



REPUBLIKA KOSOVO / REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO  
KËSHILLI PROKURORIAL I KOSOVËS/ TUŽILAČKI SAVET KOSOVA/KOSOVO  
PROSECUTORIAL COUNCIL

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

*Activities of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council*

November 2018



## **The support of SMIL implementation on the Basic Prosecutions by the Prosecutorial Council is continuing**

Pristina, 1 November 2018 - Common guidelines for further SMIL implementation, detailed timekeeping, resources and efficient staff training methodology, and advanced management of general resources, as well as the ability to create good work in the Basic Prosecution of Peja, were the focus of the visit of the Director of the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Lavdim Krasniqi and the Head of Department for Information Technology, Nexhat Haziri, in the framework of the implementation of the Case Management Information System (SMIL) in the Basic Prosecutions of the Republic of Kosovo, where they met the Chief Prosecutor, Agim Kurmehaj and the administrative staff of this prosecution.

On this occasion, the Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution of Peja, Mr. Agim Kurmehaj, thanked Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, which is continuing the necessary support through the Secretariat for SMIL implementation, expressing full readiness for the application of this project national importance.

The interlocutors agreed that after the training process the planning of implementation of SMIL's full use, recording all cases in the real system, which implies full digitalization of the work, however, with particular emphasis also discussed about the dynamics and facilitation of work procedures during processing of cases, guaranteeing the provision of support for the possibility of registration of cases at work and follow up of working plan for its use.

Kosovo Prosecutorial Council will continue through the Secretariat overseeing the application and implementation of SMIL in all prosecutions of the country, achieving the advancement and full integration of this work process, equivalent to the European level of information management of prosecutorial cases.



**Work continues on finalizing the draft Code of Ethics for Prosecutors**

Pristina, November 6, 2018 - The Committee on Normative Issues held its next meeting in the framework of finalizing the draft Code of Ethics for Prosecutors, chaired by the Chairman Mr. Bahri Hyseni, attended by other members of the Committee, Chairperson of the Disciplinary Commission, Chief Prosecutors of the Basic Prosecutions of Gjilan and Prizren, representatives of the US Embassy, the Embassy of the Netherlands, civil society and the administration of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.

According to the established practice of work at the Committee on Normative Issues, in the meeting the draft of the Code of Ethics for Prosecutors was dealt article per article, where it was decided that its drafting would continue next week so as to conclude sooner this important professional document for the prosecutorial system of Kosovo.

The Code of Ethics determines and defines the ethical behavior of prosecutors in the exercise of their official duty, which by the end of this calendar year will be preceded for approval by the Committee on Normative Issues in Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.

As already announced, in support of the implementation of this code will be drafted a special guide, a process that is supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kosovo through a group of prosecutors and experts of this country, as well as prosecutors and professionals of the Kosovo Democratic Institute (KDI) and Levizja "Fol".



## **The qualifying test for candidates for State Prosecutor was held**

Pristina, 18 November 2018 - At the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, a third qualification test was held for candidates for prosecutors in the framework of the recruitment process of 10 prosecutors in the Basic Prosecution offices, with 146 candidates attending.

The Qualification Test is one of the testing parts, which also includes the Written Test and Interviews, which the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council organizes according to the highest standards, which apply to the recruitment of prosecutors in similar recruitment models.

The Chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, has overseen the Qualification Test, who told the candidates that today is a special day for the Prosecutorial Council, but also for the career of the candidates for prosecutors whom he wished success in the stages of this recruiting process, also the OSCE and BIRN representatives participated in the monitoring.



The application of the candidates for prosecutors was carried out through the online file management system, which enabled them to apply, attaching all required documents to the required digital formats.



## **The joint statement of the KPC, KJC and the Norwegian Embassy in Pristina**

Pristina, 21 November 2018 - The Judicial Council, the Prosecutorial Council and the Embassy of Norway have organized a joint inauguration ceremony for the implementation of the Case Management Information System (SMIL) in the courts and prosecution offices of the Republic of Kosovo in the Basic Court in Ferizaj, attended by the Head of the KJC, Mr. Nehat, Idrizi, KPC Chair, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, Minister of Justice, Mr. Abelard Tahiri, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo Norway in Pristina, His Excellency, Per Strand Sjaastad and a delegation of the Norwegian Judicial Administration, as well as presidents of courts, chief prosecutors and members of the administrative staff of the justice system.

Initially, the Head of the KJC, Mr. Nehat, Idrizi, KPC Chair, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, Minister of Justice, Mr. Abelard Tahiri and the Norwegian Ambassador in Pristina, His Excellency, Per Strand Sjaastad, have signed a joint memorandum of cooperation for the consolidation phase of the project for the period 2019-2021.

The Head of Kosovo Judicial Council, Mr. Nehat Idrizi, thanked Norway for supporting and financing the Project on Case Management Information System, evaluating it extremely important for increasing the efficiency, accountability and accuracy of information in the Kosovo judicial system

Also, the chairman of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, thanked the Norwegian state and people on behalf of the prosecutorial system, expressing his high consideration for the unsparing assistance and the great commitment to capacity building of the prosecutorial system in Kosovo, in which case an excellent case management information system was established and being implemented.

The Ambassador of Norway in Pristina, His Excellency, For Strand Sjaastad, he said that the Kingdom of Norway is committed to work with Kosovo's justice institutions towards reform, and our common goal is to remain in a strong, long-term, committed partnership. "Kosovo's strong ownership in this project is a true reflection that illustrates how Kosovo can and should take the responsibility to further its progress and reform. So it's something to be proud of and a good example for other public services in Kosovo," he said.

The TIK-SMIL project contains functional concepts of case review on a periodic basis, criteria and identification of issues of interest, including registers of criminal cases in regions, case reports performed and the progress of their execution, whereby the electronic system calculates accurate weight of subjects and makes their automatic distribution, creating great planning opportunities and prerequisites for the development of a standard system.

The SMIL project is initiated nationally and is funded by the Government of Norway to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency, while the Prosecutorial Council and the Kosovo Judicial Council are responsible for its implementation.



## **The last meeting of the Joint Rule of Law Coordination Board**

Pristina, 21 November 2018 – The chief of EULEX Mission Alexandra Papadopoulou, today in EULEX premises hosted in the last meeting the Joint Rule of Law Coordination Board (JRLCB).

The meeting was also attended by Minister of Justice, Abelard Tahiri, Chairman of the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), Nehat Idrizi, Chairperson of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC), Blerim Isufaj, and Head of the EU / EUSR Office in Kosovo, Nataliya Apostolova.

EULEX Head of Mission presented the Progress Report for Compact Agreement, which includes the JRLCB activities during the period July 2017 to June 2018, and makes following the progress made by relevant rule of law institutions in Kosovo in areas with an approved focus i.e. police, customs, justice, and implementation of the dialogue

Papadopoulou underlined the significant progress made by local counterparts for strengthening the rule of law in Kosovo; highlighting the important role that JRLCB has played over these years as an effective mechanism to facilitate co-ordination among key



local actors and the EU on key issues, as well as serving as a catalyst for improvements in the most important areas. Looking at the findings of the Compact Framework Progress Report, the EULEX Head of Mission cited the increased performance and capabilities of certain established rule of law institutions such as the Kosovo Police, Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils, and the Civil Registration Agency, which in particular has enabled gradual attraction of EULEX support and, on the other hand, increased support in alternative means of assistance.

EU / EUSR Head of Mission in Kosovo, Nataliya Apostolova, stressed that the new Kosovo Report covering the period from February 2018 to January 2019 is in the process of drafting and expresses optimism that after analyzing all contributions, the EU will have the opportunity to again produce a comprehensive report that will help Kosovo further on its European path. She congratulated Minister Tahiri, and other Kosovo authorities involved in the ongoing efforts to implement the criteria of the European Reform Agenda relating to the rule of law, pointing out that what remains to be done in the legislative field is the adoption of swift provisions of the suspension and dismissal of public officials accused and convicted of corruption.

Minister Tahiri, in addition to the legislative measures, has also emphasized the importance of the Justice Agenda 2020, which according to him, largely complements the initiative initiated through the Functional Review of the Rule of Law Sector. The Minister stressed that the Justice Agenda 2020 was necessary in order to address concrete issues identified in recent years within the justice system, focusing on the judicial and prosecutorial system, which will inevitably affect the establishment of efficiency of the judicial system. "Such a coordinating mechanism will definitely help in faster, more modern and more qualitative approaches in order to increase efficiency. In this way, this agenda will also help the Functional Review process, creating space for discussion of major topics that require greater research and more detailed discussion within the working groups, said the Minister

KPC Chairman, Blerim Isufaj, briefed the Board on the progress of prosecutors in the Special Prosecution Office of Kosovo (SPRK) on the recruitment process of 10 new prosecutors and the recruitment of support staff in all prosecutions in Kosovo. Isufaj also stressed that KPC has addressed all the recommendations of the Kosovo Report 2018, and that there is measurable progress in the prosecutorial system. The KPC Chair also briefed the Board on key developments regarding the recommendations and conclusions of this report and briefed them on the progress of the War Crimes Roadmap.

The KJC Chair, Nehat Idrizi, briefed the Board on Judge Performance Evaluation as a very important process, where all the judges who applied for promotion as a result of

the KJC's internal competition were evaluated. Idrizi, emphasized that the KJC has completed the process of interviewing new judges and their appointment is expected. Also, we are in the process of implementing the Case Management Information System (SMIL) in the courts and prosecution offices of Kosovo, where the objective of this project is to create the basis for a more efficient, transparent and accountable justice system – Mr. Idrizi concluded.

EULEX Chief of Mission stressed: "Since in June, when EULEX ended its executive mandate in the justice system of Kosovo and is progressively changing its capacity building responsibilities in other important areas of rule of law, now is the time for Kosovo authorities to take full ownership of reform commitments to make their institutions more capable and more stable".

"In this regard, I welcome the launch of the Justice 2020 initiative led by the Minister of Justice in close cooperation with the Heads of Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils, said Papadopoulou, and encouraged the Kosovo authorities to continue the work of the Justice 2020 initiative well done together so far under the umbrella of JRLCB, particularly in the implementation of the JRLCB Guidelines for the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, the Complaints Panel of the Kosovo Property Agency, the Institute of Forensic Medicine and War Crimes.

To read the Compact Agreement Progress Report, follow the link below:

<http://www.eulex-kosovo.eu/eul/repository/docs/54630-CPR-2018-Sq.pdf>



## **The meeting of prosecutorial system leaders is held with experts of the EU Twinning Project**

Pristina, November 21 - The Chairperson of the Prosecutorial Council, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, Chairpersons of KPC Commissions and Director of SKPC, Lavdim Krasniqi, held a meeting with experts of the EU Twinning Project, where the recommendations given since the beginning of this precious project for the prosecutorial system of Kosovo were discussed.

Mr. Blerim Isufaj and other representatives of the prosecutorial system, who were present at this meeting, underlined that the majority of recommendations, which directly affect the enhancement of the professional-administrative services performance, have been taken into account.

Also following today's meeting, it was found that some of the recommendations given were fully implemented, while another part is underway, while the remaining part will be dealt with within the Strategic Plan 2019-2021.



## **Presentation workshop on achievements and challenges in implementing SMIL**

Pristina, November 24, 2018 - In the framework of the TIK-SMIL Project, a presentation workshop was organized in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, a workshop that was attended by the Director of SKPC, Lavdim Krasniqi, the leaders of the TIK-SMIL Project, Fatmir Rexherpi and Mr. Nexhat Haziri, regional trainers of this project, including trainers appointed by respective prosecution offices.

In this two-day workshop, the SMIL's achievements and the challenges encountered during staff training and implementation were presented, as well as the number of registered cases since the beginning of SMIL- in the Basic Prosecution of Peja, Prizren, Prishtina, Gjilan, Gjakova and Ferizaj.

Within the framework of this workshop, a working plan was prepared for the implementation of SMIL in the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosovo and the Basic Prosecution of Mitrovica, which is expected to be implemented during December.



The TIK-SMIL project was foreseen to be completed in December, but seeing the success achieved, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway have signed an agreement on financial support for the next three years, with the main focus of this major project during the consolidation phase will be the full implementation of SMIL in all prosecutions and courts of the country, as well as its liaison with other law enforcement institutions in the Republic of Kosovo.



### **"Internews Kosova" organizes a training seminar for Chief Prosecutors, Prosecutors and Communication Officers**

*Pristina, November 25, 2018* - "Internews Kosova" organized a three day training seminar on public relations in Bogë of Peja, a seminar that was realized in the framework of the implementation of the SAEK2 Project, which was attended by the chief prosecutors of all Prosecutions, prosecutors - responsible for the media and officials for public communication of the prosecutorial system of Kosovo.

The experts of Internews Kosovo: Mr. Faik Ispahiu, Executive Director of "Internews Kosova", Mr. Kreshnik Gashi, Author and Editor of "Justice in Kosovo", Mr. Labint Lepshtica, Member of the Board of Directors Written Media of Kosovo and Mr. Gravit



Mavriqi, Social Media Manager, have dealt with the forms and ways of negative reflection of the lack of adequate information and the small presence of media officers of all prosecutions to explain the activity and concrete activities, orientations strategic and general visions of the prosecutorial system, then the necessity of drafting daily, weekly and monthly reports on the work of prosecution offices, as well as today's role of social media in our society.

And in this context, the training had dimensions of understanding the role and mission, but also of creating credibility with prosecutorial institutions, as well as responses through professional, public and legal mechanisms in the case of inaccurate information, unanimously evaluating that in these cases , within the allowed time and legal deadlines, to be informed the Independent Media Commission and the Kosovo Media Council, the first is a regulatory mechanism, the second self-regulatory, to review violations and misinformation of public opinion

One of the most interesting presentations of this seminar was the presentation of practical work, the simulation of the media conference, the analysis of the events being presented, the speed of receiving the source news primacy, the planning and publication of actions, the influx of journalists in crisis situations and clear and transparent public speaking.

Meanwhile, participants have conducted an open discussion with the President of the Association of Journalists of Kosovo, Gentiana Begolli, who was invited to discuss the necessary cooperation for the protection of journalists from the threats and violent exposures to them during their work, in which case concrete joint commitments were presented in this regard. KPC and SP will continue to co-operate with "Internews Kosova" in the future in order to advance the professional performance of public communication in the prosecutorial system of Kosovo.



## **The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council held the 158th meeting in a row**

*Pristina, 27 November 2018* - The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council held its 158th meeting, which was chaired by its Chairperson, Blerim Isufaj, in which case a number of points foreseen in today's agenda have been reviewed and approved.

Chairman of KPC, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, has notified the members of the signing of four important institutional acts related to the Prosecutorial Council, such as: the Agreement of Understanding with the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", which aims to establish cooperation between KPC and the University of Prishtina for conducting expertise and super-expertise by faculty experts for the needs of the State Prosecutor, then with the Ministry of Justice, the Kosovo Judicial Council and the Municipal Public Enterprise "Urban Traffic" in Pristina for providing a transport service for the employees of the courts and prosecutors in the Palace of Justice in Hajvali; The Joint Declaration with the Ministry of Justice and the Kosovo Judicial Council on the "Justice 2020" Project, a statement that expresses the will to take on the coordinating responsibilities to implement the Justice 2020 agenda, exercising the powers of the three

institutions to accomplished the conclusion of the transition to the justice system and the ending of old cases, following the Memorandum of Understanding on the financing of the Project "Strengthening the Judicial and Prosecutorial System of Kosovo" by the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Northern Ireland , as well as the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway for financing the implementation of the of the Case Management System.

In connection with the recent agreement, Mr. Isufaj presented to the members of the KPC the process of the implementation of the Case Management Information System (SMIL), highlighting the positive developments regarding the case files in the regions, the reports of the cases completed, the progress of the execution of the and the implementation of training plans in the country's prosecutions. "The SMIL electronic system is among the most advanced in the region and beyond, which accurately calculates the weight of cases and makes their automatic distribution, creating great planning opportunities and great prerequisites for the development of the prosecutorial system, said Mr. Blerim Isufaj.

Meanwhile, the nine-month report of the inter-institutional tracking mechanism for the harmonization of statistics on characteristic criminal offenses has been presented by KPC Secretariat Director, Mr. Lavdim Krasniqi, emphasizing that during the filing of criminal charges, 82.64% resulted with the convictions issued by the courts of the country, a data which the members of the Prosecutorial Council highly praised because, in fact, shows good performance of prosecutors and reveals the success of the state prosecutor's office.

Also, at the end of today's meeting, the KPC has taken a decision to announce a position for promotion from the General Department of the Department of Juveniles of the Basic Prosecution in Peja.



## **KPC organizes workshops for finalizing the Strategic Plan for 2019-2021**

Pristina, 30 November 2018 - The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council has organized a three-day workshop on the finalization of the Strategic Plan and Action Plan for the years 2019-2021, attended by the Chair of KPC, Mr. Blerim Isufaj, members of The Council, prosecutors of the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor, heads of committees, directors and administrative staff of the KPC.

Mr. Blair Isufaj, in his introductory speech, strongly emphasized the importance of finalizing the Strategic Plan and Action Plan of Kosovo Prosecutorial Council for 2019-2021, which will determine the path of development of prosecutorial activity over three next years.

*“The Kosovo Prosecutorial Council clearly knows that the realization of the objectives and the objective of law enforcement goes through planned and well-planned strategic links, therefore it passes through a detailed strategic plan which interconnects, orients and guides the three-year*

*course of development of the prosecutorial system, so we will discuss and finalize a modern and prosperous platform, on which the implementation of legality and proper sectoral management will proceed safely and integrally, "said Mr. Isufaj*

Meanwhile, Mr. Bahri Hyseni, Chairman of the Working Group, spoke about the purpose and objectives of the workshop for the finalization of this important plan, emphasizing that the professional discussions in this workshop will enable the completion of the whole structure Strategic Plan for 2019-2021.

During the process of concluding this Strategic Plan, which will be a guiding tool for the prosecutorial system, it has been notified that the KPC has met the standard of inclusion of the foreseen groups for drafting in the Working Group - Prosecutors, Non-Prosecutors and Personnel of the Secretariat and KPC Prosecution Performance Review Unit.

The Strategic Plan and Action Plan of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council for 2019 - 2021 will identify the essential orientations where it will provide guidance on how to meet the leadership and management needs, which may include appropriate selection of methods of work, categorizing and prioritizing clearly on the way forward, which in the medium term provide a realistic overview of the efficiency and effectiveness of the prosecutorial system.

The Strategic Plan and Action Plan of the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council for 2019 - 2021 will be the product of the Working Group discussions on each issue separately, presenting viable solutions to strategic development, will also be coherent determine the goals, measurable success and transparency, taking into account the financial, resource and practical aspect as well as sustainability, public perception and inspiration of public confidence in the prosecutorial system of the Republic of Kosovo.