



III. NEW TRENDS IN COURT COMMUNICATION (FACEBOOK, TWITTER, YOUTUBE, ETC.)

1. What new means or channels of communication does your court use? What advantages and disadvantages are you experiencing?

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | Internet, E-Mail. The courts in Austria don't work with social media. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | Municipal Court of Sarajevo uses e-mail for communication with the media representatives and the court web page. |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | We dont use fb, twitter, youtube etc. |
| 7. | Cyprus | The courts do not in general communicate with the press, except as above (see section I) explained. |
| 8. | Denmark | Our citycourt only has a website |
| 9. | Estonia | We are using Facebook since December 2013 and Youtube since September 2012. Facebook is mostly ment for people who are already interested in law or are studying it in the university. With both of them we rather have advantages than disadvantages. As them both are informal channels, we can share different kind of information (different law-related articles, contests we are organizing, work adds etc.) We are working together with creative agencies to make videos about legal proceedings and about court system. We have had a lot of positive feedback when introducing people who work in the court system and when sharing pictures about groups who visit the Court houses. |
| 10. | Finland | Actually, we don't use any. Maybe a Twitter account might be useful, but other means probably not. It's important for us to establish a good level of service with the "older" means of communications before jumping into the new ones. For instance, opening a Twitter account would require more resources when initiating it, but also in the long run. |
| 11. | Greece | Courts' official websites. Advantages: - informing public on how to access Courts and their services. - informing public and lawyers on the progress of their cases - electronic filing (available in the near future) - providing case law Disadvantages: - they could be more updated |
| 12. | Georgia | My district court uses internet. It has own webpage. It uses also facebook, where is located also court's page. It has an advantage of informing society more easily, accurately, efficiently. |
| 13. | Hungary | Novell Vibe surface is used by growing numbers within the judicial organisation, which means easy and quick and volatile information sharing among colleagues, thus enhancing team work. Users can open, modify and save their Word, Excel |



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| | | and PowerPoint files directly on the work surface of Vibe. Vibe can be used everywhere by everybody, users can create groups that can be only seen by the colleagues – taking part in the same project – invited. Some courts use Facebook and Youtube channels, too. |
| 14. | Italy | Italian Courts use communication by email and some of them have a website in order for the citizens to know useful information about the organization of the Court and about available services. |
| 15. | Latvia | For the present, the newest communication channels are not used. Latvian courts have common court web site, where court rulings are also published. Only the Supreme Court has its own web site – www.at.gov.lv . |
| 16. | Lithuania | Court does not use any new trends of communication. We have a website. Our spokesperson constantly sends the news to journalists by email listed in advance. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | Our court doesn't use Facebook, Twitter or Youtube. The court communication sources are: the official website of judicial system of Republic of Moldova (http://instante.justice.md), which has a separate section for each court of justice; this website provides the necessary information about the court's activities. Advantages: The uniformity of online presence of all courts within the national judicial system. Ease of access to one-stop-shop website for all courts. Up-to-date information about all upcoming court hearings and a convenient way to access the history of past hearings. Disadvantages: Technical instability of the website. Vulnerability towards unsanctioned access. |
| 18. | Montenegro | There are no new means or channels of communication in that respect with our court uses. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | Internet (homepages) and twitter are commonly used by courts. |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | All common courts, including district courts, regional courts and courts of appeals, as well as the Supreme Court have their own websites which provide in particular case lists and e-mail address to which citizens may send requests and complaints. On the websites of all the courts of appeal and certain others courts there are Information Portals. User registered in Information Portal has access to information concerning the case, for example the activities carried out by the court, the designated time of hearings, the documents generated by the court in electronic form (outgoing letters, judgments, orders, justification, minutes of hearings), details of the proceedings in the lower court if they exist, electronic protocol with the ability to listen. One designated district court (the District Court Lublin-Zachód in Lublin) issues orders for payment in electronic proceedings. Benefits that are associated with owning a website is less work for court staff (fewer people calling and coming to court). Some disadvantages are caused by communication by e-mail, people use inappropriate word more often than in normal letters. On the website of the Ministry of Justice you can also get some information from land registers, the National Criminal Register and the National Court Register. The National Criminal Register provides information from the national criminal record indicates whether the person was convicted and whether serving a prison sentence, is arrested or wanted. The National Court Register is a centralised, computerised database comprising three distinct registers: the register of entrepreneurs, the register of associations, other social |



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| | | and professional organisations, foundations and public healthcare institutions and the register of insolvent debtors. The object of the National Court Register is to provide information on the legal status of a registered entity (The Central Information of the KRS), the material elements of its financial condition and the manner of its representation. Furthermore, the National Court Register contains other information on the entrepreneur of value to commercial circulation, including information on outstanding tax and tariff duties, arrears towards the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), creditors and value of outstanding debts. The Register of Insolvent Debtors (RDN) constitutes a supplemental repository of knowledge on natural persons being in debt, conducting business with whom may carry an increased risk. |
| 22. | Romania | Mostly are used the channels and communications services provided for by the mail, electronic mail, telephony and websites. |
| 23. | Slovenia | Primarily YouTube as a depository for our video content which is included in the messages on the main portal www.sodisce.si. |
| 24. | Turkey | Courts simply use general means of communications like press conference and publishing on website. |
| 25. | Ukraine | Social media is widely used by the court in which I work. |

2. Does your court have its own Facebook-page? If not, why? Do judges use/are they allowed to use social media? If yes, within what framework?

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | The courts in Austria don't have Facebook-pages. Social Media only makes sense if the page is kept up-to-date; we don't have enough personal resources for that. Judges are allowed to use social media only in private life with due respect for the duties of profession. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | This court does not have a facebook page, but regarding facebook profiles of specific judges, the court has no interest in it, for it is related to the privacy of every specific judge. |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | No. |
| 7. | Cyprus | Generally the courts in Cyprus do not have facebook pages. Judges are allowed and some do use social media, however on personal level only. |
| 8. | Denmark | The courts in Denmark do not have a Facebook Profile. Danish judges are allowed to use social media - but not many do. Danish judges only use it privately. |
| 9. | Estonia | Estonian Courts have a common Facebook-page which is called "The art of justice". It does not represent one court but the whole system. Judges are allowed to use social media in personal cause. |
| 10. | Finland | No, we don't. Reasons are same as above; it requires resources and you should be able to be present there quite often. Also, we imagine that it would end up as a way to ask different judicial questions which we can't answer. |
| 11. | Greece | There is no Facebook-page for Athens Court of First Instance. |



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| | | Specific framework on the use of social media for the judges who decide to use them does not exist. |
| 12. | Georgia | Yes, my court has its own Facebook-page. Judges are allowed to use social media but not for official statements or official communication and in frames of ethics. |
| 13. | Hungary | Several Hungarian courts (and NOJ) have Facebook pages where they share news, interesting facts and other contents with the followers. The ethical codex that is being renewed and finalized will discuss the usage of social media by judges. |
| 14. | Italy | My Court doesn't have a Facebook page. Some Judges and Prosecutors use social media but just for private purposes and there is no regulation or legal framework about that. |
| 15. | Latvia | <p>The court does not have its own Facebook page, as expediency calculations of how many people would follow work of the court exactly via Facebook were not performed. Information to the society is available on the web site of the court, journalists communicate with court by phone or e-mail, latest information is prepared and sent regularly.</p> <p>Judges are not prohibited to use social media, but they themselves are responsible of what information they place or express therein. Judges must observe canons of the Code on Judicial Ethics. Thus, Canon 3 stipulates that discharge of direct judge's duties is primary, comparing to other activities performed by a judge. Canon 4 prescribes that the judge performs out-of-court activities in such manner, so that there would arise no reason for doubts about judge's ability to discharge judicial duties impartially, court institute would not be disgraced and correct discharge of judicial duties would not be impeded. Finally, the Canon 2 includes provision that the judge must not allow, so that impression occurs that some person is placed in special position, which would allow influencing a judge.</p> <p>Upon request of some judge, the Judicial Ethics Commission provided explanation regarding application of norms of ethics in respect of a judge as a user of social network draugiem.lv and other similar social networks. The Judicial Ethics Commission pointed out: a judge does not live and he must not live in isolation from the society, he, just as any other member of society, has right to social communication. That is why the judge can communicate in social networks, if corresponding way of communication, especially approval of friendship, does not decrease respect towards a court or it does not rise doubts about judge's ability to perform his judicial duties independently and impartially.</p> |
| 16. | Lithuania | <p>No, the court does not have it. National Court Administration has the Facebook page "Lietuvos teismai". All courts give the information to it. It was decided to have one Facebook page for all courts of Lithuania expecting to have it more actual and visited.</p> <p>There are no rules regulating judges' usage of social media.</p> <p>Some judges have accounts and use them for personal purposes only.</p> <p>There is only one judge in Lithuania who informs about cases he is hearing in his Facebook account.</p> |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | <p>Our court doesn't have its own Facebook-page, because the format of broadcasting characteristic to Facebook doesn't fit the necessities and obligations of a Moldovan court.</p> <p>For instance, Facebook provides a medium to communicate unilaterally – by posts, and bilaterally – through private messages; on the other hand a court</p> |



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| | | <p>needs to inform the public about its upcoming hearings, hiring intentions, judges' biographies and declarations of conflict of interest etc. – all of this data is more easily communicated and digested on a separate curated page, in the absence of advertisement and third-party noise.</p> <p>Plus, objections might arise with respect to the choice of social media portal: why Facebook, why not Google+, or VK, or Twitter? Or why not all of them put together?</p> <p>This being said, judges are not forbidden to have their own Facebook-page or Twitter account, but they are recommended to use those as ordinary citizens, not for professional use.</p> <p>On this topic, it is worth mentioning that the online presence of a judge, including in social media, is subject to all the ethic regulations otherwise applicable to a judge – thus the demeanor of a magistrate on social media should be more reserved, without the nonchalance characteristic to this medium of communication.</p> |
| 18. | Montenegro | Our court does not have its own Facebook. We don't find it necessary. Judges can privately use social media (networks as Facebook, Twitter etc.), but not as a judge. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | The Judiciary has a Facebook page. Not per court. Judges are allowed to use social media, some have for example a twitter account. |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | <p>Courts haven't their own Face-book-pages. It seems that all the information that may be posted on the web, can be found on the websites of the courts. Moreover, courts provide their e-mail addresses, to which you can send correspondence.</p> <p>Judges are allowed to use social media but only for private purposes.</p> |
| 22. | Romania | Romanian courts do not have Facebook pages. The Superior Council of Magistracy has since 2011 a Facebook page, which was rarely used, but it was updated from July 2014. Some judges have Facebook accounts and the posted information is related to the personal, teaching or legal area. |
| 23. | Slovenia | <p>The courts do not have their own FB pages. Courts use their own web platforms for informing the public (mainly www.sodisce.si and www.sodnapraksa.si).</p> <p>Some judges do use social media. Such use is not specifically regulated, but can be addressed within the general scope of the Judicial Code of Conduct.</p> |
| 24. | Turkey | No, it does not. |
| 25. | Ukraine | Yes, it does. Yes, they are and some of them do. No special framework. The Code of Judicial Ethics distinctively allows judges to use social media. |

3. Do you find it useful that courts open towards those citizens who can primarily be reached on Facebook/Twitter/blogs? If not, why?

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | No. it is hard to inform the citizens through social media, because it take more than one sentence to explain questions concerning the judiciary. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and | No, on grounds of potential abuse. |



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| | Herzegovina | |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | Of course I find it very useful. |
| 7. | Cyprus | It could be useful, but if it would be done, it should be done with great care and surely within specific framework to avoid bringing the Courts or Judges into disrepute, or degrade the honour and good reputation of the Courts, for which people in Cyprus have the highest regard. |
| 8. | Denmark | No, I d'ont find it useful to open up. It is important to preserve the integrity of the courts. |
| 9. | Estonia | Yes, we find it useful. |
| 10. | Finland | It might be a good development and we follow carefully e.g. how the ministry of justice develops its own Twitter account. |
| 11. | Greece | The objective and the function of social media is not compatible with the role and the purpose of Justice. |
| 12. | Georgia | Yes, I find it useful for citizens. |
| 13. | Hungary | Basically we find it useful, since it means a new surface for reaching citizens and also enables the sharing of topics important to us, thus allowing more and more people to have access to information regarding the justice system. The use of Facebook fits into the series of programs called "Open Court", which aims to provide the upcoming generation with basic knowledge on law, answering their questions relating to the judiciary and also to strengthen their trust in the justice system. In the framework of the program lectures are held for high schoolers on a regular basis by employees of the Regional Court of Appeal and the Regional Court and they also allow the visiting of trials and case-simulations. |
| 14. | Italy | Generally speaking, it can be useful in order for Courts to spread useful information (for example, related to the organization, to the working hours or to the services). |
| 15. | Latvia | For the present, we do not consider it useful to use Facebook/Twitter along with previous communication channels, as additional resources and time would be necessary and we do not know what return it would give. The most significant thing is that information is available and those, who need it, will be able to find it on the web site or to specify that in a court. |
| 16. | Lithuania | It is a question if it is useful, but it is not harmful as well. Only very small part of society is interested to reach courts such way. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | Some consider that social media as a distinct broadcasting medium can have an unintended effect on the message and on the "broadcaster" – namely it can trivialize both of these elements; in other words, the gravitas that is inherently necessary for the image and reputation of a court can be diminished by the use of social media by judiciary authorities. Additionally, the perception in the Moldovan society is that social media is a token of juvenility, leisure, frivolousness – thus by no means official and authoritative. From a strictly legal point of view – all the communication pertaining to procedural issues is restricted by law to specific means, namely mail and newspapers of republican level. It would be theoretically helpful to be able to send subpoenas through social media – but it is currently technically unreliable, as few websites require and can guarantee identity verification. |
| 18. | Montenegro | We don't find it usefull because there are lot of ways of abuses of this kind of a |



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| | | communication. All courts in Montenegro have general web-site (homepage), called "the courts in Montenegro" and within that page everyone can reach president and judges who are autothorised in that respect, on their official court email addresses. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | Yes, as a broader public can be reached. Furthermore, these channels are part of the daily life of the general public and can be an instrument to bring the work of the Judiciary closer to the public. |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | I think that these new social media could be useful in communication with those citizens who often change their place of residence or live abroad. Using these kinds of communication could shorten the duration of the court case but it requires the approval of these citizens. From the other side, using such means of communication can cause uncertainty, if someone does not use other people's personal data. Moreover, in informal ways of communication more often people use inappropriate word. |
| 22. | Romania | As long as the communication is achieved, any type of communication may beconsidered. |
| 23. | Slovenia | It can be useful, but it can also bring many more difficulties if various checks are not in place (wider regulation issues). Courts are often unable to compete in various propagandist attempts by different parties which may have an interest to influence the public perception, and social media All new communication channels need to be evaluated also in terms of the institution's ability to manage it effectively in the long run. |
| 24. | Turkey | Yes,it might be useful. |
| 25. | Ukraine | Yes, I do. |

4. Can one leave comments on these surfaces? If yes, on what level? Are such suggestions taken into account?

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | No. But it is possible to be in contact with the judiciary through the Website and E-Mails. Those (mostly) requests are handled by the Ministry of Justice. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | No. |
| 7. | Cyprus | At the moment there is no such possibility available. |
| 8. | Denmark | It is not possible to make comments at the courts website |
| 9. | Estonia | Yes, people can leave comments. But at the moment it is more like a one-way communicating rather than discussing about something. The Facebook page also represents the whole court system not one particular instance. Therefore we do not get a lot of comments or questions. Questions about hearings, cases, adjudications and also suggestions are usually sent by e-mail. |



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| 10. | Finland | N/A |
| 11. | Greece | |
| 12. | Georgia | Yes, everyone can leave comments at any level. There are not suggestions in the comments which could be taken into account in my district, as I am informed. |
| 13. | Hungary | Comments are allowed, their content is indeed taken into consideration and we try to answer or provide help as soon as possible. |
| 14. | Italy | Since my Court doesn't have a Facebook page, citizens cannot leave messages or comments. They can just write emails, send a fax or visit competent offices. |
| 15. | Latvia | There are no opportunities to post comments. |
| 16. | Lithuania | Anyone can leave the comments they want to. The comments are very rare. Usually they are polite enough but not useful. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | On the official page of judicial system of Republic of Moldova there is no possibility to leave comments, but there is a web-page (www.evaluez.eu), which offers possibility for anyone to appreciate each judge from the Republic of Moldova by evaluating them with marks from 0 to 5 and there is a possibility to leave comments for each judge as well. It must be said, though, that this website is unofficial and cannot guarantee proof against biased voting, or even worse – smear campaigns. |
| 18. | Montenegro | We don't find it useful because there are a lot of ways of abuses of this kind of a communication. All courts in Montenegro have general web-site (homepage), called "the courts in Montenegro" and within that page everyone can reach president and judges who are authorized in that respect, on their official court email addresses. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | Yes, on the Facebook page the public can comment on the posts. |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | Citizens are not allowed to post comments on the website of the court but they may send requests and complaints via e-mail. |
| 22. | Romania | We think that using this communication channels should be done for providing information of public interest. Comments and suggestions represent a feedback that may be considered and could be encouraged as a source for solving the shortcomings and for the institutional development. |
| 23. | Slovenia | Not applicable regarding social media. Users can post comments on the web sites of the courts, and all such messages are regularly taken into account, replied to, etc.. |
| 24. | Turkey | They can be allowed to leave comments on these surfaces provided that they are not in violation of human rights or harassment and illicit intervention in fair trial. |
| 25. | Ukraine | Yes, normally they can. In our court you can even ask a chairman a question online. If these are constructive suggestions, they probably are. |

5. Do you see a possibility for official bodies to communicate with each other using these surfaces?

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | No. A legal basis for it doesn't exist. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |



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| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | Of course. |
| 7. | Cyprus | At the moment there is no such possibility available. |
| 8. | Denmark | No. |
| 9. | Estonia | We don't think that we will share official information or co-operate with another official body through social media channels. |
| 10. | Finland | I think official bodies should have different ways of communication. Social media is by its name 'social' and official bodies aren't related in that kind of social way, to my mind. On the other hand, social media works and could work quite well for instance with the media relations. |
| 11. | Greece | These surfaces involve the risk of unsecure transmission of information as well as the risk of leak of information, especially in cases of public interest. |
| 12. | Georgia | Yes, I think it could be organized that way to communicate with official bodies but it needs additional agreements or legal bases, technical support and so on. |
| 13. | Hungary | It is not likely from the aspect of information security and administration. A closed system is much more secure than an outside service provider. |
| 14. | Italy | I think that Facebook, Twitter and blogs are not safe and reliable means of communication for official bodies, while citizens can and should exercise their right to inform and be informed also using these surfaces. |
| 15. | Latvia | For the present, we do not see the necessity for official institutions to communicate via Facebook. |
| 16. | Lithuania | Not really. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | <p>Technically the possibility exists, obviously. Purely procedural it still needs legislative regulation. As of usefulness, it would be more suitable for state bodies with a political component – the President, MFA, office of the Prime-minister etc. Judges, being apolitical, have less use from using social networks on a professional basis.</p> <p>On a slightly off-topic remark, what could be useful for courts is a closed/invitation-only social network for magistrates that would permit secure corporate communication between judges and would provide the features of a Quora-style Q/A website, where judges can share useful information and ask specific questions on various fields of jurisprudence; answers would then be rated and could possibly be considered as additional performance indexes of a judge. Additionally, judges would be able to vote best decisions regardless of the fact if they were confirmed or overruled, thus encouraging the propagation of best practices currently known and creating a taxonomy of decision to inspire yourself from.</p> |
| 18. | Montenegro | We see possibility but we don't think it is necessary having in mind that they use other efficient means to communicate in a proper way (emails, phones, faxes etc.) |
| 19. | The Netherlands | N/a. |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | I don't find these surfaces useful in communication between official bodies. It seems that phones, fax, e-mail are good enough for them to communicate. |
| 22. | Romania | Yes |
| 23. | Slovenia | No. We prefer not to rely on external proprietary solutions for institutional communications. |



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| 24. | Turkey | I do not see any legal possibility for official bodies to communicate through publicly accessible pages. |
| 25. | Ukraine | Only to certain extent. |

6. Does the court have its own homepage? What kind of content is featured on it? If not, why not?

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | Yes, every court has its own homepage (content: information relevant for the citizen). |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | The Court has its own web page (www.oss.ba) which consists of information on the President of the court, Court departments, their organisation and jurisdiction, the court jurisdiction, the timetable of the hearings, common questions of the citizens, public announcements, service information, published TV features, daily news, and TV shows which the President of the court or other judges have participated in, information regarding press conferences, the annual work report, actual laws etc. |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | Yes, each court has its own homepage, featured content concerns only official informations and informations about court locations, president etc. |
| 7. | Cyprus | The Supreme Court has a homepage. It has a section which explains the judicial system in Cyprus, a section which explains the structure of the Cyprus Courts, a section that refers to the judges of the different courts, a section with photographs of the different courts of Cyprus, and a section for news, announcements, legal articles, recent decisions and statistics. |
| 8. | Denmark | Yes. Any useful information for users. Some summaries of interesting sentences. |
| 9. | Estonia | Yes, The Supreme Court has its own homepage and the other courts have a common page. In the homepage you can find actual information about hearings, cases, judgements, news. You can also find information about the court system and everything you need to know to about applying. You can also read about history, different speeches and materials, about chambers, analysis etc. The reason we have two different pages is that the the Supreme Court is financed directly by the state budget and the first and second instance is financed by the ministry of justice. |
| 10. | Finland | Yes, we have. The page informs on our practicalities (opening hours, contact details, information for customers, information on training) and hopefully also in the future more and more on most important judgements. |
| 11. | Greece | Yes it has, it includes information on how to access Court and its services, a list of office and telephone connection of the Court's divisions, information on case progress and electronic filing, organization charts, statistics. |
| 12. | Georgia | Yes, court has its own homepage where one can get information about court news, statistics, useful links, legal acts, the schedule of hearings, biography of judges and staff, contact information and so on. |
| 13. | Hungary | Every Regional Court, Regional Court of Appeal and also the Curia has their own |



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| | | website. The content control of the courts' central website is maintained by NOJ, where current news, announcements and topics of interest can be read. NOJ does not only allow its own professional materials to appear, but also provides space for the courts' local news. The site has an English surface as well, where main news regarding the judicial system can be found. |
| 14. | Italy | My Court of Appeal has its own homepage inspired by the principle of transparency. Interested people can find useful information about the organization of the Courts within the District and about contacts, opening hours, scheduled hearings, statistics, and training courses for magistrates and lawyer. |
| 15. | Latvia | The Supreme Court of the Republic of Latvia has its own web site www.at.gov.lv . It contains following sections: 1) About the Supreme Court (organization; structure; the Chief Justice; judges; the Plenary Session; the Disciplinary Court; information materials); 2) News – press releases (about events in the Supreme Court and about trials); 3) Proceedings (proceedings at appellate and cassation instance; docket – including results; procedure of distribution of cases; statistics); 4) For visitors (contact information; working hours; bank accounts; procedure for releasing of information; opportunities of guided tours; information for students and schools); 5) Judicature (classifiers of case-law rulings by cassation instance; compilations of court decisions; archive of ECtHR rulings translated into Latvian) 6) Resources (research; handbooks, links, laws) 7) History of the Supreme Court The home page of the Council for the Judiciary is also integrated in the web site of the Supreme Court. |
| 16. | Lithuania | Yes. News about cases of public interest and courts' activities, contacts, information about services, legal information, forms, other information useful for people applying to court. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | As we have already mentioned our court has its own compartment on official site for all the courts of justice from Republic of Moldova http://instante.justice.md . On this site there is information about the civil, criminal and administrative cases which are in the procedure of the court, the information about the time and date of the hearings, as well as general information about the court's organization. Last, but not least important – all the previous decisions of the court are also published on the aforementioned website. |
| 18. | Montenegro | As mentioned before, in all courts in Montenegro can be reached on the website called "the courts in Montenegro". On that page everyone can choose the Court he/she is interested. Once he/she choose the Court there are information about the president, judges and legal assistants of that court, then pending cases, case-law, libraries, internal legal acts, ECHR case-law, hearings schedule etc. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | Each court has its own homepage. The content includes news update, practical information, court rulings, rules and procedures etc. |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | All common courts, including district courts, regional courts and courts of appeals, as well as the Supreme Court have their own websites. It provides information about the data address, office hours, organizational structure, jobs offers and case lists. There are also placed on the judgments of the court after the removal of personal data. |



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| 22. | Romania | All the institutions of the judiciary have its own internet pages, email addresses and the logistics necessary for carrying out their activity in an optimal manner. Beside other information, the web pages also include the data and information mentioned by article 5 of Law no.544/2001 as being mandatory for publication and updating on websites. |
| 23. | Slovenia | Yes. www.sodisce.si is a platform for all of the courts (66) in Slovenia. Websites allow, among other, access to the information on the work of the courts (lists of open cases, different info for case parties, FAQ, all public information, etc.), case law databases (www.sodnapraks.si) and e-filing (in certain procedures). |
| 24. | Turkey | Yes, it does. It features the office and staff information and important notices. |
| 25. | Ukraine | Yes, it does. Quite a bit of content: decisions, time-table, information on new rulings etc. |

7. Are communication training courses or programs organised for judges, assistant judges and trainee judges?

If yes, how regularly and in what topics?

If not, why?

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | Communication trainings do exist for judges who are spokespersons of a court or are going to be a spokesperson or presidents of a court. Furthermore there are conferences concerning this topic that can be attended by judges that are interested in this topic. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | Yes, but due to lack of financial assets, not often. There are usually seminars on the subject of FOIA (Freedom of Access to Information Act) of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | Yes, once a year, media training. |
| 7. | Cyprus | There are no communication training programs. |
| 8. | Denmark | No. |
| 9. | Estonia | Training courses for spokespersons are held once a year. |
| 10. | Finland | Not yet, but mainly because there hasn't been time for that. Intention is that communications officer could train judges in the future on issues dealing with the media: how to write a press release, what the reporters do and why they are interested in certain cases etc. |
| 11. | Greece | No. |
| 12. | Georgia | I do not know about regularity of such trainings but I believe that such trainings take place at least once. |
| 13. | Hungary | Besides obligatory central courses, judges, court secretaries and trainee judges have several free thematic trainings. Competence-focused trainings are still very popular (rhetorical training, stylistics training, sympathy and empathy etc). Twice a year there is a communication training for spokespersons and press officers. |
| 14. | Italy | Training courses on communication are organised, more or less once a year, by the "Scuola superiore della magistratura" (School for Magistrates) and they usually |



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| | | cover the topic of the relationship between justice and mass media. |
| 15. | Latvia | <p>Training for judges, assistants to judges and trainees for a judge's office in Latvia is ensured by the Judicial Training Centre. The centre offers continuing education and professional development of employees of a court system, paying particular attention to subjects, which increase quality of court judgements and prepare for work in legal system of the European Union. Programmes for court communication are not offered.</p> <p>In the Supreme Court, Chairs of departments and chambers had media trainings (occasionally, in small amount).</p> <p>As it was already mentioned in the answer to Question 9 of Section 2, in particular problematical questions regarding relations between judges and media conclusions were provided by the Judicial Ethics Commission. Single lectures and reports on relations between a court and media also were read at Judges' Conference by communication professionals – lecturers of universities.</p> |
| 16. | Lithuania | Yes they are. They are rare and only for voluntaries who expresses willingness to take such courses. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | <p>If yes, how regularly and in what topics?</p> <p>If not, why?</p> <p>There are no communication training courses or programs yet, but we think that there will be soon organized such courses.</p> |
| 18. | Montenegro | There are no specific training courses for judges in that respect, but as mentioned before, once te president of the court choose a spokesperson, he sends him on a communication training. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | Yes for press judges. |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | <p>Trainings for judges are held in training centers of The National School of Judiciary and Prosecution. These are trainings organized annually in accordance with the schedule of training activities of the National School. Training pertaining to external communication of courts, take the form of classes and lectures, which are also carried by the media representatives. During the training, judges have the opportunity to raise rhetorical skills, develop communication with the media and improve self-presentation. Over the past three years those issues were the subject of training for a total of approx. 930 judges (which gives 10% of all common courts' judges).</p> <p>Additional elements of the training offer of the National School of Judiciary and Prosecution for judges with the theme of communication outside of the courts are postgraduate studies in rhetoric and creating an image for lawyers, co-organised with the University of Silesia in Katowice and online training, available to participants on the web portal at http://www.kSSIP.gov.pl/e-learning.</p> <p>The judicial training program provides for a four-hour course which is lectured on by the journalist - press law specialist. The lecture concerns issues related to the media image of courts and judges, rules of judicial cooperation with journalists and the ability to create self-image in the media. So far the lectures have been carried out for two consecutive classes (in 2012 and 2013), which gives 180 trainees trained.</p> <p>In addition, the National School initiated the additional training of self-presentation. They are implemented in the form of a two-hour lectures combined with classes (work with a camera). Their scope includes, inter alia, the principles of</p> |



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| | | public speaking. In the course of self-presentation, which took place for the judge and prosecutor trainees in 2013, benefited a total of 160 applicants. For the last two years national school also organized for trainee judges additional classes in the rhetoric, involving the training of communication skills, rhetoric and negotiation. |
| 22. | Romania | <p>The training of magistrates on non-legal skills represents an important percentage of the initial and continuous training of magistrates and the interpersonal and institutional communication is one of the training areas dedicated for achieving this objective.</p> <p>The trainings and seminars are organized by the National Institute of Magistracy, which the main institution directly involved in the initial and continuous is training of trainee judges and of the probation and definitive magistrates. The Initial Training Programme for 2014 includes training modules on communications, with duration of 15 hours, but also an observatory activity and evaluation.</p> <p>Taking into account the interest of a high number of magistrates for this area, NIM included in the continuous training programme of magistrates for 2014 a number of 4 seminars, with a duration of 2 days, on the area interpersonal and organizational communication. Each seminar will be attended by 20 magistrates.</p> |
| 23. | Slovenia | Communication training courses are currently organised by the Judicial Academy (part of the Ministry of Justice) primarily for presidents of the courts, as one of the required trainings. Topics vary from general issues, crisis communication to public speaking. |
| 24. | Turkey | No, they are not. Because as I mentioned above, this position is occupied by selected prosecutors by the Council. |
| 25. | Ukraine | No. I guess, it is a matter of time. |

8. Are these training courses organised hand in hand with the media?

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | Partly yes, partly no. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | Sometimes, yes, sometimes no. We have had several trainings in which also the representatives of the media participated. |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | No. |
| 7. | Cyprus | There are no communication training programs. |
| 8. | Denmark | No. |
| 9. | Estonia | Yes, they are. |
| 10. | Finland | No. (N/A) |
| 11. | Greece | |
| 12. | Georgia | No, such trainings are not organised hand in hand with media. |
| 13. | Hungary | The Hungarian Academy of Justice organises the nationwide trainings for judicial employees. In several cases we invite lecturers from other legal professions as well as from the press who prepare with practical topics and tasks. |
| 14. | Italy | These training courses are not jointly organised with the media. Of course, journalist |



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| | | and experts are or can be invited. |
| 15. | Latvia | No, those are not organised jointly with media. |
| 16. | Lithuania | Yes, in a sense. For example, some trainings are lectured by the chairman of Lithuanian Union of Journalists. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | As there are no such courses or programs yet we are unable to address this question. |
| 18. | Montenegro | As we are informed, trainings are not organized hand in hand with media, but some seminars are. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | <p>Trainings for judges are held in training centers of The National School of Judiciary and Prosecution. These are trainings organized annually in accordance with the schedule of training activities of the National School. Training pertaining to external communication of courts, take the form of classes and lectures, which are also carried by the media representatives. During the training, judges have the opportunity to raise rhetorical skills, develop communication with the media and improve self-presentation. Over the past three years those issues were the subject of training for a total of approx. 930 judges (which gives 10% of all common courts' judges).</p> <p>Additional elements of the training offer of the National School of Judiciary and Prosecution for judges with the theme of communication outside of the courts are postgraduate studies in rhetoric and creating an image for lawyers, co-organised with the University of Silesia in Katowice and online training, available to participants on the web portal at http://www.kSSIP.gov.pl/e-learning.</p> <p>The judicial training program provides for a four-hour course which is lectured on by the journalist - press law specialist. The lecture concerns issues related to the media image of courts and judges, rules of judicial cooperation with journalists and the ability to create self-image in the media. So far the lectures have been carried out for two consecutive classes (in 2012 and 2013), which gives 180 trainees trained. In addition, the National School initiated the additional training of self-presentation. They are implemented in the form of a two-hour lectures combined with classes (work with a camera). Their scope includes, inter alia, the principles of public speaking. In the course of self-presentation, which took place for the judge and prosecutor trainees in 2013, benefited a total of 160 applicants. For the last two years national school also organized for trainee judges additional classes in the rhetoric, involving the training of communication skills, rhetoric and negotiation.</p> |
| 22. | Romania | In the area of communication, the courses are lectured by representatives of mass media and by the persons who have a broad expertise on this matter, in their capacity of trainers of NIM. |
| 23. | Slovenia | No. Members of the media are sometimes invited to such events as speakers or presenters. |
| 24. | Turkey | Yes, they are. |
| 25. | Ukraine | |

9. Are there press-breakfasts, briefings and round-table sessions organised for the members of the press?

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| 1. | Albania | |
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| 2. | Austria | Yes, locally organised by the courts. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | Round tables only. |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | I do not know about it. |
| 7. | Cyprus | There are no communication training programs. |
| 8. | Denmark | No. |
| 9. | Estonia | No, there aren't. |
| 10. | Finland | Helsinki District Court has organized one press conference on a huge judgement concerning loss of damages on an organized asphalt cartel. At the moment, there are no intentions of increasing the number of press conferences as long as judges do not comment on their verdicts. Regular meetings with the organization of judicial reporters are organized once a year. |
| 11. | Greece | No. |
| 12. | Georgia | No, there are not organised such sessions in my district. |
| 13. | Hungary | We hold press conferences with every major event, there are regular background talks and interviews arranged to a certain topic. Courts regularly have press breakfasts, where the actual questions and cooperation is discussed with the journalists. |
| 14. | Italy | No, there aren't any. |
| 15. | Latvia | The Supreme Court had organised Media Day, inviting representatives of both central and regional media, who write about court cases, to participate therein. On that day the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court informed journalists on reorganisation and other activities of the Supreme Court, the Division of Communication familiarised with opportunities to receive information in the court and to search information, which could be useful for journalists, on the web site, the Chair of the Department of Administrative Cases read a lecture on case-law in cases concerning availability of information. |
| 16. | Lithuania | There are sometimes. Such events are organized by National Court Administration, but not court itself. |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | Press-breakfasts, briefings and round-table sessions organized for the members of the press – are not a common practice in the Republic of Moldova. |
| 18. | Montenegro | Press-breakfasts, briefings or round-table sessions are not organized by the courts in Montenegro for the members of the press. On the other side, in accordance with the Article 55 of Court Rules of Procedure (Rule of Courts), the court informs the apublic about its operation and activities at press conferences to be organized at least once in a year. It is laso prescribed that the court may select to inform the public about its operation in some other manner deemed appropriate. |
| 19. | The Netherlands | |
| 20. | Norway | |
| 21. | Poland | In the Polish system there is no practice of organizing "press breakfast", briefings or roundtable sessions for the members of the press. |
| 22. | Romania | Press conferences and information session are periodically organized for the representatives of mass media, in order to disseminate the information of public interest. |



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| 23. | Slovenia | Not on a regular basis. |
| 24. | Turkey | There is no press breakfast, briefings and round table sessions on regular basis. |
| 25. | Ukraine | |

10. What kind of social programs are organised in order to bring the public/citizens closer to the court? (e.g. open days, exhibitions, conferences, etc.)

Answers:

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| 1. | Albania | |
| 2. | Austria | Cooperation with schools (and open days for schools), exhibitions, panel discussions etc.. |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | |
| 4. | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina | This Court was the host of European Day of Civil Justice, and on this occasion, open door days were organised, suitable programme was hosted, the citizens were allowed to access the court and gain needed information, suitable leaflets and similar. |
| 5. | Bulgaria | |
| 6. | Czech Republic | Conferences. |
| 7. | Cyprus | There are no social programs organized to bring the public/citizens closer to the court. |
| 8. | Denmark | Our court fx. invites highschoolstudents to attend a criminal proceeding. |
| 9. | Estonia | We organise open days for the citizens and are welcoming students and pupils for guided tours. Together with teachers we organise social studies where we talk about court system and about legal proceedings. We also organise different contest for high school students and for law students. At least once a year we organise a day when citizen can come to the court house and ask for legal advice from lawyers (working for the law office). |
| 10. | Finland | None so far, but maybe in the future. |
| 11. | Greece | There are no such social programs, but Court sessions are open to the public. |
| 12. | Georgia | It is organized pupil's tours in the court in my district from time to time. |
| 13. | Hungary | In 2012 the National Office for the Judiciary started a series of lectures in secondary schools under the motto: „You are afraid of what you don't know.” in the name of the transparent, open justice. The Open Court Programme has been successful for two and a half years. Its aim is to inform students on the justice system and make them aware of the law-abiding behaviour. In the framework of the programme the management and the system of the courts as well as the court proceedings are presented (tutor group, visiting court buildings, visiting trials and jail, trial simulation, open days). In 2013 32 thousand students participated in the events, in the first half of 2014 664 events were organised to 21.222 participants, which is a big number. During the programme courts made cooperation agreements with several educational institutes. There are public conferences as well, and there are some unique forums: (e.g. Sziget Court in the annual Sziget Festival), and the European Day of Civil Justice (PIEN), when the courts are open to visitors throughout the country. |
| 14. | Italy | It happens that students of secondary school attend hearings in order to understand how justice works and sometimes Judges and Prosecutors are asked to visit schools or to participate in social or cultural initiatives to meet students and citizens for the same |



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| | | purpose. |
| 15. | Latvia | <p>1) The Supreme Court organises Days of First Year Students – meeting of first-year students of Faculties of Law with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and guided tour over the Palace of Justice and to the museum of the Supreme Court.</p> <p>2) Lessons of law conducted by judges for pupils' classes and groups of teachers of social sciences, whereas they get familiarised with court system in the state, provide insight into administrative law, civil law and criminal law. The lesson is conducted in the court room, and the judge wears robe.</p> <p>3) The Supreme Court participates in the Shadow Day, when pupils of the secondary schools, who are interested in studying law, may follow work of the court all day long.</p> <p>4) Guided tours in the Supreme Court – in the museum of the Supreme Court and over the historical Palace of Justice.</p> <p>5) National or international conferences on topical issues organised by the Supreme Court, to which not only judges, but also other legal professionals (prosecutors, advocates, notaries), students and lecturers from higher educational institutions, politicians, journalists etc. are invited (for example, this year there was a conference "Courts in Legal Culture Space", the main topics thereof were: courts and politicians, courts and media; courts and society).</p> <p>6) Annual Latvian Judges' Conferences organised by the Supreme Court, whereas educating lectures (both on legal issues and, for example, lectures on Latvian language, Latin language, psychological protection or communication with media).</p> <p>7) "The Supreme Court Bulletin" is published twice a year, which is delivered free of charge to all courts, central libraries, which are located in the country, higher educational institutions.</p> |
| 16. | Lithuania | <p>Open days, excursions, educational events, meetings with schoolchildren, seniors, quizzes.</p> <p>Traditional chess tournament judges against students.</p> <p>Recently held exhibition of art works of prisoners.</p> <p>National Courts Administration is planning to open a museum of Lithuanian courts.</p> |
| 17. | Republic of Moldova | <p>The current paradigm established in the judicial system of the Republic of Moldova does not focus separate efforts on building, or promoting a public persona for the courts, except for the general image that is formed in the public's mind through the quality of the decisions, the celerity of the process and PR through the architecture/real estate of the court.</p> <p>Regardless of the fact that any interested citizen can freely assist at hearings that are public – there still exists the need to educate the public in what concerns the spirit of the judicial system, its current particularities and most importantly practical suggestions on how to efficiently navigate the judiciary process.</p> |
| 18. | Montenegro | <p>The social programs which are organized in that respect in our courts are "open-days", where the flyers, brochures and others such notifications concerning specific legal matter are given to the citizens, as well as "open-door", where the presidents of the each court is allowed when he find it appropriate (in practice teice in a year), speak to students, or ngo's, diplomatic staff member, press, etc.</p> |
| 19. | The Netherlands | <p>Every year a 'Week of the Judiciary' is organised for the public. Each court opens its doors for the public and organizes activities for the public. This can vary from a moot court to visits of judges to primary/high schools.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Council for the Judiciary opens its doors during the National Monuments Day.</p> |
| 20. | Norway | |

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| 21. | Poland | There are organized exhibitions or open days at courts – e.g. the occasion of the opening of the new courthouse, or the celebration of the anniversary of the foundation of a specific court, but those events are very rare. |
| 22. | Romania | The following events are organized yearly: „Open doors”, „European Day of Civil Justice”, „Justice’s Day” etc. |
| 23. | Slovenia | Open days and round tables/conferences are organised about once a year at some courts. Various online and offline publications are published by the Supreme Court. |
| 24. | Turkey | There is no specifically organised social programs to bring citizens closer to courts beside press conferences held for special cases. |
| 25. | Ukraine | We together with the Court of Appeal do open days, exhibitions and conferences a lot. I think it is good for communication both with professionals and the society. |