

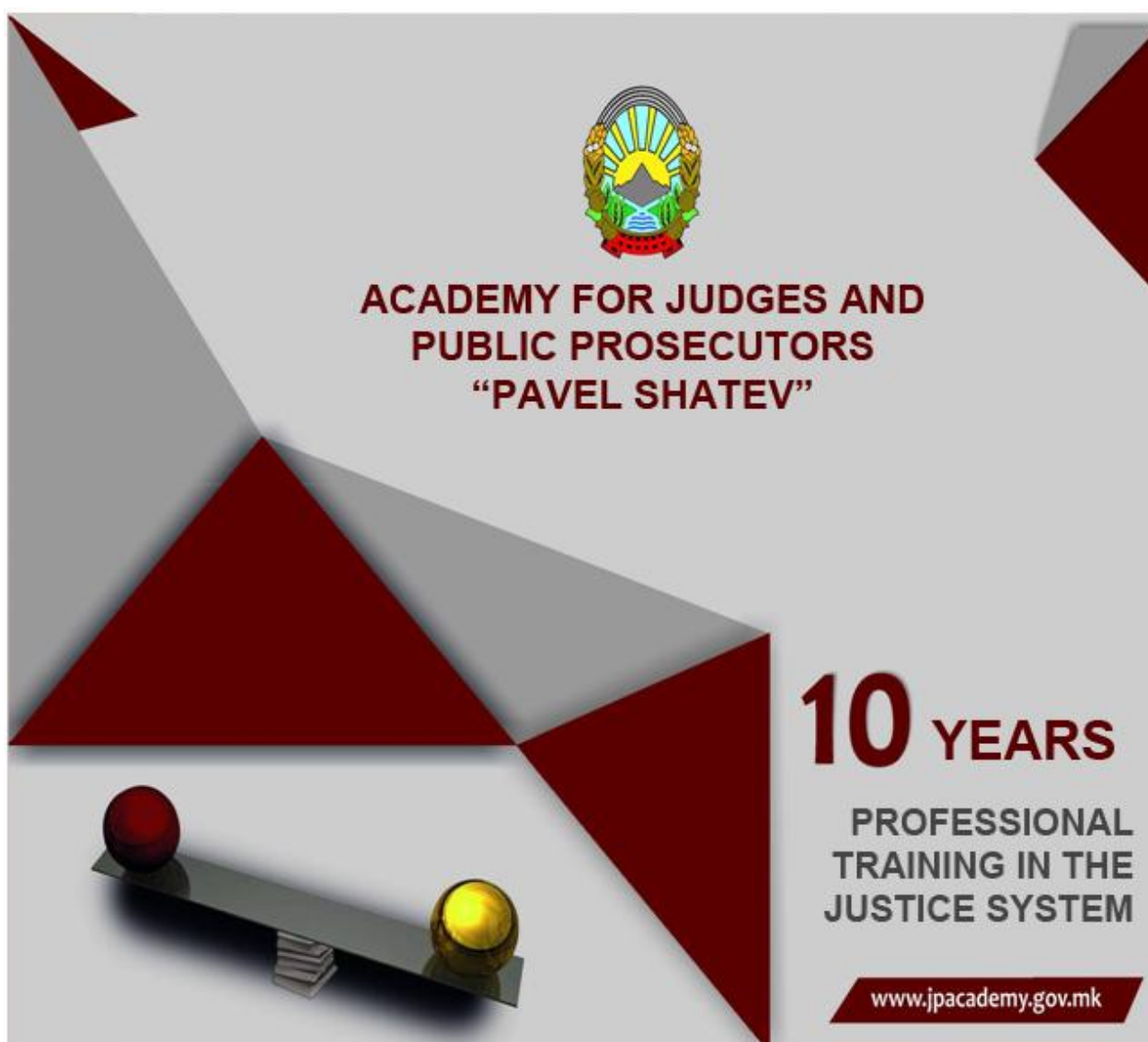


Republic of Macedonia
Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors „Pavel Shatev“

2016

REPORT

ON THE OPERATION OF THE ACADEMY FOR JUDGES AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS
„PAVEL SHATEV“ FOR THE YEAR 2016





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January 2017, Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev”



I INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

In 2016, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors marked the tenth anniversary of its existence and operation. Through the successful implementation of all of its anticipated activities, the Academy has proved its full commitment to the promotion of the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial system, by means of professional development and training of judges, public prosecutors and the judicial and prosecutorial services.

Throughout 2016, the Academy has also been working on the improvement of the quality of the provided training, by selecting new contents, methods and topics, in accordance with the international standards and training programs, on strengthening of its capacities, expanding and improving its domestic and international cooperation and at the same time, it has consistently implemented the recommendations of the European Commission, contained in the EU Progress Reports for the Republic of Macedonia, the GRECO Fourth Round Evaluation Report and other international reports, thus providing its continuous contribution for strengthening of the qualifications, professionalism and independence of the judicial system, as one of the priorities of the reforms of the judicial system in the Republic of Macedonia and a key priority of the European Union accession Partnership.

The improvement of the judicial competencies through reforms of the performance management system and the strengthening of the systems for initial and continuous training, with the emphases placed on strengthening of the capacities of the Academy, are some of the priorities mentioned in the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, drafted on the basis of the “Urgent reform priorities list for RM” (in accordance with Reinhard Priebe’s Report). In this regard, the Academy has implemented all measures that were supposed to be realized by the end of 2016 and in collaboration with its partners has organized training events, seminars, round table discussions, training for trainers and other educational events at basic and advanced level, to strengthen the capacity of the training staff, with special emphasis placed on the topics of ethical principles and ethical behavior by judges and public prosecutors, aimed towards strengthening their integrity and increasing the public trust in the system.

Following the implementation of the entry exam for initial training, the enrolment procedure of the VI generation of initial training attendees is in its final stage. At the same time, yet another public call was published for the enrollment of 60 initial training students – public prosecutorial candidates (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 163/2016), with a response of 121 potential candidates.

Aimed towards developing capacities for implementation of the case law of the European Court for Human Rights (ECHR), the Steering Committee of the Academy has adopted the proposed list of candidates who would stay and work at the ECHR for six months. Six of those candidates were selected from amongst the judges and three amongst the public prosecutors. In November, the Academy sent this list to the ECHR, who will make the final selection.



In order to evaluate the efficiency of training and its effects towards improving the quality of the regular judicial and prosecutorial practice, as part of the IPA 2010 project, the engaged expert provided recommendations for development of a “Methodology for Training Efficiency Evaluation with Training Quality Assessment Mechanisms” which is to be followed by implementation of those recommendations in partnership with the most relevant institutions of the judicial system.

The “Annual Work Program for 2016” was fully implemented and all legal obligations regarding the continuous training of judges, prosecutors and other target groups have been met, by implementing the annual training plans for 2016. All the project activities that originated as a result of the Academy’s international cooperation with its foreign partners were fully implemented as well.

Aimed towards promoting the judicial system in the Republic of Macedonia and its values, the Academy continued to strengthen its partnerships with training institutions in the countries of this region and throughout Europe, by implementing training modules that have been selected as training priorities, with active participation and networking in the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), participation in the activities of the international entities and organizations of the European Union, the Council of Europe and others, such as the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the GRECO Committee at the Council of Europe, the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCEJ), the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT) and many others, thus providing for comparative data and translation of documents that significantly contributed towards the strengthening of the quality and efficiency of the judicial system.

II LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

If one considers the status of the Academy, the new Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 20/2015) and its changes and amendments (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 192/2015), promote the earlier legal concept with regards to the independence and autonomy of the Academy, as well as the professionalism and competence of its entities and bodies and the continuous strengthening of its overall capacities and the capacity of the teaching staff in particular. In addition, the entire secondary legislation that falls under the jurisdiction of the Steering Committee has been harmonized with the new Law on the Academy and it regulates, in greater detail, the internal organization and the implementation of all various operational segments at the Academy.



III ACTIVITIES OF THE BODIES AT THE ACADEMY

1. OPERATION OF THE ACADEMY'S STEERING COMMITTEE

During 2016, the Steering Committee of the Academy held 15 sessions, reviewing and discussing important issues that fall within the competence of the Steering Committee. Upon proposal by the Programming Council, the Steering Committee drafted an “Entry Test Program for the Academy”, “Initial Training Program – Theoretical Education”, “General Program for Continued Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors” and a “Specialized Program for Voluntary Continuous Training (training of staff)”. In addition, in 2016 it also established the “Academy's Volunteer Program”. With regards to secondary legislation, the Steering Committee adopted the “Statute on Amendments to the Academy's Statute”, “Regulations on Changes and Amendments to the Book of Rules on Initial Training”, Regulations on Changes and Amendments to the Book of Rules on Systematization of Jobs at the Academy” and “Regulations on Changes and Amendments to the Book of Rules on Allowances”.

The Steering Committee of the Academy has adopted the “Academy's Annual Operations Report for 2015”, the end year accounts for 2015 and the “Operational Program for 2016”; it enacted the “Annual Public Procurement Plan for 2016” and the “Financial Plan”; also, based on the positive opinion provided by the Programming Council, the Board expanded the Teaching Staff List of the Academy and enacted the consolidated text of the List.

At the beginning of 2016, the Steering Committee had monitored the situation in relation to the final exams of the initial training attendees – generation V. It also ruled on any filed complaints against the decisions by the Final Exam Committee, in relation to the final exam results.

During 2016, in relation to the entry exam for the sixth generation of students, in accordance with its legal competence, the Steering Committee was ruling on any complaints filed by candidates, on the decisions made by the Entry Examination Committee, on the results of the qualification test and the results of the written and oral part of the exam.

The Steering Committee was regularly informed by the Academy's Director about all current activities taking place under the competence of the Academy and it enacted conclusions and decisions within its field of competence, including a decision to publish an open call for enrolment of 60 initial training students, pursuant to the Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 231/2016). Aimed at meeting the urgent priorities for reform, the Steering Committee enacted a decision to establish a Committee that would select the candidates for a six months stay and work at the ECHR and “Guidelines for selection of judges and public prosecutors who will stay and work at the ECHR”, which the Committee then used in order to make the selection from amongst the candidates who responded to the open call.



In addition, the Steering Committee had considered various project offers and provided guidance on the cooperation with kindred domestic and foreign institutions, organizations and associations.

2. OPERATION OF THE PROGRAMING COUNCIL AT THE ACADEMY

The Programming Council is a professional body of the Academy responsible for monitoring the implementation of training programs, their efficiency and success; it provides an opinion regarding the list of lecturers and takes continuous actions as to improve and promote the training programs, teaching methodologies and techniques, in cooperation with the lecturers, mentors, the Director and the professional services at the Academy, in accordance with the Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors.

During 2016, acting within the limits of its jurisdiction, as provided for in the Law on the Academy and its Statute, the Programming Council held several sessions that were presided by the Director of the Academy. During these meetings, the Programming Council provided guidance and established the following documents: “Proposed Entry Test Program for the Academy”, “Proposed Initial Training Program – Theoretical Education”, “Proposed General Program for Continued Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors” and a “Proposed Specialized Program for Voluntary Continuous Training (training of staff)”. In addition, it approved the expanded list of lecturers who meet the conditions, in accordance with the new Law on the Academy.

As part of its new competence as provided for in the Law on the Academy, the Programming Council was also responsible for verification of the databases with questions and case studies used for the final exam at the Academy, which were previously drafted by the lecturers, selected by the Steering Committee of the Academy.

3. WORK AND ACTIVITIES BY THE ACADEMY’S DIRECTOR

In cooperation with the professional services at the Academy, the Work Program for the Director, adopted by the Academy’s Steering Committee, was fully implemented. As part of her regular work activities, attending numerous consultation meetings, round tables, training events and conferences, organized during the period January-December 2016, in cooperation with domestic and foreign/international relevant institutions and projects, with participation and presentations by many national and foreign experts, in total, the Madam Director gave 35 welcoming and thematic speeches.

The Madam Director also had meetings with representatives of various domestic and international institutions, embassies, projects and project evaluators, aimed at reaching agreements for successful project implementation, exchange of experiences and speakers, organizing study visits and issuing publications, that is, in order to expand the domestic and international cooperation with the judicial systems of a larger number of countries.



As a speaker, the Madam Director had been presenting on a large number of current topics, related to certain novelties in the legislation of the Republic of Macedonia, mainly regarding the new Criminal Procedure Code, corruption, conflict of interest, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, discussing certain articles of the “European Convention of Human Rights”, ethics and the code of ethics, anticorruption measures, freedom of expression, hate crimes and family violence. Furthermore, she took active participation in the drafting and promotion of many publications, guidebooks, legal documents collections and translation of ECHR judgments.

The Academy had celebrated its anniversary in a working fashion under the motto “10 years of professional training in the judicial system” and organized a Regional Conference on Combating Terrorism and other work events, attended by foreign experts, as well as a Regional Conference that hosted the Directors of the institutions responsible for judicial training in the region, whose goal was to strengthen the cooperation between the judicial institutions and had participants from Croatia, Serbia, Monte Negro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Albania and Kosovo. In cooperation with RCC and the Open Regional Fund for South East Europe – legal reforms (GIZ), the Academy organized a regional meeting of all Academy Directors from the region, with the participation of the Academy of European Law (ERA), the Secretary General of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and representatives from the Council of Europe and its program for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP).

The Director took active participation in the working groups on the judiciary and the criminal and legal system, which were established in order to draft the “Strategy for Reform of the Judicial System”. At the same time, she was actively participating in all work activities related to the preparation and implementation of the “Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia”, drafted on the basis of the “Urgent reform priorities list for RM” (in accordance with the Reinhard Priebe’s Report).

In addition, the Madam Director worked on the implementation of the IPA 2010 Project titled “Further support of an independent, responsible, professional and efficient judiciary and promotion of suspended sentences and alternative measures” with the key personnel from the IPA 2010 Project, aimed towards strengthening of the independence, responsibility, professionalism and efficiency of the judiciary, through the implementation of the subcomponents 1, 2, 4 and 5, which refer to the Academy and included a couple of training events on the topic of “Judicial Ethics and Integrity Under Pressure”, two basic and two advanced train the trainers courses for the trainers working on initial and continuous education, as well as the beginning of the stage for development of the new performance evaluation methodology. Furthermore, the Madam Director also worked on the development of new curricula and educational materials.

As part of her regular activities within the GRECO Committee at the Council of Europe, as a representative of the Republic of Macedonia, the Director of the Academy attended its 71st, 72nd, 73rd and 74th plenary sessions and in this respect, in cooperation with all relevant institutions and the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary and the State Commission on Prevention of



Corruption (SCPC) in particular, she completed the activities necessary in order to meet the obligations given to the Republic of Macedonia as part of the Fourth Round of evaluation by Greco. In order to provide a greater promotion of the work of the GRECO Committee and aimed at more efficient combat against corruption in the country, the Madam Director held numerous lectures at the conferences at the Academy, but also upon invitation by the SCPC and the Parliament, where she presented the current issues relevant to this topic. In parallel, some of the more significant documents produced by the GRECO meetings have been translated into Macedonian and posted on the web page of the Academy.

In addition, as part of her activities being the Head of delegation at the GRECO Committee at the Council of Europe, the Madam Director was part of the fourth round evaluation team for the Republic of Austria and a Reporter for the Fourth Round Evaluation Report on Republic of Albania. At the same time, within the CCEJ she was elected as the next gender reporter for 2017.

IV INTERNAL ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

The Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors has the following organizational units:

1. Training Sector:
 - 1.1 Unit for initial training and practicing of the judicial or public prosecutorial function;
 - 1.2 Unit for continued training, international cooperation, foreign assistance and management of IPA funds.
2. Legal and Human Resource Management Sector:
 - 2.1. Unit for legal matters and human resource management;
 - 2.2 Unit for information technology, library, statistics, research and strategic planning.
3. Financial unit

The professional services at the Academy had performed their activities and tasks in a professional manner, thus making it possible to meet the envisaged goals in all of the operational segments and the goals of institutional strengthening within the entire judicial system. The various tasks performed by the professional departments were timely and of a good quality, aimed at providing support for the various competencies of the Academy's entities and bodies, speakers and mentors in charge of the educational process and they worked on preparation of exams and provided for efficient business correspondence with other entities and institutions. In addition, all the obligations that originated from the regulations on labor relations, administrative staff, public procurement and implementation of the budget were also met on a timely basis.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

For the purpose of professional personal development and ensuring qualified and efficient performances, during 2016, the employees attended a large number of training events, intended for administrative workers, organized by the Ministry of Information Society and Administration and other organizers on the following topics:

- “Anticorruption measures and ethics in public service”;
- “Introduction to e-government”;
- “Training for internal auditors and on changes in the latest version of the ISO 9001:2015 standard”;
- “EU Law and Institutions”;
- “Intersectoral teams for children victims and witnesses of violence”;
- Mandatory use of the electronic public procurement system – Use and practical implementation of the ECJ guidelines on electronic public procurement and the latest changes in the field of e-procurement”;
- Train the trainers – Curriculum development, as part of the Project “Strengthening of criminal justice institutions and the rule of law in Central and Eastern Europe” – organized by the USA Embassy and the Ministry of Justice of Republic of Croatia, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia – attended by two administrative clerks from the Academy.

The “Annual Training Program for Administrative Workers” was enacted so as to provide continuous professional improvement of the employees at the Academy and ensure further development, upgrade and promotion of their knowledge. At least five training events have been envisaged to be attended by each and every employee at the Academy during the forthcoming year, in accordance with the “2017 Generic Training Plan” produced by the Ministry of Information Society and administration.

PARTICIPATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN VARIOUS WORKING BODIES AND GROUPS

The employees of the professional services, besides performing their regular working tasks within the competencies and activities of the Academy, upon authorization by the Director, took active participation as members of the working group in charge of Chapter 23 of the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire (NPAA) – Judiciary and fundamental rights (coordinator – Ministry of Justice) and the working group responsible for Chapter 3.7 of the NPAA – Intellectual Property Rights (coordinator – State Office of Industrial Property).

There were 7 thematic working groups established by the Minister of Justice in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, as part of the project for preparation of a “Strategy and Action Plan for Reforms of the Judicial System” and with support by the European Commission, with four of them having representatives from the Academy as their members. The



Madam Director is a member of the working groups on the judiciary and the criminal justice system; the head of the administrative sector is a member of the working group on sector policy and implementation of the EU law and 1 representative from the professional services (IT engineer) and 1 of the lecturers at the Academy on the topic of IT-technologies are members of the working group on IT and e-justice.

In addition, the Minister of Justice also established a working group responsible for drafting of the changes and amendments to the package of laws on the judiciary, with the Madam Director and the Head of the Administrative Sector also included as its members.

The Director of the Academy is a member of the working group established in 2016 and tasked with the monitoring of the implementation of the IPA 2012 Project, Component 1 – “Combating and prevention of corruption and improvement of the inter-institutional cooperation”, as well as of the working group responsible for drafting any changes and amendments to the Law on Prevention of Corruption.

V HUMAN RESOURCES

When it comes to human resources, on the basis of the Law on Transformation into Regular Employment, in 2016, the status of one of the volunteers had been transformed into regular employment for an indefinite period of time, at the position of an Assistant in the Unit for Continuous Training for International Cooperation, Foreign Assistance and Managing IPA Funds.

During 2016, not counting the Director, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev” had 19 employees as follows:

- 17 administrative clerks and
- 2 workers.

Moreover, during 2016, all 13 initial training attendees from the fifth initial training generation (2013\2015) had been elected as judges or public prosecutors and as a result, their employment at the Academy had been terminated. The procedure for enrolment of a new generation of initial training students is currently under way, which is expected to commence in 2017. These individuals shall enter into employment with the Academy for a definite time period, which shall correspond with the time duration of their initial training.

VI INITIAL TRAINING

FIFTH GENERATION ATTENDEES OF INITIAL TRAINING 2013/2015

The procedure for administering the final exam was completed during 2016. After publishing the preliminary candidate list following the completion of the final exam on the 25th of December 2015 and after the completion of the procedure, following the objections and



complaints by the students, on the 10th of February 2016, the Final Exam Committee published the final ranking list of the candidates for judges and public prosecutors.

The judicial or public prosecutorial internship for the initial training attendees – candidates for judges and public prosecutors began immediately after the publication and delivery of the list to the Judicial Council of RM and the Council of Public Prosecutors of RM. The internship was administered in accordance with the “Internship Program for Future Judges and Public prosecutors” and the “Internship Rulebook for Future Judges and Public prosecutors”, previously adopted by the Steering Committee of the Academy. The internship of the candidates lasted until they had been selected and appointed as judges or public prosecutors.

On the 18th of March 2016, following the open call by the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia, published on the 18th of February 2016, 7 of the candidates for public prosecutors from generation V had been appointed as public prosecutors as follows: 5 in the Basic Public Prosecution Office in Skopje, 1 in the Basic Public Prosecution Office in Gostivar and 1 in the Basic Public Prosecution Office in Bitola, whereas in April 2016, the remaining public prosecutorial candidate was appointed at the Basic Public Prosecution Office in Skopje. The selection of the candidates for judges was done in September and October of 2016. Three of the judicial candidates had been appointed at the Basic Court Skopje 2, one candidate at the Basic Court Skopje 1 and one candidate at the Basic Court in Veles, as well as two candidates from the previous generation. This meant that the 93 candidates who completed the initial training at the Academy were all appointed, with 45 of them assuming the position of a judge and 48 appointed as public prosecutors.

ENTRY EXAM FOR THE SIXTH GENERATION OF INITIAL TRAINING STUDENTS

Based on the decisions by JCRM and CPPRM, on November 9th 2015, the Steering Committee of the Academy published an open call for enrollment of 30 students of the sixth generation of initial training with an application deadline of 15 days, i.e. until the 24th of November 2015. There were 84 applications received, out of which 64 met the formal conditions and candidates had been allowed to take the qualification entry exam, which 62 of them managed to pass. After the completion of the written part of the examination that consisted of a review of two case studies, candidates were being allowed to take the oral exam. Following the completion of the oral exam, the Entry Examination Committee produced the results of the written and oral part of the examination and published them on April 5th 2016. The candidates had filed 44 objections regarding the published results and against the decisions of rejection by the Entry Examination Committee. The candidates had filed 29 complaints with the Steering Committee of the Academy. Nine of the candidates had initiated administrative disputes before the Administrative Court appealing the decisions by the Steering Committee of the Academy and three of those administrative proceedings are yet to be completed.

Pursuant to the changes and amendments of the Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 231 from December 31st 2015), the Academy had published an open call for enrollment of 60 initial training students – candidates for public prosecutors (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” number 163 from August 30th 2016). There were 121 candidates in total who responded to the open call.



VII CONTINUOUS TRAINING

The continuous training of the judges and public prosecutors was done in accordance with the “General Program for Continuous Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors for 2015-2016” and the “Training Plan for 2016”.

As it was the case during the past several years, this year the Academy organized training events on the most important legal issues, such as the changes to the domestic legislation, international legislation and the legislation of the European Union and changes in the case law, but also training on general topics, required for the performance of the judicial and prosecutorial function. The training included various topics from the Criminal Procedure Law, the Sentencing Law, the Criminal Code, the Probation Law, the Litigation Law, the application of the “European Convention of Human Rights” in the field of intellectual property and there were also trainings on drafting written judgments and proper legal reasoning.

When organizing training events, the Academy has maintained the practice of involving participants and speakers from various institutions, which are interested in the topic on the agenda, thus providing for exchange of experiences and discussion amongst legal practitioners about any identified problems and inconsistencies in the application of the law, in order to overcome them and ensure uniform application of the law. Some of the training events, depending on the needs of the intended target group, have been decentralized, i.e. held on various locations throughout the various appellate jurisdictions.

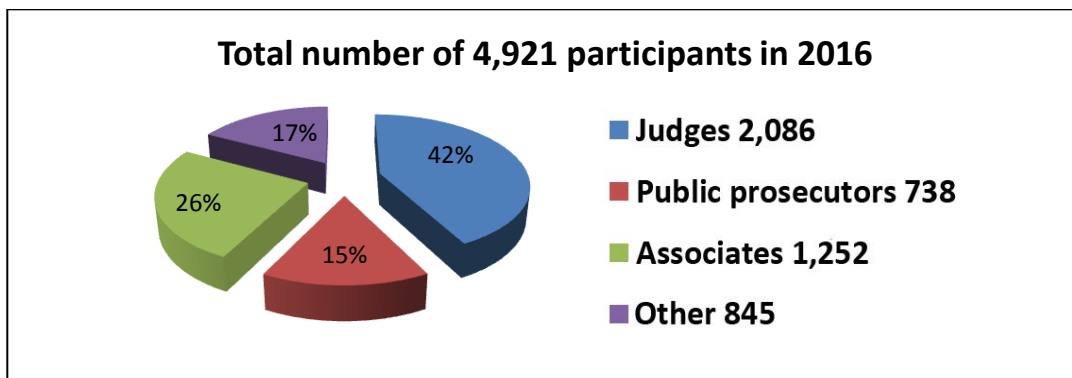
NUMBER OF TRAINING EVENTS IN 2016

During the period January 1st – December 31st 2016, the Academy has organized 209 training events, with a total number of 4,921 participants, out of which 2,086 judges, 738 public prosecutors, 1,252 associates from the courts and the public prosecution offices and 845 other participants – representatives of other relevant institutions, organizations and the non-governmental sector etc., who are invited by the Academy and active in the areas discussed during the training.



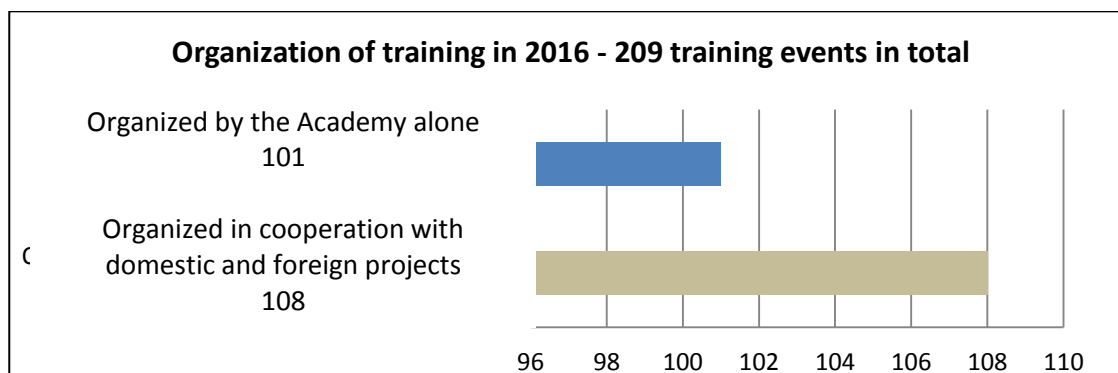


TARGET GROUP STRUCTURE



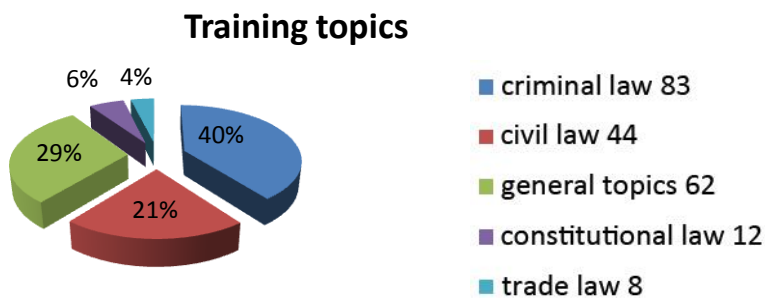
TRAINING ORGANIZATION

Out of the total number of 209 trainings organized during the reporting period, 101 events were organized solely by the Academy, whereas the other 108 events were organized by the Academy in collaboration with and partial cofunding by other domestic and foreign projects, associations, organizations and institutions.

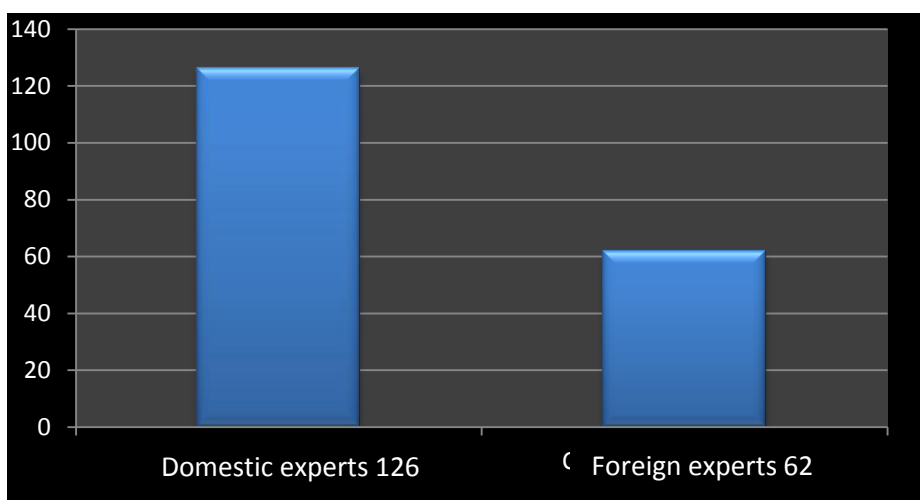


TRAINING CONTENT

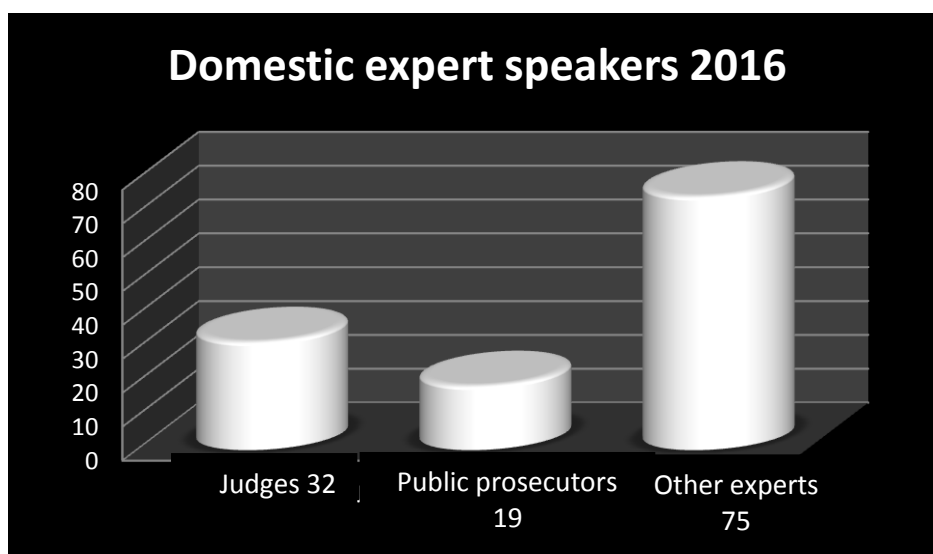
With regards to the organized training during the reporting period, 44 of the training events were in the civil law field, 83 in the field of criminal law, 12 of them on issues of administrative law, 8 on trade law and 62 trainings on general topics. The various fields covered are presented in the chart below.



In total, there were 188 speakers invited in 2016 (126 domestic and 62 foreign experts).



The group of domestic experts, who appeared as speakers at the training events, included 32 judges, 19 public prosecutors and 75 other experts in the corresponding areas covered by the trainings.

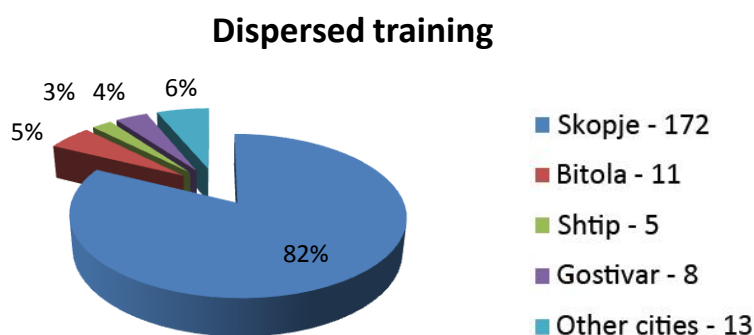




During 2016, the Academy invited as speakers some of the highest level experts – judges and public prosecutors from other countries and highest instances, justices of supreme courts and constitutional courts, prosecutors from state prosecution offices, professors, justices of the European Court of Human Rights and other top experts.

Besides the lecturers at the Academy, who are on its list of regular speakers, the Academy also hires periodical speakers – experts from the corresponding ministries, bureaus, directorates and other state bodies, institutions and organizations, especially from those that are in partnership with the Academy and help meet the training obligations in accordance with the NPAA, experts from the non-governmental sector, retired judges, professors, assistants, attorneys, notary publics, enforcement agents, experts, psychiatrists and many other who have the appropriate knowledge profile necessary for the specific training.

Out of the total number of trainings organized during the reporting period, 172 events were held in Skopje, 11 in Bitola, 5 in Shtip, 8 in Gostivar, whilst the remaining 13 events took place in some other cities and locations throughout the Republic of Macedonia.



CONTINUOUS TRAINING ON THE APPLICATION OF PROCEDURAL LAWS

LITIGATION LAW

During the January 1st – December 31st 2016 period, the Academy organized 5 training events on the Litigation Law topic, with a total of 145 participants – judges from the civil court departments from all appellate jurisdictions, as follows:

- “Litigation Law novelties with special emphasis on the evidentiary proceedings” – there were 4 trainings attended by a total of 106 judges, with 23 of them from the Skopje appellate jurisdiction, 36 from the appellate jurisdiction court in Bitola, 20 judges from the Gostivar appellate jurisdiction and 27 from the appellate jurisdiction court in Shtip.
- “Procedural expenses pursuant to the LL” – only one training was organized on this topic with a total of 39 participants, out of which 1 judge from the Basic Court in Sveti Nikole, 1 judge from the Basic Court in Ohrid, 2 judges from the Basic Court in Kumanovo, 32 judges from the Basic Court Skopje 2 and 3 attorneys at law.



During the February 12th – May 20th 2016 period, the Academy has independently organized and held 7 seminars on the topic of “Drafting written judgments with special emphasis on the proper legal reasoning”. These seminars were intended for the judges and legal associates working in the civil and criminal court departments in all of the appellate jurisdictions separately. There were 3 seminars held for the judges and associates from the civil departments and 4 seminars intended for the judges and associates from the criminal court departments.

The seminars intended for judges and legal associates from the civil court departments were attended by 78 judges and associates, while the seminars intended for judges and legal associates from the criminal court departments were attended by a total of 63 judges and associates. In all, during this period, the trainings on drafting written judgments with emphasis on the legal reasoning were attended by 141 participants in total.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE

During 2016, in cooperation and with financial support by the OSCE Mission to Skopje, on the basis of the feedback received from the trainings on criminal justice reforms, the Academy conducted 3 thematic training sessions on the following topics: “Investigative actions / Effective investigation”, “Burden of proof / Evidence and objections” and “Judicial role / Judicial ethics and impartiality”. These sessions took place on the 13-14 October, 26-27 October and 21-22 November 2016, at the hotel TCC Grand Plaza in Skopje. The participants included judges from the criminal court departments, public prosecutors and legal associates from the courts and public prosecution offices from all appellate jurisdictions. These trainings were attended by 36 public prosecutors, 36 judges and 14 judicial and prosecutorial clerks, or 86 participants in total.

These training sessions were conducted by renowned domestic and foreign experts who are very familiar with our Criminal Procedure Code and this provided for exchange of experiences, rich discussions and resolution of the existing dilemmas regarding the application of the legal provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In cooperation with the IPA Project “Further support of an independent, responsible, professional and efficient judiciary and promotion of suspended sentences and alternative measures”, the Academy organized a round table discussion on the topic of “Evidentiary procedure pursuant to the new Criminal Procedure Code – the Croatian experience”, with participants from the Council of Public Prosecutors, the Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia, judges from the criminal departments and public prosecutors from all appellate regions and attorneys and lectures by some of the best experts from Republic of Croatia. There were another 4 one day trainings, independently organized by the Academy, which took place during the period from January 22nd to March 18th 2016 and covered the four various appellate jurisdictions of Bitola, Gostivar, Skopje and Shtip, on the following topics: “Practical application of the Criminal Procedure Code: Investigative actions with a focus on the crime scene investigation”, 1 training on the topic of “Opening statements and closing arguments / Direct and cross examination” and 1 training on the topic of “Practical



application of the CPC: The role of the judge during the indictment review stage / Preparations and main hearing”.

During the period from the 7th of March, until the 15th of April 2016, there were three training events organized solely by the Academy on the following topic: “Practical application of the CPC: Examination of suspects, witnesses and experts”. The trainings were provided in three of the appellate jurisdictions: Skopje, Gostivar and Shtip. The seminars were attended by 65 participants in total, out of which 43 public prosecutors, 14 judges and 8 judicial and prosecutorial associates.

There were 3 trainings held in the period between February 4th and March 14th 2016, in relation to pretrial detention and other measures used to ensure the presence of the defendants.

The Academy organized 2 training events with the first one on the topic of “Pretrial detention and case law of the European Court of Human Rights / Reasoning of the decisions for pretrial detention and other measures”, intended for the judges and legal associates from the criminal departments of the courts, which were attended by 22 judges and 13 legal associates (35 participants in total); and the second one on the topic of “Pretrial detention and case law of the European Court of Human Rights / Reasoning of the motions for pretrial detention and the appeals against the decisions for pretrial detention or other measures”, attended by 8 public prosecutors and 11 prosecutorial associates (19 participants in total).

LAW ON DETERMINATION OF THE TYPE AND DURATION OF THE SENTENCE – SENTENCING LAW

As soon as the implementation of the Sentencing Law begun, there was a need for discussion and exchange of experience, as well as the need to monitor and identify any progress in the implementation of the Law, in order to overcome the problems and ambiguities related to the practical application of the Law. To that end, the Academy organized separate trainings for the judges from the criminal departments of all appellate jurisdictions and for the public prosecutors in all appellate jurisdictions, as well as one additional training for the prosecutorial associates.

From February 1st to October 7th 2016, the Academy organized five seminars in total, related to the implementation of this Law, where one of them was intended for the public prosecutors from the various appellate jurisdictions, three were attended by judges from the criminal court departments in all appellate jurisdictions and one training was intended for the public prosecution staff.

Bearing in mind that the implementation of the Law begun as of July 7th last year, the trainings were used to exchange experiences between the speakers and the participants and the majority of the participants was unanimous in saying that there is a clear need of organizing such trainings, which help simplify the application of the Law and promote the quality of the court judgments. These trainings were altogether attended by 46 public prosecutors and prosecutorial



associates, 71 judge and legal associates from the criminal court departments and 4 representatives from the Ministry of Justice.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING MODULE FOR THE SUPERIOR ADMINISTRATIVE COURT AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT

The judges and the professional staff from the Superior Administrative Court and from the Administrative Court attend training sessions that are adapted to their needs, as well as other trainings on topics that are of interest for the administrative judiciary and topics of general interest. During 2016, independently or in collaboration with domestic and foreign partners, the Academy organized a total of 10 training events for the administrative judiciary on the following topics: “Implementation of the Law on Real Estate Cadastre with separate review of the deletion claims”, “Electoral Code”, “Rules on classification of customs goods according to the Law on Customs Tariff”, “Administrative and judicial protection of intellectual property rights” and in the area of asylum, on the topics of “Country of origin information” and “Law and practice of refugee protection” (safe country concepts).

TRAINING ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

During 2016, in accordance with its obligations from the “National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire” (NPAA), the Academy continued with the continuous education of judges and public prosecutors in the intellectual property field, as to be able, by further raising of the awareness about the importance of intellectual property rights and consistent application of the regulations in this field, to ensure efficient prosecution of the violators of intellectual property rights and efficient judicial protection.

In this regard, there were 2 training events dealing with the issues of civil-legal and misdemeanor-legal protection of intellectual property rights, attended by 39 participants in total, out of which 22 judges, 10 judicial associates/clerks and 7 other participants (2 attorneys, 3 representatives from the State Market Inspectorate and 2 from the State Office of Industrial Property).

Furthermore, as part of the EU twinning Project “Strengthening Intellectual Property Rights”, the Academy organized altogether 5 training sessions related to various legal aspects of the protection of intellectual property rights, with a total of 142 participants – judges, public prosecutors and representatives from all relevant institutions who are involved in the system of intellectual property rights protection.



TRAININGS ON ETHICS AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In 2016, as per the GRECO recommendations for promotion of the corruption prevention mechanisms, the Academy organized a total of 11 trainings in cooperation with the SCPC, out of which 8 for judges and public prosecutors, 1 training for lay judges on topics related to ethics, ethical behavior, preventing conflicts of interest and anticorruption measures, as well as 2 trainings for judicial and prosecutorial staff as follows:

- 2 trainings for judges, public prosecutors, attorney and other relevant institutions on the topic of “Presentation of a Judicial Code of Ethics for judges in the Republic of Macedonia”, attended by 43 judges, 9 public prosecutors and 1 notary public, or 53 participants in total.
- 1 training for judges from the criminal departments from all appellate jurisdictions, in cooperation with the OSCE on the topic of “Role of the judge / Judicial ethics and impartiality” with a total of 26 participants, out of which 19 judges, 4 public prosecutors and 3 judicial clerks.
- 1 training for judges from the criminal departments and public prosecutors from all appellate jurisdictions, in cooperation with the US Embassy and the US Chamber of Commerce on the topic of the “Foreign Corrupt Practices Act” attended by 21 participants in total, out of which 3 judges, 5 public prosecutors, 4 judicial and prosecutorial clerks, 2 representatives from the MoI, 3 representatives from the Financial Police Office, 3 from the Financial Intelligence Office and 1 representative from the US Embassy.
- 1 training for judges from the criminal departments, attorneys and members of the SCPC, in cooperation with the IPA Project on the topic of “Criminal and legal aspects of corruption / Comparative practices in Croatia and the European Court of Human Rights”, attended by 37 participants in total (22 judges, 5 public prosecutors, 2 judicial clerks, 2 attorneys, 3 representatives from the SCPC and 3 representatives from the Ministry of Justice).
- 2 trainings for the newly appointed public prosecutors, in cooperation with the WINPRO II Project on the topic of “Strengthening of witness protection in the fight against organized crime, terrorism and corruption” with a total of 32 participants (16 public prosecutors and 16 judicial and prosecutorial clerks).
- 1 training for judges from the criminal departments and public prosecutors from all appellate jurisdictions and other relevant institutions on the topic of “Criminal and legal aspects of corruption / Comparable practices of the ECHR”, attended by 33 participants in total (10 judges, 9 public prosecutors, 10 judicial and prosecutorial clerks, 2 attorneys and 2 representatives from the Bureau for representing the Republic of Macedonia before the ECHR).
- 1 training for lay judges on the topic of “Conflicts of interest / Anticorruption measures / Ethics and Code of ethics”, attended by 9 lay judges in total, out of which 5 lay judges from the Basic Court Skopje 1, 3 lay judges from the Basic Court in Struga and 1 lay judge from the Basic Court in Debar.
- 2 trainings for judicial and prosecutorial clerks on the topic of “Prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest, good governance, integrity and ethics”, attended by 58 participants from all appellate jurisdictions (29 judicial clerks and 29 prosecutorial clerks).



TRAINING ON SPECIFIC ARTICLES OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In cooperation with and financial support by the INL program of the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the US Embassy in RM, there were a couple of two-day trainings on the “European Convention on Human Rights”, organized on the basis of the previously drafted joint curriculum on the ECHR, aimed at educating representatives from the MoI, public prosecutors, judges and attorneys from the Western Balkan countries, organized by the US Embassy in Zagreb, specifically in relation to Articles 2-7 of the ECHR. A Macedonian team of trainers also attended the Train the Trainers courses in Croatia during 2014-2015. The Macedonian team comprised of two public prosecutors, one judge and one attorney. The drafting of the ECHR curriculum started in March 2015, by conducting a large number of workshops intended for the best participants, as part of the trainings provided by the National Advocacy Center (NAC), aimed at development of curriculum drafting courses.

Within the twinning project with Latvia titled “Strengthening the Rule of Law” and in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Academy has organized a total of 5 trainings related to the ECHR, organized as 2 separate one-day training sessions for each and every topic provided for in the twinning project. Three of these training sessions were dealing with specific articles of the European Convention of Human Rights. Thus:

- Two one-day trainings were held on the 26th and 27th of October regarding the case law of the ECtHR in relation to Article 5 of the ECHR, attended by 11 judges, 4 public prosecutors, 13 judicial and prosecutorial clerks, 2 attorneys and one representative from the Ministry of Justice (31 participants in total).
- Two one-day trainings were held on the 28th and 29th of November regarding Article 10 of the ECHR and the case law of the ECtHR, attended by 30 judges, 4 public prosecutors, 15 judicial and prosecutorial clerks, 8 attorneys and one representative from the Ministry of Justice (58 participants in total).
- Two one-day trainings were held on the 13th and 14th of December regarding the case law of the ECtHR in relation to Article 1 of Protocol 1 – “Ownership rights”, intended for attorneys, judges and judicial associates from the civil departments, attended by 11 judges, 4 judicial associates, 11 attorneys and one representative from the Ministry of Justice (27 participants in total).

Following the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Commission for Enforcement of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the Academy organized a couple of seminars on the topic of “Article 3 of the ECHR / Lack of an efficient investigation”, intended for the public prosecutors and prosecutorial clerks from all appellate jurisdictions and attended by 26 public prosecutors and 4 prosecutorial clerks (or 30 participants in total).

In cooperation with the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ) and the Bureau for representing the Republic of Macedonia before the ECHR, on the 2nd and 3rd of March, the Academy organized a seminar on the topic of “Protection of ownership rights as referred to in Article 1 of Protocol 1 to the ECHR”, attended by 20 judges, 2 judicial associates and 22 attorneys (or 44 participants in total).



TRAINING ON EU LAW

EU Law related trainings have been organized on the following topics:

1. “Implementation of EU Law in the Republic of Macedonia during the pre-accession period” – 2 training events with a total of 43 participants, out of which 7 judges from the Superior Administrative Court, 9 judges from the Basic Court Skopje 2, 1 judge from the Basic Court in Tetovo, 8 judges from the Appellate Court in Bitola, 3 judges from the Basic Court in Bitola, 3 clerks from the Basic Court in Bitola, 4 judges from the Basic Court in Ohrid, 3 judges from the Basic Court in Prilep, 4 judges from the Basic Court in Struga and 1 judge from the Basic Court in Resen; and
2. “Consumer protection” – 1 training event with a total of 14 participants, out of which 3 judges from the Superior Administrative Court, 2 judges from the Administrative court, 1 judge from the Basic Court Skopje 1, 1 judge from the Basic Court in Gevgelija, 2 judicial clerks from the Basic Court Skopje 1 in Skopje and 5 attorneys.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR COURT PRESIDENTS AND HEADS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION OFFICES

During 2016, in cooperation with the Judicial Council of RM and the Council of Public Prosecutors of RM or independently, the Academy has organized several specialized trainings for the Presidents of the courts and one training for the Heads of the public prosecution offices. More specifically, the following training events have been organized for the court Presidents:

- “The role of the Judicial Council and the highest courts in protecting the judges from any interferences with their independence and possible influences on the judiciary and the key role of the merit based system for appointment of judges”;
- “Domestic experiences and international standards for performance evaluation of judges and court presidents”;
- “The role of the President in the operational organization of the court”, attended by 17 court presidents as participants and additional 2 court presidents as speakers;
- Round table: “Strategy for communication of the courts with the public” organized in cooperation with the IPA Project and JCRM;
- “Court management” organized in cooperation with the French embassy;

The Heads of the public prosecution offices attended training on the topic of:

- “The Head Public Prosecutor’s role in the organization of work at the public prosecution office”.



TRAIN THE TRAINERS COURSES

During 2016, the speakers at the Academy had an opportunity to attend several training events intended for them in particular, such as: “Train the Trainers course on the ECHR”, organized in cooperation with the British embassy and the Judicial College from London; “Train the Trainers course about the Practical Guide on the new Code of ethics”, organized in cooperation with the IPA 2010 Project: “Further support of an independent, responsible, professional and efficient judiciary and promotion of the probation service and alternative measures”, “Determination of the methodology for drafting questions and case studies”, intended for initial training speakers and “Train the Trainers” course organized in cooperation with the French embassy.

Namely, in cooperation with the British Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia and the Judicial College from London, on the 11th and 12th of May 2016, the Academy organized a specialized training for trainers on the “European Convention of Human Rights”, where the targeted group of participants included individuals who are on the list of speakers at the Academy, that is 11 judges and 2 public prosecutors.

On the 23rd and 24th of November 2016, in cooperation with the French Embassy, the Academy organized a two-day Train the Trainers course where the target group of participants consisted entirely of lecturers who are on the list of speakers at the Academy. The training was attended by 7 judges, 3 public prosecutors, 2 clerks, 2 representatives from the Ministry of Interior and 1 representative from the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia.

NEWLY APPOINTED PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

During 2016, the newly appointed public prosecutors attended training on the topics of: “Strengthening of witness protection in the fight against organized crime, terrorism and corruption” and “Criminal Justice Cooperation: Strengthening of witness protection in the fight against organized crime, terrorism and corruption”, organized by WINPRO.

LAY JUDGES

In an attempt to meet the legal requirements and pursuant to Article 42 of the Law on Courts, as well as in accordance with the GRECO Fourth Round of Evaluation recommendations, lay judges are obliged to attend specialized trainings, organized by the Academy.

On the 1st of December 2016, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev” organized training for the lay judges with 9 participants in total, on the following topic:

1. “Conflicts of interest / Anticorruption measures / Ethics and Code of Ethics” – one training session was held with 9 lay judges as participants, out of which 5 lay judges from the Basic Court Skopje 1 in Skopje, 3 lay judges from the Basic Court in Struga and 1 lay judge from the Basic Court in Debar.



TRAINING OF JUDICIAL AND PROSECUTORIAL STAFF

During 2016, the Academy continued working on the professional development of judicial and prosecutorial clerks, who contribute significantly towards the successful operation of the courts and public prosecution offices.

The training intended for judicial and prosecutorial staff covered various target groups as follows: the professional services at the courts and public prosecution offices, the managing officers, the professional and administrative workers and the judicial police.

There were 18 different trainings conducted in 2016, in accordance with the Program and Plan for training of judicial and prosecutorial staff, on the following topics:

- "Producing end year accounts using the Automated Budget Management System – ABMS";
- "Human Resource Management";
- "Application of the Rules of Procedure in the courts";
- "Year End Inventory Count Procedure";
- "Budget and Budgeting Process"
- "Implementation of the Law on Personal Data Protection";
- "Implementation of the Law on Free Access to Public Information";
- "Public procurement (Conducting public procurement procedure using the electronic PP system)";
- "Management and governance as per the Law on the Judicial Service";
- "Implementation of the Law on the Judicial Service with special emphasis on the evaluation of judicial staff and disciplinary proceedings";
- "Practical implementation of the Law on Determination of the Type and Duration of the Sentence (Sentencing Law)";
- "prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest, good governance, integrity and ethics";
- "Judicial Rules of Procedure (other regulations to be followed by the Judicial Police, emergencies, crisis situations, use of technical devices and means of coercion)".

TRAINING EVENTS FOR JUDICIAL AND PROSECUTORIAL STAFF

From the 1st of January to the 31st of December 2016, the Academy organized and conducted 18 trainings for the judicial and prosecutorial staff, attended by a total of 465 participants (278 judicial and 187 prosecutorial clerks).





During 2017, the Academy shall continue with the organization of seminars and trainings that are considered important for the administration, in order to improve the quality of the performance of the judicial and prosecutorial services.

JUDICIAL POLICE

On April 13th 2016, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev” organized one training intended for the judicial police, with a total of 26 participants from the courts in the Republic of Macedonia on the following topic:

1. “Judicial Rules of Procedure (other regulations to be followed by the Judicial Police, emergencies, crisis situations, use of technical devices and means of coercion)”, attended by 26 participants in total (1 participant from the Administrative Court, 4 participants from the Appellate Court in Shtip, 1 participant from the Appellate Court in Skopje, 1 participant from the Supreme Court of RM, 1 participant from the Basic Court Skopje 1 in Skopje, 2 participants from the Basic Court in Gostivar, 3 participants from the Basic Court in Kratovo, 2 participants from the Basic Court in Prilep, 2 participants from the Basic Court in Radovich, 4 participants from the Basic Court in Kochani and 4 participants from the Basic Court in Berovo).

TRAINING ON THE SENTENCING LAW FOR PROSECUTORIAL STAFF

In order to provide for unobstructed implementation of the reform process of the criminal justice system of the Republic of Macedonia, the Law on Determination of the Type and Duration of the Sentence (or Sentencing Law) was enacted on 29.12.2014 (“Official Gazette of RM number 199 from 30.12.2014), whose practical application begun on the 7th of July 2015.

Bearing in mind the fact that this is a new Law that for the very first time, introduces objective criteria for determination of the type and duration of sentences, with appreciation of the “beyond a reasonable doubt” standard for the burden of proof, surely there was a need to conduct training for the prosecutorial staff in order to provide for successful implementation of the Law.

To that end, in 2016, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev” independently organized a training on the topic of “Practical implementation of the Sentencing Law”, intended for the professional staff from the public prosecution offices around the Republic of Macedonia, which was attended by 25 participants.



VIII COOPERATION WITH DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS AND FOREIGN PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

The cooperation with the domestic authorities, institutions, organizations and associations, as well as with foreign partners and projects, which was established from the very beginning of the functioning of the Academy, has been expanding ever since and during 2016, actions of unabated intensity, aimed towards the same goal have been taken throughout the year.

DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

During 2016, in the organization of the events for continuous training, the Academy collaborated with the Judicial Council of RM, the Bureau for representing the Republic of Macedonia before the ECHR, the Chamber of Liquidation Managers of RM, the Ministry of Justice, the Customs Administration of RM, the Ombudsman Office, the Bar Association of RM, the Public Revenue Office, the International Labor Organization, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the Association of Public Prosecutors of RM, the Judges' Association of RM, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association and the Ministry of Economy.

Three round tables were organized for court presidents in cooperation with the Judicial Council of RM on the topic of: "The role of the Judicial Council and the highest courts in protecting the judges from any interferences with their independence and possible influences on the judiciary and the key role of the merit based system for appointment of judges", "Domestic experiences and international standards for performance evaluation of judges and court presidents" and "Strategy for communication of the courts with the public" with participation of the IPA Project in its organization. When it comes to topics related to the competencies of the public prosecutors from the public prosecution offices, those events are organized jointly and in cooperation with the Chief Public Prosecutor of RM and the Council of Public Prosecutors of RM.

There were two seminars held with the Chamber of Liquidation Managers of the Republic of Macedonia on the topic of "Disposition rights and dealing with lien notes during liquidation proceedings" and 2 seminars on the topic of "Practical experiences, case law and legal issues related to the implementation of the Bankruptcy Law".

The cooperation with the SCPC and the IPA Project resulted with 2 seminars on the topics of "Taking action against legal persons pursuant to the latest legislative changes" and "Uniform judicial practice".

On collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Academy organized a seminar on the topic of "International cooperation in criminal matters / Extradition"; a seminar on the "Rules on classification of customs goods according to the Law on Customs Tariff" was held together with the Customs Administration and another one on the topic of "Application of the international labor law by the national courts" in cooperation with the International Labor Organization.



In cooperation with the Bar Association of RM, the Ombudsman Office, the Bureau for representing the Republic of Macedonia before the ECHR and with financial assistance from IRZ, the Academy promoted the publication “Guide book on the European legislation on personal data protection”. At the same time, attorneys are regularly invited and participate in trainings at the Academy.

There were two presentations of the Code of Judicial Ethics for the Macedonian judges organized along with the Judges’ Association of RM. The first presentation was intended for the judges from the appellate jurisdiction of Gostivar. The second presentation was expanded and included the topic of “Ethics and judicial integrity under pressure”. It was intended for the judges from the appellate jurisdictions of Bitola, Skopje and Shtip and the IPA Project got involved in its realization. Training events on judicial forensics are being organized together with the Association of Public Prosecutors.

The cooperation with the Ministry of Economy begun in 2016 and the Ministry is in charge of the IPA Project titled “Strengthening of the administrative capacities for implementation of the legal framework for company bankruptcy and liquidation”. As part of this cooperation, the Academy organized a couple of seminars on the topic of “Evaluation of the debtor’s property during bankruptcy proceedings”.

The Academy shall also be one of the partners in the new project of the Council of Europe and EU on combating economic crime, in partnership with the Public Prosecution of RM, several ministries, the Customs Administration, the Financial Police Office, the State Audit Office and SCPC.

FOREIGN PARTNERS AND PROJECTS THAT COOPERATED WITH THE ACADEMY DURING 2016

The previously established cooperation with the foreign partners and projects continued and many workshops, round tables and seminars have been organized with their financial and technical support:

- The Embassy of France and the French Judicial Academy; the Judicial Academy of Republic of Turkey; the British Embassy and the Judicial College from London.
- The European Commission’s TAIEX – instrument for technical assistance and exchange of information; the OSCE Mission to Skopje – the Rule of Law Department; the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ); EIPA; GIZ Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Legal reforms; GIZ, Twinning Project with Latvia, Danish Twinning Project.
- The US Embassy to the Republic of Macedonia – INL; UNHCR; IPA Projects; WINPRO; ICITAP, UNODC.



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

The activities planned as part of the collaboration between the Academy and the OSCE Mission to Skopje in 2016 were implemented through various events regarding the antidiscrimination legislation and the concept of equality, hate crimes, the Criminal Procedure Code and the ECHR.

The following training events have been organized in relation to the protection and prevention of discrimination: “The concept of nondiscrimination for legal practitioners” – 4 seminars, held for various appellate jurisdictions; “The concept of direct discrimination”; “Shifting the burden of proof in discrimination cases”; “Commentaries on the Law on prevention and Protection Against discrimination” and “The concept of indirect discrimination”.

When it comes to the cooperation in the field of hate crimes, the Academy participated in the organization of four trainings for criminal judges and public prosecutors, for each and every appellate jurisdiction separately.

Following the completion of the advanced training on the new CPC, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors “Pavel Shatev”, in cooperation and with a financial support from the OSCE Mission to Skopje has been working on the creation of an e-learning platform, in order to provide for preservation and transfer of all video materials from the advanced CPC trainings. Namely, the establishment of the e-learning platform is aimed at making the materials from all the trainings on the new CPC so far, available to all current and future practitioners. The video material is posted on the web page of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, mainly for people to inform themselves and check their knowledge with a potential, in the future, to be used not just for training in the criminal field but also in all other areas. The Academy has established a list of 30 practitioners, who are willing to participate in the trial period testing and the list includes judges, public prosecutors, clerks, attorneys and representatives from the Mol. In order to clarify the use of the platform, on July 12th 2016, a representative from the OSCE presented its capabilities before the nominated group of people who were supposed to test it. After receiving all the comments by the users who have been testing the platform, it was concluded that the platform is a functional, simple and useful applicable tool and that the attached materials are useful and educational for every legal practitioner. Moreover, this type of education and approach to e-learning has been assessed as extremely useful and facilitating for all users, as a result of the attached materials (presentations, exercises etc.), whilst through the possibility for self-testing of the platform, the users may get a clear understanding of the portions that are important and useful for their specific work.

During 2016, the activities planned as part of the cooperation between the Academy and the OSCE Mission to Skopje have been implemented through the organization of a larger number of training events:

- 1 workshop on the topic of “Promotion of cooperation and multidisciplinary approach and protection of rights of victims of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants”;



- 1 workshop on the topic of “Electoral Code”;
- 1 seminar on the topic of “Most significant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights regarding hate crimes and hate speech”;
- 1 seminar on the topic of “Most significant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights”;
- “Article 11 of the ECHR – Freedom of Assembly and Association”;
- “Investigative actions / Effective investigation”;
- “Burden of proof / Evidence and objections”;
- “Article 9 of the ECHR – Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”;
- “Role of the judge / Judicial ethics and impartiality”.

On the 16th and 17th of November 2016, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – Transnational Threats Department in Vienna, the Academy organized a regional conference on the topic of “Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”. Besides participants from the Republic of Macedonia, this conference was also attended by participants from relevant institutions from the region coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Serbia, Monte Negro and the OSCE Missions in the region, or a total of 69 participants.

The following topics have been discussed at the conference: “Legal framework for countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and related crimes”; “Various investigative components related to the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”; “Collection and protection of forensic evidence in investigations for countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”; “Public private partnerships in investigations regarding the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”; “Investigation of online financing of terrorism” and “Judicial cooperation on regional and international level for countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”. The speakers at the conference included top experts from international organizations for prevention of terrorism, representatives from the public prosecution offices in the region and throughout Europe, representatives from security studies institutions, IT consultants, military personnel from the US Army, representatives from institutions working on prevention of money laundering, online money transfer companies and members of the police forces from Croatia, the United Kingdom, Israel, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, USA, Estonia, Germany, Bulgaria, Romania and the region.

➤ **COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND ITS HELP-PROGRAM**

As foreseen, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, in 2017, the Academy will begin with the implementation of a two-year project in connection with the freedom of expression and Article 10 of the ECHR. This project provides for the organization of 1 Train the trainers course, 4 seminars and 4 regional conferences.

Another project related to the ECHR is to be implemented also together with the Council of Europe, in particular, regarding Articles 3, 5 and 6 of the Convention. The duration of this



Project shall be 18 months and it provides for organization of seminars and one training of trainers.

Furthermore, the Academy organized several trainings on the use of the HELP program, aimed at improving the capacities of judges and public prosecutors to conduct searches in the HUDOC and AIRE databases that contain ECtHR judgments, translated into the national languages of the countries of this region.

➤ **INL - BUREAU FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS
AT THE US EMBASSY TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

In cooperation with the US Embassy in Croatia and through the agency of the US Embassy in RM, representatives from the Republic of Macedonia participated in the Regional Project for drafting a Regional Program for certain articles of the ECHR.

During 2016, as in the past, the INL program at the US Embassy in Skopje continued with its support of events related to the reforms of the criminal justice system. The support provided in regards to training has been extremely significant and it included the organization of the following event:

- Crime scene management and forensics, in cooperation with the Association of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia.

➤ **COLLABORATION WITH ICITAP**

During the reporting period, in cooperation with the US Department of Justice's ICITAP - Macedonia Program, the Academy organized a three-day training on computer crimes and child pornography. The goal of this training was to teach Macedonian investigators and public prosecutors about the tools and techniques used by the FBI and some of the non-governmental organizations for locating and investigating individuals involved in child pornography. This training was attended by 8 representatives from RM, including 2 public prosecutors, 4 cyber crimes investigators and 2 investigators from the General and Violent Crimes Department at the Mol, as well as by 4 participants from Albania and one from Bulgaria.

In addition, in cooperation with the US Department of Justice's ICITAP - Macedonia Program and the US State Department / Bureau of Counterterrorism, the Academy organized the third conference in a series of regional conferences on combating terrorism and foreign fighters. The conference was to be attended by public prosecutors who work on mutual legal assistance cases and extradition requests, as well as by cyber crime police officers and inspectors.



GERMAN FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION - IRZ

During the reporting period, in cooperation and with financial support by the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation – IRZ, and as a continuation of the productive collaboration in the past, the Academy conducted the following activities:

- Organization of a seminar in cooperation with the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ) and the Bureau for representing the Republic of Macedonia before the ECHR, on the 2nd and 3rd of March, on the topic of “Right to peaceful enjoyment of property from Article 1 of Protocol 1 to the ECHR”. The seminar was intended for judges and judicial associates from the civil court departments from all appellate jurisdictions, attorneys and participants from the non-governmental sector. The seminar was attended by 20 judges, 2 judicial associates and 22 attorneys (44 participants in total).
- In addition, another seminar took place on March 9th 2016 on the topic of the “Electoral Code”. This seminar was to be attended by judges and judicial associates from the Administrative Court and the Superior Administrative Court, as well as by representatives from the State Electoral Commission. The seminar was attended by 29 judges and 16 judicial associates (45 participants in total).
- In the period of 8-22 November 2016, in cooperation with the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ) and the German Association of Judges, in the Federal Republic of Germany, there was a training program for representatives from the civil and commercial courts, intended for judges from the basic trial courts and the appellate courts from a larger number of states in South East Europe, Asia and North Africa. The Republic of Macedonia was represented by a judge from the Basic Court Skopje 2 in Skopje.

➤ STRENGTHENING OF WITNESS PROTECTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, TERRORISM AND CORRUPTION (WINPRO III)

In 2016, as part of the cooperation with the EU IPA 2015 Project “Criminal Justice Cooperation: Strengthening of witness protection in the fight against organized crime, terrorism and corruption” (WINPRO III), the Academy organized 2 two-day “Client evaluation” seminars, attended by the same group of 8 newly appointed public prosecutors and 8 prosecutorial clerks from all appellate regions.

➤ UNODC – United Nations Office On Drugs and Crime

UNODC’s primary goal in relation to the smuggling of migrants is to promote the global observance of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, which has been signed by 142 states so far and to assist the countries in their efforts for its effective implementation. The goal of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol is to: (1) prevent and combat against the smuggling of migrants;



(2) protect the rights of the smuggled migrants; and (3) promote cooperation between the member states in this regard.

In response to the request for building the capacities of judges and public prosecutors, during 2016, in cooperation with UNODC and financially supported by the INL program of the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the Academy organized one seminar on the topic of “Effective combat against migrant smuggling for judges and public prosecutors”, which gave them the opportunity to discuss the best practices for improvement of the successful prosecution and convictions in migrant smuggling cases and to appropriately respond to the issue of smuggling of migrants in the Republic of Macedonia, while providing protection of the smuggled migrants.

Furthermore, in 2016 in Vienna, there was another Regional workshop for training development, which was attended by one public prosecutor from the Republic of Macedonia.

➤ **iPROCEEDS – Regional Project for capacity building to fight crime on the Internet**

The Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts on Crime in Cyber-space began with the implementation of a joint regional project together with the European Union, to build the capacities to fight crime on the Internet – iPROCEEDS (cybercrime). The Project commenced on January 1st 2016 and it is funded by IPA II Multi-country action program 2014, with the participation of the Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Monte Negro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo. The Project will last 42 months. The purpose of this Project is to strengthen the capacity of the competent authorities to search, identify, seize and confiscate cybercrime proceeds and prevent money laundering on the Internet.

The Republic of Macedonia has appointed its members who are now part of the group working on the process of implementation at the national level, comprised of representatives from the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the Basic Public Prosecution Office for Organized Crime and Corruption and the Financial Intelligence Office.

Experts from the Council of Europe visited Macedonia in April 2016, in order to meet with the representatives from the relevant institutions that are now part of this project and to collect the necessary information to produce an “Initial Situation Report”. During this meeting, the national team has identified and qualified the needs in accordance with the current situation in the country. One of the foreseen activities is focused on promoting the skills and knowledge of judges and public prosecutors and all other relevant professionals active in this area through trainings, seminars etc. Following the initial visits in April-May 2016 and after the completion of the initial phase, the Republic of Macedonia hosted the first opening conference that marked the beginning of the Project.



➤ **IPA 2010 PROJECT “FURTHER SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT, RESPONSIBLE, PROFESSIONAL AND EFFICIENT JUDICIARY AND PROMOTION OF SUSPENDED SENTENCES AND ALTERNATIVE MEASURES”**

The cooperation with the IPA Project started during 2015. The implementation of this Project was completed in 2016. The following events were held during 2016:

- 2 workshops on the topic of “Criminal and legal aspects of corruption / Comparable practices of Croatia and the European Court of Human Rights”;
- 1 workshop on the topic of “practical application of Article 5 of the ECHR / Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Croatia cases before the ECtHR”;
- 1 roundtable on the topic of “Evidence procedure pursuant to the new Criminal Procedure Code – the Croatian experience”;
- “Probation – new impulse for probation”;
- “Strategy for communication of the courts with the public”;
- “Community work and probation in light of the new Probation Law”;
- “Training for trainers on the Practical guide of the new Code of ethics”;
- “Presentation of a Judicial Code of Ethics for judges in the Republic of Macedonia / Judicial ethics and integrity in dealing with pressures”;
- “The role of the Probation Service during the proceedings pursuant to the new Probation Law and the provisions on probation”;
- “Alternative measures for suspended sentences and community work pursuant to the new Probation Law”;
- “Electronic monitoring as part of the house arrest or probation pursuant to the new Probation Law”.

In the framework of this cooperation, on a couple of occasions in 2016, the Academy was visited by Mr. Rainer Hornung PhD, Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Public Prosecution Office in Lörrach, Germany, so as to help the Academy in the development of a training assessment methodology. Afterwards, the expert produced a Report with recommendations on the possible development of mechanisms for assessing the quality of training. In order to consider the possibilities for implementation of some of the available options, during his two visits to the Republic of Macedonia, the expert had working meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Judicial Council of RM, the Council of Public Prosecutors of RM, members of the Steering Committee and the Programming Council, with educators, mentors, judges who attended initial training at the Academy and with the Madam Director and employees from the Professional Services.

➤ **UNHCR**

The cooperation with the UNHCR resulted in 3 workshops on the topic of “Country of origin information” and the regular annual round table on the topic of “Law and practice of refugee protection (safe country concepts)”, intended for judges and associates from the Supreme Administrative Court and the Administrative Court who work on asylum related cases,



with participation of representatives from relevant authorities and institutions, involved in the system for protection of the rights of asylum seekers in the Republic of Macedonia – the Ministry of Interior, the Ombudsman Office, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association etc.

As part of the cooperation with the UNHCR Office in Skopje, two judges from the Administrative Court attended a regional seminar on the topic of “Protection of asylum seekers in Albania pursuant to Articles 3 and 5 of the ECHR”, held in Tirana, Albania on the 16th of November.

➤ **GERMAN SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - GIZ**

During 2016, in cooperation with the GIZ Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Legal reforms, the Academy joined the organization of a Regional Antidiscrimination Conference in Budva, Monte Negro, held on 27-30 June 2016, attended by a couple of judges from Macedonia.

Furthermore, the **regional project “Strengthening of the regional cooperation amongst the judicial academies of the Western Balkan”** is in the final stage of approval and it is supported by the German Society for International Cooperation - Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Legal reforms. The Project is to be implemented in the period from January 2017 until October 2018.

The Project provides for development of a regional EU Law training module, a regional module of methodologies and skills training of trainers, establishment of a regional pool of trainers who teach at the judicial academies throughout the region, exchange of experiences and case law with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and gender sensitization of judges in the region, by preparing a “Manual for gender sensitive approach to adjudication of gender based violence cases in the Western Balkan countries”.

➤ **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

As part of its cooperation with the British Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia and the Judicial College from London, on the 7th and 8th of March, the Academy organized a seminar on the topic of “Uniform court practices for Macedonian judges”. The seminar comprised of two separate events and the participants included 36 judges, 5 clerks, 3 representatives from the Bureau for representing the Republic of Macedonia before the ECHR and 4 representatives from the Academy. Moreover, also in cooperation with the British Embassy in RM and the Judicial College from London, on the 11th and 12th of May 2016, the Academy organized a specialized Train the trainers course on the “European Convention of Human Rights” attended by the lecturers from the Academy’s list of educators, that is, 11 judges and 2 public prosecutors.



➤ **TRAINING IN COOPERATION WITH TAIEX - THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE INSTRUMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

During 2016, there was on workshop held on the topic of “Competition protection pursuant to the EU Law”, with financial support by the TAIEX Technical assistance and information exchange instrument of the European Commission of the EU. In addition, many applications for future training events have been approved for 2017.

➤ **TWINNING PROJECT FOR EFFICIENT PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION**

As a result of the cooperation with the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption and the Twinning project for efficient prevention and fight against corruption, financed by the EU, the Academy has organized a three-day workshop on the topic of “Uniform judicial practice”. The purpose of this workshop was for the invited participants to get involved in the drafting of a manual for uniform judicial practice, but the event was characterized also by many useful discussions and exchange of experience between the experts from the Republic of Macedonia and Germany. Moreover, the Twinning project took active participation in all the events related to training of judges and public prosecutors in this specific area.

➤ **TWINNING PROJECT WITH CROATIA AND LATVIA**

In total, 5 training events have been organized (described in detail above) as part of the Twinning project titled “Strengthening of the rule of law”, which is implemented by the Ministry of Justice, more precisely as part of Component 2 of the Project – “Building the knowledge and capacity of the relevant stakeholders in the judicial system on EU Law and other international justice standards, aimed at stimulating their transposition in the national legislation.

➤ **TWINNING PROJECT WITH THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK**

The goal of the Twinning project “Improved protection of intellectual property rights”, funded by the EU as part of the IPA 2011 Program and with a duration of 19 months, is to provide support to the country in the process of adoption and implementation of the best international practices in the field of intellectual property rights protection, within the overall goal to efficiently improve the country’s preparedness for the membership in the EU. Five training events have been organized in the period of 1-18 November, as part of the implementation of the project activities allocated to the Academy. These trainings have been dealing with the issue of protection of intellectual property rights from the point of view of the criminal, civil and administrative law and proceedings. The events have already been described in more detail above.



In 2017 the Academy shall continue with the implementation of the trainings on a regional level, in the various appellate jurisdictions, but within the Project, it will also draft a “Manual on protection of intellectual property rights” intended for judges, public prosecutors and other professionals in the legal field.

The training is implemented with the assistance of experts on protection of intellectual property rights from various EU Member States who act as trainers.

➤ **INSTITUTIONAL NETWORK FOR JUDICIAL TRAINING IN THE WESTERN BALKAN**

Upon invitation by the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), representatives from the Academy participated at the fourth coordination meeting of the judicial academies of the region, which was intended as a possibility to exchange experiences in the area of implementation of regional and international projects related to education in the judicial sector. The meeting was held on November 9th 2016 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The meeting provided the representatives from all participating countries with an opportunity to discuss the past experiences of conducting training in the judicial sector, as part of regional and international projects and the possibilities for future expanded cooperation of the judicial academies in the region and joint participation in relevant regional projects, so as to avoid any overlaps of activities and to ensure greater training effectiveness and creation of a database and materials in various legal fields, with the emphasis on EU Law, available to all judicial academies in the region.

The Regional Cooperation Council shall prepare a set of conclusions, based on the discussions held during this coordination meeting.

IX INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

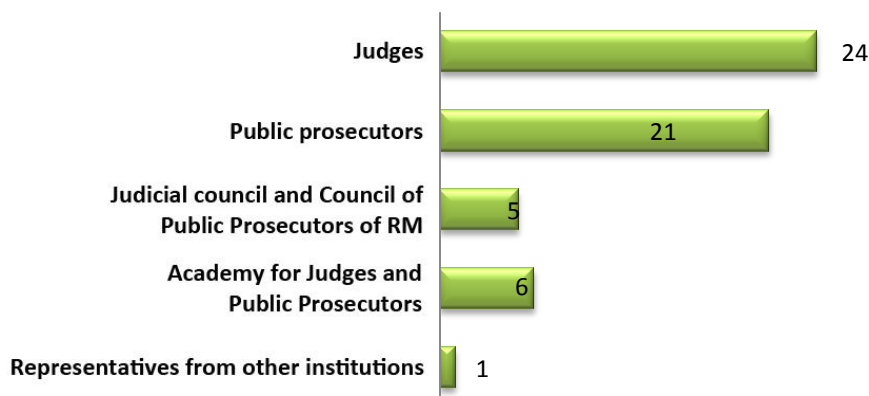
➤ **STUDY VISITS**

The past practice of sending judges, public prosecutors, judicial and prosecutorial candidates, as well as representatives from the professional services at the Academy, members of the Judicial Council and the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia to study visits, international training events, exchanges, meeting, workshops and conferences abroad, continued during the reporting period. In the international cooperation field, the Academy got intensively involved in the organization of training activities with a larger number of projects.

During 2016, the Academy conducted a total of 21 study visits abroad with the participation of 2 representatives from the Council of Public Prosecutors, 3 from the Judicial Council, 24 judges and 21 public prosecutors, 6 representatives from the Academy and 1 representative from another institution as shown below.



Study visits in 2016



➤ **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2015 AS PROVIDED BY THE SIGNED THREE-YEAR COOPERATION MEMORANDUM**

The Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, the French Embassy to RM and the French National School for the Judiciary from Bordeaux, France have successfully implemented their activities during 2016, both in the initial training area and in the field of continuous training. Two seminars have been organized during the current year on the topics of: “Court Management” – intended for court presidents / court administrators and “Train the trainers” – where the targeted group of participants included individuals who are on the list of educators at the Academy, that is 7 judges, 3 public prosecutors, 2 associates, 2 representatives from the Ministry of the Interior and 1 representative from the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia.

In addition, the candidate from the French National School for the Judiciary, Ms. Svetlana Zashova PhD, successfully completed her three-week internship program in Macedonia. At the beginning of 2017, the Academy shall be welcoming another new candidate from the French National School for the Judiciary for a period of three weeks.

The second half of 2016 marked the beginning of the foreign language classes in French – advanced level, which was intended for judges and public prosecutors and commenced in September 2016. Having in mind the fact that in this case, the Embassy did not provide the possibility to study the French language at the beginner level, there was a separate group established, comprised of judges and public prosecutors who previously used to attend the course and they continued with their B1 level studies.

As part of the continued cooperation, the anticipated activities include signing of a new “Memorandum of cooperation between the Academy and the French Embassy”, thus ensuring further support of the Academy and organization of additional 4 training events on current legal topics, as well as study visits for national judges and public prosecutors.



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

From January 1st to December 31st 2016, in cooperation with the European center for Judges and Lawyers, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), the Academy organized 2 trainings with a total of 88 participants on the following topic:

- “Efficiency and quality of justice: Who is responsible for efficient implementation of justice” – 2 training sessions with a total of 46 participants, out of which 18 court presidents, 12 court administrators, 15 head public prosecutors and 9 secretaries, i.e. public prosecution office managers.

In addition, when speaking of the successful cooperation between the Academy and EIPA, it would be especially important to mention that for several years, the Academy has nominated its own participants for events organized as part of the EIPA's Catalogue of Seminars and Training Courses, which are available to participants from other countries, and so far, the Academy has nominated three participants.

Currently, the Academy is working on the preparation of a long-term project with EIPA on drafting a separate training module on EU Law and judicial administration.

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

Within the overall framework of the successfully established cooperation between the Academy and the Judicial Academy of the Republic of Turkey, on the 21st and 22nd of April 2016, there was a seminar held on the topic of “Cybercrime”, with 3 judges, 5 public prosecutors, 8 judicial and prosecutorial associates and 9 attorneys, as well as one public prosecutor from the Basic Public Prosecution Office for Organized Crime and Corruption and a representative from the Ministry of Interior attending as speakers, in addition to the experts from the Republic of Turkey. Moreover, during the study visit from the 24th to the 28th of October and the meetings with the Director of the Judicial Academy of the Republic of Turkey, in presence of the RM Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Zvonko Micunski, the representatives from the Academy agreed on the future steps to be taken in order to promote the mutual cooperation between the academies, but also between the relevant judicial institutions in both countries, by exchanging knowledge and experience regarding computerization of the judicial system.



X COMPUTER SYSTEM

Under the influence of the latest achievements in the field of information technology in 2016 and aiming to develop its initial and continuous training Programs, the Academy has taken many innovative steps so as to upgrade its entire computer system.

As part of the multi-year project by the OSCE Mission to Skopje, in cooperation with the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, a series of basic and advanced trainings for legal practitioners have been organized on the implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code (“Official Gazette of RM” number 150/2010,100/2012). The advanced training sessions held in 2013 have been video recorded, so as to provide for their preservation and further use. This thematic web page was designed in 2015, initially as a pilot project, as a result of the available video, but also printed materials from the advance training sessions. It encompasses the first part of the entire available material, which has been divided into four modules, that is, this page refers only to Module 1 from the trainings on the implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code, titled as “Pre-investigative procedure”. The ultimate goal of this activity is to create an e-learning platform and make the training material available in electronic format for all current and future generations of legal practitioners. During 2016, keeping up with the latest developments in information technology, the Academy has been considering the possible options for implementation and upgrades, so as to improve the efficiency of the current distance learning module.

The screenshot shows the login interface of the Academy's e-learning system. At the top, there are logos for the OSCE Mission to Skopje and the Republic of Macedonia Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors 'Pavel Shatev'. The main heading is 'Најава' (Login). Below it are two input fields: 'Корисничко име' (Username) and 'Лозинка' (Password). A red button labeled 'Најави се' (Login) is positioned below the password field. At the bottom, there is a small text block providing contact information for login issues: 'Доколку имате проблем со најава или ја имате заборавена лозинката, Ве молиме пишете на gogor.trajkovski@racademy.gov.mk'.



XI LIBRARY

During 2016, in accordance with the needs and interests of its beneficiaries, but also pursuant to its function, the Academy continued enriching its library collection with new professional titles from renowned national and foreign legal practitioners. In parallel, on a regular basis, the Academy has been publishing legal texts on its web page, as well as links to certain databases, in order to provide a wide spectrum of relevant information for all interested visitors of the Academy's web page.

Throughout the entire year, on its web page, the Academy had been publishing various international institutions' newsletters, which are regularly delivered to the Academy, as well as other relevant texts produced by legal experts and practitioners, with whom the Academy used to and plans to collaborate in the future on a continuing basis.

As part of the cooperation with the Council of Europe's Consultative Council of European Judges (CCEJ) and GRECO, on its web page, the Academy has been publishing all relevant documents drafted and adopted by these two bodies and some of them were translated and published in the Macedonian language.



XII BUDGET AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

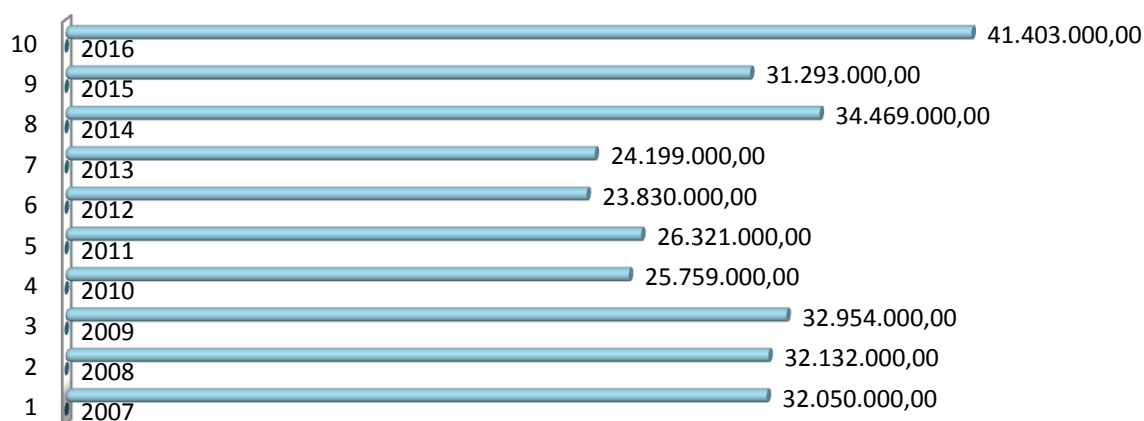
➤ BUDGET

The approved annual budget of the Academy for the year 2016 was 41.403.000,00 Denars.

Since the beginning of 2016 and as of 31 December 2016, the Academy has spent 28.754.712,00 Denars of the approved budget.

Year 2016	Approved budget amount 41.403.000,00
401 Net salaries	17.724.000,00
402 Contributions	6.718.000,00
420 Travel and daily expenses	784.000,00
421 Utilities	3.162.000,00
423 Materials and office supplies	1.300.000,00
424 Repairs and maintenance	850.000,00
425 Contractual services	9.750.000,00
426 Other current expenses	1.000.000,00
464 Other transfers	15.000,00
480 Purchasing of equipment	100.000,00

Review of the annual budgets of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors "Pavel Shatev"



➤ PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

During 2016, the Academy had implemented 19 public procurement procedures in total. All of them were implemented by means of a public call for bids, in accordance with the enacted "Public Procurement Plan for 2016".



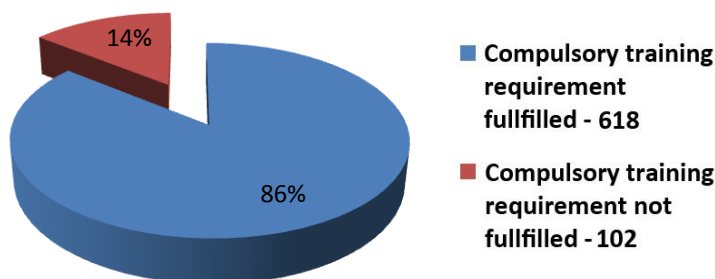
XIII STATISTICS

The process management software system implemented by the Academy during 2011 represents the basic database on judges and public prosecutors, used by the Academy during its operations. The regular updating of the database is of extreme importance for the functioning of the Academy, especially in regards to the anticipation and planning of the required number of training events, in various areas, thus providing all target groups with the opportunity to meet their mandatory days of training for the current year.

With regards to the status of judges and any changes in relation to their position, the relevant data is provided by the electronic data system of the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia, which is connected to the database at the Academy.

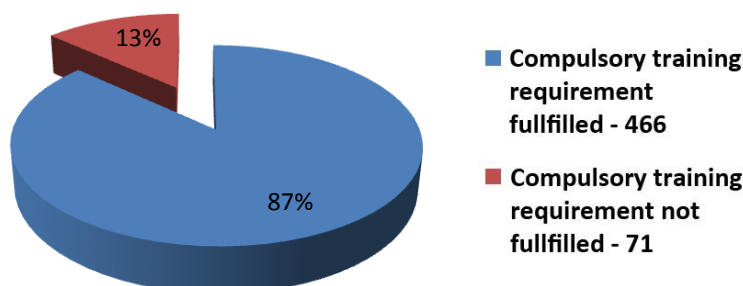
When it comes to the status of public prosecutors, the entire data on public prosecutors had been provided by the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia and afterwards entered into the database at the Academy.

Compulsory continuous training during 2016
Total number of attending judges and public prosecutors

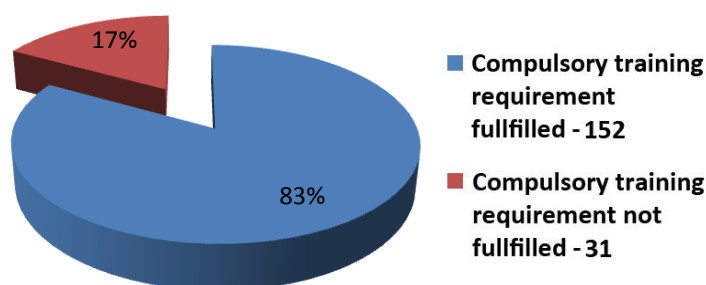




Compulsory continuous training during 2016
Total number of attending judges



Compulsory continuous training during 2016
Total number of attending public prosecutors



XIV PUBLICITY OF OPERATIONS

The Academy provides regular, publicly available and transparent information on its activities through its web page www.jpacademy.gov.mk, by posting news on its bulletin board, but also by publishing of all adopted legal acts in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia.

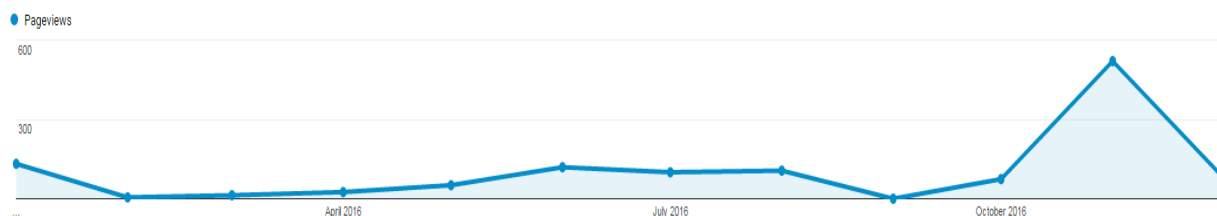
During 2016, in order to provide timely information about the more significant activities, the Academy put more than 260 posts on its web page (texts and various links) and it cooperated with the Macedonian Information Agency (MIA) with MIA covering 20 different events organized by the Academy and attended by domestic and foreign legal experts, national and foreign legal practitioners and high representatives of the diplomatic corps in the Republic of Macedonia. In addition, other than by MIA, some of the events also received media coverage by a larger number of electronic and printed media in the country. Furthermore, the majority of the events were announced by the specialized legal portal “Akademik”, which also published numerous interviews of renowned foreign experts, who gave their presentations on significant legal topics.



The successful practice of mutual web page publishing of news about events established between the Academy and the Macedonian Bar Association continued throughout 2016, thus increasing the transparency, but also the interest for training events organized by the Academy, with increased participation by the attorneys.

The reputation and prestige of the Academy is recognized outside state borders as well, and this is confirmed by the interest shown by some of the most significant bodies of the Council of Europe and the European Union, which also publishes articles, links etc. in relation to the activities implemented by the Academy.

According to the statistics, in 2016 the web page of the Academy had 1,236 visitors, which points to the fact that year after year, the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia are more interested in the role and work of the Academy and at the same time, that the Academy is placing special emphasis on the transparency of its operations, by regular posting of new contents.



The Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors provides regular, publicly available and transparent information on its activities through its web page www.jpacademy.gov.mk, by posting news on its bulletin board and also by publishing of all adopted legal acts in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia. The majority of the data related to the operation of the Academy is posted on its web page and it includes the following: legal acts, organizational structure and organizational composition, training programs and training calendar. For some of the more significant events organized by the Academy, it provides news releases for the media in the Republic of Macedonia, publishes interviews etc.

Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors
„Pavel Shatev“
President of the Steering Committee
Liljana Spasoska