



2012

REPORT

**ON THE WORK OF THE ACADEMY FOR JUDGES AND
PUBLIC PROSECUTORS IN 2012**





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I INTRODUCTORY NOTES

In the course of 2012, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors (hereinafter the Academy) completed all activities postulated in the law and fully met the obligations arising out of its 2012 Working Program, the 2011-2012 General Program for Continuous Professional Development of Judges and Public Prosecutors, and the 2012 Annual Catalogue of Activities as part of the mandatory training of judges, public prosecutors, presidents of courts and prosecutors in the public prosecution offices, as well as the Annual Catalogue of education of the judicial and public prosecution administration. Through all of its activities, the Academy provided professional training this year as well, continuing to realize its mission of promoting and ensuring independent, objective, highly professional and efficient judiciary that will affirm the principle of rule of law and human rights protection.

In 2012, the Academy was consistent in implementing the recommendations of the European Commission contained in the reports on monitoring the progress in the Republic of Macedonia. In its 2012 Progress Report on the Republic of Macedonia, the European Commission particularly emphasizes the role of the Academy in strengthening the professionalism and competency of the judiciary through the introduction of stricter criteria for enrollment into the initial training of the Academy; the criteria have to do with testing the academic knowledge and level of mastery of the English language. As part of the enrollment exam at the Academy, there are psychological and integrity tests, the implementation of which is outsourced to an independent and fully accredited institution; in addition, all measures have been taken to ensure protection of the confidentiality of the tests, which are classified.

The evaluation and monitoring of the knowledge and progress of candidates in the course of the initial training are also being strengthened; in addition, specialization of the candidates for the profession of a judge or public prosecutor is introduced, to make sure that those that will enter the judiciary will be the most qualified and appropriate ones, able to respond to the challenges and requirements of these prestigious professions. It is with this objective in mind that all activities in 2012 were undertaken as part of the initial training at the Academy, in an endeavor to ensure consistent respect for the legal regulations and strengthening the independence and expertise of the representatives of the judicial profession.

As regards the continuous professional development, the Academy successfully completed two large projects in 2012: trainings on the amendments to the Law on Litigation Procedure, supported by the Ministry of Justice and USAID, as well as the trainings on the new Law on Criminal Procedure and amendments to the Criminal Code, supported by the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the OPDAT Program of the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia.

In cooperation with the Court Administration Association and the public prosecution, the trainings planned in accordance with the Program for Training of Court and Public Prosecution Employees and the Catalogue for Training of Court and Public Prosecution Employees for the period January – December 2012 were also completed at the beginning of 2012. A new catalogue of trainings for court and public prosecution employees for the period January – December 2013 has been developed and distributed to the courts and public prosecution offices.

In the course of 2012, the Academy went on to realize trainings focused on the most important areas in the law, such as amendments and addenda to the national, international and EU legislation and jurisprudence, as well as trainings in complementary skills and a specialized training for newly elected judges and public prosecutors in accordance with a specially designed training program. As regards the activities related to the mandatory continuous professional development, a new catalogue of trainings of judges, public prosecutors, presidents of courts



and prosecutors in the public prosecution offices has been developed and already distributed to the courts and public prosecution offices.

The IPA 2008 Project of Further Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors ended in April 2012. The project had begun in June 2010 and aimed at the creation of a powerful, modern, transparent and progressive institution, which will be a synonym of expertise and professionalism. The four components of the project were the basis for the activities through which the Academy introduced a new system of management of the processes in the continuous and initial training; in addition, a new e-learning system and a new electronic library have been established. A new Web portal was also designed to allow for higher transparency of the work of the Academy, as well as an easier access for the Academy system users. As part of these components, the electronic materials used as working materials during the initial and continuous training were used to create a database as well.

At the same time, the Academy also conducted a training needs assessment, developed a training needs assessment methodology, program creation methodologies, a continuous training framework program (incorporated into the General Continuous Education Program), an initial training framework program, a questionnaire for subsequent evaluation of trainings, an annual catalogue of activities related to the mandatory continuous professional development of judges and public prosecutors, as well as a catalogue of trainings of court and public prosecution employees. The Academy developed training materials, especially in the area of the international and EU law, and a training program for the European and international law for the initial and continuous training. A portion of the program was implemented in last year's trainings organized in cooperation with the Project, and the remaining part was implemented in the subsequent trainings in the area of EU law. We also designed a decentralized trainings program, based on the needs of judges and public prosecutors in the regions of the country and incorporated it into the 2012 Annual Catalogue of Activities.

The implementation of the component for introduction of the e-learning system will have a positive impact on the decentralized trainings in terms of accessibility of the training materials.

The implementation of all four components of the IPA Project demonstrates the successful cooperation between the national judicial institutions-beneficiaries of the Project and their ability and skills to successfully manage the pre-accession funds and the components of the European projects and to incorporate them into the institutions in a useful fashion to enhance the efficiency and professionalism of the judiciary in the Republic of Macedonia.



II LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 88/2010) regulates the work of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, as a public institution for enrollment and professional development of candidates for judges and public prosecutors, continuous training and enhancement of the expertise of judges and public prosecutors, continuous training of court and public prosecution employees, training of entities taking part in the application of laws in the area of judiciary, conducting analytical activities in the area of judiciary theory and practice, as well as the work of the management bodies and funding of the Academy.

The Statute of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 12/2011) regulates in closer details the internal organization and manner of operation of the Academy, whereas its rules of procedure and rulebooks regulate certain segments of the work of the Academy (Rules of Procedure of the Academy Program Council; Rules of Procedure of the Academy Management Board; Rulebook on the Manner of Realization of Continuous Education Programs; Rulebook on Determining the Remuneration of Members of the Management Board, Program Council, Enrollment Committee and Final Examination Committee, Lecturers, Initial Training Participants, and Candidates for Judges and Public Prosecutors; and Rulebook on the Organization and Operation of the Library).

In the course of 2012, amendments and addenda to the Statute of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors were adopted ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 50/2012 dated 17 April 2012), which brought the Statute in compliance with the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia, A. No. 156/2010-0-1 dated 29 February 2012.

To ensure implementation of the novelties in the Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, the Academy adopted a Rulebook on Taking the Enrollment Exam at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 60/2012 dated 16 May 2012).

Amendments and addenda to the Code of Business Ethics and Conduct of the Employees at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors were also adopted, as was a Rulebook on Safety and Health and Procedures for Registration of External Users of the Information System of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors.

At the end of 2012, the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia enacted a Law amending the Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 166 dated 26 December 2012), to ensure compliance with the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia, A. No. 183/2010-0-1 dated 4 May 2011, in terms of the remuneration of the members of the Enrollment Committee, Final Examination Committee, and the participants in the continuous education at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors.



III ACTIVITIES OF THE ACADEMY BODIES

1. WORK OF THE ACADEMY MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board was constituted in line with the new Law on Academy and is consisted of 13 members. In the course of 2012, the Academy Management Board held 12 sessions to consider issues within its competencies. In this sense, the Management Board of the Academy – upon a proposal of the Academy Director – adopted the following acts, reports, and programs:

- Report of the Final Examination Committee on the course and manner of implementation of the final examination in 2011 for the fourth generation of candidates in the initial training;
- Report on the work of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors in 2011;
- List of lecturers engaged as needed in the course of 2011;
- 2011 Financial Statements of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors;
- 2012 Public Procurements Plan of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors;
- 2012 Work Program of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors;
- Addition to the 2012 Annual Public Procurement Plan;
- Amendments and addenda to the Statute of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors (to ensure compliance with the Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia, A. No. 156/2010-0-1 dated 29 February 2012);
- Program for Taking an Examination for Enrollment at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors;
- Rulebook on Taking an Enrollment Examination at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors;
- List of lecturers for court and public prosecution employees at the Academy;
- 2013-2014 General Program for Continuous Education of Judges and Public Prosecutors;
- Amendments and addenda to the Code of Business Ethics and Conduct of the employees at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors;
- Rulebook on Safety and Health at Work;
- Procedures for Registration of External Users of the Information System of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors.

In the course of 2012, the Management Board also adopted numerous decisions in line with the Law and the Statute of the Academy, in relation with the activity and operation of the Academy, with the following being the most important ones:

- Decision on identification of the degree of confidentiality of the psychological and integrity tests;
- Decision – the psychological tests and the test of integrity for the needs of the Academy in carrying out the enrollment examination for the fifth generation of participants in the initial training are to be adjusted and carried out by the Institute of



Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje;

- Decision on publishing an advertisement for enrollment of the fifth generation of participant in the initial training at the Academy;
- Decision on constituting an Enrollment Committee; and
- Decision on appointing members and deputy members of the new composition of the Program Council of the Academy.

2. WORK OF THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

As an expert body of the Academy, the Program Council, acting within its competencies as stipulated in the new Law and the Academy Statute, held a total of four meetings presided over by the Academy Director, to put forward guidelines and the following proposals:

- Enrollment Examination Proposal Program;
- Proposal General Program for Continuous Education of Judges and Public Prosecutors in 2013-2014;
- Proposal Catalogue of activities related to the compulsory continuous training of judges, public prosecutors, presidents of courts and public prosecution offices for the period January – December 2013;
- Opinion on the Proposal List of Lecturers for court and public prosecution employees.

The Program Council continuously works on upgrading and promoting the training programs, teaching methodologies and techniques in cooperation with the lecturers and mentors and the Academy Director and operational departments, in line with the interventions in the new Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors.

In this sense, the Program Council considered the new Framework Program for the Theoretical Part of the Initial Training, proposed by the IPA Project entitled “Further Strengthening of the Institutional Capacities of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors” and provided guidelines and proposals as to how it should be further developed, upgraded and adjusted to the needs of the initial training participants to include theoretical lectures that are appropriately balanced with practical work.

3. WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ACADEMY DIRECTOR

In the course of 2012, the Director, being the management and executive body of the Academy, performed all duties as stipulated in the Law, the Statute of the Academy and the other by-laws. In this sense, as part of managing the work of the Academy, the Director saw to the implementation of the Management Board decisions, submitted proposals for adoption of general acts, a proposal work program of the Academy, proposal training programs and a proposal annual report on work of the Academy, presided over the sessions of the Program Council, and participated in the work of the sessions of the Management Board without a right to vote to regularly present reports on the activities completed by the Academy in the period



between two sessions. The Director also represented the Academy in its cooperation with national and international organs, organizations and projects and carried out other activities required for the operation of the Academy and for ensuring conditions for its normal everyday functioning.

Over the past year, the Director continued with the activities as a member of the Court-Budget Council, regularly taking part in its sessions and contributing to the work of this body; at the same time, as a member of the Working Group for development of the National Program for Adoption of the Acquis of the European Union and preparation of the negotiating positions for negotiations for membership in the European Union, the Director submitted suggestions to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia for revision of the 2011 – 2013 NPAA. As part of the activities related to the new Law on Criminal Procedure, in the capacity of a chairperson of the working group set up at the Ministry of Justice to develop the Action Plan for Implementation of the New Law on Criminal Procedure, the Academy Director continued with the activities aimed at implementation of the new Law in the reporting period. In this period, the



Director was also a member of the Ministry of Justice Working Group for Amendments to the Criminal Code, as well as a member of the working body of the MATRA Project and the working group of the project of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption entitled “Support for the Development of a System of Whistleblowers in the Republic of Macedonia”, in organization of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), in cooperation with the Embassy of Great Britain. Last year, the Director also took part in the sessions of the Court Reforms Council, in the capacity of a member, as well as in the meetings of the inter-ministerial body for fighting corruption.

In the course of 2012, the Academy Director held lectures, presentations and introductory addresses and participated in significant seminars, workshops and round tables,



organized in cooperation with national and foreign projects and with the participation of foreign lecturers and guests:

- “Financial Crime and Investigations”;
- “Training of Trainers on Skills in Running Court Proceedings”;
- International scientific conference on the topic of “Principal Issues of Codifying the Macedonian Civil Law” at the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts;
- “Court Decisions within Reasonable Period of Time”, “Competition Law in the European Union”, “Independence of Public Prosecutors, Assessment of the Work of Public Prosecutors, Electing and Dismissing Public Prosecutors”, participation in the round table dedicated to the cooperation between our Academy and the National Judiciary Academy (ENM) of the Republic of France”;
- Presenting the program for training of trainers on the topic of “Confiscation of Illegally Acquired Assets, Seizure of Items and Support for Anticorruption Measures”;
- Participation at the isolation session with the educators for the new Law on Criminal Procedure (LCP), aimed at summarizing the results of the basic trainings delivered on the needs of corrections in the LCP;
- “Litigation Procedure”, specialized training: “Public Prosecution Management Skills”; workshop on the topic “Protection of the Environment in the EU”;
- Speech at the closing event of IPA 2008 on the successful implementation of all project components;
- Promotion of the “Practicum on Actions in Cases of Domestic Violence”;
- Round table on the topic “Court Practice Related to Crimes against Honor and Reputation and Review of the Practice of the ECHR in Terms of Applying Article 10 of ECHR”;
- Seminar on strengthening the capacities of the Academy with representatives of other judiciary academies with EU Member States;
- Presentation of the current activities of GRECO, the work of the GRECO Committee, the role and activities of the Republic of Macedonia in GRECO, as well as the annual report of the GRECO Committee at the seminar entitled “Bribery through the Concept of an Official/Corruption” and at the seminar on the topic of “Training of Trainers on Mediation”, in cooperation with the MATRA Project Support for the Promotion and Implementation of Mediation in Macedonia.

In June and July, the Academy Director held coordinating meetings with presidents of the courts and court and public prosecution clerks in all regions, to promote the new conditions for



enrollment in the initial training.

In the capacity of a member of the Project Committee, the Director took part in the event on the occasion of launch of the project entitled ““Support for the Development of a System of Whistleblowers in the Republic of Macedonia”, in organization of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), and held lectures at a seminar on the topic “Criminal Liability of Legal Entities” organized in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje.

- The Director held lectures at two seminars on the topic “The Challenge of the Institute of Plea Bargaining under the New Law on Criminal Procedure”, as well as at the seminar entitled “Accessing EU” at the Regional Conference on Selected Intellectual Property Issues.

The Director also participated in the conference on the topic “Support for Anticorruption Measures and Policies, with a Special Focus on Confiscation of Illegally Acquired Assets”, “Presentation of the Collection of Landmark Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights Related to Articles 3, 5, 6 and 8 of ECHR”.

In addition, the Director completed the following activities:

- Participation at the regional conference on “Computer Crime”, the round table on “Hate Speech”, the seminar on “Jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice”, and the seminar on “Running Courts and Managing Budgets”.
- Participation in the workshop for members of the Court Budget Council, on the topic of “Preparing and Executing Court Budgets”.
- Participation in the expert debate on the working version of the National Strategy for Establishment of Probation in the Republic of Macedonia.
- Participation in the conference on the occasion of the International Tolerance Day, introductory speech and active participation in the round table entitled “Detecting Needs of Continuous Training of Judges in the Area of Commercial Law”, at the seminar on the topic of “Improvement of the Quality of Justice”, “EU Law on Judiciary II”, participation at the Isolation Session on completing the materials for specialized trainings on implementation of the new Law on Criminal Procedure.

The Director gave an introductory speech as part of the event on the occasion of marking the end of the basic trainings on the Law on Criminal Procedures, made a presentation at the Conference on Equality and Non-discrimination, participated at the seminar on “Law on Refugees and Practice (Practice of the European Court of Human Rights and the No-return Principle)” and promoted the new edition of the UNHCR Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria on Determining Refugee Status of 2011.

As part of the activities related to the new Law on Criminal Procedure and in the capacity of a president of the working group set up at the Ministry of Justice to develop the Action Plan for Implementation of the New Law on Criminal Procedure, the Director had meetings with the members of the working group. As one of the 28 trainers on the new Law on Criminal Procedure and a member of the First Team of Trainers on the new Law on Criminal Procedure, the Director delivered four basic trainings on the new law.



Memorandums signed in 2012:

On 31 January 2012, a Memorandum of Three-Year Cooperation was signed by and between the Academy and the Embassy of the Republic of France in the Republic of Macedonia on intensive cooperation in the exchange of comparative experiences to strengthen the capacities of the Academy and improve the efficiency of the judiciary system in the Republic of Macedonia.

On 27 June 2012, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Commission for Protection against and Prevention of Discrimination, with the aim of deepening the successfully established cooperation between the two institutions.

On 12 July 2012, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by and between the Academy and the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to strengthen the capacities of the administration judiciary, as well as to develop the national jurisprudence in line with the prevailing international legal standards and the rule of law principle.

On 29 October 2012, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Information, in order to raise the level of awareness of judges and public prosecutors and other relevant entities participating in the implementation of the Law on Free Access to Public Information.

In March 2012, the Director was at the head of the delegation of the Republic of Macedonia, composed of the highest representatives of judiciary institutions in the Republic of Macedonia and representatives of the printed and electronic media in the country, which paid a study visit to the European Court of Human Rights, to get familiar with the practice of the court related to Article 10 of ECHR. The visit was organized by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, in cooperation with and funded by the TAIEX instrument of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

In the capacity of a member of the working group of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), the Director attended the 20th Session of the CCJE Working Group, held in Strasbourg, France.

As part of the regular work activities in GRECO, in the capacity of a Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia to the GRECO Committee at the Council of Europe, the Director attended the 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, and 58th Plenary Session of the GRECO Committee, held in the



period between March and December 2012 in Strasbourg.

At an invitation of the European Judicial Network, the Director attended the General Assembly of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), held in May 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In November 2012, as a member of the Working Group of the Consultative Council of European Judges, the Director attended the Plenary Session of CCJE, at which Opinion no. 15 of the Council was adopted.

In November 2012, in the capacity of a member of the delegation of the Republic of Macedonia, the director attended the 9th session of the Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security in Brussels, the goal of which is monitoring the progress made by the Republic of Macedonia in this area, as well as the relevance of the measures identified for the future reform.

As part of the regular duties, the Director had regular meetings with both the national and foreign trainers, directors of academies of training from the region and Europe, representatives of national institutions and organs, international organizations, embassies and domestic and foreign projects; upon invitations, the Director took active participation in a series of events organized by national and foreign institutions, as well as in the work of various working groups.

In the course of her regular legal duties, the Academy Director held numerous working meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and with the civil society sector, representatives of other judicial professions, faculties and other entities that the Academy cooperates with in the realization of the trainings required for the needs of the judiciary.

Within her competencies, the Director issued numerous decisions in the course of 2012, in line with the Law on Academy for Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Law on Public Procurements, Law on Employment, Law on Civil Servants, Law on Execution of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia, Law on Payment Operations, Law on Accounting for Budgets and Budget Users, Law on Safety and Health at Work, Law on Acting upon Filings and Proposals, Decree on Office and Archive Operations, as well as other decisions arising out of the need to ensure smooth completion of the activity of the Academy.

Pursuant to the amendments to the Law on Civil Servants that came into effect in 2012, the Academy Director also evaluated the work of civil servants, which is done at every six months or twice a year in accordance with the amendments.



IV WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF THE OPERATIONAL DEPARTMENTS

In the course of 2012, the Operational Departments of the Academy carried out all of their activities and tasks required for smooth functioning of the Academy. Thus, the departments made a significant contribution to the attainment of all planned and set objectives in all segments of the operation of the Academy and to its institutional strengthening in terms of proposing and implementing all programs, supporting the performance of the duties of the Academy bodies and organs, supporting the trainers and mentors as the main actors in the educational process, organizing study visits and trainings abroad, as well as supporting the organization of welcoming foreign delegations in the Academy. At the same time, the department also completed all obligations and priorities arising out of the regulations on employment relations, public procurements and the budget, as well as other activities facilitating the improvement of the work of the Academy.

By being present and actively participating in the creation and delivery of the trainings through direct contacts with the trainers, mentors and participants in the trainings, the employees in the operational departments acquire information and knowledge on the benefits from the trainings and increasingly take on the important role of ones who propose and create the programs for the trainings to come.

The extraordinary results achieved by the Academy in 2012 are the result of the enormous amount of efforts invested by all employees, who contribute their energy and dedication to enhance the reputation of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, which the latter rightfully enjoys in its national and international relations.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAININGS

To ensure the professional development of the management structure and the operational departments, an annual training program was developed for the management structure and the employees of the Academy for various segments of their work, all aimed at allowing them to perform their duties at a high professional level and continuously upgrade their performance.

To facilitate the professional development of the operational departments, the Academy adopted an Annual Program of Training Employees, to ensure completion of the tasks at a highly professional level.

To that goal, the Academy has continuous cooperation with the Agency for Administration, the Public Procurement Office, the Court-Budget Council and other institutions and organizations engaged in training the state and public administration.



In the course of 2012, the pilot-implementation of the Knowledge Pulse system for micro-learning of the Ministry of Information Society and Administration began; these trainings also included the employees at the information technology unit of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors. The client applications have already been installed and micro-learning is already underway in the framework of two courses: Law on Electronic Management and Law on Public Procurement. Following the completion and evaluation of these pilot-courses, thematic courses will be developed to include all employees at the Academy.

In 2012, the employees also attended numerous trainings intended for civil servants, with the objective being their professional development and expert and efficient work: Registry of Civil Servants; Mediation in the Republic of Macedonia – What are the next steps?; Modernization of the Legislation on Personal Data Protection in Europe; Management for Quality; Anticorruption Measures and Ethics in the Civil Services; Education on Public Procurement; Consistent Application of the Law on Public Procurement; Training on Application of the Law on Electronic Management, organized by the Ministry of Information Society and Administration.

There was also a training on implementation of the Knowledge Pulse system for micro-learning for civil servants, organized by the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, as well as a training on the topic of “Computer Crime”, organized by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

One of the trainings of particular significance for strengthening the capacities of the Academy was the one organized by the Academy in cooperation with and funded by the TAIEX instrument: it was intended both for the operational departments of the Academy and the members of the Academy bodies, trainers and mentors.

In addition, an employee of the operational departments took part in a seminar on EU accession, focusing on Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Safety, as well as in a workshop aimed at identifying the level of harmonization of the national legislation with that of EU in terms of Chapters 23 and 24, organized by the



Secretariat for European Affairs in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

PARTICIPATION OF THE OPERATIONAL DEPARTMENTS IN VARIOUS BODIES AND GROUPS

In addition to performing their regular duties within the competencies and activities of the Academy, the employees in the operational departments of the Academy were authorized by the Director to take active part as members of working groups and bodies: Working Group for Chapter 23 of NPAA – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights (coordinator – the Ministry of Justice); Working Group for Chapter 3.7. of NPAA – Right to Intellectual Property (coordinator – the State Intellectual Property Office); Working Group for realization of the 2011 – 2014 Program for Encouraging Investments in the Republic of Macedonia (coordinator – the Ministry of Economy); National Coordination Body for Protection of Children against Abuse and Neglect (coordinator – the Ministry of labor and Social Policy); Coordination Body for Mediation (coordinator – the Ministry of Justice); Management Committee of the project entitled “Building Capacities of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy for Implementation of the National Strategy on Equality and Non-discrimination on Grounds of Gender, Ethnicity, Age and People with Special Needs” (coordinator – the Ministry of labor and Social Policy); Working Group for support in the development of the Strategy for Establishment of a Probation Service in the Republic of Macedonia (coordinator – the Ministry of Justice, Administration for Enforcement of Sanctions – a project with a financial and expert support of the Embassy of the United Kingdom); Working Group for development of a program for trainings in the area of combating corruption and prevention of conflicts of interest, in cooperation with the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.

V HUMAN RESOURCES

In the course of 2012, the number of people engaged in the work of the Academy, besides its Director, totaled 22, of whom 15 in regular employment (13 civil servants and two employees in accordance with the Law on Employment), one person engaged on a project and six volunteers. Last year, the Academy obtained the consent of the Ministry of Finance and employed two people at the following positions:

- an adviser on development and modernization of the information technology system;
- an adviser on data storing, analysis and evaluation.

In this way, the Academy strengthened its capacities in terms of its Information Technologies Unit.

The problems in the operation of the Academy in terms of human resources include insufficient number of full-time employees in its continuous education department, which engages volunteers due to the scope of work, as well as at managerial positions in the hierarchical set up as per the Act on Organization of the Academy.

Illustrated graphically, this is what the structure of employees in the Academy looks like:



VI INITIAL TRAINING

In the course of 2012, all necessary preparations were completed for the enrollment of the fifth generation of participants in the initial training, in line with the conditions as stipulated in the 2010 Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors.

The implementation of the amendments to the 2010 Law on Academy in relation to entry into the judicial profession began in 2011, with activities aimed at implementation of internationally recognized psychological and integrity tests, as part of the entry exam at the Academy. The psychological and integrity tests models provided by the Academy have been developed by an international expert institution from the Netherlands, which is actually the oldest consulting company in Holland, founded in 1927 as a Laboratory of Applied Psychology (LAP).

In 2012, upon a decision of the Management Board of the Academy, the psychological and integrity tests were classified in compliance with the Law on Classified Information ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" no. 9/2004, 113/2007 and 145/2010) and activities were undertaken to provide security certificates for access to and handling classified information, with an appropriate level of access for all individuals who are to have access to the stated tests in the course of implementing the procedure for enrollment of the fifth generation of participants in the initial training before and after the assessment, i.e. evaluation of the tests; at the same time, the Directorate for Security of Classified Information trained these employees on the manner of operation and the measures and activities to be undertaken to ensure security of the tests as classified information against any unauthorized access.



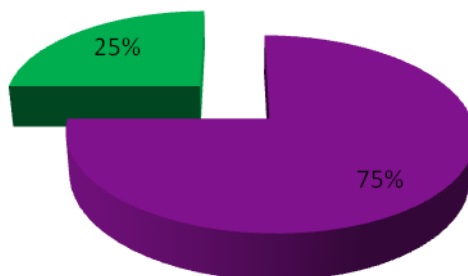
The Institute of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje – University “St. Cyril and Methodius”, as the independent and fully accredited professional institution entrusted with the implementation of the psychological and integrity tests, adopted the models of the internationally recognized tests and prepared them for use at the entry exam of the new generation of participants in the initial training.

The total number of the new generation of initial training participants (29) was identified on the basis of the decisions of the Court Council of the Republic of Macedonia and the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia, in accordance with Article 43 (2) of the Law on Academy. The Enrollment Examination Program and the Rulebook for Taking an Enrollment Examination at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors were adopted and published on the Academy Web site.



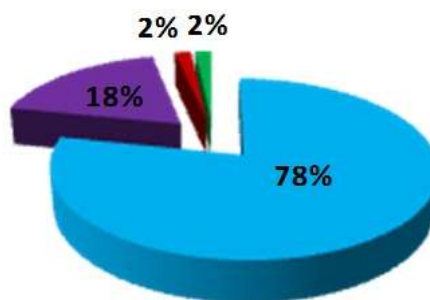
Participants who have completed the initial training 80

■ Selected participants 60 ■ Not selected participants 20



Ethnic structure of participants selected for the initial training

■ Macedonians 47 ■ Albanians 11 ■ Turks 1 ■ Bosniaks 1





VII CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

Following the latest changes in the national legislation aimed at harmonizing the latter with the international documents, our judiciary and the Academy, as an institution constituting a precious element in the process of judicial reforms, pay particular attention to and implement the modern trends and developments of the European judiciary, to improve not only the independence, but also the efficiency and transparency of the judiciary. To this goal, judges and public prosecutors, presidents of courts and public prosecution offices, operational departments in the courts and public prosecution offices, as well as the entities taking part in the application of laws in the area of judiciary, undergo continuous education to ensure constant professional development of the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills, required for the expert and efficient carrying out of the judicial and public prosecution function.

The continuous education of judges and public prosecutors was realized in line with the General Program for Continuous Education of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the 2012 Annual Catalogue of Activities, which was completed in full.

The trainings focused on the most important areas in the law, such as the addenda and amendments in the national and international legislation and the legislation of the European Union and its jurisprudence, as well as on trainings on complementary skills and specialized trainings for newly elected judges and public prosecutors in accordance with a specially designed training program. Special accent was placed on the trainings in the areas and on topics identified under the Partnership for Accession as having priority for harmonizing the national legislation with the *acquis* and also envisaged in the National Program for Adoption of *Acquis* (NPAA), in particular trainings in the following areas: trainings on the amendments and addenda to the Law on Litigation Procedure, the Criminal Code and the new Law on Criminal Procedure, trainings on combating organized crime and corruption and financial crime, trainings on conflict of interests, application of the European Convention on Human Rights, certain areas of the EU law, etc.

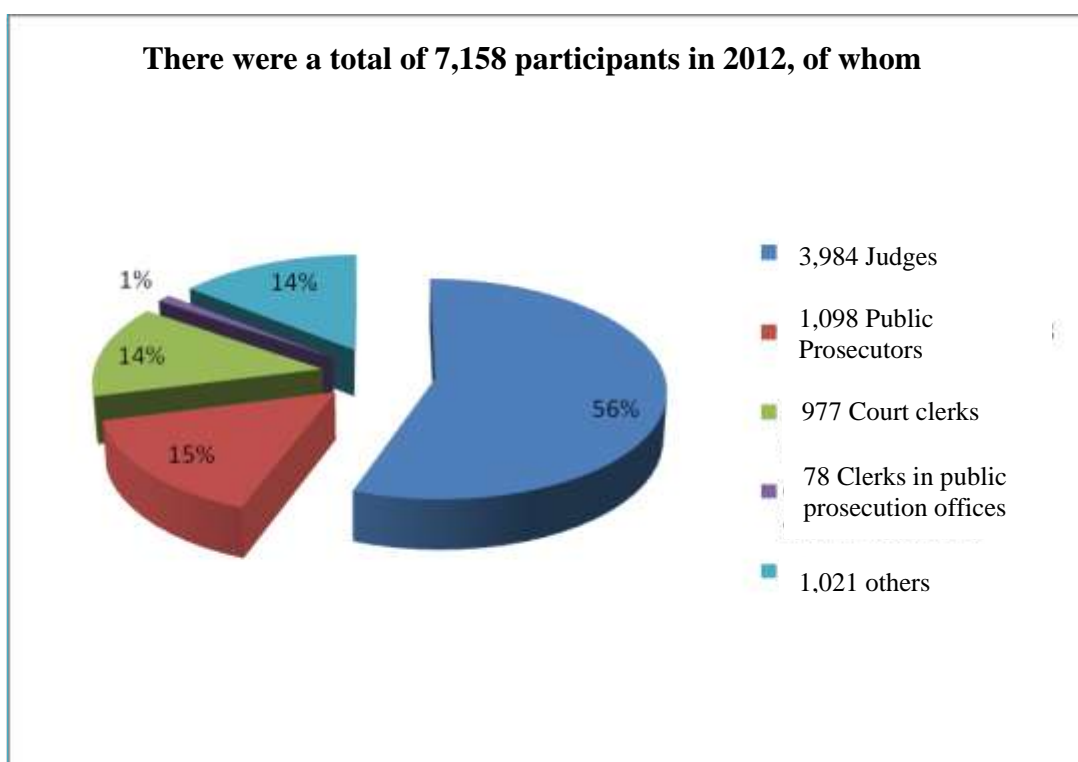
The majority of the trainings implemented by the Academy were multidisciplinary, meaning that the Academy ensures an interdisciplinary composition of trainers and participants at the trainings.

NUMBER OF TRAININGS IN 2012

In the period between 1 January and 31 December 2012, the Academy organized 232 trainings in total, with a total of 378 days of training and with participation of 7,158 participants, of whom 3,984 judges, 1,098 public prosecutors, 977 court clerks, 78 clerks in the public prosecution offices, and 1,021 other participants – representatives from other relevant institutions, organizations, the civil society sector, etc., invited by the Academy and working in areas related to the content of the trainings.



TARGET GROUPS STRUCTURE

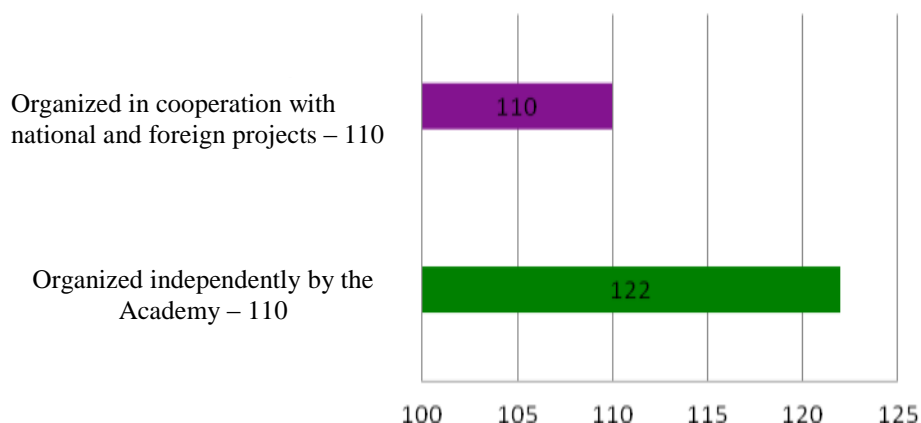


ORGANIZATION OF TRAININGS

Of the total of 232 trainings delivered in the reporting period, 122 were organized by the Academy alone, whereas 110 trainings were organized in cooperation with and partially or fully funded by other national and foreign projects, associations, organizations and institutions.



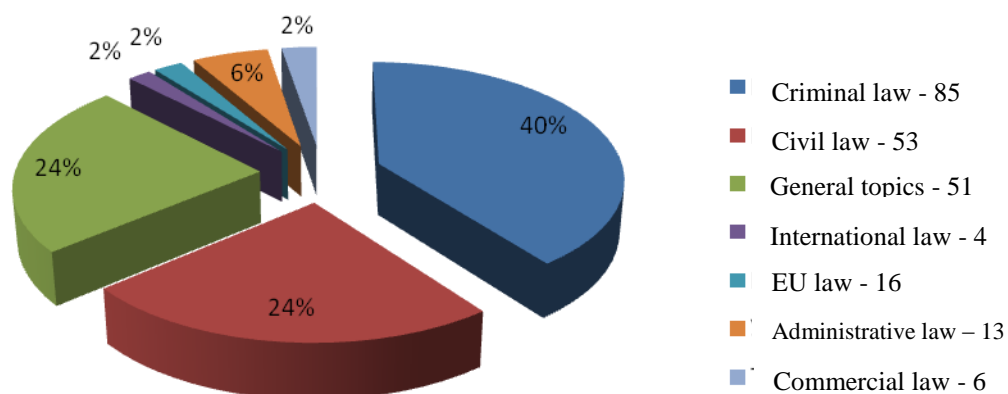
Organization of trainings in 2012 232 trainings in total



TRAINING CONTENT

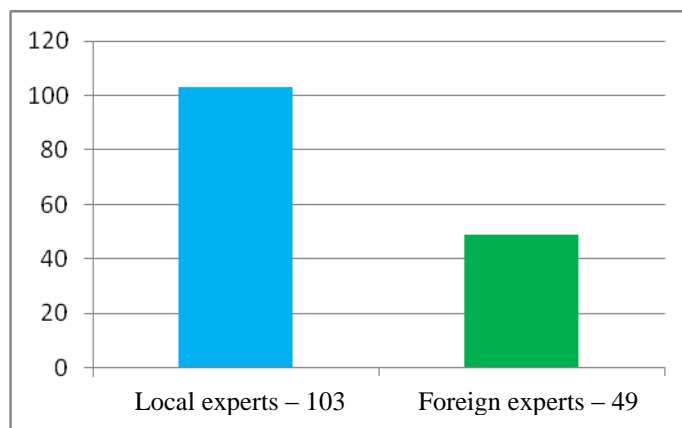
Of the total number of trainings completed in the reporting period, 55 were in the area of civil law, 90 in the area of criminal law, four in the area of international law, five in the area of the EU law, 13 in the area of administrative law, six in the area of commercial law, and 54 of the trainings were devoted to general topics. Below is a graphical illustration of the structure of the trainings:

TRAININGS BY AREA





A total of 152 lecturers were engaged in the course of 2012, of whom 103 local and 49 foreign experts.



Of the local experts who participated as lecturers in the trainings in 2012, 31 were judges, 13 were public prosecutors, and 59 were experts in other areas, in accordance with the areas covered by the trainings.



In 2012, as a result of the rating gained in its national and international relations, the Academy continued engaging experts at the highest levels – judges and public prosecutors from foreign states and at highest instances, such as supreme courts, state public prosecution offices, professors, judges in the European Court of Human Rights and other top level experts.

In addition to the lecturers at the Academy, who are on the list of regular lecturers, the Academy also engaged temporary lecturers who are experts in the appropriate ministries, offices, administrations and other state organs, institutions and organizations, especially those with whom the Academy partners to meet the obligations related to trainings in accordance with NPAA, experts from the NGO sector, retired judges, professors, assistants, lawyers, public notaries, enforcement agents, court expert witnesses, psychiatrists and many others with profiles required for the particular training.



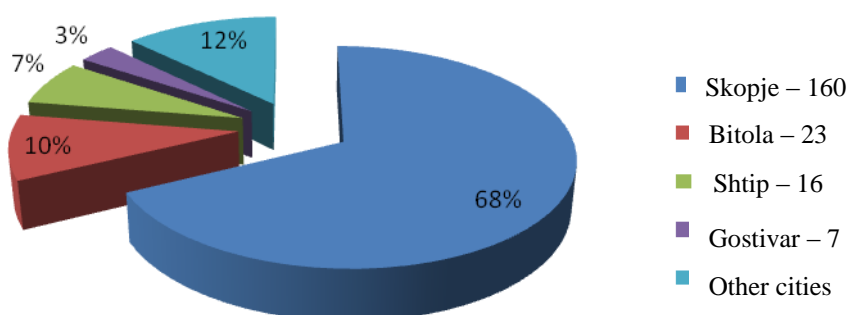
METHODOLOGY AND TARGET GROUPS, CONTENT OF THE CONTINUOUS TRAINING PROGRAM

DECENTRALIZED TRAINING SYSTEM

Ever since the beginning of its work, the Academy has been developing a system of decentralized training, widely supported by all target groups in the regions, through the system of engaging contact persons for the trainings and attendance of one employee from the operational departments of the Academy. In accordance with the work plan and the annual training calendar adopted, they attend trainings in the region, provide technical and expert assistance to the trainers, take minutes and develop reports on each individual training.

Of the total number of trainings realized in the course of the reporting period, 160 took place in Skopje, 23 in Bitola, 16 in Shtip, seven in Gostivar, and the remaining 30 were delivered in other cities and places throughout the Republic of Macedonia (Ohrid, Struga, Strumica, Mavrovo, etc.).

Dispersed trainings



CONTINUOUS EDUCATION ON APPLICATION OF THE NEW PROCEDURAL LAWS

➤ LAW ON LITIGATION PROCEDURE

The amendments and addenda to the Law on Litigation Procedure (LLP) came in force in September 2011 and the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors continued organizing trainings on the implementation of the novelties in the Law in the form of workshops, at which the judges and attorneys at law had an opportunity to exchange and share their initial experiences and raise issues regarding the direct implementation of the Law in their everyday practice.



Already during both the trainings and the initial practical application of the LLP, undisputable benefits of the new procedural solutions in the law could be noted, as those solutions aim at higher procedural discipline of all parties in the proceedings; this led to shortening the length of the proceedings, allowing for proceedings to be completed within reasonable periods of time respecting at the same time the procedural guarantees of the parties, who are practically the main actors in the procedure of presenting evidence and in the procedural deadlines.

The trainings were delivered in a regional fashion – by appellate areas: nine workshops for civil judges on the topic of “Practical Implementation of the Law on Litigation Procedure”, which were attended by a total of **348** participants, of whom 266 judges, 32 court clerks, 23 attorneys, 11 state public prosecutors, and five representatives of the Ministry of Interior’s Unit for Court Proceedings and Property Protection.

In addition, two workshops were held for court clerks and attended by a total of 44 clerks.

➤ **LAW ON CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

In 2012, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors also continued its activities related to the new Law on Criminal Procedure (LCP), as part of the reform of the criminal law in the Republic of Macedonia, the goal of which is to harmonize the legal reforms with the standards and laws in the European Union, by reinforcing the role of the public prosecutor, defining the priorities in applying the penalty policy, applying urgent proceedings and out-of-court plea bargaining and penalty.

In 2012, the Academy succeeded in completing the project of basic trainings on the LCP (a total of 35 basic trainings), an activity assessed as an excellent example of success due to the high level of professionalism and efficiency; this came as a result of the full devotion and engagement of the teams composed of the most experienced lecturers, but also as a result of the active participation, dedication and professionalism of the participants. These trainings demonstrated that the cooperation between all stakeholders that will be applying the law in practice, and lecturers of all profiles: professors, judges and public prosecutors, attorneys, representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Financial Police Administration, Customs Administration, always yields extraordinary results. Of essential importance was also the support provided to the Academy in the implementation of the project by the highest institutions in the judiciary, such as the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, the State public Prosecutor of the Republic of Macedonia, the Court Council and the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia, the Bar Association of the Republic of Macedonia, the Faculty of Law “Justinian I”, as well the professional associations of judges and public prosecutors.

BY COMPLETING THIS PROJECT, EVERY JUDGE AND PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, AS WELL AS THE CLERKS AND ADVISERS ACQUIRED BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR APPLYING THE NEW LCP.



At the final conference on the project for basic trainings for LCP, Mr. Brian C. Aggeler, U.S. Deputy Ambassador in the Republic of Macedonia expressed his belief that these trainings will contribute to the practical implementation of the law and that this will promote the rule of law to the benefit of the citizens. "This is an important step in the progress in the implementation of the Law on Criminal Procedure, which is significant not only for the advancement of Macedonia towards meeting the international standards in the law, but also for the promotion of the rule of law to the benefit of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia", Deputy Ambassador Brian C. Aggeler said for the media.

As the Academy undertook numerous serious and comprehensive preparations in the previous years aimed at successful organization of the basic trainings for the new LCP, below is a lengthy and detailed report on the activities that the Academy carried out in 2012 to train the judges and public prosecutors on the application of this strategic law, especially activities related to the delivery of the basic trainings and development of the materials for the (specialized) advanced trainings.

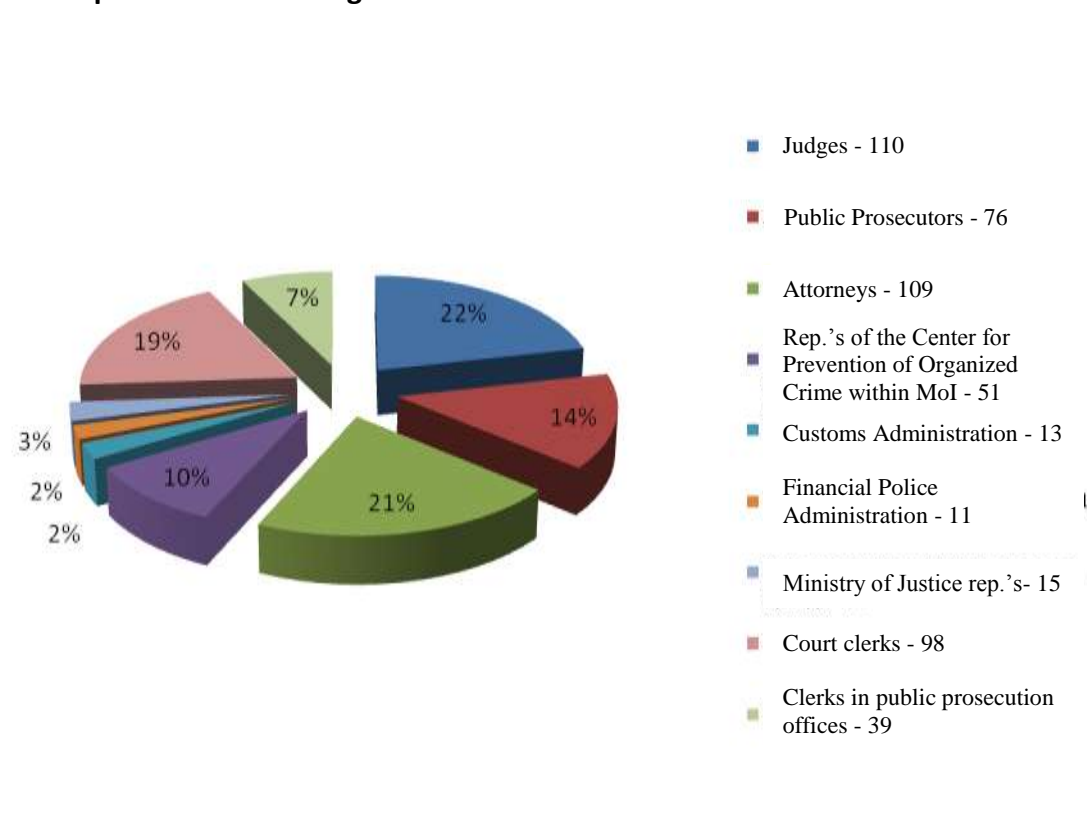
➤ **BASIC TRAININGS FOCUSED ON THE NEW LAW ON CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

In accordance with the Program for Implementation of Trainings related to the new law, 19 basic trainings were delivered in 2012, to train:

- 113 judges working in all criminal departments of the courts with expanded and basic competence;
- 98 advisers and associates from the above courts;
- 76 public prosecutors from the public prosecution offices with expanded and basic competence;
- 39 advisers and associates from the above public prosecution offices;
- 109 attorney at law;
- 51 representative of the Center for Prevention of Organized and Serious Crime within the Ministry of Interior, 13 from the Customs Administration, 11 from the Financial Police Administration, a total of 75 representatives of the judiciary police at the investigation centers, in accordance with the new LCP;
- 15 representatives of the Ministry of Justice, who took active participation in the trainings.



Participants in the trainings on the new Law on Criminal Procedure



➤ Materials developed for the advanced trainings on the new LCP

In cooperation with the OSCE Mission, as a result of the basic trainings delivered over the previous period, another one-day Isolation Session was held to complete the final notes from the already delivered 18 basic trainings; also, suggestions were put forward with regard to the advanced training modules for the new Law on Criminal Procedure. The session was attended by 21 participants in total: eight judges, seven public prosecutors, and six other participants.

Thus, as a result of the Isolation Session and based on the conclusions at it, preparations are underway of the materials for the specialized modules, with the modules and duration tailored to each of the stages in the criminal procedure and with a particular focus on the novelties in the criminal procedure and module-dependent target groups:

1. The trainings based on the special modules will be realized in accordance with the following modules and duration:

Module: Pre-investigative procedure – three days;

Module: Investigative procedure – three days;

Module: Main hearing – three days;

Module: Special procedures – two days;

Module: Regular and extraordinary legal remedies – one day, in the form of a round table.

Another Common Isolation Session of all teams was held to complete the working



materials for the specialized modules, at which the materials composed by the formed teams of trainers were discussed and finalized. In order to create and maintain the previously successfully unified teaching methodology and teaching methods and techniques, the members of the working groups composed of the trainers that delivered the basic trainings developed manuals for the trainers, with the support of the OSCE Mission. The completed working materials for the trainers on the new LCP, which will use a unified methodology in accordance with each module, have been revised by university professors from the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology. The materials maintain the previous successful methodology, under which the participants, with the assistance of their trainers, were informed of all essential changes in the concept of the new Law on Criminal Procedure, through a combination of short presentations and practical exercises, simulations and writing procedural acts.

Finalization is also underway of a Practicum on Application of LCP, which contains forms and examples of actions with regard to certain disputable issues in the application of the new LCP. The practicum will also contain all templates of the acts developed in the criminal proceedings.

The Collection of 27 Landmark Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) was also presented; these judgments refer to the prohibition of torture, the right to freedom and safety of the individual, the right to fair trial and the right to respect for the private and family life, organized by the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors in cooperation with the Embassy of the USA in the Republic of Macedonia through the OPDAT (Office of Prosecutors Development, Assistance and Training) within the U.S. Ministry of Justice and the INL at the State Department.

➤ **SPECIAL TRAININGS ON LCP IN COOPERATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PROSECUTORS AND THE ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

The following trainings with international experts were also delivered to analyze the provisions in the new Law on Criminal procedure:

In cooperation with the OPDAT Program of the U.S. Embassy, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors **organized a training** of trainers on the new Law on Criminal Procedure, at which the presenters were certified instructors of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) from Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Association of Public Prosecutors in the Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with and financially supported by the OPDAT Program of the US Embassy in Skopje, organized a three-day training on the topic of “Practical Implementation of Plea Agreements in Macedonia”. The training was actively attended by 20 public prosecutors and 16 attorneys at law.

The second two-day training, also organized by the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Association of Public Prosecutors in the Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with and funded by the OPDAT Program of the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, was on another topic – “The Challenge of the Institute of Plea Bargaining under the New Law on Criminal



Procedure". It was attended by 52 representatives of the public prosecution offices, four judges and two attorneys.

Yet another workshop was organized on the topic "The Challenge of the Institute of Plea Bargaining", attended by 24 public prosecutors from the public prosecution offices, 15 judges, six attorneys, two representatives of the Ministry of Interior and one representative of the Ministry of Justice.

The 2013 plan foresees the implementation of a specialized training with special modules, which will be detailed under a separate program.

➤ **SPECIALIZED TRAINING MODULE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND THE HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE COURT**

Implementation of the third component of the IPA 2009 Project entitled "Support for More Efficient, More Effective and Modern Operation and Functioning of the Administrative Court"

Reinforcement of the expertise of employees in the Administrative court (with an emphasis on the skills and abilities of judges, legal associates and back office staff).

The Administrative Court Training Strategy was developed as part of the third component; the Strategy included special programs for training of judges and other target groups, on the basis of which – in cooperation with and coordination of the Academy – 15 trainings were delivered in the period April 2011 – March 2012 in key areas of the administrative law and on general topics, including a several-day specialized training of newly elected judges and newly employed personnel and two study visits of judicial institutions in two EU Member Countries with a developed and well organized system of administrative judiciary.

Following the start of the work of the Higher Administrative court, the judges of this court were continually included in the education, in line with the training program.

In addition to the above listed trainings, (5) additional ones were also organized, of which two organized independently by the Academy, one in cooperation with OSCE, one in cooperation with TAIEX, and one in cooperation with the IRZ Foundation.

Following the end of the IPA Project, the Academy went on to implement the Administrative Judiciary Training Strategy and Program, organizing on its own or in cooperation with foreign partners (IRZ Foundation, USAID, UNHCR) ten trainings in the period April – December 2012 for judges in the Administrative and the Higher Administrative Court, thematically focused on the application of individual substantive laws within the competencies of the administrative judiciary, as well as on the application of the Law on Offenses with regard to offences in the area of taxation law, custom law and other areas, also including topics in the field of intellectual property, refugee rights, EU law and jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights of interest for the administrative judiciary.



The implementation will continue in 2013 as well. In accordance with the Specialized Module for Training of Judges in the Administrative and the Higher Administrative Court, which is an integral part of the Academy's General Continuous Training Program, 15 special topics will be analyzed during the specialized trainings for judges in 2013, in line with the area of administrative law they work in.

➤ **TRAININGS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

In the course of 2012, the Academy realized eight trainings in the area of intellectual property rights, with a total number of 252 participants, of whom 218 from the judiciary of the Republic of Macedonia (174 judges, 28 public prosecutors, 14 court clerks, two representatives of the Ministry of Justice), 17 participants from other relevant institutions – the State Office of Industrial Property, Customs Administration, DPI, MK, Radio Broadcasting Council and others, as well as 17 foreign participants (13 judges, one court associate and three representative of the Ministry of Justice). Of the trainings mentioned, three were organized by the Academy alone, two in cooperation with the IRZ Foundation, one (a regional seminar on patent law) in cooperation with the State Office of Industrial Property and the European Patent Academy and one (a regional conference on the intellectual property rights) in cooperation with the UNECE (United Nation Economic Commission for Europe) and the US Patent and Trademarks Office (USPTO).

➤ **TRAININGS ON ETHICS AND COMBATTING CORRUPTION AND CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

Over the reporting period, the Academy organized a total of 14 trainings in the area of code of ethics of judges and public prosecutors and combating corruption and prevention of conflict of interests, which were attended by 342 participants in total, of whom 192 judges, 119 public prosecutors, and 31 court clerks and public prosecution offices:

➤ At the beginning of 2012, five trainings were held on the topic of Anticorruption Measures in cooperation with the Embassy of Great Britain, attended by a total of 91 participant, of whom 46 judges, 32 public prosecutors and 13 court clerks and public prosecution offices. One of the trainings was a training of trainers and was attended by 11 lecturers at the Academy – five judges and six public prosecutors, whereas the remaining four trainings were decentralized and organized in each of the four appellate regions.

➤ Two of the trainings were on the topic of "Combating Bribery and Corruption", organized in cooperation with the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption and attended by a total of 65 participants, of whom 33 judges, 29 public prosecutors and three court clerks and public prosecution offices, whereas five of the trainings – also organized in cooperation with the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption – were on the topic "Conflict of Interests (GRECO Recommendations)" and attended by 110 participants in total – 59 judges, 38 public prosecutors and a clerk from the courts and public prosecution offices.



➤ Two trainings were realized on the topic “Ethics – National and International Legislation and International Documents on Independent Judiciary”, attended by 76 participants in total, of whom 54 were judges, 20 public prosecutors and two court clerks and public prosecution offices.

Following the recommendations of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) with regard to the fourth cycle of evaluation related to prevention of corruption among MPs and judges and public prosecutors, as part of the preparation of the Republic of Macedonia for a GRECO Evaluation Mission, the Academy – already in its 2013 Catalogue of Trainings of Judges and Public Prosecutors – foresaw ten trainings in the area of corruption, conflict of interests and code of ethics of judges and public prosecutors:

- five round tables on the topic of “Applying the Code of Ethics and Prevention of Corruption/Conflict of Interests, Gifts and other Benefits, External Activities of Judges, Property Deeds, Taxes and Other Relevant Issues Related to the Fourth Cycle of Evaluation by GRECO”;
- one training on the topic of “Code of Ethics of Judges and Attorneys at Law”;
- one training on the topic of “Code of Ethics of Judges and Public Prosecutors/International Documents of the Council of Europe and UN Related to the Judiciary”;
- one training on the topic of “Ethics – National and International Legislation and International Documents on Independent Judiciary”;
- two trainings in cooperation with the TAIEX instrument on the topic of “Code of Ethics of Judges and Public Prosecutors and Prevention of Conflict of Interests” and “Combating Corruption and Bribery”.

Trainings in this area are also envisaged in the Catalogue of Trainings for Court and Public Prosecution Clerks:

- three trainings on the topic of “Ethics and Ethical Conduct of Court and Public Prosecution Clerks – Risks of Corruption”; and
- three trainings on the topic “Conflict of Interests – Practical Implementation and Recommendations of GRECO”.

Trainings on the most significant changes in the Criminal Code in 2009 – Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime, Expanded Confiscation and Liability of Legal Entities

In the course of the reporting period, the Academy organized a total of 22 trainings on the most significant changes in the 2009 Criminal Code, which were attended by a total of 568 participants. More specifically, the following trainings were delivered:

– eight trainings devoted to confiscation of proceeds of crime, expanded confiscation and liability of legal entities, which were attended by 168 participant in total, of whom 82 judges, 71 public prosecutors, six court clerks and public prosecution offices and nine other participants – representatives of other relevant institutions (the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Public Revenue Office, etc.);

– one training on the topic “Crimes against the Cultural Heritage and Natural Rarities”, attended by 19 participants, of whom 13 judges, 5 public prosecutors and one clerk in a public prosecution office;



– two trainings on the topic “Money Laundering and Tax Evasion”, which were attended by a total of 92 participants, of whom 41 judges, 46 public prosecutors, 2 court clerks and three representatives of the Public Revenue Office;

– two trainings on the topic “Bribery through the Concept of an Official”, attended by 65 participants in total, of whom 33 judges, 29 public prosecutors, two court clerks and one from the public prosecution office;

– three trainings on the topic “Combating Drug Trafficking and Illicit Production and Trading in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors”, attended by a total of 82 participants, of whom 62 judges and 20 public prosecutors;

– one training on the topic “Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants/Trafficking in Human Organs”, which was attended by a total of 40 participants, of whom 11 judges, 23 public prosecutors and one court clerk, three representatives of the Ministry of Justice and two of the Ministry of Interior;

– five trainings on the topic “Computer Crime”, attended by a total of 102 participants, of whom 36 judges, 35 public prosecutors, four court clerks and three from the public prosecution offices, as well as 24 other participants, representatives of other relevant institutions.

➤ **TRAININGS DEDICATED TO INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Trainings on the application of Article 10 of ECHR – Freedom of Expression

In the area of application of Article 10 of ECHR, the Academy organized a total of six trainings, attended by 204 participants in total (135 judges, 38 public prosecutors, ten court clerks and public prosecution offices, ten journalists, and 11 other participants – representatives of other relevant institutions), on the following topics:

– one round table on the topic “Court Practice Related to Crimes against Honor and Reputation/Overview of the Practice of ECHR in terms of applying Article 10 of ECHR”, the goal being to inform the media and judiciary of the latest documents of the Council of Europe and to present an overview of the jurisprudence related to crimes of slander and offense committed through the media, with a brief overview of the jurisprudence of ECHR through the development of standards concerning the implementation of Article 10 of ECHR and the degree of their implementation in the national practice in terms of conduct of judges and journalists with regard to practicing the freedom of expression and informing;

– one national conference funded by the Council of Europe on the topic “Implementation of Articles 8 and 10 of ECHR”; and

– five trainings on the topic “Article 10 of ECHR”, which, in addition to the latest Council of Europe documents related to the judiciary and the media, also included a large number of cases from the ECHR jurisprudence related to the application of Article 10 of ECHR, as well as an analysis of the manner of deciding on compensation for damage in case of violation of honor and reputation.



A special course/module on Article 10 of ECHR was made available through the e-learning system and includes training materials and translated judgments of ECHR, as well as reference links to the HUDOC and ECHR database.

➤ **SPECIALIZED TRAINING OF NEWLY ELECTED JUDGES AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS**

As part of the Specialized Program for Training of Newly Elected Judges and Public Prosecutors, three trainings were completed: the “Civil Law” module for 12 newly elected civil judges, the “Sanction Law” module for 19 participants (seven public prosecutors and 12 judges from the criminal and offense departments) and a training on “General Topics” for 44 newly elected judges and public prosecutors (23 judges in the basic courts, 20 public prosecutors in the basic public prosecution offices, and one newly elected public prosecutor in the Higher Public Prosecution Office).

➤ **TRAININGS OF TRAINERS**

In the course of 2012, a total of six trainings of trainers were organized, of which one was organized by the Academy independently and the remaining five in cooperation with OPDAT, the Embassy of Great Britain, the Council of Europe, EPI and OSCE. The trainings included the following topics: Skills of Court Representation in Accordance with the New LCP, Confiscation, Computer Crime, Mediation, Antidiscrimination, and a general training on presentation methods and techniques. The trainings were attended by a total of 90 participants.

➤ **TRAINING OF COURT AND PUBLIC PROSECUTION CLERKS**

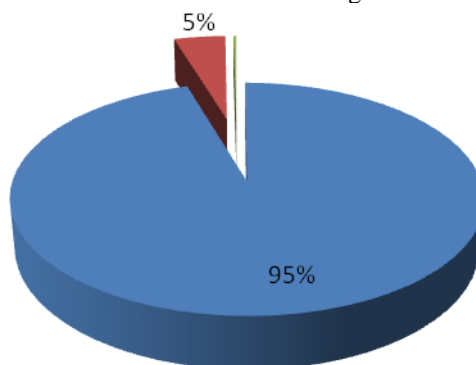
In line with the Program and Catalogue of Training of Court and Public Prosecution Clerks, a total of 21 trainings were delivered in 2012, intended for court and public prosecution clerks on the following topics:

- Work under the AKMIS Program;
- Amendments to the Law on Court Profession;
- Free Access to Public Information, Personal Data Protection;
- Training on the amendments in the Law on Litigation Procedure;
- Evaluation of Court Clerks;
- Anticorruption Measures and Ethics in the Court and Public Prosecution Profession;
- Employment Procedure, Evaluation, and Disciplinary Liability of Court Clerks;
- Ethical Issues and Professional Responsibility for the Work of the Courts and Public Prosecution Offices;
- Conflict of Interests, Practical Implementation – GRECO Recommendations;
- Changes in the Court Rules of Procedure and their Application;
- Investment of Fixed Assets into the AMBS System;
- Evaluation and Responsibility of Court and Public Prosecution Clerks.



**Participants in the trainings for clerks
433 in total**

- Court clerks - 413
- Public prosecution clerks - 19
- Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access - 1





VIII COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL ORGANS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

In 2012, the Academy continued with its successful cooperation with national organs, organizations and other institutions and associations. In that sense and for the purpose of realizing the priorities foreseen in the NPAA Program of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Academy continued its cooperation with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as with the Court Council of the Republic of Macedonia, the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Justice, the Secretariat for European Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and other ministries, state administration organs and institutions. Concerning the organization of joint trainings, the Academy also maintained its successful cooperation with the Association of Judges in the Republic of Macedonia, the Association of Public Prosecutors, the Association of Court Administration, the Court Operational Departments Council, the Association for Criminal Law and Criminology, the Bar Association, the faculties of law, the Training Center of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia, the Police Academy, the Institute of Court Medicine and Criminology, the Office for Industrial Property, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the chambers of public notaries, enforcement agents and mediators for the purpose of organizing joint trainings to improve the knowledge, exchange the experiences and enhance the cooperation between these target groups and the judges and public prosecutors.

This multidisciplinary approach ensures larger support and inclusion of all organs, organizations and institutions and the civil society working in areas related to the judiciary towards successful realization of the judicial reforms.

PROJECTS THE ACADEMY COOPERATED WITH IN THE COURSE OF 2012

In 2012, the Academy had successful cooperation with the foreign projects stated below, making use of the technical and financial assistance of these project to organize numerous workshops, round tables, seminars, study visits and similar activities, as follows:

- **Project of the Constitutional Court for Using the IPA Funds;**
- **the Instrument for Technical Assistance and Exchange of Information of the European Commission – TAIEX;**
- **EIPA;**
- **the Project entitled “On the Macedonian Jurisprudence” aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Macedonian judiciary (MATRA);**
- **the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation – IRZ;**
- **UNHCR;**
- **Council of Europe;**
- **Embassy of the USA in the Republic of Macedonia – OPDAT;**
- **USAID/DPK;**
- **USAID;**



- The OSCE Monitoring Mission to Skopje – Rule of Law Department;
- the Project on confiscation with the Embassy of Great Britain;
- UNDP and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Holland – domestic violence;
- the Project with the Embassy of the Republic of France and the Academy of Judiciary of the Republic of France;
- the Project organized with LTP on development of psychological tests.

➤ **PROJECT ENTITLED “ON THE MACEDONIAN JURISPRUDENCE” AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE MACEDONIAN JUDICIARY (MATRA)**

In the second half of 2010, the **Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia**, in cooperation with the **Center for International Legal Cooperation (CLC) of the Kingdom of Holland** began the realization of the project aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Macedonian judiciary by improving the use of jurisprudence as an additional source of law. The financial support for this project was provided by the Kingdom of Holland. The main objective of the project is to strengthen the rule of law in the Republic of Macedonia and thus arrive at a more efficient judicial system.

The project contains three components that include a series of activities that will contribute to the promotion and reinforcement of the role and use of the jurisprudence in the national legal system, as well as to raising the awareness of the role of the jurisprudence as an additional source of law and to improving the access and use of the national and international jurisprudence.

The project will be realized over a period of three years in the form of seminars, workshops, study visits, and creation of a database of the Macedonian jurisprudence and a collection of relevant court decisions.

The project activities in 2012 were primarily aimed at selecting relevant decisions of ECHR against other states by a Dutch expert. As a result of this component, 20 of the total of 28 relevant court decisions were translated and – as soon as from March 2013 – will be made available on the portal for jurisprudence as an integral part of the Web site of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia. In addition, the Supreme Court adopted a Decision on setting up an editorial committee that will be the main filter in the selection of the national jurisprudence and will include representatives of all four appellate regions, the Supreme Court and the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors.

A two-day seminar was also held In November 2012, dedicated to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, which was attended by 30 judges and public prosecutors, with renowned Dutch experts as lecturers: one judge of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Holland and one president of the Higher Court for Industrial and Commercial Disputes.



The successful realization of this project is expected to constitute a significant step of the Macedonian judiciary towards meeting the criteria that are part of the process of reforms of the judicial system in the Republic of Macedonia, which are in turn one of the main prerequisites for the country's accession to the European Union.

➤ **PROJECT "SUPPORT FOR ANTICORRUPTION MEASURES AND POLICIES – CONFISCATION OF ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED ASSETS" – UNITED KINGDOM**

As part of the successfully established cooperation between the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Embassy of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the Director of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland H.E. Christopher Yvon signed an agreement on 17 August 2011 on realization of the project "Support for Anticorruption Measures and Policies", the complete realization of which ended on 31 March 2012.

The project was realized through delivery of a series of trainings devoted to the implementation of anticorruption measures and policies. The objective of the project was to contribute to the enhancement of the efficiency in combating corruption and organized crime by practical application of the novelties in the Criminal Code and by improvement of the prevention of corruptive activities of all state administration entities involved.

On 12 September 2012, the Academy Director Aneta Arnaudovska held a working meeting at the Academy premises with Mrs. Christine Winterbourne, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom, to go over future possibilities of new projects in the area of corruption and organized crime, in response to the requirements for creation of a new strategy for a more efficient fight against and prevention of corruption.

➤ **OSCE MONITORING MISSION TO SKOPJE – RULE OF LAW DEPARTMENT**

In the course of the past several years, the OSCE Monitoring Mission to Skopje – Rule of Law Department supported the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors (hereinafter: the Academy) in activities aimed at further development of effective and sustainable mechanisms for the rule of law in compliance with the OSCE principles and the country's international obligations through implementation of projects reinforcing the rule of law, supporting the independence of the judiciary and raising the professional level of the legal experts. Some of the most important areas include the following:

✓ The OSCE Mission supports the Academy in the development and implementation of trainings for legal practitioners on the new Law on Criminal Procedure. The OSCE Mission also provided support for the working groups entrusted with the task of creating materials for the new LCP, intended for trainings at basic and advanced level; it also provided considerable technical support for the Academy's trainings intended for educators of the new adversarial concepts of the procedure, including a study visit abroad; at the same time, it also provided specialized literature for the practitioners of the new LCP with all the required tools, to assist in understanding the new legal changes to take place, etc. In 2011 and 2012, in line with the two-year trainings plan of the Academy and in cooperation with the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial



Development, Assistance and Training (US/DOJ, OPDAT, linked with the U.S. Embassy in the host country), the Rule of Law Department supported the Academy in implementing 35 four-day trainings, including more than 880 legal practitioners (judges, public prosecutors, attorneys, police officials, court clerks and candidates for future judges and public prosecutors). The procedural guarantees are a fundamental step towards an efficient, effective and independent judiciary; to that goal, the program will continue making essential contribution in terms of expansion to new trainings.

The OSCE Mission to Skopje cooperated with the Academy on projects the goal of which was strengthening the capacities of the national legal practitioners in their efficient combat against all forms of serious crime, especially corporate crime. In this context, the Rule of Law Department (RoLD) implemented the “Confiscation of Assets” Project in 2010, thus supporting the development of legal materials in the form of a manual and training modules for judges and public prosecutors dedicated to this topic. The Project also developed legal guidelines – both national and international – on the application of the new measures: freezing, seizure and confiscation of assets. These activities were tested through the training of trainers at the Academy in 2011. The same model was also applied in the project entitled “Criminal Liability of Legal Entities”, which was a result of the cooperation between the OSCE Mission and the Academy in 2011. The manual and training modules for judges and public prosecutors were composed by including international experts as well. In 2012, to ensure their effective implementation and transfer to the target groups, this activity was followed by a two-day training for the educators, which was held in 2012. All the materials were submitted to the Academy as the official institution in charge of the continuous education, the goal of which is to ensure constant and long-term transfer of knowledge to the future generations of legal practitioners.

Another segment supported by the OSCE Mission is the antidiscrimination mechanisms. The Rule of Law Department, in strategic partnership with the Academy, is implementing the project of protection against discrimination, bias crime and the hate speech phenomenon. In 2011, the activities were focused on strengthening the capacities of legal practitioners in the area of non-discrimination. One of the modules for education of the judiciary on antidiscrimination was tested as a concept later, through trainings implemented at the Academy and also including Academy candidates (future judges and public prosecutors) in the target group. The activities in 2012 also included publishing of a manual, which was developed the year before. The knowledge was expanded through the training of educators (for the judiciary), followed by two trainings in the area of antidiscrimination. As a result of this cooperation, a training of trainers was organized in 2012 with a total of 12 participants, who later on in September became members of the team of educators that trained a total of 60 participants from all four appellate regions. In their work, the educators were mentored by the Academy and the OSCE Mission and they constitute good grounds for development of the training program in the course of 2013 and 2014. These efforts were made in 2009 as part of the project of RoLD that developed the modules on the UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women and its basic protocol, as well as the national legal framework in the area of gender equality, which is of essential importance for dealing with cases of discrimination based on gender inequality in accordance with the international standards and the national legislation. The



module was developed for the needs of the Academy. The OSCE Mission supported trainings for 120 legal practitioners, including judges and public prosecutors, based on this module. On several occasions, RoLD cooperated with the Academy in organizing regional and international conferences, at which the discussions focused on the phenomenology of hate speech and bias crime. The analysis that were developed during the project implemented through cooperation of the two institutions were considered at two public debates that ended in recommendations for more effective coping with bias crime and the phenomenon of hate speech.

As part of the cooperation of the Academy with the OSCE Mission and the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts, 16 November - the International Tolerance Day - was marked by a one-day conference dedicated to the latest social challenges and the meaning of hate speech as a negative phenomenon in our society. The event, in addition to judges and public prosecutors, was also attended by representatives of almost all social spheres of life, including journalists, politicians, professors, representatives of the religious communities, etc. All partners of the activity unanimously agreed that the “combat” against this social phenomenon should continue with even greater efforts and that the marking of this day should become a tradition.

Over the past several years, the Rule of Law Department also supported the Academy in the promotion of the values covered by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), as well as in the renewal of its commitment to respect for the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens. The efforts also resulted in printing two publications: “International Documents on Independent and Efficient Judiciary – Opinion (1-6) of the Consultative Council of European Judges with the Landmark Documents and ECHR Jurisprudence” and “International Documents on Independent and Efficient Judiciary – Opinion (7-12) of the Consultative Council of European Judges with the Landmark Documents and ECHR Jurisprudence”. The publications were distributed to representatives of the judiciary as part of the promotion of the work of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCEJ) and the key principles pointed to by this body as essential in reinforcing the independence, impartiality and efficiency of judges. The OSCE Mission to Skopje will continue to support the Academy in this area in future as well, by printing the third volume of international documents adopted in the meantime.

➤ **OPDAT PROGRAM OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Over the past period, the OPDAT Program of the U.S. Embassy in Skopje and the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors realized a wide spectrum of programs aimed at strengthening the capacities of legal practitioners in the Republic of Macedonia.

Completion of the NITA (National Institute for Trial Advocacy in the USA) Program in January 2012, which the trainers on the new Law on Criminal Procedure successfully attended and obtained certificates as NITA-instructors for institutes such as opening statements, closing statements, direct and cross examination.

Realization of nine basic trainings on the new LCP in 2012.

In cooperation with the Macedonian Association of Journalists and the Association of Public Prosecutors, OPDAT and the Academy realized two workshops for strengthening the cooperation between journalists and public prosecutors: the first one in December 2011, entitled “Cooperating with the Media”, and the second one in June 2012, under the title “Respect the



Red Lines”, with Patricia Hartman, Public Relations Specialist at the Attorney Office of Pennsylvania, USA, as a guest speaker.

Publication of a Collection of Landmark Judgments on Articles 3, 5, 6, and 8 of ECHR and presentation of the book at a conference on 3 October 2012 in Skopje. The book was distributed to all public prosecution offices and judges and other relevant institutions.



In cooperation with the Association of Public Prosecutors, OPDAT and the Academy realized a program with the U.S. Attorney’s Office of North Carolina on the role of public prosecutors in the accusatory procedure. As part of this program, three workshops were realized in Bitola, Skopje and Shtip with the Public Prosecutor Jill Rose from North Carolina, USA.

In January 2012, OPDAT, the Academy and the Association of Public Prosecutors presented the program for combating financial and computer crime with two public prosecutors from Texas, USA.

In June, September and October 2012, OPDAT, the Academy and the Association of Public Prosecutors began with the realization of the program “The Institute of Plea Bargaining as a Challenge under the New LCP” for public prosecutors, but also for judges and attorneys at law. These events brought along regional experience from Serbia and Bulgaria, but from the USA as well, as Federal Judge Louis Guirola from Mississippi, USA, also took part.

Preparations are underway for future events focusing on plea bargaining, advanced trainings on LCP, interrogation techniques, development of a system of partnership between the judges in Macedonia and USA, trainings on certain criminal acts from the Criminal Code, etc.

➤ **COOPERATION WITH USAID**

In November 2012, the Academy, in cooperation with the USAID Project for Strengthening the Judiciary and the USAID Project for Promotion of Investments and Exports, organized a round table on the topic of “Detecting the Needs of Continuous Education of Judges



in the Area of Commercial Law”, attended by representatives from the judiciary (13 judges from the commercial dispute units at all court instances), the business community (13 representatives of the chambers of commerce), the community of attorneys (eight attorneys) and university professors in the relevant area; the objective was to define the most current topics in the area of commercial law to be included in the annual catalogue of activities as part of the continuous education of judges and public prosecutors in 2013.

The significance of this event lies in the fact that it was the first time that judges acting in commercial cases – judges in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, in the appellate and basic courts, along with representatives of the business community in the country, i.e. representatives of the chambers of commerce (the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Macedonia, the Alliance of Chambers of Commerce of Macedonia, the Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Macedonia, the Organization of Employers, the Business Confederation of Macedonia and the Chamber of Commerce of Information and Communication Technologies - MASIT, as well as representatives of law firms and other offices acting as representatives of the interests of entities in commercial cases – were involved in the identification of current topics in the area of commercial operations to be the subject matter of seminars and round tables within the 2013 Program for Continuous Education of Judges.

Having in mind that court proceedings have an undisputed impact on the business climate, the education in the area of commercial law will contribute to the efficient and effective resolution of commercial disputes; this will ensure adequate protection of the business relations and will contribute to the enhancement of the confidence in the judicial system and to the business environment that will allow for competitiveness on the market, increase in the investments and economic development. To that goal, the Academy will place a special emphasis in 2013 on the trainings in the area of commercial law, which will be realized in cooperation with and with financial support of the USAID Project for Strengthening the Judiciary.

The cooperation with the USAID Project for Strengthening the Judiciary in 2013 will also include two trainings on the management of movement of items, one training on the application of the Law on Litigation Procedure and one training for presidents of the courts and court administrators on the issue of management of courts. In addition, the Project will also cooperate with the Academy on organizing four working meetings on harmonization of the judiciary practice in the area of civil matter, for judges in the civil departments of the appellate courts.

➤ **GERMAN FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION - IRZ**

In the course of the reporting period, the Academy organized four trainings in cooperation with and with financial support by the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation IRZ, with which it has had fruitful cooperation over the past several years. The seminars will be on the following topics: industrial property rights, trade mark/industrial design; disputes arising out of bankruptcy procedures; application of the Law on Public Procurements, and the national taxation rights and European influences.

THE ACADEMY HAD EXCELLENT COOPERATION WITH THE GERMAN FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION IRZ. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GERMAN FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION, THE ACADEMY DIRECTOR PRESENTED THE FOUNDATION WITH A PLAQUE, AND THE FOUNDATION'S ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION INCLUDED AN ARTICLE ON THE ACADEMY OF JUDGES AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS AND OUR SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION.



➤ **UNDP AND THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF HOLLAND – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

In the course of 2012, the Academy – in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and UNDP and with the financial support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Holland in the Republic of Macedonia – developed and promoted the “Practicum of Actions in Cases of Domestic Violence”, which is a part of the series of activities completed within the UN project aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities to prevent domestic violence. Eight trainings were delivered within this project, to include police officers acting in cases of domestic violence throughout the country.

The practicum was the result of the exchange of opinions and practical experiences in the area of domestic violence, in an effort to identify the best practices in reducing and preventing domestic violence, point out the preventive activities leading to protection of the victims of domestic violence and activities of raising the awareness of the public about domestic violence, contributing at the same time to the reinforcement of the confidence of the public in the relevant institutions.





IX INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

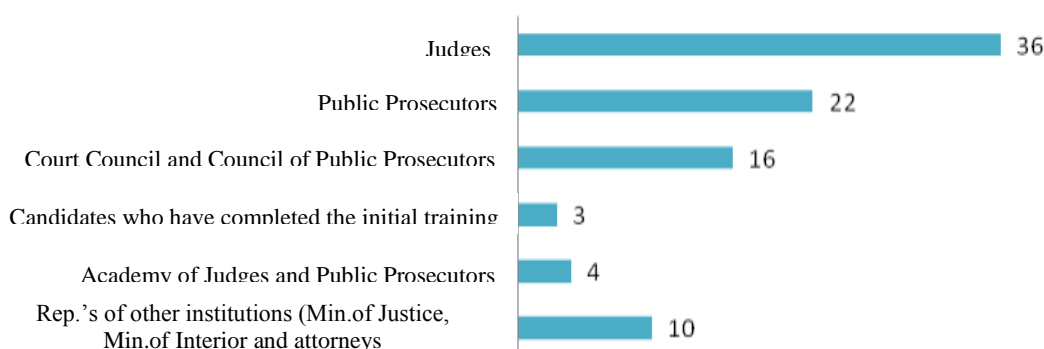
➤ STUDY VISITS

In the domain of international cooperation, the Academy is intensively involved in the organization of training activities with several projects and intensifying its cooperation with schools of judicial training from other countries in various segments; with some of them, the cooperation has been made official by signing memoranda of understanding.

The practice of including judges, public prosecutors, candidates for judges and public prosecutors, as well as representatives of the organs and operational departments of the Academy, Court Council and the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia in study visits, international trainings, exchanges, meetings, workshops and conferences abroad also continued in the course of 2012.

Throughout the year, the Academy realized a total of 25 study visits to foreign countries with 91 participants in total, of whom:

Study visits in 2012



➤ TRAININGS IN COOPERATION WITH THE INSTRUMENT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION (TAIEX) OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Academy continued its fruitful cooperation with the instrument for technical assistance and exchange of information (TAIEX) at the European Commission of the European Union for organizing trainings in the area of the EU and the international law. In cooperation with the TAIEX instrument and with its financial support, nine two-day trainings were organized on the following topics:

- Competition law in the EU;
- Litigation procedure in the EU;
- Bankruptcy procedure in the EU;
- Environment protection in the EU;
- Measures securing the presence of the defendant – custody;
- Judicial cooperation in criminal matters;



- Training on strengthening the capacities of the Academy;
- The role of the public prosecutor and the judicial police in the course of criminal proceedings;
- Court and budget management; and
- Domestic violence.

In the course of 2012, TAIEX approved all applications submitted by the Academy requesting technical assistance for organizing certain trainings to be delivered in 2013 on the following topics:

- Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants;
- Ethics of judges and public prosecutors / Prevention of conflicts of interests;
- Combating corruption / Corruption in public procurement procedures;
- Confiscation of proceeds of crime / the role of the organs in charge of managing confiscated assets;
- Economic and financial crime – money laundering;
- Combating terrorism; as well as
- Regional conference on asylum and migration.

➤ **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE**

In February 2012, as a result of the successfully established cooperation, a new three-year memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Embassy of the Republic of France in the Republic of Macedonia. The objective of the memorandum is the promotion of further French-Macedonian cooperation in the area of training of judges and public prosecutors in the following fields:

- Continuation of the cooperation between the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the National Judicial Academy (ENM) of the Republic of France in the area of initial trainings, which may be developed in various forms, such as:
 - Training of educators and persons in charge of practical trainings, delivered by educators and persons in charge of practical trainings from ENM.
 - Participation in the study visit of a group of educators and persons in charge of practical trainings from the Academy to ENM in Bordeaux.
 - Study visit for the Academy candidates to have them go through the stage of practical training at ENM.
 - Participation of Academy candidates in international contests for initial training and other types of events in France related to the initial training.
 - Translation of the training materials of ENM on the EU and international law, as well as of other court documents relevant for the initial training.
- Continuation of the cooperation between the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the National Judicial Academy (ENM) of the Republic of France in the area of continuous training;
 - Mid-term study visit for young judges and public prosecutors in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg;
 - Trainings aimed at strengthening the capacities of the administrative judiciary in the Republic of Macedonia.



A considerable benefit of the activities related to the initial training is the possibility to learn the French language, in order to foster and promote the francophone culture in the Republic of Macedonia. The Academy started with this activity in the middle of September 2012 by forming groups of participants from the judiciary: three groups at an initial level and one advanced group, with the total of participants being 40.

In the period July – December 2012, the Academy hosted several delegations composed of French experts, training coordinators from ENM, and candidates attending the ENM initial training (two initial training candidates – in March; two experts – July 5; one regional training coordinator on October 22, one training coordinator and three ENM initial training candidates on November 12, and two ENM training coordinators on December 17).



➤ **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE) AND UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARKS OFFICE (USPTO)**

In cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the US Patent and Trademarks Office (USPTO), the Academy realized the 2012 Regional Conference on Selected Intellectual Property Issues – Valuation, Competition, Anti-trust, attended by a total of 37 participants, of whom 23 representatives of the judiciary of the Republic of Macedonia and 14 other participants representing national institutions included in the system of protection of industrial property rights, as well as foreign participants.



➤ **EUROPEAN PATENT ACADEMY**

Another cooperation of particular importance for the Academy is that with the European Patent Academy; as part of this cooperation, a regional seminar on patent law organized in cooperation with the State Office of Industrial Property on the topic “Disputing the Right to Patent and Procedures”, attended by a total of 31 participants: 16 representatives of the judiciary of the Republic of Macedonia, of whom 15 judges, one public prosecutor and one civil servant at a managerial position at the Ministry of Justice and 14 participants from abroad, of whom four judges from Albania, four from Serbia, one from Bulgaria, Holland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia each, and one representative of the Ministry of Justice of Turkey. The presenters at the seminar were seven international experts in the area of intellectual property law and one national expert, a representative of the State Office of Industrial Property. As part of this cooperation, the Academy also nominated four judges for four study visits to foreign countries, in organization of the European Patent Organization from Munich.

➤ **EUROPEAN CENTER FOR JUDGES AND LAWYERS, EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - EIPA**

As part of Luxembourg’s project for technical assistance for Macedonia entitled “The EU Law on Judiciary”, the Academy and the European Center for Judges and Lawyers of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Luxembourg, realized two trainings on the EU law with experts from EIPA, attended by 50 participants in total. The first training was on the topic of “Protection of the Right of Consumers”, and the second one on the topic of “Quality of Justice”. The objective of the second training was threefold: firstly, to explore the requirements from a candidate country for accession to EU, with a special emphasis on the role and responsibilities of the judiciary in that light. Secondly, to discuss the introduction of Total Quality Management in the judiciary and to inspire the participants with concrete initiatives to analyze the implementation of TQM in their courts/judicial organs and to inform them of the support they might obtain from the resource center of EIPA for CAF (Common Assessment Framework). And, thirdly, to discuss on ways in which equal access to justice may be documented, having in mind a public with increasing demands, with a special focus on communication strategies.

Another novelty concerning the cooperation with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Luxembourg, is the fact that, as from 2012, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors began with the organization of common events with the Croatian Judicial Academy, to allow for exchange of experiences between judges and public prosecutors from the region. A part of this cooperation was the training on the topic of “International Cooperation in Criminal Matters”, hosted by the Croatian Judicial Academy and attended by 12 participants from the Republic of Macedonia. A training on the same topic is to be organized at the beginning of 2013 and hosted by the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia.

What is also of particular importance regarding the Academy’s cooperation with the European Center for Judges and Lawyers at the European Institute for Public Administration (EIPA), Luxembourg, is the fact that – as a result of the successful cooperation – the Academy has for several years been nominating participants to seminars included in the EIPA Catalogue of Activities, which is open for participants from other countries.



➤ **REGIONAL ANTICORRUPTION INITIATIVE**

As part of the cooperation under this project, which is of particular importance for the development of the capacities of the judiciary in the Republic of Macedonia to successfully recognize, detect, prove, prosecute and issue judgments in corruption cases, the Academy – having hosted the summer school in 2009 – nominated three participants (two public prosecutors and one judge) this year as well, to attend two summer schools in Budva and Opatija. Also, as a result of this cooperation, the Academy nominated two lecturers at the Academy (one judge and one public prosecutor) to attend a conference dedicated to the training centers for judges and public prosecutors from the region, which took place in Bulgaria.

➤ **COOPERATION WITH THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

As part of the traditionally good relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Turkey, and especially as part of the successfully established cooperation between the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Judicial Academy of the Republic of Turkey and with the aim of intensifying the realization of the activities included in the signed memorandum of cooperation between the two academies, a delegation of the judiciary of the Republic of Macedonia paid an official visit to the Republic of Turkey in the period 19 – 23 March 2012.

The cooperation will continue in an intensive fashion in 2013 as well, in the form of study visits, exchange of trainers and participants in trainings, and exchange of materials and books.



X COMPUTER SYSTEM

In the course of 2012, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors (AJPP) achieved full operability of the new process management software system of AJPP, which contains several modules:

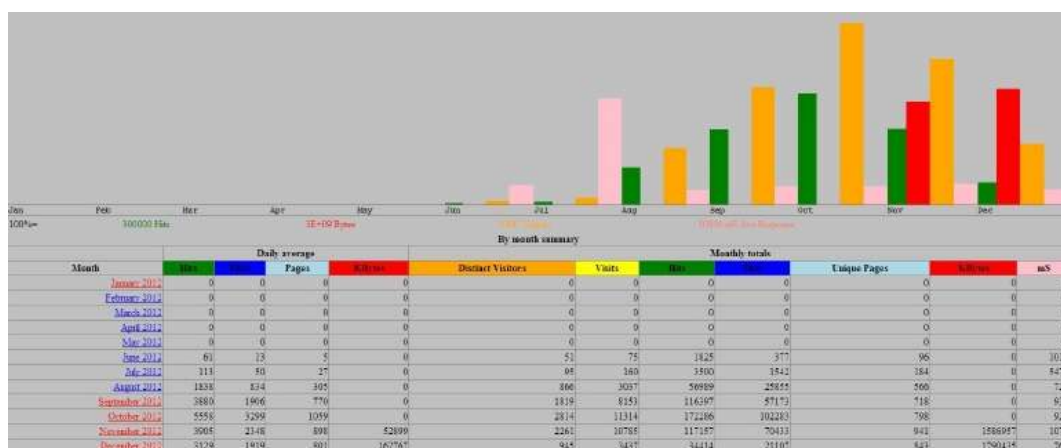
- Management of the internal processes and activities of the Academy;
- An Internet-based content organizing system to be used in the creation of an Internet location of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors; this software will ensure the functionality required for easy and simple everyday maintenance and updating of the content on the Internet location, as well as easy linking with the other Internet software systems (courses and trainings management software, electronic learning software, library software, etc.); and
- Electronic archiving software – a system of automation of the book-keeping and archive activities, which includes office and archive operations (e-rules of procedure), automatic scanning into the e-rules of procedure, as well as electronic distribution of archived documents.



The redesign of the Web site is also planned under the fourth component of the IPA Project. A completely new portal was developed in ASP.NET. The Framework 3.5 bases are developed in MS SQL 2008. The new Web site has a new interface and many new tools and will also allow for posting a larger number of new information, thus contributing for greater transparency in the work of the Academy.



Statistics of the visits of the new Academy web portal



Electronic learning system, e-learning



The second component of the IPA Project covered all activities related to the implementation of the e-learning system. The electronic learning system has been fully implemented and is operational.

The e-learning module is an integral part of the new process management system at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, developed in the SHAREPOINT production environment. Participants may access the electronic learning system registering onto the new Web portal of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors <http://ipacademy.gov.mk> and obtaining appropriate user privileges for accessing the system of AJPP or going directly to <http://portal.ipacademy.gov.mk:8565>.

The following interactive courses have already been uploaded to the electronic learning system:

- ☒ Initial training on the e-learning system;



- ☑ An interactive course on Outline EU Law e-Course pilot training;
- ☑ An interactive course on applying Article 8 of ECHR;
- ☑ An interactive course on applying Article 10 of ECHR;
- ☑ An interactive course “Bribery through the concept of an official – corruption;
- ☑ An interactive course - confiscation of illegally acquired assets;
- ☑ An interactive course - Juvenile Justice.

Each course includes adequate questionnaires and exercises, as well as course evaluation surveys.

The e-learning system already has a data base of working materials by areas, which is available to the users of the system. The electronic learning system includes the following content:

- Interactive courses;
- Own database of materials;
- Presentation forms;
- Virtual class;
- Discussion forms;
- Tasks and evaluations.

XI LIBRARY

The library of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors plays a major role in the improvement of the knowledge of future judges and public prosecutors, as well as in the professional development of the judges and public prosecutors and the judicial and public prosecution administration.

To that goal, the library continuously enlarges its stock of books containing legal texts, domestic and foreign legal literature and specialized magazines, thus allowing the Academy to offer its users a wide spectrum of legal texts, as well as links to databases it publishes on its Web site. Namely, in 2012, the library enriched its stock by several new publications it received as gifts in the preparation, promotion and distribution of which it also took an active part. Thus, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts, the following publications were promoted: “Legal Analysis of the Concept of the Crime of Hate and Hate Speech” and “Judgments and Decisions Related to Hate Speech from the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights”. The Academy also distributed the manual for practitioners entitled “Implementation of Provisions on Criminal Liability of Legal Entities”, issued by the OSCE Mission. As part of the cooperation with the United Nations Development Program and the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the “Practicum for Actions in Cases of Domestic Violence” was developed, promoted and distributed, while the cooperation with the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training – OPDAT at the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice resulted in the Academy’s issuing the publication entitled “Collection of Landmark Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Relation



with Articles 3, 5, 6, and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights”, promoted on 3 October 2012.

As a result of the successful cooperation with the German Foundation for International Legal Assistance, the Academy library increased its stock with several new titles in the field of German law. As part of its cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors also distributed the publication “Comments on the Law on Mediation”, issued and published by the Ministry of Justice.

It can be concluded to the satisfaction of the Academy that the library has a considerable stock of materials on the most current topics in the field of law, written in the languages spoken by the majority of Member Countries of the European Union.

Following the latest developments in the area of library operation, the library actively participates in all events, seminars, conferences and trainings aimed at promotion and improvement of the work of the library. The development of the information society imposes a need to find modern and sophisticated solutions that offer the users an easier way to search for and access information. To that goal, the new library software was completely upgraded under the IPA Project, to allow for easier processing of publications comprising the library stock. On the other hand, the user-friendly navigation makes it easier, faster and simpler for ultimate users to access the Academy library and a large number of information on the publication searched for. For instance, using the search window, users may search for a publication by key words, name of author, ISBN, etc. The upgraded software will also enable the user to see an abstract of each publication, which is excellent guidance in selecting the publication required. As this benefit of the new library software requires more time, especially because each publication is fed into the system manually, the process of electronic processing of publications will continue in 2013 as well, with simultaneous inclusion of all new publications that will be procured by or given to the library as gifts. By the end of 2012, over 400 publications – half of the entire stock - have been fed into the internal e-library database.

To achieve greater transparency and wider access to as large a number of law-related information as possible, the Academy published on its Web site the bulletins of the International Anticorruption Academy (IACA) throughout the year, along with other relevant texts sent to the Academy by experts and legal practitioners, with whom the Academy established extraordinary cooperation; in the course of 2012, a series of legal texts from the USA was also published. As part of the cooperation with Mr. Michael Dilberto, an U.S. expert with whom the Academy has had excellent cooperation for two years, his monthly articles on mediation in the U.S. were published in continuity. As a result of the cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), a portion of the EJTN documents of relevance and use for the judiciary system in the Republic of Macedonia was published, along with articles of Mr. Marc Kovan, Public Prosecutor from Canada and lecturer at the Academy. As part of the cooperation with the Consultative Council of European Judges at the Council of Europe (CCEC) and the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, all relevant documents issued and adopted by these two bodies were published in continuity and translated into Macedonian. In cooperation with the State Public Prosecution of the Republic of Croatia, the Academy Web site also published the Manual of State Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Croatia – 2nd ed., a publication that the public prosecutors and legal expert in the Republic of Macedonia had shown great interest in.



Last year, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia and for the purpose of bringing the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights closer to the legal practitioners in the Republic of Macedonia, published 70 judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, translated into Macedonian.

As part of the cooperation established with the Association of Journalists of the Republic of Macedonia, the Academy provided accessibility and a link to its relevant materials related to the relationship between the judiciary and the media.

The Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors went on publishing useful links on its Web sites, such that will allow access of the expert public in Macedonia to as many legal documents, materials, publications, texts and editions as possible; thus, by the end of 2012, more than 30 links to international and national legal institutions were uploaded on the Academy Web site.

To make it possible for the expert public in the Republic of Macedonia to become familiar with the work of the Committee of the GRECO within the Council of Europe and the work of the Chief of Delegation of Macedonia, the Academy created a database named “GRECO” on its Web site, regularly posting there all activities of the Chief of Delegation of the Republic of Macedonia to GRECO, along with relevant documents adopted by this body. A considerable portion of these documents has also been translated and published in the Macedonian language. The Academy also distributed the two GRECO publications – “Political Funding” and “Incriminations” – to all institutions involved in the field of corruption.

The Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors will continue with its practice of publishing, translating, and distributing as large a number of articles, texts, and publications as possible, to allow for a simpler, faster and wider access to the legal systems of countries in Europe and worldwide.



XII BUDGET AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

➤ BUDGET

The 2012 budget approved for the Academy amounted to 28,330,000.00 Macedonian denars.

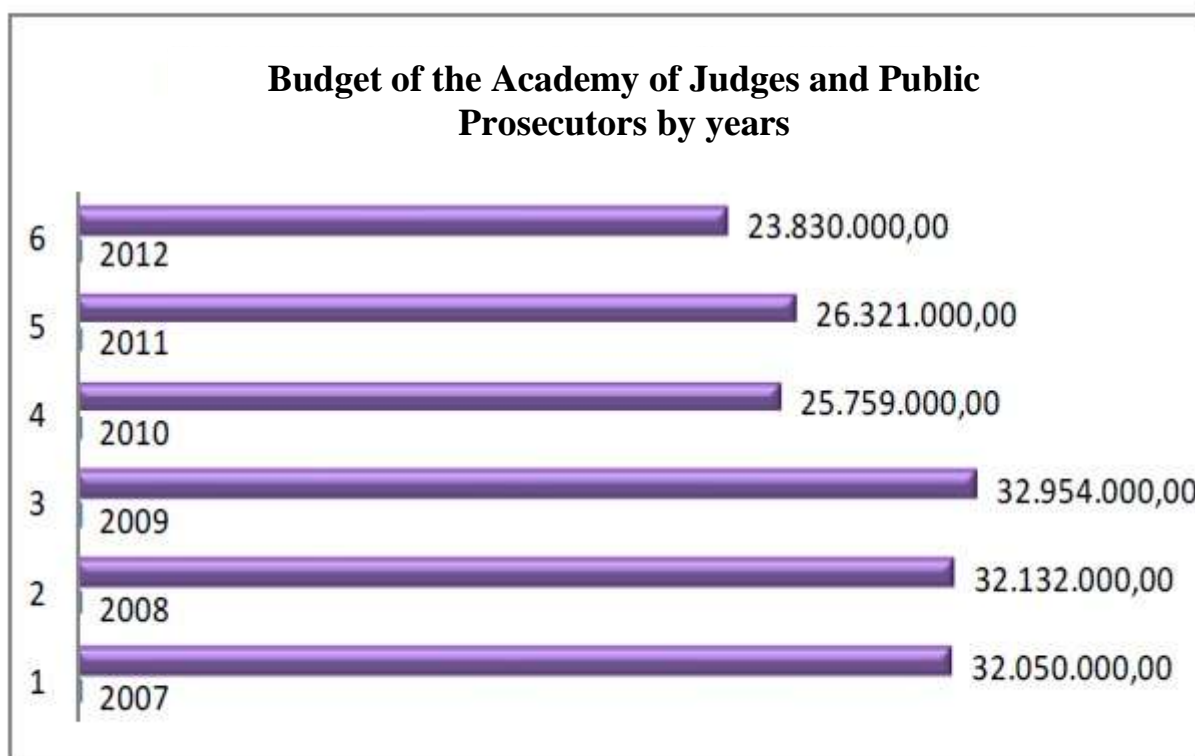
In the course of 2012, an amount of 4.5 million denars was cut from the budget, as a result of its rebalance.

Due to the lack of funds for realization of the obligations assumed under individual items, the Academy reallocated the funds already approved to provide funds for those items where the lack of funds is substantial and the number of obligations to be met is large.

Since the beginning of 2012 and by and inclusive of 31 December 2012, the Academy used **17,031,915.00** denars of its budget.

2012	Budget approved 28.330.00,00	Budget rebalance 23.830.000,00
401 Basic salaries	6,480,000.00	7,780,000.00
402 Contributions	2,520,000.00	3,000,000.00
420 Business trips and daily allowances	480,000.00	200,000.00
421 Utility services	2,000,000.00	1,600,000.00
23 Materials and sundries	1,600,000.00	1,000,000.00
424 Repairs and maintenance	400,000.00	250,000.00
425 Contractual services	12,000,000.00	9,000,000.00
426 Other current expenses	2,850,000.00	1,000,000.00

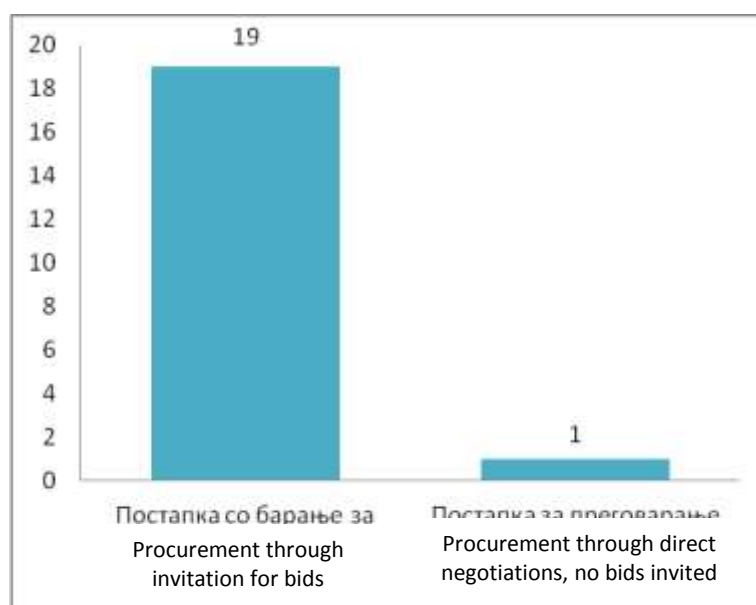




➤ **PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS**

Throughout 2012, the Academy carried out a total of 20 public procurements:

- Procurement through invitation for bids – 19 procurements; and
- Procurement through negotiations with no previous advertising – one case.





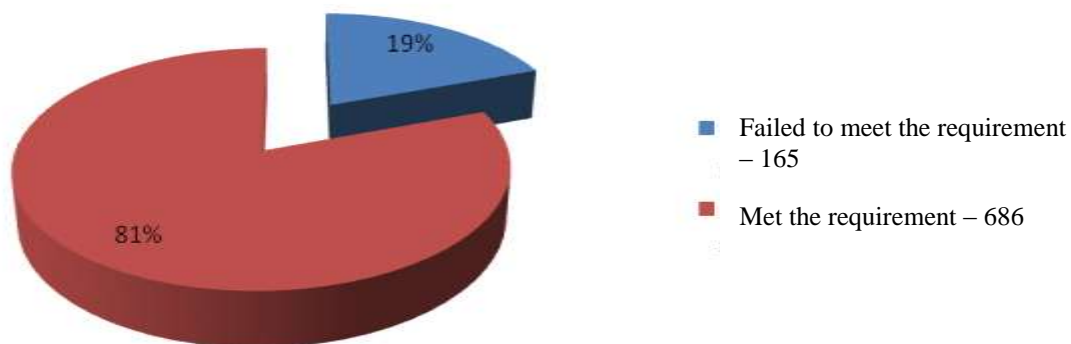
Pursuant to Article 29-a of the Law on Public Procurements ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 24/12), the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors appointed a person to perform the duties related to public procurements. The person, having been trained in performing duties related to public procurements in compliance with the Law on Public Procurements, is employed at the Academy and has an appropriate public procurement officer certificate.

Due to its obligation to ensure safety and health at work for all its employees, volunteers and other legal and physical entities engaged under a contract, as well as for all target groups taking part in the trainings organized by the Academy in compliance with the Law on Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, the Academy carried out the procedure of procurement of the service of health and safety at work. In line with this, a Rulebook on Health and Safety at Work was adopted. The procurement was realized by an authorized company with a license for performing activities in the area of labor issued by the Minister; this company analyzed the working positions, the environment and the working equipment and tools. The Academy organized an appropriate training on health and safety at work and designated a representative of the employees for issues related to health and safety at work.

XIII STATISTICS

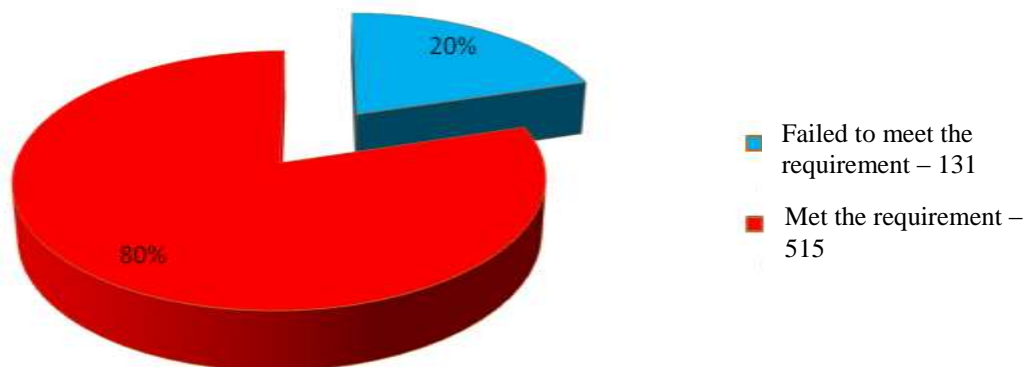
In 2012, the Academy continued regularly updating the database of judges and public prosecutors. Namely, all changes in their current status (election, retirement, dismissal, reallocation from one court or public prosecution office to another, promotion, area of law they work in) are regularly entered into the database, as it is from this database that the Academy derives all the parameters related to the number of planned trainings by areas for continuous professional development in accordance with the target groups, offering a sufficient number of trainings to make it possible for all target groups to meet the requirement in terms of days in training per year.

Meeting the requirement of days of continuous training in 2012 **Total number of judges and public prosecutors**

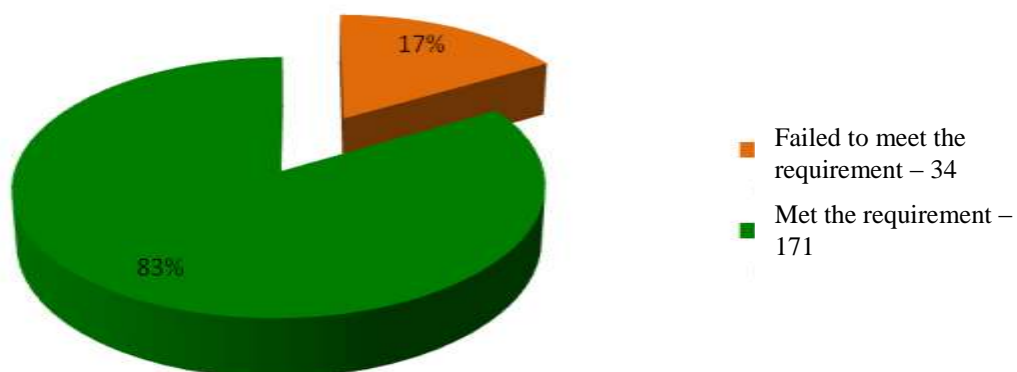




Meeting the requirement of days of continuous training in 2012
Total number of judges



Meeting the requirement of days of continuous training in 2012
Total number of public prosecutors





XIV EVALUATION

The Academy continues to conduct evaluation of the continuous training of trainers and mentors.

The Academy endeavors to apply the international standards on training, which impose an obligation to maintain various statistics, analyses and records, in order to identify the mid-, short- and long-term effects of a training.

The evaluation of the continuous training of judges and public prosecutors is carried out constantly by having evaluation forms filled in at the end of each training. At the end of 2012, as in all the previous years, the trainers engaged as part of the continuous training were evaluated in terms of their annual performance.

These evaluations are used to improve the teaching delivered by the educators, the overall teaching techniques and skills and – in a broader sense – to analyze the needs of the target groups.



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors

First and last name:

Institution:

Training on the topic of:

Trainers:

SUBSEQUENT EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Did the training achieve its goals?

YES

NO

PARTIALLY

Comments:

2. Has the knowledge acquired had any practical impact on your everyday work?

YES

NO

PARTIALLY



A new evaluation questionnaire for subsequent evaluation was developed as part of the IPA 2008 Project. This questionnaire is a post-training evaluation, which will help:

- improve the knowledge acquired during previous trainings;
- implement good practices, i.e. case studies will be posted in the electronic learning system.

XV TRANSPARENCY IN THE WORK

On a regular basis and in a transparent fashion, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors informs about its activities on its Internet page www.jpacademy.gov.mk and on its bulletin board, as well as by publishing the acts it adopts in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”. The majority of the information on the work of the Academy is published on its Internet page, such as: acts, organizational structure and organizational composition, training programs, and training calendars; in case of more important events organized by the Academy, press releases are sent out to the media in the Republic of Macedonia, interviews are published, etc.

For the purpose of more successful and more transparent work, as well as providing timely information about all significant activities, the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors published more than 260 textual announcements on its Web site in 2012; over the same period, as a result of the Academy’s cooperation with the Macedonian Press Agency MIA, the latter covered above 30 events that included participation of legal experts from the country and abroad, national and foreign legal practitioners, as well as high representatives of the diplomatic corps in the Republic of Macedonia. In addition to MIA, several other electronic and printed media in the Republic covered a portion of the events.

To ensure greater access to information of public nature and to comply with the Law on Free Access to Public Information, the Academy Director issued a decision to nominate a person in charge of releasing information of public nature.

A portion of the addresses and statements of renowned individuals in the country and abroad made in the electronic and printed media in the Republic of Macedonia

In their addresses at individual events, a large number of representatives of the diplomatic corps and foreign representative offices in the country, as well as foreign experts positively assessed and praised the work of the Academy in public.

As part of the event on the occasion of signing the Memorandum of Three-Year Bilateral Cooperation between the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Embassy of the Republic of France in the Republic of Macedonia, expressing his satisfaction with the start of the new phase of cooperation with the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, H.E. Jean Claude



Schlumberger, the then Ambassador of the Republic of France to the Republic of Macedonia stated the following for the Macedonian media:

“All the work done at the Academy goes in favor of the reforms in the judiciary. The Academy is playing a significant role here”.

At the training dedicated to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice, realized under the MATRA Project by the Academy in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Holland in the Republic of Macedonia, the current Ambassador of the Kingdom of Holland, H.E. Marriët Henriette Schuurman said for the media:

“What the Kingdom of Holland stands for is strict, but just: full implementation of all standards and criteria for accession to the EU; what is very significant is the harmonization of the national legislation with the EU law, which will provide equal opportunities for all citizens”. Expressing her satisfaction with the past successful cooperation with the Academy, Ambassador Schuurman added that the Embassy of the Kingdom of Holland will continue to support the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and thus also the reforms in the judiciary in the Republic of Macedonia.

At the event on the occasion of the completion of the IPA project for strengthening the institutional capacities of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Mr. Robert Leedle, Minister Adviser of the European Delegation in the Republic of Macedonia expressed satisfaction with the past successful work of the Academy and the realization of the activities aimed at harmonization of the national legislation with that of EU.

On the occasion of promotion of the publication entitled “Collection of Landmark Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights related to Articles 3, 5, 6, and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights”, H.E. Paul Wohlers, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, addressing the present and the media, hailed the past exceptionally successful cooperation with the Academy and, in the context of the event, added: “The need of issuing such a collection and discussing such topics is always very useful and significant, especially in this period of importance for the Republic of Macedonia in the implementation of the new Law on Criminal Procedure”.

At the event on the occasion of completion of the basic trainings on the new Law on Criminal Procedure, Mr. Brian C. Aggeler expressed his firm belief that these trainings will make their contribution to the practical implementation of the law and that this will promote the rule of law to the benefit of the citizens. He also added: “This is an important step in the progress in the implementation of the Law on Criminal Procedure, which is significant not only for the advancement of Macedonia towards meeting the international standards in the law, but also for the promotion of the rule of law to the benefit of the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia”.

H.E. Ralf Breth, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje assessed the trainings as positive, saying for the media: “The trainings undergone by the judges and public prosecutors clerks and advisers in the courts and public prosecution offices in Macedonia are positive, as they are now informed of the most important provisions of the new Law on Criminal Procedure and ready to implement it in the practice”.

Another important statement is that of Ms. Jimmy Warren, legal adviser of the OPDAT Program of the U.S. Department of Justice, given for the media in the Republic of Macedonia at



the seminar dedicated to the fight against financial crime, at which, underlining the important role of the Academy in the field of delivery of trainings for judges and public prosecutors, she stressed: “We endeavor to attach a regional component to the fight against financial crime. It is important that assets acquired by financial crime be confiscated, i.e. that the motive for profit be eliminated. The Attorney’s Office of Texas remains a partner not only of Macedonia, but of the region as well”.

On the occasion of signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Director of the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Mr. Mohammad Arif, the new UNHCR representative in Skopje, stated for the media in the Republic of Macedonia that he was very satisfied with the past continuity in the cooperation with the Academy and that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is ready to continue and intensify the successfully established cooperation in the area of refugee law.

Supporting the reforms in the judiciary in the Republic of Macedonia related to the right to protection of intellectual property, speaking at a regional conference organized by the Academy with UNECE, Mr. Ralph Heinrich, High Representative of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, stressed that innovation is one of the most important issues promoting economic growth in a country and is of particular importance for the mid- and long-term development. “Today, innovation is envisaged as promotion of cooperation across borders. This is exactly why the UN is interested in cooperating with the countries worldwide in promoting innovation,” Heinrich said.

„If any country wants to be good in promoting innovations and in cooperating with other countries, then it must be sure that it has established a true regulatory and political framework for promotion of innovation. **The Laws in Macedonia are harmonized with those at the international and EU level, but the true meaning of a law is in its implementation and it is the judges who are the most influential in this**“, Heinrich added.

In an address during his first protocol visit to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Aivo Orav, Head of EU Delegation to the Republic of Macedonia, pointed out the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors and its role in the judiciary system of the Republic of Macedonia as a significant factor for the successful implementation of the process of harmonizing the national legislation with that of the EU and with the international standards.

The Academy remains consistent in fulfilling one of its most important commitments – the continuous redesigning and modifying the structure and performances of its Internet page; this, in addition to making its work transparent, will help it achieve a higher level of reputation as an institution oriented towards satisfying the needs of its users. By making available as large a number of materials, presentations, and useful links related to the relevant seminars as possible, as well as by introducing electronic submission of applications for those seminars, the Academy



will facilitate the realization of the continuous education of all of its users, making it possible for the potential participants to timely prepare themselves for discussions prior to the training, allowing at the same time access to the training materials for those participants who were not able to attend a particular training.

