

Agenda

‘Learning from Abroad – Remote Hearings in Europe and beyond’

8 – 11 November 2021

The ‘International Cooperation Theme Week’ organized by the **Dutch Council for the Judiciary** offers sessions on current justice-related topics from an international perspective. Central to this year’s program is learning about the organization of remote hearings in other countries and contributing to a dialogue on the future performance of our work in this area. The theme will be approached from three perspectives: technical, professional and social. **Please be notified that the indicated time in the program is based on CET.**

8 November **Best practices for remote hearings**

10.30-12.00 The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of remote hearings in the court system. This resulted in an overnight shift of physical hearings to fully or partially remote hearings conducted by means of online video platforms. During this session, we will look at how remote hearings are organized in South Korea, Estonia and the UK. This session presents the (technical) possibilities of a remote hearing, from an online video platform to a virtual court room.

9 November **Managing remote hearings**

09.30-11.00 The objective of this session is to create an open dialogue with judges from Norway, Finland, Spain and the Netherlands on managing remote hearings. Questions such as ‘Can a settlement be reached during an remote hearing?’ and ‘How can the judge ensure the safety of a participating party?’ will be discussed.

11 November **Symposium ‘Online justice: An opportunity to get closer to the litigant?’**

15.30-17.00 *National and international experts exchange ideas.*

The Dutch judiciary is currently exploring the possibilities of remote access to courts, but other countries and branches already have experience with this for some time. What are their findings? What about research that has been done into the experience of stakeholders about remote hearings? Or how the use of video influences social interaction? And is more known about the consequences of settling certain types of cases remotely and how this affects the final verdict?

The following speakers will share their knowledge and experience:

- **A look from the point of view of healthcare.** *Wyke Stommel* (associate professor of Language and Communication) and surgeon *Martijn Stommel* talk about the use of video consultations in the hospital. Together they conducted conversational analytical research into interactions with the patient (online vs. physical).

- *Dr. Jennifer Woolard*, professor and chair of the Georgetown University Psychology Department together with *Elizabeth Ling* Senior Program Manager of Criminal Defense Initiatives at the Center for Court Innovation will tell more about **social science research** into the consequences of the use of video in the criminal justice domain.

- **Professor Michael Legg**, Professor in the Faculty of Law from the University of New South Wales Australia discusses his research into the use of online sittings in the past and during COVID. He also gives advice on the future design in relation to the enforcement of 'open justice, procedural fairness and impartiality'.

Register

To register for one or more activities, please send an e-mail to internationaal.rvdr@rechtspraak.nl. Upon registration, you will receive a link.