**PROSECUTORS AND INVESTIGATORS PARTICIPATED IN SEMINARS ON THE TOPIC OF HATE CRIMES AND DISCRIMINATION CRIMES**

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| **Topic of the seminar** | **Organizer** | **Number of the prosecutors** | **Number of the investigators** |
| 2014 | | | |
| European anti-discrimination law- 3 trainings | European law academy | 3 |  |
| European law - Civil and administrative law aspects: anti-discrimination law and consumer protection law in the EU | The National Institute of Justice | 5 |  |
| Guarantees for protection against discrimination (Article 14 and Protocol 12). Protection of the rights of vulnerable groups | The National Institute of Justice | 5 | 3 |
| Total: 3 trainings |  | 13 | 3 |
| 2015 | | | |
| Hate crimes and other crimes with a discrimination element | Training Calendar for in-house training at the Prosecutor's Office of Republic of Bulgaria for the second half of 2015 | 15 | 5 |
| Guarantees for protection of discrimination (Article 14 ECHR and Protocol №2 of the Convention) | The National Institute of Justice | 3 |  |
| Total: 2 trainings |  | 18 |  |
| 2016 | | | |
| Hate crimes – 4 trainings, 2 of them for trainers | in-house training seminars and OSCE, NIJ | 34 | 1 |
| Общо 4 обучения |  | 34 | 1 |
| 2017 | | | |
| A round-table discussion on the topic: „Implementation of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights in the Bulgarian legislation and practice - criminal, civil and administrative law aspects“ | The National Institute of Justice | 4 |  |
| A round-table discussion on the implementation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights | The National Institute of Justice | 10 |  |
| Procedural violations in pre - trial proceedings. Practical issues related to the effective investigation of criminal cases in the context of compliance with the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms | The National Institute of Justice | 14 | 11 |
| A round-table discussion on the implementation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights | The National Institute of Justice | 10 |  |
| 5 trainings on “Effective Investigation - Practice of the ECHR and Analysis of the Prosecutor‘s office of Republic of Bulgaria " | Prosecutor‘s office of Republic of Bulgaria | 110 |  |
| Total: 9 trainings |  | 148 | 11 |
| 2018 (first three months) | | | |
| 3 trainings on the topic: “Hate crimes” | Prosecutor‘s office of Republic of Bulgaria in cooperation with ODIHR to OSCE | 35 |  |

**Trainings – further information**

Within the period February 2013 – April 2016, in collaboration with the Council of Europe (CoE), the NIJ implemented its major project in the field of fundamental rights’ protection focused on *“Increasing the capacity of the Judiciary and Training on the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms at the National Institute of Justice”* *funded under Program BG 14 of the Norway Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.* This project has had the largest contribution for strengthening the capacity of Bulgarian magistrates in the daily application of the established standards at European level. As a result, a specialized training curriculum for magistrates on *Domestic violence* was elaborated. It was developed jointly by Bulgarian magistrates and CoE experts, covering both international and national aspects, an overview of the relevant ECtHR case-law and the national court practice, incl. reviewing the practical issues springing from the application of the Act for Protection against Domestic Violence.

A special emphasis was put on the implementation of identified best practices of the CoE member states, aimed at counteracting *all forms of discrimination and domestic violence*. Two trainings based on the newly-developed curriculum were organized by the NIJ under the above-mentioned project in 2014. 62 participants in total (48 judges, 7 prosecutors, 3 investigating magistrates and 4 officers of the Ministry of Interior) attended them.

Additional focus was put on *Protection against the discrimination of the rights of vulnerable groups*. In 2014-2015, the NIJ organized a series of regional trainings on the subject of “*Guarantees for the Protection against Discrimination (Article 14 and Protocol 12); Protection of the Rights of Vulnerable groups*”. The latter were attended by 61 participants (41 judges, 10 prosecutors, 3 investigating magistrates, 2 judicial assistants, 2 experts of the Ministry of Justice and 3 experts of the Ministry of Interior).

In the period 2014-2017, the NIJ delivered four *e-learning courses* for magistrates and court clerks on *“Proceedings for the imposition of protection measures against Domestic Violence”* (developed and piloted in 2012).

The course covered the established national and international standards in the field of *domestic violence* and the relevant case-law. It was also focused on practical issues related to the implementation of the Act on Protection against Domestic Violence *(both civil and criminal aspects).* It was developed and tutored by an interdisciplinary team of trainers consisting of magistrates, a psychologist and a psychiatrist. The e-learning methodology provided for a thorough and systematic presentation of the course content and a higher level of interaction among trainees throughout the course, thus contributing to raising the effectiveness of the training. A total number of 122 participants (50 judges, 18 prosecutors, 1 investigating magistrate, 5 recordation judges, 1 state enforcement agent and 47 court clerks) successfully completed the course within the above mentioned period.

In 2015, in collaboration with NGOs and the MJ, the NIJ organized three seminars under *the project “Application of Integral Approach in the field of Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence; Training curricula for Magistrates and Programs for Victims’ Support”.* These courses were developed by an interdisciplinary group of experts consisting of representatives of the court, prosecution offices, and NGOs. A total number of 54 Bulgarian magistrates (judges and prosecutors) from all over the country were trained on issues related to *domestic violence*, while the developed training materials were compiled in *the manual “Legal Aspects of Domestic Violence in Bulgaria”*. It comprised legal definitions, practical assignments and European legal provisions pertaining to *domestic violence,* and became a valuable tool in the daily work of Bulgarian justice professionals.

Since 2015, the subject of *Domestic violence* alsofalls within the NIJ Regional Training Program scope of activity.

In 2018*,* the NIJ developed and piloted an e-learning course on *Criminal aspects of Domestic violence /*under the project *“Innovative Products and Services in the Training delivered by NIJ”, funded under Operational program “Good governance”* *and co-funded by the EU/*. A team composed of academic (university instructor) and practitioner (prosecutor at the Supreme Prosecution Office of Cassation) developed the course. 38 participants (10 judges, 18 prosecutors, 2 investigating magistrates, 6 court clerks and 2 officers of the Ministry of Interior) graduated the training.

Certain aspects of Gender-based Violence are covered also in the curriculum of other trainings organized by the NIJ and falling within the continuing qualification of magistrates’ scope of activity. Issues, such as *domestic violence and sexual abuse* and *sex discrimination* are examined thoroughly in the *HELP e-learning course on Family law and Human rights* (adapted and carried out for Bulgarian magistrates on an annual basis in 2014-2016 and completed successfully by a totality of 53 participants, including 31 judges, 4 prosecutors, 3 state enforcement agents, 1 recordation judge and 14 court clerks). Questions pertaining to *discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity* are considered in detail in the curriculum of the *HELP course on Antidiscrimination* (offered to justice professionals in three editions within the period 2015-2017 and completed by 74 trainees, including 48 judges, 6 prosecutors, 3 state enforcement agents, 2 recordation judges and 15 court clerks). Both HELP e-learning courses are integrated in the NIJ curriculum for subsequent delivery in the continuing training of magistrates. Whenever possible, they are organized for mixed groups of participants for the purpose of bettering the collaboration and the exchange of best practices between the different groups of professionals.

A series of trainings on Financial investigation and Trafficking in Human beings (especially involving women and girls) were developed and implemented at the end of 2013 by the NIJ and the Dutch Training and Study Centre for the Judiciary under *the EU funded project “Bulgarian Law-enforcement and Judicial Chain in the Field of Human Trafficking focused on Financial investigation and Asset recovery”.* Though the course content emphasis was placed on *financial investigation and seizure* it also paid attention to some important issues of *Gender-based violence*. These trainings were organized for Bulgarian magistrates and attended by 35 participants (12 judges, 10 prosecutors, 10 investigating magistrates and 3 experts at the State Agency for National Security). A specialized Train the Trainer course *focused on investigation of financial crimes related to trafficking in human beings* was also organized under the project. A totality of 19 trainers was trained (7 judges, including also a judge at the Specialized Criminal court, 6 prosecutors and 6 experts at the State Agency for National Security).

Issues pertaining to Gender-based Violence are included in the curriculum of the compulsory initial training of the candidates for junior judges and the candidates for junior prosecutors. *The proceedings for the imposition of protection measures against domestic violence* are presented as a separate topic within the training module on Family law for the candidates of junior judges, while 12 astronomical hours of the training curriculum of the candidates for junior investigators are dedicated to the topic *“Trafficking in Human Beings”* with focus on *the illegal trafficking of women for sexual exploitation*.

Until 2017 a module on *Trafficking in Human Beings* was presented as part of the training curriculum of the candidates for junior judges and the candidates for junior prosecutors, but due to the fact that such cases fall within the jurisdiction of district courts.

Over the last decade ERA has run two series of seminars on Gender Equality Law and Anti-discrimination Law with a focus on [Directive 2000/43](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2000:180:0022:0026:EN:PDF) that prohibits all forms of discrimination based on race or ethnic origin and on [Directive 2000/78](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2000:303:0016:0022:EN:PDF) that prohibits all forms of discrimination in employment and occupation based on religion or convictions, handicap, age and sexual orientation. The majority of those seminars addressed the judiciary from all EU Member States. 72 Bulgarian judges and prosecutors took part in those venues.

Since both series are coming to an end in December 2018, the European Commission has published a new call for tenders aiming at continuing the project. The NIJ has recently supported ERA with a partnership declaration and declared its willingness to host a seminar on antidiscrimination in Bulgaria in 2020.

Additionally**,**  in the period 2018 – 2020 the OSCE in partnership with the Institute for Police Education at Linnaeus University and in co-ordination with the OSCE Gender Section & ODIHR is implementing an EU co-funded *project “Effective Criminal Justice Strategies and Practices to Combat Gender-based Violence in Eastern Europe”* in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

The project is aimed at enhancing the responsiveness, professional knowledge, skills and technical capacities of criminal justice practitioners, in particular first responder police officers, investigators and prosecutors in addressing GBV, thus contributing to an increased public trust in the criminal justice system response and subsequently an expected higher level of reporting of GBV cases.

Under the new program cycle of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, NIJ is a promoter of a pre-defined project focused on **Domestic Violence** – ***“Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”***. The project will be implemented by NIJ in collaboration with the MJ for a period of 4 years. Its budget amounts to 250 000 Euro.

The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of Bulgarian authorities (laying an emphasis on reinforcement of the capacity of the justice professionals as NIJ main target group) to comply with the institutional practices and European standards in the area of Domestic and Gender-based Violence.

In the course of the implementation of the extended EASO Special Support Plan to Bulgaria, in the fall of 2018, the NIJ and EASO are jointly planning a study visit to an EU-member country. Target administrative courts, identified by the partners, are due to specify the practical issues, to be discussed during the visit, while EASO will designate foreign experts to act as trainers and proceed with the adaptation of the training materials.

Furthermore, an international project “Honour Ambassadors against Shame Practices”, involving a multi-disciplinary consortium from Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain and Britain, intended was conducted, aiming at identifying and sharing good practices in the prevention and combating of violent practices (early marriages and the so-called ‘honour crimes’).

The MI, jointly with NGOs, organised 18 trainings with 404 participants, of which 7 were conducted at police departments in the City of Sofia, the Region of Sofia, the City of Pernik, the City of Pleven, the City of Ruse and the City of Silistra (November – December 2017) and the City of Plovdiv (March 2018). A total of 307 police officers were trained.