

Distinguished guests,

Dear partners,

I am honored to represent the National School of Clerks, Romania at this closing conference of the "European Judicial Training for Court Staff and Bailiffs" project, co-financed by the European Commission.

On behalf of the NSC I would like to take this chance to thank you all for your dedication and excellent collaboration we all had since 2017, when we have started implementing this training program.

During this whole period of time we've had an opportunity to gather feedback from the participants we've selected for the seminars and workshops organized by the project and I am happy to inform you that Romanian participants, both trainers and clerks, were very pleased with the results of the training sessions and pleased with the significant added value brought to their current and future work as a result of the training sessions. I hope that during this conference we all will have the chance of hearing some of these testimonies.

For the National School of Clerks the importance of the project resided in at least four key issues.

First, the project was the very first opportunity for Romanian clerks to take part in common training sessions with their peers from the other participant states, to exchange best practices and ideas, to identify common goals or issues related to EU law in their day-to-day professional tasks and to establish informal but very useful ways of professional networking. This opportunity was very well received by our clerks and there is much interest for further increasing the number of such training programs.

Secondly, I find the training of trainers component of the project of great importance for our institution. We will be definitely using the training materials and practical cases developed during the project in our future training activities. Also, as is at present NSC doesn't receive any specific funding for ToT activities, the project was a great opportunity for us to improve the skills of some of our trainers and to integrate new training methods and professional know-how in our programs.

Thirdly, I want to stress out the huge interest among Romanian court staff for the new modules uploaded on the EJM platform. At the end of last year we informed the courts about the e-learning component of the project and collected applications for registration on the platform and I was strongly impressed with the fact that more than 200 court clerks applied for access to the e-learning modules.

Fourthly, I think the project proved how much of an added value inter-professional training can be. NSC welcomed this opportunity for court staff to train together with bailiffs in areas of

common interest and I think we will further develop this at a national level, by continuing our collaboration with the National Institute of Magistracy and perhaps with other legal professions' training facilities – like lawyers or public notaries.

In conclusion, I think this project proved that the future of judicial training resides in combining traditional methods with new, digital, ones, like e-learning, in facilitating cross-border and inter-professional training opportunities, in establishing a network of cooperation and exchange among the judicial training institutions across European Union. That is why I think we should all take this opportunity not only to evaluate the results of this particular project, but to use them for identifying new ways of cooperation and coordination in order to achieve our common goal of serving in the best way we can our national judiciary.

Thank you all and I wish you an interesting and fruitful final conference.