SELECTED RESOURCES ON EU LAW

EU law and guidance resources on suspect and accused person’s rights in criminal proceedings

Litigating to Advance Defence Rights in Europe (LADRE) Project

The LADRE Project acknowledges the enormous potential defence lawyers have to drive the use of EU law to challenge fundamental rights abuses. They operate on the front-line of the justice system, deciding which legal arguments to make and whether to apply EU law. The project aims to strengthen the ability of defence lawyers to effectively engage in litigation at domestic and EU levels where rights have been violated, and use EU law to tackle abuse of fundamental rights in criminal justice systems across the EU.

This document contains relevant resources for defence lawyers related to the EU standards for procedural safeguards of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings. These standards are primarily regulated in the Directives on the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information, the right of access to a lawyer, procedural safeguards for children, the right to the presumption of innocence and to be present at trial and the right to legal aid (called, the ‘Roadmap Directives’).

Resources are presented by thematic and by chronological order. EU Directives (or key EU Law) are mentioned at the start of each section.

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1. General

- **Guide on Article 6 of ECHR: Right to a fair trial (criminal limb)**, European Court of Human Rights, regularly updated. Available in 16 languages. Case-law Guide presenting the Court’s major judgments on Article 6 guarantees.

- **E-learning Modules on the practical application of EU’s procedural rights Directives**, NETPRALAT, 2020. Trainings addressed at defence lawyers to improve their abilities to defend suspects, specifically vulnerable people, during pre-trial stages (find out more about the project: [www.netpralat.eu](http://www.netpralat.eu)). You currently need to request access here: `manager@netpralat.eu`. Access will open and Polish, Spanish and Lithuanian versions would also be available by 2021.


- **Training - Applying procedural rights in the EU – State of Play**, Academy of European Law (ERA), 2020. Project offering practical training on procedural rights in the EU – resources and documentation will be published throughout the project.

- **Criminal procedural laws across the European Union – A comparative analysis of selected main differences and the impact they have over the development of EU legislation**, Elodie Sellier and Anne Weyembergh, European Parliamentary Research Service, August 2018.


- **E-learning modules for criminal defence lawyers on effectuating procedural rights of suspects at the stage of police detention and police interview**, SUPRALAT Project, 2017. Training program to strengthen the active involvement of lawyers at the investigative stage following the shifting focus of criminal proceedings from trial to pre-trial stages.


- **Handbook on European Law relating to access to justice**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and Council of Europe, January 2016. Available in 19 languages. Handbook summarising key access to justice principles (a fair and public hearing before independent and impartial tribunal, legal aid, access to legal counsel, right to an effective remedy as well as limitations on access to justice and access to justice in focus areas, including pre-trial detainees), drawing on a wide body of European law and jurisprudence.
2. Court of Justice of European Union

- **Factsheet on ECtHR case law concerning the European Union**, European Court of Human Rights, regularly updated. Including case law on preliminary ruling to CJEU and European Arrest Warrant.

- **Mapping CJEU Case Law on EU Criminal Justice Measures**, Fair Trials, July 2020. Summary of decisions of the CJEU by reference to the underlying provisions of EU legislation, including the Framework Decision on the EAW.

- **How to initiate a preliminary reference request to the European Court of Justice in criminal proceedings?**, Fair Trials, May 2019.


- **Practical Guidance for Advocates before the Court of Justice in Preliminary Reference cases**, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), 2015.

- **Toolkit on Using the EU Law in Practice**, Fair Trials, 2015.

3. European Union Charter on Fundamental Rights

**EU Standards**

- **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**, 26 October 2012. Available in all EU languages.

**Guides and reports**


- **Charterpedia**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), Regularly updated. Case law database of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) as well as a selection of national case law with direct references to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.


- **Explanations relating to the Charter of Fundamental Rights**, Praesidium of the European Convention, December 2007. Explanations prepared under the authority of the Praesidium of the Convention which
drafted the Charter. Although they do not as such have the status of law, they are a valuable tool of interpretation intended to clarify the provisions of the Charter.

4. The right to interpretation and translation

EU Standards


Guides and reports

- Improving legal and interpreting service paths of persons suspected or accused of crime - Deliverable 2.3 Recommendations for legal professionals, TransLaw Project, June 2019. General recommendations in English, followed by specific recommendations for Belgium, Austria, Italy and Slovenia.
- Inside Police Custody 2, JUSTICIA Network, December 2018. An empirical study of suspects’ rights at the investigative stage of the criminal process (right to interpretation and translation, right to information, right to access a lawyer) in nine EU countries (Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Poland).
- Rights of suspected and accused persons across the EU: translation, interpretation and information, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights report (FRA), November 2016. Report reviewing Member States’ legal frameworks, policies and practices regarding the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information with section focusing on vulnerable suspected and accused persons such as persons with disabilities and children.
- Case-law of the European Court of Human Rights on the right to language assistance in criminal proceedings, James Brannan, May 2016.
- Online training about signed language in legal settings (court, lawyers, police), JUSTISIGNS Project, 2016.
• **You have the right to remain signing – a guide to communicating in interpreter-mediated police settings / Tips for Police communicating with deaf sign language users**, JUSTISIGNS Project, 2016.

• **TRAINAC – Assessment, good practices and recommendations on the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information and the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings**, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), European Lawyers’ Foundation (ELF), 2016.


• **Key issues of Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation**, Ed Cape, Academy of European Law (ERA).

An empirical study of suspects’ rights at the investigative stage of the criminal process (right to interpretation and translation, right to information right to access a lawyer, the privilege against self-incrimination) in nine EU countries (England and Wales, France, The Netherlands, Scotland).


• **Vademecum: guidelines for a more effective communication with legal interpreters and translators**, EULITA / European Criminal Bar Association, 2010. Available in English, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Czech and Greek.

5. **The right to information**

**EU Standards**


**Guides and reports**


Report analysing the views of over 250 professionals and defendants in eight Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, and Romania).
regarding right to information about defence rights, right to be advised and represented by a lawyer; rights of persons arrested on the basis of an EAW.


- **Key issues of the right to information under Directive 2012/13/EU**, Anneli Soo, Academy of European Law (ERA).

- **Inside Police Custody 2**, JUSTICIA Network, December 2018. An empirical study of suspects’ rights at the investigative stage of the criminal process (right to interpretation and translation, right to information, right to access a lawyer) in nine EU countries (Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Poland).

- **Rights of suspected and accused persons across the EU: translation, interpretation and information**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights report (FRA), November 2016. Report reviewing Member States’ legal frameworks, policies and practices regarding the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information with section focusing on vulnerable suspected and accused persons such as persons with disabilities and children.


- **TRAINAC – Assessment, good practices and recommendations on the right to interpretation and translation, the right to information and the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings**, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), European Lawyers’ Foundation (ELF), 2016.


- **Inside Police Custody An Empirical Account of Suspects’ Rights in Four Jurisdictions**, Jodie Blackstock, Ed Cape, Jacqueline Hodgson, Anna Ogorodova, Taru Spronken, Intersentia, 2014. An empirical study of suspects’ rights at the investigative stage of the criminal process (right to interpretation and translation, right to information right to access a lawyer, the privilege against self-incrimination) in nine EU countries (England and Wales, France, The Netherlands, Scotland).

6. The right of access to a lawyer

EU Standards

- Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty. Available in all EU languages.

Guides and reports

- Factsheet on ECtHR case law on police arrest and assistance of a lawyer, European Court of Human Rights, Regularly updated.


- Where’s my lawyer? Making legal assistance in pre-trial detention effective – Report, Fair Trials, October 2019. Report analyzing the common obstacles, possible solution and key gaps in the existing legal framework regarding effective legal assistance in pre-trial detention decision-making in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Romania.

- Effective Legal Assistance in Pre-Trial Detention Decision-Making – Regional handbook for lawyers, Fair Trials, October 2019. Available in English, Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Romanian. Handbook offering guidance on the relevant regional standards to address legal, procedural and cultural barriers to effective representation in the pre-trial detention decision-making process and encourage the use of alternatives to pre-trial detention.

- Rights in practice: access to a lawyer and procedural rights in criminal and European arrest warrant proceedings, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), September 2019. Report analysing the views of over 250 professionals and defendants in eight Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, and Romania) regarding right to information about defence rights, right to be advised and represented by a lawyer; rights of persons arrested on the basis of an EAW.


- Inside Police Custody 2, JUSTICIA Network, December 2018. An empirical study of suspects’ rights at the investigative stage of the criminal process (right to interpretation and translation, right to information right to access a lawyer) in nine EU countries (Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Poland).
7. The right to the presumption of innocence and to be present at trial

EU Standards

• Directive (EU) 2016/343 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings, Available in all EU languages.

Guides and reports


• Innocent until proven guilty, Fair Trials, June 2019.
  Report identifying key threats and possible solutions to violations of the presumption of innocence resulting from statements made by public authorities about ongoing proceedings, the content and tone of press coverage and the use of restraints in courtrooms or in public settings.
8. Procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons and children

**EU Standards**

- **Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings.** Available in all EU languages.

- **Commission Recommendation of 27 November 2013 on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings.** Available in all EU languages.

**Guides and reports**


- **Dignity at Trial Handbook - Enhancing procedural safeguards for suspects with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities,** Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee in Bulgaria, League of Human Rights in the Czech Republic, the Organisation Mental Health Perspectives in Lithuania and the Peace Institute Slovenia, July 2018.


- **Online Training Module: Advancing the defence rights of children,** Fair Trials, 2018.


Include a resources list with online trainings regarding children’s rights and juvenile justice.
• **Key issues of the right to procedural safeguards for children**, Academy of European Law (ERA).

• **Handbook on European Law relating to the rights of the child**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and Council of Europe, 2015. Available in 23 languages. Including one section on “Children’s rights within criminal justice and alternative (non-judicial) proceedings”.


9. **The right to legal aid**

**EU Standards**


• **Council Directive 2002/8/EC of 27 January 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes.**

• **Resolution (78) 8 on legal aid and advice, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 March 1978 at the 284th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies.**

**Guides and reports**


• **Key issues on the right to legal aid**, Aleksandra Stępniwska and Wardyński&Partners, Academy of European Law (ERA).

• **Snapshot of Legal Aid in twelve EU Member States**, JUSTICIA European Rights Network, May
2015. Fact-sheets summarising the legal aid systems in the following twelve countries: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Spain.


### 10. Cross-border issues and European Arrest Warrant

#### EU Standards


- **Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA on the application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention**, Available in all EU languages.

- **Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States (2002/584/JHA)**, Available in all EU languages.

#### Guides and reports

- **European Arrest Warrant – European Implementation Assessment**, Wouter Van Ballegooij, European Parliament Research Service, June 2020. Study providing an assessment and conclusions on the implementation of the EAW. It also contains recommendations on how to address the shortcomings identified.


- **Case law by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European Arrest Warrant**, Regularly updated, 15 March 2020.


Rights in practice: access to a lawyer and procedural rights in criminal and European arrest warrant proceedings, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), September 2019.
Report analysing the views of over 250 professionals and defendants in eight Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, and Romania) regarding right to information about defence rights, right to be advised and represented by a lawyer; rights of persons arrested on the basis of an EAW.

Improving Mutual Recognition of European Arrest Warrants for the Purpose of Executing Judgments Rendered Following a Trial at which the Person Concerned Did Not Appear in Person, Hannah Brodersen, Vincent Glerum and And2 Klip, Maastricht University, 2019.


European arrest warrant makes Europe a safer place – factsheet for legal practitioners, European Commission, October 2017.

Handbook on the EAW for defence lawyers, European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA), 2017.


EAW Rights – Analysis of the implementation and operation of the European Arrest Warrant from the point of view of defence practitioners, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), European Lawyers’ Foundation (ELF), November 2016.


11. Detention

Guides and reports

World Prison Brief, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research. Regularly Updated. Online database providing access to information on prison systems around the world. Country information is updated on a monthly basis, using data largely derived from governmental or other official sources. See also the International Prison News Digest produced bi-monthly with updates from around the world on prison and the use of imprisonment.


- **Factsheets of ECtHR case-law on detention**, European Court of Human Rights, Regularly updated. Factsheets by theme on the Court’s case-law and pending cases: Accompanied migrant minors in detention, Detention and mental health, Detention conditions and treatment of prisoners, Extradition and life imprisonment, Hunger strikes in detention, Life imprisonment, Migrants in detention, Prisoners' right to vote, Prisoners' health-related rights, Secret detention sites, Unaccompanied migrant minors in detention, Accompanied migrant minors in detention.

- **Criminal detention conditions in the European Union: rules and reality**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), December 2019. Report covering five aspects of detention conditions in EU Member States: the size of cells; the amount of time detainees can spend outside of these cells, including outdoors; sanitary conditions; access to healthcare; and whether detainees are protected from violence. For each of these aspects, the report summarises the minimum international and EU standards and assesses how these are implemented in EU Member States.


- **Analysis of European Law as regard to access of detained persons to the law and to court**, EU PRE-TRIAL RIGHTS Project, May 2019.

- **Recommendations to Bar Associations On access to justice in detention**, EU PRE-TRIAL RIGHTS Project, April 2019. Comparative analysis of laws and practices as regard to legal aid with the aim of protecting the rights of prisoners in pretrial detention in nine EU countries (Czech Republic, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain).

- **National norms as regard to access of the detained persons to the law and to court**, EU PRE-TRIAL RIGHTS Project, April 2019. Reports on France, Czech Republic, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Poland.

- **Criminal Detention Database 2015-2019**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), 2019. Database centralising national, European and international standards, case law and monitoring reports about selected core aspects of detention conditions in each EU Member States: including cell space, sanitary conditions, access to healthcare and protection against violence. The database should be especially useful for practitioners involved in cross-border cases.

- **Reports on Prison conditions (Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom)**, European Prison Observatory, 2019.
• **Online Training Module: European Supervision Order**, Fair Trials, 2018.


• **Towards Pre-trial Detention as Ultima Ratio**, DETOUR, December 2017. Comparative report from the DETOUR project exploring and analysing pre-trial detention practice and different ways of reducing the use of pre-trial detention in seven European jurisdictions (Austria, Germany, Romania, Belgium, Lithuania, Ireland and the Netherlands). See also the recommendations and the country brief for each of the seven participating Member States.


• **Criminal detention and alternatives: fundamental rights aspects in EU cross-border transfers**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and Council of Europe, November 2016. The report scrutinises the use of detention in the EU, as well as available alternatives, including with respect to individuals in situations of vulnerability.

• **A Measure of Last Resort? The practice of pre-trial detention decision making in the EU**, Fair Trials, May 2016.

• **Alternatives to imprisonment in Europe: A handbook of good practice**, Catherine Heard European Prison Observatory, May 2016.

• **Online Legal Training on Pre-Trial detention**, Fair Trials, 2016.

• **Reports on Alternatives to imprisonment (France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom)**, European Prison Observatory, 2015.
