

Joint Seminar

EU Family Law

12-13 November 2026

Organized for

the Albanian School of Magistrates
the Albanian Ministry of Justice



Luxembourg Technical Assistance Programme for Albania
Supporting Administrative and Judicial Efficiency and Professionalism

the Kosovo Academy of Justice



Luxembourg Technical Assistance Programme for Kosovo
Capacity Building for EU Legal Approximation and Judicial Reform

the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors Pavel Shatev (AJPP)



the Ministry of Justice



Luxembourg Technical Assistance Programme for North Macedonia
Assisting the Governance and Rule of Law Reforms imposed by EU Accession

for the National Institute of Justice



Luxembourg Technical Assistance Programme for Moldova
Supporting Legal and Institutional Reforms required by Candidate Country Status

for the National School of Judges



Luxembourg Technical Assistance Programme for Ukraine
Supporting Legal and Institutional Reforms required by Candidate Country Status

This training is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,
Defence, Cooperation and Foreign Trade of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Venue:  Zoom Link: [Join Meeting](#)  Meeting ID: 860 3362 2229  Passcode: 002900

Programme (All times are given in Luxembourg time (CET/CEST))

Objectives: The aim is to strengthen participants' understanding of the **EU framework for judicial cooperation in cross-border family matters**, including its interaction with national family law systems and its relevance for EU candidate countries preparing for accession.

More specifically, participants will:

- **understand the scope and practical application** of the main EU instruments governing cross-border family matters, including divorce and legal separation, parental responsibility and international child abduction, maintenance obligations, and the property regimes of married couples and registered partners;
- **identify and assess the challenges arising from differences between national family law concepts**, and understand how these differences may affect the application and interpretation of EU instruments;
- **examine the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union** in developing an autonomous and consistent interpretation of key concepts of EU family law, including the use of language, context and purpose in its case-law;
- **apply the relevant EU framework to practical cross-border situations**, drawing on the case-law of the Court of Justice; and
- **gain an overview of emerging EU developments** concerning the recognition of parenthood, personal status and the cross-border protection of adults, and their potential implications for future judicial cooperation.

Target group: Judges, prosecutors and other legal practitioners involved in cross-border family matters, as well as trainers and judicial training specialists responsible for the design and delivery of initial and continuous judicial training, and **officials from Ministries of Justice** working on judicial cooperation in civil and family matters and related EU accession issues.

Method: Expert presentations, interactive discussions and case studies, drawing on relevant jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Prof. Nadia Rusinova, The Hague University, International and European Law Department

EIPA Luxembourg – European Centre for Judges and Lawyers

Dr. Cristina M. Mariottini, Expert, c.mariottini@eipa.eu

Christiane Lamesch, Senior Project Management Officer, Manager Luxembourg Programme Organisation Department, c.lamesch@eipa.eu

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2026

08.30 Login of participants

09.00 Opening remarks

Representative from the Albanian School of Magistrates

Representative from the Ministry of Justice, Albania

Representative from the Kosovo Academy of Justice

Representative from the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors Pavel Shatev

Representative from the Ministry of Justice, North Macedonia

Representative from the National Institute of Justice, Moldova

Representative from the National School of Judges, Ukraine

09.30 Welcome and introduction to EU Judicial Cooperation in Family Law

Dr. Cristina M. Mariottini, Prof. Nadia Rusinova

- 09.45 The Brussels II-ter and the Rome III Regulation Regulations on divorce**
This session focuses on the Brussels II-ter Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1111) and the Rome III Regulation (Regulation (EU) 1259/2010), two key EU instruments governing divorce and legal separation in cross-border cases. Brussels II-ter regulates jurisdiction, as well as the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matrimonial and parental responsibility matters, enhancing procedural efficiency and strengthening child protection. Rome III establishes uniform conflict-of-law rules, enabling spouses to choose the applicable law in divorce and legal separation cases, thereby promoting legal certainty and predictability across Member States.
Prof. Nadia Rusinova
- 10.30 Q&A**
- 10.45 Break**
- 11.00 The Brussels II-ter Regulation: Parental responsibility and international child abduction**
This session focuses on the Brussels II-ter Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1111), which strengthens the legal framework for parental responsibility and international child abduction in cross-border cases. The Regulation enhances cooperation between Member States, streamlines procedures for the recognition and enforcement of decisions, and upholds the best interests of the child as a guiding principle. Additionally, the regulation reinforces safeguards in international child abduction cases, ensuring swift and effective resolutions in alignment with the 1980 Hague Convention.
Prof. Nadia Rusinova
- 11.45 Q&A**
- 12.00 Break**
- 12.15 The EU Regulation on Maintenance Obligations**
This session focuses on the EU Regulation on Maintenance Obligations (Regulation (EC) No 4/2009), which establishes a comprehensive legal framework for recognition, enforcement, and cooperation in cross-border maintenance claims within the EU. The regulation aims to ensure efficient, swift, and uniform procedures for creditors seeking financial support, particularly children and vulnerable family members. By facilitating the free circulation of maintenance decisions and enhancing cooperation between national authorities, this Regulation strengthens the protection of maintenance creditors and ensures effective access to justice across Member States.
Dr. Cristina M. Mariottini
- 13.00 Q&A**
- 13.15 Lunch break**
- 14.15 The EU Regulations on the property regime for international legalised couples**
This session focuses on the EU Regulations on the Property Regime for International Legalised Couples, the Matrimonial Property Regime Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1103) and the Registered Partnerships Property Regime Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1104). These instruments establish clear rules on jurisdiction, applicable law, and the recognition and enforcement of decisions regarding the property regimes of cross-border marriages and registered partnerships. By promoting legal certainty and ensuring uniform procedures across Member States, these Regulations facilitate the effective management and division of assets for international legalised couples, enhancing legal clarity and predictability.
Dr. Cristina M. Mariottini
- 15.00 Q&A**
- 15.15 End of Day 1**

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026

08.30 Login of participants

09.00 **Case study on the EU instruments on family matters**
Prof. Nadia Rusinova

10.00 **Q&A**

10.15 Break

10.30 **EU Family Law: Language, Terminology and Interpretation**
Drawing on the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, this session explores how key terms in EU instruments acquire an **autonomous EU meaning**, rather than simply taking their meaning from one national legal system. Participants will examine how the Court compares language versions and reads provisions in their context and in light of their purpose. Through concrete cases, the session will show why these methods matter: they allow EU rules to operate consistently across borders, even where national family law concepts differ.
Dr. Cristina M. Mariottini

11.15 **Q&A**

11.30 Break

11.45 **Emerging EU Frameworks for Cross-Border Family**
The closing session examines emerging EU initiatives concerning family relationships and personal status, with a focus on the recognition of parenthood and the cross-border protection of adults. It considers the problems these initiatives seek to address, the questions still under discussion, and their potential implications for families, practitioners and national authorities. Participants will leave with a clearer view of how these developments could shape future judicial cooperation.
Prof. Nadia Rusinova

12.30 **Q&A**

12.45 **Family matters and EU Digitalisation of Justice**
This presentation explores how the EU framework for the digitalisation of justice supports judicial cooperation in cross-border family matters. It examines the role of Regulation (EU) 2023/2844 and e-CODEX in facilitating communication between competent authorities and access to judicial procedures. Particular attention is given to the opportunities and challenges arising in cases involving parental responsibility, maintenance and international child abduction.

13.30 **Q&A**

13.45 **Conclusions and evaluation**

14.00 **END OF SEMINAR**