Agency Effectiveness Working Group (AEWG)

Short Form Work Plan

2023–2024 Projects

Projects summary

Pursuant to ‘Working Group structure and 3-year plan’, the AEWG will work on the following projects during the 2023-2043 ICN year:

1. Planning, Monitoring and Measuring Effectiveness
2. Review and Update of the AEWG Work Products
3. The Role of Chief/Senior Economists for Effective Enforcement
4. Making Enforcement Cooperation Effective
5. Effective Training on Competition

Project 1 – Planning, Monitoring and Measuring Effectiveness

| Project description | Planning, monitoring, and measuring agency effectiveness are vital steps to increase the likelihood of an agency successfully achieving its objectives. This project will focus on member agencies’ best practices and experiences in identifying clear objectives and strategies, assessing progress as well as evaluating effectiveness. Areas to explore include methods and processes employed by agencies to plan their work (e.g., annual planning, 5-year strategic framework), monitor the progress of their plans or review their plans, and measure effectiveness (e.g., key performance indicators and targets, ex-post and ex-ante impact assessments). The project will also explore the challenges agencies face in these areas.

The first year of the project focused on planning and strategy setting as well as the information sources used for these activities. The second year of the project will focus on monitoring and measuring effectiveness. As part of this, the project will identify the different KPIs and other ways national competition authorities are evaluating their performance and how agencies use these performance indicators to further increase effectiveness. |
Outcomes | Webinar(s) and (or) short written product (compilation of member inputs) where competition agencies share their experience and good practices.

Contact details | Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH): Zombor Berezvai (Berezvai.Zombor@gvh.hu)

Description of work/resources | Project team comprising AEWG members and NGAs to facilitate the discussion during the webinar(s), as well as to gather and compile the experiences and best practices from member agencies.

Multi-year project? | Yes

Facilitating effective enforcement cooperation | The project will provide a forum for discussion and experience sharing among competition agencies.

Use of existing ICN materials | ICN Competition Agency Practice Manual

Method for evaluating and measuring success | Feedback from member agencies and NGAs, webinar attendance rate

Project 2 – Review and update of the AEWG work products

Project description | In the context of the Third Decade of the ICN, the AEWG will conduct a comprehensive review of its existing work products to identify those that need to be updated. This review could also help the working group to identify future areas of work which have not been covered yet by the AEWG.

Outcomes | List of all AEWG work products with a diagnosis of those that need to be updated and recommendations on how the update could proceed.

| Based on time availability, a brief survey could be launched for AEWG members to prioritize the work products that will be updated and suggest what updates could be made to them.

Contact details | Mexican Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE): Rodrigo Rios (jrios@cofece.mx), Edgar Jaimes (ejaimes@cofece.mx) and Carolina Koller (ckoller@cofece.mx)

Description of work/resources | Project team to conduct the review on the AEWG work products.

Multi-year project? | Initially no, depending on the final diagnosis the project could turn into a multiyear one.
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<th>Project 3 – The Role of Chief/Senior Economists for Effective Enforcement</th>
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<th>Project 4 – Making Enforcement Cooperation Effective</th>
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current tools. In coordination with the ICN Special Project Group on international enforcement cooperation and other ICN WGs, this multi-year project will collect examples of successful and unsuccessful cooperation on parallel cases and draw lessons and advice on how to make sure that authorities coordinate their action and benefit from each other’s support in the different steps of formal proceedings, from the preliminary investigation to the opening of a formal case, from evidence collection and analysis to the final decision.

Outcomes

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<th>Contact details</th>
<th>Experience sharing webinars (first year).</th>
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<td>Development of new cooperation facilitating tools, such as hypotheticals and examples of actual co-operation cases for use in ICN workshops, capacity building initiatives, or in-house training (second year).</td>
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<td>Development of a checklist with lessons learnt and advise on how to make cooperation more effective (third year).</td>
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Contact details

| Italian Competition Authority (AGCM): Renato Ferrandi (renato.ferrandi@agcm.it), Michele Pacillo (michele.pacillo@agcm.it) |
| Hellenic Competition Commission (HCC): Mary Chamilou (mchamilou@epant.gr), Vassiliki Plakoula (vplakoula@epant.gr) |

Description of work/resources

| Webinars + drafting |

Multi-year project?

Yes

Facilitating effective enforcement cooperation

Yes

Use of existing ICN materials

Yes

Method for evaluating and measuring success

Webinar attendance rate

Usage rate of hypotheticals and examples by ICN members

Project 5 – Effective Training on Competition

Project description

The objective of this multi-year project is to strengthen the effectiveness of ICN members’ in-house training programs on competition.

The project will consist of two parts.

The first part will focus on training materials. After a scoping exercise that will review all the existing materials
developed by the ICN and other international organizations (notably the ICN Handbooks and Manuals and the ICN Training on Demand videos), the project will rearrange such materials in user-friendly “bundles” or “toolkits” training modules on general competition areas of law (e.g., cartels, abuse of dominance, mergers), as well as specific competition topics (e.g., market definition, effective dawn raids, sustainability) so to have off the shelf materials that can be used for training purposes. In addition, the project will explore the opportunity to prepare additional written training work products or videos, in cooperation with the Co-Chairs of the other ICN WGs and the IToD team.

The second part will deal with training techniques. The project will explore what tools (e.g., BOS, hypotheticals, interactive games, preparatory materials, ex post questionnaires) can be used to maximize the impact of training initiatives, by analyzing successful capacity building experiences.

Outcomes

Experience sharing webinars (first year).
Development of a checklist of good practices and techniques for training on competition (second year).
Development of user-friendly “bundles” or “toolkits” organized by general themes and specific topics for use in capacity building initiatives or in-house training (second and third year).

Contact details

Italian Competition Authority (AGCM): Renato Ferrandi (renato.ferrandi@agcm.it), Michele Pacillo (michele.pacillo@agcm.it)
Hellenic Competition Commission (HCC): Mary Chamilou (mchamilou@epant.gr), Vassiliki Plakoula (vplakoula@epant.gr)

Description of work/resources

Written document + ICN dedicated webpages, possible short training videos

Multi-year project?

Yes

Facilitating effective enforcement cooperation

Yes

Use of existing ICN materials

Yes

Method for evaluating and measuring success

Usage rate of the “bundles” by ICN members