

Kosovo

United Nations Development Programme

Support to Judicial Education

Annual Progress Report

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Acronyma

RoL - Rule of Law Project

KJI – Kosovo Judicial Institute

KCA – Kosovo Chamber of Advocates

KJC – Kosovo Judicial Council

KPC - Kosovo Prosecutorial Council

KLC - Kosovo Law Center

SC – Supreme Court of Kosovo

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

SM – Senior Management

ILEP – Initial Legal Education Programme

CLEP - Continuous Legal Education Programme

MoJ - Ministry of Justice

Executive Summary

The Rule of Law Project has successfully implemented the foreseen and planned activities for the year 2011 along with collaboration activities with respective stakeholders supporting Judicial Education in Kosovo. Financial support of the Government of Netherlands has brought the necessary financial stability that was reflected in the smooth running of the Project activities, and the achieved results.

The Project conducted a Needs Assessment of the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina. The report, which was drafted by the Kosovo Law Center (KLC), highlighted the current issues which hamper the work of the Faculty, and which were debated with the representatives of the Faculty, students, and other interested partners.

During the year the Project continued to support the training programs of the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI) and witnessed the graduation of the third generation of the Initial Legal Education Program (ILEP), whereas the fourth generation has concluded the bulk of the training during 2011 and it is expected to graduate during the first quarter of 2012, thus significantly contributing to the capacity of the justice system to tackle the burning issues in the judiciary, and what is also of great importance, considering the number of female judges and prosecutors trained, further enhancing the empowerment of the women in the judiciary. Moreover, the Project has also contributed to the Continuous Legal Education Program (CLEP), through its expert based at the KJI.

As part of the support to the Ministry of Justice, the Project oversaw two training cycles of candidates that are eligible to undertake the Bar Exam. More than 100 candidates, ofwhich around 40 % women, were trained and the monitoring and evaluation mechanism, pre training and post training testing, has shown an increase of around 20 % in their readiness for the exam.

The Project so successfully initiated the internship component, under which 98 interns were placed in courts (60), prosecution offices (18) and offices of attorneys (20) throughout Kosovo. Beside financial help, the Project organized additional training session for interns, mainly in Human Rights and Family law.

The Project convened two round tables with judges in civil area on the issue of harmonization of judicial practices. As a result two instructions are being prepared to be forwarded to Supreme Court of Kosovo for further review and action.

One of the remaining challenges and what was identified as a risk in terms of delays in completion was the initiation of the drafting of the commentary of the Law on Obligations. The activity has been postponed for 2012 as the Assembly of Kosovo has still not promulgated the Law on Obligations.

The main focus of the Rule of Law Project is to support judicial education in Kosovo. In addition, the aim being to strengthen an independent and effective justice system for Kosovo, which protects and promotes human rights standards, ensuring better access to justice for all citizens. While rule of law has clearly improved in Kosovo since 1999, increased support and commitment is still needed to ensure the continuous education and learning for practitioners in the justice sector, as well as supporting access to justice for all communities in Kosovo.

In 2013 ,after the vetting and reappointment process and after the new Law on Regular Courts ¹is in place, the judiciary in Kosovo will be overhauled both in organizational set-up and in membership. Thus, UNDP believes it is important to continue with the support of the existing judicial education activities in cooperation with local partners.

The Support to Judicial Education Project has started in January 2008 and is expected to be operational until the end of 2012. The Project supports legal education in Kosovo in cooperation with several local partners. Together with the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI), the Project supports the Initial Legal Education Program (ILEP), designed for training of aspiring judges and prosecutors, and the Continuous Legal Education Program (CLEP), designed for specific training of judges and prosecutors in office. In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Project revised and improved the Judicial/Bar Exam Manual and organized several cycles of training for potential Judicial/Bar Exam candidates. In cooperation with the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), the MoJ and the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA), the Project supported a one-year internship program for 100 interns, including 40 female candidates.

The project intends to work more closely with the MoJ, with the Ministry of Finance and the Assembly of Kosovo in order to increase the portion of the budget that is set aside for judicial education. Therefore, the Project aims to use M&E tools in order to track the impact of activities in the judicial sector and use this data to highlight the importance of a judicial education system that is fully funded by the Government and sustainable after the completion of the Project.

¹ The Law will enter into force on 1 January 2013. (http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2010-199-eng.pdf

Evaluation of Progress during the Reporting Period

Output Is Needs assessment of the Law Faculty is completed

During the reporting period, the Project initiated and finalized the Research on the Needs Assessment of the Law Faculty. The research was conducted by the Kosovo Law Center (KLC), a local NGO that was selected through a competitive process. The research involved students, teaching staff, administrative staff, and current graduates of the Faculty of Law. The comprehensive report drafted based on the research highlighted the current situation of the Faculty of Law, focusing particularly on the issues raised by the students. The launch of the report was held on 15 September, with the participation of interested stakeholders, including students and the media. The Report findings initiated a useful debate on the needs of the Law Faculty as well as ideas on future work in improving the current conditions of the Law Faculty. The final report included allthe comments and feedback received by stakeholders at the launch (annex 1 of the report).

Overall progress achieved against identified targets and indicators for Output 1:

Target: Needs Assessment of the Law Faculty is completed

Fully/Partially/Not Achieved

Assessment conducted: FULLY ACHIEVED

Queput apacity of the legal professionals is increased

The intermocomponent

The internship component is undertaken in partnership with the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC) and the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA). Overall there are 98 interns – 60 in courts, 18 in prosecutors' offices and 20 with lawyers throughout Kosovo - out of which 44 are women(45% of the overall number). The financial assistance to the interns is much welcomed, as currently local institutions have not allocated means to support the internship, thus devaluating a process that is extremely important as completion of internship is a legal requirement for jurists to be able to enter the bar exam. In addition to the provision of financial assistance, the Project has also organized two training sessions for the interns, one in the area of human rights (articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR) and one in the area of family law in Kosovo (adoption procedure). Trainings were organized with the aim to provide interns with knowledge and practical skills that are in addition of their everyday training they receive in the respective placements. Both trainings were organized in the UNDP-sponsored Training Center of the KCA and were delivered by UNDP in-house experts.



Photo 1: Participants during the training

Support Ministry of Justice

During the reporting period, the Project had planned three activities in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice: support to the drafting of the Law on Obligations, initiation of the drafting of the commentary on the Law on Obligations and trainings for the potential candidates for Bar Exam.

During the reporting period the Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on drafting of the Law on Obligations concluded its work. In particular for this purpose the project, in cooperation with USAID SEAD programme organized a workshop in Tirana, Albania, from 30 May to 04 June 2011, where the group was able to review all articles of the law and incorporate all comments and suggestions that were raised. Although the MWG concluded its work and subsequently the Government of Kosovo submitted the draft Law on Obligations to the Assembly of Kosovo, the law was not promulgated yet at the end of the reporting period. The law passed through the Assembly Committee on Legislation; however it was still not submitted to the Assembly for reading. It is expected the law will be promulgated during the first quarter 2012. This unfortunate situation has delayed the component of the drafting of the commentary; however the project was able to identify the target group of experts and is ready to commence the work on commentary as soon as the Assembly promulgates the Law.

The second activity undertaken in partnership with the MoJ is the training for potential candidates to enter the bar exam. During the reporting period, the Project organized two cycles of training where more than 100 candidates were trained in all topics covered by the bar exam curriculum.

Participation of women during the trainings was more than 40 % which is another contributor to the empowerment of women in the judiciary.

In order to measure the impact of the training, the Project has developed an M&E tool – a pre and post training test consisting of 30 questions covering all topics. The results indicate that training was successful to raise the level of knowledge of students by around 20 % after the completion of training.

In addition, the Project has also conducted an assessment on the best practices of bar exam in the counties of the region. The assessment was delivered to the MoJ and might serve as a basis for the reform of the curriculum and the exam, if and when the MoJ considers that this would be necessary.

During the reporting, the KJI Project continued to support the training activities of the Kosovo Judicial Institute, namely the Initial Legal Education Program (ILEP) and Continuous Legal Education Program (CLEP).

For the third generation of ILEP, the Project was involved in the provision of logistical support of the candidates and also participated in the teaching process through the UNDP expert that is based at the KJI premises. The UNDP expert delivered different training sessions – on the theory and practice in the area of the European Convention on Human Rights, namely articles 3, 5, 6, 8 and 13 of the Convention. In the area of family law in Kosovo, the training included subjects such as "Family as a legal institution", "Rights and obligations of the spouses", "Protection from domestic violence", "Divorce procedure" etc.

Also within the CLEP, the UNDP expert delivered training session for judges and prosecutors on different subjects of human rights law and family Law.

During the reporting period the Project was faced with one new situation due to the request of the Kosovo Judicial Council for the KJI to graduate two generations of ILEP by the end of the 2011. The first step to achieve this goal was the drafting of the questions for the entry exam for the fourth generation of ILEP. Due to security and confidentiality issues, as was the practice in previous years for the first three generations, the process was conducted outside of Kosovo in Durres, Albania from 07 to 12th of March 2011. The Project not only provided logistical support to the process but was also part of the evaluation and monitoring panel (UNDP expert based at the KJI). Also, the UNDP translator was involved in translating questions in Serbian language. Participants in this process included amongst others the President of the Supreme Court of Kosovo – Mr. Fejzullah Hasani and the Chief Prosecutor of Kosovo – Mr. Ismet Kabashi. Also the Project ensured participation of female judges – Mss. Nesrin Lushta from Supreme Court of Kosovo and Ms. Raima Elezi from the District Court in Prizren.

Photo 2: Work of the commission on drafting of the entry exam



Although the Project supported this effort of the KJI to comply with the request of the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), legitimate questions were raised about the maintenance of the quality of the teaching and ability of the candidates to absorb such an enormous amount of information during such a condensed period. These fears were conveyed to the management and the staff of the KJI who have provided assurances that the quality of teaching will not be compromised.

On 11 May 2011, the fourth generation of ILEP, consisting of 53 candidates, out of whom 18 are women, commenced the training. Their training is 6 days a week, where 3 days a week the candidates are based in respective courts and prosecution offices for practical work and for three days a week they undertake theoretical training in the KJI. Although it was initially planned for the fourth generation also to graduate in 2011, in order to cover all obligatory trainings, the KJI has decided to push the graduation for 2012, as a result, the bulk of the obligative training was completed during the reporting period, whereas the graduation is scheduled for March 2012.

On 3rd October 2011, the KJI organized the graduation ceremony of the third generation of the ILEP, extensively supported by the Project. Among the speakers, was the President of the Republic of Kosovo, the H.E. Ambassador Robert Bosch of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kosovo, who also highlighted the commitment of the Government of Netherlands to the sustainability of rule of law in Kosovo as a precondition for the European integration process.

The importance of the support that is provided for the KJI is manifold. Firstly, support to the training of generations of young lawyers that undertake such an extensive training programme that enables them to be fully qualified for application for any post in the judiciary is extremely important for the sustainability of the Rule of Law in Kosovo. Secondly, these candidates are a valuable addition at a very critical time for the judiciary in Kosovo; the vetting and reappointment process for judges and prosecutors had left around 150 vacancies within the judiciary, and the majority of these vacant positions were filled by the graduates of the ILEP.. What is worth mentioning as a conclusion is that all of the ILEP candidates are now serving in the judiciary as judges and prosecutors, and according to the information received by the Head of the Kosovo Judicial Council they had the highest marks from all candidates that applied during the vetting and reappointment process. That serves as a testament to the quality of the training programmes in the KJI and represents tangible results of the donor supported intervention in this process.

The project also supported activities aimed at capacity building of the KJI management and staff. During the reporting period the Project supported a workshop for the KJI staff, aimed at initiating the process of drafting of internal regulations of the KJI, manuals for trainers, instructions for the Department of Administration and Finance and Internal guidelines on classification of posts within KJI.

The exercise was of great importance as it allowed the KJI management and staff for the first time to legally regulate the internal organization of the KJI, complementary to the Law on the Kosovo Judicial Institute.

Overall progress achieved against identified targets and indicators for Output 2:

Target: Capacity of legal professionals is increased

Fully/Partially/Not Achieved.

- Internship component initiated; FULLY ACHIEVED
- Support to the ILEP third generation: FULLY ACHIEVED
- Support to the ILEP fourth generation: PARTIALLY ACHIEVED

Output appacity building for improved judicial practices

As already indicated, the fact that the Assembly of Kosovo has still not promulgated the Law on Obligations affected the ability of the Project to initiate the component of drafting the commentary of the Law on Obligations. Some groundwork in this direction has been completed. Meetings were held with prominent experts in this area in Kosovo in order to identify the group with competence to undertake this task. Also, it was agreed with the experts that it would be unfitting to begin with the drafting of the commentary before the adoption of the law. However, due to the risk of further prolongation of the adoption, the possibility exists to initiate work on the general part, which is not prone to changes, if the Assembly decides to return the law for further amendment.

During the reporting period the Project successfully initiated the component on harmonization of judicial practices in civil area. This activity is important for the judicial system in Kosovo due to frequent changes in legislation they create discrepancies on how the laws on the civil area are being interpreted and applied in courts. Also, the Supreme Court of Kosovo was not able in recent years, due to low number of judges and the amount of work it was faced with, to organize collegiums with judges where these issues would be debated and guidance on application of laws to lower courts, issued.

For this reason the Project organized two roundtables on harmonization of judicial practices. The round tables were organized in Prizren (covering the regions of Prizren and Pejë/Peć) and in Prishtinë/Priština (covering the regions of Prishtinë/Priština, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and Gjinal/Gnjilane) with participation of civil judges from both District Courts and Municipal Courts and also representatives of the regional branches of the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates. The round tables were organized on the topic of securing the claim in contested procedure which identifies as one of the most problematic areas in the new law. More than 60 judges and attorneys were present at both roundtables and as a result a document was prepared that will be submitted to the Supreme Court of Kosovo for review and determine whether a general session is in order, to discuss the problematic as noted above, and develop guidelines for courts of lower instances.

The activity has raised great interest among the members of the judiciary and attorneys and the Project has been approached with requests to organize such forums for several other topics. Thus, this activity is expected to produce further input for the Supreme Court during 2012.



Photo 3: Participants during round table in Prizren.

Overall progress achieved against identified targets and indicators for Output 3:

Target: Capacity building for improved judicial practices

- Organization of round tables on harmonization; ACHIEVED
- Identification of the expert group; PARTIALLY ACHIEVED
- Drafting of the commentary: NOT ACHIEVED

Gender Mainstreaming

With regard to gender mainstreaming, the Project contributes to focus on the empowerment of women in the decision making process of the judiciary. As noted above, the participation of female candidates in the Project supported activities at the KJI, particularly within the internship programme and trainings, fluctuates between 30 and 40 %, which is in full compliance with the legal requirements in Kosovo.

Also, the new generation of interns has 44% of women participation whereas the fourth generation of ILEP has more than 30 % representation of women, thus fully complying with the applicable legislation on gender equality in Kosovo.

The Project regularly collects gender desegregated data from its partners and ensures that activities of the project comply with the Law on Gender Equality. To date, no gaps have been identified.

The Project currently operates on a sufficient budget to ensure gender mainstreaming in its activities.

However, the Project is always looking for new ways to boost women participation in the legal field.

Risk Management

Currently the project faces no major risk.

As indicated above one of the project activities is facing delay due to an external factor. The project is monitoring the activity of the Assembly in promulgation of the Law on Obligations and based on the result during the first quarter 2012, shall decide accordingly on how to continue with the activity.

Partners os

In implementation of the activities the Project has very good partnerships with the Kosovo Judicial Institute, Ministry of Justice, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Kosovo Chamber of Advocates, Supreme Court of Kosovo and the Faculty of Law of University of Prishtina.

The Project, on the specific request of the KJI, aims to undertake an assessment of the training programmes of the KJI in order to evaluate the work undertaken so far and also to plan for the way ahead of both KJI and support of the Project for these training programmes.

Challen , Responses and Lessons Learned

The Project has not faced any challenge during the reporting period.

Conclusions and Ways Forward

Although each Project activity has its own importance in contributing to the rule of law in Kosovo, one of them needs to be highlighted in particular. Support to Kosovo Judicial Institute to train new generations of judges and prosecutors have widely been recognized as one of the most important interventions in the area of judicial education. The training programs developed and delivered by the KJI have not only ensured that a huge gap of 150 vacant posts after the vetting and reappointment process has been filled; they have also ensured that both newly appointed and also serving judges and prosecutors are equipped with the knowledge that covers the latest developments in the domestic legislation and also, through the help of international lecturers, the latest trends in the international literature and practice.

The financial support of the Government of Netherlands has ensured two years of stability for the project. UNDP t is in continues efforts to secure further financing, beyond the funding period until the end of 2012.

Annexes:

DP UN Development Programme Report ID LINE LINE

Combined Delivery Report

Page 1 of Run Time: 10-01-2012-00:01

Selection Criteria

Business Unit: KOS10
Period: Jan-Dec (2011)
Selected Award Id: 00044983
Selected Fund Code: 30000

Award Id: 00044983 KJSP Project #: 00053055 Kosovo Rule of Law Period : Impl. Partner : Jan-Dec (2011) 01742 Direct Execution Location: Kosovo Govt Disb UNDP Disb UN Agencies Total Disb Fund: 30000 (Programme Cost Sharing) 4 599 99 78 127 68 546 87 1 9 96 11 1 551 99 Local Consult -Sht Term-Tech 4,566.99 Service Contracts-Individuals Service Tickets-International Turk Subsistence Allow-Intl Travel - Other 78,127,68 545,87 1938 11 1551 96 Svc Co-Studies & Research Service Co-Training and Educ Service Suisition of Audio Visual Equand Telephone Charges
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Project No. and Title: 00053055 RULE OF LAW PROJECT - SUPPORT TO JUDICIAL EDUCATION

ANNUAL WORK PLAN Year: 2012

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES		TIMEF	TIMEFRAME		I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I		PLANNED BUDGET	
And baseline, indicators including annual targets	List activity results and associated actions	۵	02	03	9	PARTY	Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 2 Capacity of legal professionals is increased.	1. Activity Result Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI) Supported								
Indicators: % pass rate of ILEP and CLEP graduates; a % pass rate of candidates at the	-Activity action Provision of logistical and financial support to the ILEP;	×						71400 Contractual Services	\$ 25,000
Judicial/Bar Exam; continuation of the program of interns, with a % completion rate of the program.	Activity action Provision of logistical and financial support to the CIFP.							72100 Rental& Maintenance	\$ 60,000
Baseline:	Provision of logistical and financial support to the TAP	×	×	×	×	UNDP	Government of Netherlands	72500 Office Supplies	\$5,000
Commission established only recently, thus only a few Exam	-Activity action	×	×	×	×				9
sessions; the current legislation specifying the legal education cycles.	± ±							74200 Audio Visual & print costs	000,01 &
Targets: 90% pass rate of ILEP and CLEP graduates; a 30% pass rate of candidates at the Judicial/Bar Exam; continuation of the program of interns with a	KJI, by supporting the organization of workshops for drafting of internal rules and regulations for KJI staff and trainers.	×	×	×	×				
100 % completion rate of the									

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\$240,000	\$ 20,000
72100 Rental& Maintenance	71400 Contractual Services 74200 Audio Visual & print costs
Government of Netherlands	Government of Netherlands
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×	×
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×	×
2. Activity Result The Internship Programme ensuring at least a 30% of women interns supported. -Activity action Provision of financial aid (monthly stipend) to the interns; -Activity action Organization of trainings on different topics such as: Human Rights and European Law, with a special emphasis on the CEDAW.	3. Activity Result Judicial/BarExam SupportedActivity action Organization of the training cycles for the Judicial/Bar Exam candidates, ensuring at least 30% of women as participants.
program The pass-rate for candidates at the Judicial/Bar Exam is increased, thus improving the employment opportunities at the justice sector. In addition, the pass rate for women candidates is also increased; the internship as regulated by the current legislation continues with an increased pass rate Gender Marker Rating and Motivation Score 2: Gender equality is a significant objective of the	output as the Project is committed to achieve at least a 30% women participation in both the ILEP and CLEP graduates, and a 30 % participation of women candidates at the trainings for the Judicial/Bar Exam. So far, the expectation of at least 30% has been met successfully. Motivation/Rationale UNDP 8 PA: point 1, 2, 3 and 7. GES Outcome Focus Area 1, point 1, 2, 3; focus area 2, 9 and 10.

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profe	ILEP and CLEP provides	ess	opportunities for women to be	שַ	As for the Judicial/Bar Exam,	the training contributes to a	higher passing rate for the	Exam. Thus, more women are	encouraged to participate in the	training, and ultimately pass the	plno	them to enter the justice sector	as judges, prosecutors or	per		Related CP outcome:	Canacities of instice	mechanisms developed in a	le n	administration of justice,	oversight	'n
Tal T	O	acco	s to	J.,	Jud	g S	ssing	S, m	top	d ulti	h w	ter th		as	ts.	outc	of	o s	uitab	on	Safes	Sala
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\$ 10,000	\$ 45,000
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ini z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z z	2. Activity Result Commentary on the Law on Obligations completedActivity action Identification of expert group (including both women and men): -Activity action Drafting process, revision and publication.
Output 3 Harmonization of legal practice by the Supreme Court is facilitated. Indicators: Numbers of draft instructions/guidelines are sent to the Supreme Court of Kosovo per year. Baseline: Only a few instructions issued for the past decade. Targets: Two draft instructions/guidelines are sent to the Supreme Court of Kosovo per year.	Gender Marker Rating and Motivation Score 1. This output will contribute to gender equality, but not significantly due to the specificity of the activities which are directly linked to the harmonization of civil and criminal practices. However, the indirect contribution to gender equality is nevertheless important, as the harmonization process shall take extra care in reflecting gender equality

throughout the civil and criminal practices. In addition the				
roups shall refle				
involving both women and men				
judges and prosecutors,				
Motivation/rationale				
UNDP 8 PA: point 1, 2, 3 and 7.				
GES Outcome Focus Area 1, point 3; focus area 2, points 7, 8				
The civil and criminal practices				
reflect a strong dedication in ensuring gender equality in				
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Related CP outcome:				
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