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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Model of selection, evaluation and promotion of judges: What competences and skills matter? Best practices and trends

Tirana, 13-14 June 2022

The Albanian High Judicial Council and Albanian Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Tirana Legal Aid Society, cordially invites you to the International Conference **Model of selection, evaluation and promotion of judges: What competences and skills matter? Best practices and trends**.

The Conference aims at discussing different systems of judicial career, challenges, as well as international advanced practices and methods in this regards. Additionally, the conference intends to shed lights on public expectations for judges as professionals and personalities, and the balance of effectiveness of recruitment vs technocratically constructed procedures for objectiveness and transparency reasons.

The first day of the Conference is dedicated to the selection, appointment and evaluation procedure of judges. The second day addresses the topic of the promotion of judges to higher courts as well as to leadership court position.

In addition to legal professionals that are part of the justice system i.e., judges, prosecutors, attorneys at law, court clerks etc. the conference will spur the discussion even among non-judicial actors. This aspect shall highlight the role of academia, civil society, media, and business community as part of the larger public defining the expectations about the "judge" as a person inside and outside the court room. Besides offering a venue for academic and policy discussion, this conference aims at contributing to public confidence and access to justice as precondition for expectations to be addresses and fulfilled meaningfully by all the stakeholders.

Register in advance for this conference:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqduuqrjMsHNxs0gPwffg_Fev-C8mZf8yC

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the conference.

Conference language: English.

The event is organized in the framework of the International Project "Portrait of a Judge - a multi-dimensional model of competencies to be measured during the procedures of selection, evaluation and promotion of judges" which aims at developing a multi-dimensional model for these procedures.

The project "Portrait of a Judge" is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation.

During the 1st day the conference will be moderated by Ms. Naureda Llagami while during the 2nd day it will be conducted by Ms. Arta Vorpsi.

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Agenda

The conference is organised in hybrid format. A part of the audience joins from the Conference venue (Tirana, Albania) and another part joins remote.

Monday, 13 June 2022

10.00 – 10.40

Opening remarks and First Session

Session Objective: Welcome participants and inform them about the background, rationale, and objectives of the conference.

Opening words

Ms. Naureda LLAGAMI, Chairperson of the High Judicial Council, Albania

Mr. Sokol SADUSHI, Deputy President of the High Court, Albania

Mr. Gian Luca Bombarda, Director of the Fund Operator (online)

The purpose of multi-dimensional model of competencies to be measured during the procedures of selection, evaluation and promotion of judges and ways how to make it work

Prof. Dr. Salvija MULEVIČIENĖ, Project Manager, M. Romeris University, Lithuania

10.40 – 11.00

Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30

Second Session

SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES: INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

Session Objective: To introduce to participants trends identified under the framework of the Project and present the best international practices of selection and appointment of judges, including the Albanian experience.

11.00 – 11.20

Shaping the appointment procedure of judges through the jurisprudence of European courts.

Prof. Dr. Rimvydas NORKUS, Justice of the General Court of the European Union

11.20 – 11.35

Selection of judges: Personality traits of a good judge.

Dr. Pavel Klima, Expert of the Project, Metropolitan University Prague.

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- 11.35 – 11.55** Mr. Erjon MUHARREMAJ, Deputy Dean, University of Tirana – Faculty of Law, Former HJC member
- 11.55 – 12.10** **Selection of judges: what competences matter? Best practices and recommendations**
Dr. Jana ODEHNALOVÁ, Expert of the Project, Metropolitan University Prague
- 12.10 – 12.25** **Other perspectives on the selection and appointment of judges**
Ms. / Mr. Representative of a Think tank organisation (TBC)
- 12.25 – 12.30** **Q & A**
- 12.30 – 14.00** **Lunch Break**
- 14.00 – 15.45** **Third Session**
THE PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION OF JUDGES
Session Objective: to enable the in-depth exploration of the substantive requirements for judges' ethical and professional evaluation – novelties of the Albanian judicial reform; and present best practices and trends identified under the framework of the Project.
- 14.00 – 14.30** **Albanian system of Evaluation of judges**
Ms. Brikena UKPERAJ, Chairperson of Judges Ethical and Professional Evaluation Committee - HJC
- 14.30 – 15.00** **Evaluation of judges' activity as guarantee of significance of competencies and qualifications and career transparency**
Dr. Gabrielė JUODKAITĖ-GRANSKIENĖ, Expert of the Project, Justice of the Supreme Court of Lithuania
Ms. Sigita RUDĖNAITĖ, Expert of the Project, Acting Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Lithuania
- 15.00 – 15.30** **Other perspectives on the professional evaluation of judges**
Mr. Gianluigi PRATOLA, Magistrate in Court of Cassation, Italy
- 15.30 – 15.45** **Q & A**

End of the First Day

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Tuesday, 14 June 2022

09.45 – 10.00 Registration of participants

10.00 – 11:00 Fourth Session

JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES AND ETHICS

Session Objective: Welcome participants and inform them about civil society and academia contribution in increasing access to justice and public confidence in the judiciary

10.00 – 10:20 Ms. Rajmonda BOZO, TLAS Executive Director

10.20 – 10:35 Judge in the court room

Mr. Alfred BALLA, Chairperson of the High Prosecutorial Council

10.35 – 11:50 Judge outside the court room

Mr. Vangjel KOSTA, Attorney at law & Lecturer at the School of Magistrates

10.50 – 11:00 Q & A

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 Fifth Session

PROMOTION OF JUDGES

Session Objective: to enable the in-depth exploration of the substantive requirements for judges' promotion in the higher courts or leadership positions and to present best practices and trends identified under the framework of the Project

11.00 – 11.20 Promotion of judges in Albania and in Poland

Mr. Klodian KURUSHI, Chairperson of Judges' Career Development Committee

11.20 – 11.40 Dr. Grzegorz BORKOWSKI, Judge from Poland, EU funded Project

11.40 – 12.00 Promotion of judges to managerial positions: most relevant competences and skills. Trends and recommendations

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Ms. Reda MOLIENE, Coordinator of the Project Expert Team, Mykolas Romeris University

12.00 – 12.20

Other perspectives on the promotion of judges

Dr. Arta VORPSI, Constitutional Law Lecturer & Expert of the Project

12.20 – 12.30

Q&A

12.30 – 12.40

Sixth Session

Closing remarks

***Session Objective:** To enable participants to share their feedback on the Conference and outline ideas for follow up and further cooperation.*

Participants' feedback.

Concluding statements.

12.40 – 14.00

Lunch Break

End of the Conference

* During the event, simultaneous interpretation in English and Albanian will be available