

Project „Strengthening the Professionalism in the Judiciary“, funded by Programme „Justice“ of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

Project Budget: 2 591 474,75 BGN (1 325 000 EUR)

Project Duration: 48 months

Programme Operator: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria

Beneficiary: Supreme Judicial Council

Project Partner: Norwegian Courts Administration

The project will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Updated Strategy to Continue the Reform of the Judicial System, and is created on the basis of the identified needs in the Bulgarian judicial system, related to the improvement of the specific procedures and rules for career development, appointment and selection of magistrates and better management and administration of the judiciary.

During the mutual visits, the practices of the Norwegian judiciary will be explored in order to identify practices and procedures, strengths and weaknesses, and identify mechanisms for adapting the good practices in the Bulgarian judicial system.

The project will contribute to improving the efficiency of the judiciary by improving the procedures for the appointment, selection and career development of magistrates, strengthening the capacity of the members of the Bulgarian judiciary to comply with and implement the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights. At the same time, the project will propose measures to promote the restorative justice approaches and their implementation in the Bulgarian context.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the application of the European legal framework by the Bulgarian judiciary. Specific objectives of the project are related to:

- carrying out an analysis of the Bulgarian legal framework, the Norwegian legal and regulatory methods, practices and approaches in different EU and EEA Member States for ensuring the better functioning of the Bulgarian judicial system in connection with the procedures for the appointment, selection and career development of magistrates;

- strengthening the capacity of the members of the Bulgarian judiciary in respecting the observance and implementation of the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights - sending Bulgarian magistrates for internships at the European Court of Human Rights and at the Department of Execution of Judgements, Council of Europe;
- improving the practices and procedures related to the implementation of restorative justice mechanisms;
- developing a single register of the judicial interpreters for more transparent and effective administration of justice.