

**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?**

Image recording by the media is regulated in procedural statutes ( Law on Criminal Procedure) and in by-laws (Court Rules).Voice recording is not allowed.

Procedural legislation allows for recording for the purposes of the procedure itself by the court.

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

Image recording is allowed only for the press and only in criminal cases. The way and the duration of recording is regulated in a Law on Criminal Procedure and in the Court Rules Act. Court Rules Act defines that only the president of the Supreme Court can as an exception allow image recording at the hearing. He decides the duration of recording and who in the court room can be recorded. Generally it is allowed to record the beginning of the hearing and it is not allowed to record judges without their approval. Recording in court rooms in civil matters are not allowed.

Image and voice recording of the court buildings, court rooms, corridors etc. are not allowed, unless that is explicitly approved by the court manager. Longer usage (longer than one day) of the court for filming must be approved by the Ministry of Justice.

There are no restrictions regarding the recording in the front of the building.

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

The practice is uniform for all courts.

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

See ans. 2.

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

Media and a part of politic is interested in allowing video recording in court rooms.

**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)?**

The restriction regarding recording is valid only for the judges. Since recording is allowed for few minutes before the beginning of the hearing witnesses are not present. There are no restrictions for recording the prosecutors, defense counsels or the defendants.

**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)?**

Location and the movement of the press is on judge, the frame of the recording is decided in decision press receive from the Supreme Court.

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

In a case of some substantive decisions courts might inform the press. It is done by using standard PR tools. Otherwise courts use reactive PR policy.

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

No.

**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?**

In Slovenia voice recording is not allowed so we do not have problems with having incorrect information that are connected to the post-production issues. If image recording is misused (e.g. - judge recorded without his approval) we have the possibility to withdraw already issued permission.

### **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?

There are occasional visits by the students and student bodies in order to familiarize them with the work of the courts and employment opportunities in the judiciary.

2. What kind of CSR programmes are organised by your court in the framework of corporate

social responsibility?

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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)?

There are occasional awareness campaigns (e.g., leaflets for different age groups of children involved in court proceedings, special information for blind and hearing-impaired citizens).

5. Is there cooperation with partner organisations, non-governmental organisations relating to these programmes?

There is no formal cooperation, but visits and presentations are organized when requested or when interest is shown.

6. How and where are said programmes and results communicated?

On the websites of the court, if deemed appropriate.

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?

There is bilateral cooperation with some countries and states.

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

-No.

9. Is there a separate platform for the communication of international relations – foreign website, etc.?

-No.

10. Does your country or court use social media surfaces, if yes, what type of events are published?

Only website. Social media (e.g., Twitter, FB, Instagram) are currently not used.

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

1. How is a crisis defined in the life of a court?

There is no formal definition. Typically, a crisis is defined as an unexpected situation which can have an immediate catastrophic result for the institution or related stakeholders and which requires extraordinary measures in order to contain it.

2. Is there a crisis communication plan at your court?

Specific crisis communication plan is developed on the basis of the situation.

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?

First step is identification and analysis of all relevant factors, effects and possible consequences.

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

Internal communication, website and related press releases, public speaking platforms, statements for the press.

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

Depends on the crisis.

7. What basic principles need to be followed during crisis communication?

That there are only a few speakers and that the message communicated must be coordinated and clear. For long term effect, content is more important than form.

8. How are the publications documented and followed during a crisis?

We follow and document all publications regarding judiciary all the time.

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

It depends.

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

Every institution and department maintains a registry of risks related to its work processes, and procedures and activities related to optimization and minimizing of negative effects are implemented all the time.

