ICN Economist Survey 2017
Conducted by the ICN Agency Effectiveness Working Group
37 of the ICN’s 135 member agencies participated

1. Characteristics of respondents
   - 46% of respondents have been in operation for less than 21 years.
   - Majority of respondents (51%) had fewer than 121 employees.

2. Decision Making:
   - Respondents unanimously indicated that lawyers and economists work together on case teams.
   - Case team leadership (based on responses from 33 agencies):
     - 79% of agencies may have either a lawyer or economist leading case teams.
     - 12% of agencies have only lawyers leading case teams.
     - 9% of agencies have only economists leading case teams.

   On a 5-point scale, do economists work under the leadership of lawyers, or vice versa?

   Employees with Economics degrees:
   - 36 out of the 37 agencies reported between 9% and 56% of employees with Economics degrees, and 1 agency reported 100%.
   - 21 out of the 37 of the agencies reported that the role of economists has increased in the last decade. Of these 21 cases, 8 involved the creation or expansion of the role of a Chief Economist.

   How are disagreements on cases between lawyers and economists resolved?
   - Most indicated that disagreements are typically resolved by discussion at the case team level.
   - Some respondents also indicated that:
     - Separate memos drafted if needed.
     - Disagreements could be resolved at the management level.
     - The recommendation from lawyers prevails in some agencies.
3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 23 out of the 37 agencies have a specialized economics division.

What percentage of the total agency workforce is dedicated to the specialized economics division?

- 26 out of the 37 agencies have a Chief Economist, 23 of which report directly to the agency leadership.

4. Training

- 24 out of the 37 agencies offer common training to employees regardless of their economic or legal background. However, 31 of the 37 agencies also offer special economic training for lawyers.

- Training is usually provided by internal staff, depending on the expertise available. Many agencies also have employee training administered by external academics, foreign experts, or consulting firms.

- 20 out of the 37 agencies reported that their managers are cross-trained in law and economics.

Future Work Products

The topics suggested range from broad to specific and are very diverse. However, responses can be grouped under the following broad categories:

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th># of agencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Data/Digital Markets</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPP/Merger Simulation/Econometric Techniques</td>
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<td>Cartel Screening/Detection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Sided Markets/Networks</td>
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<td>Vertical Restraints</td>
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Other topics suggested include:

- Non-price effects of mergers
- Ex-post assessment and impact evaluation
- Price discrimination and market definition
- Market definition in digital markets
- Buyer power
- Joint ventures
- Designing remedies
- Survey design
- Most favoured nation clause
- Sector inquiries