



International Organization for Judicial Training

Preparing Judges for Complexity: Emerging Technologies, Transnational Crime and the Rule of Law

**IOJT Conference 2026, Bordeaux, France
November 8-12, 2026**

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Deadline for return: **Friday 17TH April 2026**
iojt2026.enm@justice.fr

We are counting on your valuable contributions to fuel the discussions at this event.

Below are some suggestions for framing discussions and reflections, which we invite you to use as inspiration for your presentation.

You are invited to consult the program topics and submit your proposal to us by April 17, 2026.

The Conference Program Committee will review and select submissions, and get back to you by June 30, 2026.

Themes and avenues for reflection:

Conference Theme - Democracy and the rule of law in the face of two major dynamics:

- Threats and challenges:**

Judicial systems now operate in a world that has become more complex and more unstable. Two major developments shape this environment. On the one hand, transnational organized crime has expanded across borders, legal systems and jurisdictions, making judicial work longer, more fragmented and more demanding. On the other hand, artificial intelligence and digital technologies are changing the way cases are investigated, evidence is produced and decisions are expected to be made.

- Adaptation of the judicial role:**

These changes do not replace the role of judges, but they challenge how this role is exercised. The main issue for judicial training is therefore not technical

mastery, but adaptation. Judges must remain independent decision-makers, capable of understanding complex situations, working with specialized teams and protecting fundamental rights. This means that judicial training must evolve to help judges maintain their authority and legitimacy in this changing environment. By strengthening critical judgment, collective work and international cooperation, training institutions can ensure that judges continue to uphold the rule of law.

Key Topics:

Judicial roles are challenged by multiple global threats:

- ✓ Judicial systems now operate in a more complex and unstable world shaped by at least two major developments — the transnational expansion of organised crime and the widespread impact of digital technologies and AI on legal processes. These forces do not replace judges, but significantly alter how legal authority is exercised and how justice is administered.

Criminal threats demand specialised judicial responses:

- ✓ New forms of crime require specific judicial expertise : cybercrime, environmental crime, terrorism financing and money laundering.
- ✓ Cybercrime training, e-evidence, cross-border seizure and confiscation of online criminal assets is essential for effective judicial action.
- ✓ Regional judicial cooperation on cross-border crime is advancing operational capacities.

Emerging technologies reshape judicial practice and evidence handling:

- ✓ Capacity building on AI and digital justice is global and strategic.
- ✓ Training must address digital evidence, authenticity and privacy protection.
- ✓ The interface between AI and the ethical judge.

Digital sovereignty: data protection and confidentiality:

- ✓ International cooperation and shared learning sustain judicial authority.
- ✓ Networks of trainers and judicial cooperation platforms expand knowledge.
- ✓ Transnational training networks build mutual trust and harmonized standards.
- ✓ Exchange programs deepen practical understanding of other legal systems.

Underlying questions and issues

Responding to Global Threats:

- **Developing training modules on new forms of crime (cybercrime, environmental crime, terrorism financing):**

- ✓ *Specialization of magistrates in initial or continuing training to combat new forms of crime more effectively: should magistrates be specialized in these types of cases, and how can a useful specialization program be designed?*
- ✓ *The team around the magistrate – specialized assistants and other technical experts who are indispensable in these matters and who enable the magistrate to refocus on his or her duties: what profiles should be selected? What tasks can be entrusted to them ?*
- ✓ *The safety of magistrates – how can magistrates be made aware of the risks inherent in new and multifaceted threats (organized crime, terrorism) and how can they be protected (functional protection)?*
- ✓ *Cybercrime: how can magistrates be effectively trained in particularly technical litigation, the seizure of cryptocurrencies, and mutual legal assistance tools (in particular requests to foreign operators)?*
- ✓ *Environmental crime: what regional or national examples of effective regulatory frameworks and their training programs are there?*
- ✓ *Terrorist financing and the fight against money laundering: what measures have proven effective and how can magistrates be trained to use them in judicial investigations?*

- **The impact of emerging technologies (AI, big data, digital surveillance) in judicial practice:**
 - ✓ *AI as a decision-making aid in civil and criminal matters – what can we expect from AI, and what should we avoid entrusting to it?*
 - ✓ *Protecting the confidentiality of investigations and the privacy of litigants and magistrates when using AI to analyze proceedings – the need to rely on sovereign tools that protect data.*
- **Training judges in the critical analysis of digital evidence and the protection of fundamental rights in a rapidly evolving technological environment:**
 - ✓ *How can judges be made aware of the ethical issues surrounding AI and the protection of privacy rights?*
 - ✓ *How can judges be trained to assess the probative value of evidence in the age of AI (particularly the issue of authenticating evidence)?*

Concrete Tools for Cooperation among Judges:

- **Creating transnational training networks to share best practices and harmonize judicial responses:**
 - ✓ *Create and facilitate specialized cooperation networks to address global threats (organized crime, terrorism) – what role should judicial training schools play in initial and continuing training, what regional initiatives (e.g., thematic continuing training courses)?*

- ✓ *Better identify, seize, and confiscate criminal assets and property in cross-border proceedings—promote the role of agencies responsible for seizing, recovering, and managing criminal assets in training programs.*
- **Developing collaborative platforms for the exchange of experiences and case law:**
 - ✓ *Open data on court decisions and its use.*
- **Promoting mobility and exchange programs among magistrates to strengthen mutual trust and understanding of judicial systems:**
 - ✓ *How to consolidate regional networks of judicial training schools: joint training, cross-hosting; what are the prospects for the future?*
 - ✓ *Sharing experiences in bilateral exchanges, twinning, cross-hosting of magistrates in initial and continuing training.*

Ethics and professional conduct:

- **Integrating modules on judicial ethics, independence, and accountability into training:**
 - ✓ *Train magistrates in ethical and professional conduct principles, assess their skills in this area (during the selection process for the judiciary, initial training, and continuing education);*
 - ✓ *Review of IOJT activities and prospects—how can the universal Principles approved in 2017 continue to be disseminated and reaffirmed? How can activities be continued within the framework of the working groups?*
- **Promoting a judicial culture based on integrity, transparency, and social responsibility:**
 - ✓ *How can judges be trained in communication and made aware of citizens' expectations of them?*
 - ✓ *Communication by judicial training schools—their role in raising citizens' awareness of the ethical principles that underpin the legitimacy of judges.*
- **Debating the dilemmas posed by the use of AI in justice (predictive algorithms, bias, transparency):**
 - ✓ *How should the use of AI in the justice system be regulated? Which uses should be prohibited or regulated?*

Safeguarding the Rule of Law:

- **Considering the role of judges in society:**
 - ✓ *How can magistrates in training be made aware of the institutional and political challenges of their duties?*

Presentation guidelines:

Discussions will be structured around plenary sessions and workshops. The detailed program will be finalized after we receive your responses to this call for presentations.

Each session will last approximately 90 minutes, including 30 minutes for questions and discussion. This leaves around 20 minutes for each moderator and between 10 and 15 minutes for each panelist/speaker.

We encourage you to prepare presentations based on your professional experience, enriched with case studies where appropriate.

It is entirely possible to propose joint presentations.

Please note that simultaneous translation from French to English will only be provided during the plenary sessions. However, almost all of the workshops will be held in English, without translation. It is therefore strongly recommended that you plan to speak in English.

1. Delegate details:

First Name		
Last name		
Title (<i>to appear in print in the delegate handbook</i>) eg: Justice, Judge, Magistrate, Professor, Dr, Ms, Mr		
Court or Institution :		
Position (eg Chair, Director) :		
Postal address: /		
State:	Postcode:	Country:
Telephone Mobile:		
Email:		

2. Speaker biography:

Professional profile for a virtual delegate handbook (10-15 lines)	
	<i>Please insert your picture</i>

3. Abstract of your paper:

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4. Suggestions/proposals:

Please feel free to suggest other topics for discussion that we may not have proposed or to bring to our attention any information that you consider useful.

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Return via email to the following Email:

Email: iojt2026.enm@justice.fr

THANK YOU
