ELENA, the European Legal Network on Asylum, is a forum for legal practitioners who aim to promote the highest human rights standards for the treatment of refugees, asylum seekers and other persons in need of international protection in their daily counselling and advocacy work. The ELENA network is coordinated by the ECRE Secretariat and extends across most European states and involves some 2,000 lawyers and legal counsellors.

ELENA’s objectives are pursued by:

- Providing and reinforcing contact between practising lawyers and legal counsellors in different European countries who work on asylum cases;
- Facilitating the exchange of information and experience between these lawyers and legal counsellors;
- Studying the implementation of national and international law relating to refugees;
- Organising seminars on specific topics relating to refugee law and making results available to practising lawyers.

This advanced course will focus on various aspects of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The course will study the protection standards set in the EC Qualification Directive, Asylum Procedures Directive and Reception Conditions Directive, their implementation in national law and the emerging jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice in this field. In addition the course will examine the Dublin system, its impact on asylum seekers and possible legal challenges before national courts and the European Court of Human Rights. Finally, it will also look into future challenges for the CEAS and amendments to EU asylum legislation.

The Course will be presented together by academics and practicing lawyers from across Europe. All sessions will be in English.

**FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2009**
12:00 – 14:00 | Registration and Lunch
14:00 – 15:00 | Introduction: The Stockholm Programme: Looking to the next five years of EU law and policy in the field of asylum
Elspeth Guild (Jean Monnet Professor, Radboud University Nijmegen)
15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee break
15:30 – 18:00 | The Qualification Directive: using the protections in national and EU law
Elspeth Guild, Reinhard Marx (Lawyers, Rechtsanwaltskanzlei Dr. Reinhard Marx, Frankfurt)

**SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2009**
09:30 – 11:00 | The Asylum Procedures Directive in Legal Context
Cathryn Costello (Fellow & Tutor in EC & Public Law, Worcester College, Oxford)
11:00 – 11:30 | Break
11:30 – 13:00 | The Dublin system: Policy, Principles, and Legal Issues
Francesco Maiani (Assistant Professor, Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration)
13:00 – 13:30 | Lunch
13:30 – 17:00 | Case studies: Dublin transfers and the ECHR – EC standards and the national level: the example of Greece
Flip Schuller (Lawyer, Böhler Franken Koppe Wijngaarden advocaten, the Netherlands)
Danai Angeli (Lawyer, Greece)
17:00 – 20:00 | Graduation dinner

**SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2009**
09:00 – 10:30 | Minimum standards for reception of asylum seekers under EC law
Michael Fordham QC (Barrister, Blackstone Chambers, UK)
10:30 – 11:00 | Break
11:00 – 13:30 | Using EC law in asylum domestic proceedings and what opportunities does litigation in the ECJ offer:
11:00-11:45 | The ECJ and ECHR as Refugee Law Courts: Fit for Purpose? Cathryn Costello
11:45-13:30 Panel discussion: Cathryn Costello, Reinhard Marx, Michael Fordham QC, Madeline Garlick (UNHCR)

**HOW TO REGISTER.** Please fill in the online form at www.ecre.org/about_us/elena/training/registration by 7 October 2009. If you register by 25 September 2009, you can benefit from our early registration fee.*

**PROGRAMME**

**REGISTRATION FEE**
The fee for participation for lawyers and NGO staff is 530€ and 630€ for government officials. This is a residential course and the fee will cover seminar costs, accommodation, meals as per the programme and documentation. **If you register by 25 September 2009, you can benefit from our early registration fee of 480€.**