



Dear friends,

Here is the newsletter prepared by the EU-funded Project Pravo-Justice about our support to the justice sector reform.

We conducted a number of [Regional Justice Reforms Council \(RJRC\)](#) meetings, having discussed legal education, enforcement, procedural codes monitoring, notary and bankruptcy reform.

The RJRCs are acting as standing working groups that facilitate exchanges among legal professionals and contribute to a better policy-making in the justice sector. During all RJRC activities, members from different regions have used the opportunity to learn about activities implemented by their colleagues from other regions.

We kick-started the [Administrative Justice Monitoring](#) exercise via data collection through round table discussion and bilateral interviews in Lviv and Chernivtsi. The Project aims to promote a more evidence-based approach in the formulation of regulatory and judicial solutions in administrative law and practice through a monitoring mechanism similar to the one already undertaken by the Project in the domain of civil and commercial procedural codes. We focus on the purposes and principles of judicial review, the role of administrative jurisdiction in safeguarding the separation of powers, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of the relevant substantive and procedural law and practice.

We presented the [Model Court Initiative Handbook](#) outline for all professionals actively involved in the multifaceted process of court management.

The Model Court Initiative aims at increasing efficiency of justice, quality of client service and communication, greater security, and support for vulnerable persons in the Ukrainian courts. These elements are some of the key factors in building the public trust towards the judiciary.

Our Expert team together with USAID New Justice Program and representatives of judicial bodies as well as civil society discussed the [good practices, lessons learned and prospects](#) of **the selection to the Supreme Court and High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine.**

The EU is supporting these processes through the Pravo-Justice Project, which helped to develop legal professional knowledge tests and case studies, assisted in conducting psychological testing, and promoted participation of the civil society in the judiciary selection and evaluation. A complete reset of the judiciary is a distinctive experience by European or international standards and comparative practices. Such selection has not yet been applied across the entire public sector, not to mention the judiciary, and the reform of the judiciary in Ukraine is a long-term process which has not been finalized yet. A lot has been already done, however, there are areas for improvement. Ukrainian people must have effective right to a fair trial and guaranteed access to justice, and judges have a critical role in ensuring these rights.

We continued working to ensure the **effective response** of the justice sector to **domestic violence** and **violence against women**.

This primarily involved developing and institutionalizing thematic training programs together with key stakeholders – the National School of Judges (NSJ) of Ukraine and National Academy of Prosecutors of Ukraine. NSJ working group on developing the training curriculum for judges “Peculiarities of provisions on crimes committed on gender ground” met on June 19. We developed the scientific-practical manual “Activity of the prosecutors on prevention and counteraction of domestic violence” in cooperation with the Academy of Prosecutor. Also, we promoted our report [monitoring responses to domestic violence and violence against women during 2018](#) at the national and international level.

We worked together with the Probation Service in Ukraine to test approaches to working with NGOs and [Volunteers in Probation](#) in Ivano-Franivsk and Dnipro regions.

Volunteers are being recruited to work along side probation staff. At present Dnipro has 35 volunteers working across the region and in Ivano-Frankivsk a coordinator from a local NGO has been recruited to develop volunteer recruitment and in particular to work with the Employment Centres to improve offender access to employment.

We aim to recruit volunteers with a range of backgrounds and experiences. The benefits of volunteering include helping to reduce re-offending, keeping communities safer, and giving something back to society by using your own skills and experience to help others.

We organized a number of [discussions](#) on the application of the **new Bankruptcy Code**.

The implementation of these novelties is a challenge for all actors in bankruptcy proceedings and can benefit from in-depth analysis and expert recommendations from EU jurisdictions. The key objective now is to ensure the uniformity of court practice, develop a common understanding of legal provisions and adopt the relevant regulations.

The Project is supporting Ukrainian stakeholders in developing the self-governance system of bankruptcy

trustees, increasing their capacities, defining the scope of Ministry of Justice oversight, and improving rules and procedures of bankruptcy trustees activities.

As part of our work on e-justice, we tested **the Unified Judiciary Informational Telecommunication System (UJITS) development** and presented it from a user-centric perspective.

UJITS is designed to be the technical backbone of the Ukrainian judiciary, connecting all courts and judiciary management organisations (State Court Administration, High Qualification Commission of Justice and High Council of Justice) as well as enabling automated data exchange with outside partners. Its goal is to make their joint work more efficient by introducing modern technologies in their daily operations.

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