

Component 2: Reducing the number of unresolved cases

The total number of unresolved so called non-utility cases was reduced by 7% in 2012 as compared to 2011, thanks to increased activities aimed at reducing the number of old cases in the courts.

In 2013, the number of unresolved cases initiated in 1990 and earlier was reduced by 76%; the number of cases initiated in 1995 and earlier was reduced by 73%; the number of cases initiated in 2003 and earlier was reduced by 38%, all compared to 2012.

Thanks to the implementation of the Book of Rules on Orientational Measurements for the Performance of Judges and Legal Associates in the Courts in BiH, in 2012 we saw productivity in the performance of the courts rise by 10% compared to 2011, while 2013 saw a 9% rise compared to 2012.

Two thematic conferences were held – “Reducing the Number of Old Cases”, which were attended by court presidents. The objective of the conferences was to present trends in the work of the courts towards the resolution of old cases. The first conference was held on April 25, 2013 on Jahorina, while the second conference was held on November 4, 2013 in Teslic.



Thematic conference in Teslic

Thanks to the Plans for the solving of old cases, there was an increase in the number of courts that had resolved their old cases and had accordingly become current with their caseloads regarding the age breakdown of the cases. The completion percentages of the plans were regularly published at websites www.hjpc.ba and www.pravosudje.ba every three months. The objective of publishing the statistical data was to inform the general public of the activities taken under the IPA 2010 Project, with the reference to the work of the courts aimed at resolving old cases, thus increasing transparency in the performance of the judicial institutions, while at the same time encouraging the courts to raise their efforts in the resolution of the oldest cases.

In December 2013, new Instructions for the resolution of cases from the plans were adopted. Considering that the courts had resolved the oldest cases, the objective behind the adoption of the new Guidelines was to improve court performance results and get the courts to focus their efforts on processing cases that are over a year old with reference to when they were received by the court.

Adopted amendments to the Book of Rules on Orientational Measurements for the Performance of Judges and Legal Associates in the Courts in BiH with the objective of providing for a particular valuation for cases settled through alternative dispute resolution methods (mediation and court settlement) in order for these concepts to be utilised more by the courts.

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**Strengthening the Judiciary of
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Informatisation and Innovations
for a More Efficient Judiciary**



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Component 1: Continued Development of an Electronic Judiciary (E-Justice) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A feasibility study regarding the establishment of a database which would contain all laws and other legal regulations in effect in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been developed. The feasibility study contains recommendations and various technical solutions in connection with the establishment of the database.

Software solution for distance learning was developed and implemented in cooperation with the EU Delegation contractor and the judicial and prosecutorial training centres of the Federation BiH and the Republika Srpska. Its application will allow for a greater quality and cost-effectiveness in the transfer of knowledge and easier access to training materials, also offering the training participants greater flexibility (no constraints regarding time or place of training, the ability to independently plan for learning time, unlimited possibilities to repeat training material etc.)

A new functionality has been developed in the Case Management System for the courts and prosecutors' offices (CMS/TCMS) which allows for the application of the Book of Rules on Timeframes for Processing Cases in the Courts and Prosecutors' Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the standards of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe. Training for the use of these functionalities was carried out for 262 people within the judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Parties in proceedings will, as of July 1, 2014, be able to receive information on timeframes that have been predicted for the resolution of their cases.

The judicial web portal has been improved through tailor-made design and functionality adjustments based on user needs, while its structure and functionalities have also been enhanced. New functionalities have been launched within the judicial web portal:

An attorney directory

(http://pravosudje.ba/adresar_advokata)

and a Court Fee Calculator

(http://pravosudje.ba/sudske_takse).

Integral parts of the Human Resource Information System in the judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina were developed and implemented in pilot institutions. These modules are: Personal Records Module, the Self Service Module and Module for Administration of Users. In November 2013, one of the key modules of this information system – the computer-based Exam Module was used to test over 350 candidates for the judicial office. Thus far, the system has shown itself to be very successful and as of the first of May next year will be the only official system used to administer written tests for candidates for judicial office in BiH.

Numerous activities have been undertaken aimed at consolidation and optimisation of the judicial information system infrastructure. **1,267** computers were installed in the BiH judiciary were procured through IPA 2010, replacing outdated computers purchased from 2004 to 2006. Also, 31 scanners were procured and installed. New database servers were installed and launched allowing for greater stability and reliability in the performance of key applications, especially the Case Management System of the courts and prosecutors' offices (CMS/TCMS). Upgrades of the digital identity management system and of the email system at the data centres of the HJPC BiH were carried out. The total value of procured IT equipment and software licences for courts and prosecutors' offices throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the judicial information system data centres amounts to **1,800,000.00 €**.

In 2013, works on the installation of audio/video systems were completed in 10 cantonal and district courts, including the Basic Court of the Brčko District. By this, 11 courts in BiH acquired the physical and technical requirements for application of the witness protection measures throughout a trial. The renovation and adaptation of court buildings created the preconditions for improving the performance quality and achieving a greater level of efficiency of performance in processing war crime cases, as well as organised crime cases which due to their nature and complexity require special technical conditions in order to be processed successfully.

A video conferencing system connecting 19 courts, 8 prosecutors' offices and the HJPC BiH has been established. The use of video conferencing systems in the BiH judiciary will lead to time savings for witnesses and expert witnesses who were previously required to travel to locations, reduced travel expenses and other expenses for witnesses and expert witnesses, as well as increasing productivity since the system can also be used for the organisation of various meetings. The video conferencing system will also be used for implementing witness protection measures in the cantonal/district courts where separate rooms cannot be organised for protected witnesses. Protected witnesses who testify before such courts will be able to do so via video link while being located at another cantonal/district court.



New database servers