



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË

Nr. _____ Prot

Date ____/____/2022



HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE



INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES



COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



ALBANIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE



INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEGAL STUDIES



ALBANIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE



EUROPEAN CENTRE

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE

AND

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Preamble,

Institution of the High Inspector of Justice and civil society organizations, Institute for Policy and Legal Studies (IPLS), represented by Mr. Ardian Dhima; Institute for Political Studies (ISP), represented by Mr. Afrim Krasniqi; Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), represented by Ms. Krisela Hackaj, Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC), represented by Ms. Erida Skëndaj, European Centre (EC), represented by Ms. Ina Xhepa, Albanian Institute of Science, represented by Ms. Aranita Brahaj; referred in this Cooperation Agreement as the "Parties";

Considering that civil society organizations play an important role in strengthening democratic processes, consolidating good governance, respecting human rights, and ensuring transparency and accountability, and therefore their contribution should be shaped through establishing institutional mechanisms for cooperation with public institutions;

Recognizing the importance of improving the justice system in the context of strengthening the rule of law, the policies and the measures taken for the functioning of a professional, responsible, accountable and transparent justice system.

Considering the common areas of interest in order to increase transparency in relation to the activity of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice and improving public access to information;

Affirming the will and determination to cooperate and contribute to the realization of the purpose of this Cooperation Agreement to fulfil the commitments which arise from legal obligations;

Relying on the legal framework governing the institutional activity of the parties as law no. 115/2016 "On governance institutions of the justice system", law no. 96/2016 "On the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania", law no. 8788, dated 7.5.2001 "On non-profit organizations" and law no. 80/2021 "On the registration of non-profit organizations";

Have agreed to enter into this Cooperation Agreement hereinafter referred to as "Agreement".

Article 1

Purpose

1. The purpose of the cooperation is to establish ongoing communication between civil society and the Office of High Inspector of Justice, through transparent processes of monitoring the activity and increasing public confidence, in terms of raising public awareness on the mission, competencies and responsibilities of the High Inspector of Justice.

2. This cooperation agreement does not constitute a legal document, thus if certain parties will commit to implement joint projects, it will be the subject of special agreements between the parties in question that will regulate the rights and obligations in the framework of the projects between them.

Article 2

Object of cooperation

1. The parties with the aim of increasing the performance and capacity building of the Office of High Inspector of Justice are engaged through this agreement in increasing communication and developing a series of joint activities, in the framework of monitoring, analysing, accountability and awareness-raising on the activity of the Office of High Inspector of Justice, through the exchange of data, the organization of periodic meetings, providing relevant expertise of specialized CSOs, or *think-tank*.

2. Each of the parties to this agreement is committed to act based on the spirit of cooperation, promotion of common goals and interests, protection of integrity and professionalism, respect for confidentiality, personal data and intellectual property of information, products and materials exchanged in the framework of this cooperation.

Article 3

Form of cooperation

The parties have agreed that the form of cooperation between them to be achieved through:

a) Continuous information aiming the participation and involvement of CSOs in acquiring information.

b) Consultation with CSOs seeking thoughts, views and opinions on a particular policy or development topic, as well as at the request of CSOs, in the form of public hearings, roundtables or conferences in which the High Inspector of Justice is invited and participates.

c) Dialogue on mutual interests and common objectives to ensure a regular exchange of views between meetings or further specific cooperation agreements.

ç) Partnership with joint responsibilities in defining programs and implementing activities.

Article 4
Types of possible activities

The parties in cooperation have agreed on the organization of activities of mutual interest and the purpose of cooperation will be achieved by engaging, but not limited to the following activities:

- a) Making available the required data according to the activities planned in the action plan of the Cross-cutting Justice Strategy 20201-2025, and the information in function of the monitoring requested by the parties;
- b) Providing information about the activity, for the purpose of periodic publication on the HIJ website;
- c) Organizing periodic meetings at HIJ;
- ç) Monitoring the activity of the High Inspector of Justice, within the measures and activities defined in the Cross-cutting Strategy of the Justice System and the Action Plan for the period 2021 - 2025, in periods of 4 months;
- d) Organizing joint meetings in function of the monitoring process;
- dh) Preparation of analytical monitoring reports conveying opinions on alternative solutions;
- e) Organizing awareness activities for the public;
- ë) Conceptualization of simplified materials with information on the periodic activity of the High Inspector of Justice;
- f) Organizing trainings, sharing best practices, workshops, on topics agreed by the parties;
- g) Providing training on reporting in the framework of the European integration process, and / or communication with the public, in order to raise awareness on the activities of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice.
- h) Inclusion, referral, promotion of this model of cooperation and the respective results in the activities of the parties to this agreement with third parties, and in the communication and advocacy components in Albania, the Region and the EU.

Article 5
Language

The parties present the agreed information in Albanian language.

Article 6
Evaluation of the implementation of the agreement

1. The Parties undertake to jointly assess the functioning of cooperation in support of the agreement through elaboration and presentation of a report on the progress of cooperation.
2. The report contains, in addition to data on the methods of implementation of the agreement, also concrete recommendations for addressing the identified problems.

3. This report is prepared once a year and is signed by all parties. A public version of the report with data that respects the obligations to maintain the confidentiality of the data of the High Inspector of Justice is published on the websites of all parties.

Article 7

Communication between Parties

1. The Parties engage to maintain constant communication with each other and to exchange any information necessary for the fulfilment of the purpose of cooperation. Communication will be done in writing and / or electronically.

2. The Parties appoint contact persons who will be responsible for the exchange of information and the fulfilment of their requests pursuant to the Agreement.

3. The parties inform each other about the contact persons no later than 15 days from the signing of this agreement.

4. In case of change of contact persons from both parties, they will notify the relevant changes.

Article 8

Financial costs

Any financial costs resulting from the implementation of this Agreement are subject to applicable law and are within the limits of the budgetary expenditures available to the Parties.

Article 9

Amending the agreement

This agreement can only be amended with the consent of the parties through the exchange of written communication.

Article 10

Termination of the agreement

1. The Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period but may be terminated at any time with consent between Parties. The termination shall take effect one month after the receipt of the written notification by one of the Parties.

2. Until the conclusion of this Agreement, the Parties shall abide by the terms of this Agreement with respect to information and documents exchanged prior to the date of termination.

Article 11

Dispute resolution

Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled amicably between the parties.

Article 12

Entry into Force

1. The agreement enters into force on the day of its signing.
2. The agreement is prepared and signed in (_____) original copies. (____) copies shall be deposited with the Office of the High Inspector of Justice and (____) copies shall be deposited with the Parties to this Agreement.

This agreement is signed today in Tirana, on _____ / _____ / 2022.

**FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH
JUSTICE INSPECTOR**

**HIGH JUSTICE INSPECTOR
ARTUR METANI**

FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

**INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEGAL
STUDIES (IPLS)
Mr. ARDIAN DHIMA**

**INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES
(ISP)
Mr. AFRIM KRASNIQI**

**COOPERATION AND
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