



Regional DigiJust Vision Report

VR-DigiJust Project

Digitalising Justice via combined Virtual Reality Training



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Table of Contents

1. Change Control	- 5 -
1.1 Document Properties	- 5 -
1.2 Revision History	- 5 -
1.3 Table of Acronyms	- 6 -
1.4 Table of Figures	- 7 -
2. Executive Summary	- 8 -
3. Deliverable positioning	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
4. Background of the Vision Report	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
5. The EU Judicial Metaverse: A Vision beyond-the-state-of-the-art (BSOTA).	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
6. Preparatory Work: Selection of the Training Designers and Trainees	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
7. The Training Catalogue	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.
7.1 Training Contents in relation to Target Groups.....	- 12 -
7.2 Geographic coverage.....	- 16 -
8. Conclusions	- 17 -
9. References	Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.

1. Change Control

1.1 Document Properties

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1.2 Revision History

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1.0	20 th of October 2023	
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1.3 Table of Acronyms

Art.	Article
CJEU	Court of Justice of the EU
CoP(s)	Communities of Practice
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
VR	Virtual Reality

1.4 Table of Figures

- Figure 1 “European Judicial Training 2021”, pg. 7
- Figure 2 Gaps and Needs – Breakdown by instruments of penal cooperation
- Figure 3 Gaps and Needs- Breakdown by Professions- training contents
- Figure 4 Gaps and Needs for Training Providers

2. Executive Summary

Objective of this deliverable is the presentation of the VR DigiJust vision for the continuation of the project during WP4.

This vision is based on a detailed data analysis of the research done in WP2 and WP3 aiming at generating an insightful vision for the future evolution of justice training and exploring beyond-the-state-of-the-art (BSOTA) training technologies.

3. Deliverable positioning

The Regional DigiJust Vision is the result of the qualitative research component of the COPs developed within WP2 in the partner countries (Task 2.3).

The needs emerged during the COPs meetings have been analysed using hermeneutical methods (multi-actors content analysis) combined with policy documents at EU level, so that the different topics provided us with insights and perspectives from the different actors of the judicial environments with an EU view.

The outcomes of the empirical research have been presented in several e-Capsule Reports (D 2.5: “Models of integration and sequencing of diverse EU judicial tools within a single investigation with interregional links”) used as basis for the future training material in WP4.

The e-Capsule Reports are now part of the targeted dissemination activities in WP5.

4. Background of the Vision Report

The CoPs showed that regional and national judicial authorities, as well as justice practitioners in their specific jurisdictions and functions, are facing new challenges in the field of EU criminal law.

* **Firstly**, the evolution and implementation of EU Regulations, Framework Decisions and Directives in the penal area have generated complex and diverse processes of adaptation of the domestic laws and procedures, which are requiring continuous training for all legal practitioners involved.

The differences in dates and level of implementation, judicial authorities involved in the issuing and execution of very diverse custodial and non-custodial measures and judgments, reasons for non-and/or-partial recognition of judgements, bureaucratic requirements, deficiencies in the compilation of certificates, costs and centralized and decentralized approaches/competences of the corresponding authorities may have a negative impact on the uniform and efficient application of EU law.

* **Secondly**, the evolution of technologies and digitalisation increasingly influences every aspect of the penal proceedings and trials, from investigations (use of digital evidences provided from interception, trojan-horse like platforms, encryption, forensic science and body-worn-cameras, etc.), adoption and adaptation of surveillance measures (as in the case of electronic tags or house arrest), to the growing use of artificial intelligence in scraping and analysing complex multi- and supranational jurisprudence, composing judgements, translating documents, elaborating and correlating big data, acquiring and exchanging sensitive and secure information through different platforms.

* **Thirdly**, the level of participation in continuous training still differs considerably professionally and geographically across Member States. Relevant knowledge gaps have been identified by the “EU Judicial Training Strategy for 2021-2024” (COM 2020 713 Final), that need to be addressed with a new round of continuous training activities and innovative solutions to contribute to reach the qualitative

and quantitative objective set by the EC for 2024. Innovation in training methodology through a dedicated Metaverse and VR-B-Learning solutions is the first added value of the VR DigiJust vision.

Therefore, we need to address the emerging request to adopt new training models, developing, testing, validating and delivering an innovative, flexible, modular and adaptive BSOTA JUSTICE METAVERSE as response to emerging cross-border EU law training needs for continuous training, with the final aim of contributing to strengthen the correct and uniform application of EU law, helping to develop a more uniform EU area of justice, building mutual trust in cross-border judicial proceedings between (and among) MS and WB judicial authorities.

In this context the VR DigiJust vision contributes to further implement the new quantitative and qualitative objectives set by the European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024.

This is done through the creation of a new JUSTICE METAVERSE, as an innovative tool to design and deliver immersive contents and exercises with a participative approach for justice professional on EU Law and deliver a comprehensive multi-agency and multilingual catalogue of continuing training courses tailored for each specific target group in all 25 eligible Member States.

This will contribute to a more effective and coherent application of EU law in the penal areas, compliant with fundamental rights, as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the rule of law related issues, by helping to address the training needs of justice professionals in these fields.

5. The EU Judicial Metaverse: A Vision beyond-the-state-of-the-art (BSOTA)

In line with the outcomes of the CoPs, the “EU Judicial Training Strategy for 2021-2024” opens the way for innovative tools in judicial training beyond-the-state-of-the-art (BSOTA).

As foreseen at pg. 9 of the “2021-2024 EU Strategy”, the VR DigiJust vision helps developing and piloting new approaches, making *“better use of new technologies to reach a wider audience and support the quality of training”*.

We implement this provision through the development of **a new model of virtual campus**, in form of a Justice Metaverse and new **VR-B-Learning contents**, infrastructures and tools, as described in WP3, combining face-to-face with web-based immersive online (synchronous and a-synchronous) training models and a new EU Virtual Training Centre for judicial exercises, equipped with a Virtual Court, investigative rooms reproducing Eurojust, with several instruments of judicial cooperation manageable virtually, avatars for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, courts staff and mediators, services for automated translation, text-to-speech/speech-to-text functions in 24 EU languages and tools for serious gaming.

The training contents will be available in different modalities:

- (1) face-to-face, through traditional online courses;
- (2) via an innovative 3-D web-based immersive platform with Oculus headsets and,
- (3) finally, through virtual interactive exercises (mock trials, investigations, widget operations such as submission of JITs to Eurojust, compilation of certificates, bureaucratic paper work for courts and prosecutors’ staff, defence and appeal acts by lawyers, etc.) developed in 2-D interactive gaming environments and experienced by computer-generated perceptual information, with widgets to

integrate mixed reality with virtual elements¹, including selection of the appropriate Executing Authorities for each FD, use of the right forms for specific judicial activities at transnational levels, and other exercises based on serious gaming adapted for the judicial training.

6. Preparatory Work: Selection of the Training Designers and Trainees

The preliminary step of this activity is the selection of 15 trainers among the partners countries.

They will contribute to design the power points of all training courses in 3 preparatory training sessions with a regional outreach. They can be staff of the partners, trainers of other training organisations or individuals selected for their expertise and competence distributed among the Networks' participants. For the selection criteria, gender-based equality and principles of non-discrimination will be granted as well as an equal proportion between justice trainers, judges, prosecutors, court staff and lawyers and proportional distribution among the regional partners & genders.

The 3 preparatory meetings will focus on the following Learning Objects (LO):

LO1 Comprehension: Identify the characteristics of adult learning and "Knowles' andragogy" in justice. Prioritise the goal-oriented model.

LO2 Discussion: How training for justice should respond to changes in wider environment (health-care, political, economic, social and technological development) and their impact on security and justice and how to innovate trainers approach based on experience from private sector by motivating the judicial staff in complex investigations and trials; be consistent with the 'Justice ethics' and the justice micro-languages. Formulate communicative strategies in writing learning outcomes to avoid bias, discrimination and abuse; inclusive teaching and learning approaches in education and training; ways to create an inclusive teaching and learning environment; planning and delivering gender-based inclusive teaching and learning.

LO3 Planning Cascade Courses for prosecutors, judges and lawyers using a peer approach and different training delivery methodologies. LO3.1 Compare effectiveness, consistency, and sustainability of LMS tools. LO3.2 Learn how to use the Hermes campus to recruit trainees, manage cascade courses, iSpring software to adapt contents and LMS features to integrate learning material. LO3.3 Learn how to integrate the Hermes platform into the VR environments; exploit the VR tools in single and multiplayer to create avataring role playing, mock trials and investigations, serious gaming and other justice exercises.

LO4 Assessment. Learn how to use the four major approaches suggested by Kirkpatrick, to gauge the organisation's training needs. Compile a customise version of the Kirkpatrick's eleven approaches to determine the training needs for justice officers, the organisation's processes and supervisory behaviour in prosecuting and judgement, analysing the problems, supervisory actions, and performance appraisals and asking head of justice offices, and subordinates to gain information.

LO5 Practice: Design and Implement peer cascade courses for judges (1), prosecutors (2), lawyers (1) and prosecutors' staff (1), creating immersive scenarios for investigations and immersive mock trial, deploying, selecting, filling, issuing and executing in combination or sequence different EU tools (Reg.(EU) 2018/1805; Decision 2002/584/JHA (EAW); Directive 2014/41/EU (EIO); Reg.(EU) 2017/1939 (EPPO); Reg.(EU) 2016/679 (GDPR); Directive(EU) 2016/680 (Police Directive); FD 2002/584/JHA in relation to 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA and 2009/829/JHA and choosing the most appropriate

¹ EU Judicial Training Strategy for 2021-2024 (COM 2020 713 Final), pg. 9, footnote 35.

transnational cooperation model (bilateral, multilateral intrastate, with MSs and Third Countries, in cooperation with EU agencies, e.g. EPPO, Eurojust, OLAF, Europol, etc.).

The VR DigiJust vision covers continuous training needs for the whole chain of EU judicial actors and addresses 6 specific target groups:

Firstly, the level of “judgecraft”: judges of first and second instance, surveillance judges (responsible for the execution of convicted individuals), and judges of juvenile courts.

Secondly, level of investigative capabilities in the context of EU Law for Prosecutors of ordinary and district offices and EDPs (National EPPO delegates).

Thirdly, the bureaucratic level of the courts, prosecutor offices and Ministry of Justice² in EU law (Managing director, Chancellors, staff from the International Dept, Accountants, Linguistic officer, Officers of notifications, bailiff, Judicial operator of CIT and Investigations).

Fourthly, Lawyers and staff of the defence.

Fifthly, staff of the penal execution and penal mediation: Probation officers, prison officers, penal mediators in the pre-and-post trial phase, including juvenile mediators in proceedings involving minors.

Finally, a specific section of the project is dedicated to justice training providers, to adapt their competences to the new virtual environments and tools.

This choice is in line with the needs analysis elaborated by the Report “European Judicial Training 2021” which highlights the existing considerable differences in the level of participation in continuous training across Member States and the important differences among various justice professions. The ratio of practitioners participating in continuing training activities on EU law (as a proportion of practitioners by profession) is still low and far from the objectives set by the EC for 2024, as evidenced by Fig. 1:

- 26.39 % (21 809) of all EU judges;
- 20.43 % (7127) of all EU prosecutors;
or 24.62 % (28 936) of all EU judges and prosecutors;
- 8.91 % (16 185) of all EU court staff and prosecutors’ office staff in need of EU law training;
- 21.63 % (194 130) of all EU lawyers in private practice;
- 2.85 % (605) of all EU bailiffs; and
- 21.25 % (9 661) of all EU notaries.

(Fig. 1 “European Judicial Training 2021”, pg. 7)

In terms of needs, courts, and prosecutors’ staff (which includes bailiffs in our classification adapted to the partners’ institutions) have a priority in our vision for two reasons:

- (1) low level of participation to training activities in all MS and in the WB, and
- (2) high level of new recruitments in the partners countries between 2021-2023.

As noted by the 2021 Report, “EU law is not part of the educational portfolio for public officials/civil servants (T1/T2) who work in the national judicial system” (pg. 42). Italy has the highest rate of new recruited administrative staff thanks to the PNRR fund³, but unfortunately has one of the lowest rates

² The professional category of ‘Courts’ and Prosecutors’ staff’ is defined by EJTN-EIPA in the STUDY ON THE TRAINING NEEDS OF COURT STAFF ON EU LAW IN THE EU, June 2021, pg. 37-40 sgg. and in META JUSTICE this classification has been adapted to the job description in the partners countries.

³ In 2023 only, 5000 new staff will be engaged by the Italian Ministry of Justice. The number foreseen between 2023 and 2024 is 13.000 new staff. <https://www.dequo.it/articoli/concorsi-ministero-giustizia>

of training participation among the MSs⁴ for this professional category. Similarly, Belgium and Albania don't have training activities in this field and Germany is far below the threshold of 15%.

Therefore, continuous training for this category of new staff is urgent and necessary.

Lawyers are the second important profession in need of continuous training on EU law, even though in 2020-2021 more lawyers than ever before participated in EU law training. Lawyer still have a very low participation rate (21,63% of all participants) if compared with the 2024 EU target (*"By 2024, continuing training on EU law should reach yearly 15% of all EU lawyers... However, more than half of the Member States for which we received an answer did not reach the 15 % target"*)⁵.

The same situation concerns judges and prosecutors, who have been selected as training target because the objective set by the EU for 2024 is currently not reached by almost all MS (*"By 2024 continuing training on EU law should yearly reach 65% of judges and prosecutors"*)⁶. Percentage of training participation for both, lawyers in continuous training on EU law is below the set target of 15% (lawyers) in Belgium, Germany and Albania, while it is above in Italy. Judges and prosecutors are all below the set threshold of 65% in all partners' countries and member states.

7. The Training Catalogue

The Training Catalogue designed, developed, and delivered in cooperation with training providers of justice professions, justice professions' associations and judicial authorities doesn't want to reinvent the wheel.

We will leverage on, and upgrade in the new VR-B-Learning format and within the Justice Metaverse, previous contents available from Judicial Schools across Europe, different EU-funded projects, as well as training material from EJTN, CEP, Europris, ERA, EIPA, CEPOL and the new European Training Platform (ETP).

The training catalogue, tailored for the needs of each training professional is articulated in modular courses and training e-capsules focusing on the judicial instruments for cooperation in criminal law focusing on the following instruments of judicial cooperation:

Group 1: Framework Decisions 2009/829/JHA, 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA,

Group 2: FD 2002/584/JHA, Regulation (EU) 2018/1805; Council Regulation 2017/1939, Regulation, Council Regulation 2017/1939 and the Directive 2014/41/EU

Group 3: Interaction of the diverse instruments of judicial cooperation with the 6 Directives of the Stockholm's Roadmap, or specific modules on hate speech and hate crime

All topics in the 3 groups will include the case law of the European Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Moreover, the catalogue will contain a specialized focus, as highlighted by the e-Capsule Reports on the judicial impact generated by the evolution of investigative technologies in the light of recent international judicial cases (Enchrochat, Sky ECC, etc.) and the use of proactive investigative tools (especially trojan-horse like platforms), framed within the jurisprudence on Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive (EU) 2016/680.

7.1 Training Contents in relation to Target Groups

⁴ European Judicial Training 2021, pgg.18-21.

⁵ European Judicial Training 2021, pg.14

⁶ European Judicial Training 2021, pg. 8

In this part, we analyse the needs at the centre of the VR DigiJust vision resulting from the CoPs, consolidated institutional analysis and needs assessments:

Almost all the EU Member States have now formally transposed the FD 2002/584/JHA, 2009/829/JHA, 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA, Regulation (EU) 2018/1805; Council Regulation 2017/1939, Regulation, Council Regulation 2017/1939 the 6 Directives of the Stockholm’s Roadmap, hate speech and hate crime provisions⁷ and the Directive 2014/41/EU.

Nonetheless, the fact of being transposed into the national legislation does not automatically indicate that these instruments of judicial cooperation are being used correctly and effectively in practice. Moreover, the level of implementation varies greatly among countries and professions. As an example, 2009/829/JHA and 2008/947/JHA are rarely used in Europe, as highlighted by the 9th Round of Mutual Evaluation (13205/1/22REV1)⁸. Therefore, this Vision contributes to improve the use of these instruments, through the gap analysis which is the basis to assess the needs for the development of enhanced knowledge and skills for each instrument, in relation to the specific competences of justice professionals.

In Fig.2 we highlight the existing gaps in relation to the judicial instruments and how they have been assessed (source) during the CoPs:

Instrument	Needs Assessments and Gaps in relation to the judicial instruments	Source
FD 2002/584/JHA and 2008/909/JHA	<p>For EAW some grounds for refusal that in several Member States are optional, while they remain mandatory in others. Recurrent issues remain concerning the application of the proportionality principle. Following the cases C-404/15 Aranyosi and Caldaru and C-120/18 ML and C-128/18 Dorobantu, the problem of detention conditions, including overcrowding, needs more knowledge for the application. The role of prosecutors as judiciary authority has been successfully challenged by lawyers.</p> <p>For 909 gaps stem from the differences between legal systems, such as: the incompatibility of some measures with the law of the executing Member State; the different criteria and methods used by each Member State to calculate the final sentence; and the application of the principle of aggregation of penalties imposed and compliance with the deadlines set out in this FD.</p>	Council, 4 th Round (ST 8302/4/2009) and 9 th round of mutual evaluation (13205/1/22)
2008/947/JHA and 2009/829/JHA	<p>“There is a significant lack of application of FD 2008/947/JHA and 2009/829/JHA”. The gap analysis mentions several common reasons: lack of awareness and knowledge among practitioners, complexity and length of the proceedings, low number of cases with cross-border implications. “More specifically, the lack of use in case of FD 2008/947/JHA lies mostly with the significant differences between national systems regarding the nature and duration of the applicable probation and alternative measures. For FD 2009/829/JHA, the rare application is usually linked to the difficulty in identifying cases where it would be effective and appropriate to issue a ESO as it does necessary fit the purposes of the criminal procedure.”</p>	Council, 9 th round of mutual evaluation (13205/1/22), pg. 8
EIO Directive, and 2000 MLA Convention	<p>Eurojust states (Report, pg.3) that “the EIO is not yet functioning as a well-oiled machine”. The Eurojust Case 67795 identified the following operational gaps: “At EU level, there is no explicit regulation of certain surveillance measures (e.g. bugging of a car, GPS tracking or surveillance through a Trojan-horse-like device or audio surveillance in private places) and no uniform interpretation of the terms ‘surveillance’ or ‘interception of telecommunication’.” A second series of issues follows from differences in national legal provisions and technical standards on the interception of telecommunication. In this regard, Eurojust’s casework raises inter alia the following issues: • Duration of the interception in the respective Member</p>	Report on Eurojust’s casework in the field of the EIO; and Eurojust, Operational Topic on Interception of telecommunications -ID 67795, dated 12.05.2022

⁷ (COM(2021) 777 final), A more inclusive and protective Europe: extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime

⁸ Council of the EU, Final report on the 9th round of mutual evaluations on Mutual recognition legal instruments in the field of deprivation or restriction of liberty.

	States/countries (time frames and possibilities of an extension). • Technical possibilities to channel the intercepted conversations in real-time to the issuing authority (in accordance with Article 30(6) EIO Directive for EU Member States). Moreover, following procedural and legal gaps have been highlighted: Bridging differences between national legal systems. Ensuring a correct and restrictive interpretation of the grounds for non-execution. Speeding up the execution of EIOs. Facilitating direct contact and exchange of information between issuing and executing authorities. Addressing language issues. Encouraging the use of Annexes B and C	
Regulation (EU) 2018/1805	The regulation is relatively new and therefore there is the need to raise awareness among MS and judicial practitioners on its use. There are three main gaps identified: interaction with EIO only in case of confiscation orders; differentiate approaches among MS: in some countries the Reg is centralized, while in other is direct, decentralized. Therefore, freezing activities which must be coordinated at EU level, risk of being delayed for bureaucratic reasons. Finally, lawyers have challenged Recital 14 of the Regulation, highlighting the risk that the lack of a threshold on applicable criminal offence paved the way to unjustified and disproportionate preventive and security measures.	Eurojust, Note on the Regulation (EU) 2018/1805 on the mutual recognition of freezing orders and confiscation orders,
Directive 2010/64/EU, Directive 2012/13/EU, Directive 2013/48/EU, Directive 2016/800, Directive (EU) 2016/343, Directive 2016/1919 (herewith mentioned as 'Stockholm's Roadmap')	The Directives are still not implemented by all Member States. The European Judicial Network (EJN) shows that these Directives present several gaps in their national implementation. ECBA suggests a new roadmap for a more effective implementation of the Stockholm's Roadmap aiming at taking further action at EU level to strengthen procedural rights of suspected or accused persons. In this recommendation, the ECBA suggests taking measures regarding pre-trial detention and the EAW, with a focus on the correct use of Art.12, procedural rights in trial, public statements by authorities and improper links with journalists and press, criteria for exclusion of evidence, witnesses' rights and confiscatory bans, conflicts of jurisdiction and ne bis in idem, remedies and appeal, and compensation.	Riehle, Cornelia-Clozel, Allison, 10 years after the roadmap: procedural rights in criminal proceedings in the EU today, ERA Forum 2020; ECBA Initiative 2017/2018, "Agenda 2020: A new Roadmap on minimum standards of certain procedural safeguards", Journal of European Criminal Law

(Fig. 2 – Gaps and Needs – Breakdown by instruments of penal cooperation)

In line with the needs assessed during the CoPs and compliant with EJM/EJTN/ERA and the EU Judicial Strategy 2024, pg. 4-8, the following needs are identified for each profession as contents for continuous training:

Professionals	Needs Assessment and Gaps in relation to professions
Judges of first and second instance, including juvenile judges and Supreme Court of Cassation	Continuous training on Judecraft to develop competences on EU Law and judicial cooperation, including the formation of issuing and receiving judgements and appeals connected to all trans-European penal proceedings, implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in penal matters. Focus on FD 2002/584/JHA received from issuing states and/or proposed by national prosecutors; receiving requests and appeals for Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA, FD 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA and extradition requests; Respect of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 in the penal proceedings; decisions concerning respect of the 6 Directives of the Stockholm's Roadmap, fundamental rights, rule of the law, double criminality, ne bis in idem, and reasons for rejection of decisions in EU transnational penal cooperation (and cooperation with third countries). Competences and skills in EU comparative law from the CJEU, ECtHR; use and management of the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI), e-Justice, Judicial Atlas and EJN tools. Analysis and critical elements of AI applications as support for Judecraft. Legal topics for judges will include 'training-capsules' on judicial conduct, resilience, unconscious bias, gender-based discrimination in justice, case and courtroom management, and leadership.

D2.6 Regional DigiJust Vision Report

Surveillance Judges	Continuous training on Judecraft to develop competences connected to FD 2008/909/JHA, 2008/947/JHA and measures on restorative justice and mediation in pre-and-post trials. Knowledge on the existing custodial and non-custodial measures among Member States and skills to adapt measures received from issuing countries to the national legislation for the execution of sentences. Competences to acquire transnational security and socio-economic information for judgements concerning FD 2008/909/JHA and 2008/947/JHA and on surveillance measures concerning the respect of the measures assigned by the issuing authorities. Specific Focus on house arrests, electronic tags and semi-liberties in the MSs and how to adapt these alternative measures. Legal topics for surveillance judges will include 'training e-capsules' on judicial conduct in relation to prisons, resilience in front of public bias against alternative measures to detention ordered by surveillance judges, unconscious bias and gender-based discrimination in justice, case and courtroom management, and leadership.
Ordinary, District and General Prosecutors, including EDPs	Continuous training on the measures connected to FD 2002/584/JHA, Directive 2014/41/EU, Regulation (EU) 2018/1805; Council Regulation 2017/1939; Directive (EU) 2016/680, Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA and knowledge on the existing non-custodial measures among Member States, developing skills to adapt alternative measures to detention to the national legislation. Develop competences on the implementation of Functioning of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Treaties or other Treaties containing provisions on MLA with third States (e.g. EU-US MLA Agreement, Budapest Cybercrime Convention and its Second Additional Protocol), including on respect to the exchange of electronic data as e-evidences. Knowledge, skills and competences for the cooperation with Eurojust, Europol and Interpol, specifically on the deployment of JITs; Management of the Sirius Platform and the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System (e-EDES), Eurojust's case management system (CMS). Potential conflicts of competences, attributions and jurisdiction between national prosecutors and EDPs for specific crimes. Specific focus on digital evidences produced through new technologies, such as trojan-horse like platforms and advanced hacking operations (Enchrochat, Sky ECC, etc.). Legal topics for judges will include 'training e-capsules' on prosecuting conducts, resilience, unconscious bias, gender-based discrimination in justice, case management, and leadership.
Managing director, staff from the International Dept, Accountants, Linguistic officer, Officers of notifications, Bailiff, Judicial operator of CIT and Investigations	Continuous training for the bureaucratic preparation of files and administrative documents for prosecution, trail and execution of measures ordered by the competent prosecutors and judges; codification of draft certificates and Annexes of the different FDs and communication with the competent offices in the executing state, under the supervision of judges and prosecutors; Methodologies and tools for the translation of documents; Training on public procurement procedures; models of communication forms with the central authorities (Ministry of Justice) for the forwarding and the receiving of the judgments, statistical data together with the certificates; management of the drafts of the subsequent forwarding or receiving supplementary requests of information under the judicial supervision of judges and prosecutors; preparation of the consent declarations; Use of the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System (e-EDES); preparation of draft documentation and project draft for the cooperation with Eurojust, Europol and Interpol; Management and correct storage of e-evidences in the respect of forensic chain and security; Methods for the allocation of budget connected to the judicial decisions. Procedures for the notification of legal acts in the framework of actions of pan-European judicial cooperation. Organisation of judicial training courses and dissemination of knowledge among peer officers and staff. Gender-based discrimination and unconscious bias will be a specific focus.
Lawyers	Continuous training on the Stockholm's Roadmap; Develop competences and skills for an improved use of alternative measures to detention (Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA, 2008/947/JHA) and support convicted prisoners in the execution of custodial sentences in their country of origin (FD 2008/909/JHA). Improve knowledge and skills to appeal national and transnational decisions and judgements, at national and EU levels, based on enhanced respect for the fundamental rights of the defendants, rule of the law, double criminality, ne bis in idem, and exploring reasons for rejection based on the EU comparative jurisprudence from the CJEU and ECtHR, 'soft laws' and Recommendations and Guidelines provided by ECBA, EJTN, Europris, CEP and other networks. Improve competences in the field of digital evidences in the framework of the 'Police Directive', 'GDPR' and the European jurisprudence on this very specific topic.
Probation officers, prison officers, mediators	Raising awareness on the use of Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA, 2008/947/JHA and FD 2008/909/JHA. Improve multi-agency information exchange on the socio-economic status of prisoners and probationers at transnational level. Gender-based discrimination in prison, including LGBT-Q, and communication styles based on equal treatment is one of the focuses.
Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers in the WBs	Training on the EU acquis on the rule of law and fundamental rights, as set out in the EU Treaties and Charter of Fundamental Rights; Develop competences on the implementation of Functioning of Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Treaties or other Treaties containing provisions on MLA with third States (e.g. Budapest Cybercrime Convention and its Second Additional

	Protocol), including on respect to the exchange of electronic data as e-evidences. Develop competences and skills for the judicial cooperation with EU Agencies through ILO representatives and Eurojust national desks. Establish informal networks with judges and prosecutors in the MSs (grassroots approach).
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(fig. 3 Gaps and Needs- Breakdown by Professions- training contents)

Therefore, in addition to the training for the six professions identified in the needs assessment above (fig.3), we have the visionary ambition to provide highly specialized training of the trainers for all EU training providers on the new job descriptions required by the METAVERSE for the designing of immersive contents using a variety of technologies, as described in Fig.4 below, to activate a multiplayer mechanism and contribute to the ‘snowball effect’ for the transition from 2D to 3D internet in the training methodologies:

Coordinators, tutors, trainers assessors from EJTN, ECBA, EIPA, ERA, CEPOL, CEP, Europris and other public and private training providers	Training on the METAVERSE management for the delivery of courses. The VR platforms (e.g. Unreal, iClone, Character Creator, Blender, MURF Studio AI, etc.) and their hardware infrastructure (Servers, Headsets, gaming computers); technical troubleshooting in A/XR; User Design/Interface skills and 3D modelling. Virtual Coordination and Tutoring Planning of the virtual courses linked with immersive platforms and face-to-face lessons. Access to 3D libraries to organize and deliver courses. New immersive role playing: <u>Training on avataring and gender strategies as a new form of immersive role-playing.</u>
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(fig. 4 Gaps and Needs for Training Providers)

7.2 Geographic coverage

In our vision the Justice Metaverse covers all Member States (with the exclusion of Denmark) and offers also an added value integrating practitioners from the 6 Western Balkan States as required by the 2024 EU Strategy.

We highlight that the decision to extend the participation of justice professionals from the Western Balkans region in cross-border judicial training is also in line with the provision of the “EU Judicial Training Strategy for 2021-2024” (COM 2020 713 Final, pg.13) and contributes to implement a set of policy decisions of the EC⁹.

This ADDED VALUE of this vision has the very specific objective of familiarising judicial cultures and practices with a cross-border view, in order to improve the functioning of cross-border justice systems, focusing on training on the rule of law acquis, promoting democracy, the rule of law, fair trials, and respect for fundamental rights to prepare for EU accession.

8. Conclusion

The evolution of technologies for the digitalisation and ‘digitisation’ of the justice sectors, combined with the multi-agency approach and the ‘regionalisation’ or ‘decentralisation’ of the new EU models of justice cooperation represent a challenge for the whole justice system at national and EU levels and the VR DigiJust project is a pioneer in addressing this very difficult task with a new BSOTA approach.

The VR DigiJust vision represents the visionary conceptualisation of a new model of justice training, based on the exploitation of advanced and innovative VR-B-Learning training model, in the framework of the existing online delivery services and combined with traditional classroom face-to-face lessons.

⁹ Joint Communication, Review of the European neighbourhood policy (JOIN(2015) 50 final); Eastern partnership policy beyond 2020: Reinforcing resilience — an eastern partnership that delivers for all (JOIN(2020) 7 final); Commission Communication, Enhancing the accession process — a credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans (COM(2020) 57 final); Council conclusions on the enlargement and stabilisation and association process (7002/20).

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