



Regional Cooperation Council

RULE OF LAW





RULE OF LAW

The Regional Cooperation Council is
working towards

**independent and accountable judiciary, and
transparent and efficient public services in
South East Europe**

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

Our goals are:

- **Reliable** and predictable **judiciary** with laws **equally applied to all**
- Improved capacity, **independency** and accountability of **judiciaries**
- **Better** mutual **legal** assistance
- Enhanced **courts'** **efficiency** and reduced backlogs
- **Transparent** decision-making process
- **Increased integrity** of public institutions



WHAT DID THE RCC DO SO FAR TO GET THERE?

The RCC has:

- **Established** SEE Judicial Training Institutions Network and launched SEE Associations of Mediators Network
- **Acted** as a hub for cooperation for these two networks, developing training tools and materials, and creating regional expert database
- **Supported** regional activities enhancing cooperation between prosecutors and police
- **Promoted** mediation as backlog reduction tool
- **Contributed** to quality improvement of public services
- **Developed** tools for corruption proofing of legislation and corruption risk assessment
- **Found out** what people in SEE think about whistleblowing
- **Supported** establishment of SEE Coalition for Whistleblower Protection and production of a documentary film on whistleblowing



WHERE DOES THE REGION STAND NOW?

- Slow progress in setting up functioning and independent judicial systems
- Lack of independence and accountability of judicial systems
- Court backlogs challenge efficiency of judiciaries
- Weak implementation of merit-based criteria in process of judges and prosecutors appointment
- Insufficient knowledge of EU legislation
- Mediation is still an inefficient case resolution tool
- Faces instable institutions with non-transparent processes
- Fails to properly address corruption as it still faces high rates of bribery
- Provides insufficient protection to those who report corruption



WHAT THE PEOPLE/BUSINESS THINK?

SEE citizens say they do not have confidence in judicial system, therefore reforms are inevitable.

27%

of the SEE population say corruption is one of the main issues their economy is facing



The majority of the SEE population

73%

say they do not consider that their government effectively fights corruption

78%

of people in South East Europe believe JUDICIAL SYSTEM is not independent from political influence



71%

do not have CONFIDENCE in courts and judiciary

83%

think that law IS NOT APPLIED to everyone equally



WHAT THE RCC WILL DO NEXT TO CHANGE THIS?

We will:

- **Contribute to courts' efficiency** by strengthening mediation
- **Enhance independency and accountability** of judiciary by ensuring their regional cooperation
- **Build capacities** of judges and prosecutors through regional activities on international standards
- **Share information** of regional relevance on the rule of law
- **Develop** regional standards for public consultations on policies and legislation
- **Push** for further corruption prevention actions
- Help **strengthen capacities of the corruption preventive bodies**
- **Enhance** regional cooperation on corruption risk assessment and corruption proofing of legislation

HOW?

Through:

- Enabling regular meetings of the two SEE Networks - judicial training institutions and associations of mediators - and supporting their institutional and capacity building
- Coordinating projects in the area of judicial training and mediation
- Developing studies on best practices and organising regional trainings in cooperation with European Judicial Training institutions
- Raising awareness on the importance of mediation
- Serving as a link to European institutions and networks in the area of judicial training and mediation
- Mobilising high level political commitment to address corruption and make public services efficient
- Advocating decentralisation and principle of subsidiarity
- Involving civil society in anti-corruption action and public administration reform monitoring at the regional level



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The Regional Cooperation Council serves regional cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe in order to spark development in the region to the benefit of its people

JUSTICE

HOME AFFAIRS

ANTICORRUPTION

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

Good. Better. Regional.



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