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CONSTITUENCIES FOR JUDICIAL REFORM PROJECT

The Constituencies for Judicial Reform in Serbia project is a five-year, \$1.96 million initiative to strengthen citizens' confidence in their judicial institutions by improving communication between citizens and the judiciary. The project is implemented by a coalition of 12 prominent professional associations and civil society organizations which partner with 15 basic courts.

ACTIVITIES

- Increase citizen engagement with judicial representatives. By increasing the public's knowledge about the judicial system, citizens can better understand and realize their rights. The program utilizes various communication tools, ranging from digital platforms to printed and video materials. In addition, interactive, public, local council meetings were held in 15 cities and municipalities in-person and online.
- Support annual monitoring of developments in the judicial sector, including research on citizens' priority issues in relation to judicial reforms. Through this research, the program is better able to identify priorities for judicial reform for inclusion in future strategic planning. The project has developed and disseminated two comprehensive reports to further advance public advocacy and policy design and will issue two more by the end of the program.
- Use citizen-oriented tools to allow the public to contribute to the accountability and integrity of the judiciary. In consultation with citizens, standards for integrity plans will be improved to serve as anti-corruption mechanisms in courts and Public Prosecutor Offices. In addition, procedures for citizens to file complaints will be made more accessible and transparent.

RESULTS

- Developed a digital platform, [Otvorena vrata pravosuđa](#) (Open Doors of Judiciary), for online communication between judicial representatives and citizens with professional blog posts, citizen-friendly guides, and info-graphics. To date, the platform recorded more than 430,000 unique visitors.
- USAID helped to organize local council meetings with courts of all jurisdictions that enabled more than one million people across Serbia to meet with members of the judiciary to directly discuss problems they faced in accessing justice. The online format of the meetings introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic allowed more than 60 courts and public prosecutors offices of all jurisdictions to participate in this activity.
- Practical guides on citizens' rights and ways they can access justice were made available to citizens at judicial institutions across the country.
- The annual monitoring reports on Judicial Reform in Serbia for 2020 and 2021 were published. The reports analyze the situation in the Serbian judiciary, including circumstances that affect the exercise of citizens' rights in court proceedings or the provision of judicial services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT FUNDING

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID/Serbia)

PROJECT DURATION

January 2019 - January 2024

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM); European Policy Centre, Association of Public Prosecutors and Deputy Public Prosecutors of Serbia, CHRIS Network, Judges' Association of Serbia, Transparency Serbia, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Partners for Democratic Change Serbia, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, CEPRIS, People's Parliament Leskovac, Forum of Judges of Serbia.

TOTAL FUNDING

\$1,959,744.20

CONTACT

Momčilo Živadinović
Kneza Miloša 4, 11000, Belgrade,
E-mail: office@yucom.org.rs
Website: www.yucom.org.rs

KEY COUNTERPARTS

High Court Council;
Supreme Court of Cassation;
15 Basic Courts

WHERE WE WORK

Nationwide