

## **HCOJ Public Trust and Confidence action plan**

### **Introduction**

HCOJ is an independent organ, created to co-ordinate the judiciary system and to promote the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary.

HCOJ under its competences ensures the Public Trust and Confidence towards the judiciary.

Taking into consideration the dynamic legal and social environment, HCOJ considers adoption of Public Trust and Confidence action plan inevitable. This document will guide HCOJ and its staff members in communication with public.

HCOJ representatives of every level/rank participated in drafting the action plan. While drafting the document opinions of all interested parties, representatives of media, civil society and public in general were noted.

HCOJ Public Trust and Confidence action plan was elaborated in cooperation with JILEP expert, legal advisor – Mark West.

### **1. Goals**

Main goals of the Public Trust and Confidence action plan are:

- a) Promotion of Judicial Independence;
- b) Rise of public awareness about the HCOJ and the Courts;
- c) Ensuring the transparency of the HCOJ work, frequent communication with public and obtaining the trust;
- d) Involvement in community life.

### **2. Audience**

Under the HCOJ Public Trust and Confidence action plan, understanding of “audience” includes different groups of public, specifically:

- a) Legal community;
- b) Citizens and civil society.
- c) Media;

### **3. Period of Fulfillment**

The Public Trust and Confidence action plan is revised annually. The action plan shall be revised considering the achievements and difficulties of the previous year.

### **4. Responsible offices**

HCOJ ensures implementation of the Public Trust and Confidence action plan.

On the bases of the Public Trust and Confidence action plan, respective departments will draw out the specific activities and their implementation schedule.

### **5. Internal communication**

Communication with public, as the continuing process of transparency and outreach, starts at the HCOJ, meaning:

- a) Annual revision and adoption of Trust and Confidence action plan;

- b) Professional development of the council staff, which comprises of: organizing in-house trainings focused on communication with public, retreat events, trainings and study of best practice.
- c) Prior publication of the information about the regular (quarterly) meetings of the council and other events.

## **6. Communication with the legal community**

Communication with the legal community implies:

- a) Support in organizing seminars and trainings for judges;
- b) Informing judges about the draft laws related to the judiciary;
- c) Organizing sport and intellectual contests between the courts;
- d) Organizing working meetings with the people (prosecutors, lawyers) involved in judicial process;
- e) Meetings with NGOs working in judicial sphere;
- f) Organizing internships for III and IV year law students at HCOJ.

## **7. Communication with citizens and civil society**

Communication with citizens and civil society implies:

- a) Proper functioning of the website;
- b) Operation of Hot line for 24 hours;
- c) Open door days for citizens;
- d) Visiting of the regions and meetings with local communities;
- e) Participation in social projects;
- f) Tours for schoolchildren and students at HCOJ;
- g) Organizing students' essay competition on the judicial topic;

## **8. Communication with media**

Communication with media implies:

- a) Close work with broadcast, print and social network media;
- b) Organizing press conferences for media representatives at HCOJ about important and interested issues;
- c) Exclusive interviews;
- d) Participation in TV/Radio shows and Talk shows;
- e) Use of new media sources – blogs and online information channels;
- f) Media monitoring and feedback to journalists;
- g) Distribution of press releases to the journalists prior to events;
- h) Preparation of publication materials for media representatives;
- i) Trainings for media;
- j) Organizing annual competition for journalists;
- k) Organizing media tours, meetings of journalists and judges;
- l) Preparation of documentary films on HCOJ and their broadcast;
- m) Preparation of PSAs and their broadcast;

n) Preparation of "Ride-along" TV shows (media accompany journalists at work).