

REPORT

ON JOINT TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND ADVOCATES IMPLEMENTED BY THE "ACADEMY OF JUSTICE" STATE NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION IN LINE WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE STANDARDS

1. Taking as a basis Directive No 96-A of the President of the Republic of Armenia "On approving 2012-2016 strategic programme for legislative and judicial reforms in the Republic of Armenia and the list of strategy-based activities", dated as of June 30, 2012, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding "On collaboration between the Academy of Justice of Armenia and the School of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia" signed on March 07, 2015, the Academy of Justice, in consortium with the School of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia, arranged for "Contemporary issues in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution techniques" and "Contemporary issues in judicial control over pre-trial proceedings" training programs in 2015 to re-train advocates and judges. The training on "Contemporary issues in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution techniques" aimed at sharing with the trainees the fundamentals, aims and types of alternative dispute resolution, institutional and functional peculiarities and types of commercial arbitration, rules of case hearing at arbitration tribunals, recognition and execution of rulings taken by Armenian and foreign arbitration courts in Armenia, peculiarities of litigation, as well as modern doctrine-based and judicial practices of countries that have implemented the UNCITRAL model law and have well-established arbitration culture. The training on "Contemporary issues in judicial control over pre-trial proceedings" focused on enhancing trainees' expertise in regulations related to judicial control over pre-trial proceedings and on improving their competencies and skills to implement those.

Moreover, implementation of the joint trainings mentioned above came to achieve another goal tasked to the judiciary - fostering the enhancement of qualifications of active members of the judicial system in line with international best practices and contributing to the establishment of sustained and constructive legal relations between the judiciary stakeholders by way of joint trainings and meetings.

2. In 2014, as well as in 2015, the Academy of Justice organized "Professional ethic for a judge" and "Professional ethic for a prosecutor" study programs for persons on the list of candidates for judges and prosecutors, aiming at sharing with the trainees knowledge on professional ethic for judges or prosecutors accordingly, and building capacities for implementation thereof.

3. In order to enhance the skills of judges and prosecutors of the Academy of Justice essential for their official duties and for ensuring more efficient handling and administration of justice, to enable efficient functioning as a judge or as a prosecutor and acting at courts, managing cases and communicating with people, as well as to train in other skills and knowledge, following courses were administered and held in 2014 under the annual training program for judges and prosecutors:

for judges:

- Fundamentals of public relations and communication
- Stress management
- Human resource management: employer motivation and adaptation;

for prosecutors:

- Communication and negotiation
- Stress management
- Time management.

In 2015 the plan is to implement following related professional training courses for judges and prosecutors:

- Fundamentals of public relations and communication
- Argumentation and rhetoric
- Stress and time management.

The above trainings, in fact, pursue the goal of improving proper implementation of the justice process, especially in terms of enhancing the efficiency of management of such processes. Moreover, a wider scope of trainings pursuing such goal was actually implemented in 2014 and this year (still ongoing) for persons who are on the lists of candidates for judges and prosecutors (in 2014: "Communication and negotiation", "Justice and ethics", "Fairness doctrine", "Argumentation and rhetoric (eloquence)", "Stress management", "Time management, Leadership", "Psychology of influence", and "Contemporary issues in psychology of a prosecutor" and "Contemporary issues in psychology of a judge", accordingly; in 2015: "Communication and negotiation skills", "Fairness doctrine and ethics", "Argumentation and rhetoric", "Time management", "Psychology of influence").