

KEY RESULTS OF EU PRAVO-JUSTICE PROJECT

July-December 2024





Promoting the reform of public prosecutor's offices in Ukraine in line with best European standards, enhancing PPO efficiency and prosecuting international crimes.

REFORMING PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

- The selection process for 68 positions of prosecutors was supported by providing general skills testing and delegating experts to ensure a transparent and fair assessment. More than 300 candidates participated in the competition.
- Vetting of over 90 prosecutors was facilitated. Of these, only 14 candidates advanced to the stage of interviews.





- An **electronic paperless document management system for the Qualification and Disciplinary Commission of Prosecutors (QDCP) was developed**, and software testing has begun.
- Support in developing **2025-2027 Strategy for the Public Prosecutor's Office** was provided.
- The work on legislative reforms was supported by providing expert support to the working groups involved in strengthening the capacity of the QDCP and the Council of Prosecutors.
- The transparency of the election of QDCP members by the All-Ukrainian Conference of Prosecutors was increased by processing candidate profiles, providing information to delegates via QR codes and involving independent observers.
- A **pilot project for forming a pool of candidates for leadership positions was supported**, in particular by designing practical tasks to assess ethics, management skills and understanding of criminal procedure.

- To support the **Community Prosecutor** pilot project, a communication strategy, educational materials, and a concept of a legal room for children were developed.
- The procurement of a **national crime survey** to collect important data on crime tendencies was completed. The national survey is scheduled to start in February 2025.

SUPPORTING THE INVESTIGATION OF WAR CRIMES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL CRIMES

- Participation in the work of the **Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA)** for Ukraine. In particular, the Project participated in 9 out of 10 clusters (crimes of aggression, genocide, crimes against the environment, deportation of children, attacks on critical infrastructure, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), filtration camps, taking civilian hostages and crimes against cultural heritage), and also in regional clusters (Kyiv, Odesa, Kherson and Mykolaiv regions).
- In the framework of ACA clusters, the Project experts produced more than **15 expert papers** on particular legal issues of international humanitarian law and international criminal law.
- Expert support for the work of the **Interagency Working Group of Military Experts (IWG)**.
- A **Working Group on Mapping and Prioritisation of International Crime Cases** was established. The Concept of Guidelines on Case Mapping and Prioritisation was presented and discussed at a meeting of the ACA Steering Committee and the Office of the Prosecutor General.
- **United for Justice International Conferences** on Crimes against Cultural Heritage and Attacks on Critical Infrastructure were supported.
- About **20 offline and online trainings, seminars, and workshops** in the field of international humanitarian law and international criminal law were held for prosecutors (80 participants completed the training), judiciary representatives (70 participants), lawyers cooperating with the Free Legal Aid system (90 participants), and mass media.



- **Training of trainers** on international humanitarian law and international criminal law (20 participants completed the training), specialised training for defense lawyers from eastern and southern regions (40 participants) were organised and conducted, along with the facilitation of further **cascade trainings** (100 participants).
- Selection of coordinators for newly established 9 regional war crimes victims and witnesses centres was supported.
- Training on a comprehensive approach to supporting victims of sexual violence was organised for prosecutors in the eastern regions and for the Victims and Witnesses Coordination Centre, including regional offices.

OTHER

- A grant for the implementation of a project supporting the Office of the Prosecutor General in communication on civilian hostages was finalised and signed.
- A grant for supporting the psychological stability and resilience of prosecutors working in Kherson, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy and Chernihiv regions was finalised and signed.

Providing comprehensive expert, organisational and technical support to the Ukrainian judicial authorities. Analysing legislative initiatives and developing recommendations. Institutional capacity building for the judicial governance and administration.

ANALYTICAL AND LEGISLATIVE WORK

- Over 20 analytical notes, expert opinions and recommendations regarding draft laws and other regulations on the functioning of the judicial authorities were produced, particularly on draft laws on establishing a new administrative court for considering cases against central executive bodies, draft laws on amending the Law of Ukraine



‘On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges’, a draft law on amending certain laws of Ukraine on preventing disclosure of particular information in the texts of court decisions, etc.

- Expert proposals to Draft **2024-2029 Strategy for the Development of the Justice System and Constitutional Justice** were prepared.
- Proposals and comments to the **Unified Indicators for Assessing Integrity and Professional Ethics of Judges (Judicial Candidates)** were provided.

HCJ, HQCJ, CCU, SC, SJA

- Comprehensive expert, organisational and technical support for the work of the **Ethics Council** in the context of the competition for two vacant positions of HCJ members under the quota of the Congress of Judges was provided.
- The work of the **Selection Commission for Members of the Service of Disciplinary Inspectors of the High Council of Justice** was supported. It resulted in the appointment of 21 disciplinary inspectors and the head and deputy head of the SDI.
- The work of the **Advisory Group of Experts** and its secretariat was supported, in particular, in vetting more than 60 CCU candidate justices. The competition resulted in the appointment of 1 judge to the CCU.
- Work of the **Selection Commission for the Selection of Candidates for the Position of an HQCJ Member** was supported. The Selection Commission approved a list of candidates nominated for the position of HQCJ member and submitted it to the HCJ.
- At the request of the HQCJ, services for cognitive testing of candidate judges of the Court of Appeal were purchased.

- A number of activities aimed at strengthening the HCJ's cooperation with the **European Network of Councils for the Judiciary** and fostering collaboration with European institutions were supported.
- Training for judges '**Rule of Law and Judicial Ethics**' was organised and conducted (23 judges completed the training), along with an inter-institutional training course '**Services for Vulnerable Court Users in Wartime: International Standards and National Experience**' (36 graduates).
- Public discussion on the strategic plans for **court remapping reform** was supported, which involved leadership of the judiciary, the Office of the President of Ukraine and MPs.
- Expert support in producing the final report of **UJITS** Functional Audit, the Concept and Roadmap for the Implementation of New UJITS was provided.
- The technical requirements for updating and developing the following **UJITS modules** were completed: Unified State Register of Court Decisions, Unified State Register of Enforcement Documents, Judge's Dossier System, and ERP system.





- The first stage of updating the **Supreme Court's Database of Legal Positions** was completed.
- Terms of reference for **updating the CCU** were developed.

OTHER

- Organisational and technical support in holding the XX Regular Congress of Judges of Ukraine was provided.
- The grant for the implementation of the new phase of the Model Courts Initiative was finalised and signed.
- Over 10 public events aimed at institutional capacity-building of the judicial authorities and court staff and discussing challenges of the Ukrainian judiciary were held.

COMPONENT 3 Enforcement and Protection of Property Rights

Promoting best European practices and the experience of EU Member States in protecting property rights and enforcing court decisions in Ukraine. Analysing and developing legislation, providing recommendations on enforcement of decisions of courts and other authorities, insolvency, imposition of sanctions, managing state-owned enterprises, execution of sentences and forensic activities.

ANALYTICAL AND LEGISLATIVE WORK

- Analysis of draft laws and related recommendations on improving regulatory framework in the areas of enforcement of court decisions and sale of assets in enforcement proceedings, bankruptcy and insol-



gency, managing state-owned and municipal property, execution of criminal sentences and observance of prisoners' rights.

- A **Draft Law on Mediation in Enforcement Proceedings** drawing on international experience was developed in cooperation with the Association of Private Enforcement Officers of Ukraine (APEO) and the Ukrainian Academy of Mediation.
- The impact of lifting the moratorium on **the forced sale of property of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) on the economic standing** of these enterprises was analysed.
- **The application of legislation on sanctions** and the recovery of property of persons subject to sanctions into the state's revenue were analysed.
- Judges working in administrative jurisdiction were trained on judicial control over discretionary powers of state authorities.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL SELF-GOVERNMENT OF PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND BANKRUPTCY TRUSTEES

- **A strategic session for the Association of Private Enforcement Officers of Ukraine was held to develop the 2024-2027 APEO Development Strategy**, approved by the General Congress of Private Enforcement Officers.
- Promoting the system of professional development of private enforcement officers and bankruptcy trustees.
- Capacity-building events aimed at professional self-regulatory organisations were held.



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- The functioning of the **Enforcement Service Call Centre** was supported, which handles up to 10,000 calls per month.
- Training on managing IT projects using artificial intelligence was conducted for staff of the MoJ and NAIS.
- The development of the **Bankruptcy and Insolvency Automated System** was supported.
- Support for improving the **Unified State Register of Convicts and Detainees** was provided.
- The use of meta-dashboards visualising the quality of filling in risk assessment forms, identifying the criminogenic needs of convicts and probationers, the level of reoffending, etc. in real time was introduced.

STATE PROPERTY FUND OF UKRAINE

- The State Property Fund of Ukraine (SPFU) received support in managing distressed assets and applying sanctions legislation.

- **The Code of Integrity of the SPFU** was developed.

STATE INSTITUTION ‘PROBATION CENTRE’ AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE EXECUTION OF CRIMINAL SENTENCES

- **The first HR school** for HR staff of the Probation Centre was supported.
- **A unified risk assessment of re-offending for persons charged with and sentenced to a non-custodial sentence** was finalised.
- **9 probation volunteers** were awarded for their contribution to the development of probation during the First All-Ukrainian Forum of Probation Volunteers.
- The **School of Mentorship** was launched. The first group of 23 mentors was trained in motivational counselling.
- 100% of penitentiary institutions were provided with printed manuals for staff applying correctional programmes (400 copies) and workbooks for two correctional programmes for convicts (8,040 copies): **‘Changing pro-criminal mindset’ and ‘Supporting family relationships’.**
- Forum for 120 psychologists from penitentiary institutions was held.
- 7 webinars for employees of departments of social and educational and psychological work of all penitentiary institutions were developed and conducted within **the course ‘Depression and Ways to Overcome it’.**
- 6 webinars for the staff of the departments of social, educational and psychological work of all penitentiary institutions were developed and held within **the course ‘Suicidal Thoughts: How to Help a Person Cope with Them’.**

COMPONENT 4 Support to EU integration process in the justice sector

Facilitating European integration in the area of justice in the framework of negotiating Chapters 23 and 24, supporting legal education reform, and promoting mediation.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

- The finalisation and presentation of the **Shadow Report to Chapter 23 'Justice and Fundamental Rights' of the 2023 Ukraine Report** was supported.
- Mock sessions of **screening meetings on Chapters 23 and 24 and the Chapter on the Functioning of Democratic Institutions** were conducted to help train the delegation representatives.



- The participation of the Ukrainian side in bilateral meetings online was organised. Unification of the delegation's presentations on Chapter 24 negotiations was supported.
- Consultations on the **Rule of Law Roadmap** were supported.
- Expert support to the Ministry of Justice and other Project beneficiaries in assessing the alignment of Ukrainian legislation with EU law was provided.
- The content of the **course on the Essentials of EU Law** for the National School of Judges and the Training Centre for Prosecutors was developed.
- A study visit to the European Union Public Prosecutor's Office was supported.
- Monthly monitoring of **Ukraine's progress in fulfilling its obligations under the Ukraine Facility Plan concerning the judiciary** was organised.

LEGAL EDUCATION

- **A draft law 'On Higher Legal Education and Access to the Legal Profession'** and **a draft Concept for Reforming Higher Legal Education** were developed and presented by members of the working group on legal education reform established under the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Policy.
- The work of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAHEQA) on analysing **the current state of accreditation of education programmes for students majoring in 081 'Law' was supported**. As a result, recommendations for improving the accreditation process were developed.
- A nationwide survey of higher education establishments on teaching EU law disciplines in program subject area 081 Law was conducted.



- Expert support in updating **model internship programmes** for students majoring in 081 'Law' in justice sector institutions, courts and prosecutor's offices was provided.
- Organisation of a study visit to the Republic of Poland to give an opportunity of studying EU law at the College of Europe in Natolin for 20 representatives of the Supreme Court was supported.
- The selection and engagement of law students in the **Summer School on Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights**, organised in cooperation with the School of Law of Ilia State University, was supported.

MEDIATION

- The Scientific and Practical Commentary to the Law of Ukraine 'On Mediation' was developed and presented.
- The scientific and practical conference 'Mediation & Universities 1.0' was supported.
- Roundtable events on applying mediation in administrative proceedings were held.

- The reconciliation (mediation) room of the National Mediation and Reconciliation Service was modernised.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

- A survey was conducted to assess the judges' knowledge of the Law of Ukraine 'On Administrative Procedure'.
- Training for judges in the framework of the National School of Judges' curriculum was supported.

THE BAR

- An expert report on the reform of the Bar in Ukraine was produced and presented to key national stakeholders.
- A meeting of the **European Integration Platform** was held to discuss major issues of the Bar reform.

Mock sessions of screening meetings

CHAPTER 23



3 days



25
participants



15
presentations



3
organizers

CHAPTER 24



9 days



25
participants



43
presentations



9
organizers





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