



JUSTICE SECTOR

REFORMS NEWSLETTER

February - April 2019



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TOGETHER

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PRAVO-JUSTICE

Dear friends,

Here is the newsletter prepared by the EU-funded Project Pravo-Justice about our support to the justice sector reform.

We formed the Regional Justice Reform Councils in Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odesa regions, and the Donbas, which contribute to policy-making in judicial reform at the local level. Their representatives came together for the first time at the [Annual Congress of Regional Justice Reforms Councils](#) in Kyiv on March 26.

Each Regional Justice Reform Council consists of representatives of a broad range of legal professions, academia, students and CSOs, who are meeting on a regular basis in order to identify and discuss justice reform related topics of highest relevance for their region.

Our partner CFI started the [first cycle of mentorship](#) for journalists with a focus on the justice sector. They selected 10 participants from different regions of Ukraine with an interest in the court reporting and a willingness to inform society about the major issues related to the justice sector reform.

During this programme, trainers provided the group with specific skills related to the practice of justice journalism and shared best practices from the French experience with this specialized subject. The journalists prepared original ideas for special investigations or reports that the project will help them to implement.

We concluded a cycle of 11 trainings of trainers for judicial candidates as part of our close cooperation with the National School of Judges. Our experts participated in the improvement and promotion of modern training methods to be applied in the framework of initial and continuous training of judges and judicial candidates. Mentoring techniques based on development of personal skill and competences were promoted. As a result, about 300 judicial trainers have been trained to participate in the process of preparation of judicial candidates for their future service.

We completed the full-scale psychological testing of 257 experienced legal professionals with different backgrounds to the Supreme Court, which is comparable to methods already applied, albeit to a lesser scope and extent, in some EU countries. The tests provide a good base to receive a thorough expert assessment of the personality of a candidate.

We organised a workshop on [support of vulnerable court users](#)

Together with our counterparts, we aim at finding some pragmatic solutions to provide appropriate support to witnesses, for example by way of providing information in written and visual form, establishing a witness support service dedicated to cover their needs, improving courtroom facilities, and providing training to judges and court staff.

Our partners from La Strada/DCAF completed their 2018 [monitoring report and prepared a factsheet](#) on justice sector response to domestic violence and violence against women. They presented their findings at the multi-stakeholder round table for the effective criminal justice system response to domestic violence.

This report showed that there were 115,473 reports of domestic violence to the National Police of Ukraine and 2,542 appeals to the national hotline for the prevention of domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and gender discrimination in 2018.

We facilitated the development of the professional self-governance system of private enforcement officers

On March 1, the Association of Private Enforcement Officers of Ukraine (APEOU) and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine with the support of the EU Project Pravo-Justice and the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine organised the [Congress of Private Enforcement Officers of Ukraine](#).

Private enforcement officers adopted the APEOU Development Strategy and supported the proposal to establish an advisory body to the Disciplinary Commissioner, and to determine the procedure for his/her election and dismissal. We assisted the Association in developing the strategy and the concept of disciplinary ombudsman.

We spoke about Achievements of Implementation of a New Approach to Offenders in Ukraine: [Law on Probation Fourth Anniversary](#)

Today we can confirm that the probation system proves to be highly efficient. During 2018, over 101,000 persons serving a criminal sentence other than imprisonment passed through the probation system. Only 1.99% of these were accused of repeating a crime while serving their sentence (2,026 people).

We examined the current state of affairs to establish the electronic document management in the Ministry of Justice

Our experts conducted a scoping mission and agreed with the Ministry of Justice on a pilot region to implement fully electronic document exchange inside the regional office and between the regional office and the Headquarters.

We analysed institutional capacities of beneficiaries involved in the digital identity concept development and digital signature usage

The Project, together with the NAIS, the State Agency for E-Governance and the Ministry of Justice, completed a scoping mission to identify the problems to be addressed following the implementation of the e-signature.

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