

Courts and Communication Conference
Hungarian Academy of Justice
COURTS' MISSION TO PROMOTE VALUES WORKSHOP
11th of October 2019

Workshop leader:
William Valasidis, European Court of Justice

Workshop secretary:
dr. Johanna Kotsis, trainee judge, Regional Court of Budapest

Group 3

The participants briefly introduce themselves.

W. V.'s question is whether the court should promote values or not, how does it work in the different countries?

Albania: it is important to promote values. The public trust is very low for courts in this moment, more than 70 judges were removed from their status. For that reason at the moment they don't know how to promote values, although it's a good start that the judiciary 'is being cleaned', it's unfortunate it happened for political pressure.

Armenia: they have similar issues as in Albania. In the modern society courts should be able to present the work they do.

W. V. the basic question is whether courts should communicate only their decisions or other issues as well such as values?

Croatia: process of promoting values is in a very early stage. Sometimes they react too late, since they don't recognise which are the high profile cases.

Georgia: it's a very complicated issue. It's a must for the courts to promote values. Courts don't have a systematic answer for this issue. Now they have an open process for selecting judges, but because of the quality of the candidates it destroys the public trust in the system.

Hungary: independence, impartiality, accountability are core values. Another group of values are good faith, immoral contracts, child endangerment etc. which are incorporated in statutory law and courts can promote them as well, through their decisions.

Bulgaria: there is a communication strategy.

W. V.: should promoting values handled centrally or individually?

Hungary: NOJ promotes values through a lot of different platforms. Judges are responsible for the judgements. Public trust in judiciary reduces everywhere, it is an interesting question why, since it's happening in the west as well where there was no Soviet Union.

There are special target groups, promoting values are is than communicating decisions, for example promoting traditions, open court, family friendly court etc.

Latvia: it's a key value to communicate to different parts of society. Since Latvia is very small it is very easy to handle these issues centrally.

Lithuania: communication is key for the whole society. Since the laws are general, the values should be central as well.

Malta: legal and moral questions should be distinguished and handled differently.

Poland: promoting values should happen by the behaviour of judges as well.

W. V.: who should communicate values? Judges, experts, spokespersons etc.?

Poland: spokespersons of Regional Court are the ones to communicate.

Malta: judges should not speak about values, only about the decisions. Ministry of Justice should do that for example.

W. V. talks about the 'right to be forgotten' case.

Albania: spokespersons always have to cross-check with the president of the court and it's hard to 'translate' legal terms to the public and be professional at the same time.

W. V. which values should be promoted?

Armenia: it depends on the court, it differs from level to level.

W. V. emphasizes the core values of ECJ and asks the different methods of communication. The group agrees that it depends on the topic and the target group and discuss the risks of Facebook.