

## LEGAL PROGRAM

### THE SUPREME COUNCIL AS A GUARANTEE OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM – 15 YEARS LATER

#### Project Objectives

The main objective of the project is to maintain the transparency of the Supreme Council and specify the methods in which it can operate the justice system as an independent, not isolated institution.

#### Project Implementation Tools

The project is being carried out through assessing the activities of the Supreme Council. This is to be achieved through a detailed research, which includes the following components:

- Historical review;
- Review and analysis of the legislation (in effect or no longer operative) as regards the Supreme Council;
- Review and analysis of the practice of the Constitutional Court as regards The Supreme Council Act and the Judicial Power Act;
- Surveying both ex- and current members of the Supreme Council as regards the way the institution works and whether it manages to establish itself as a management body in the system and the budget it has; whether the activities it undertakes ensure the institution's independence;
- Evaluation of the discipline of the Supreme Court;

#### Project Status

In progress

#### Results

Assessing the effectiveness of the Supreme Council and defining the methods for maintaining its independence;

- Formulating a general concept of the Supreme Council, which would contribute to its establishment as an independent body that can have its say in the policies regarding judicial power;
- Making a detailed and thorough analysis of the Supreme Council which will indicate the institutional and legislative framework, as well as show the way the institution has functioned from the time it was established to the present moment;
- Identifying the problematic areas in the practice of the Supreme Council both in regard to the legislative framework and the process of its effective functioning; this would serve as a basis for a future constitutional change in the judicial power.

#### Experts and Partners

- Neli Kutskova – chairperson, Union of Judges in Bulgaria
- Iva Pushkarova – Executive Director, Union of Judges in Bulgaria
- Rumen Georgiev – chairperson, Chamber of the investigators in Bulgaria
- Vasil Chobanov – Radio New Europe
- Petya Vladimirova – "Dnevnik" daily

#### Funding

Open Society Institute - Sofia

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