

***Third Annual European Conference on Courts and  
Communication***

***Budapest, 15-16 October 2015***

***Questionnaire***

**Image and sound recording at courts**

1. What type of legislation regulates the image and voice recording at courts in your country and in what way?

I. Direct Publicity

a. Trials of Greek Courts are public, unless Court decides that publicity can be harmful to the good morals or there exists reasons of protection of the private or family life of the litigants (Article 93 par. 2 of the Greek Constitution)

b. Court decisions are pronounced in public (Article 93 par. 3 of the Greek Constitution)

c. Trials of civil courts are public (Article 113 par. 1 Code of Civil Procedure)

d. Trials and the pronouncement of the court decisions are public in all criminal courts (Article 329 and 330 of Code of Penal Procedure)

e. Trials of the Court for Minors are closed to the public as well as the pronouncement of the decisions (Articles 96 par. 3 of the Greek Constitution and 1 of the law 3315/1955).

I. Indirect Publicity

Image and voice recording at Courts (civil, penal and administrative) is prohibited. Television and radio coverage or/and filming and photo shooting of sessions in cases require:

1. prior permission of the Court, 2. consent of Prosecutor and parties and 3. essential public interest, meaning that publicity will be in the interest of the public (law no. 3090/2002, 3315/1955).

2. Is there a separate provision (legislation, recommendation, regulation, etc.) regarding image and sound recording at courts, court buildings, court hearings, court events?

No.

3. Is the practice relatively uniform regarding image and sound recording at different courts in your country? If not, what characterises the types of recordings and what are the possibilities?

Yes it is uniform.

4. If recording is permitted, how is this applied in practice? Where is it permitted (in front of the building, in the court room itself, on the corridor, etc.)?

Television and radio coverage / filming and photo shooting of sessions in cases require: 1. prior permission of the Court, 2. consent of Prosecutor and parties and 3. essential public interest (law no. 3090/2002, 3315/1955).

The offenders are punished by imprisonment and fine 20.000 – 200.000 €.

So in cases of public interest at the beginning of the session whoever wants to cover the trial has to request that the trial be given full or partial media coverage. The prosecutor may be in favor or challenge the request. The judge after hearing the two sides' arguments may decide immediately or may call a brief recess to conclude. The above permission concerns the coverage in the court room.

Television coverage as well as filming and photo shooting of persons brought in front of judicial, prosecutorial or police and other authorities is prohibited.

The offenders are punished by imprisonment and fine 20.000 – 200.000 €.

5. Are there any common problems relating to image and sound recording and if so, what are these?

- exposure of private life and personal data of the defendant and his family
- risk of turning trial to a show
- risk of exercising psychological pressure to witnesses
- risk of exercising pressure on the jury and Judges
- disorder of the Court
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6. Is a contribution required from the subject in order to record image and/or sound? Is there a difference in this aspect between public figures (judge, prosecutor, policemen, etc.) and others attending the trial (parties, witnesses)?

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7. In case the recording takes place at the court room, who decides about how the recording is done (location and movement of the press in the court room, who can be recorded, what is the time frame of the recording)?

The final decision is up the Judge Presiding over the trial taking into consideration the specific demands of the parties and ensuring that the press will not disrupt the procedure.

8. Do courts keep the press informed on current cases or substantive decisions? If so, are there any specific rules?

No.

9. Is the recorded material made available to the subjects before it is published? If yes, in what way?

No. There is not such a provision.

10. In case incorrect information is published about the courts, or the content of a statement changes in the course of post-production, are any measures taken? If yes, what are the means of correction?

The Association of Greek Judges and Prosecutors may make a written declaration to restore the truth.

Courts do not take any measures of correction. But in case that the trial is not over the Court may revoke its permission of coverage.

## **Strengthening of court PR: new trends of communication**

1. What type of social programmes are organised by your court in order to bring the public closer to the court?  
None.
2. What kind of CSR programmes are organised by your court in the framework of corporate social responsibility?  
There is no such programmes organized by Courts.
3. Are the programmes focused on a specific field of law? Are there significant programmes and events for a given field (e.g. domestic violence)?  
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4. Are there programmes designed for specific groups of society (e.g. rights of children, helping the disabled)?  
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5. Is there cooperation with partner organisations, non-governmental organisations relating to these programmes?  
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6. How and where are said programmes and results communicated?  
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7. What are your courts international relations? In order to maintain them, do you have programmes, invite partner judges or send your own judges and experts to partner courts?
  - Periodically we invite foreign jurists and Judges to visit our Courts and get familiar with our judicial system.
  - We facilitate transnational judicial exchanges, especially to European Institutions and other bodies.
8. Is your country or court involved in international scholarship programmes, exchange programmes or study visits?
  - Greek Judges and Prosecutors participate in international conferences and technical assistance projects abroad.
  - Judicial delegates from Greece participate in the European programmes.
  - We organize international conferences.
9. Is there a separate platform for the communication of international relations – foreign website, etc.?  
No there is not but such related information is displayed on the website of National School of Judges.

10. Does your country or court use social media surfaces, if yes, what type of events are published?  
Greek Courts as well as Ministry of Justice do not use social media surfaces.

### **Means and measures of crisis communication**

1. How is a crisis defined in the life of a court?
  - case of national or even international interest
  - terrorist attack at court premises, terrorist attack or attack during a trial against judges
  - interruption of the trial due to upheaval caused by those who attend the trial
2. Is there a crisis communication plan at your court?

No.
3. If you do have a plan for crisis communication, what is the content?

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4. Is there a declaration order in case of a crisis? If so, what is this order?

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5. What are the primary surfaces for the communication in case of a crisis?

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6. What are the main messages in case of a crisis?

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7. What basic principles need to be followed during crisis communication?
  - Protection of the involved parties
  - Information of the public
  - Not disclosure of crucial information
8. How are the publications documented and followed during a crisis?

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9. Is there any communication after the crisis and if yes, what is it like?

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10. How can a crisis be prevented? What crisis preventing strategies are used?

Police protection and cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.