

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Skopje,**

**June 2017**

**EU funded twinning project**

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

**Implemented activities in the fifth quarter**

**In the fifth quarter, covering the period from January to March 2017 the following activities were successfully implemented:**

**Under Component 1:**

• **In the previous quarter, experts from Latvia and Croatia provided the best practice of the EU MS as regards the project coordination and tender procedures within the pre-and-post EU accession process as well the lessons learnt in this respect, presentations with round table discussions were provided as well;**

• **Tailor-made training programme and training curricula concerning planning and management of pre-accession process were drafted by Croatian and Latvian experts;**

• **MS expert worked together with BC expert on drafting the new Law on State Ensured Legal Aid. Moreover, two meetings of the Working Group of the Law on State Ensured Legal Aid were held during which the draft-law was presented and so far all recommendations of the members of the working group have been included in the draft-law;**

• **MS experts shared best practices of at least three EU Member States in respect of the IT systems within the judiciary and they started working on the best ICT centralisation solutions for the BC.**

**Under Component 2:**

* **Activities under this Component are scheduled to resume in the following quarter.**

**Under Component 3:**

* **MS experts screened the system of preparation of Action Plans and Action Reports and provided relevant advice to the Bureau for representation of BC before the ECtHR;**

**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 4th Steering Committee Meeting was held on 27 January 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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