

# Comparison of legal aid systems in Europe

## Which standards for an effective legal aid?

Legal aid, as the provision of assistance to those unable to afford representation and access to the court system, is regarded as central in providing access to justice. It ensures equality before the law, the right to counsel to a fair trial.

Legal aid is therefore essential to guaranteeing equal access to justice for all, but the practical application of this guarantee differs from country to country.

The speakers of the colloque are working lawyers in European countries confronted in their professional experience with legal aid. They will discuss its functioning in the law and in the everyday praxis.

Through the presentation and analysis of these different national systems of legal aid, this initiative aims at exchanging strengths and weaknesses of the models and thus at elaborating minimal standards for legal aid. Legal aid, which can effectively provide assistance for those in need.

15h00: Introduction, by H el ene DEBATY

15h15: Legal aid system in the Netherlands. Speaker: Sturla SPANS

15h30: Legal aid system in Spain. Speakers: Gorka VELLE BERGADO and Blanca DOMINGUEZ PARRA

15h45: Legal aid system in Belgium. Speaker Aurore LEBEAU

16h00: Legal aid system in France. Speaker B enedicte MAST

16h:15- 16h30: Break

16h:30: Legal aid system in Germany: Julius BECKER

16h45: Legal aid system in Greece: Giota MASSOURIDOU

17h00: Legal aid system in Turkey: Gulsah KURT

17h15: Questions

17h30: Conclusions, by H el ene DEBATY

29th SEPTEMBER 2023,  
La Fleur en Papier Dor e  
Rue des Alexiens, 53-55  
1000 Bruxelles  
English Language  
Free Admission



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