

- Procurement and installation of ICT equipment was continued – increased investments compared to past years;
- Developed and implemented software solutions for distance learning with the objective of achieving greater quality and economy in the transfer of knowledge as well as making access to training materials easier.



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Reconstruction of judicial institution buildings with the financial support of donors

- Reconstruction completed and a new floor added to the Municipal Court building in Modrica;
- New floor was built and premises renovated in the Judicial Institutions Compound in Sarajevo;
- Reconstruction was completed of the building accommodating the branch office of the Municipal Court in Sarajevo that deals with small claims;
- Reconstruction of the building of the municipal and cantonal courts in Sarajevo was completed;
- Reconstruction and additional construction efforts were completed on the building of the District Court in East Sarajevo;
- Reconstruction of the building of the IV Primary School is underway, which will accommodate the Municipal Court in Mostar.



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HJPC BiH

Support for Improving Judicial Efficiency



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What is the HJPC BiH?

The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC BiH) is an independent and autonomous institution of BiH, established with the Law on the HJPC BiH on June 1, 2004, with a general mandate of establishing and maintaining an independent, impartial, efficient and accountable judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina along with equal access to justice and equality for all before the law. The law establishes the following Council competences: the appointment of judges, prosecutors and legal associates, disciplinary accountability, judicial administration and statistics, judicial institution budgets, supervision of professional training, introducing information and communication technologies (ICT) as well as taking the lead role in the implementation and coordination of reform-related activities and improving the efficiency of the judiciary of BiH.

Achievements:

Judicial efficiency can be viewed through to the results achieved by the judicial system, which foremost refers to the prompt resolution of court cases and getting courts up-to-date with their caseloads as well as prosecutors offices with their criminal prosecutions, which represents one of the strategic objectives of the HJPC BiH.

Increasing the efficiency of the courts

- The total number of so called non-utilities cases was reduced by 6% in 2011 compared to 2010, and by 7% in 2012 compared to 2011, after the HJPC BiH adopted the Instructions for the drafting of plans for the resolution of old cases in 2010 which had the objective of getting courts to exclusively deal with cases according to the initial filing date;

- Thanks to the Instructions for the drafting of plans for the resolution of old cases, between 2011 – 2013 most courts were able to comprehensively eliminate cases that were initiated in 1990 and earlier, while in 2013 the number of unresolved cases initiated in 1995 and earlier was reduced by 73%, the number of unresolved cases initiated in 2003 and earlier was reduced by 38%, this when compared to the number of unresolved cases of the corresponding categories in accordance with data from 2012;

- Performance productivity in 2012 rose by 10% compared to 2011 and by 9% in 2013 compared to 2012, when the Book of Rules on Orientational Measures for the Performance of Judges and Legal Associates in the Courts in BiH came into effect, with the objective of increasing the productivity of the courts with reference to case processing;

- Since 2011, the performance results of the courts in dealing with old cases have been disclosed quarterly on the websites www.pravosudje.ba & www.hjpc.ba in order to increase the transparency of the work of the courts and to better acquaint the public with court efforts;

- Work processes have been reorganised in selected first instance courts;

- Activities have been aimed at promoting alternative methods for the resolution of cases;

- The system for the service of court writs has been improved;

Increasing the efficiency of prosecutors offices

- The rendering of the Book of Rules on Orientational Measures for the Performance of Prosecutors in BiH introduced performance measuring and the balancing of the performance of all prosecutors in BiH which represent attempts at ensuring the more efficient performance of prosecutors and prosecutors offices in BiH;

- A new strategic planning practice has been established in over 50% of the prosecutors offices which has strengthened the management capacities of the prosecutors offices. The strategies that were drafted were vertically harmonised with other current strategies in the country;

- Uniform cooperation mechanisms have been established throughout BiH with the adoption and application of the Instructions on Cooperation between Prosecutors and Authorised Officials during the evidentiary process;

- Non-government sector involvement has increased and the capacities of the professional associations have been strengthened with reference to the implementation of projects that are of importance to the prosecutorial system;

- In 2011, the number of unresolved investigations was reduced by 24%, whereas unresolved investigations were reduced by 10% in 2012.

Informatisation of the judiciary

- An electronic data exchange system has been set up for police and prosecutor records – one of the conditions for maintaining the visa-free regime for BiH;

- In 2013, works were completed in 10 cantonal and district courts and the Basic Court of the Brcko District on the installation of audio/video systems which has created the physical and technical conditions whereby witness protection measures can be applied in trials. A video conferencing system has been set up connecting 19 court, 8 prosecutors offices and the HJPC BiH.

- A new CMS functionality was developed which allows for the application of the Book of Rules on Timeframes for Processing Cases in the Courts and Prosecutors Offices in BiH. Training on the use of the new functionality was carried out for 262 persons in the BiH judiciary.

- Implementation was continued on the CMS module for scanning incoming documents – improving the transparency of case resolution procedures;