

***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? Criminal and Civil Code regulates only voice recording of hearing at court and recording by court. Image recording is not using in Slovakia by courts, only in some situations in criminal cases. Party of cases can record voice but can not disturb proceedings with recording. Media can be filmed only with approval of judge the court room and parties but only before and after the hearing. During proceedings image recording is not permitted.
2. Is there a separate provision (legislation, recommendation, regulation, etc.) regarding image and sound recording at courts, court buildings, court hearings, court events? No. It is just principle.
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? I think that practice is similar in most of Slovak courts.
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.)? Recording is permitted in front of the building, in the court room itself, on the corridor, but in court room only with approval of judge.
5. Are there any common problems relating to image and sound recording and if so, what are these? Yes It could be a problem if judge disagrees with recording of somebody.
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)? No

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)? Judge

8. Do courts keep the press informed on current cases or substantive decisions? If so, are there any specific rules? Court can inform the media only by official speaker.

9. Is the recorded material made available to the subjects before it is published? If yes, in what way? No it is up to media which are responsible for the recorded material.

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? We used to send to the media official letter with request for correction but owner of media usually not answered so we can sue them or let it be.

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. Public can see the public proceedings.

2. What kind of CSR programmes are organised by your court in the framework of corporate social responsibility? No one

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)? No

4. Are there programmes designed for specific groups of society (e.g. rights of children, helping the disabled)? No

5. Is there cooperation with partner organisations, non-governmental organisations relating to these programmes? No

6. How and where are said programmes and results communicated? We do not have this programmes

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? Exchange programmes we use through our Judicial academy.

8. Is your country or court involved in international scholarship programmes, exchange programmes or study visits? Yes

9. Is there a separate platform for the communication of international relations - foreign website, etc.? In some way we can communicate with international bodies but generally abroad communication is up to department of justice or internal affairs.

10. Does your country or court use social media surfaces, if yes, what type of events are published? Yes we published some court decision and treaties on the official department websites.

Means and measures of crisis communication

1. How is a crisis defined in the life of a court? We do not have such definition. It is no clear what you mean by crisis communication.
2. Is there a crisis communication plan at your court? Probably not.
3. If you do have a plan for crisis communication, what is the content?
4. Is there a declaration order in case of a crisis? If so, what is this order?
5. What are the primary surfaces for the communication in case of a crisis?
6. What are the main messages in case of a crisis?
7. What basic principles need to be followed during crisis communication?
8. How are the publications documented and followed during a crisis?
9. Is there any communication after the crisis and if yes, what is it like?
10. How can a crisis be prevented? What crisis preventing strategies are used?

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