



# Semi-annual report of the President of the National Office for the Judiciary



# **Semi-annual report of the President of the National Office for the Judiciary**



**NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE JUDICIARY**

**2016**



## Dear Reader,

The Constitution states that “*courts administer justice*”. The administration of justice and the enforcement of the laws are not an end in themselves. They are the guarantees for the fulfilment of basic human needs and for the endeavour for order, regulation, security and welfare. The court has to be an institution that evidently symbolizes and embodies these values. The efficient operation of the judicial organization is required for these purposes in order to be able to maintain the social trust.

The Act on the organization and administration of the courts provides substantial authorization for the creation of the efficient operation of the judicial organization. The Act obliges the President of the National Office for the Judiciary to determine the programme containing the long-term tasks of the judicial administration and their preconditions and to update the same annually. The strategic goals have been steady from the beginning for four and a half years; their significance and correctness are clearly confirmed by the quantitative results of the first half of the presidential term. As JÓKAI Mór noted: “*only those can tell how far we have come that saw from where we began*”.

The organization development programme “*For service-providing courts!*” that ended in the first half of 2016 and the programme “*Sustainable development*” that started at the same time have yielded extraordinary results. Inter alia, a great decrease has been reached in the number of the long-time pending cases.

The efficiency is also served by the creation of the wide-ranging electronic means of communications with the courts that also brought some new results in this semi-annual term. The idea of the open and service-providing court of the 21st century more and more becomes our reality. Our development plans are aimed at making the access to the courts even simpler and easier. All these ideas provide such access to the courts that is independent from

time and space. In my opinion this is the future and consequently this is our route to follow, as well.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the judiciary so far, either internally or externally. I hope we can count on their support in the future, as well, as the competitiveness and the right administration of justice is our mutual interest. As JUHÁSZ Andor, a former President of the Curia concluded: *“judicature is not an isolated administrative function but the most important manifestation of the existence of the state that has to develop parallel with the general progress of culture”*.

**Tünde HANDÓ, Dr.**

*President of the National Office for the Judiciary*

# I. Strategy of the President of the National Office for the Judiciary

The strategic goals determined by the president of the National Office for the Judiciary (hereinafter: NOJ) are the following:

- to fulfil the constitutional duties of the courts, timely and high quality jurisdiction by independent judges,
- efficient allocation and utilization of human resources,
- to ensure, and effectively allocate and utilize assets,
- integrity of the court system, transparency of jurisdiction and the administration of courts, the predictability and supervision of the latter,
- easier access to the courts,
- improvement of the training-system, co-operation with other professions.



## **II. Administration of justice by the judiciary**

### **First half of 2016:**

- the courts received nearly 770,000 cases, 4% less than in the same period of the previous year. This decrease was caused by a more than 20% drop in the volume of misdemeanour cases and court enforcement cases at a district court level.
- the courts completed 793,000 cases that is a decrease of 4.4% compared to the first half of 2015 but this was caused by the smaller number of incoming cases.
- 87% of the litigation cases were completed within 1 year from their submission to the courts, continuing the positive tendency of the previous years.
- the number of pending cases decreased by more than 6% compared to the figures of the previous year.
- the average duration of the completed lawsuits also changed for the better.

The country-wide balance of the judicial workload is shown by the comparison of the national average to the case number heard by each court chamber or by each judge. The purpose of the NOJ is that the deviation from the average should not exceed 15% at any court level or field of law.

### **Timely administration of justice**

The programme “*For service-providing courts!*” declared by the President of the NOJ aims at the administration of justice within due time and the same goals were determined in the programme for the decrease of the number of such lawsuits pending for over two years. Both programmes ended on 31 March 2016 as a result of which the number of litigation cases pending for over two years decreased by 26.88% country-wide within 10 months.

Altogether 13 regional courts managed to decrease the number of lawsuits pending for over two years by at least 20% and in four regional courts the drop reached 40%.



## **Caseload of the Administrative and Labour Courts**

A record volume of more than 10,000 cases were filed to the administrative courts during the first half of 2016, while the number of new cases increased by over 10% in the labour matters. Altogether more than 18,000 cases were received by the Administrative and Labour Courts.

### **Asylum cases**

The measures of the government, applied to the counties of Bács-Kiskun, Csongrád, Zala, Baranya, Vas and Somogy in September 2015 in connection with the mass migration emergency situation, also influenced the caseload in the first half of 2016.

From the start, the court organization ensured special work schedules, even amid the vast number of incoming cases, and the judges and the administrative personnel worked overtime so that these criminal cases can be dealt with in expedited hearings, within 72 hours from the arrest of the defendants, every day of the week, in extended working days and to handle these cases with priority as prescribed by law.





### ■ III. Administration of the judiciary

#### Number of judicial leaders

In the judicial organization as of 30 June 2016 there were 396 leaders appointed for a definite period of time and 303 leaders appointed for an indefinite period of time, that is altogether a number of 699 leaders were active in the judicial organization.

In the first half of 2016 the appointment of 6 leaders belonging under the authority of the President of the NOJ expired, while before January 2016 the appointment of 9 leaders expired after the expiry of their definite period of time. The tendering for these 15 positions is currently being performed.

In the first half of 2016 6 judicial leaders were appointed for a period of 6 years (1 vice-president of a regional court and 5 chairmen of judicial chambers) and 1 leader was appointed for a period of 1 year.

Beyond the above, the presidents of the regional courts decided on the appointment of 24 administrative managers during the reporting period.

#### Realization of the judicial administration

##### ***Decisions of the President of the NOJ***

The president of the NOJ issued 6 regulations, 1 guideline and 382 resolutions (300 HR-related and 82 organization-related) before 30 June 2016 while also taking into consideration the opinions of the National Council of Judiciary (NCJ) and the courts.



### ***Targeted audits and surveys***

In the first half of 2016 the president of the NOJ ordered and completed several targeted audits and surveys to analyze some topics of crucial importance and to facilitate the codification of procedural laws, furthermore also at the requests of presidents of regional courts or as a result of complaints and notifications of public interest. Some of the concerned topics were:

- Monitoring of the practice of repeals in criminal cases,
- Country-wide control of the fees of court-appointed defence attorneys for the inspection of the case files,
- Criminal cases beyond the statute of limitation period,
- Examination of the civil law cases concerning quality, priority and the litigated amount.

### ***Working groups***

The president of the NOJ creates working groups to collect and utilize the expertise and experience of the judiciary, to reach a specific goal or to perform special work.

In the first half of 2016 the assignments of 6 of 13 working groups were prolonged; 2 working groups finished their operation (the Claim Enforcement Working Group and the Working Group for District and small courts) and then with new members and new tasks continued to operate.

### ***Pilot programmes***

The NOJ examines some of the significant ideas, applications and work methods, that may be introduced country-wide, at a local level for the sake of proper facilitation, transparency and reliability before their wide-scope implementation. In the first half of 2016



such programmes were carried out in the fields of work organization, workload measurement and voice recognition software.

### **Professional networks**

By creating professional networks, the professionals of the judiciary being in direct connection with each other and having special professional knowledge, can work in a consistent, rapid and successful way. In recent years several professional networks were formed that still continue to operate:

- Legal consultation network in European law,
- Spokesman and press secretary network,
- network of the contact persons of the Open Court Programme,
- professional and coordination network of the Children-Centred Judiciary,
- network of contact persons for projects.

### **Sharing good practices**

During the course of their operation the courts work out several solutions, practices, methods and applications that ensure a more efficient, more timely, more accurate work or solutions. The NOJ considers the spreading of these practices throughout the country as one of its top priorities.

In the first half of 2016 the following good practices were shared:

- the regulation of the Eger Regional Court on the tasks of instructor judges and on the mentoring and assistance system,
- information sheet and supplementary materials created for the national witness care programme,
- surveys for employee satisfaction,
- automatization of forms facilitating law enforcement matters created by the Szolnok Regional Court.

### **Competitions**

As a closure of the Mailáth György Scientific Award announced in 2015, the symposium of the award-winners were held on 18 March 2016 at Hungarian Academy of Justice. The publication containing the award-winning papers can be accessed in the form of an e-book, as well.

The president of the NOJ announced the competition “*Tradition and history of the judiciary*” in 2015, as well. 2 Regional Courts of Appeal and 11 Regional Courts submitted successful applications. The resources of the tender were spent on the renovation of the



funeral monument of judge Antal VLASICS, on dedication ceremonies and renovation of three memorial tablets, on the preparation of nine publications, on one exhibition, two book launches and two conferences.

Furthermore two more calls for proposals were announced for the improvement of court mediation.

The purpose of the Programme *“For service-providing courts!”* is ensuring timely administration of justice, the strengthening of the client relations, the improvement of the cooperation with other authorities and to provide consistent defence against unjust attacks. After the initial success of the programme the president of the NOJ announced the Sustainable Development Programme for the maintenance and communication of the results. All regional courts and regional courts of appeal of the country joined the programme that consists of three pillars:

- timely administration of justice at a high standard,
- judicial and administrative careers,
- client relations and communication.

In the first half of 2016 the tender *„Use your language skills and creativity”* was announced again. For further information please refer to the chapter *„International relations of the judicial organization”*.

### ***Internal projects***

The NOJ coordinates a number of tasks that include several fields and require tight cooperation for the permanent management of a comprehensive field of great importance. The efficient management requires special work organization therefore the NOJ, following the organizational good practices of the EU, created internal projects to facilitate the complex overview and for the alignment of the different professional fields. These projects are:



- renewal of the training and further training of judges and judicial employees (KéP-I.),
- video and audio recording in the court rooms at a national level and remote interviews (TTKH project)
- smooth preparation and execution of the setting up of the Szigetszentmiklós District Court .

### **Cooperation agreements**

One of the strategic goals of the president of the NOJ is sharing knowledge with other legal professions and to form an efficient cooperation to reach common goals. For this purpose several cooperation agreements were concluded in the first half of 2016.

The preparation of the cooperation agreement between the presidents of the NOJ and the Curia started in the first half of 2016 for the purposes of the development of the unified national integrated judicial library system, for its renewal in line with the domestic and international user requirements and for the support of the administration of justice, professional, scientific and research activities of the judges. The agreement is planned to be signed in the second half of 2016.

In the framework of the partnership agreement concluded by the NOJ and the Moholy-Nagy Art University (MOME) the first assignment was that MOME prepared the Image Manual of the planned client centres of the courts and based on this manual and presenting its results a sample stall was set up in the entrance hall of the building of the NOJ in the Szalay Street. Here the new concept, the client space, the arrangement and the suggested furniture were presented.

In April 2016 the second common project of the two organizations commenced: the preparation of the tender to be issued for the designing of the new unified judge robes.



## **National programmes**

The president of the NOJ considers as her prioritized goal to strengthen the service-providing character of the courts and to improve them to 21st century standards. For this purpose the national programmes announced in the recent years continue.

### ***Open Court***

As a part of the social responsibility, the courts should participate in the dissemination of legal knowledge. Within the programme launched by the NOJ the pupils can become familiar with the legal system, the course of the administration of justice and with the judicial institutions in discussion classes with their form master, in moot courts and in actual court hearings and court visits. The courts are trying to bring the Hungarian judicial system close to the youngsters and to the citizens interested in the court work in more and more creative ways with new methods.

### ***Children-centred Judicature***

The purpose of the programme is to provide a judicial system that ensures that the rights of children are respected and protected at the highest possible standard. The aims of the programme are assisted by an assigned working group also in 2016. In the first half of 2016 the primary aim of this group was to work out the training schedule of the judges that hear cases involving children. Another goal of the Children-cen-



tred Judicature Working Group for 2016 is to fight domestic violence and to organize a conference on this topic.

### ***Witness care and victim protection***

Starting from 2015 a wide-scope and efficient victim protection programme has been added to the national witness care programme. The NOJ is committed to enable the victims to receive customized and professional assistance although primarily it is not the courts' task to provide this. Therefore it is necessary to create an information network with the help of which the court can direct the victim to the adequate organization.

17 regional courts have protected witness interview rooms as of the first half of 2016 but also the regional courts without a designated witness room try to facilitate the separated waiting facility for the witnesses.

The number of the witness caretakers is growing dynamically from year to year; there were 227 witness caretakers at the beginning of 2016.

It is important to highlight that a successful two-day training was organized by the NOJ in May 2016 with the title „*National witness care and victim protection conference*” with the participation of the domestic professionals of the field.

### ***Court mediation***

The alternative dispute resolution procedure available at the Hungarian courts, i.e. the court mediation, may be a successful tool to increase client satisfaction and to facilitate the timely administration of justice in both civil litigation and non-litigation cases.





At the end of June 2016 74 judges and 84 court clerks were appointed for court mediation activities. In the framework of the tender for the setting up and furnishing of the mediation rooms initiated by the president of the



NOJ in November 2015, 18 regional courts and one regional court of appeal set up or arranged court mediation rooms in courts of larger size in the first half of 2016 and equipped the court mediators with mobile phones and laptops.

A two-day international conference with the title „*Mediation in Hungary and in Europe*” was organized by the NOJ. Court mediators and coordinators and colleagues invited from other authorities, a total of 130 participants listened to the presentations of domestic and foreign experts.

### ***Client satisfaction***

One of the strategic goals of the president of the NOJ is to simplify the access to courts. The measurement of client satisfaction is an important part of this effort in the framework of which the judicial organization can receive feedback from the clients of the judiciary how satisfied they were with the operation of the client information office, the means of information-providing or with the politeness of the security check. The purpose is to make the judiciary even more client-friendly based on the feedbacks (that have been mostly positive so far).

In the first half of 2016 the president of the NOJ announced the Sustainable Development Programme. One of its pillars is the improvement of the client relations. The regular and general measurement of the client satisfaction represents such a feedback that can serve as a basis for the measures aiming at the future strengthening of the service-providing characteristic of the courts.



## **IV. The legal environment of the operation of the judicial organization**

### **Changes in the laws concerning the judicial organization**

- The Act no. CLXXXIV of 2010 on the name, seat and geographical jurisdiction of the courts amended the geographical jurisdiction of some of the courts.
- Pursuant to Act no. XC of 2016 on the central state budget of Hungary for 2017 the calculation basis of judicial salaries will increase in several steps.

### **Court procedures and the substantial laws applied by the courts**

Some acts regulating the court procedures and the substantial laws applied by courts; the following acts have come into force, inter alia:

- the Act no. CLXXXVI of 2015 on the amendments of laws for the purposes of the decrease of the bureaucracy in the public administration the purpose of which is the decreasing of the administrative burdens of the citizens and of the undertakings and the simplification and acceleration of the proceedings.
- Act no. CLXXXVIII on the registry for facial image analysis and on the facial recognition system that contains rules for the facial image profile registry and on the authorization registry.
- Decree no. 3/2016 (II.22.) of the Ministry of Justice on the holding of civil procedure hearings and personal interviews by closed-chain telecommunication network.
- Act no. XXIX of 2016 on the court-appointed experts that contains more accurate rules for the appointed of the court-appointed experts, about the content of the expert's opinion and for the payment of the expert fee.
- Decree no. 5/2016 (III.8.) of the Ministry of Justice on the specific tasks of the Hungarian Court Enforcers and on the amendment of certain ministerial decrees in the field of judiciary that contains rules for the registry of enforcement cases and for the automatic distribution of enforcement cases.
- Act no CCII of 2015 on the amendment of Act no. II of 2012 on misdemeanours, misdemeanour procedure and the misdemeanour registry and on the amendment of other acts in connection

thereof widened the background characteristic of the Hungarian Criminal Code, reregulated the appeal system in a complex way and made it more transparent.

### **Trainings preparing for the amendments of laws**

The courts and administrative employees had the opportunity to take part in several trainings preparing them for the changes of the laws in the first half of 2016.

### **Results concerning comments on bills and legislative proposals**

In the first half of 2016 127 initiatives were submitted to the NOJ to provide our comments on bills that is a 20% drop compared to the number of submissions in the first half of 2015 (159 pieces).

Also in the first half of 2016 the NOJ has collected several legislative proposals and presented them in a structured form for the purposes of the drafting of laws. In the reporting period the previous proposals for the creation and changes of laws brought a number of results, as well.

### **Support to the codification of procedural laws**

The codification process concerning the procedural laws of all three branches of law (civil, criminal and administrative) arrived at the finishing phase by the first half of 2016. It was the NOJ's important strategic task to ensure that the judiciary participates





in the preparation of the new procedural laws that will determine the work of the judges and the access to the courts by the public for many decades to come. After the passing of the bills reforming the procedural rules, the next tasks will be to provide the clients with the necessary information, to perform the necessary IT development work, and to organize the necessary trainings. The preparation and planning of these had to be already started.

#### ***The concept and codification of the new criminal procedure act***

In April 2016 at the initiation of the Ministry of Justice comments could be provided about the first draft of the new criminal procedure code. The comments of the judiciary were made jointly by the Curia, the NOJ and by the New Criminal Procedure Code Working Group after their strategic negotiations.

The Working Group, beside actively participating in the codification process, organized the International Criminal Procedure Conference together with the NOJ held between 29 February and 1 March 2016. In the two-day conference the criminal procedure models of those surrounding countries were presented that apply similar solutions as Hungary for the purposes of a procedural order that ensures the timely, more efficient, more rational adjudication of the cases that is based on the cooperation of the parties. The professional experience was utilized for the codification work.

#### ***Codification of the civil procedural law***

In the first half of 2016 the codification of the new civil procedure code arrived at its final stage. The New Civil Procedure Code Working Group of the NOJ was an active participant of the preparatory works, just like in the previous year. The draft of the new Civil Pro-

cedure Code published by the Ministry of Justice has already been examined not only by the Working Group but also the professional chambers of all of the courts.

The international conference „The new Hungarian Civil Procedure Code and the development of the European procedural law model” was held in May 2016 hosted by the NOJ and the Jurisprudence Institution of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in order to facilitate the codification processes of the new Civil Procedure Code.

### ***The codification of the new administrative procedure code***

The Ministry of Justice started the codification work in 2015 that was followed by the drafting of the actual legal text in the first half of 2016. The NOJ, through its Working Group „assigned for works in relation to the codification of the independent administrative procedure code”, continued to actively participate in the work.

## **Electronic procedures**

In the first half of 2016 new electronic procedures were not introduced but from 17 May 2016 in e- civil lawsuits the procedural duties can be paid electronically through the Electronic Payment and Clearing System (EFER).

From 1 July 2016 the electronic communication with the courts is obligatory for those parties in civil lawsuits, other civil procedures and in administrative and labour lawsuits who have legal representatives or who qualify as business enterprises or public administration bodies. In the scope of the preparation for the expansion of the electronic communications the NOJ contributed to the provision of the IT and legal prerequisites.

In the first half of 2016 the judges and judicial employees received training in connection with the expansion of the scope of obligatory e-communication in the said procedures (2,395 professionals participated in local trainings, while a number of 330 persons took part in central trainings), furthermore trainings were organized for other authorities and the participants of other legal professions.

The immediate, accurate and professional information provided to the clients took place by continuously updating the menu

item “E-LAWSUIT 2016” on the central website of the judiciary and by operating a Helpdesk system.

### **Network for commenting on bills**

The task of the president of the NOJ to comment on bills was supported by a small group of expert judges and chairmen of chambers in the first half of 2016 with the coordination by the professional department of the NOJ. In May 2016 the members of this group participated in a two-day codification workshop. The primary aim of the training was to share the codification basic knowledge and the suggested protocol and to facilitate the discussion in connection therewith.

### **Monitoring of laws**

The NOJ is continuously monitoring the website of the Parliament and the pending bills concerning the court work. Reports are prepared weekly and the courts are informed thereon.

### **Registry of preliminary rulings and of the procedures of the constitutional court initiated at judicial request**

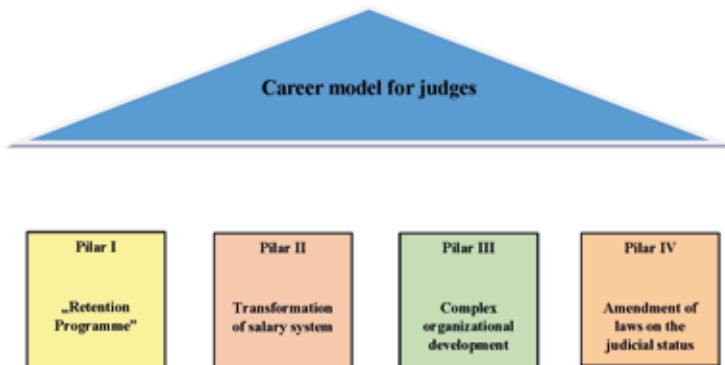
In the first half of 2016 the NOJ continued to monitor and publish the judicial initiatives sent to the Court of Justice of the European Union and to the Constitutional Court. The database of the preliminary rulings can be accessed on the judicial intranet. In this database all initiatives are published anonymously and also the outcomes of the procedures before the Court of Justice can be followed. Also the court decisions on the initiation of procedure of the Constitutional Court and the decisions of the Constitutional Court are published on the intranet. As a result of this system the judge can have up-to-date information whether any of these procedures concern their ongoing cases.

## V. Human resources in the judicial organization

### Career model for judges

It is the task of the Judge Career Expert Body (BÉSZT) set up on 2 April 2015 to work out a comprehensive career model for the judiciary. The career model consists of the salaries, the regular allowances, the social (health care) services offered to the judges and the judicial employees, the improvement of the work conditions, the recognition of the performance, the career development and the moral appreciation.

In 2016 the BÉSZT determined the pillars of the judicial career:



The purposes of the “Retention Programme” is to retain the workforce in the judicial organization, to ensure the labour-supply, to appreciate the commitment to the organization and the properly fulfilled work and to promote the courts as family-friendly workplaces, furthermore to support the judges and judicial employees in line with the above goals. The Sustainable Development Programme announced by the president of the NOJ in the first half of 2016 is attached to the above targets. The second pillar of this Programme is the judicial career.



## Groups by professions

Ca. 11,000 people work in the judicial organization. This number divided into the following categories as of 30 June 2016:

HEADCOUNT						
	Approved			Actual		
	Courts	NOJ	Total	Courts	NOJ	Total
Judge	2,896	37	2,933	2,808	31	2,839
Court clerk	854	30	884	796	33	829
Trainee judge	253	3	256	219	1	220
Judicial employee <sup>1</sup>	7,092	220	7,312	7,011	219	7,230
Total	11,095	290	11,385	10,834	284	11,118

The actual number of the workforce in the judicial system does not reach the allowed cap. The reason for this is that the applicable tender procedure aims at the objective evaluation and transparency for jobs requiring legal qualifications. As a result of this procedure the vacancies can be filled in again after a tender procedure of varying duration. The 1.1% percent difference between the allowed and actual number of judicial employees indicates a natural and minimal fluctuation. This rate can be considered as insignificant compared to the total number of workforce.



## **Changes in the judicial headcount in the first half of 2016**

In the first half of 2016 the service relationship of 20 judges terminated due to the following reasons:

- 4 of them reached the upper age limit,
- 9 of them resigned,
- 6 of them requested their retirement,
- 1 of them was removed as a disciplinary sanction.

The president of the NOJ announced 69 vacancies for judge positions in the first half of 2016. In the reporting period 53 vacancies were published and 9 of them proved to be ineffectual. As a result of the tenders the president of the NOJ suggested the appointment of 38 judges. The proposals were accepted by the President of State in all cases. All of the 38 new judges had worked as court clerks previously. In the case of five tenders NCJ decisions were passed and in all cases the NCJ agree with the proposals of the president of the NOJ and of the president of the concerned regional court.

The president of the NOJ, based on applications, decided on the transfer of 19 judges. Mostly these transfers took place from district court level to regional court level.

In cases requiring special qualifications or knowledge judges and court clerks may proceed in the case of specific appointment and if consent has been given to such appointment by them. In the first half of 2016 the president of the NOJ, at the proposal of the competent regional court:

- appointed 14 judges for criminal cases of juveniles,
- appointed 9 judges for the cases determined in Section § 17(5)-(6) of Act no. XIX of 1998 on the criminal procedure,
- appointed 3 judges for administrative and labour cases
- appointed 15 court clerks and 4 judges to proceed as court mediators.

Judges may be appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Act on the legal status of the judges for the purpose of ensuring a balanced workload among the courts or for the facilitation of the professional development of the judges. Appointments within the territory of a regional court may be resolved by the president of the



regional court, while appointments to outside of the territory of the regional court and appointments concerning judges at the regional court of appeal level shall be decided by the president of the NOJ. In the first half of 2016 the presidents of regional courts decided on the appointment of 372 judges. In the same period the president of the NOJ decided on the appointment of 112 judges, at the initiation of the courts, based on preliminary negotiations with the concerned courts and always with the consent of the concerned judges.

### **Composition of the judiciary**

In the first half of 2016 the number of judges with Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree increased by 7% compared to the figure as of 31 December 2015, so currently there are 681 judges with one or more LL.M. degrees. The previously identified tendency continued and in the period in question the number of the judges who have LL.M. degree in European law increased the most, by 12 %.

1,379 judges have language exams, 581 of them have 2 or more. Mainly the English, German and French languages are spoken by the judges.

The experience of the Hungarian judges can be described as follows as of 30 June 2016:

- 215 judges have 0-3 years of experience
- 586 judges have 4-10 years of experience
- 976 judges have 11-20 years of experience
- 812 judges have 21-30 years of experience
- 250 judges have experience of more than 31 years.

885 of all judges are male (31%), while 1,954 of them (69%) are female. This ratio has not changed since last year.



## **VI. Training**

### **Experiences gained from the implementation of the new training concept**

The local/regional and central training system set up in 2015 was further developed in the first half of 2016 by utilizing the previous experiences. The new training structure consists of 4 main elements within the judicial organization: there are central-central events held in the building of the Hungarian Academy of Justice (HAJ), central-local/regional trainings (determined centrally, held locally), and the own trainings of the regional courts and regional courts of appeal (locally determined and locally organized) and the self-training of the individuals outside of the organization.

According to the new concept, the HAJ is responsible for the determination of the training materials and the unified implementation and quality of same throughout the country but the execution is the task of the training network consisting of 26 members responsible for the trainings.

In the first half of 2016 6,167 people took part in 170 central trainings and events.

The courts organized 177 trainings in the course of which 393 lecturers held trainings to 9,865 participants at all the regional courts and regional courts of appeal throughout the country.



In 2016 the obligatory central and local/regional trainings were organized for four main topics:

- *“You should know”*
- *“Rights of the disabled persons in the courts”*
- *“Efficiency and timeliness”*
- *“Economic background knowledge”*

The joint event of the Debrecen Regional Court of Appeal and of the Counter-terrorism Centre stood out of the numerous local trainings in which the participants could become familiar with the chances of violent crimes in court facilities and the dynamics of hostage situations was also presented.

### **Entrance competition exam for court trainees**

In the first half of 2016 97 applications were submitted for trainee judge positions, 62 of them applied for the competition exam, 50 of them passed successfully, 18 of them did not have to pass the exam based on their previous valid exams. 32 of the successful applicants were appointed as trainee judges.

The task in the first half of 2016 was to create a regulation for the new-type competition exam and the preparation of the competence-based exam questions furthermore the launch of the recruitment campaign for the autumn.

## **Mailáth György Scientific Award**

As the conclusion of the 2015 Mailáth György Scientific Award, the symposium of the award-winners was held on 18 March 2016 at the HAJ with the participation of several high-ranking invitees. The memorial plaques were handed out in a ceremonial plenary session then the award-winners presented the summary of their papers in sectional sessions. For the first time this year the publication containing the award-winning papers was published in e-book format, as well.

## **Cooperation with other legal professions**

The strategic goals of the president of the NOJ include the strengthening of the cooperation with the other legal professions in connection with the development of the training system. The respective courts have regular and mutually useful contacts with the other legal professions in connection with the organization of trainings, professional conferences and discussions and with other practical and theoretical experts of the given field of law and with the law schools.

In May 2016 the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe / Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights organized a distance-learning training concerning the hate crimes for prosecutors. Ten judges were delegated to the event.

## **Legal trainings held in foreign languages**

In the first half of 2016 the NOJ hosted two international trainings within the framework of the European Union projects of the Academy of European Law that were realized with the cooperation of the NCJ: „*Money laundering on the internet*” and „*Cross-border civil litigation*”.



On 9 March 2016 at the Hungarian Academy of Justice the NOJ and the representatives of the judicial organization welcomed the delegation of the GENVAL Committee performing the 7th session of the mutual appraisal of Hungary that examines the execution and efficiency of the European policies for the prevention and combatting of computer technology crimes. The delegation listened to two presentations of the prosecutor's office and to two presentations from the judiciary.

The conference with the title "*Mediation in Hungary and in Europe*" was organized this year with 127 participants lining up mostly foreign language presentations. Those interested could become familiar with the tendencies of the European mediation and with Hungarian and European good practices.

## **VII. Integrity of the court organization**

The independence of the judiciary and its transparent operation free of any external influences is one of the cornerstones of the rule of law. The integrity of the court organization, the transparency of the administration of justice and of the court administration, the consistency of the latter one and its control are all among the accentuated strategic goals of the president of the NOJ. The integrity regulations came into force on 1 July 2016.

### **Disciplinary situation of the judges**

In the first half of 2016 10 procedures were initiated at the first instance service court, this is nearly 30% less than in the first half of 2015. Beside the new proceedings, the first instance service court decided for the continuation of previously suspended 3 cases and in one case the second instance service court instructed the first instance service court to renew the proceeding.

7 proceedings were completed by the disciplinary court of first instance in the first half of 2016. The service court:

- terminated the proceeding in 2 cases due to lack of infringing conduct without applying any legal consequences,
- in 2 cases the proceedings were terminated but warnings have been issued,
- in 1 case the judge was released from service,
- in 1 case reprimand as a disciplinary action was applied,
- 1 case was merged with another one.

5 disciplinary proceedings commenced at the second instance service court and all of them have been completed.

In the first half of 2016 criminal proceedings were initiated



against 3 judges (in 2 cases due to the negligent causing of public road accidents and in one case due to driving under the influence of alcohol) and 2 criminal proceedings were completed (in one case the judge was released from service and in another case the criminal proceeding was terminated taking into consideration that the mediation was successful).

## **Litigation against the courts**

Pursuant to Point b) § 86(3) of the Act on the organization and administration of the courts the NOJ represents the courts in litigation cases. The representative is the Legal Representation Department (hereinafter: LRD) appointed by the Rules of Organisation and Operation of the NOJ.

In the first half of 2016 457 new cases were submitted to the LRD, 293 procedures had a final and binding closure and 710 cases remained pending at the end of the reporting period.

The courts were condemned in 14 cases where the decision was final and binding within the reporting period, i.e. in 5% of the cases where the decision was final and binding. The courts were ordered to pay a cumulated amount of HUF 16,161,680 to the adverse parties in these cases.





### **Internal control of the courts**

In the first half of 2016 the Control Department of the NOJ started the following system controls in line with the annual control plan:

- IT system control in the NOJ and in the institutions supported from the judicial chapter of the state budget,
- control of the budgetary planning,
- examination of the registry of contracts at the HAJ and the performance of the contracts.

In the first half of 2016 two extraordinary controls were ordered.

### **Enhancing the security of the court facilities**

In the first half of 2016 the following steps were taken for enhancing the security of court facilities and indirectly the security of the citizens and the colleagues:

- in the Swiss Project IT equipment fulfilling the TEMPEST requirements was shipped to 26 locations.
- at the expense of the remaining Swiss Project funds another 16 pieces of x-ray machines are purchased and this way 65% of the court facilities will be equipped with such machines (an improvement from 60%).
- trainings were organized in 2 topics for the personnel operating the security machinery. Altogether a number of 251 employees participated in the trainings.

43 extraordinary events took place in the judicial organization before 30 June 2016.

The incident involving a firearm stood out of the other events of the reporting period. No such incident occurred in the recent decades in the judicial organization. When entering the building of the Kiskunhalas District Court a client told the security personnel that he wanted to speak to the competent prosecutor then he suddenly pointed his loaded firearm at the guard and used it. The caretaker of the court building was close to the action and prevented the perpetrator to shoot targeted shots, this way heroically risking his own life and bodily integrity. As a conclusion of the incident the leaders of the Kecskemét Regional Court examined the case in detail and as a result of this the guards were reorganized and their number was increased.

## **Transparency in the public procurement**

The NOJ conducted 11 public procurements with a total sum of HUF 444,934,067 in the first half of 2016 to ensure the fulfilment of strategic goals. Beyond its legal obligations, the NOJ provides up-to-date information to the public on its website and also ensures the transparency of the public procurements the same way.

The update of the regulation for the budgetary chapter took place. On 19 June 2016 the NOJ directive no. 5/2016. (V. 20.) entered into force on the regulation for the public procurements, qualified procurements and purchase procedures of institutions belonging to the “budgetary chapter” of the state budget.

According to the regulation the public procurements financed from central state budget and other strategically important public procurements (e.g. constructions, country-wide IT procurements) are conducted by the NOJ but also the public procurements conducted by the respective courts take place upon the approval of the NOJ.



## **VIII. The NOJ's role in the judicial communication**

The NOJ uses two-way communication. The external communication channels provide contact to the citizens, other legal professions and authorities, to foreign organizations and nationals. Through this channel the operation of the judicial organization, its results, objectives and plans can be presented. It also provides efficient assistance to the clients for the interpretation of law, facilitating this way the client-centred, more comfortable and faster proceedings. An important channel of the external communication is the central website of the courts. In the first half of 2016 more than 1,000 press releases (736 press releases and 287 pieces of news) were published on the website [www.birosag.hu](http://www.birosag.hu). In the first half of 2016 the site was visited by 501,523 users. The Facebook page of the judiciary has to be also noted that had 2,174 followers in the reporting period.

The internal communication is first of all a way for providing information to the colleagues at the courts. It contributes to the flow of information within the NOJ and to the continuous and mutual contact between the NOJ and the courts and among the courts. This way it facilitates the efficiency of the work. The central intranet page of the courts plays an important role in the internal communication. The content of the [kpintra.justice.hu](http://kpintra.justice.hu) site is continuously expanding; in the first half of 2016 more and more news were published, in total 619.

## **Organizational framework of the judicial communication**

### ***Network of spokesmen***

The courts forward their messages to the press and citizens through the spokesmen network. Spokesmen and spokeswomen and press secretaries work for the Curia, the regional courts of appeal and for the regional courts, as well; their contact data can be found on the central website. The members of the network have decisive roles both in the internal and external communication. Their task is, among others, to respond to enquiries from the press, to provide reliable information to the public and to facilitate the flow of information within the judicial organization.

### ***Spokesmen Working Group***

The main tasks of the Spokesmen Working Group include enhancing the efficiency of the spokesmen network, the simplification of the “access to courts” in line with the strategic goals of the president of the NOJ and the coordination of the judicial communication and strengthening the unified image. For these purposes trainings were organized and a communications questionnaire was compiled in the first half of 2016.

## **Events open to the press**

In the first half of 2016 several ceremonies, conferences, trainings and other events were organized at the courts where the press was welcomed.

However, the most important events for the press are still the court hearings. The ones interesting the public the most are summarized by the NOJ weekly. The national list of hearings is updated on the central website every Friday.





## Publications

The judiciary intends to introduce themselves by way of publications, as well. In the first half of 2016 the following publications were prepared by the NOJ:

- *“Report of the president of the NOJ for 2015”*
- *“Who are we?”* (bilingual Hungarian and English introductory leaflet)
- *“Reforms, results, success”* (bilingual Hungarian and English publication for the communication of the results)
- *“This is also who we are”* (collective work containing the artworks of judges and judiciary employees)
- *“Album of Portraits”* (publication introducing the award-winning judges and judiciary employees at the occasion of the Day of the Judiciary)
- *“Judiciary – In the service of justice”* (collective book of the results of the last four and a half years of the judicial organization)
- *“The Court of Registry”*
- *“Non-governmental organizations and other organizations not qualifying as companies”*

As a result of the competition *“Tradition and history of the judiciary”* several publications were published in the first half of 2016.

## **IX. The IT status of the judicial organization**

For the accomplishment of the strategic goals of the president of the NOJ the modern IT resources are crucial for the courts. By applying high standard IT solutions, the NOJ is striving for setting up a comfortable and secure e-judiciary. The realization of the development plans ensures the access to the 21st century open and service-providing court that is independent from time and space, for all clients and participants of the judicial system.

The judicial IT system is still centralized in 2016 and consists of two branches: it comprises the IT Department of the NOJ and the judiciary IT organization.

A total number of 221 people performed IT-related tasks in the NOJ and at the courts. This is an increase of 7% compared to the previous year.

In the first half of 2016 the following tasks of the IT field can be highlighted:

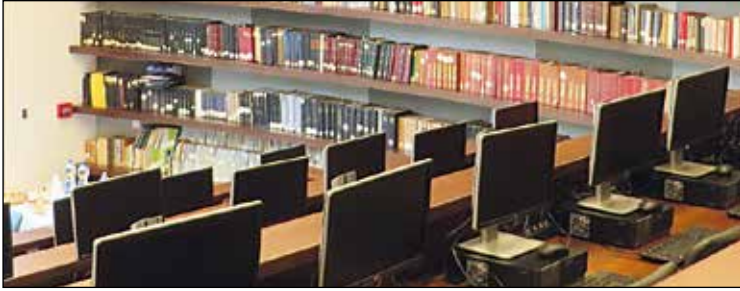
- Introduction of a unified country-wide back-up system
- Expansion and development of the central network infrastructure
- New tools and workstations

There are 626 servers, 15.678 workstations (notebooks, PCs, thin clients) and 786 network devices provide the IT background necessary for the country-wide work. The IT Department of the NOJ purchased a significant volume of IT devices at the end of 2015. 429 monitors, 155 notebooks, 270 thin clients and 669 21.5" monitors were installed in the reporting period. In order to improve the obsolescence rate the IT devices of the judiciary have been continuously replaced, also in the first half of 2016.

Within the project Central Payroll System (KIRA) 435 modern workstations, 204 monitors and 673 pieces of software were purchased for the Accounting Offices of all courts.

- Setting up centralized virus protection
- Operation of national systems and support for the users





The most important results of the first half of 2016 can be summed up as follows:

- From 1 July 2016 the infrastructural and software requirements of the e-communication of the civil litigation cases have been provided.
- The use of the Document Verification Traced Back to Identification (AVDH) service is ensured in electronic litigation cases as prescribed by law.
- The 'reference number'-based and unified communication with the main other legal professions (prosecutor's office, police, authorities) through the so-called Authority Gate has been realized.
- Improved electronic confirmation (delivery note) handling
- Increase of the transmission speed of electronic messages
- The NOJ determined the professional and technical requirements concerning the judicial remote interviews / interrogations and appointed the 75 locations at the courts where the circumstances will be arranged first.
- National unification of the presidential filing system
- Improvement of data supply for statistical purposes
- As of 1 January 2016 the judicial organization has been connected to the Centralized Payroll System (KIRA).

## **X. Facilities providing the operation of the judicial organization**

The courts of the country currently use

- a total of 185 buildings
- on a floor space of 483,273 m<sup>2</sup>.

155 buildings with a floor space of 463,050 m<sup>2</sup> serve strictly the purposes of the administration of justice.



## **Renovations, constructions and projects**

### ***Realized in 2016:***

- renovation of the ceremonial hall of the building of the NOJ in the Szalay Street

### ***Under construction, pending construction:***

- Szigetszentmiklós District Court
- Eger Regional Court

### ***Construction will start in the second half of 2016 (expansion, renovation):***

- Gödöllő District Court
- Szarvas District Court
- Jászberény District Court

### ***Under planning, construction will start in 2017 (renovation):***

- Szeged Regional Court and Szeged District Court

### ***Prepared and under preparation:***

- Kiskőrös District Court
- Érd District Court

## **Plans**

In 2017 resources will be channelled into IT development instead of construction projects therefore this latter one will lose resources. Consequently, the short and medium-term plans have been re-scheduled: the order of the urgent developments has been modified with a view to the available resources and the commencement dates of some full-scope renovations have been pushed forward to 2017.

- Ráckeve District Court – new building
- Tapolca District Court – arranging a so-called green building
- Dunakeszi District Court – renovation, expansion
- Kisvárdai District Court – renovation, expansion
- Szolnok Regional Court and Szolnok District Court – renovation
- Miskolc Regional Court and Miskolc District Court – renovation



### **Prioritized projects and developments**

- Budapest II-III District Court
- Budapest- Environs Regional Court

### **Curia project – Kossuth square**

The Government has confirmed in many of its resolutions that the Curia must be relocated to the Palace of Justice in Kossuth Square designated for the Curia. The building can be taken over once its current users leave it. The Folklore Museum can be moved to a new building planned to be built in the Museum Quarter in Városliget. In order to accelerate the project in Kossuth Square the NOJ will initiate negotiations in the second half of 2016 with the Steindl Imre Programme Office performing the full reconstruction of Kossuth Square to connect the two projects.



## **Internal tendering system**

The “*Wagner Gyula Plan*” is the programme for the construction and renovation projects that are negotiated with the concerned institutions in advance and in line with the registered demands.

The “*Jablonszky Ferenc Programme*” is an internal tendering system for pre-determined topics and technical developments for which the institutions can file their tenders for.

As a result of the positive experience of the previous years in 2016 we expanded the partitioning of the resources from the state budget through the internal tenders of the NOJ.

In the first half of 2016 the technical and substantial preparation of the 4th Jablonszky Ferenc tender took place. The tender was announced for a total sum of HUF 600 million in July 2016. The funds can be requested and drawn for the purposes of building technology (improvement of the heating, replacement of the external doors and windows, renovation of the lighting and the electric network) and of security developments (improvement of the fire signalling network and of the entry system).



## ■ XI. Management of the court organization

The Parliament voted for the following budgetary plans for the “Courts” chapter of Act no. C of 2015 on the central budget of Hungary:

- subsidy: HUF 90,529 million,
- income: HUF 2,258 million,
- expenditure: HUF 92,787 million.

### **Expenditure appropriations and income of the institutions**

The expenditure appropriation consists of 4 main appropriations. The funds were utilized as follows as of 30 June 2016:

- personal allowances: HUF 26,455.2 million;
- social contribution tax and levies of the employer: HUF 7,944.1 million;
- material expenses: HUF 7,781.3 million;
- stock expenses: HUF 5,246.1 million (HUF 2,065.3 million for renovation and HUF 3,180.7 million for institutional investment).

The budgetary income of 2016 before 30 June 2016 amounted to HUF 3,484.6 million that consists of:

- institutional income: HUF 776.5 million,
- income concerning the exercise of public powers: HUF 1,313.0 million,
- stock income: HUF 1,395.1 million.



## **Procurement, projects**

In the first half of 2016 the following important procurements and projects took place for the purposes of the courts:

- purchase of the M3 Business Center for the Regional Court of Budapest-Environs,
- purchase of Microsoft licences for the judiciary,
- network development,
- purchase of a storage and backup system,
- purchase of IT devices (KIRA hardware, workstations, servers, notebooks, MS Office)
- renovation of the AC and the lighting in the entrance hall of the NOJ.

## **Preparation of the budget for 2017**

In accordance with the practice of the previous year the negotiations about the budgetary demands for 2017 already started in April with the representatives of the Ministry of Economics.

The increase of the basic salary of the judges, the annual growth of the expenses of the contributors of the judiciary and the extra funds necessary for the introduction of the full-scope Electronic Administration were submitted as extra budgetary demands for 2017.





## XII. European Union programmes and projects

The realization of the strategic goals of the president of the NOJ and the technical and organizational development of the judicial organization are significantly supported by some projects. The NOJ contributes to reach these objectives on one hand by tendering for external funds available for the judicial organization and by executing internally financed projects aiming at the preparation of such external tenders.

Beside coordinating the execution of the pending projects, the Project Office of the NOJ continuously monitored the international and domestic tender funds and the opportunities also in the first half of 2016. The most significant ones for the judicial organization are the operative programmes of the Széchenyi 2020 development plan (KEHOP, KÖFOP), the Justice and Consumer Policy Directorate-General (Justice DG) Justice and European Union Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, furthermore the Domestic Funds coordinated by the Ministry of Interior.

The NOJ as the body responsible for the whole judicial budgetary chapter and for the central management of the courts supported the individual tendering of the courts also in this reporting period, for the realization of their own respective projects. A serious result of the judicial system is a Justice DG project led by the Latvians starting at the end of the first half of 2016.

The project contact person network still operates successfully.

### **Results**

Beside the tasks concerning the maintenance of the closed projects, one of the main goals of the first half of 2016 was involving new funds from tendering, preparing project proposals and filing tenders.

### **Results of the planning**

- In line with the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ, the NOJ places great emphasis on the optimization of the processes directly and indirectly concerning the citizens and the introduction of electronic procedures, as well. As a result thereof within the framework of the Public Administration and Public Service Development Operative Programme (KÖ-



FOP) modern video-communication devices will be expected-ly installed at 151 locations. The goal is to simplify the interviewing of remote clients, to enhance security and efficiency and to decrease costs.

- The judiciary has worked out two large-scale developments projects for the improvement of the administrative and functional conditions of the courts (e-Folder and e-Code).
- The aim of the development programme of the electronic judicial proceedings (e-Folder) is two-way: on one hand it aims at the realization of the judicial administration being independent from time and space for citizens and enterprises, without any administrative burdens. On the other hand the objectives are the high standard administration of justice, the even distribution of the judicial workload and the decreasing of regional differences so that the citizens and the enterprises receive unified and high standard service.
- The procedural law trainings is the primary goal of the project (e-code): to provide the necessary knowledge to the professionals working in the judiciary and in the public administration. For this aim the NOJ plans to elaborate training materials in connection with the reforms of the three substantial procedural codes and to organize trainings simultaneously.
- In the first half of 2016 the preparation of the applications for the NOJ projects aiming at the energetics development of the judicial buildings within the framework of the Environmental and Energy efficiency Operative Programme (KEHOP).

## Project results

- In order to ensure the professional and timely conducting of the asylum and immigration administrative cases, the NOJ paid extra attention to the tendering opportunities financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (MMIA) of the Ministry of Intern. The NOJ filed an application to the fund for subsidy under the title „Development of the efficiency of the judicial proceedings concerning immigration arrests”. The purpose was to improve the administration by training and developing the judicial professionals. The managing authority found the application well-founded and the implementation can start in the second half of 2016.
- In the first half of 2016 the NOJ actively tendered for funds directly managed by the Directorate-Generals of the European Commission in Brussels. The tenders were the following:
  - Victim protection project
  - Education of competition law projects
  - Education of environmental protection law project

## Pending projects

### *Projects with internal financing*

- The purpose of the TTKH project financed from the own resources of the NOJ was to prepare the introduction of the A/V recording in the courtrooms and of the remote interviews. Connecting the courtrooms, for the purposes of the remote inter-



views, with international bodies, domestic partner institutions and with other courts facilitates the protection of the security of the participants of lawsuits and reduces costs and time required by the personal visit to the courts, this way strengthening the service-providing characteristic of the courts.

- The NOJ launched a project (KÉP-I.) preparing the renewal of the training and further training of the judiciary organization, the judges and the administrative employees on 1 March 2016. The purpose of the project is to create a full-scope training system, to regulate it comprehensively and to set up a unified training IT application for its support.

### ***Projects with external financing***

- Security enhancing project: the purpose of this project sponsored by the Swiss Contribution is to improve the perceived security of the clients and to strengthen the security for the work of the judges and administrative employees. For this purpose security devices must be purchased and database connections shall be set up that facilitates the more secure and more efficient administration. As a result of the project in the first half of 2016 for the realization of the processing of qualified and protected data the NOJ purchased 26 pieces of Tempest Level-A notebooks with their accompanying software and printers. Furthermore the e-learning training material for the person and luggage control equipment purchased earlier were prepared and the concerned employees were taught how to use the machines diligently.
- EU civil law training project: in the framework of the international project four 2-day EU civil law seminars were held. The first one, the „Cross-border civil lawsuits” was hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Justice on 19-20 May 2016.
- “Cybercrime project”: the goal of the international project was the sharing and disseminating of the case-law and experiences of the member states in the field of internet and online crime. In this project five 2-day seminars will be held in Trier, Budapest, Madrid and Krakow in English.
- EU civil law terminology training project: in this international project eight 3-day seminars are held. The trainings facilitate the international communication of the judiciary, the exchange of good practices, the formation of connections and cooperation between the judges and the international civil law cooperation by the interactive legal and language training of the judges.

## **XIII. International relations of the judicial organization**

### **International network of connections**

For the purposes of learning about the international practices and for the wide sharing of knowledge the NOJ and the courts have wide-scope connections with international organizations and with the courts of other countries.

Beyond being in regular contact with several organizations, the NOJ is also a member of several international organizations, such as:

- Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary,
- European Judicial Network (EJN),
- European Judicial Training Network (EJTN).

The NOJ has regular contact with the following organizations:

- Council of Europe and its organizations,
- Court of Justice of the European Union,
- European Court of Human Rights,
- Hague Conference on Private International Law,
- Academy of European Law (ERA),
- International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT),
- International Training Institution (IGO)
- Central and Eastern European Legal Institute (CEELI),
- International Legal Cooperation Foundation (IRZ),
- Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals of the Council of Europe (HELP),
- European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA),
- EASO Network of court and tribunal members,
- EUROJUST,
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The NOJ supports the work of the international associations of judges, the membership and participation of judges and judicial associations in international organizations, such as:

- European Association of Labour Court Judges (EALCJ),
- Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ),
- International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ),
- International Labour Organization (ILO),



- Associations of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions (ACA Europe),
- Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ),
- European Union Forum of Judges for the environment.

The Hungarian Academy of Justice closely cooperates with the following organizations:

- EJTN (European Judicial Training Network),
- ERA (European Academy of Justice),
- IRZ (International Legal Cooperation Foundation),
- HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals of the Council of Europe),
- EIPA (European Institute for Public Administration),
- V4 (Justice Academies of the Visegrad Four).

Out of the 5 regional courts of appeal and the 20 regional courts

- 13 of them maintains,
- in 9 different countries,
- with 21 courts individual bilateral professional relationship.

### **Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary**

In 2014 the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary was set up with the participation of the NOJ and the NCJ. The NOJ provides the operation of the Secretariat of the Network for a period of 3 years from May 2015. The Network held a governing session on 21-22 April 2016 in Rome, then an annual General Meeting also in Rome on 13-14 June 2016.

## NOJ scholarships

The president of the NOJ has provided opportunities for several years now for the judges and court clerks to work as interns at the Academy of European Law or at the Court of Justice of the European Union. The knowledge and experience gained is built into the domestic judicial organization by the sharing of the knowledge of the participants. In the first half of 2016

- 1 judge and 1 court clerk worked for the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg,
- 2 court clerks worked in the European Academy of Justice in Trier.

The written reports of the participants of the scholarship programme can be accessed on the central intranet, furthermore the participants undertook to present their experiences at the trainings of the Hungarian Academy of Justice.

International professional events, international trainings and exchange programmes

In the first half of 2016 a total of 38 persons visited international professional events, conferences and working group session in the representation of the NOJ.

The NOJ organized three international conferences in the reporting period:

- On the codification of the criminal code,
- Mediation in Hungary and in Europe,
- The new Hungarian Civil Procedure Code and the development of the European procedural model regulations.

In the first half of 2016 the NOJ hosted 2 international trainings that were realized within the framework of the Academy of European Law with the cooperation of the NOJ under the titles “Internet Money Laundering” and „Cross-border civil litigation proceedings”. 57 foreign and 34 Hungarian professionals took part in these events.

In the first half of 2016 4 Hungarian judges went on a study trip within the framework of the EJTN’s short term, 2-week exchange programme, while 1 judge participated in a study trip at the Court of Justice of the European Union in a long-term exchange programme.





In the first half of 2016 the NOJ provided the opportunity for 84 judges, 22 court clerks and 6 judicial employees to participate in study trips, conferences and trainings abroad.

### **EJTN Themis competition for trainee judges**

The Themis D semi-final was held between 27-30 June 2016 in Omseň, Slovakia concerning the topic of „ethics of the judges and professional support”. 9 teams from seven countries participated (Estonia, France, Germany, Lithuania, Romania, Italy and Hungary). The Hungarian team won second place and advanced to the finals to be held in Bordeaux between 31 October and 3 November 2016 and received the special award of „Most efficient use of the media in the presentation”. Their success is exemplary as they are the first Hungarian team that advanced to the finals in the 10-year history of the competition.

### **The consultancy network for European law**

The purpose of this network is to ensure the smooth flow of information concerning the European law and to provide quick and efficient professional assistance to the judges in their work. In the first half of 2016 56 consultants, 1 coordinator and 4 vice-coordinators worked in the network.

### **Communication and knowledge sharing**

It is considered by the NOJ of particular importance that the results of the Hungarian judiciary are communicated properly to the European Union and to the domestic and international orga-

nizations. This requires data supply of adequate quality. The NOJ supplies data regularly to, inter alia, the CEPEJ Committee of the Council of Europe, to the European Commission of the European Union, to the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary, to the Moneyval organizations and monitors the results of the published surveys and studies.



## XIV. Operation of the NOJ

The powers of the president of the NOJ are exercised and her obligations are fulfilled through the operation of the NOJ.

The NOJ is the central organization of the judicial administration. The NOJ manages, organizes, control and coordinate the tasks detailed in the report, such as

- central judicial administration,
- management of the budgetary chapter worth several tens of billions of Hungarian Forints,
- central HR activities of the judicial organization employing more than 11,000 professionals,
- taking care of almost 200 judicial facilities and
- providing the operability and operation of several thousand IT devices and the IT network,
- arrangement, management and maintenance of the European Union tenders worth several hundred million Hungarian Forints.

The NOJ employs a staff of 284 to arrange these tasks. In comparison to the total staff number of the judiciary this headcount is just 0.03%. Of course, at least one-third of this staff deals with the operation and servicing of the NOJ (e.g. caretakers).

In the first half of 2016 77 judges assigned for central administrative tasks contributed to the provision of the national administrative tasks. During the reporting period a total of 14 court clerks and judiciary employees were assigned to the NOJ. Furthermore another 34 persons were employed with individual service contracts for the purposes of developments, for the preparation of training materials and other tasks.

In the first half of 2016 a total of 15 working groups with a total number of members of 121 operated within the NOJ to collect, use and disseminate the knowledge and experience of the knowledge-based judicial organization.

## **XV. Supervision over the President of the NOJ**

### **Operation of the National Judicial Council (hereinafter NJC)**

The NJC is the supervision body of the central administration of the judiciary that held

- 6 sessions,
  - discussed 51 items on the agenda and
  - passed 69 resolutions
- in the first half of 2016.

In the reporting period the NJC provided its comments on the orders of the president of the NOJ 8 times and once on a NOJ recommendation.

### **The NJC**

- passed eight decisions in the field of general central administration,
- passed two budgetary decisions,
- passed one decision in the field of data collection for statistical purposes, allocation of cases and workload measurement,
- passed 27 HR-related resolutions,
- delegated members to four working groups established by the president of the NOJ,
- and issued two standpoints on ethical matters.



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