



Funded by the Training of National Judges Programme of the European Commission

SEMINAR ON EUROPEAN COMPETITION LAW FOR NATIONAL JUDGES

National Judges and Antitrust Challenges in the Digital Age

16-17 NOVEMBER 2018, BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

The Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH) through the OECD-GVH Regional Centre for Competition in Budapest (RCC) will hold a competition law seminar for judges focusing on **“National Judges and Antitrust Challenges in the Digital Age”** on 16-17 November 2018 in Budapest, Hungary. The seminar will receive funding from the European Union.

Dynamic markets in the digital sectors are challenging competition authorities’ usual approach to antitrust issues. National judges now have to review these decisions adopted in such a specific context. The seminar aims to raise the awareness of national judges dealing with competition law cases as to the consequences of new technologies in their traditional reasoning by (i) providing them with the necessary knowledge taken from the relevant case law; (ii) discussing the pertinence of new arguments put forward by both claimants and defendants and, (iii) promoting active participation through group exercises.

The two-day seminar will provide the participants with specific knowledge and practice related to issues arising due to new technologies’ impact in the field of competition law. The seminar will concentrate on the main questions that are currently the focus of antitrust enforcers and recent courts’ decisions.

The first day will begin by addressing the difficulties faced when applying the traditional criteria of **market power to dynamic markets** (e.g., notion of two or multi-sided markets for online platform businesses), will then move on to **merger issues in digital sectors** (e.g., role of innovation) and will conclude with the last session being dedicated to **vertical restraints in online distribution**. The second day will cover issues related to the application of **Article 102 TFEU in digital markets** (more specifically, discriminatory behaviours of dominant companies and patent protection).

The seminar is open to national judges, prosecutors, apprentice judges and the staff of the judges’ offices working in one of the EU member States dealing with competition cases at national level:

- who already have knowledge of the issues in traditional economic sectors; and,
- who deal with the review of the decisions adopted by national competition authorities; or,
- who have jurisdiction to review judgments adopted at first instance in the field of competition law (e.g., appellate jurisdictions, final instance judges).

In their application, applicants are invited to (i) specify their previous awareness of the competition law issues in traditional economic sectors and (ii) indicate whether they hold a position at first instance, second instance or final instance in their legal system.

A good command of English is a condition of registration. Participation will be completely free of charge. The costs will be covered by EU and GVH funds.

The national judicial training centres of the following countries have offered to directly participate in the selection of applicants: Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia and Bulgaria. Please contact your national training centre for more information if you would like to register from any of these countries.

If your country is not listed above please send your registration form via email directly to Andrea Dalmay at the OECD-GVH RCC (dalmay.andrea@gvh.hu).

One place will be reserved for one applicant from each EU Member State, but if free spaces remain these will be filled up irrespective of nationality. Applications will be judged on the basis of the individual applicant's work experience and judicial tasks, as well as on the group's composition as we would like to have a heterogeneous group in order to promote the exchange of ideas and experiences among participants.

Participants will be accommodated in a hotel in Budapest which will also serve as the seminar's venue. The event organisers will take care of the reservations and cover the costs of the accommodation for 3 nights on 15, 16, and 17 November 2018. Participants will be invited to a welcome dinner on 16 November and will receive lunch on 16 and 17 November.

Participants shall arrange their own travel and their travel costs (economy class) will be reimbursed by the event organisers after the seminar. The cost of local transportation (taxi, airport shuttle, public transport) and the cost of travel insurance will not be reimbursed.

Please note that a condition of reimbursement is actual participation in the entire seminar. If someone cannot participate for any reason whatsoever we cannot reimburse their costs.

The registration deadline is **04 October 2018**. Applicants will be informed by 10 October if their registration has been accepted.

Should you have any questions about the event, please contact Ms Andrea Dalmay (dalmay.andrea@gvh.hu, phone: +36-1-472-8880).

Please forward this announcement to your colleagues who may be interested in participating.