ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTION: **Transnational Training Workshop "Towards Effective Justice in Consumer Protection", Warsaw, 19-20 June 2017**

The selection of participants for the Transnational Training Workshop "Towards Effective Justice in Consumer Protection", which will be held in Warsaw on 19-20 June 2017, is hereby announced.

On the Re-Jus Project

The Transnational Training Workshop "Towards Effective Justice in Consumer Protection" (hereinafter: the Workshop) is part of the Project ***Roadmap to European effective justice (RE-Jus): Judicial training ensuring effective redress to fundamental rights violations***. The Project, which is co-funded by the European Commission – Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, offers training to national judges and other legal practitioners on the enforcement of fundamental rights within the European Union.

More specifically, the Project aims to strengthen enforcers' awareness of the scope of application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; of the techniques of judicial dialogue between the EU and national courts; of the relevance of the EU principles of effectiveness, proportionality, and dissuasiveness for the choice made by judges and other enforcing authorities in respect of procedures and remedies to address violation of fundamental rights.

The Project will focus on three areas of law in particular: migration, consumer rights, and data protection.

The Project is coordinated by the University of Trento (Italy) and can rely on the expertise of nine more **partners** from across the EU: the University of Versailles (France); the Polish Institute of Legal Studies of the Academy of Science (Poland); the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands); and the Schools for the Judiciary of Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain.

Subject and aims of the Workshop

The Workshop aims to provide national judges and other legal practitioners with clear guidelines on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (mainly art. 38 on consumer protection and art. 47 on the right to an effective remedy and to a fair trial) and on the application of the EU principles of effectiveness, proportionality and dissuasiveness in the area of consumer protection.

The Workshop will focus on the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union in setting these principles and on the tasks of national courts in their application to consumer cases. The Workshop will also provide guidelines on the possible modes of cooperation between judicial and administrative enforcing authorities in the light of the principles of effectiveness, proportionality and dissuasiveness.

By gathering practitioners from the widest possible range of EU Member States, the Workshop aims to promote a **mutual learning process** whereby participants contribute to identify relevant issues to be addressed and are enabled to share experiences and best practices in the interpretation and application of EU law. The active participation of attendees will thus be essential for a fruitful conduct of the Workshop not only in the course of this training initiative but also during its preparation and follow-on, with special regard to the identification of national interpretative practices and judgments which may be of interest for the training.

Duration and venue of the Workshop

Warsaw, 19-20 June 2017.

The Workshop will last one day and a half, starting at 9 a.m. of Monday the 19th of June and ending at 1 p.m. of Tuesday the 20th.

Participants in the Workshop

The Workshop will host 40 among judges and other legal practitioners (particularly: officials of consumer protection authorities and members of alternative dispute resolution bodies), who will be selected through comparative assessment procedures.

The Schools for Magistracy of Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain and the Project Partners from France, the Netherlands and Poland will each select 3 (three) participants through *ad hoc* procedures. Candidates from these countries are thus invited to consult the official channels of communication of their respective Schools/Institutions.

The present call is aimed at selecting **13 (thirteen) judges or other legal practitioners** (e.g., officials of administrative enforcing authorities, or of alternative dispute resolution bodies) with a priority for those coming from EU Member States who are not targeted by the just mentioned procedures. A waiting list of 13 more participants will be created.

Application

The deadline for the submission of the application is **28 February 2017.**

The application, including the documents mentioned below, shall be submitted to:

pietroantoniomessina@gmail.com

The following documents shall be attached to the application:

1) Curriculum vitae in English;
2) Proof of knowledge of English (e.g., language certificate, university studies in English, publications in English);

3) A short statement of purpose (motivation letter) outlining the candidate's specific reasons for applying to a Workshop on "Effective Justice in Consumer Protection" (please describe how your professional activity correlates to the workshop's field of interest and how you could both benefit from and contribute to the Re-Jus Project in this field).

Assessment of applications

Knowledge of and experience with the consumer protection and fundamental rights, as well as a very good knowledge of English, are essential preconditions for being selected.

The assessment of applications will also be based on the following criteria:

a) Balance in terms of gender, age, and nationality;
b) Diversity of judicial competences: the call is open to civil, administrative, and criminal judges; in addition to judges, a minority of public prosecutors or state attorneys may be selected, especially for topics in which they can meaningfully contribute;
c) Balance in the judicial hierarchy: both higher and lower instance courts shall be represented among selected participants;
d) Inclusion of non-judicial enforcers: the participation of officials from independent regulatory authorities and from other non-judicial enforcement mechanisms will be sought
e) Single participation within the same Training Project (RE-Jus): in principle, no participant can take part in more than one Workshop among those offered within the RE-Jus Project. In exceptional cases, deviations are subject to express and prior permission of the Coordinating Unit (University of Trento)

Candidates will be notified about the result of the selection process within two weeks from the closing date of the application procedure.

Commitments of participants

If selected, candidates shall commit to take part in all sessions of the Workshop and to prepare for the Workshop by reading the relevant materials in advance. During the Workshop, they are expected to actively engage in the discussion and share their knowledge and experience with the rest of the group.

Additionally, participants will be involved both prior to and following the Workshop with a view to actively contributing, on the basis of their experience at national level, to the development of the outputs of the Re-Jus Project: i.e., an online Database on EU and national case-law; Case-books on the enforcement of fundamental rights and access to effective justice; and Guidelines on the choice of procedures and remedies under the principles of effectiveness, proportionality, and dissuasiveness.