



European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Co-operation project between the CEPEJ and the Court Administration of Latvia

EVALUATION OF THE LATVIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Mission of CEPEJ experts

Agenda

6-7 February 2018

Riga, Latvia

Tuesday, 6 February 2018

Venue: Ministry of Justice, Brivibas Blvd.

10:00-13:30 Opening meeting

10:00-10:15 Presentation from Ms Solvita Harbacēviča, Head of the Secretariat of the Council for the Judiciary about CEPEJ evaluation of the Latvian judicial system (aim, framework, future activities)

CEPEJ presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the report "Evaluation of the Latvian Judicial System". Discussion with the participants.

10:15:-11:00 A. Judicial system and court organization

Topics: Judicial independence and self-governing. Levels of jurisdiction. Specialisation of courts and judges. Court mapping.

11:00:-11:30 B. Judges and judicial staff

Topics: Selection, appointment and career of judges. Initial and continuous training of judges. Evaluation of judges. Judicial discipline and ethics. Judicial staff.

11:30:-12:00 C. Budget of the judicial system

Topics: Budget planning and allocation of resources. Court fees and other fees for court services (in civil and administrative cases).

12:00-12:30 Coffee break

12:30:-13:00 D. Court management. Efficiency of courts.

Topics: Internal organisation of courts. Responsibilities and prerogatives within courts. Performance of courts. Statistics. Case management and time management in courts. ICT tools in support of court management.

13:00:-13:30 E. Quality of the judiciary and courts

Topics: Fairness of justice. Legal certainty. Clarity of judicial decisions. Access to courts. Communication with court users. Access to court information. Assessing user satisfaction.

Stakeholders:

Ministry of Justice

- Ms Irēna Kucina, Deputy State Secretary on Court Issues
- Ms Inita Ilgaža, Director of Department of the Judicial policy
- Mr Jānis Ābols, Legal Adviser, Department of the Judicial policy

Council for the Judiciary

- Ms Solvita Harbacēviča, Head of the Secretariat of the Council for the Judiciary

Supreme Court

- Ms Dace Šulmane, adviser, Secretariat of the Council for the judiciary
- Ms Anita Zikmane, Head of case law and Analytical Unit, Supreme Court

Associations of judges

- Mr Juris Siliņš, president of Associations of judges (Judge of Zemgale Regional Court)

Judicial Qualifications Committee

- Mr Māris Vīgants, President of the Judicial Qualifications Committee

Judicial Ethics Committee

- Ms Anita Kovaļevska, President of the Judicial Ethics Committee

Latvian Judicial training centre

- Ilona Kronberga, Director of Latvian Judicial training centre

Association of Administrative Judges

- Ms Lauma Paegļkalna, Chairman of the Association of Administrative Judges

Court Administration

- Ms Inese Kalniņa, Deputy Director on Legal and Development Matters
- Ms Lauma Legzdīņa, Coordinator of European Social Fund Project "Justice for growth"

Foreign Investor's Council in Latvia

Māris Vainovskis, Head of Investment protection and Court efficiency work group

General Prosecution Office of Latvia

Mr Alēns Mickevičs, Head Prosecutor, Criminal Justice Department, Division of Criminal Cases under Court Examination

Prosecution Office of Latvia

Ms Žanna Stare, Prosecutor, Department of analysis and management, Methodology Division

Judiciary (court presidents):

- Ms Daiga Vilsone, Chair of Riga Regional Court
- Mr Andris Strauts, President of Latgale Regional Court
- Ms Līga Ašmane, President of Jelgava City Court
- Mr Jānis Šauša, President of Daugavpils City Court

- Ms Iveta Krēvica, Chair of Riga city Vidzeme Suburb court
- Ms Silva Reinholde, President of Kurzeme Regional Court

13:30-14:45 Lunch break (Suggestion: TINTO, located Elizabetes Str. 61)

14:45-16:15 Discussion on topics A and B

A. Judicial system and court organization

Topics: Judicial independence and self-governing. Levels of jurisdiction. Specialisation of courts and judges. Court mapping.

B. Judges and judicial staff

Topics: Selection, appointment and career of judges. Initial and continuous training of judges. Evaluation of judges. Judicial discipline and ethics. Judicial staff.

Stakeholders:

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- Ms Lauma Legzdīņa, Coordinator of European Social Fund Project "Justice for growth"

Wednesday, 7 February 2018

Venue: Court administration, Antonijas Str. 6, Riga

9:00 – 10:45 Discussion on topics C and E

C. Budget of the judicial system

Topics: Budget planning and allocation of resources. Court fees and other fees for court services (in civil and administrative cases).

E. Quality of the judiciary and courts

Topics: Fairness of justice. Legal certainty. Clarity of judicial decisions. Access to courts. Communication with court users. Access to court information. Assessing user satisfaction.

Stakeholders:

Ministry of Justice

- Ms Inita Ilgaža, Director of Department of the Judicial policy
- Mr Jānis Ābols, Legal Adviser, Department of the Judicial policy

Council for the Judiciary

- Ms Solvita Harbacēviča, Head of the Secretariat
- Dace Šulmane, adviser, Secretariat of the Council for the judiciary
- *A person from Supreme Court- Budget department (TBC)*

Court administration

- Mr Andris Munda, Financial and administrative department Director
- Ms Linda Ribakova, Senior economist of Budget Department
- Ms Lauma Legzdiņa, Coordinator of European Social Fund Project “Justice for growth”

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00 –12:15 Discussion on court management. Efficiency of courts. (D)

Topics: Internal organisation of courts. Responsibilities and prerogatives within courts; Performance of courts. Statistics; Case management and time management in courts; ICT tools in support of court management.

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- Mr Jānis Ābols, Legal Adviser, Department of the Judicial policy

Council for the Judiciary

- Ms Solvita Harbacēviča, Head of the Secretariat of the Council for the Judiciary
- Dace Šulmane, adviser, Secretariat of the Council for the judiciary

Supreme Court

- Ms Anita Zikmane, Head of case law and Analytical Unit, Supreme Court

Court administration

- Ms Lauma Legzdiņa, Coordinator of European Social Fund Project “Justice for growth”, Court Administration

- Mr Jānis Dreimanis, Operational risk manager (Microstrategy tool), Court Administration
- Mr Madars Plepis, Senior Officer of the Court Information System Unit, The Court and Land Registry Department of the Court Administration

12:15-13:45 Break

13:45-15:00 Wrap up

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Council for the Judiciary

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- Ms Anita Zikmane, Head of case law and Analytical Unit, Supreme Court

Court administration

- Ms Lauma Legzdiņa, Coordinator of European Social Fund Project "Justice for growth", Court Administration

Composition of the CEPEJ expert team:

1. Mr Leonid Antohi, Project Coordinator, CEPEJ Secretariat
2. Mr Otto Nijhuis, Judge, representative of the District Court of Gelderland in the Network of the CEPEJ pilot courts (The Netherlands)
3. Mr Pierre Cornu, Judge, Court of Appeals of Neuchâtel, CoE/CEPEJ expert (Switzerland)
4. Mr Marco Fabri, Director of the Research Institute on Judicial Systems, National Research Council of Italy (IRSIG-CNR), Scientific expert of CEPEJ/SATURN (Italy)
5. Mr Marko Aavik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Justice, CEPEJ member (Estonia)
6. Mr Francesco de Santis, Researcher in civil procedure and judicial systems, Legal expert for the CEPEJ Working Group on Quality of Justice (Italy)
7. Ms Federica Viapiana, Researcher of the Institute on Judicial Systems, IRSIG-CNR (Italy)
8. *Interpreter Ingūna Beķere, Inguna.bekere@apollo.lv*
9. *Interpreter Ilze Norvele, inorvele@apollo.lv*

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