



Equal opportunities in the courtroom – access to justice for vulnerable social groups: challenges and solutions in Europe

International Conference organized by the

Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights for the Rights of National Minorities in Hungary

and

Res Iudicata - Judges for Social Awareness Association

with the participation of

MEDEL

Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés

Date: 8 December 2023 (Friday) 09:00 – 15:30

Venue: Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights

1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa utca 9-11.

Form of the event: hybrid (personal attendance and online access option)

interpretation will also be provided for in-person participants and for followers of the online broadcast

Registration: <https://forms.gle/ZvQ6ZG2iYzt3QYji8>

Ensuring equal access to justice for vulnerable groups, in particular children, people with disabilities, roma or refugees, is a challenge for legislators from both a substantive and procedural point of view and requires daily attention from law enforcement. The phenomenon of unequal access is present in many countries across Europe, regardless of the legal context, but there are significant differences in the needs of different groups and in the tools available to compensate for them. The current social and technical challenges, in addition to the structural problems, have led to a wide range of legal and social science actors being involved in the issue and have inspired a number of solutions that can compensate for the inequality. The Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights for the Rights of National Minorities and Res Iudicata Association cooperating with MEDEL, through their domestic activities and their international involvement, are active participants and committed advocates in the exploration of access to justice issues and in the shaping of jurisprudence. The conference aims to present the problems and emerging opportunities in the field, with the involvement of national and international experts. The organisers are convinced that, in addition to stimulating professional dialogue, the international conference will provide an opportunity to raise public awareness and strengthen solidarity with vulnerable groups in society.

The programme is supported by the National Office for the Judiciary.



PROGRAM

- 08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome**
- Ákos Kozma** – Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (AJBH) [HU]
- **Anna Madarasi** – judge (Budapest-Capital Regional Court), member of the board (Res Iudicata Association) [HU]
 - **Mariarosaria Guglielmi** – European Delegated Prosecutor (EPPO, IT), President (MEDEL) [EN]
- 09:30 – 10:30 **Opening presentations**
- **Elisabeth Sándor-Szalay** – University Professor (PTE ÁJK), Deputy Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of Nationalities in Hungary (AJBH) [HU] *The European concept of equal access to justice*
 - **Aileen Donnelly** – judge (Supreme Court of Ireland) [EN] [online] *A view from Ireland*
 - **Ágnes Lux** – research fellow (HUN-REN Research Centre for Social Sciences) [HU] *European guarantees for child-centred justice*
- 10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee break**
- 10:45 – 11:00 Performance by students of the Superar Music Program
- 11:00 – 12:30 Key presentations
- **Felicitász Szemán** – judge (Budapest-Capital Regional Court), judicial panel chair [HU] *How can you protect me? Vulnerable clients in civil litigation*
 - **Anna Adamska-Gallant** – lawyer (PL), Head of the Judicial Reform Component of the EU Pravo Justice Ukraine [EN] *Shielding the Vulnerable – the Response of Justice System to Conflict and Human Rights Challenges*
 - **Attila Láposy** – Senior Professional Advisor (AJBH) [HU] *What can we learn from the Ombudsman's practice in protecting children's rights?*
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch break**
- 13:30 – 15:30 **Round table discussions (simultaneously)**
- Panel 1 – The situation of children [HU]** moderated by Beáta Borza – Head of Department (AJBH)
- **Péter Farkas** – director (Regional Child Protection Service of Budapest-Capital)
 - **Ibolya Hirtling** – judge (Budapest-Capital Regional Court)
 - **Adél Kegye** – director (Rosa Parks Foundation), president (Children's Civil Rights Coalition)
 - **Csilla Nagygyőr** – Police Lieutenant Colonel, Head of Section (ORFK)
 - **Orsolya Szeibert** – University Professor, Head of Department (ELTE ÁJK)



Panel 2 – The situation of refugees [EN] moderated by Adrienn Laczó - judge (Budapest-Capital Regional Court), member of the board (Res Iudicata Association)

- **Helena Behr** – Senior Protection Officer (UNHCR)
- **Matilde Betti** – judge (Bologna Regional Court, IT)
- **Dorottya Juhász** – judge (Budapest-Capital Regional Court, HU)
- **Łukasz Mrozek** – judge (Iustitia Polish Association of Judges, PL)
- **Zsolt Szekeres** – Senior Legal Officer (Helsinki Commission, HU)

15:30 – 16:00 **Summary and concluding remarks**

- **Mariarosaria Guglielmi** – European Delegated Prosecutor (EPPO, IT), President (MEDEL) [EN]
- **Zoltán Gebe** – judge, head of section (Buda Central District Court), President (Res Iudicata Association) [HU]
- **Elisabeth Sándor-Szalay** – University Professor (PTE ÁJK), Deputy Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of Nationalities in Hungary (AJBH) [HU]