



**PUBLIC CALL FOR JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA FOR PARTICIPATION IN
EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND CASE
LAW EXCHANGE WITH EUROPEAN FORUM OF JUDGES/PROSECUTORS FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT
(STUDY TRIP TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM)**

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, numerous systemic and social challenges undermine the quality of environmental rule of law. The intricate administrative structure complicates the coordination of internal regulations and international policy alignment. Political tensions often hinder cooperation among ministry staff.

Simultaneously, Bosnia and Herzegovina is at the initial stage of accession negotiations with the EU, which will include alignment with the EU environmental standards, necessitating a focus on environmental criminal law—a facet overlooked thus far. Environmental inspectorates and law enforcement agencies, including the police and border police, lack the requisite expertise and manpower to address the escalating environmental pressures. For instance, the proliferation of illegal landfills across the country, coupled with the indiscriminate disposal of hazardous waste alongside communal waste, poses a significant risk to public health.

Existing protocols for investigating environmental crimes and accidents require scrutiny and testing for effectiveness in fostering collaboration among inspectors, police, and prosecutors. Furthermore, there is a dearth of systematic data on corruption cases affecting the environment, and specialized research and academic literature are limited.

Official statistics and feedback from training institutions, civil servants, judges, and prosecutors point to challenges in prosecuting environmental crimes, poor alignment with criminal legislation, limited capacities, and inadequate expert training. Additionally, environmental law education is not integrated into mainstream curricula and is offered as an elective course at law faculties.

Therefore, this intervention [builds on project activities and achievements in 2023](#) aims to continue addressing these gaps by promoting justice and accountability in environmental matters, with a focus on enhancing access to, protection of, and fulfillment of environmental rights, and bolstering the environmental rule of law.

By developing expert learning content and training programs, the project strengthens the capacity of government institutions and judicial bodies to address environmental challenges, promoting more effective enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. Moreover, the case law exchange will provide a basis for an informal expert platform for judicial/prosecutorial capacity-building aiming to improve the administration and resolution of environmental cases.

II. PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC CALL AND EXPECTED RESULTS

This public call is open to judges and prosecutors in criminal law departments in Bosnia and Herzegovina who fulfill the required criteria and have demonstrated interest to participate in the knowledge transfer and case law exchange envisaged under this Public Call.

The aim of this initiative is to strengthen knowledge of judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the European environmental law, and particularly protection of the environmental through criminal matters.

Participation in this program aims to include 8 judges and prosecutors.

The program will follow this proposed itinerary:

- Day 1: Travel day (Sarajevo – Brussels)
 - o *Welcome dinner at the hotel in Brussels.*
- Day 2: Knowledge transfer and case law exchange (European Forum of Judges for the Environment, European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment)
 - o Common core principles of modern environmental law
 - o Presenting background information on EU environmental law, with case studies included.
 - o Environmental Crime Directive, with its updated register of environmental offences EU 2024/1203
 - o Collaboration and co-operation in the fight against environmental crime
 - o Judicial experience in other states in the environmental context; and presentations with practical guidance for managing environmental cases.
- Day 3: Travel day (Brussels – Sarajevo)

III. ELIGIBILITY, REQUIREMENTS AND THE SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of participants will be conducted on the basis of mandatory and additional qualitative criteria.

As part of the **mandatory (elimination) criteria**, the Applicants must fulfill the following:

- **Education:** Law degree.
- **Experience:** At least 5 years of experience in dealing with cases involving environmental protection or crimes against the environment.

Note: Good command of English language will be considered an asset.

Applications that do not meet the mandatory criteria will not be further considered.

Once the applicant's compliance with the mandatory criteria has been confirmed, **additional qualitative criteria** will be evaluated, focusing on the applicant's motivation and relevant experience. This assessment will be conducted in accordance with the following scoring table:

Qualitative criteria – scoring table	
MOTIVATION OF THE APPLICANT	Max no. of points 20
What is the motivation for applying? <i>Strong motivation demonstrated through clear goals and enthusiasm (15 points); Lack of clarity in motivation (0 points).</i>	15
Does the applicant demonstrate an interest in environmental cases, especially environmental criminal cases? <i>Notable interest (5 points); Low interest (0 points)</i>	5

EXPERIENCE OF THE APPLICANT	Max no. of points 35
Participation in any training on environmental law in the past 5 years? Please provide examples. <i>Extensive experience (15 points); Some experience (10 points); No experience (0 points).</i>	15
Has the applicant contributed to policy development in the field of environmental law, especially environmental criminal law? If so, how? <i>Examples of contribution (10 points); No examples (0 points).</i>	10

The decision to reject the application may be based on one or more of the following reasons:

- The application was received after the submission deadline;
- The applicant does not meet the basic requirements of the Public Call;
- The application is incomplete or otherwise does not meet the requirements;
- The application meets the conditions and criteria but was not selected due to a low score and/or after the application of basic selection criteria.

The top 8 ranked applicants will be included in this program.

If a higher number of applicants have the same score, priority will be given to those that are better rated in the **MOTIVATION OF THE APPLICANT** section.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the public call via e-mail.

The indicative timeframe for finalizing the selection process and the implementation of knowledge transfer and case law exchange is as follows:

Activities	Dates (indicative)
Call for participation in knowledge transfer and case law exchange published	10 July 2024
Deadline for submitting applications	31 July 2024
Public Call results published	14 August 2024
Knowledge transfer and case law exchange	25-27 September 2024

IV. SUBMISSION

The deadline for submission of applications is **31 July 2024**.

As part of the submission, each applicant must submit the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV) with relevant professional experience
- Copy of university diploma (**does not require verification**)
- Filled-in and signed application form

All applications must be submitted by email to **registry.ba@undp.org** with the subject line "Application for participation in "European Environmental Law knowledge transfer and case law exchange".

Incomplete applications shall not be taken into consideration.

V. Additional information

The Public Call with guidelines and application documents is available on the UNDP BiH website: www.ba.undp.org.

All inquiries regarding this Public Call must be submitted exclusively via email, no later than 2 days before the deadline for submitting applications, clearly indicating the title of the Call in the subject line, to the following email address: registry.ba@undp.org.