

Ceremony of Signing Memorandum of Cooperation between Association of Judges and Association of Prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Role and Contribution of Associations in the Process of Judicial Reforms- Current Affairs and Perspectives

Sarajevo, 12th of October 2020

Association of Prosecutors in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Association of Judges in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Association of Judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Association of Women Judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina signed Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation Between Associations of Judges and Associations of Prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12th of October 2020. This completes several months of work on establishing institutional framework that ensures strengthening and promoting independence, impartiality, accountability, efficiency and transparency of prosecutors and judges. The Memorandum is expression of the need to actively and more constructively engage members of existing judicial associations in defining and protecting integrity and professional status of judicial function holders. The signing of the Memorandum is a first step towards greater influence of judges and prosecutors on reform processes and more efficient solving of problems, which have been piled up in the judiciary. The Memorandum establishes a Joint Coordination Body that will ensure more efficient and more coordinated action, and eliminate weaknesses brought about fragmentation of professional associations.

Presentation of results of survey of judges and prosecutors about priorities, weaknesses and needs of professional associations preceded signing of the Memorandum. Participants of the survey agree that associations will have to actively work, especially in regard to initiating analyses, recommendations and positions, followed by work on raising and protecting reputation and dignity as well as promoting institutional and individual responsibility of judges and prosecutors. Founding of Joint Coordination Body is first important step towards achieving these goals. The Memorandum is opened for admission/accession to other associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Signing ceremony was broadened by discussion on ways to improve the work of the Association. It covered numerous organizational aspects and open issues regarding cooperation and partnerships with administrative, legislative and regulatory bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition to the signatories of the Memorandum, Prosecutor of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, Mr. Džermin Pašić and a member of the Supervisory Board of the Association of Prosecutors, Mr. Ranko Nuić took part in the discussion. On behalf of the Center for Public Law, the signing ceremony was attended by prof. Dr. Edin Šarčević, and EU judiciary expert, judge Kees van der Weide welcomed this event as a step forward in fulfilling the recommendations of the Expert Report on Rule of Law issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina from December 2019, which emphasized the need for a more constructive role of professional associations of judges and prosecutors in the process of judicial reform.