



## ESF project "Justice for Growth"

Latvia

### Key facts

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

'Improve the competence of the staff of courts and law enforcement authorities to promote improvement of the business environment'

#### TARGET GROUPS



Judges, court staff, forensic experts, prosecutors, investigators, policy makers, policy implementers and other representatives of the legal professions such as lawyers, attorneys, arbitrators, notaries, mediators, insolvency administrators, bailiff and social partners.

#### BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

The Court Administration

#### PROJECT DURATION

01/01/2016 – 31/12/2022

#### COORDINATOR

Ms. Anna Skrjabina, Project Leader, Court Administration



[anna.skrjabina@ta.gov.lv](mailto:anna.skrjabina@ta.gov.lv)

#### PARTNERS

The Supreme Court, National Forensic Science Bureau, Ministry of the Interior and Prosecutor General's Office

#### BUDGET

**EUR 9,347,092.0**

ESF contribution

**EUR 1,654,251.0**

Other contribution



#### PROJECT/ORGANISATION WEBSITE



<http://bit.ly/2U0yaXZ>  
[www.ta.gov.lv](http://www.ta.gov.lv)



<https://www.facebook.com/tiesuadm/>

### Activities implemented

#### PROJECT IN NUMBERS



Participants in  
study visits



Training  
participants



Training  
topics



Conferences

#### MAIN PROJECT TASKS



Conduct an assessment of the judicial system; carried out by Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).



Develop materials on 80 topics for training outlining the principles for management of courts and law enforcement institutions, and preparation of court decisions and procedural documents. Organise training events. Modernise training environment.



Develop training management IT system as a support for effective training system for judiciary, including competence assessment.



Upgrade the information system of courts for improving public access to court decisions.

## Project journey: from conception to delivery

### INITIAL STAGE

#### CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

The government approved its 'White paper on Guidelines for the Development of the Judiciary 2009-2015' outlining problems and challenges for the judiciary - the high workload of courts, and the long time taken to conclude cases. The governmental agenda aimed to increase **motivation and professionalisation of the judiciary**, territorial reform of judiciary together with reform of other law enforcement institutions.

#### PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

'Justice for Growth' is **the first judicial reform project** to be carried out in Latvia on such an impressive scale. It presents challenges in terms of institutional cooperation, and brings new tools and methods to the institutions of the judiciary and law enforcement. The aim of the project is: 'to increase the competence of the staff in the courts and law enforcement institutions to promote the improvement of the business environment'.

#### MAIN CHALLENGES FACED, AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Within the framework of the project (2016), it has been realized that the comprehensive framework approach for the overall evaluation of the Latvian judicial system would be the perfect tool to propel it towards a model of **'rethink, redesign and rebuild'**. However, several challenges have occurred along the way in relation to the objective of ensuring the sustainable result of training sessions and building interconnection between the training and justice reforms. *Inter alia* between the main challenges to be mentioned is the aim to ensure the sustainability of the project's results and to move the entire justice system towards a more service-driven path.

#### KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The team began the project with **training-needs analysis** of partner institutions, enabling them to draw a comprehensive training and internship plan. Aside from procurement procedures, the team was busy organising the **assessment of the judicial system** delivered by CEPEJ, OECD and IMF. Finally, the team was actively involved in the procurement of services for developing the training program, organising the training, providing videoconference facilities and IT solutions for courts and insolvency issues to ensure transparency of the judiciary.

#### KEY RESULTS AND SUCCESS FACTORS

The project marks **a massive influx of knowledge** to the judicial system provided by training sessions. It also brings together judges, court staff, forensic experts, prosecutors, investigators, policy makers, policy implementers and other representatives of the legal professions, such as lawyers, attorneys, arbitrators, notaries, mediators, insolvency administrators, bailiff and social partners.

#### (EXPECTED) IMPACT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

The main achievements of the project so far have been the comprehensive assessment of the judiciary and the training of more than 7,000 participants (the project's target is to gather 11,433 participants to the training events). These outputs will feed into the **development of service-driven culture** of Latvian judiciary, having a positive impact on business environment.

#### LESSONS LEARNT: THE ROLE OF ESF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The ESF-supported project has contributed to strengthening the capacity of Latvian judiciary and law enforcement institutions. The team has learnt the benefits of **having international experts conducting assessments and training**, and carrying out ongoing training-needs assessment to include recent trends in the training curriculum. The team has also improved their project management skills and became aware of synergy between ESF and ERDF funding.

### PROJECT PHASE

### RESULTS, IMPACTS

### REFLECTIONS



Key components of the project.

Source: Court Administration, the project materials

## Personal experiences



'A reliable and efficient justice system is the cornerstone of country's prosperity. A good legal expert is capable to improve a bad law, while a bad one will spoil the best law. I am sure that the project "Justice for Growth" will contribute to the excellence of the Latvian business environment.'

**Jānis Endziņš**, *Chairman of the Board, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

'Boosting the potential of the justice system by investing in capacity building of legal professionals will to great extent impact the further development of the justice policy, enhancing access to justice and bringing innovative culture to judicial institutions.'

**Anna Skrjabina**, *Project leader, Court Administration*

The study "Progress Assessment of the ESF Support to Public Administration" (PAPA) aims to present specific cases of ESF-funded public administration reform and capacity building initiatives. The contractor prepared 30 case studies and factsheets on ESF supported projects funded in 17 beneficiary countries of Thematic Objective 11 during the programming period 2014-2020.

This document has been prepared for the European Commission. However it reflects the views of the authors only, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



**PPMi**

Find out more about the project by following the link <http://bit.ly/PAPA-PPMI> or scan the QR code using your smartphone camera.

©European Union 2020