REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

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GOOD NEWS FROM

RULE OF LAW

QUARTERLY REPORT4



EU SUPPORT FOR RULE OF LAW

JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S EU PEER REVIEW PROGRESS

“EQUALITY TALKS” - DIALOG PLATFORM

IACA’S ANTI-CORRUPTION TRAINING

EFFECTIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION COOPERATION

AUGUST 2024

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FOREWORD



Dieter SCHINDLAUER

Team Leader, Eu Support for Rule of Law

"We use this publication to keep up a good spirit and uphold an ethic of belief in the good reason for change, reform, and a continuous improvement process. To do so, we will show steps forward and celebrate them so that they are not lost in the much more dominant noise of disheartening news."

Dear reader,

fortunately, with our fourth quarterly report, we can again bring you a bucket full of good news.
In this edition, you will find proof of enormous efforts to enhance the justice system, the fight against organised crime and corruption and to improve the protection of human rights and the probation system. These are stories of collaboration with a strong commitment to a better future through well-functioning systems and institutions.
One clear highlight of the past quarter is the very speedy and focused manner in which the Judicial Council addressed the recommendations of the respective EU Peer Review Mission and adopted a comprehensive action plan as well as a communication strategy based upon those. These efforts have been publicly applauded by national and international allies at an event held at the beginning of July, which also emphasised that the work needs to be continued and the practice further improved.
Furthermore, we can report about amendments to the disciplinary proceedings for public prosecutors, a very practical training for public prosecutors and investigators on working in the Darknet, and another event used to share best practices and innovative strategies in the fight against corruption.

FOREWORD

Corruption was also a target in our first training module in cooperation with the International Anti-Corruption Academy, which focussed on institutional wrongdoing and was very successfully attended by 20 enthusiastic participants who are now expected to apply their new knowledge in the 11 different institutions they are working with.
The probation service has undergone very appreciated training on crisis communication while the National Action Plan for Roma Women and Girls has been the focus of another event co-organised with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and a roundtable in Kavadarci highlighted the benefits of effective cooperation between local authorities and the Ombudsman institution. The first “Equality Talks” organised together with the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination targeted issues related to inclusive education in the format of an open platform that will be repeated with different highly topical issues in the upcoming years. In our “meet the team” section, this time you can enjoy insights shared by our component leader for the fight against organised crime and highly experienced Slovenian investigator, Mr. Robert Šplajt.
I hope that these stories of engagement, courage and creativity will have a refreshing and uplifting effect on you as they had on me.

Enjoy the good news!



Dieter Schindlauer
Team Leader

MAY WE PRESENT:

JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S EU PEER REVIEW PROGRESS

Our project hosted a conference where the Council presented its progress on EU Peer Review recommendations to top judiciary representatives, international community members, legal associations, chambers, journalists, and CSO representatives.

EFFECTIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION COOPERATION

Experts from the Slovenian police sharing best practices and innovative strategies, and the initiation of institutional cooperation in anti-corruption policies in North Macedonia.

“EQUALITY TALKS” - DIALOG PLATFORM

The RoLaw project in collaboration with the CPPD co-organized the first open platform for dialogue addressing structural and systemic challenges to equality and non-discrimination, known as the “Equality Talks.”

Let's talk about...

- Advancing Justice: Judicial Council's Progress in Implementing the EU Peer Review Recommendations
- Practical training on Darknet for Public Prosecutors and investigators in North Macedonia
- Judiciary Reform Council holds inaugural session, reinforces commitment to EU membership aspirations
- Our Project honored with plaque for collaboration and support by the Association of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of North Macedonia
- Drafted amendments to Rulebook on disciplinary proceedings
- Effective cooperation between Ombudsman and local authorities in Kavadarci strengthens human rights and governance
- Institutional cooperation for effective fight against corruption
- Steps towards intersectional justice for all Romani women and girls
- IACA’s training empowers civil servants to become proactive agents of change in the area of corruption
- Empowering SCPC with a Modern HR System
- “Equality Talks”: Platform for dialogue and tackling structural and systemic challenges to equality
- Transforming Media Skills: Probation Service PR Working Group's Journey in Crisis Communication

Advancing Justice: Judicial Council's Progress in Implementing the EU Peer Review Recommendations

At the end of 2023, the Peer Review Mission Report to the **Judicial Council** presented 17 recommendations to improve the selection, appointment, and accountability of judges and to enhance the Council's transparency and communication. **In July 2024, our project organized a conference for the Council to present its progress in implementing the recommendations of the EU Peer Review Mission.** The conference brought together the highest representatives of the judiciary and the international community, along with legal associations, chambers, journalists, and CSO representatives.

During the conference, the President of the Judicial Council and two members presented the activities undertaken to improve both the Council's and the national courts' functioning. **The focus was on effective management and increasing transparency.** To achieve this, in 2024, the Council conducted two internal and two public workshops, all supported by our project, aimed at adopting an Action Plan to implement EU recommendations, amending internal regulations, and drafting a comprehensive five-year Judicial Communication Strategy. Adopting these documents signifies the Council's commitment to fully implementing the EU Peer Review Recommendations aimed at bolstering the judiciary's openness, efficiency, and accountability.







At the conference, the Ambassadors of the EU, USA, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands acknowledged the Council's efforts and its increased capacity to advance the rule of law in North Macedonia. They emphasized that there is need for further reforms to be systematic, comprehensive, and aligned with EU standards to ensure a functional, transparent, and equitable judiciary. This perspective was echoed by expert speakers, representatives from the judicial sector, the Open Judiciary Initiative, and the Judicial Media Council.

The Council's activities have already led, or are expected to lead, to several improvements: faster performance evaluations for judge promotions, more motivated appointment decisions, an enhanced appeal process for judges dissatisfied with their rankings, the use of IT solutions for promotion applications, shorter deadlines for processing disciplinary proceedings, greater involvement of the Association of Judges and CSOs, streamlined session reports for better conciseness and readability, live streaming of sessions, and increased content publication on its website.

The support from both international and local stakeholders reaffirms the commitment to advancing the rule of law in North Macedonia. Moving forward, continued efforts and collaboration, with ongoing support from our project, will be crucial for achieving the desired improvements in the judiciary.







Capturing Success:

A Visual Celebration











Practical training on Darknet for Public Prosecutors and investigators in North Macedonia

Public prosecutors and investigators from the investigative centers of the **Public Prosecutor's Office** were part of a practical training on Darknet. Police officers from the Republic of Slovenia shared their experiences of working on cases related to the Darknet, ways and opportunities for analysis of materials and evidence obtained through this network, criminal and financial investigation, payment with cryptocurrencies, as well as presentation of practical examples were discussed.

This is a big step forward in the fight against organized crime and strengthening of the institutions in North Macedonia. The training was organized within the framework of the cooperation between Component 1 - Improve the capacities of justice institutions to deliver justice in transparent and accountable manner and Component 2 - Strengthen the capacities to effectively implement modern investigation techniques in fighting organised crime.



Judiciary Reform Council holds inaugural session, reinforces commitment to EU membership aspirations

The Council for Monitoring the Implementation of Judiciary Reforms, established in late March 2024, held its inaugural session on 23 May 2024, just before the new North Macedonian Parliament convened. Despite delays, the Council, with all necessary documentation prepared by our project was praised by the Minister of Justice, Krenar Loga, Professor Vlado Kambovski, and the Chair of the Judicial Council for its efforts.

The Council aims to ensure continuity in monitoring judicial reforms, crucial for North Macedonia's EU membership aspirations. **Minister Loga highlighted the importance of adopting the Development Sectoral Strategy for Justice (2024-2028),** which envisions an independent, accountable, and transparent judiciary that protects human rights and upholds the rule of law.



The Council will oversee the timely implementation of measures outlined in the Action Plan, monitoring priorities, deadlines, and evaluating outcomes. Supported by experts from the “EU Support for Rule of Law” project, expert Slaven Lekić detailed the activities undertaken for the Strategy's success at the session.
The Council concluded that the activities and monitoring of judiciary reforms should continue.

Our Project honored with plaque for collaboration and support by the Association of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of North Macedonia

At the 25th anniversary celebration of the **Association of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of North Macedonia**, representatives from **the "EU Support for the Rule of Law" project were honored with a plaque for their successful cooperation and support.** This recognition underscores the project's dedication to strengthening the Public Prosecutor's Office and advancing the rule of law.



The Association of Public Prosecutors, a non-governmental, apolitical, non-profit, and voluntary organization, has worked for 25 years to promote the independence and impartiality of public prosecutors. The project and the Association cooperate in activities related to performance evaluation, supervision procedures, disciplinary procedures, and transparency of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Council of Public Prosecutors.

The plaque reflects the shared commitment to these goals and the positive impact of their collaboration. The project extends its gratitude to the Association for this honor and looks forward to continued partnership in strengthening judicial independence and accountability.



Drafted amendments to Rulebook on disciplinary proceedings

The "EU Support for Rule of Law" project has significantly enhanced disciplinary proceedings within North Macedonia's **Public Prosecution Office (PPO). Project experts prepared two reports: one on national legislation and another on international standards.** The latter assesses North Macedonia's disciplinary system against European standards, reviewing good practices and recommending alignment of the Law on the PPO and the Rulebook on disciplinary proceedings.



The project organized a roundtable to discuss these reports, attended by key stakeholders, including the Prosecutor General and members of the Disciplinary Commission and Council of Public Prosecutors. A key outcome was the decision to amend the Rulebook on disciplinary proceedings.

To advance this, t**he project held a two-day workshop with public prosecutors, Disciplinary Commission members, and representatives from the Association of Public Prosecutors.** Participants assessed existing laws and draft amendments, leading to the preparation of amendments to align the Rulebook with the current Law on the PPO and international standards.

These amendments aim to ensure legal certainty, timely proceedings, and legal protection for prosecutors until the new Law on the PPO is adopted.

The workshop achieved its goal of building consensus on the draft amendments, expediting the process, and supporting the Working Group to meet deadlines in the Justice Strategy and Growth Plan.



Effective cooperation between Ombudsman and local authorities in Kavadarci strengthens human rights and governance

During a roundtable discussion in Kavadarci on 17 May 2024, participants highlighted the benefits of effective cooperation between local authorities and the Ombudsman institution. **This collaboration has significantly benefited citizens and the local administration by enhancing human rights protection, improving administrative practices, and reinforcing the rule of law.** The event, held in the Municipal building, brought together Ombudsman Naser Ziberi, Mayor of Kavadarci Mitko Jančev, their teams, and civil society representatives to review progress, challenges, and opportunities in urban planning, environmental issues, education, and labor.



Municipal administration heads presented their achievements and discussed obstacles in implementing certain recommendations. A notable challenge was illegal construction, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts between central and regional authorities. **Deputy Ombudsperson Liliana Ilievska praised the successful implementation of over 90% of the Ombudsman's recommendations.** Sasa Jankovic, a project expert, offered suggestions from European practices to enhance cooperation with the Ombudsman institution.

Environmental pollution was a key focus, with the Mayor presenting plans to address it and the Ombudsman's representatives announcing a heightened focus on this issue. The event strengthened cooperation between the Ombudsman and Kavadarci's local administration, establishing new communication channels to better understand practical challenges and recognizing the benefits of enhanced collaboration.

Media coverage by the national news agency publicized this exemplary practice nationwide, encouraging similar initiatives. The event demonstrated that well-organized municipalities with skilled professionals, accountable leadership, and strong NGO cooperation can effectively implement the Ombudsman's recommendations. Future plans aim to promote Kavadarci's successful model across other municipalities, including Kavadarci representatives in discussions to share their experiences and foster similar cooperation in other cities.





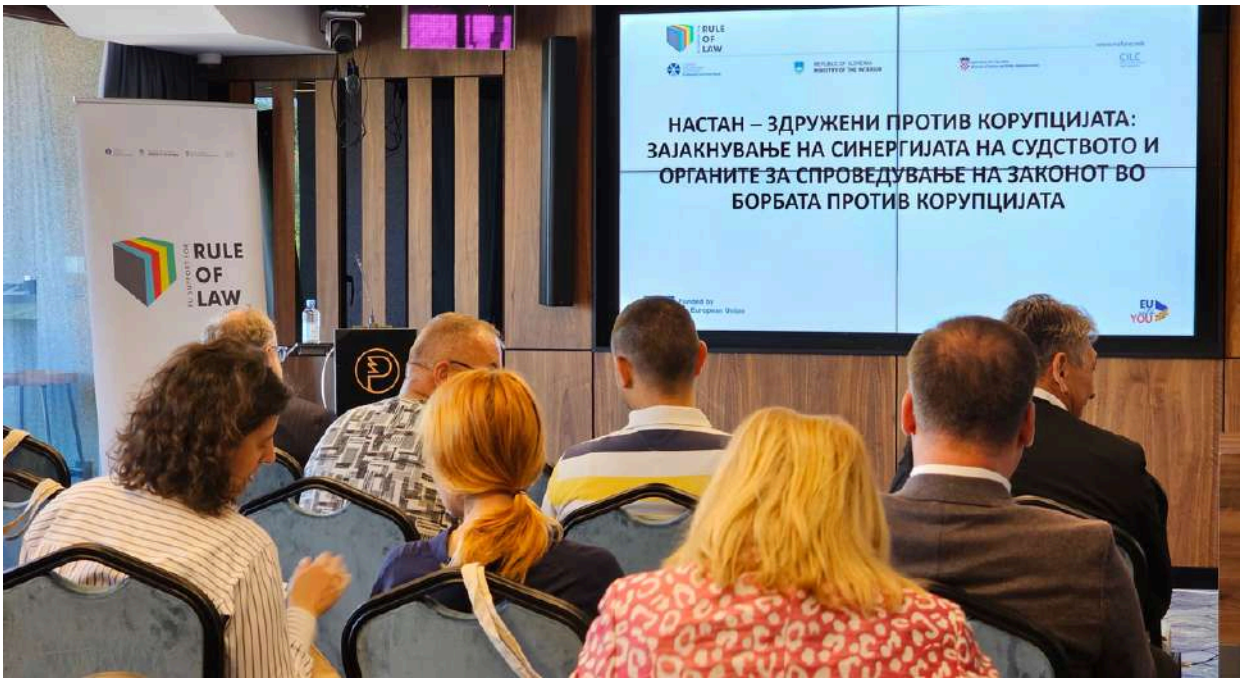
Institutional cooperation for effective fight against corruption

The sharing of best practices and innovative strategies in the fight against corruption by experts from the Slovenian police, as well as the initiation of institutional cooperation in the anti-corruption policies of North Macedonia, is the conclusion of the event **"United against corruption: Strengthening the synergy of the judiciary and law enforcement authorities in the fight against corruption",** organized by the project "EU Support for Rule of Law".

The event was opened by **Mr Panche Toshkovski, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, who emphasized that the fight against corruption is one of the most important points for the country's further progress.** "Even though we are a small country, I am more than sure that we can contribute to the European Union", added Toshkovski



During the event, **Dr David Smolej and Matjaž Jerkić, MA,** Slovenian experts, shared their practical experiences in combating corruption. Smolej highlighted the significance of the legal and organisational aspects of anti-corruption efforts in Slovenia and the European Union. Meanwhile, Jerkić discussed the use of special investigative measures in corruption crime investigations and how to employ them effectively. The discussion also involved the sharing of experiences and recommendations on best practices from Slovenia that can be applied in our system. **Dr Sasho M. Stojanovski**, from the **Basic Public Prosecutor's Office Skopje,** also spoke about special investigative measures providing insights into the legal framework for combating corruption in North Macedonia. The importance of institutional cooperation in the fight against corruption in our country was emphasised, and **Servet Demiri,** a member of the **State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC),** shared his experience on this matter.



The meeting served not only as a platform for sharing best practices and innovative strategies, but also as an incentive to initiate tangible changes in the anti-corruption policies of North Macedonia.
The event was moderated by Mojca Kuzmicki, MA, an anti-corruption and money laundering expert engaged in the project.





Capturing Success:

A Visual Celebration











Steps towards intersectional justice for all Romani women and girls

On 27 May 2024, the "EU Support for Rule of Law" project co-organised with the **Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP)** a coordinative meeting **„Status of Implementation of the Activities of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Protection, Promotion, and Fulfilment of the Human Rights of Roma Women and Girls (2022-2024)".** The meeting took place at the Club of Parliamentarians.

While taking stock of the progress achieved with the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Protection, Promotion, and Fulfilment of the Human Rights of Roma Women and Girls (2022-2024) (NAP RWG), the purpose of this meeting was two-fold. **Firstly, to strengthen the coordination, implementation and monitoring, and decrease the doubling of efforts/repetition of activities undertaken or planned as part of the implementation of the NAP RWG. Second, to identify priorities to be included in the Operational Plan for the NAP of RWG for 2024.**



The meeting was attended by representatives from state institutions, national human rights institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), donors and international organisations, and activists working on equality of Roma women and girls.

The participants presented the activities they have implemented and that target Roma women and girls and their rights in part or in full. They also presented their plans for future activities. The open forum atmosphere generated lively discussions, masterfully moderated by Mabera Kamebri (MLSP).



This resulted in a detailed overview of what has been implemented from the NAP RWG and what remains to be done. Reflecting on the points to be completed, the participants proposed priorities that should be included in the Operational Plan for the implementation of the NAP RWG for 2024.

Following the meeting, the Project's Gender Equality Expert, Dr. Biljana Kotevska, supported the MLSP in drafting the Operational Plan. The text of the draft was co-created through dialogue with NGOs and international organisations active in the field. Once complete, the draft was circulated for feedback to all meeting participants, following which the text was closed as final on 16 July 2024. The next step is for the MLSP to put forward the Operational Plan for adoption to the Government.

This is a second event which we organise focusing on Roma women and girls. It, again, reflects the Project's strong pledge to contribute as much as possible to the successful implementation of the NAP RWG and to support the work of the MLSP on Roma women and girls. It represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to promote intersectional justice—an aspiration centred on ensuring equitable access to rights, opportunities, resources, and societal power for all, including Roma women and girls.

IACA's training empowers civil servants to become proactive agents of change in the area of corruption

Addressing corruption effectively requires more than just strong legal frameworks and punitive measures. It necessitates well-informed and engaged people capable of identifying and resisting corrupt practices. This is where education comes into play, as it empowers individuals to become proactive agents of change within their communities and professional environments by fostering a deep understanding of the mechanisms and consequences of corruption.



The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) has recognized the crucial role of specialized education in the fight against corruption. It offers a rigorous, diverse, and innovative curriculum designed to provide comprehensive insights into corruption, anti-corruption, integrity and compliance systems. The academy's holistic approach integrates international interdisciplinary, integrative, and inter-sectoral perspectives, reflecting the complexity of today's corruption challenges.

This is why the "EU Support for Rule of Law" project, in December 2023, signed an agreement contract with IACA that allows us to tap on the unique expertise of IACA and deliver high level academic courses for civil servants in North Macedonia. **The first of four courses delivered in May-June 2024 was on organizational wrongdoings with 20 participants from 11 institutions taking the course online. All of them passed the final test and were provided with an IACA Certificate.**



Pawan Kumar Sinha, the Director of Academic Programmes of IACA, commented on the training stating that:

"All participants displayed amazing enthusiasm for learning the tenets of organizational wrongdoing and ethical leadership in the framework of anti-corruption studies. They came fully prepared and engaged in meaningful discussion. It was a pleasure organizing training for such a good cohort recruited by the component leader and her team under the Rule of Law Project in North Macedonia".

Also, the participants evaluated the training as excellent. **Elena Dimovska Head of Unit for Coordination of Anti-Corruption Activities in the Ministry of Justice states that "this course exceeded my expectations in terms of quality of lectures and materials.** It is very relevant and useful in supporting the risk management processes in our respective institutions. The lecturer was very interested and thoughtful and provided excellent opportunities for interacting and networking with the other participants"

The next IACA course that will start in February 2025 will be on open source investigations and internal investigations, stay tunes for the announcement and call for expression of interest in the upcoming months.

“Equality Talks”: Platform for dialogue and tackling structural and systemic challenges to equality

The “EU Support for Rule of Law” project is proud to have co-conceptualised and co-organised with the **Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, the first open platform for dialogue and tackling structural and systemic challenges to equality and non-discrimination – the „Equality Talks“.** This event, planned as an annual event, is to enable dialogue among a wide circle of stakeholders on defining specific and practical ways in which to implement the recommendations that are of a more general nature, in order to point out to and emphasize the existence of larger, systemic or structural, issues. We opted for the title “Equality Talks” to signify both that the talks are about equality and that equality does the talking on this day i.e. that the aim of Equality takes centre stage.

The CPPD chose the topic for this first edition to be “Inclusive Education”. The choice was made based on their case law, their assessment of pressing systemic issues, and the recommendations they have issued via their different outputs.

The event featured two panels featuring eight panelists, two speeches delivered by two international experts, two spotlight sessions delivered by three CPPD members and staff, and one opening and one closing session.



The opening session featured welcoming speeches by the President of the CPPD – **Igor Jadrovski,** the Minister on Education and Science – **Vesna Janevska**, and our C4 leader - **Barbara Liegl.** They all conveyed a strong commitment to resolving the current challenges with inclusive education and the central role that equality must play in this.

The keynote speech was delivered by Dr Lilla Farkas, who focused on inclusive education in international and in European law and practice. She emphasised the importance of minding international human rights law obligations when working on inclusive education, in particular those stemming from the UN.

The second speech was delivered by Iustina Ionescu, who presented a gender perspective on inclusive education by focusing on comparative European standards and experiences, and elaborating in detail the successful story of the litigation in front of the Constitutional Court of Romania.

The two panels focused on inclusive education at home. The first one on the concept of inclusive education and the current challenges in general, whereas the second was focused on gender-sensitive education and why this is a perssing issue for our country. Finally, in order to provide ample spotlight fully on the CPPD and its efforts, the event included two spotlight sessions "The Commission in Focus", where CPPD members and staff presented what the equality body has done thus far on inclusive education in general and on gender-sensitive education.



The Project's Gender Equality Expert, Dr. Biljana Kotevska, supported the CPPD in the conceptualisation and preparation of the event, and in the preparation of the event report.We will also continue to support their work on the "Equality Talks" for the whole duration of the project.

The event demonstrates our commitment to the CPPD – an institution that is growing into a visible and independent force for equality and wider societal change in the country.


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Transforming Media Skills: Probation Service PR Working Group's Journey in Crisis Communication

In late May 2024, twelve members of the PR working group from the **Probation Service** gathered in Veles for a crucial training session on crisis communication and interview techniques. **The two-day workshop, led by international short-term expert in media relations and crisis communication, Milos Djajic, aimed to sharpen the participants' skills in handling media interactions and effectively managing communication crises.**

On the first day, the focus was on crisis communication. Participants engaged in exercises to understand the importance of clear and structured messaging. A particularly impactful activity involved comparing different perceptions of similar photos, highlighting how varying perspectives can influence communication. The group brainstormed potential crises that could impact their institution, developing tailored communication protocols and response strategies for high-impact scenarios.

Day two shifted to media interview techniques. Participants reflected on their past media experiences, discussing their rights and obligations during interviews. They practiced delivering concise media statements and learned the art of "bridging" to steer media interactions in favorable directions. The highlight was a simulated press conference, where participants applied their new skills in a realistic and challenging setting.

Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. One attendee remarked, "The interactive participation and group work were the highlights of the training." Another noted, "The style of the trainer kept my interest throughout." The practical exercises, particularly the simulated press conference, were praised for their relevance and immediate applicability.

Participants left the training feeling confident and equipped to apply their new skills. "The first thing I plan to apply is the knowledge for crisis communication," shared one participant. Another emphasized the importance of interview techniques, stating, "I will use the interview techniques in future interactions with journalists." The request for follow-up sessions on public speaking further highlighted the training's success and the participants' commitment to continuous improvement.

The crisis communications and interview techniques training not only met but exceeded participants' expectations. The well-structured presentations, interactive sessions, and practical exercises provided invaluable learning experiences. This training significantly enhanced the capacity of the participants, equipping them with essential skills to navigate media interactions and manage crises effectively.

This training is a testament to the commitment to building robust communication capacities within the Probation Service, ensuring the PR working group members are well-prepared for future challenges.





SPLAJT Robert

INTERVIEW

MEET THE TEAM

COMPONENT LEADER

Innovative strategies and advanced technologies set to improve fight against organized crime in North Macedonia

Meet the team: The interview session is designed to introduce and familiarise you with the team members of the "EU Support for Rule of Law" project."

Mr Robert Šplajt, has vast knowledge and practical experience in area rule of law and law enforcement. He was involved in several EU projects on the Balkans and has an excellent network of contacts in the South Eastern European region. During his extensive Police career in Slovenia, he has gained a great deal of experience in the field of organised crime, leading a team dealing with organised crime, cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies and performing the most demanding tasks in the work against organised crime, conducting investigations of the most challenging crimes, and designing and proposing systemic solutions to urgent issues.

As the leader of Component 2 focusing on fighting the organised crime in North Macedonia within the EU Support for Rule of Law project, how do you define the rule of law in this context?

I would mention three main principles for me, namely:

Basic legal principles
The rule of law ensures that laws are applied fairly and equally to all. In this context, this means that organized criminal groups in North Macedonia must be held accountable in accordance with the established legal framework, without bias or favoritism. This requires consistent enforcement and transparent legal procedures.

Effective law enforcement
The rule of law includes empowering law enforcement agencies to effectively investigate, prosecute and dismantle criminal networks. This includes providing adequate training and resources and ensuring strong coordination between agencies to uphold legal standards and fight organized crime.

Protection of human rights
The rule of law requires respect for fundamental human rights throughout the judicial process. Respecting the rights of all individuals, including suspects and defendants, is crucial when dealing with organized crime in order to maintain public trust and the integrity of the legal system.

Your Component has facilitated two study visits to Slovenia with the police officers from North Macedonia. How did it impact the participants?

The two study visits to Slovenia have been instrumental in advancing the skills and knowledge of the police officers in North Macedonia. These visits provided valuable insights into effective policing strategies and best practices employed in Slovenia, which have directly influenced the participants' approach to their work.

Additionally, the visits have bolstered professional networks and created avenues for ongoing collaboration between the law enforcement agencies of North Macedonia and Slovenia. This strengthened partnership and shared knowledge are expected to greatly enhance their collective efforts in combating organized crime in North Macedonia.

Overall, the study visits have had a positive impact, equipping the participants with new tools and strategies, and reinforcing the commitment to achieving common goals in the fight against organized crime.

Your component includes missions from Slovenian experts in various areas such as modern investigation techniques in fighting organised crime. Could you share a specific skill or technique that the police officers in North Macedonia have adopted from their Slovenian counterparts? If this information is classified, could you at least tell us how these skills are being implemented?

Of course, within the framework of Component 2, we want to provide a comprehensive and systemic approach in the fight against organized crime. This includes all units and the use of all advanced technology. One such is sky ECC communication. The basic functioning of skyECC communication, which includes the experience of Slovenian experts in the analysis of the mentioned encrypted communication, was presented to certain units in the form of presentations. As part of the presentation, both units were informed about the possibilities/how they could investigate crimes by incorporating skyECC communication.

Tips on how to check and work with sky communication were also given and shown. Here are some basic tips on how to approach the large amount of information obtained:

After obtaining the first data packages (through Europol for operational purposes or through Eurojust for evidentiary purposes), all trainees will need basic analytical support in terms of introduction to concrete analysis and work. Such an implementation could save them many analytical/technical complications and problems and enable them to have the most efficient and verified approach to the content analysis of the data, which actually represents the analysis of the content of the exchanged messages together with the metadata. The volume of these messages is huge, so with the wrong approach, their content evaluation can be very time-consuming and also ineffective.
The future will show whether these and other instructions are adhered to.



1.Fighting organised crime with no doubt is challenging. Could you share a moment when you felt particularly proud about the progress being made in North Macedonia?

One moment of particular pride was when they successfully dismantled a major organized crime network through a coordinated effort between North Macedonian authorities and international partners. This operation not only led to significant arrests but also showcased the effectiveness of the strategies and training we've implemented. It was a clear testament to the progress being made and the growing strength of our collaborative efforts.

If you had to describe the collaboration between your Component and the beneficiary institutions in a single word, what would it be and why?

If I had to describe the collaboration between our Component and the beneficiary institutions in a single word, it would be "synergistic." This term reflects the way our joint efforts combine strengths, resources, and expertise to achieve significant progress in fighting organized crime.

Looking ahead, what innovative strategies or approaches are you excited to support in the ongoing battle against organised crime in North Macedonia?

In the future, I am particularly pleased to support the integration of advanced technologies and data analytics into our strategies. By using state-of-the-art tools for real-time intelligence gathering and predictive analysis, we can improve our ability to predict and fight organized crime more effectively. In addition, promoting greater cross-border cooperation and knowledge sharing will further strengthen our efforts. Also here are financial investigations, which are carried out in parallel with the investigation, cryptocurrencies, sector for undercover operation, corruption and money laundering and other advanced techniques. These innovative approaches hold great promise for progress in the fight against organized crime in North Macedonia.



AUGUST - NOVEMBET 2024

CALENDAR
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP

Roundtable on the amendments to the Law on Judicial Council

Component 1

OCT

Awareness raising on lobbying with the private sector

Component 3

25 SEP — 27 SEP

Training of trainers targeting the probation service

Component 4

11 SEP

Support to the first National Cybercrime Strategy and Action Plan

Component 2

26 SEP

Inter-institutional expert working group meeting on strengthening CPPD's recommendations

Component 4





Capturing Success:

A Visual Celebration











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