



Project 3016 – DGRESS_2021_21HR21 “Promotion of the rule of law and fundamental rights through high-quality online trainings in the Croatian judiciary”

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REPORT

OUTPUT 8

Communication material on the project

Activity 8.2

Report on communication

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Introduction

The following report provides a summary of the key communication materials published during the implementation period of the project *“Promotion of the rule of law and fundamental rights through high-quality online trainings in the Croatian judiciary”*. The Project aimed to support the Judicial Academy (JA) of the Republic of Croatia to improve the methodology, tools and expertise to design and deliver high-quality trainings, especially in the field of human rights and the rule of law, tailored to the needs of the Croatian judiciary.

As envisaged under Activity 8.2 of Output 8 *Communication materials of the project*, the Council of Europe project team has compiled in the current report social media texts drafted to be published on twitter, news item texts communicated through the Council of Europe’ as well as beneficiaries’ websites, and visual materials generated from one of the project’s major activity, namely the conduct of the Pilot Trainings for Croatian judges and prosecutors. All materials were produced in accordance with the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Framework Contribution Agreement REFORM/IM2021/012.

While the report produced under Activity 8.1 provided a technical overview of the project, designed for communication purposes to other EU Member States, the purpose of the current report is to communicate to the general public the project’s milestones. In addition, this report aims to disseminate the main results and conclusions drawn from several significant meetings, workshops, conferences and trainings designed and implemented in cooperation with the project’s beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

I. Social media texts prepared in the context of the project

- a. High-quality training on [#humanrights](#) and [#ruleoflaw](#) delivered to HR Judiciary thanks to the successful implementation of this project by [@coe](#) in coop w. [@EU_reforms](#), providing support to the Judicial Academy and the Office of the HR Representative before [@ECHR_CEDH](#). <https://bit.ly/3RcJIoP>

II. Text of news items published in the context of the project

- a. Modernisation of judicial trainings in Croatia: New EU-CoE project

On 16 November 2021 in Zagreb a new project aimed at the modernisation of judicial training in Croatia was jointly launched by the Council of Europe, the European

Commission (namely DG Reform) and the project partners: Judicial Academy and the Office of the Government Representative before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

The modernisation is an element of the strengthening of efficiency of Croatian judiciary which is one of the key elements of the rule of law. The need to improve the effectiveness of the justice system in Croatia, to shorten the length of court proceedings, reduce the backlog of cases and improve the digitalisation of judicial procedures, is highlighted in the [EU Rule of Law Report](#). The Croatian judiciary should be strengthened through development of remotely accessible training resources, and specifically training providing information on the existing standards in the field of human rights protection and the rule of law.

The Project “Promotion of the rule of law and fundamental rights through high-quality online trainings in the Croatian judiciary” will last 20 months and is aimed to support the Judicial Academy in Croatia to improve the methodology, tools and expertise to design and deliver high-quality trainings, especially in the field of human rights and the rule of law, tailored to the needs of the Croatian judiciary. The expertise of the CoE HELP ([Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals](#)) and its online courses (combining CoE and EU legal systems) will be crucial regarding the development of online training adapted to the national context. It will also take into consideration the [EU Judicial Training Strategy](#) adopted in 2021.

The event was attended by representatives of various stakeholders in the project: Judicial Academy of Croatia, Office of the Croatian Government Representative before the ECtHR, representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, as well as representatives of international organisations: Council of Europe and European Commission.

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b. Capacity building workshop at the Spanish Judicial School in Madrid

On 19 and 20 April 2023 representatives of the [Judicial Academy of Croatia](#) (JA) and the [Office of the Croatian Government Representative before the European Court of Human Rights](#) participated in a capacity building workshop at the Spanish Judicial School in Madrid. The visit was organised in the framework of the Project “[Promotion of the rule of law and fundamental rights through high-quality online trainings in the Croatian](#)

[Judiciary](#)” implemented by the Council of Europe (CoE) in cooperation with the European Commission [DG REFORM](#).

The aim of the workshop was to combine workshop for top officials and selected employees of the Judicial Academy and Office of the Representative with a peer-to-peer exchanges with representatives of the [Spanish Judicial School](#) (located in Barcelona) and the Centre for Legal Studies (continuous training for judges) in Madrid (located in Madrid). The technological and methodological elements of curricula design as well as digital learning solutions were presented and discussed. The topics of the workshop included digital knowledge and skills, technologies and methodologies needed for development of online training curricula and deployment of various online courses. The participants were able to get an overview of specific technical tools used in the implementation of an online or hybrid training programme as well as other practical, technical, structural and financial considerations in the implementation of digital learning solutions. Added value represented a visit to the Spanish Supreme Court providing insight in the rich history of the Spanish judicial and cultural heritage.

The Spanish Judicial School, founded in 1944, is the technical body of the Spanish General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) which is responsible for developing and executing the competences in the selection and training of judges and magistrates. The scope of the Judicial School is twofold. It is responsible for the selection and training of judges entering the judicial career, and for the continuous training of all members of the judicial career, in order to continue guaranteeing the best possible level of training.

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Additional texts of news items may be found in the [Council of Europe website](#) dedicated to the project as well as in the website of the [Judicial Academy of Croatia](#) and the [Office of the Croatian Government Representative before the European Court of Human Rights](#).

III. Visual materials from the project’s key events

Throughout the implementation period of the project, several conferences, workshops, and trainings were organised and conducted with considerable success. The following pictures constitute a brief illustration of the pilot trainings for judges and prosecutors in the area of the rule of law and fundamental rights, held in a face-to-face format.

Additional visual materials from the project's key events may be found in the [Council of Europe website](#) dedicated to the project.



Photo from the 8th Pilot Training for judges and prosecutors, held on 7 July 2023.



Photo from the 9th Pilot Training for judges and prosecutors, held on 30 June 2023.

Conclusions

Within the framework of strengthening the capacity to use methodology and tools to design and deliver high-quality judicial trainings, the Council of Europe was permanently communicating the project's major milestones, producing news items and visual materials on a regular basis.

Finally, the Judicial Academy and the Office of the Croatian Government Representative before the European Court of Human Rights, significantly contributed to the dissemination of the project's key achievements by actively publishing the project's main activities and results in their websites.