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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
@ILD_Albania

HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE ON A WORKING VISIT TO THE USA





HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE ON A WORKING VISIT TO THE USA

Washington D.C., 8 May 2024

High Inspector of Justice Mr. Artur Metani has started a working visit to the USA, with meetings with key leaders at the U.S. Department of Justice, facilitated by the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT) at the U.S. Embassy in Tirana.

During his visit to Washington DC this week, Mr. Metani met with Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Bruce Swartz, and Office of Professional Responsibility Counsel Jeffrey Ragsdale.

U.S. officials reaffirmed the United States' support for the Office of the High Inspector

High Inspector of Justice Mr. Metani expressed his gratitude for the continuous encouragement and support of the USA in strengthening the rule of law in Albania as well as in terms of the efficiency and professionalism of the HIJ Office team.



of Justice in its vital mission to uphold professionalism, independence, and integrity among judges and prosecutors.

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High Inspector of Justice Mr. Metani expressed his gratitude for the continuous





METANI: JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

New York, May 9th, 2024

During his working visit to the USA, and on the National Day of Justice, High Inspector of Justice, Mr. Artur Metani met with Albanian lawyers and professionals in New York, a meeting organized by “The Albanian Professionals and Entrepreneurs Network – APEN”.

The meeting was led by the first Albanian judge elected in New York, Ms. Edit Shkreli, judge of the Bronx Civil Court; during the conversation with her Mr. Metani focused on changes made in Albania within the framework of the justice reform and its new institutions, one of which is the High

Inspector of Justice. After presenting the role and functions of the institution he heads, Mr. Metani responded to the interest on various aspects of the rule of law and institutions in Albania.

Speaking about the changes and expectations for the justice system, Mr. Metani focused on the role of the institutions, but also the society, in relation to justice and the rule of law.

“We need a society that develops and progresses based on the concepts of democracy and the rule of law, because justice can be administered not only by its institutions, but also by the whole society, through in-



formation, ethical behavior and respect for human rights. Nowadays, justice system has been and continues to be, one of the hottest topics of public debate in Albania. Justice is a topic of public interest. Today, we must increase our efforts to raise the level of the legal culture of our society. The access of Albanian citizens to legal knowledge is fundamental to guarantee an effective justice system. Thus, informing and providing knowledge about the law, about rights, law-enforcement institutions, responsibilities and so on, are not only related to legal education, but they are also the components of culture and the civic need for the approach to the rule of law.





At the same time, Albanian citizens should be given the opportunity to orient themselves within the broad legal spectrum, recognizing their rights and obligations. To understand the role and functions of institutions and justice delivery mechanisms, as well as the concept of citizenship in the rule of law. Albanian citizens can organize themselves and cooperate to supervise the activity of the justice system bodies, as well as exert pressure with democratic means on these bodies in order to foster progress in issues of public interest.



“We need a society that develops and progresses based on the concepts of democracy and the rule of law, because justice can be administered not only by its institutions, but also by the whole society, through information, ethical behavior and respect for human rights. Nowadays, justice system has been and continues to be, one of the hottest topics of public debate in Albania” said Mr. Metani.

We must work to change the mentality of the actors of justice system, which must be based on a complete understanding of the rule of law. It is important that Albanian society embraces the spirit and rules of a general culture of the rule of law. Without a deep legal culture, the justice system turns into a superficial formal system without values.

An independent justice system with integrity, transparency and efficiency will only be guaranteed if the rule of law is adopted by all of us, by the magistrates, by legal profes-

sionals, the political class, the media, civil society, as well as the Albanian citizens themselves”, said among other things, the High Inspector of Justice.

The meeting was also greeted by the permanent representative of Albania to the UN, Ambassador Suela Janina, who appreciated the role and work of the High Inspector of Justice in the system and in strengthening the rule of law.

During the conversation with legal professionals, Mr. Metani invited them to cooper-





ate or work with the Office of the High Inspector of Justice.

This event is part of the public communication concept of the High Inspector of Justice, through the organization of open forums and meetings with Albanian citizens, who represent a successful model from a social and professional point of view in the field of law, not only in Albania but even

abroad. The purpose of these activities, through the presentation of their personal achievements, challenges encountered and successes achieved, is to introduce the contribution of these individuals as role models to be followed and why not invite them to give their personal contribution to the progress of the implementation of the Justice Reform in Albania.





HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE PRESENTS INSTITUTION ACTIVITY FOR 2023

High Inspector of Justice Mr. Artur Metani informed the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights of the activity of the High Inspector of Justice Office for 2023. the process of reviewing the backlog of complaints and practices inherited from previous institutions of disciplinary proceedings.

Mr. Metani said that “2023 has been an intense year for the Office of the High Inspector of Justice regarding its main function of handling complaints against magistrates as well as conducting thematic inspections, while simultaneously finalizing the process of reviewing the backlog of complaints and practices inherited from previous institutions of disciplinary proceedings.”

“Handling the backlog of complaints has been a process that has exceeded the normal workload of the human resources available to the High Inspector of Justice, a challenge that we have overcome with visible results, based on administrative and structural regulatory measures we have

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undertaken. Reviewing and responding to the backlog of complaints fulfilled our publicly reiterated goal that nothing is forgotten and that avoiding a culture of impunity is a clear signal to increase public confidence in the justice system.”

Then the High Inspector of Justice focused on the implementation of the Resolution of

the Assembly recommendations for the High Inspector of Justice Office for 2022, the priorities set for the following year, identified by the daily work of all units and directorates of the High Inspector of Justice Office, such as communications with complaining citizens and institutions or daily work processes.





DISCUSSION OF REGULATION FOR UNIFICATION OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS FOR MAGISTRATES IN HJC AND HPC

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice participated in the joint plenary meeting of the High Judicial Council and the High Prosecutorial Council, on Justice Day, where the draft regulation *“On the unification of disciplinary proceedings for cases where a judge and a prosecutor are involved in the same violation”*

Magistrate Inspector Ms. Elena Plushi said on behalf of the High Inspector of Justice, that this act, sets the same stable standards during the disciplinary proceedings of the magistrate, guaranteeing in this way the rights to a regular legal process provided by the legal framework and already established in work practices followed by the HIJ and by both Councils.

The accountability system must be guided first of all by the notion of the accountability of magistrates, as a preventive mechanism that ensures the construction of an independent justice system.

The uniform application of legal provisions as well as the consolidation of standards that guarantee a fair, impartial, transparent, independent disciplinary process and that is permeated in all its links by the principle of due process, constitute the foundations for the establishment of an efficient system of the responsibility and accountability of magistrates, which is and remains the common goal of our institutions and of the reform as a whole.” said Ms. Plushi.



The process of drafting this regulation has gone through long stages of consultations and discussions between the members of the working group, which included the Disciplinary Commissions of each of the Councils and representatives of the High Inspector of Justice, under the assistance of experts from the EU4JUSTICE mission.





HIGH INSPECTOR OF JUSTICE SIGNED COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL OF MAGISTRATES

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice and the School of Magistrates have formalized their cooperation, through an agreement, which was signed by High Inspector of Justice Mr. Artur Metani and director of the School of Magistrate Mr. Arben Rakipi.

The memorandum provides for close cooperation on matters of joint interest, in the direction of strengthening cooperation between the institutions in order to include modules and training topics of interests for inspectors and assistant inspectors at the High Inspector of Justice Office, in the program of continuing education of the School of Magistrates, which will be subject to revision every year.

This cooperation at the academic level will be accompanied by the organization of joint

conferences, open lectures or other activities with a view to increasing the efficiency of the activity and professional development of inspectors and assistant inspectors, as well as exchanging mutual information regarding analyzes or data that serve their joint activities.

Strengthening the capacities of the inspection team remains a consistent priority of the High Inspector of Justice Office, a work process that provides periodic trainings with counterpart institutions of European Union countries and other international institutions, partners of the HIJ, which, after the formalization of this cooperation with the School of Magistrate, will be completed as sustainable practice.



HJC ACCEPTS HIJ REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL OF MAGISTRATE Z.V.

High Judicial Council has accepted in today's hearing, the High Inspector of Justice's request for disciplinary proceedings with the measure 'Dismissal' for magistrate Z.V., judge at the Court of First Instance of General Jurisdiction Elbasan.

The HIJ has initiated the disciplinary investigation against magistrate Z.V., judge at Judicial District Court Elbasan, for the disciplinary violation provided for by article 140, paragraph 2, letter "b" of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, as well as article 104 of law no. 96/2016 "On the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania", as amended, due to the punishment for committing the criminal offense of "Passive corruption of judges, prosecutors, and other justice officials", provided by Article 319/ç of the Criminal Code.

The disciplinary investigation carried out by

HIJ inspectors concluded that the judge was found guilty and was sentenced by the Special Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal for Corruption and Organized Crime, for committing the criminal offense "Passive corruption of judges, prosecutors and other justice officials", provided by article 319/ç of the Criminal Code.

The irregular exercise of duty by the magistrate, even for the nature of the criminal fact committed, constitutes a very serious disciplinary violation, which has brought consequences for the delivery of justice, has seriously discredited the judge's image, authority, dignity and has seriously damaged public trust in the magistrate and in the justice bodies.

HIJ inspectors requested the disciplinary measure "Dismissal", a request that was accepted by the High Judicial Council.

MAY OF HIJ IN NUMBER

During **May** the Office of High Inspector of Justice has administered **107 complaints**, **105** of which were submitted by citizens and **2 submitted** by institution.

High Inspector of Justice Office has performed the standard confirmation process of receiving complaints for all the new complaints submitted during May 2024. 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.

ARCHIVED	VERIFICATION	DISCIPLINARY PROCESS
<p>45 decisions from 129 reviewed practices (84 consolidated complaints specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 31 archiving decisions after the initial review ◆ 14 archiving decisions after verification 	<p>9 verification decisions</p>	<p>1 decision to initiate a disciplinary investigation for 1 magistrate</p>

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.

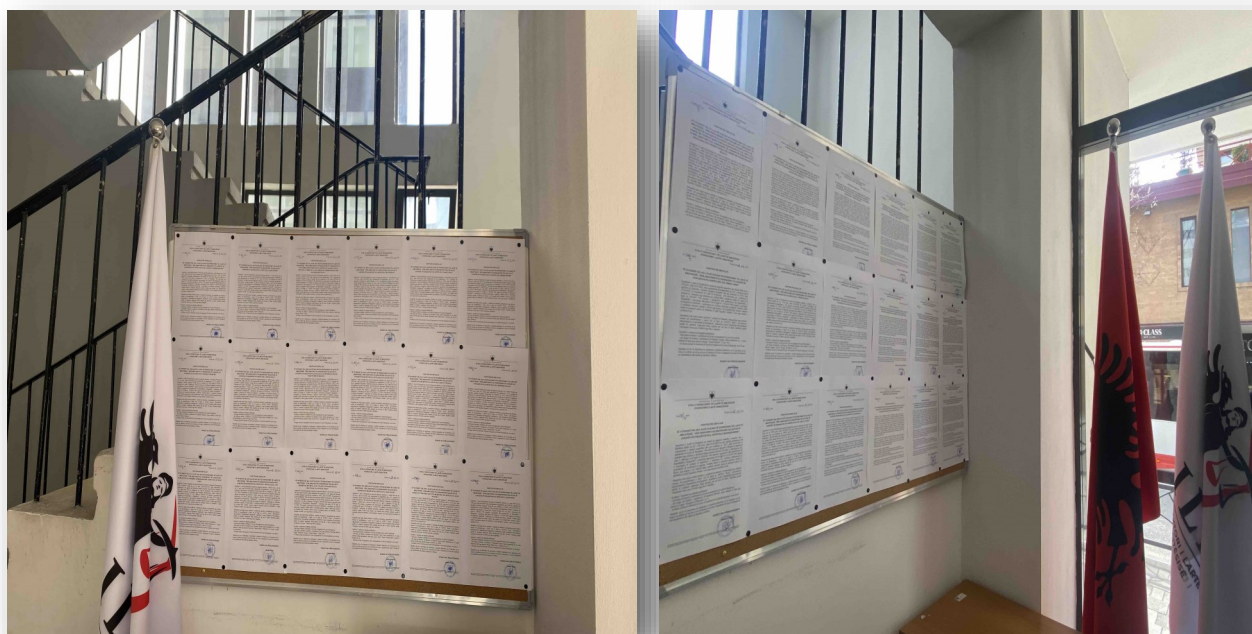
Upon receipt of the complaint, the High Inspector of Justice within 5 days confirms in writing its receipt.

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**".

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS

Even during the month of **May 2024**, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice made public announcements of archiving decisions for **6 complainants**, who were unreachable at the addresses communicated by them. In addition to the stands of the HIJ, 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.



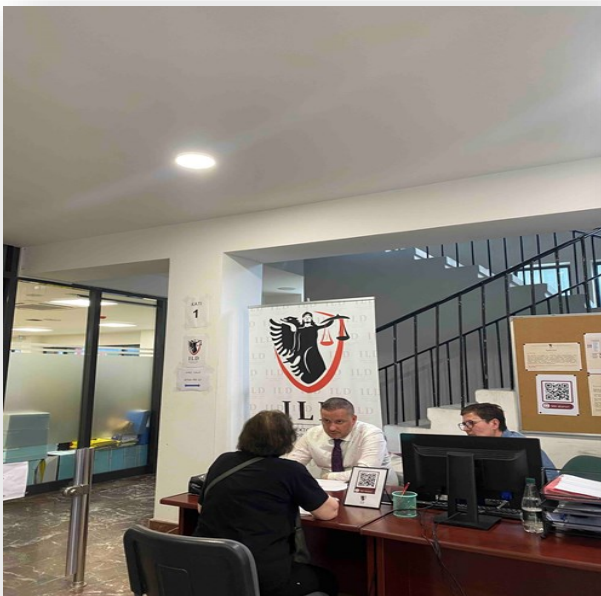


While assisting the complainants

The team of complaints office welcomes citizens-complainants every working day from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm, while for increased communication with interested citizens, in addition to communication through the website and official address, the Office

of the High Inspector of Justice has made available the phone number +355 4 2217217.

Coordinator for the right to information is part of this sector



*During the month of **May 2024**, the Complaints and Public Relations Sector received **28 complainants**, who appeared at the premises of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, and **19 phone calls** from citizens, who requested information on the stage of their complaints or Information on completing the TIP complaint form.*



CORDINATOR FOR THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

In accordance with the principles and rules provided for in law no. 119/2014 "On the right to information", the coordinator for the right to information in the Office of the High Inspector of Justice, enables every applicant the right to be familiar with public information, as well as communicates according to the need with the applicant regarding the processing of the request for public information.

Requests for information are filed by

citizens, legal entities, interested groups, and can be send through the "Albanian Post", e-mail at the address: info@ild.al, as well as the e-mail of the coordinator for 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 **May 2024**, at the Office of High Inspector of Justice, **15 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).

HIJ ON TWITTER

Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur Metani reposted
USEmbassyTirana @USE... · 8.5.24
 The Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (#OPDAT) at the U.S. Embassy in Tirana was proud to facilitate a meeting between High Inspector of Justice Artur Metani and key leaders at the U.S. Department of Justice. During his visit to Washington DC... [Show more](#)



Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur M... @ILD_Albania

Mirënjohje për inkurajimin dhe mbështetjen e vazhdueshme të SHBA në forcimin e shtetit të së drejtës në Shqipëri dhe në drejtim të efencës e profesionalizmit të ekipit të Zyrës së ILD

Translate post



From ild.al

Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur M... @ILD_Albania

Kënaqësi komunikimi me profesionistë në NY. Krenari për **Edit Shkreli** gjyqtarja e parë shqiptare e zgjedhur në Nju Jork. Uroj të hapë rrugën edhe për të tjerë profesionistë të talentuar. @APEN_USA për organizimin Ambasadore @suelajanina ild.al/sq/2024/05/10/...

Translate post



Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur M... @ILD_Albania

Fuqizimi i kapaciteteve të inspektimit mbetet prioritet i qëndrueshëm i #ILD, me trajnime periodike me institucione homologe të vendeve të BE, nga institucione ndërkombëtare e tashmë si praktikë e qëndrueshme me memorandumun me Shkollën e Magjistraturës ild.al/sq/2024/05/16/...



Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur M... @ILD_Albania

Zyra e Inspektorit të Lartë të Drejtësisë mori pjesë në konferencën përmbyllëse të projektit COPEJ " Bashkëpunimi në mbrojtjen e mjedisit përmes autoriteteve kombëtare të inspektimit të drejtësisë". #ILD #RESJ #Copej

Translate post



From ild.al



Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë... · 23.5.24

Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë performon me standarde, standarde të konfirmuara nga këshillat dhe nga KPA. Dhe kjo është themelore për t'u trajtuar si standard pune i kontrollit të jashtëm që bën Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë. #ILD #Informiparlamentar

Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur M... @ILD_Albania

"Unë nuk jam SPAK-u dhe nuk do bëhem asnjëherë SPAK-u i gjyqtarëve dhe prokurorëve dhe kjo është themelore sa i përket institucionit të kontrollit të jashtëm të gjyqtarëve dhe prokurorëve siç është #ILD..."

Translate post



From ild.al

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👉 Po ndodh: Njësitë e inspektimit të #ILD-së: Përgatitja, kryerja dhe analizimi i inspektimeve klasike tematike, me fokus shërbimet e prokurorisë. Një angazhim i përbashkët i #CEPEJ #SEJIV & #EU4Justice #ILD

Translate post



Inspektori i Lartë i Drejtësisë Artur M... @ILD_Albania

👉 A keni dëshirë të kontribuoni në përmirësimin e sistemit të drejtësisë? #ILD ka shpallur 4 vende për Inspektorë jomagjistratë. 👉 Shikoni kushtet e kriteret dhe aplikoni! 📌 Afati për dorëzimin e dokumentacionit është data 26.06.2024 📌

Translate post



From ild.al



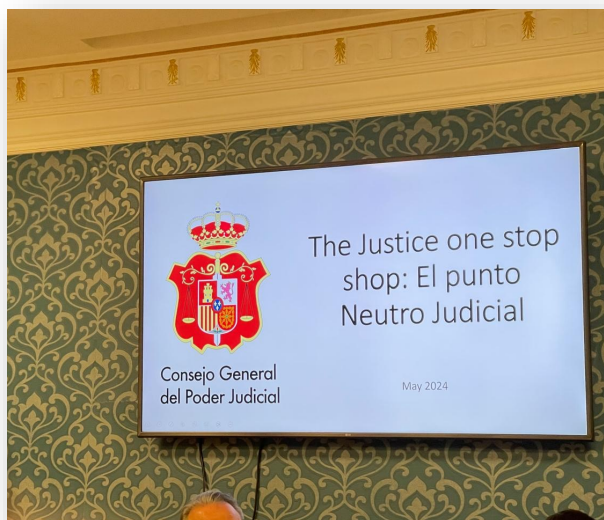
PRACTICES OF SPANISH HJC FOR HIJ TRANSPARENCY

A short-term mission of experts from the General Council of the Judiciary of Spain held working sessions with HIJ Office employees, with the aim of conducting a comprehensive analysis of the institution's current technological situation.

The purpose of this activity was to evaluate the current situation and suggest measures

to improve the efficiency and transparency of the HIJ, considering the necessity of creating and using a fully electronic complaint processing system.

Members of the cabinet, employees of the assistant inspectors' units, the directorate of drafting acts and legal services, the sector of methodology and standards, the sec-



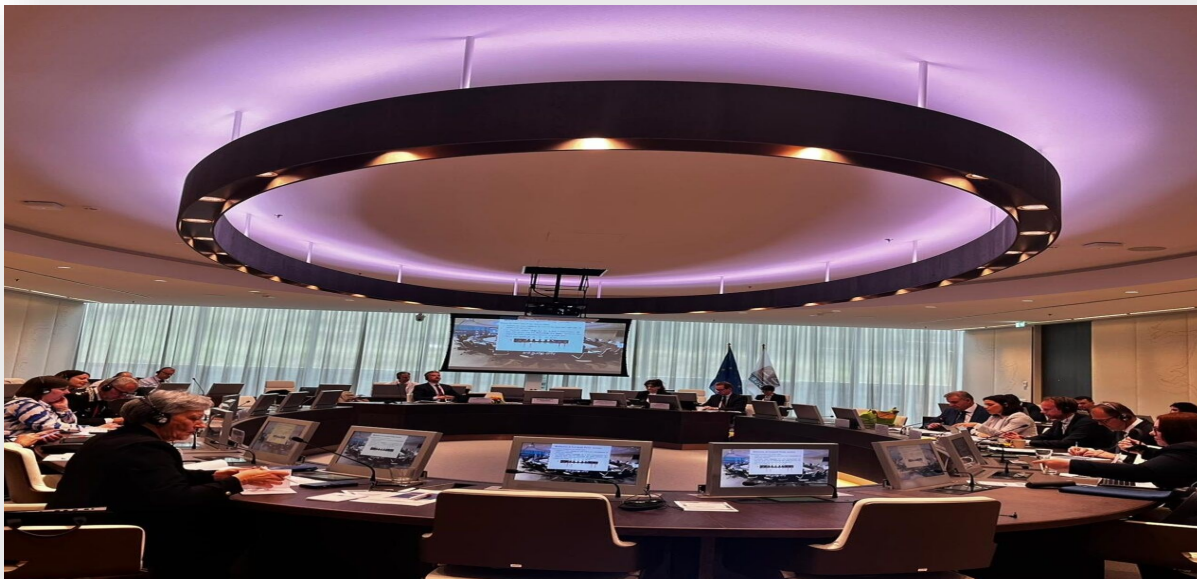


tor of information technology and the sector of archive-protocol, were introduced by the Spanish experts in information technology and documentation, to the context of the Spanish judiciary, best practices, instruments and the search engine model of decisions in judicial practices.

The experts of the Spanish HJC presented the judicial practice in the one-stop shop for access to data, information and interaction.

The activity is part of the support of the EU4Justice project for strengthening the capacities of the Office of the High Inspector of Justice.





JUSTICE IN PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT - A EUROPEAN PRIORITY

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice participated in the closing conference of the COPEIJ project “Cooperation for the protection of the environment through national justice inspectorate services”, which brought together representatives of the French General Inspectorate of Justice, the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Justice of Italy, the Superior Council of the Judiciary of Portugal, the Judicial Inspectorate of Romania and the Office of the High Inspector of Justice of Albania, members of the European Network of Justice Inspection Services (RESIJ). Launched two years ago, with funding from

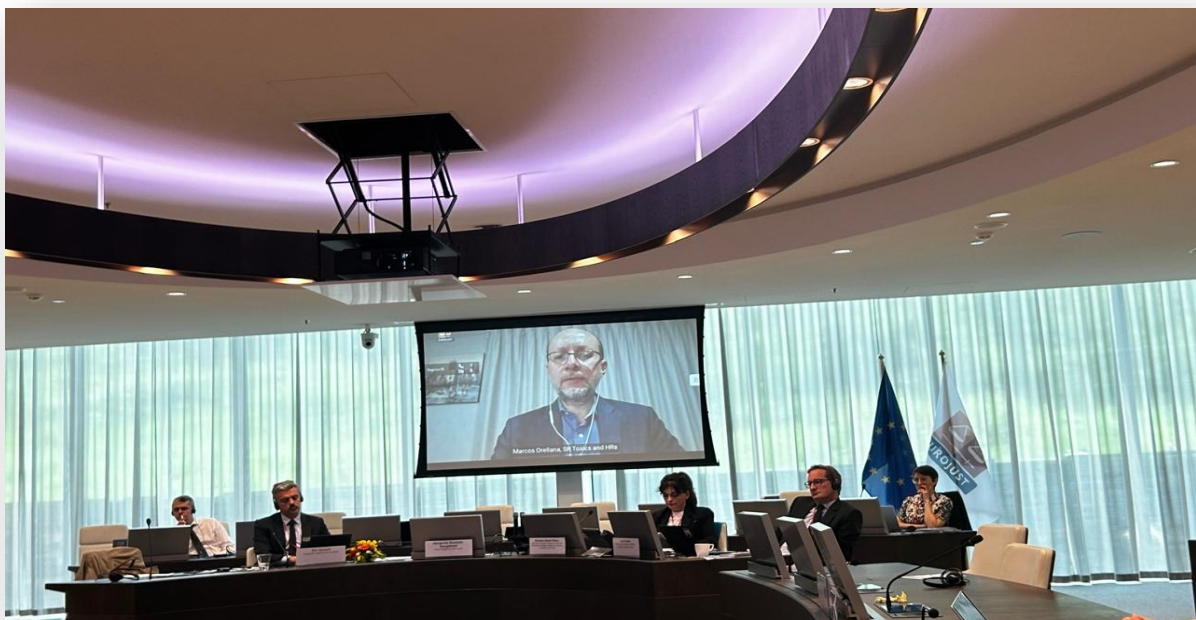




the European Commission, the COPEIJ project aims at supporting and promoting the effectiveness of environmental protection by criminal justice in the EU, by involving national inspection services, in the context of the new European Union directive of April 11 2024 for the protection of the environment through criminal law, which oblig-

es the member countries to adopt within two years, national rules in accordance with the provisions of this directive.

During the closing seminar, which was held at the premises of Eurojust in The Hague, the participants discussed the challenges of the fight against environmental crime, par-





ticularly in the field of fight against organized crime in Europe, recent developments in this field, and assessed the good practices and innovations identified by the COPEIJ team to improve its effectiveness.

Officials and experts from the European Commission, Eurojust, Europol, magistrates, heads of law enforcement bodies dealing with environmental crime, lawyers and lecturers from EU countries discussed during these two days the fight against environmental crime in Europe, national phenomena and priorities, challenges in the fight against environmental crime: judicial organization for efficient justice. Harmonization of judicial standards and practices, mechanisms to improve the fight against

environmental crime.

The Office of the High Inspector of Justice was represented by advisors Ms. Isida Koka and Ms. Mimosa Koçiu. Ms. Koçiu moderated the third roundtable on the topic “The fight against cross-border organized crime”.

Based on a common methodology, representatives of justice inspection services, part of the COPEIJ project have prepared national reports and then a joint report, identifying the main difficulties and presenting good practices related to environmental crime and common recommendations, a document that will be submitted to the European Commission.

Officials and experts from the European Commission, Eurojust, Europol, magistrates, heads of law enforcement bodies dealing with environmental crime, lawyers and lecturers from EU countries discussed during these two days the fight against environmental crime in Europe



HIJ IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT NON-MAGISTRATE INSPECTORS

In fulfillment of the mission of investigative activity, the Office of the High Inspector of Justice invites all interested persons to apply for 4 (four) vacancies for the position of "Non-Magistrate Inspector" in the Unit of Inspectors at the HIJ.

The inspector carries out verifications and administrative investigations about alleged disciplinary violations against judges and prosecutors of all levels, members of the High Judicial Council, members of the High Prosecutorial Council and the Prosecutor General, as well as for the institutional inspection of courts and prosecution offices.

In the exercise of his duty, the inspector collects data and evaluates any information or act that he considers to be or may be important for the execution of the duty, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedures and law no.

96/2016, dated 06.10.2016, "On the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania", as amended.

For interested candidates, the conditions, criteria, preliminary documents and method of submission can be found at the link:

<https://ild.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Shpallie-Inspektore-Jomagiistrate-27.05.2024.pdf>

More information about the announcement and qualification criteria can be found at the link: <https://ild.al/sq/rekrutim-inspektore-jomagiistrate/>

The deadline for submitting the documents is 26.06.2024

MAY 2024

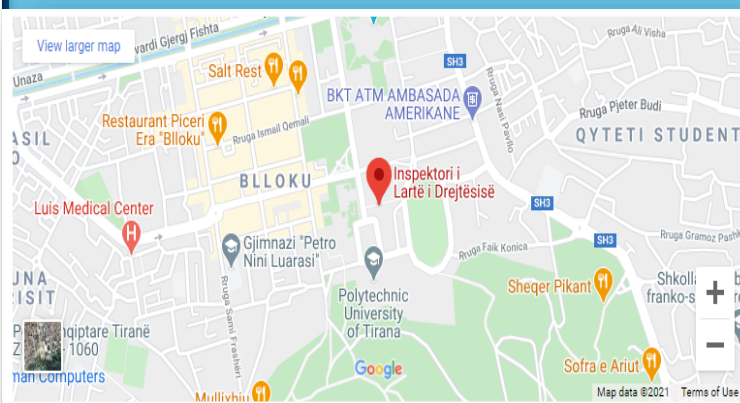
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