

LEGAL PROGRAM

ESTABLISHMENT OF LAW CLINICS STANDARDS IN THE BULGARIAN FACULTIES OF LAW

Project Objectives

For the past five years the law clinics education in one way or another has become a practice of Bulgarian Faculties of Law. A major factor in this process is the external funding of organizations such as Open Society Institute – Sofia, COLPI, ABA CEELI, etc. This has changed the negative attitude towards the practically oriented approaches in law education and therefore has contributed to a community formation of university teachers who are familiar with the essence of law clinics education and who also know the fundamentals of this type of education. External factors which are not directly related to the faculties also enhance the necessity to develop the law clinics as a method of law education.

- Traditional orientation of law education towards abstract teaching methods, as well as insufficient subsequent education
- Reducing practical training in the law courts to three months
- Limited opportunities for education and qualification improvement after graduating from the law faculty

The project aims not only to establish and popularize the law clinics standards in Bulgaria but also to publish a textbook on law clinics education.

Project Implementation Tools

A working group of representatives of all law faculties which have law clinics, the leading donor organizations and state authorities.

Project Status

Completed

Project development

In 2005 the heads of the 10 existing law faculties in the country approved the standards established by the working group. As a result, a textbook on law clinics education was published, presented and circulated in 2006.

Results

The project has achieved the following results:

- a change in the regulation on the uniform requirements in law studies
- established and approved standards for law clinic studies
- a textbook on law clinics studies in circulation.

Experts and Partners

- American Bar Association
- Ministry of Justice
- Management of the law faculties in Bulgaria

Funding

Open Society Institute - Sofia

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