



European Competition Law

Training for Judges from North
Macedonia

Skopje, 4-6 February 2026

EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW¹

Speakers

Irina Trajkoska Strezoski, Director of North Macedonian
Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Skopje

Małgorzata Kozak, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University

Manuel Kellerbauer, Legal Adviser, Legal Service, European
Commission, Brussels

Lilijana Pavlic, Croatia competition authority, Zagreb

Virginia Pavel, Course Director, ERA

Gjoko Zhikovski, Judge, Skopje

Key topics

- The role of judges
- Market definition
- Economic evidence
- Digital markets
- Issues in Article 101 TFEU enforcement
- Abuse of dominance in traditional and digital markets
- Proving harm and calculating damages
- Private enforcement of competition law

Language
Macedonian

Event number
226DT015

Organisers
Dr Virginia Pavel (ERA) in
cooperation with the Croatian
Judicial Academy and the
Judicial Training Centre of
Slovenia

European Competition Law Training for Judges from North Macedonia

Wednesday, 4 February 2026

08:30 Arrival and registration of participants

08:45 **Opening of the seminar**
Virginia Pavel, Irina Trajkoska Strezoski

I. Judicial perspectives on market definition and economic evidence

09:00 **Article 101(1) in practice**

- The notion of undertakings and associations of undertakings
- Agreements, decisions and concerted practices
- The object or effect of preventing, restricting or distorting competition
- The *de minimis* doctrine
- The effect on trade between member States

Manuel Kellerbauer

09:45 Discussion

10:00 **Article 101(3): the exemptions**

- Article 101(3) criteria
- Article 101(3) and Regulation 1/2003
- The relation between Article 101(3) and block exemption regulations

Manuel Kellerbauer

10:15 Discussion

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Navigating market definition**

- Principles and economic concepts
- Implications for judicial decision-making
- Current trends and challenges in market definition (new market definition notice and its implications, new VBER, revised horizontal guidelines)
- Market definition in Court: areas of commonly contested grounds

Manuel Kellerbauer

12:00 Discussion

12:15 Lunch

II. Article 101 TFEU in practice: market definition, enforcement, and judicial challenges

13:30 **Market definition in the digital era: adapting to transformations**

- Characteristics of digital markets
- Adapting traditional tools
- Challenges in assessing market power
- Interaction between competition law and regulation

Manuel Kellerbauer

14:30 Discussion

14:45 **Public enforcement of EU competition law**

- Roles, case allocation and cooperation in the ECN
- Procedural aspects of an investigation
- Judicial review

Manuel Kellerbauer

15:30 Discussion

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 **Case study: defining markets in a real-life scenario**
Virginia Pavel

Objective

This seminar aims to equip national judges with a comprehensive update on key developments in EU competition law, focusing on market definition, economic evidence, and the latest trends in antitrust enforcement. Through expert insights and practical case studies, judges will gain a deeper understanding of complex competition law issues, including digital markets, abuse of dominance, and private enforcement. In doing so, the seminar will aim at raising awareness among national judges on enforcement in the area of public and private competition law and at improving their capacity to handle antitrust cases.

You will learn about...

- the role of judges in applying competition law
- new rules and challenges in market definition
- assessing economic evidence in competition cases
- competition law in digital markets
- key issues in Article 101 TFEU enforcement
- abuse of dominance in traditional and digital markets
- antitrust concerns in labour markets
- proving harm and calculating damages in private enforcement

Venue

Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Skopje

Who should attend?

Judges, prosecutors, apprentice judges, and the court staff from North Macedonia.

About the project

The seminar is part of a large-scale project to provide training on EU competition law to national judges from Kosovo and North Macedonia.

17:15 End of the first seminar day

19:30 Dinner

Thursday, 5 February 2026

08:45 Arrival and registration of participants

III. Ensuring effective antitrust application: proof standards and practical challenges

09:00 Article 101 TFEU enforcement – part 1. Horizontal agreements

- Principles and exceptions
- Current trends and challenges in Art. 101 evaluation
- Art. 101 TFEU in Court: areas of commonly contested ground

Manuel Kellerbauer

09:45 Discussion

10:00 Article 101 TFEU enforcement – part 2. Vertical agreements

- Principles and exceptions
- Current trends and challenges in Art. 101 TFEU evaluation
- Art. 101 TFEU in Court: areas of commonly contested ground

Małgorzata Kozak

10:45 Discussion

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Burden of proof and evidentiary standards

- Burden of proof in art. 101 TFEU – rule and exceptions
- Sufficient proof of an anticompetitive agreement
- Sufficient proof of a concerted practice

Małgorzata Kozak

12:00 Discussion

12:15 Practical workshop – the steps of evaluating an Article 101 TFEU infringement

Małgorzata Kozak

13:15 Lunch

IV. Practical enforcement in Articles 101 and 102 TFEU

15:00 Article 102 TFEU enforcement

- Notion of dominant position
- Notion of abuse
- Exclusionary conduct and theories of harm — how to distinguish competition on the merits from abuse
- Current trends and challenges in Article 102 TFEU evaluation

Lilijana Pavlic

15:45 Coffee break

16:15 Assessing defences under Article 102 TFEU

- Types of defences
- Burden and standard of proof
- Case law insights
- How to assess proportionality

Lilijana Pavlic

17:00 Discussion

Your contacts



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17:15 **Practical workshop: the steps of evaluating an Article 102 TFEU infringement**

- Interactive session: applying updated guidance and theories of harm to cases
- Discussion in plenary

Małgorzata Kozak

18:00 End of the second seminar day

Friday, 6 February 2026

08:15 Arrival and registration of participants

V. Evolving challenges in Articles 101 and 102 TFEU

09:00 **Integrating the EU acquis into North Macedonian legislation**

- Overview of the current alignment state and remaining priorities
- Criminal law approaches to competition law
- National procedures for pursuing private damages claims

Gjoko Zhikovski

10:15 Discussion

10:30 **Private enforcement of competition law: ensuring effective redress**

- Legal framework and role of national courts
- Burden of proof and evidentiary standards
- Interaction with public enforcement
- Quantification of harm and damages assessment
- Collective actions and representative claims

Liljana Pavlic

11:30 Discussion

11:45 Coffee break

12:15 **Practical workshop – evaluation of damages**

Małgorzata Kozak

13:30 Light lunch

14:30 End of the seminar