



II. INTERNAL REGULATION OF PRESS AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES OF THE JUDICIAL ORGANISATIONS

1. Are press and communications activities of courts regulated in your country within the organisations? By what level of legal acts? Are they regulated centrally or separately at courts (e.g. by way of organisational and operational regulation)?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	Law and communication guidelines regulate the communication activities (centrally regulated).
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	We are unfamiliar.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	They are regulated only separately at courts, each court has its own spokesperson.
7.	Cyprus	Press and Communications activities of courts are not regulated in Cyprus in any way.
8.	Denmark	Press and communications activities of courts are not regulated in Denmark within the organizations.
9.	Estonia	Acts of internal regulation are the Estonian Judges' Code of Ethics and Recommendations for the Courts' Media Relations adopted by the Council for Administration of Courts. These internal acts of regulation apply to the whole Estonian court system.
10.	Finland	The communication activities at Helsinki District Court are internally organized in a communication plan, which is to be updated regularly. Nationally there is an intention that each and every court should have their own communication plan, but practice shows that's not the case in all district courts for instance. Plans are not nationwide regulated. The communication plan is based on the national legislation mentioned above, and is also in line the Governmental Communications Guidelines.
11.	Greece	Each Court and each Prosecution has its own regulation. There is no provision of a spokesperson in the Courts' regulation, but the regulation of Public Prosecutor's Office of Athens Court of First Instance provides the existence of "the Office of Information, Media and Jurisprudence and Research". The regulation has the force of law.
12.	Georgia	Press and communications activities are not regulated within the court by legal act in my district.
13.	Italy	Courts do not have any internal regulation concerning press and communication activities.
14.	Latvia	<p>* In respect for all Latvian courts at present there are no common regulations on communication activities.</p> <p>The Judicial Ethics Commission (institution of judicial self-government) initiated a proposal on elaboration of Guidelines for Communication with the Press common for all courts. The proposal was accepted by the Council for the Judiciary and it is included in the agenda.</p> <p>* THE SUPREME COURT, which is the only court having its own Division of Communication, has its own internal regulation for communication processes:</p> <p>1) In accordance with Section 50.¹ of the law "On Judicial Power", one of functions of the Administration of the Supreme Court is to ensure communication with society (provision included in the law since 21.10.2005). The Division of Communication was established within structure of the Administration.</p>



		<p>2) Regulation of the Division of Communication includes its functions: 1) to develop and implement single court communication strategy; 2) to ensure communication of the court with society; 3) to ensure internal communication within the court; 4) to organise international cooperation; 5) to maintain and develop single corporate style of the court; 6) to maintain and improve the museum of the court.</p> <p>3) In the Strategy of Activities of the Supreme Court, <u>informing and legal educating of the society is set forth as one of additional functions of the Supreme Court.</u> Strategic goals of the Supreme Court are established in five fields of activities, and one of those is promotion of public trust and understanding about judiciary. To achieve this goal, four tasks were determined: 1) Implementation of a principle of openness in work of the court; 2) Creation of a positive image of the court; 3) Co-participation in legal educating of the society; 4) Research and popularization of history of the Supreme Court.</p> <p>4) In accordance with the Strategy of Activity of the Supreme Court, The Supreme Court Strategy for Communication with Society is approved, which determines communication goal, principles, tools, target audience, communication tasks, events and activities to achieve strategic goals of the Supreme Court.</p> <p>5) Internal regulation “Procedure for preparation and publishing of information on the web site of the Supreme Court on the Internet and on the Intranet” issued by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, which determines amount and type of information to be submitted by each structural unit or single employees to the Division of Communication so that it could ensure qualitative and fast communication of the Supreme Court with society.</p> <p>6) Internal regulation “Procedure for releasing information in the Supreme Court”, which determines, what information is of general accessibility and what information is of restricted accessibility, and procedure for requesting and releasing thereof.</p>
15.	Lithuania	We have very detailed Rules concerning the provision of information to the public information producers about courts’ activities and cases, approved by the Judicial Council.
16.	Republic of Moldova	<p>The national legal acts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova; - Art. 8 from the Law of Republic of Moldova on the Judge Statute nr. 544-XIII adopted on 20.07.1995; - Art.161 the Law of Republic of Moldova on Judicial Organization nr. 514-XIII adopted on 06.07.1995. - The Law of Republic of Moldova on Supreme Council of Magistrates nr. 947-XIII adopted on 19.07.1996. <p>As the organizational and operational regulation there is Regulation act of Supreme Council of Magistrates of Republic of Moldova on puublic information service and relations with mass-media nr. 740/31 adopted on 15.10.2013.</p>
17.	Montenegro	<p>In Montenegro, there is no concrete legal act which prescribes competences or duties of the spokespersons. The press and communications activities of courts are regulated by the Law on Courts as well as the Code of Judicial Ethics of Judges with several provisions.</p> <p>In example, Article 123 of the Law on Courts prescribes that the information about the work of the court shall be disclosed by the president of court or person authorised by him/her.</p> <p>On the other side, the abovementioned Article of the Code of Judicial Ethics of Judges, prescribes that such information shall be given by the president of the court or a judge authorised to provide such information.</p>
18.	The Netherlands	Press and communications activities of courts are regulated within the courts.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	Act of 27 July 2001 Law on Common Courts Organisation provides for the appointment of spokespersons in the courts. The Press Act obliges the



		<p>president of courts to give the reporter the information, except those that are confidential. The same Act also places restrictions on the press. It is forbidden to give an opinion as to the outcome of proceedings before the judgment in the first instance. You can not publish in the press of personal data and the image of persons against whom proceedings are pending or prosecution as well as personal data and the image of witnesses, victims and victims unless they agree to it. The court may allow, for reasons of important public interest, the disclosure of personal data and the image of persons against whom proceedings are pending.</p> <p>In those courts, in which there are no spokespersons, the presidents may issue regulations governing the scope and manner of dealing with the press.</p>
21.	Romania	<p>The activities of communication and the relations of the courts with mass media are regulated by law, regulation of internal order and the guide on the relation with mass media and are carried out at the level of each court by the Office for Information and public relations.</p>
22.	Slovenia	<p>They are regulated in part by Court Rules which identify communication activities as one of the functions of the courts. Primary responsibility is on the presidents of the courts, but they can also delegate this role to others. Supreme Court has a special department dedicated to communication activities (Public Affairs Office), which also coordinates general activities and methods of other courts.</p>
23.	Turkey	<p>Press and communications activities are operationally regulated as they centrally are .</p>
24.	Ukraine	<p>Not at all.</p>



2. Are there any court spokespersons or judges who appear before press?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	The communication of the courts/offices of public prosecutors has to be channelled through a spokesperson to avoid the risk of having the activities being presented in a personalized manner and to minimize the risks of personal criticisms. Therefore nearly every court (it depends on the number of judges that are working at the court/ office of public prosecutors is provided with a spokesperson (judge/prosecutor with special training for the communication with the media). The spokesperson has to respect the regulations (given by law and the communication guidelines).
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	All the bigger courts have spokesmen, or the spokesman activities are conducted by the secretary of the courts (if it is a smaller court) .
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	Yes.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	Where I work at the City Court of Hjørring as well as many other City Courts, there are no spokespersons or judges, who appear before press. At some City Courts and at the Appel Court they have spokespersons.
9.	Estonia	Pursuant to the Estonian Judges' Code of Ethics judge shall avoid expressing his or her personal views on cases under scrutiny. All the courts have spokespersons that are prepared to give a comment to the press (not necessarily concerning a specific case but more often concerning a more general legal question). Spokespersons have had media training.
10.	Finland	At Helsinki District Court the chief judge is responsible for the media relations and media appearances with the communications officer. Therefore these two officers appear before press, if needed. Judges only rarely comment judicial or organisational issues, and never the judgements they made.
11.	Greece	The above spokesperson has no such task, his tasks include: 1. issuing press releases and 2. keeping archives of press releases and publications.
12.	Georgia	Courts have their spokespersons and speaker judges in Georgia, but there are none in my district.
13.	Italy	There are no Court spokespersons or judges who appear before press. (Anyway, as already said, the relationship between media and Prosecution Offices is regulated by d.lgs 106/2006, and it is provided that the Chief of a Prosecution Office is the only one who can deal - personally or delegating a Prosecutor within the Office - with the press).
14.	Latvia	No, there is no such practice in Latvia.
15.	Lithuania	The spokesperson appears before press all the time. Judges do in very exceptional cases only.
16.	Republic of Moldova	In every court there is a person who is responsible and appears before the press. In many situations before press can appear the chief of the court. Judges are forbidden by the art. 8 from the Law of Republic of Moldova on The Judge Statute, to present for mass-media any information about the cases in the court's procedure.
17.	Montenegro	There is no specific law or regulation about the number of the spokespersons or judges who appear before press except abovementioned provisions. In practise,



		<p>each court in Montenegro has its own spokesperson who is usually a legal assistant of judges but in some courts in Montenegro, we have judges as authorised persons to communicate with media. They are selected by the free opinion of the president taking into account their communication skills. Once they are chosen, they all go on a training organised by the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro in cooperation with the Supreme Court of Montenegro and sometime in cooperation with international organisations, or NGO's. This is our practice. They do not have their own organisation.</p> <p>Their task is to inform the media and the public about the specific case of a public interest. When giving such information, they are obliged to follow the same rules and provisions as the president/judge who is authorised to provide such information (see above answer 9).</p>
18.	The Netherlands	Yes, there exists a national pool of judges, who are both experts in their field and experienced in dealing with the press. The members of this pool have been authorized to speak nationwide on behalf of their colleagues, and are prepared to act as spokespersons in front of the cameras.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	Yes, there are 64 spokespersons in Polish courts. They are appointed in regional courts, courts of appeal and the Supreme Court.
21.	Romania	Yes.
22.	Slovenia	Yes, there are. Mostly, presidents of individual courts are also their speakers for the press. In some cases (larger courts), specialised spokespersons represent the court.
23.	Turkey	-
24.	Ukraine	In a few courts.



3. If yes, how are they selected and prepared? Is their training organised centrally or locally?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	They are selected locally (by the president of the court; judges, that are interested in the media and want to be the spokesperson of the court; they have to fulfil different criteria, that are regulated centrally) and prepared centrally (interview trainings, given information to help with the new function).
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Regarding this court, the spokesman is elected by job advertisement. As far as training is concerned, up until now, the spokesman has participated in one regional and several local trainings.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	They are selected by the president of the court, trained centrally.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	As far as I know, the spokespersons at the Appel Courts, are selected among the judges, who work there. There is no training organized centrally or locally.
9.	Estonia	Chairmen of courts, directors of courts and chairmen of chambers are spokespersons by default. Chairmen of chambers can nominate a legal adviser of a chamber to be a spokesperson. All spokespersons have media training that the department of public relations of the Supreme Court aims to organise once a year. Renowned journalists and media experts are trainers at these courses.
10.	Finland	Spokesperson of the Helsinki District Court is selected through an open vacancy. She is a communications professional. The Chief judge who mainly appears in the media is trained to perform by the spokesperson for each interview separately each time.
11.	Greece	-
12.	Georgia	I am not informed about the selection process and trainings.
13.	Italy	A selection process is not in place and trainings are not provided.
14.	Latvia	
15.	Lithuania	There are trainings organized by National Court Administration.
16.	Republic of Moldova	This person is selected by the ward staff and is included in Monitoring service and public relations; one of condition to be employed is journalist studies. There are no training organized for spokespersons, yet.
17.	Montenegro	There is no specific law or regulation about the number of the spokespersons or judges who appear before press except abovementioned provisions. In practise, each court in Montenegro has its own spokesperson who is usually a legal assistant of judges but in some courts in Montenegro, we have judges as authorised persons to communicate with media. They are selected by the free opinion of the president taking into account their communication skills. Once they are chosen, they all go on a training organised by the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro in cooperation with the Supreme Court of Montenegro and sometime in cooperation with international organisations, or NGO's. This is our practice. They do not have their own organisation. Their task is to inform the media and the public about the specific case of a public interest. When giving such information, they are obliged to follow the same rules and provisions as the president/judge who is authorised to provide such information (see above answer 9).
18.	The Netherlands	The press judge is the spokesperson who answers to the media on behalf of the



		<p>court. Officially, this task lies with the president of the court, but this responsibility has been delegated to the press judge for several practical reasons.</p> <p>For one thing, court presidents are usually too busy to study all the cases, and are involved in summary proceedings. These proceedings usually attract a great deal of media attention in their own right.</p> <p>In standard practice in the Netherlands, judges never have contact with the press about a case at hand; rather, they provide information and explanations to the press judge who acts as a spokesperson to the media. Press judges are appointed at the district and appeals court levels. Their role is principally to communicate with the media about individual cases being handled by the court. Although attention usually focuses on criminal cases, civil and administrative cases also draw media coverage at times. The volume of work for press judges is usually determined by the size of the court. In larger courts, such as the courts of Amsterdam or Rotterdam, there is a considerable workload on a daily basis, whereas smaller courts deal with fewer cases of public interest. Most press judges fulfil this particular responsibility in addition to their own judicial work and receive no form of compensation - either in time or money. Initially, no special qualifications were required of press judges. In fact, the Committee of Press judges only recently established the skills and qualifications required for the job.</p> <p>These include a good camera presence and the ability to write about matters of law in terms easily understood by laypeople. The Council for the Judiciary coordinates special training courses for these judges, including on-camera training. On a yearly basis, an average of sixteen judges receive media training. The fact that many press judges change jobs within the judiciary every two or three years, and may cease to serve as press judges poses an additional challenge. On the other hand, this high turnover has an advantage: an increasing number of judges now become familiar with the effects of their work on the media.</p>
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	They are appointed by the presidents of the regional courts and the courts of appeal after consulting the board of the court. Their training is organized annually in the facilities of the National School of the Judiciary and Prosecution and is also carried out by representatives of the media.
21.	Romania	The Office for Information and Public Relations within each court is led by a judge appointed by the court's president, after expressing his/hers agreement or by a graduate of the Faculty of Journalism or by a specialist in communication, appointed by competition or exam. The head of the office also fulfils the role of spokesperson. The training is organized locally and centrally.
22.	Slovenia	They are usually delegated to such responsibilities on a long run, based on their experience and skills. Primarily, the responsibility is on the presidents of the courts themselves. Training for such managerial, non-judicial tasks is organised centrally.
23.	Turkey	Yes, There are 20 court houses which have specific spokesmen from selected and authorized prosecutors. They are centrally assigned by the council. They are also centrally trained via house training methods.
24.	Ukraine	No special requirements for selection and/or preparation. Locally if trained.



4. What are their main tasks? In what topics do they disclose information?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	Judicial bodies can provide information to the media with due respect for legal provisions concerning the protection of personal data, privacy, dignity, the presumption of innocence, as well as the legal provisions precluding or restricting disclosure of certain information. The spokespersons of the courts inform the media about trials that take place at this court. Every court has its own spokesperson. Apart from that, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Justice informs the media about other judicial topics (not concerning trials), like the legal background, statistics, organisation of the judiciary etc.
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	The main task is communication between the court and the media, or the public. Spokesman acts for the court and gives information to the media and the public. The communication between the media and the public is performed via e-mail, the telephone or other means of public informing. Regarding the subjects, the spokesman gives all the information which are public and of interest to the public, but which belong to jurisdiction of the court.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	Everytime, when it is necessary to inform medias.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	The main task for spokesperson is to make a written statement informing the press about a legal file for the public. It can be done in both a civil and a criminal case. Not often spokespersons speak with the press.
9.	Estonia	The role of spokespersons is reactive - they themselves do not initiate a discussion on a certain topic but provide a comment when are asked to do so. The role of the department of public relations of the Supreme Court is to ensure that the spokespersons have had sufficient training.
10.	Finland	Spokesperson discloses information on the most interesting trials handled by the court. This means that only a very small share of the cases are disclosed by the spokesperson to the media. Of these cases, the court delivers information on the indictment, timetable of the proceeding and on the judgement with proper press release.
11.	Greece	His main task is issuing press releases especially in cases of public interest, taking care not to reveal any crucial information.
12.	Georgia	Their main task is to inform society about court decision and its' motivation. They disclose information about topics that are interesting for press.
13.	Italy	See point 2
14.	Latvia	
15.	Lithuania	Give the information in response to questions; inform media about cases of public interest; take a part in such hearings; control filming and shooting procedures in court.
16.	Republic of Moldova	Monitoring service and public relations have following tasks which are governed by the internal organizational of each court of justice, but as common tasks can be mentioned the following: - To provide the requested information for the press and citizens; - To check the publication of information about the cases and legal hearings; - To manage website and e-mail of the court; - To develop communications on court activity cases of public resonance.



17.	Montenegro	<p>There is no specific law or regulation about the number of the spokespersons or judges who appear before press except abovementioned provisions. In practise, each court in Montenegro has its own spokesperson who is usually a legal assistant of judges but in some courts in Montenegro, we have judges as authorised persons to communicate with media. They are selected by the free opinion of the president taking into account their communication skills. Once they are chosen, they all go on a training organised by the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro in cooperation with the Supreme Court of Montenegro and sometime in cooperation with international organisations, or NGO's. This is our practice. They do not have their own organisation.</p> <p>Their task is to inform the media and the public about the specific case of a public interest. When giving such information, they are obliged to follow the same rules and provisions as the president/judge who is authorised to provide such information (see above answer 9).</p>
18.	The Netherlands	See the above-mentioned answer to question 3.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	Spokespersons task is publicly perform activities of courts and public relations organization implemented with or through the media.
21.	Romania	The tasks, duties and powers of the spokespersons are provided by the same normative acts mentioned before, but also by the job profiles of each person. Also, Romania pays a special attention for observing the principle of transparency of the judicial activity, according to the provisions of law, so that the transmission of information is the rule and not sending the information is an exception, according to the definition provided for by Law no.677/2001 on the protection of personal data and of article 12 of Law no.544/2001.
22.	Slovenia	Tasks mostly depend on the interest of the public or question by the media (reactive activities). In pro-active communication activities, anybody can be used as a spokesperson, except for the judge who is actually handling the case.
23.	Turkey	Their main task is to address the need of public for information on publicly interested cases.
24.	Ukraine	General information mostly.



5. How are they organised/do they have an organisation?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	Every court and prosecutors office has its own spokesperson. In the Ministry of Justice there exists a spokesperson and a department for PR as well. It is head of the media work of the judiciary and coordinates and supports the spokespersons of the courts and prosecutors offices. (The Minister of Justice has his own spokespersons as well.)
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	It is unfamiliar.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	No.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	Judges who appear before press or spokespersons do not have an organization.
9.	Estonia	Spokespersons do not have a specific organisation.
10.	Finland	No, they don't.
11.	Greece	The Head of Prosecuting Department is at the same time the spokesperson of Public Prosecutor's Office of Athens Court of First Instance, assisted by a Prosecutor of First Instance.
12.	Georgia	There is (or there are) speaker judge(s) and there are also a staff members who prepare technical issues concerning to the press conference.
13.	Italy	See point 2.
14.	Latvia	
15.	Lithuania	The spokesperson directly subordinate to the Chief Judge of the court. He also closely cooperates with the Communication division of the national Court Administration.
16.	Republic of Moldova	There is a Monitoring service with (as a rule, one) spokesperson in each court of justice which is responsible for this domain and organize the interaction of press with the court.
17.	Montenegro	There is no specific law or regulation about the number of the spokespersons or judges who appear before press except abovementioned provisions. In practise, each court in Montenegro has its own spokesperson who is usually a legal assistant of judges but in some courts in Montenegro, we have judges as authorised persons to communicate with media. They are selected by the free opinion of the president taking into account their communication skills. Once they are chosen, they all go on a training organised by the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro in cooperation with the Supreme Court of Montenegro and sometime in cooperation with international organisations, or NGO's. This is our practice. They do not have their own organisation. Their task is to inform the media and the public about the specific case of a public interest. When giving such information, they are obliged to follow the same rules and provisions as the president/judge who is authorised to provide such information (see above answer 9).
18.	The Netherlands	See the above-mentioned answer to question 3.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	Each of them is employed in the other court. In the field of press information



		spokepersons report directly to the presidents.
21.	Romania	There are professional associations comprising magistrates, but there is no separate association comprising only spokespersons.
22.	Slovenia	There is no special organisation.
23.	Turkey	Court spokesmen are just staff of their institution as prosecutors.
24.	Ukraine	No, they do not.



6. Do the courts have communication advisors? If yes, what are their main tasks?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	No. (but the spokespersons are judges/prosecutors with a special training for the communication with the media)
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	This court does not have a communication advisor, but we do not dispose with this information related to the other courts.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	No.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	The City Court of Hjørring do not have communication advisors, and I am not acquainted with other Courts in Denmark, what have communications advisors.
9.	Estonia	The Public relations department of the Supreme Court manages the Supreme Court relations with the general public and co-ordinates the public relations activities of the Supreme Court and the court system. The department is responsible for the development and implementation of the information policy of the Supreme Court and manages the internal communication of the Supreme Court and the court system.
10.	Finland	Helsinki District Court has employed a professional communications officer to take care and develop the communication activities of the court. Her tasks include e.g. internal and external communication, media relations, media monitoring, editing web pages and brochures. Background of the communications officer is purely in communications activities, she has no judicial background.
11.	Greece	No.
12.	Georgia	Courts do not have such advisor as I know.
13.	Italy	No, they don't have any.
14.	Latvia	In Latvian courts, except for the Supreme Court and the largest regional court, namely, Riga regional court, there are no communication officers or advisors. However, there is employee appointed in each court (mainly, the assistant to the chairperson of a court), whose extra duty is cooperation with media. Their task is to answer to questions of media about court cases. The Department of Public Relations of the Ministry of Justice communicates with media on issues related to court policy and organisation. There are two employees in the Division of Communication of the Supreme Court, who communicate with media and society. The Head of the Division of Communication is responsible for communication and public relations of the Supreme Court as of institution, and for information of the Council for the Judiciary and the Disciplinary Court. The Press secretary informs and answers to questions of media on court cases being reviewed by the Supreme Court.
15.	Lithuania	No, it doesn't.
16.	Republic of Moldova	As a rule, spokesperson is the single person who communicate with press having as advisor the chief of the court, but for the Supreme Court of Justice can be employed more persons, who have the main task to prepare the press releases witch a published on the website of the court.
17.	Montenegro	There is no communication advisors in Montenegro, nor they are prescribed by any legal act.
18.	The Netherlands	Yes. Every court has a communications department. That department can be



		<p>contacted at least during office hours. The communications department is responsible, together with the judge responsible for briefing the press, for communications with respect to legal actions and decisions. The judge responsible for briefing the press can be contacted through the communications department.</p> <p>The communications department is responsible, together with the court management, for communications on behalf of the court with respect to all matters that exceed the scope of the case in question. The court management can be contacted through the communications department.</p> <p>The communications department of the Netherlands Council for the Judiciary (Raad voor de rechtspraak) is responsible for communications with respect to all national matters.</p>
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	No, they haven't.
21.	Romania	Yes. The duties, tasks and powers are provided for by the same normative acts mentioned before, and are mainly those on public information.
22.	Slovenia	In some cases (bigger courts) the courts employ communication specialists, who coordinate and prepare communication activities, and occasionally also act as spokespersons.
23.	Turkey	Courts have no specific communication advisors.
24.	Ukraine	No, they do not.



7. What is the work relationship of spokespersons and judges like? What is the proceeding in regulation and in practice between court spokespersons and judges like who either appear before the press or handle cases of public interest? Are cases of public interest handled with special attention during case allocation (e.g. special case number, statistics of these types of cases)? Is there a possibility to assign these cases to special „media sensitive” judges?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	<p>The spokesperson of the court is a judge as well. The judges inform the spokesperson if they have a trial that could interest the media.</p> <p>The communication of the courts/offices of public prosecutors has to be channeled through a spokesperson to avoid the risk of having the activities being presented in a personalized manner and to minimize the risks of personal criticisms. Therefore every court/ office of public prosecutors is provided with a spokesperson (judge/prosecutor with special training for the communication with the media).</p> <p>One of the basic principles of the judiciary is that you can't choose a judge for a special trial, so there is no possibility to assign cases with special media attention to special "media sensitive" judges.</p>
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	<p>When speaking of case allocation, they are randomly assigned to judges via Case Management System (CMS), so the "sensitive" cases cannot be assigned to specific judges, neither does this court have judges trained for public speeches in the media. Judges of this court do not give statements or communicate to the media in a manner the spokesman does. They can participate in the radio or TV shows which deal with specific issues (not specific court case), press conferences etc.</p> <p>During the public speeches, judges can give information related to juvenile delinquency, the increase of the number of the utility cases, statistic data (number of divorces, number of sentenced persons for crimes of drug abuse and similar). Therefore, they can address the public and make public appearances, but they cannot inform of specific cases, even if these are of great public interest. In these situations, there is the court spokesman or the president of the court.</p> <p>Regarding the relation between the spokesman and the public appearing judges, the spokesmans' duty is to prepare a judge in a specific appearance for a specific subject, or for the press conference appearance.</p> <p>In such cases, the spokesman prepares all the needed information for the judges' appearance, and agrees on the details related to the statement, with him and the media.</p>
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	Some of the spokespersons (usually not high/supreme court) are judges as well, they do it besides their job. Cases are not handled with special attention.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	Spokespersons are judges, and they work as judges. A case of public interest will mainly be handled by a judge and not a deputy-judge, but there are no "media sensitive" judges.
9.	Estonia	Most spokespersons are judges. There is no possibility of assigning cases to "media-sensitive" judges (cases are assigned to judges by a computer programme). In addition, judges are not to comment the cases that they



		themselves are hearing.
10.	Finland	<p>We're trying to centralizet all media enquiries to communications officer. The communcations officer then collects pieces of information for an answer and replies the questioner. This means that the cooperation is very close between communications officer and judges. For instance, media releases by the court are written together with a judge and a communications officer.</p> <p>Cases which interest media are usually well spotted in their early phases (sometimes already at the prosecutor's office). Usually that kind of cases require in any case an experienced judge who can also think if it interests media and already at an early phase contact communications officer. They plan together how to meet the curiosity of the media.</p> <p>What comes to case allocation, the public interest plays probably no role when the case is allocated.</p>
11.	Greece	Such criteria concerning the assignment of cases of public interest to judges are not provided.
12.	Georgia	There is no special allocation or statistics as I know and there are no special judges for such cases. Judge gives to spokesperson information. Then they shape together final version of official statement to exclude any mistake or inaccuracy. After that spokesperson makes an official statement of court.
13.	Italy	<p>See point 2.</p> <p>Cases of public interest follow the normal case allocation, without the possibility of assigning them to any "media sensitive" judge.</p>
14.	Latvia	Within distribution of cases, public interest about particular cases shall not be taken into account. As exception, chairpersons of courts of chairpersons of departments, chambers or judicial panels may give interview about particularly topical cases.
15.	Lithuania	<p>The spokesperson must coordinate the provision of information about the case with the judge as well as information about court's activities with the Chief Judge.</p> <p>We do not have practice to assign some cases to special „media sensitive“ judges. Cases of public interest are not handled in any special way.</p>
16.	Republic of Moldova	<p>If judges have in their procedure handle cases of public interest they inform about this the spokespersons, who will inform public and mass-media about the case taking in account the limits of legal regulations. The special cases of public interest are judged in the same manner like another one, there are not special case numbers or statics of these types of cases. All the cases are examined in accordance with the principle of an independent and impartial justice for all.</p> <p>As a rule, the press "makes" the cases to be of the public interest.</p>
17.	Montenegro	<p>In practise, in situations when media requests an information in respect specific case, a judge who is handling that case always instruct it to the authorised spokesperson who, in cooperation with that judge and in some cases with the president of the court, give such information.</p> <p>In our courts we don't have special "media sensitive" judges and cases of public interest are not allocated with special attention having in mind that it is very disputable what "public interest" means. This is especially because the cases in all courts in Montenegro are allocated to the judges by electronic accidental case allocation. Some types of cases (i.e.from labour law, family law etc.) are allocated and handled with urgency (promptly).</p>
18.	The Netherlands	See the above-mentioned answers.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	The work relationship of spokespersons and judges is not regulated. Spokespersons provide information primarily on the basis of the case file. Cases of public interest are not handled with any special attention during case allocation. There is not a possibility to assign these cases to other judge because of its ability to communicate with the press.
21.	Romania	The relationship is one of collaboration, the spokesperson being the one who provides data of public interest to mass media, after consulting the judge who solved the case, or if the judge is missing, after the consultation of the court's



		<p>president, because the judges are not allowed to provide information on pending cases, thus having an obligation to forward the claimants to the communication structures.</p> <p>As for the distribution of cases within Romanian courts, an electronic distribution system exists - called ECRIS - through which the distribution is random, without special numbers for files, statistics or distribution to a certain judge of the files of public interest. Both the distribution and the circuit of files within and outside institutions, according to the rules of procedure, are highlighted by publishing the information for each file on the web pages of courts.</p>
22.	Slovenia	<p>Internal procedures regarding external communication are not formally regulated.</p> <p>Cases of special public interest cannot be assigned or handled different from other cases.</p>
23.	Turkey	<p>Since there is no such criterion that refers to that type of classification of judging, it is not legal to assign these cases to "media sensitive" judges. Because, in Turkish judicial system, cases are assigned to legally preappointed powerful judges to those cases according to Procedure Code.</p>
24.	Ukraine	<p>No, no such possibility.</p>



8. At what judicial level are spokespersons employed? First instance court, court of appeal, regional or local level?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	Every court (no matter if first instance court, court of appeal or supreme court) has its own spokesperson (exception: courts with less than 10 judges working there; for those courts the spokesperson of the court of appeal communicates with the media).
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	In Bosnia and Herzegovina, regardless of the level, every court ought to have a spokesman, or a person in charge of giving information to the public.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	See 1.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	Spokespersons are judges. See answer number 2.
9.	Estonia	All court instances have their own spokespersons.
10.	Finland	Helsinki District Court is an exception among the courts of first instance in Finland. It's the only court of the first instance having a communications official. At the Supreme Court and at Prosecutor general there are her closest colleagues. They all are communications specialists, not judges or similar.
11.	Greece	-
12.	Georgia	Spokespersons are employed in Supreme court, Tbilisi Appeal court, Tbilisi city court. They are in all instances but not in all district courts.
13.	Italy	See point 2.
14.	Latvia	
15.	Lithuania	Spokespersons are in a Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, in all County courts and in bigger District courts.
16.	Republic of Moldova	In each court there is, as a rule, one spokesperson that is responsible for the court where he is employed. In cases when a decision refers to a judge the responsibility of communication with the press is of spokespersons from the Supreme Council of Magistrates.
17.	Montenegro	See answer 2. / 3. / 4. / 5.
18.	The Netherlands	Press judges are appointed at the district and appeals court levels.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	They are employed in regional courts, courts of appeal and the Supreme Court.
21.	Romania	According to the provisions of Law no. 544/2001, all public institutions in Romania, and also those which are part of judiciary, have the obligation to include a specialized compartment and a spokesperson. Thus, all courts have compartments of public information and public relations and spokespersons.
22.	Slovenia	Specialised spokespersons are currently employed only at 3 (out of 66) courts in Slovenia, all of them at different courts in Ljubljana (Local Court, District Court and Supreme Court). There are no specialised spokespersons at the level of Court of appeals. Public Affairs Office at the Supreme Court employs 5 specialized professionals.
23.	Turkey	Spokesmen are generally employed in first instance courts. Beside that, appeal courts do also have their own spokesmen.
24.	Ukraine	The only court spokesperson I know is employed at Vinnytsia Administrative Court of Appeal. However, she is responsible for media communication about



	that court's cases only.
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9. What is the suggested proceeding and code of conduct for judges who appear in the press? Are trainings or centralised courses organised in this subject?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	The spokespersons are prepared centrally (interview trainings, given information to help with the new function) and supported by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Justice if necessary.
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	We don't have a code of behaviour for judges who make public appearances. Regarding the Municipal Court of Sarajevo, so far, 3 or 4 times a seminar in the area of public appearance has been organised, but only for head of departments of this court, not for all judges.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	None.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	As a spokesperson not often appear before press, there is not a conduct for such persons, and there is no training courses organized in this subject.
9.	Estonia	Spokespersons receive media training. In addition, there exist brief guidelines for spokespersons.
10.	Finland	In Helsinki, the chief judge is solely present in media. At the moment there are no plans on changing this. Chief judge is every time prepared for media appearance by the communications officer. Luckily, the chief judge is very much in favor of fostering good media relations.
11.	Greece	-
12.	Georgia	I have no information about that.
13.	Italy	As already said, under art. 6 ANM (national association of magistrates) code of conduct, moderation, balance and self-restraint are required when being interviewed or when issuing a statement. There are no practical trainings on this issue but the School for magistrates provides general courses on the topic of the relationship between media and justice.
14.	Latvia	There is no special conduct code or other normative act to use as a guide for judges, who appear before the press. In particular problematical questions regarding relations between judges and media conclusions were provided by the Judicial Ethics Commission. For example, on expressions used by a judge during an interview with a journalist; on judge's responses to journalist's questions; on public expressing of opinion by a judge regarding cases examined by him and other judges. Single lectures and reports on relations between a court and media were read at Judges' Conference by communication professionals - lecturers of higher educational institutions.
15.	Lithuania	There are trainings organized by National Court Administration.
16.	Republic of Moldova	The judges' conduct should be in accordance with Code of Ethics for Judges. In the same time there are legal acts which determine the level of publicity of the cases. For example, the Civil Proceeding Code stipulates the principles of publicity of legal hearings, but provides that the exceptions are cases that constitute state secret, commercial secrets or other information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law). Also, in the criminal case where a minor person is a victim or witness, the court



		<p>will hear his statements behind the closed doors. Judges are not recommended to appear in the press according to the Code of Ethics for Judges. There are few Trainings or centralized courses for judges and spokespersons in this subject in Republic of Moldova.</p>
17.	Montenegro	See answer 2. / 3. / 4. / 5.
18.	The Netherlands	See the above-mentioned answer to question 3.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	<p>In Polish courts only appointed judges may give information to the press. Usually these are spokespersons and presidents of the courts. The National School of the Judiciary and Prosecution offers postgraduate training for judges in the field of rhetoric and image creation, co-organized with the University of Silesia. The National School on its website also provides a training on-line. Portal currently offers three lines of training for the external communication of the courts: communication in the media, public speaking and media and art of self-presentation. During training in communication media participant gets practical tips on how to prepare information for the media so that they are understandable and easy to remember. It acquired skills to be useful during interviews, press conferences and the preparation of press releases. Training in public speaking and media prepares the participant to provide information during public speaking and media, in particular television appearances. Participant learns the specifics of speeches in front of cameras. During training in self-presentation participant learns how to build their image with the appropriate choice of words and body language and cope with stress.</p>
21.	Romania	<p>The procedure is provided for by the law and by the Guide on the relationship of the judiciary with mass media, and the conduct of judges appearing in mass media is guided by the Manual for Spokespersons and structures of public information and relations with mass media, passed by SCM in 2012 together with the guide previously mentioned. According to current legislation, the magistrates have the obligation of continuous training, by yearly centralized courses organized by the National Institute of Magistracy.</p>
22.	Slovenia	<p>The judges who are responsible for a particular case, may not inform the public about it orally. If the judge or a spokesperson acts in the press as a representative of the court, he or she must express the position of the court.</p>
23.	Turkey	They are required to be fluent and well trained for this position. They are also centrally trained via house training methods.
24.	Ukraine	The judges should follow the Code of Legal Ethics which was adopted by the Council of Judges of Ukraine. No trainings are organized.



10. Are there good practises, examples to follow?

Answers:

1.	Albania	
2.	Austria	Well prepared information given to the media (before the trial starts) concerning the case and the legal background. That ensures that the media is well informed and favors an objective report by the media.
3.	Azerbaijan	
4.	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Municipal Court of Sarajevo is one of few courts in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina which strictly deals with relations to the media, which regularly publishes all the developments within the court through the court web page, the court bulletin, and public statements. All the journalists enquiries are responded in short terms (except in cases when it requires more time to gather certain information), therefore we consider it an example which all the other courts ought to look up to.
5.	Bulgaria	
6.	Czech Republic	Probably the state prosecutors, e.g. Lenka Bradáčová.
7.	Cyprus	2-10. There are no spokespersons. As said above (see section I) the Courts make announcements on important judgements or issues, if they consider it desirable. For these purposes a three member team is constituted in the Supreme Court (consisting of supreme court judges), responsible for press announcements and usually this is done by written announcements to the Public Information Office of the Republic and judges do not normally appear before journalists or participate in radio or television programs.
8.	Denmark	A written statement can be a good idea, so the press quickly can get the main point of the judgement/the legal file. Through a written statement it is possible to explain in a short way, the result of a legal file or a conviction.
9.	Estonia	
10.	Finland	
11.	Greece	-
12.	Georgia	There should be such examples.
13.	Italy	There are no good practices in place.
14.	Latvia	We have a spokesperson in a court since 2008. During that time they have formed an excellent relationship with people from media. They have mutual trust which is really important. Our spokesperson gives the accurate information to journalists timely and people of media are correctly enough. There are journalists specializing to work with the courts only.
15.	Lithuania	-
16.	Republic of Moldova	There is an Association of Judges from Republic of Moldova, with its own website (www.ajm.md) and magazine, where can be found some good practices and examples to follow. Also, the Supreme Court of Justice adopts and publishes on its website (www.csj.md) its Recommendations which are good practices and compulsory for all the national courts of justice.
17.	Montenegro	Not particular.
18.	The Netherlands	See the above-mentioned answers.
19.	Norway	
20.	Poland	There are no formal practises or examples to follow.
21.	Romania	As good practices we could highlight the following issues: transparency, openness and effectiveness of the representatives from the institutions within judiciary on solving the notifications and claims of mass media, but also the support granted to the representatives of mass media for a better understanding of procedural aspects. According to Law no. 544/2001, the access of mass media to public information is guaranteed. The oral requests for public information are usually solved

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		immediately or within a 24 hours term. Public authorities have the obligation to periodically organize press conferences, usually on a monthly basis, in order to communicate the information of public interest.
22.	Slovenia	Yes.
23.	Turkey	
24.	Ukraine	An example of Vinnytsia Administrative Court of Appeal should be followed, as it is the only court I know that has a spokesperson.