice systems in Europe
- Lessons from successful and failed digital transformation projects
- Secure digital case management and cross-border evidence sharing

09:45 **Remote Investigations and Video Conferencing**

- Remote questioning of suspects and witnesses
- Cross-border hearings in investigative proceedings
- Procedural safeguards and reliability of remote participation

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Remote Participation in Criminal Trials and Fair Trial Right**

- Defence participation in remote and hybrid hearings
- Use of remote witness testimony in court proceedings
- Fair trial guarantees under Article 6 ECHR and protection of privilege

Raimundas Jurka

11:45 **Artificial Intelligence for Defence Lawyers: Tools and Practice**

- Practical AI applications in defence work (research, analysis, case strategy)
- Demonstration of AI-assisted case file review
- Professional responsibility, confidentiality, and limitations of AI in legal reasoning

George Zlati

12:30 Discussion

12:45 Closing

Cornelia Riehle

13:00 End of the seminar

For programme updates: www.era.int

Programme may be subject to amendment.



Times indicated refer to the local time in Barcelona

Your contacts



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