

LEGAL PROGRAM

ENCOURAGING THE EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Project Objectives

Identifying and formulating international standards and norms in regard to the prosecutor's office. This includes the following:

- Operative standards by which the effectiveness of the prosecutor's office can be judged;
- Standards regarding ethics and human rights by which the activities of the prosecutor's office can be judged;
- Employing the existing mechanisms for ensuring the independence, efficient functioning and effectiveness of the prosecutor's office, as well as finding out the best practices.
- Promoting debates about the need to reform the prosecutor's office in Bulgaria and seeking methods for its better organization, effectiveness and efficient functioning.
- Turning the research into a reliable tool for making reforms. The tool itself should serve before the institutions which have tendencies towards reform and thus promote the debate concerning the prosecutor's office in the countries which urgently need such changes.

Project Implementation Tools

The project aims to do a comparative law study of the prosecutor's offices in several countries: Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, the USA, Hungary, France, Chile and South Africa. The aim is to gain information not only about the separate elements in the structure of the prosecutor's office but also information about the role of the prosecutor and the power he has in the criminal proceedings. There should also be obtained information about the relationship the prosecutor's office maintains with the other powers.

Project Status

In progress

Project Development

Nine different reports have been made about the prosecutor's offices of the countries participating in the research. The reports are subject to final editing on the basis of which the general report will be prepared. It will also serve to identify the best practices and standards in regard to the structure and functioning of the prosecutor's office.

Results

- Making reports about the prosecutor's offices of the different countries participating in the research;
- Making a general report which takes into account the experience of the other countries and identifies the best practices and standards in regard to the structure, functioning and the relationship of the prosecutor's office with the other powers.
- Reform recommendations in the Bulgarian prosecutor's office on the basis of the discussions and the comparative study.
- Publishing and circulating the comparative study both in English and Bulgarian.

Experts and Partners

- Yonko Grozev – lawyer, Sofia Bar Association
- Martin Schoenteich – Law initiative in New York
- Anton Girginov – prosecutor at Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's office
- Barry Hancock – International Bar Association in the United Kingdom
- François Falletti - France
- Werner Roth - Germany
- Karoly Bard - Hungary
- Endre Bocz - Hungary
- Giuseppe di Federico - Italy
- Daniela Cavallini – Italy
- Anton du Plessis – South Africa
- Heike P. Gramckow – the USA
- Joachim Herrmann – Germany
- Todd Foglesong – the USA
- Cristián Riego – Chile

Funding

Open Society Institute – New York; Law initiative

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