

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Skopje,**

**July 2017**

**EU funded twinning project**

**“Strengthening the Rule of the Law” MK 11 IB JH 03 15**

**Activities implemented in the sixth quarter**

**In the sixth quarter, covering the period from April to June 2017 the following activities were successfully implemented:**

**Under Component 1:**

• **Eight BC experts took part in a study visit to Zagreb, Croatia from 09-13 April. They had productive meetings with representatives of Directorate for the Organisation of Judiciary, the IT Sector, the Directorate for European Affairs, International and Judicial Cooperation, the Zadar County Court, the Municipal Court of Zadar, the Supreme Court, the Office of the State Attorney General of the Republic of Croatia, the State Attorneys' Council, and the Judicial Academy. Experience was exchanged, best practices shared and foundation laid for future cooperation;**

• **The draft-Law on State Ensured Legal Aid was reviewed by the MS experts and the Working Group. Amendments were made to meet BC requirements. Furthermore, work resumed on drafting a new Advocate Tariff as well as the necessary application forms (templates);**

• **MS experts had meetings with the relevant BC personnel to discuss the communication and PR system within the MoJ. As a result, several recommendations were given to promote both internal and external communication of the Ministry;**

* **A two-day training course was delivered on the subject of planning and management of the pre-accession negotiations process;**
* **Two one-day training sessions for judges, court staff and lawyers were delivered on the topics of structural and institutional framework of the CJEU as well as the general overview of the framework of the EU law and on searching, analyses and application of the EU law and the case law of the CJEU.**

**Under Component 2:**

* **The MS expert developed a Manual on Methodology, Mechanisms and Assistance for Monitoring and Dissemination of Information on CJEU case-law for the judiciary training. It includes a description of practices of dissemination of some EU Member States and some suggestions for BC on institutional placement of the responsible persons for monitoring and dissemination work. Separate chapters on methodology and mechanisms of dissemination of jurisprudence are developed. Also, the manual contains practical examples and templates.**

**Under Component 3:**

* **All activities completed as foreseen, therefore, this Component is now fully implemented.**

**The effective implementation of the above activities would not have been possible without the excellent cooperation of the project beneficiaries the Bureau for Representation before the ECtHR and the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors.**

**The 5th Steering Committee Meeting was held on 05 May 2017 where the stakeholders reviewed the project implementation progress. Furthermore, an overview of activities scheduled for the following quarter was presented.**

**This project is entirely financed by the European Union. The total budget of the project is EUR 1 000 000. The overall objective of the Project is to support the justice sector institutions in consolidating the rule of law by strengthening their capacities and by assisting in alignment of the national law with the European Union *acquis* and key human rights instruments of the Council of Europe. The implementation period of the project is 21 months (from December 2015 to September 2017).**

**The Beneficiaries under the project are the Ministry of Justice, the Bureau for representation before European Court of Human Rights and the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors of the Beneficiary Country.**

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