Skopje, 30 October 2017

The official closing ceremony of the EU-funded Twinning Project “Strengthening the Rule of Law” will be held on Monday 30 October 2017 at 13:00 at the EU InfoCentre.

The project was implemented by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Beneficiary Country, the Bureau for representation of the Beneficiary Country before the European Court of Human Rights and the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors.

Official addresses at the event will be given by.

Mr. Nicola Bertolini, Head of Cooperation, EUD

Mr. Bilen Saliji, Minister of Justice, Beneficiary Country

Mr. Raivis Kronbergs, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia

Mr. Kristian Turkalj, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia

The overall objective of the twinning project was to support the justice sector institutions in consolidation of the rule of law by strengthening their capacities and by assisting in alignment of national law with EU acquis and key human rights instruments of the Council of Europe. The project was focused on three important components:

Enhancing the capacities of the Ministry of Justice to professionally execute its functions in the pre-and-post EU accession process and development of comprehensive IT solutions for access to legislation.

Improving the knowledge and capacities of relevant justice sector actors on the EU acquis and other international justice standards in view of fostering their transposition into the national law.

Screening of current legislative and structural system for execution of the European Court of Human Rights judgments and needs assessment in this regard.

The Twinning Project was funded by the European Union with a budget of 1 million EUR. The implementation period for the project was 22 months and 12 days (20 December 2015 – 31 October 2017).

Journalists and photographers are kindly invited to cover this event.

**PROGRAMME**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **12:45 - 13:00** | **Registration of the participants** |  |
| **Moderator** | **Ms Bojana Bosilkova, Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) counterpart**  **Ms Vineta Krutko, Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA)** | |
| **13:00 - 13:20** | **Welcome addresses and introduction** | **Mr Nicola Bertolini**, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union |
|  |  | **Mr Bilen Saljii**  Minister of Justice, BC |
|  |  | **Mr Raivis Kronbergs**  State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, LV |
|  |  | **Mr Kristian Turkalj**  State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, HR |
| **13:20 - 13:40** | **Presentation of the EU-funded Twinning Project** | |
|  |  | **Ms Irēna Kucina,** Project Leader, Ministry of Justice, LV  **Mr Ivan Crnčec**, Junior Project Leader, Ministry of Justice, HR  **Ms Frosina Tasevska,** Project Leader, Ministry of Justice, BC  **Ms Vineta Krutko**, RTA, Ministry of Justice, LV |
| **13:40 - 14:00** | **Questions and answers** |  |
| **14:00** | **Cocktail** |  |
| **http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/images/flag_yellow_high.jpg** | This project is funded by the European Union | |