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NEWSLETTER

HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE

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Inspektori i Lartë i
Drejtësisë



Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur Metani
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TRANSPARENCY, THE BEST MECHANISM IN THE
COMMUNICATION OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS





SPEECH OF HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE Mr. ARTUR METANI AT THE MEETING “Communication of the Governing Bodies of the Justice System with the Media and the Public”

It is a pleasure to be at this roundtable where the topic of the communication of justice institutions with the media and the public will be discussed, and I take the opportunity to thank the Council of Europe for this organization, but also for the continuous support to our institutions through CEPEJ.

Communication is very broad and it is continuously evolving, the same as information technology itself, and obviously every experience, model and practice is necessary for an efficient interaction with the public opinion and the media, aiming at bringing the work and activity of the justice system as close as

possible to the public, first-hand or through the media, in the most accessible and transparent way.

There have been more than 5 years so far, since the adoption of the Justice Reform and one of the main challenges for each of our institutions remains the public expectation for the work and results of the system, for a justice that acts equally against injustice and the culture of impunity. Therefore, the work of justice institutions is observed, judged and prejudiced, sometimes correctly and sometimes not. We live in times of challenges, where pursuing the sensation of the day or seeking political benefit has

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unfortunately become a trend, which leaves little or no room for the substance, the in-depth and professional thought. The institutions of justice are also facing this situation, of course with their own problems. But this should not make us shy away from public communication. Personally, I think that we should not be afraid of criticism, because we cannot consider ourselves infallible, but we should definitely know how to stay above the day interests of the actors and public factors, focusing on our mission.

I believe that a very good defense mechanism is transparency, through a good communication strategy, for the qualitative presentation of our work, both for increasing and strengthening the public's trust in justice, as well as for strengthening the functioning and role of our own institutions in achieving and maintaining the independence and impartiality of magistrates.

Undoubtedly, in the age of fake news, this is not easy because it is precisely “fake

news” that increases mutual prejudice among institutions, media and the public. However, not considering a good communication strategy an obstacle but an opportunity, would help to face these challenges, first by building a correct relationship with the media, based precisely on the common focus that we as institutions and the media share: public opinion.

The better we communicate our work and activity, the better will the public understand them. And we definitely need to discuss and get the best expertise to achieve this. How much and how to communicate? How should we face challenging situations? These and other questions will undoubtedly be answered during these two days by the respected experts of the Council of Europe, but also by the colleagues of the High Prosecutorial Council, which initiated this round table, and the High Judicial Council.

Thank you and best wishes for a successful roundtable!



TRANSPARENCY, THE BEST MECHANISM IN THE COMMUNICATION OF JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS

High Inspector of Justice Mr. Artur Metani took part in the round table on “Communication of the Governing Bodies of the Justice System with the Media and the Public”, an activity of the SEJIII project of the Council of Europe in support of the High Council of Prosecution.

This issue was discussed among the three new justice institutions, High Prosecutorial Council, High Judicial Council and High Inspector of Justice with experts from CEPEJ (Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice in Albania) and the ECHR for

freedom of expression and the media.

In his speech, Mr. Metani said that the high public expectations on the work and results of the system, for a justice that acts equally towards injustice and the culture of impunity, make the new justice institutions be in limelight, be observed, judged and prejudiced, correctly or not.

But this, said the High Inspector of Justice, does not seem to bring reluctance or fear of criticism, but self-restraint and commitment to stay above the daily

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magistrates”, said among others Mr. Metani.

On the second day of the round table “Communication of the Governing Bodies of the Justice System with the Media and the Public”, the advisor for communication and media of the HIJ, Mrs. Mimoza Koçiu delivered the presentation “Communication strategies”. The model of the High Inspector of Justice”.





COOPERATION WITH CEPEJ, A SUCCESS STORY FOR HIJ

The High Inspector of Justice Office, represented by non-magistrate Inspector Ms. Joana Asimi, during a regional conference in Budva, Montenegro, made a presentation of the HIJ experience as one of the beneficiary institutions of the program “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey”, through the project of Strengthening Efficiency and Quality of Justice in Albania, CEPEJ.

During this conference session on the efficiency of justice, Ms. Asimi delivered her speech on “Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice in Albania (SEJ III), the High Inspector of Justice experience.”

“The cooperation of the High Inspector of Justice with the Project “Strengthening the

Quality and Efficiency of Justice in Albania” (SEJIII) began during the first months of the HIJ existence, in 2020 – said Inspector Asimi among other things, – it started with the identification of the areas of assistance and continued with the development of capacities and liaison with European counterpart institutions.

This cooperation led to the membership of the High Inspector of Justice in the European Network of Inspection Services (RESIJ), for the experience exchange and the creation of inspection practices, in accordance with European standards and best practices, and further brought about the organization of the International Conference on “Public interest in the administration of justice and the



independence of magistrates” in Tirana, in June 2022. This conference, the first of its kind in Albania, brought together leaders and representatives of the justice inspection services from the European Union countries, namely Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Albania, as well as from the European Court of Human Rights, who shared their experiences and expertise on how justice inspection services can keep a

fair balance between protecting the public interest and respecting the independence of judges and prosecutors. “

Apart from Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey also participated in the closing conference of the program “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey”.





EU MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS, HIJ PART OF THE EXPLANATORY MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27 September 2022

A team from the High Inspector of Justice Office was part of the Albanian delegation, which participated in the explanatory meeting organized in the framework of Albania's negotiation process with the EU in Brussels by the European Commission, on chapter 23 "Judiciary and Fundamental Rights", Acquis Progress and Relevant Standards from September 2018 onwards.

The Albanian delegation was headed by Ms. Majlinda Dhuka, chief negotiator and Ms. Adea Pirdeni, deputy Minister of Justice, as the negotiating institution for chapter 23, as well as representatives of the institutions of the justice system. The High Inspector of Justice Office was represented by the

director of the Directorate of Legal Analysis and Drafting of Acts Ms. Eljona Bylykbashi and the Cabinet assistant Ms. Linda Saliu.

The European Commission technical team from the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations as well as from the Department for Justice presented to the delegations of Albania and North Macedonia the EU principles and standards for the judicial system, its independence, quality and efficiency; the requirements of the EU legislation compared to the national one; the independence of the judiciary, its requirements; the appointment, promotion and evaluation of magistrates; accountability of magistrates within disciplinary proceedings; judicial training;



non-compliance with EU principles, standard measurement instruments, and also anti-corruption policies, personal data protection, non-discrimination, children's rights, gender equality and media freedom.

The explanatory meetings are the first stage of the screening process, which includes the entire spectrum of EU legislation policies, conceived in 6 groups for all 35 chapters of the EU law body (Acquis), which enables

candidate countries to familiarize themselves with EU laws and standards and their obligations, as the first step in the process of accession negotiations.

The second phase will include bilateral meetings, where each candidate country is invited to present, according to the assigned chapter, the progress of the preparations for the adoption and implementation of the EU laws body.



LEGAL AID AND COMPLAINTS SECTOR



While assisting the complainants

Communication with citizens is part of the daily work of the High Inspector of Justice.

The HIJ Complaint Sector is responsible for guaranteeing the right of citizens to information and transparency to the public. This Sector monitors the complaints traceability in the system and provides answers to complainants on their complaint stage.

As part of the transparency program, in

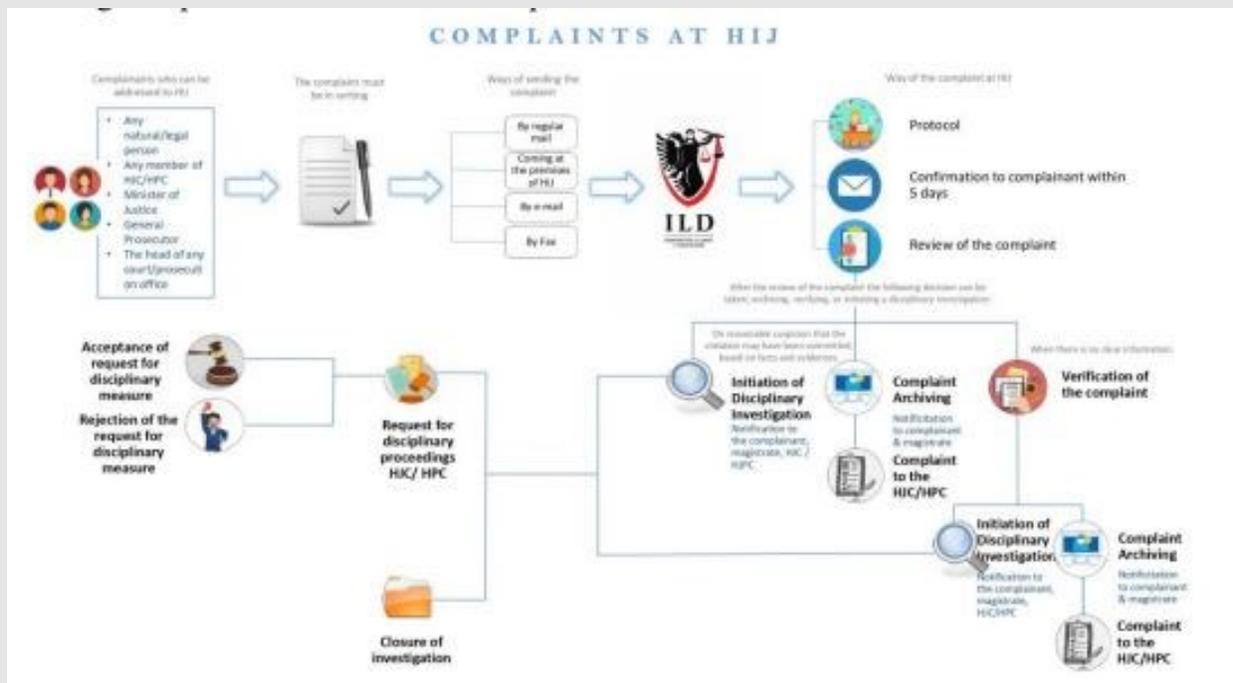
order to increase the communication with the interested citizens, the High Inspector of Justice Office in addition to the official address and the official Web, has made available the telephone number +355 4 2217217.

During September 2022, Legal Aid and Complaints Sector has met 29 complainants, which came at the Office of High Inspector of Justice and received 23 phone calls from citizens, which have requested information of the phase of their complaints or legal aid on how to complete the Complaint Form.





Even during the month of August ILD has offered assistance to full handover of documentation from citizens or institutions.



COORDINATOR ON THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION



The Coordinator on the right to information at the Office of High Inspector of Justice enables each applicant the right to access public information, in accordance with the law and communicates with the applicant as needed to address the request for public information.

The request for information is submitted by citizens, legal entities, interested groups in the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, through Posta Shqiptare Sh.a., e-mail to the address: info@ild.al, as well as that of the coordinator on the right to information amanta.jasa@ild.al.

The information provided in the transparency program is published and continuously updated in the register of requests and responses, within the legal deadline.

MONTHLY FIGURES

During September 2022, at the Office of High Inspector of Justice, 12 requests for information were received, which were processed in all cases within 5 days (the law provides that applicants to return response within 10 days).

COMPLAINT PROCESS AT HIJ

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice continues with intensive work to confirm the complaints carried and those administered since February 1, 2020, when it was established as an institution.

To facilitate this process for interested persons, HIJ has published on the official website a special complaint form, which:

- Can be completed directly and submitted online;
- Can be downloaded, completed and sent by

email to info@ild.al or by mail at the address Boulevard "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Building no.13, Tirana.

It can also be completed by presenting at the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, if necessary, to ask for assistance of the team of the Complaints Office.

Upon receipt of the complaint, the High Inspector of Justice within 5 days confirms in writing its receipt.

The criteria for the admissibility of the complaint are published on the official website of HIJ www.ild.al, in the section "How to receive complaints".

SEPTEMBER OF HIJ IN NUMBERS

During September the Office of High Inspector of Justice has administered 59 complaints, 58 of which were submitted by citizens, and 1 complaint from a non-public institution.

Even during August, the ILD has provided full assistance in handing over documentation from citizens or institutions, 46 complaints have been filed, of which 45 by citizens and 1 complaint from the institution.

The High Inspector of Justice Office has performed the standard confirmation process of receiving complaints for all the new complaints submitted during September, 2022. Complaints against judges and prosecutors are referred to the inspectors and they are at different stages of the process such as the initial consideration, verification and the archiving together with relevant decisions.

ARCHIVES

99 archived decisions from 158 reviewed complaints:

- “ 53 archiving decisions after initial review (HIJ);
- “ 17 archiving decisions after the initial review (files backlog, by the former KLD);
- “ 9 archiving decisions after verification (HIJ);
- “ 20 archiving decisions after verification (files backlog, by the former KLD).

VERIFICATION

32 verification decisions, of which:

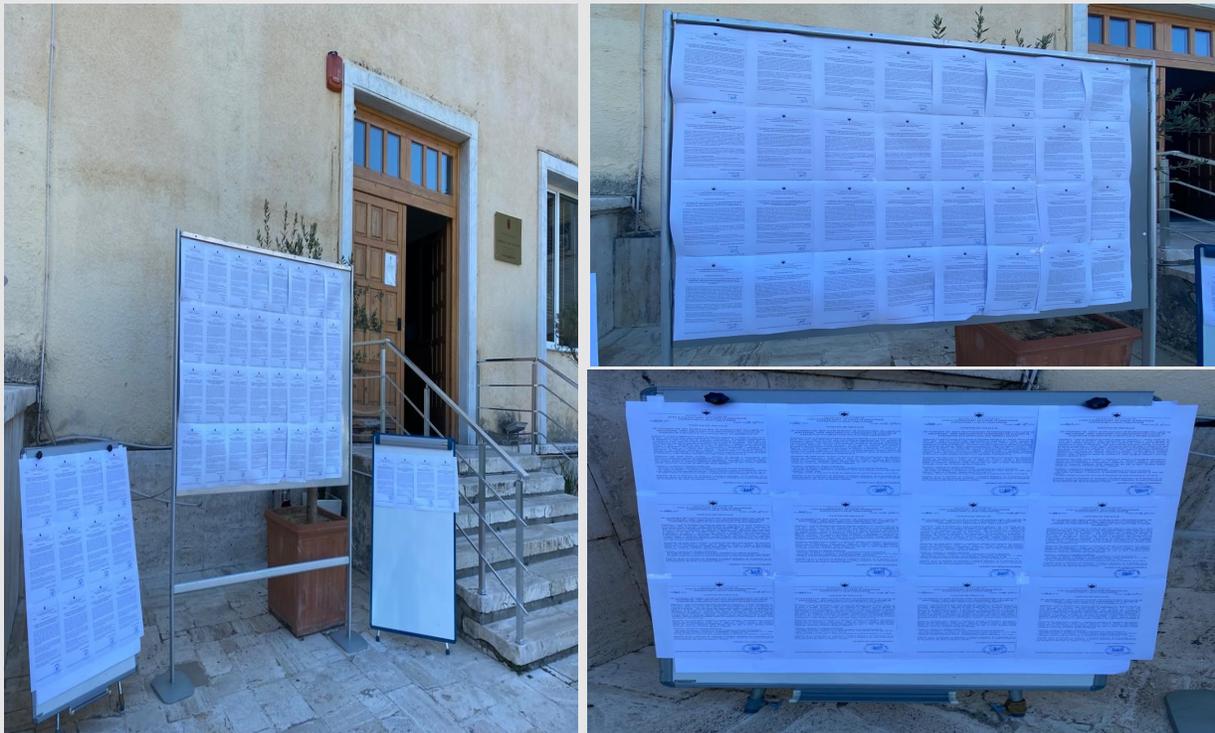
- “ 26 verification decisions, initial review (ILD);
- “ 3 verification decisions (files backlog, by the former KLD);
- “ 3 following verification decisions (files backlog, by the former KLD);

DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATION

- “ 1 decision to start disciplinary investigation for 1 magistrates;
- “ 3 decisions to continue the disciplinary investigation for 6 magistrates
- “ 1 decision for closing the disciplinary investigation for 1 magistrates
- “ 1 request for disciplinary proceedings for 1 magistrates

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice has made the public announcement of the archiving decisions, from the complainants, who have unreachable results at the addresses communicated by them. In addition to the stands of the ILD, according to the law, these announcements are also found on our official website and posted in the stands of the municipalities where the complainants come from. During the month of September 2022, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice made 75 public announcements.



SURVEY- WE WANT YOUR OPINION ABOUT HIJ

Communication with the public for the sake of transparency remains an ongoing priority for the High Inspector of Justice. In order to increase the communication with the citizens, the HIJ Office has drafted and published on the website a Survey, through which an opinion is sought on the work of the institution so far. The survey can be completed online or in person at the HIJ.



THE HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE WELCOMED A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM SACHSEN ANHALT OF GERMANY

High Inspector of Justice Mr. Artur Metani welcomed MPs – members of the Parliamentary Committee for Federal and European Affairs, Media and Culture of the State of Sachsen Anhalt of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The German delegation is conducting an official visit lasting several days to our country to get acquainted with the developments in Albania and the process of membership in the European Union.



Mr. Metani made a presentation of the function and duties of the High Inspector of Justice Office, as the state authority responsible for the investigation of violations, for the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against judges, prosecutors at all levels of the system, as well as for the inspection of courts and prosecution offices.



During the discussion, the High Inspector of Justice answered the interest of the MPs on the working procedures of the HIJ and the role of the institution within the justice reform, in contributing to a judicial system that is as accountable, responsible and with integrity.



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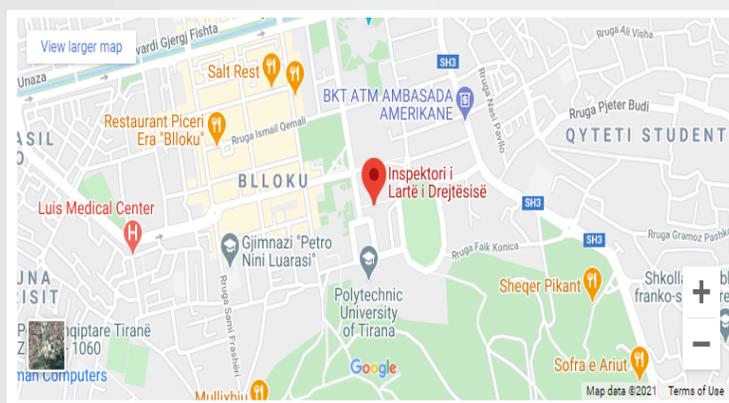


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Spot prezantues ILD
Prezantimi i Inspektorit të Lartë të Drejtësisë
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

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