



SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE
FOR THE JUDICIARY



2017/1.

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2017

“All mountains end at their top. Rise bravely, and you, who were far away from each other in the valley, will meet up at the top.”

(József EÖTVÖS)



Dear Reader,

The strategic goals of the administration of judiciary have been consistent since 2012. Their correctness has not been debated by anyone. The courts have reached several results on their way towards these goals.

The indicators showing the efficiency of the judicial organization are continuously improving, also taking into consideration the timeliness and quality of the administration of justice. The performance of Hungarian courts has been outstanding in the recent years, even in international comparisons. The Justice Scoreboard of the European Commission for 2017 shows that the domestic jurisdiction is still one of the best among that of EU Member States.

The maintenance and further development of the results concerning judicial workload is a vast task, while the judicial organization has to keep up with the 21st Century requirements. 21st Century courts are subject to continuous modernization. The goal is that judicial services shall be accessible anytime at any place, irrespective of time and space. It seems that this goal is not that far away. We can witness sudden changes concerning the expansion of electronic proceedings. While only 300 submissions in civil law cases were filed electronically in 2013, this number increased to more than 200,000 in the first half of 2017.

Probably the greatest challenge for the judicial organization – as legal practitioners – besides the expansion of electronic proceedings, is the adjustment to the ever-changing legal environment. In the reporting period we started the preparation for the three new procedural codes: the new civil procedure code, the public administration procedure code and the criminal procedure code; which all enter into force in 2018. We have successfully launched the state-of-the-art distance learning system suitable for online trainings and workshops that is also capable of handling video, voice and interactive media. Through this system, as an addition to the traditionally organized trainings, all the judges, secretary judges and trainees could learn about the new codes in a user-friendly environment.

The renewing judicial organization has its basic values such as openness and service provision. Access to justice and clarity of courts are important in respect of all judicial employers, clients and the public. The NOJ announced 2017 as the year of clarity at courts. The aim was to provide clarity at courts both in written and verbal communication as much as possible. We have taken important steps towards clarity in the areas of judicial administration, jurisdiction and press communication.

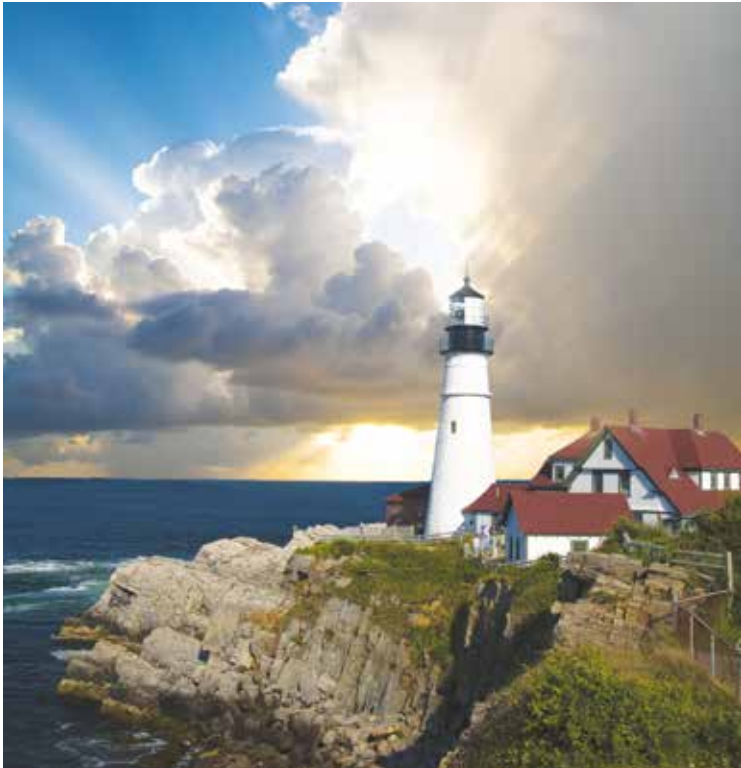
Tünde HANDÓ, Dr

President of the National Office for the Judiciary

■ STRATEGIC GOALS

The President of National Office for the Judiciary (NOJ) set out the following strategic goals:

- courts shall fulfil their constitutional obligations: independent judges shall adjudicate in a timely manner and at a high professional quality,
- optimal allocation and utilization of human resources,
- provision, optimal allocation and utilization of material conditions,
- integrity of judicial organization, transparency of judiciary and administration, predictability and control of administration,
- simplification of access to courts and
- development of training system, cooperation with other legal professions.



EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Caseload

First half of 2017

- Nearly 734,000 cases were filed to courts, which is 8.8% less than that of H1 in the previous year.
- The courts completed nearly 763,000 cases showing a decrease by 7.8% compared to the 2016 first half due to the less number of foreign currency mortgage cases and of cases concerning corporate registry filings.
- It has to be highlighted that similarly to the previous period, the number of completed cases again outnumbered the number of new cases in the first half of 2017. The number of completed cases was almost 29,000 more than that of submitted cases.
- The courts completed a number of nearly 190,000 litigation cases. This number exceeded by 10% (17,000 cases) more that of new litigation cases. This increase has appeared at all court levels.

Case backlog

As the number of completed cases was higher than the number of new cases in the recent years, case backlog continuously decreases. In the first half of 2017 a significant decrease of 20% was recorded compared to 2016/1. Due to this significant decrease, the case backlog was less than 271,000 by the end of 2017/1.



Timeliness

In order to improve time indicators NOJ launched a number of programmes; such was the programme which ended in March 2016 focusing on the cases pending for more than two years that was in close connection with the programme “For service-providing courts!” and the first pillar of Sustainable Development Programme (SDP) announced in April 2016 for the preservation of the results of the predecessor programme. To the effect of SDP the number of cases pending for more than two years could be held at a low level or further decreased in the first half of 2017 in more than one division.

In 2017, SDP continues to operate in a more focused way to retain caseload results. The goal of the new SDP 2 announced in June 2017 is the preservation of results already reached and the facilitation of further development while not representing extra workload for judges and judicial employees.

Legal environment of the operation of judicial organization

Initiatives

NOJ has collected and published its suggestions in a structured form in several fields for the purpose of legislative proposals. The suggestions were prepared on the basis of processed judicial opinions again in this period. The previous initiatives for the amendment of laws and for the passing of new laws have yielded several results in the reporting period.

The suggestions of the President of NOJ were taken into consideration in connection with the amendment of several laws. The amendments concerned – inter alia – the following main subjects:

- remuneration of judicial employees,
- calculation basis of the remuneration of judges,
- tasks of court administrators,
- public administration procedural code,
- fees in the public administration,
- bankruptcy and liquidation procedures,
- criminal procedure.

Support of the codification of procedural laws

The President of NOJ set up the following project bodies in connection with the codification of procedural laws in order to allow the judicial organization to prepare for the smooth implementation of new codes:

- “E-codex” Civil procedure code project, (Civil procedure code),
- “E-codex” Criminal procedure code project, (Criminal procedure code),
- “E-codex” Public administration procedure code project (Public administration procedure code).

Due to the different types of tasks, separate Working Groups were formed for Opinion on Legislation, Training and Administration within the project bodies.

Many thousands page curricula was prepared within the framework of the projects serving as a commentary to the laws. NOJ actively contributed to the preparation and creation of new laws concerning the entry into force of procedural codes and the amendment of effective laws.

Legislation evaluation network

In the first half of 2017, the opinion on legislation by the President of NOJ was again supported by a small expert group consisting of judges and head of judicial chambers under the coordination of the responsible directorate of NOJ. With the help of the panels of each field of law the President of NOJ could make substantial remarks for all draft bills concerning the judiciary within the – often extremely tight – deadlines.

The support of working groups for opinion on legislation set up for the procedural code projects was very helpful in 2017. In addition, the possibility to give opinion on draft bills was provided to all judges.



HUMAN RESOURCES OF JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

Number of judicial leaders

As of 30 June 2017, 750 leaders were employed in the judicial organization including 442 administrative leaders appointed or assigned for a definite period and 308 chairpersons of judicial chambers appointed for an indefinite period.

Employees of judicial organization

More than 11,000 people work in the judicial organization; the ratio of this number was the following as of 30 June 2017:

HEADCOUNT								
	Approved				Actual			
	Courts	Curia	NOJ	Total	Courts	Curia	NOJ	Total
Judge	2,816	92	37	2,945	2,733	84	34	2,851
Secretary judge	849	14	35	898	828	14	31	873
Trainee judge	252	1	1	254	204	1	1	206
Judicial employee ¹	6,956	149	228	7,333	6,902	148	217	7,267
Total	10,873	256	301	11,430	10,667	247	283	11,197

¹ Excluding secretary judges and trainee judges

Changes in judicial headcount

Applications, appointments and transfers

The President of NOJ adjudicated applications for 104 calls for judge position in the first half of 2017; 10 positions at regional courts of appeal, 43 positions at regional courts, 5 positions at administrative and labour courts and 46 positions at district courts were open, with a total number of 475 applications submitted.

As a result of the applications the President of NOJ suggested the appointment of 41 judges, which were accepted by the President of the Republic. In 60 cases a decision on transfer was made (when a judge continues to work at another court as a result of



successful application). Transfers were typically made from district courts to regional courts. Only three calls were announced to be unsuccessful.

Termination of service relationships

In the first half of 2017 the service relationship of 26 judges terminated in total:

- 4 of them reached the upper age limit,
- 9 of them resigned,
- 8 of them requested their retirement,
- 3 of them were ineligible to perform as judges,
- 2 of them deceased.

Composition of judges

Breakdown by gender

The ratio of female and male judges has not changed since last year. 885 of all judges are male (31%), while 1,966 of them (69%) are female.

Breakdown by age and professional experience

The professional experience of Hungarian judges can be described as follows as of 30 June 2017:

- 283 judges with 0-3 years of experience,
- 591 judges with 4-10 years of experience,
- 950 judges with 11-20 years of experience,
- 800 judges with 21-30 years of experience,
- 227 judges with experience of more than 31 years.



Specializations

At the end of the first half of 2017, 202 judges had additional degree, including 32 judges with more than one additional degree, and further 20 judges with PhD graduation. In the first half of 2017 the number of judges specialized in a legal field increased by 3.8% compared to 31 December 2016; currently 784 judges are specialized in any of the fields of law.

Language exams

1394 judges have language exams, 581 judges have two or more. Judges speak mainly English, German and French.

Judicial career

The career model elaborated by the Judicial Career Expert Body (JCEB) includes remuneration, extra allowances, recognition, promotion, social (health care) services offered to judges and judicial employees, improvement of work conditions and moral appreciation.

The judicial career model consists of 4 pillars:

Pillar I – Retention Programme,

Pillar II – remodelling of remuneration system,

Pillar III – is the complex organization development including organization development methods, facility management and IT development,

Pillar IV – includes the initiatives for the creation or amendment of acts and decrees concerning judicial status.

Remodelling of remuneration system

The basis of HR resource management strategy of the judiciary is the remuneration system of judges and judicial employees. It is necessary to change the remuneration system in line with today's requirements, eliminating existing unproportional elements and the correction of salaries in order to ensure the stability of judiciary. The proposal for the modification of remuneration system of judges and judicial employees is Pillar II of 4 Pillar career model defined by JCEB.

The first step to settle the remuneration system of judges and judicial employees was the calculation basis of judges' salaries was increased by 5% as of 1 January 2017 (after an initial increase on 1 October 2016), therefore the total increase was 10.25%. As a second step of this positive process, the calculation basis will increase by further 5% from 1 January 2018.

Retention Programme

As Pillar I of career model, the Retention Programme represents the commitment for the retention of workforce in judicial organization, provision of supply, appreciation of commitment to the organization and the realization of judicial career including the overall settlement of salaries of judges and judicial employees.



■ MATERIAL CONDITIONS

Information technology

It is impossible to overestimate the significance of IT development. The court of the 21st century is all about continuous modernization. The future is “digital court”. Our goal is to make courts accessible at anytime from anywhere, irrespective of time and space. This means that several services that used to be available only in person will be accessible from home, right from your sofa. The courts are on top within the state concerning online administration, the number of types of online cases increases year to year in line with statutory obligations.

The IT tasks of judicial organization are performed by the IT Department of NOJ and IT colleagues within the judicial organization. At the end of the reporting period 215 IT specialists worked throughout the country, 18 of them in NOJ and 197 at courts.

Infrastructure

- IT equipment of courts is continuously renewed. Currently 639 servers, 15,296 workstations (notebooks, PCs, thin clients) and 1090 network devices provide the necessary IT background.
- 400 new network devices were allocated to the courts and the server centre of NOJ in the reporting period. This sped up the connection among PCs in the network. Furthermore, the network has been assessed and this way any errors can be identified and remedied easily.
- More and more judicial employees can use remote access that enables home office. Remote access also facilitates a swift intervention in case of system failures.

Licences and software development

- We started the preparation for the further expansion of online administration from 1 January 2018. The judicial systems are connected to the central e-administration service that provides flexible, transparent and reliable data connection. We will start soon the so-called E-paper service that will significantly simplify the filing of submission in certain cases.



- A separate application has been created for the inspection of the cases of registration of NGOs. Thanks to this prosecutors can exercise their right of statutory supervision more easily.
- 12,700 anti-virus licences were renewed in the reporting period and 800 new anti-virus licences were purchased.
- Voice recognition software convert speech into editable text, which assists the preparation of rulings and minutes; if lesser time is spent with typewriting, working time can be utilized more efficiently.

Buildings ensuring the operation of the judicial organization

Judicial properties

As of the end of June 2017 the judicial organisation managed:

- 185 real estates
- with a total net floor space of 462,220 m².

Actually, 153 buildings of the above serve the purpose of judicial activities.

The monitoring of technical status of 185 properties in 113 cities, the facility management, maintenance and refurbishment with due care and the provision of material conditions of access to the courts is an important task of NOJ requiring extraordinary resources.



In line with the short and medium-term plans, the available resources are allocated by NOJ in each year within Wagner Gyula Programme and Jablonszky Ferenc tender. According to the investment plan with preliminary approval, basic works are realized by judicial organizations, while complex projects spanning over several years are realized by NOJ within the Wagner Gyula Programme. These projects are planned based on the evaluation of court demands. NOJ provides funding for centrally determined purposes and facility developments in the Jablonszky Ferenc tender system.

Priority projects, developments

Curia project – Kossuth square Judiciary Palace

The purpose of the project is moving back the Curia to the Judiciary Palace in Kossuth square that is currently used by the Museum of Ethnography and the Political History Institute. The Government identified the reconstruction of former Judiciary Palace in Kossuth square back in 2016 within the Steindl Imre Programme and SÍP Nonprofit Zrt. was assigned to arrange the task.

The estimated general contracting and engineering expenses of HUF 1.4 billion are covered by NOJ. Early 2017 the resource transfer started and the support contract regulating the detail of cooperation was drafted which was signed in September 2017. The NOJ set up an internal project body for the coordination of the project.



Regional administrative and labour courts

It is a task of priority to settle the location needs of regional administrative and labour courts that are planned to be set up between November 2017 and November 2018 in four phases. The headcount of 790 employees will require a floor space of ca. 25-30,000 m². The Government provided HUF 205.2 million for 2017 and HUF 3.2 billion for 2018 for the material conditions.

Other priority projects include the building development project for the seat of Budapest-Environs Regional Court, the entire renovation and expansion of the Regional Court of Eger and the entire renovation and expansion of the building of the Regional Court of Szeged and the District Court of Szeged.

Renovations, constructions, projects

Projects completed in first half of 2017

The new building of District court of Szigetszentmiklós was opened and the reconstruction of District Court of Jászberény was completed.

Projects started in 2016 and ongoing in 2017

- District Court of Gödöllő – entire renovation and expansion
- District Court of Érd – construction of new building
- District Court of Ráckeve – construction of new building
- District Court of Szarvas – entire renovation and expansion

Projects started in 2017 and taking several years

- District Court of Tapolca – entire renovation and expansion
- Balatonszemes Training Centre – construction of new building
- District Court of Budapest II. and III. – relocation to another building

Furthermore, the preparation for the development of buildings of District Court of Kiskőrös, District Court of Kisvárdá, District Court of Dunakeszi and District Court of Karcag started in 2017.

Jablonszky Ferenc tender system

Tender Jablonszky 5

After the first round of the two-round tender announced in October 2016, NOJ set up a working group with the leaders of 16 winning tenders involved for the creation of unified design of customer centres. The working group examined administration issues, workload data, case management and the communication and visual aspects of the new court function to be introduced, in a two-module workshop in the first half of 2017.

Based on the results of workshops, NOJ signed a design contract in order to create a unified design of customer centres concerning the newly won tender locations and the developments to be completed in 2017. A customer centre will be set up at the Regional Court of Eger and at the District Court of Szigetszentmiklós in 2017, simultaneously with the ongoing construction projects.

Tender Jablonszky 6

The subject of the two-round tender announced in March 2017 is the modernization of heating system, the replacement of external doors and windows, the modernization of electric network, the improvement of working environment and security development. 223 applications were submitted with a total amount of HUF 2.7 billion. The 56 winners can realize developments in the total value of HUF 524 million.



Budgetary management of judicial organization

Judicial budget for 2017

The Parliament voted for the following 2017 budgetary plans for the “Courts” chapter of Act no. XC of 2016 on the central budget of Hungary:

- subsidy: HUF 96,845.2 million,
- income: HUF 2,258 million,
- expenditure HUF 99,103.2 million.

The planned budget for 2017 is by HUF 6,316.2 million higher than the support in 2016.

Expenditure appropriations and income of institutions

The item of the highest amount of the original plan is of the personal allowances, i.e. 62% of the budget (HUF 58.9 billion).

The original plan for 2017 contains surplus as follows:

- personal allowances: HUF 5,327.7 million,
- social contribution tax and levies of the employer: HUF 1,448 million,
- material expenses: HUF 1,113.1 million,
- Investments: HUF 3,417.5 million compared to the original plan for 2016.

The institutional income in total was HUF 10,805 million in the first half of 2017, including

- operational income: HUF 718.46 million,
- state income: HUF 1,369.54 million,
- collection income: HUF 2,351.14 million,
- the utilization of remaining amounts from the previous year is in total HUF 6,365.85 million, including
 - o encumbered: HUF 6,254.46 million and
 - o non-encumbered: HUF 111.39 million.

■ INTEGRITY OF JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

Actions to strengthen the integrity of courts

As in the previous years, the President of NOJ introduced several measures in 2017 to further improve the integrity of judicial organization.

It was a priority goal to act firmly against the work-related verbal and physical attacks against judges in all available legal ways in order to ensure their independence and their work free of any internal or external influences and to act against all conducts endangering the security of the judicial facilities and of the order in the courtrooms. For this purpose the NOJ, in cooperation with the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, created procedural protocols and regularly updated technical supplementary material in order to remove illegal online content concerning judges, created practical guidance that were regularly published in the central intranet. The presidents of courts have reviewed and, if necessary, updated the internal regulations serving for the purposes of the security of the judicial facilities and of the order in the courtrooms.

The appointed persons responsible for integrity-related matters continuously receive, analyse and evaluate the integrity reports, contribute to their investigation and, if necessary, make proposals for the suitable next steps. Furthermore, they provide their standpoints concerning the raised integrity-related issues and the potential risks upon the request of judicial leaders and their colleagues. If the issue concerns the whole judiciary, the prior opinion of the Judicial Integrity Working Group is collected.

Building security

The improvement of building security systems and the overall provision of security system within new investments are high priority issues. The NOJ guarantees the security of the buildings and the protection of the clients and colleagues with modern equipment fulfilling the 21st century requirements. Owing to the Swiss Project concluded in the first half of 2017 70% of



the court facilities have X-ray machines and all of the buildings have metal detector gates and manual metal detectors. Furthermore, the overall reconstruction of the Regional Court of Eger includes the renewal of the security system, as well.

In the first half of 2017, 63 extraordinary events were reported to NOJ. There was no security incident of extreme importance that represented great risk to the courts in first half of 2017. The technical improvement of the entry systems of the courts and the professional use of the security equipment improve the sense of security of the citizens and colleagues entering the court facilities compared to the previous years.

Lawsuits against courts

Pursuant to Act no. CLXI of 2011 on the judicial organization and administration the courts are represented by the NOJ in court proceedings. The representation is arranged by the Legal Representation Department according to the bylaws of the NOJ.

In first half of 2017, 295 new cases were received. This is 65% of the figure of the same period in previous year (457 cases). In the first half of 2017 the number of cases where the judiciary did not prevail (7 cases) dropped by 50% compared to first half of 2016 (14 cases). 98% of the lawsuits were unfounded.

Evaluation of judges

The policy on the evaluation of judicial work and on the detailed aspects of the evaluation entered into force on 1 January 2016 is based on the statutory regulation of the evaluation of the judicial work and it provides detailed rules and some clarifications for the examinations serving as the bases for the evaluation.

For the purposes of the unification of the examinations serving as the bases of the evaluation of the judicial work, the policy orders the setting up of a list of examiners and the obligation of the examiners to attend trainings. From 1 January 2017 only the judges in the list are entitled to carry out examinations. The uninterrupted arrangement of the evaluations requires that the list of examiners should contain as many examiners as possible, therefore the trainings for examiners continued in first half of 2017, as well. 341 judges were included in the list at the end of first half of 2017.



Tools of the judicial administration

Regulations (instructions) and recommendations of the President of NOJ

Taking into consideration the opinions of the National Judiciary Council (NJC) and courts, the President of NOJ issued 6 regulations and 2 recommendations and made 78 organizational and 463 personnel-related decisions in the first half of 2017.

Reviews

Reviews enable in-depth analyses of certain administration areas that may focus the leader's attention on timely and efficient administration of justice or another priority issue or any deficiencies of examined area.

General reviews

General reviews shall be conducted regularly, in each year. Just like in the previous years, the following fields are examined in 2017:

- criminal cases pending at courts beyond the statute of limitation period,
- cases pending for more than two years,
- repeals and
- reporting of the activities and costs concerning on-call and stand-by employees.

Furthermore, the NOJ annually monitors the experiences concerning the recognition of foreign judgements and the request for international legal assistance in general.

The results of all general reviews will be processed for the entire calendar year in the first half of 2018.

Target audits

A target audit is a detailed review in the area of an actual topic or activity. The purpose is to obtain an accurate picture of the examined field and to be able to set out tasks. Target audits ordered



by the central administration can be carried out at several or even all of the courts simultaneously.

The President of NOJ ordered a target audit in first half of 2017, inter alia, in order to reveal the factors influencing the length of criminal proceedings in money laundering cases, based on the so-called fifth round country evaluation conducted by Moneyval (Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism) in 2015 and 2016.

Handling of complaints and reports of public interest

In the first half of 2017, 224 new complaints were filed with the NOJ and more than 600 submissions have been received in the new and ongoing cases of the previous years.

Remarks from the clients can even indicate systemic deficiencies, therefore the NOJ handles complaints and reports of public interest with priority. For this purpose, the NOJ pays special attention to the submissions filed with the NOJ but adjudicated by a court in line with the internal procedural rules and seeks for feedbacks and in justified cases orders a review or a target audit.

In the first half of 2017 the NOJ took the following steps concerning complaints forwarded by the NOJ for further handling:

- in 6 % of the cases requested a status report about the handling of the complaint, furthermore
- in 6% of the cases requested a copy of the response to the complainant and gathered information about the procedure and
- one review was ordered after the examination of a complaint.

In first half of 2017, 3 submissions were received that could be considered as reports of public interest. Two of them were about the workload of the courts and one of them concerned complaint handling. None of them was well-founded.

Other tools for the management of judicial administration

Meetings, consultations and workshops

The President of NOJ convenes the meeting of the presidents of regional courts and regional courts of appeal several times a year where the judicial leaders can discuss current nation-wide topics and issues concerning all of them.

The main agenda of the 3 meetings held in the first half of 2017 was:

- report of the President of NOJ,
- training and evaluation of leaders,
- results of the Sustainable Development Programme,
- handling of attacks against judges and judicial facilities,
- tasks concerning the amendment of the act on the service relationship of the judicial employees.



Beyond the annual meeting of judges, the respective courts hold executive meetings several times a year in line with their work schedule for all administrative leaders of the court to discuss current administrative and economic matters.

The President of NOJ participated at almost all of the meeting of judges of all regional courts and regional courts of appeal in the first half of 2017.

Workshops are interactive consultations enabling the exchange of experiences and knowledge sharing that offer an opportunity for the participants to exchange their views. In the first half of 2017 the NOJ prepared the consultations (to be held in Semester 2) concerning the setting up of the customer centres and concerning the decrease of the workload, besides the trainings, in the form of workshops.

Working groups

The working groups are professional bodies for analysis, making proposals, providing opinions and preparations of decisions (by preparing professional materials) assisting in the decision-making and the preparation of standpoints of the President of NOJ. In the first half of 2017, 12 working groups operated.

Pilot programmes

The significance of pilot programmes is that they provide opportunity for trying out new work methods or applications facilitating work or for their testing in practice with a narrow scope of participants with limited expenses and time spent on the project. The purpose is paving the way for a nation-wide introduction and revealing any incidental deficiencies, errors and needs for further developments.

In the first half of 2017 the activities of the president of Regional Court of Balassagyarmat were scrutinized in a pilot programme.



Networks

By operating professional networks, the judicial employees with specialized knowledge in their respective field and being in direct contact with each other can work together in cooperation, rapidly and successfully, therefore the NOJ treats this tool of knowledge sharing with priority. The following professional networks founded in recent years continued their operation in first half of 2017:

- Network of European Union Law Advisors,
- Network of Spokespersons and Press Secretaries,
- Network of Professionals and Coordinators in Child-Focused Justice,
- Network of Contact Points of Open Court Programme,
- Network of Project Contact Points,
- Network of Expert Coordinators of Judicial Libraries,
- Network of E-lawsuit Contact Points.

National programmes

The goal of the programmes strengthening the service-provision nature of the courts is that special attention should be brought to certain fields of priority among the everyday tasks, such as the handling of minors and victims involved in the proceedings, expansion of the use of alternative dispute resolution proceedings, presentation of the work of the judiciary, and to assist the clients to participate in the proceedings with knowledge of their rights and to facilitate the administration of law directly and indirectly.

Beside the permanent national programmes, the President of NOJ announces temporary programmes, this way focusing the administrative activities of the courts to certain highlighted areas.

Permanent programmes

Court mediation

This alternative dispute resolution proceeding, i.e. court mediation can be requested at the Hungarian courts since 2012 and it can be a successful tool for enhancing customer satisfaction and timeliness in civil litigation and non-litigation cases. The advantage is that the meetings can be scheduled as it fits the parties and agreement is formulated by the parties. In the mediation procedure the parties are not bound by the content of the action. The part of agreement consistent with the action is approved by the court in the lawsuit if this is mutually requested by the parties; therefore it will have the same effect as a judgement.

In the first half of 2017 978 mediation cases were completed at the domestic courts. In 549 cases the court mediation was carried out and 311 ended with an agreement.

Open Court

It constitutes a part of the social responsibility that the courts contribute to the dissemination of legal knowledge. In this programme launched by the NOJ in 2012 the pupils get familiar with the legal system, the process of the administration of justice and the judicial institutions at homeroom classes, moot courts and judiciary facility visits. The target group has expanded since the beginning and now groups of extremely vulnerable people and disadvantaged youth are involved and also pensioners participate now.

The NOJ set the promotion of the programmes and the facilitation of their dissemination in the society as a goal for 2017. For this purpose a central information booklet is being prepared and the information on the court websites is updated.

The Open Court Programme is more and more successful as the years pass by. While 400 events were organized in 2013 with a total number of participants of ca. 10,000, in 2017 1,532 events were held with 32,477 participants in first half of 2017.



Child-focused Justice

The purpose of the Child-focused Justice Programme is to formulate a judicial system that ensures at the highest possible level the respecting of the children's rights and their efficient enforcement, furthermore that prioritizes their interests above all in the cases in which children participate or in cases that concern children.



In the first half of 2017 the members of the Child-focused Justice Working group prepared a Guide for Children's Right and a FAQ material was prepared concerning the interrogation of children for parents.

Witness care and protection of the victims

The most important goal of this programme is facilitating the fulfilment of the witness statement obligation which also helps the timely administration of justice. Clients are afraid of the unknown, thus the national programme focuses on the following:

- providing wide-scope and easily accessible information to the witnesses about their procedural rights and opportunities,
- facilitating the exercising of their procedural rights, including the rights of the victims, without prejudice to the impartiality and unbiasedness; and
- supporting them to make witness statements without fear.

In 2015 the witnesses could wait for the hearing separated from the other participants of the procedure in 43 rooms at 17 regional courts. In the first half of 2017 there were 51 witness rooms available at 18 regional courts and at 1 regional court of appeal.

The existence and the success of the witness care network is proven by the numbers: in 2014 clients turned to witness caretakers at 6,526 (registered) occasions, in 2015 this figure increased to 12,217 and in 2016 the number further increased to 14,925. According to the first feedbacks of first half of 2017 this indicator is dynamically increasing owing to the client information sheets and the expanded content of the summonses and in 2017 the number of contacts will exceed 15,000 expectedly.

Good practice

The courts elaborate several solutions, practices, methods and applications during their work that facilitate a more efficient, more timely and more accurate work or the sharing of the workload. The NOJ considers the collection, analysis and nation-wide sharing of the good practices as a prioritized task. The catalogue of good practices was promoted into a national programme in the Administrative Policy and this shows the importance of this field.

This year the NOJ set out a goal: to organize more good practice workshops in different fields of law. In the summer of 2017 in Kecskemét a workload measurement good practice workshop was held and the courts could present their existing good practices and the participants could discuss interactively the main topics concerning the subject. The experiences of the workshop will be implemented during the second semester.

Temporary programmes

Sustainable Development Programme

With the help of the 2016 Sustainable Development Programme the courts could accomplish significant results concerning the timely administration of justice with outstanding quality, concerning the judicial career and in the third pillar, namely customer relations and communication. The goals live on and the programme will continue for the maintenance of the workload results in a narrower scope, not forgetting that the greatest challenge of 2017 will be the preparation for the new procedural codes.

Beyond this new programme, the Leadership Programme announced for the presidents of the regional courts in the first half of 2017 aims at the continuation and further development of the goals determined in Pillars 2 and 3 of the former Sustainable Development Programme. In the Leadership Programme the goal, among others, is to strengthen the communications among the courts, to create an even workload and to increase employee satisfaction.



■ ACCESS TO COURTS

Customer relations

The simplification of the access to courts as a strategic goal serves on one hand the purpose of facilitating the citizens to obtain information and, on the other hand, metaphorically, the simplification of the access to the courts. The realization of this is supported by the e-administration services and customer centres.



E-administration services

The E-complaint handling enables that the clients can submit their complaints 24/7 electronically. In the reporting period 459 complaints were submitted online.

The calculator for the lawsuit length is an online application with the help of which the citizens can check the average duration at the given court for the given type of case. In the reporting period 749 calculations were made.

The Judicial Electronic Information and Warning System (JEIWS) provide the following:

- registered clients and attorneys can check basic information about their cases and can receive SMS and e-mail notifications about the important procedural acts,
- In the first half of 2017:
 - o the number of newly registered people was 526,
 - o number of cases concerned by the registration: 162,
 - o number of users subscribed for the SMS and e-mail notification: 275,
 - o number of SMS and e-mail messages sent to the users: 560.

Customer centres

Hundreds of thousands of clients visit the courts annually to deal with their cases, thus it is extremely important that they are welcomed in a worthy environment by prepared judicial employees. In the 21st century this must be evident not only in private but also in public sector.



The NOJ handled the matter of the setting up of the customer centres as a complex issue. The customer centre represents, at the same time, the forming of unique design of rooms to welcome clients, the unification of the administrative procedures and the proper training of the colleagues and the publication of clear information materials.

For the purpose that the customer centres can fulfil all the needs and requirements of the clients and of the judicial employees as much as possible, the strategic partner of the NOJ, the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME) was requested to create an Image Manual that was checked by judicial leaders. The Image Manual contains recommendations for the arrangement of the physical space, the furniture, the use of IT devices and the clothing of the colleagues at the customer centres.

According to the plans, 21 new customer centres will open in 2017 and in 2018 at the courts. In 2017, simultaneously with the ongoing investments, customer centres were created at the Regional Court of Eger and at the District Court of Szigetszentmiklós and then at the 16 courts that won the Jablonszky Ferenc programme and at the 3 locations where currently renovation construction works take place.

Developments supporting judicial activities

E-lawsuit

As a result of the expansion of E-communication since 1 July 2016 the number of E-submissions has been quickly increasing in civil litigation cases. Our experiences show that even parties not obliged to use E-communication use this faster and more cost-efficient channel of communication instead of hard copy submissions. In 2013 there were 306 electronic submissions in civil litigation cases but in the first half of 2017 this figure exceeded 235,000.

Electronic payment

In electronic court proceedings the clients can fulfil their duty payment obligations primarily through the Electronic Payment and Clearing System (EFER) in the first half of 2017 or by wire transfer of the bank account of the courts kept by the Hungarian State Treasury (MÁK).

In first half of 2017:

- 10,879 payment were effected through EFER in the amount of HUF 579,545,126;
- HUF 772,346,453 was paid through MÁK.

E-registry for NGOs

On 1 January 2015 the Civil Integrated Information System (CIIR) was introduced that enabled e-communication among the courts and the clients and the prosecutors. The system is continuously developed so that it can comply with the changing legal environment and the needs of the judges working in this field of law.

In the first half of 2017 the so-called „Access portal for prosecutors” was introduced with the help of which the authorized prosecutors can access the electronic files of the NGOs with remote access. Now the CIIR is one step away from enabling citizens to access the documents in a customer-friendly and comfortable way.



Communication

Communication strategy: clarity at courts

Access to justice and clarity of courts are important in respect of all judicial employers, clients and the public. The NOJ announced 2017 as the year of clarity at courts. The aim was to provide clarity at courts both in written and verbal communication as much as possible. The organization focuses on three main areas: judicial administration, adjudication and clarity in press communication.

The NOJ accomplished the following goals in the field of press communication towards clarity at courts:

Clarity in press communication

- ✓ Conference on “Clarity of public institutes”
 - ✓ Communication questionnaire
- ✓ Training of spokespersons and press secretaries
- ✓ A growing number of press releases and interviews
 - ✓ Renewal of press regulation
- ✓ Unified information booklets nationwide
 - ✓ Renewal of central website

Clarity in messages and in the communication to the adequate target groups and in feedback are all extremely important both in internal and external communication. The creation of this dynamic cycle and of a more proactive communication was in the focus in the first half of 2017.

External communication

The judicial organization operates a two-way communication. The channels of external communication ensure the connection to citizens with legal interests, other legal professions, other authorities and the press. This provides an opportunity for the presentation of the operation, results, successes, goals and plans of judicial organization. This platform provides valuable assistance to the clients when dealing with legal matters as beside information sharing the other goal is the dissemination of legal knowledge.

Press relations

The media has an important role in the provision of information on the judicial work. The courts can access the public through the different media, thus it is important to continuously look after the media relations and providing them with rapid, accurate information with clarity.

The NOJ and the judicial organization used a communication-related survey in Semester 2 of 2016 to assess the media: which cases were in the limelight and how often reports were made about them and how they evaluated the communication activities of the courts. Respondents had the opportunity to communicate their individual remarks and experiences. 120 columnists completed the survey. 100% of the respondents evaluated the accuracy of the information provision good or excellent and 95% considered that the speed of information provision is good or excellent, 94% thought positively about the quality of the information. The respondents thought that comprehensibility is extremely important both for the announcement of judgement and for the wording of press releases.

Media representatives can request information about ongoing cases and concerning matters of the judicial administration by way of enquiries. The NOJ and the press departments of the regional courts of appeal and of the regional courts answered altogether 831 enquiries in first half of 2017.



Online platforms

An important channel of external communication is the central website of the courts. According to the surveys, the central website birosag.hu had nearly 4.5 million visitors in first half of 2017.

The news and press releases concerning the NOJ and the judicial organization are published on this website. In the first half of 2017 182 pieces of news and 943 press releases were published on the website that represents an increase of 22% compared to first half of 2016. The press workers receive a weekly newsletter on Thursdays that is a selection of the news and press releases published on birosag.hu.

The judicial organization is present in the social media, as well: the NOJ publishes short and clear news on its Facebook page. The popularity of the site increased in first half of 2017, it had more than 2,700 followers. The Facebook page reaches 715 users daily on average.

Internal communication

The purpose of the internal communication is to inform the judicial employees about the news and up-to-date information. The central intranet site of the courts is one of the most important platforms for internal communication that enables the flow of information, the continuous and mutual contact among the courts and the sharing of good practices. Nowadays every regional court and regional court of appeal has intranet pages that are important channels for local news and information.

The judicial employees can also receive information from the weekly central intranet newsletter on Thursdays that is published with new design in a structured form.

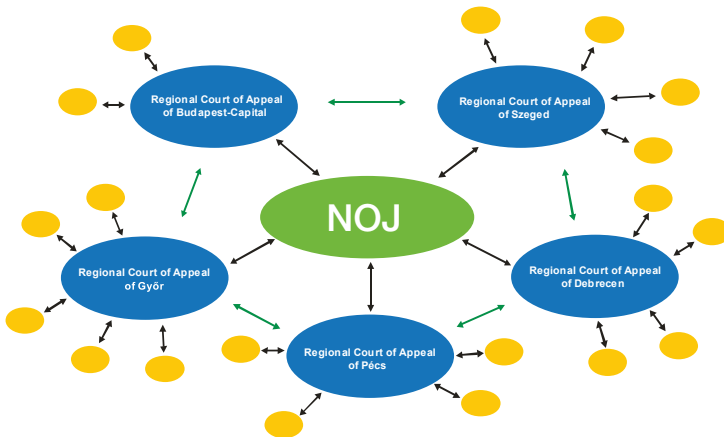


■ TRAINING

Organizational basis of training and the development of structure

In 2017 the NOJ continued to develop the training system. The network of persons responsible for trainings, set up when the local and regional trainings were added to the central training system of the Hungarian Academy of Justice (HAJ) in 2015, accomplished a higher degree of organisation from 2017 by utilizing the experiences of 2016. The system development is in accordance with § 121 of Act no. CLXI of 2011 on the judicial organization and administration according to which as of now the regional courts of appeal perform prominent coordination tasks concerning the trainings of judges and judicial employees working on their geographical area.

Coordination network of training system



Central training schedule and programmes

The motto of 2017 is clarity. This should penetrate the whole training and scientific areas. We have formed target groups and focus topics when we prepared the annual plan so that we can disseminate the knowledge to the right persons in a targeted way. The focus topics will be continuously supervised and developed with a view to the new developments and the long-term goals.



In 2017 the target group of leaders got the primary focus among the target groups of the central trainings and we also paid special attention to the new generation, furthermore the members and coordinators of the national networks and the participants of scientific and international conferences and other events always had priority in the trainings.

In the first half of 2017 one of the most significant tasks was the preparation of the national series of the trainings concerning the new procedural codes. We held training for the trainers and a training material was completed introducing the new Civil procedure Code and the independent Public administration procedural code. Fulfilling the requirements of modern times, we have successfully launched the state-of-the-art system suitable for online trainings and workshops being also capable of handling video, voice and interactive media. Through this system the materials about the new codes could be studied in a user friendly environment.

Central trainings held at the HAJ

In the first half of 2017 the central trainings included 346 events with the participation of 14,934 people, including 169 central events at the HAJ with 5,650 participants. For the sake of clarity we have further developed the training calendar available on the intranet and this way it was easier to get information about the central trainings and the continuously updated topics were easily accessible.

We have held the conference *Scientific day – The role of jurisprudence* on 28 March 2017 with the participation of the judges performing scientific and education activities. The well-known researchers of domestic legal theory had presentations at the event concerning the meeting points of black-letter law and the application of law.

For the sake of strengthening the relationship with the universities, we held a *Deans Meeting* on 15 June 2017 with the participation of the deans of the law faculties, the vice dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the National University of Public Service and legal historians. The participants of the meeting had a professional discussion about the possible development of the cooperation among the President of NOJ, the courts and the universities.

Competitions, scientific research, library

Our scientific competitions are spread over two calendar years. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Law, as a closure to the *Mailáth György Scientific Competition* announced in 2016 the award-winners could present their works on 13 March 2017 in a symposium. For the purposes of knowledge sharing the NOJ published the award-winning works in e-book format.

In 2017 the scientific competitions was announced for the fourth time. The motto of this year's competition was *Clarity and accessibility – the role of clarity in the application of law* that drew attention to the importance of clarity, in line with the main topic of the whole year.

In 2016 the President of NOJ announced the *Ráth György Court History and Tradition Competition* for the third time with the purpose to support the activities concerning the history of the courts and preserving their traditions. As a result of the works, publications were prepared at different locations around the country in 2017 presenting the history of the former royal district courts, regional courts and regional courts of appeal, conferences were organized and the furniture of a workroom were restored and moot courts were held on the basis of the historical research of the lawsuits from the old ages.

By setting up the Network of Expert Coordinators of Judicial Libraries, the NOJ supported the operation of the judicial libraries. In 2017 the National Judicial Library System joined the Electronic

Information Service National Programme (EIP) and the Judicial Library Catalogue also renewed, therefore the variety of the available scientific materials multiplied.

Entrance exam for trainees

In the first half of 2017 altogether 99 tenders were submitted for trainee positions; 81 of them applied for the entrance exam, while 16 of them did not have to take part in the entrance exam as they had already taken it earlier. As the call for the tender was in line with the new communication campaign and the principle of clarity only 2 of the tenders were unsuccessful. 31 of the successful tenderers were appointed to trainee judge positions.

The most important result of the entrance exam for trainees in the first half of 2017 was that owing to the objective and transparent procedure and to the tender announced with the spirit of „clear speaking”, there was an oversubscription of three times for trainee judge position. Based on our surveys the members of the examination boards and also the tenderers thought that the new system was a significant improvement.



International Relations

System of international relationships

The NOJ and the courts have had wide-scope and permanent professional connections with international organizations and foreign courts for several years. These co-operations enable judges and secretary judges to get familiar with the international tendencies and they also facilitate significant sharing of knowledge as well.

International relations of the NOJ

The NOJ is a member of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and of the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary.

The NOJ maintains contact the following organizations:

- Hague Conference on Private International Law,
- European Judicial Network (EJN),
- Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ),
- European Court of Human Rights (EJEB),
- Council of Europe,
- Academy of European Law (ERA),
- European Asylum Support Office (EASO) network of court and tribunal members,
- EUROJUST Joint Supervisory Body (JSB),
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

In the field of judicial training the Hungarian Academy of Justice closely cooperates with the following organizations:

- European Judicial Training Network (EJTN),
- Academy of European Law (ERA),
- International Legal Cooperation Foundation (IRZ),
- Human Rights Education for Legal Professions of the Council of Europe (HELP),
- European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA),
- Judicial Academies of the Visegrád Four (V4),
- International Training Institution (IGO),
- Central and Eastern European Legal Institute (CEELI).

The NOJ supports the work of the international associations of judges, the membership of judges and court associations and their participation in the international organizations, e.g.:

- European Association of Labour Court Judges (EALCJ),
- Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ),
- International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ),



- International Labour Organization (ILO),
- Associations of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions (ACA Europe),
- Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ) and
- European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment.

Out of the 25 regional courts and regional courts of appeal

- 13 courts have,
- in 9 different countries,
- independent mutual professional relations with 25 foreign courts.

Participation in the work of international organizations, international assignments

Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary

The NOJ has hosted the Secretariat of the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary since 2015. The Network held its annual conference and general assembly on 10-11 July 2017 in Burgas, Bulgaria. For the preparation of the conference the governing body had a meeting on 22 February 2017 in Tirana, Albania. The secretariat in Budapest take on a serious role in the preparation and arrangement of both meetings. The general assembly in Burgas elected the Hungarian members to the members of the governing body, so in the future Hungary will be also a board member, beside arranging the tasks of the secretariat.

European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)

The Hungarian judicial organization represents Hungary at the annual general assemblies of the Network and in the meeting organized for the coordinators of the exchange programmes since Hungary joined the EU. The general assembly was held on 21-23 June 2017 in Malta where accession requests, the future of the Network and strategic goals and the plans of the working parties were discussed. After the pilot programmes, also the range of exchange programmes expanded from 2017 with special opportunities for presidents of the courts and with bilateral relation opportunities for courts.

The appointed international contact persons of the NOJ take part in the work of the European Judicial Network (EJN), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) network of court and tribunal members, the Joint Supervisory Board of the European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust-JSB) and of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

International professional events, international trainings and exchange programmes

In the first half of 2017, 76 judges, 36 secretary judges and 9 judicial employees could participate in international study trips, conferences and trainings and in domestic international events (in total 175 occasions).

22 of them travelled on behalf of the NOJ, altogether 36 times, to international professional events.

International enquiries and visits

In the first half of 2017 the President of NOJ and the NOJ hosted the following foreign guests and delegations:

- delegation of the Dutch Judicial Committee,
- judicial delegation of Sudan,
- Dutch law students,
- delegation of the Vienna Regional Criminal Court,
- delegation of the General Court of Cracow.

The visit of the delegation of the Dutch Judicial Committee is worth highlighting. Four Dutch judges, including the president of the Court of Amsterdam and the consultant responsible for the international relations of the Dutch Judicial Committee visited Budapest where they met the representatives of the NOJ and Hungarian specialist judges. The two-day meeting offered a great



opportunity for discussing experiences and sharing good practices beyond the three core topics (judicial management, press and communication, training of judicial leaders). After identifying the common matters, both parties suggested to continue with the professional cooperation.

Support of the international relations of NCJ

The National Judicial Council (NJC) considers international relations as one of its prioritized tasks, so, inter alia, the President of the NJC welcomed the delegation of the Supreme Court of Hamburg Region and participated at the 15-year jubilee conference of the foundation of the Slovakian Judicial Committee. The organization and preparation of the international relations of the NJC are supported by International Relations Department of the NOJ and by Hungarian Academy of Justice.

International trainings organized by the HAJ

EJTN THEMIS trainee judge competition

Hungary participated in two rounds of the EJTN THEMIS trainee judge competition (in semi-finals C and D) in 2017. The Semi-final C was held between 6-8 June 2017 in Vilnius with the topic of International Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters - European Civil procedure.

The Semi-final D held between 3-6 July 2017 under the title of *Judicial ethics and professional conduct* was hosted again by the Hungarian Academy of Justice for the second time after 2013. The international panel decided so that the Greek and Polish teams could advance to the finals from the ten international teams; the Czech team won the special award of the NOJ. Michael Korhonen, the communication manager of the EJTN stated that the competition was organized at a high quality.

Scholarships of the President of NOJ

The President of NOJ has provided opportunities for several years now for the judges and secretary judges to work as interns at the

Academy of European Law or at the Court of Justice of the European Union. The knowledge and experience gained are built into the domestic judicial organization by the sharing of the knowledge of the participants. In the first half of 2017:

- 1 judge and 1 secretary judge worked for the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg and
- 1 secretary judge worked at the Academy of European Law in Trier.

In the spring of 2017 the scholarship opportunities were announced again as a result of which the two winning candidates started their 5-month trainee period in September 2017.



International events organized by the HAJ

In 2017 within a project supported by the European Union, in cooperation of the ERA and the NOJ, an English legal language training was held at the HAJ with the participation of 10 Hungarian and 17 foreign participants on the topic of *European family law: Brussels II. Regulation* between 25-28 April 2017.

Based on the German–Hungarian labour law relations of two decades, a *German-Hungarian Comparative Labour Law Conference* was held between 4-7 May 2017 that focused primarily on the implementation of EU law in the member states. 12 Hungarian and 10 foreign judicial employees participated, among others the presidents of the Regional Labour Courts of Berlin and Hamburg.

European Law Advisors Network

European Law Advisors Network (ELAN) has assisted the correct application of the European law and the dissemination of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union and of the European Court of Human Rights to the Hungarian judges since 2013 in accordance with regulation issued by the President of NOJ. The priority goal of the network is to ensure the smooth flow of information in matters of European law between the Hungarian judiciary and the EU institutes and to offer swift and efficient professional assistance for the judges in their work.

The work of the professional consultants is managed and organized by a coordinator and by vice coordinators in each field of law (civil, criminal, public administration and labour law). Currently the Network has 47 specialized judge members who are assigned to the geographical areas of the regional courts of appeal, with the exception of the Curia and the Regional Court of Budapest-Capital, and for their work they are compensated by decreasing their number of days spent with actual administration of justice and also receive supplementary and language allowances. They are appointed by the President of NOJ for 3 years after a challenging selection procedure.



PROJECTS

Implementation

Internal projects

E-codex

The new procedural codes entering into force in 2018 (civil procedure code, public administration procedure code, criminal procedure code) significantly affect the daily work of all judges and judicial employees in all fields of law. The efficient preparation for the new procedural codes is realized within respective projects.

“TTKH” project

As a part of the realization and nation-wide introduction of the recording of video and sound in courtrooms (TTKH) and of the remote interrogation (as a long-term goal) the NOJ joined the project of the NISZ National Infocommunications Services Company Limited by Shares (Nemzeti Infokommunikációs Szolgáltató Zrt.) with the title *“Electronic solution for the development of the work organization and communication of public administration at different geographical locations”*. In this programme 215 end-points will be set up for remote interrogation purposes at courts and government offices and municipal offices, and in law enforcement institutions. A significant number of the end-point will be installed in 72 courtrooms.



External projects

Security enhancing project

The goal of this project supported by Swiss Contribution is to guarantee the security of judicial buildings and the protection of clients and judicial employees with equipment fulfilling the requirements of the 21st century.

In this project in the first half of 2017 20 pieces of X-ray machines were purchased and this meant that the infrastructure is now given. In this project between 2012 and 2017 the following equipment was purchased:

- 108 state-of-the-art metal detector gates,
- 72 X-ray machines for packages,
- 150 manual metal detectors,
- 1,185 computers and
- 165 network devices.

The closing date of the project was 31 May 2017.



Training projects in cooperation with the Academy of European Law

The NOJ as a partner of the Academy of European Law (ERA) contributed to three training projects (soon will be completed). The series of trainings concerning the European Union civil law, the series of seminars dealing with cybercrimes in September 2017 and the series of seminars dealing with the special legal language of European family law matters in December 2017 were successfully completed within these projects. The main goal of these trainings,

beside enhancing the knowledge of the judges, was to facilitate the tighter cooperation of different legal professions, the exchange of experiences and the sharing of good practices and to disseminate information about the national procedures.

Improvement of the efficiency of judicial proceedings concerning migration arrests

The tender of the NOJ with the title “Improvement of the efficiency of the judicial proceedings concerning migration arrests” was successful in 2016 in the tender system financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The multi-directional central training of professionals, primarily the judges and judicial employees taking part in these cases, was completed in two stages before the end of June 2017. In this project a manual was issued sharing the information disseminated in the trainings and the domestic experiences that was handed out to the concerned judges. The project significantly contributes to the efficient court administration at the concerned courts by providing well-prepared judges and assistance for the tasks.

Tenders

Beyond the coordination of the ongoing projects, the Tender Office of the NOJ continued to look for international and domestic tenders available for the judiciary in first half of 2017. We have joined 3 international tenders as cooperating partners that were announced by different Directorate-Generals of the European Union (Competition policy and Environment protection). The tender procedures have not been completed in the reporting period.

Planning

Several experts and project professionals of the judicial organization participate in the preparation of the projects. The results of the preparatory works are usually the following documents: project proposals, feasibility studies, etc. that serve as the basis for the future projects.

Energy efficiency renewal at the courts

In the Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme (KEHOP) financed by the European Union a total subsidy of HUF 1.7 billion is available for the renovation of judicial facilities. For the realization of the projects the NOJ signed a Consortium Cooperation

Agreement with the Nemzeti Fejlesztési és Stratégiai Intézet Non-profit Kft. appointed as the leader of the consortium. The tender submitted by the consortium leader won the grant. In the first half of 2017 the support contracts for the development of the building of the Pécs Regional Court of and of the Pécs Regional Court of Appeal were signed. There are other support contracts being prepared for the development of other court and prosecutor's office buildings.

Digitalization of further court procedures

For the purposes of the further digitalization of the court administration, the NOJ prepared a project proposal that is tightly connected to the first priority of the Public Administration and Civil Service Development Operational Programme (KÖFOP).

The development plans include the development of the publication of court decisions and their anonymization, the digitalization of the documents of the court proceedings and the opportunity for the online inspection of the documentation of litigation cases.

When the annual development budget of the KÖFOP was modified, the Government identified the NOJ project with the title *Further digitalization of the court administration (Digital Court)* as a prioritized project. Preparatory works have started and the internal and external experts have prepared the feasibility study and submitted the request for support.

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE JUDICIARY

The President of NOJ exercises her rights and fulfils her obligations with the help of the organization of the NOJ. The NOJ is the central body of the judicial administration. The NOJ manages, organizes, controls and coordinates the tasks detailed below, such as

- central judicial administration,
- management of the judicial budget worth several tens of billions of forints,
- central HR administration of the judicial organization employing more than 11,000 people,

- management of nearly 200 judicial facilities and
- ensure the operation of several thousand IT devices and their networks and
- arrangement, realization and maintenance of EU tenders worth several hundred million forints.

The NOJ performed these tasks with the help of 283 employees that is 2.47% of all judicial employees. Ca. one-third of this headcount primarily dealt with the operation of the NOJ as an institute. The NOJ was assisted in administrative tasks by judges and judicial employees entrusted with central administrative tasks by the judicial organization. Their number was 268 in first half of 2017. Furthermore 3 secretary judges and 3 court trainees were assigned to the NOJ.

The workload of the NOJ employees in the first half of 2017 is shown best by the following information:

- 28,571 documents were docketed,
- 72,842 NGO reports were received and
- 57,886 people were registered in the list of people placed under guardianship and 82 people made a preliminary statement.



SUPERVISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF NOJ

The operation of the National Judicial Council

The National Judicial Council (NJC) is the supervision body of the central administration of the judiciary that in first half 2017

- held 6 meetings,
- discussed 61 agenda items and
- rendered 76 decisions.

In the reporting period the NJC reviewed 7 instructions of the President of NOJ and 2 recommendations of the President of NOJ.

NCJ decisions

The NCJ

- passed 10 decisions in the field of general central administration,
- 2 decisions in the budgetary field,
- 1 decision concerning data collection for statistical purposes and
- 28 resolutions concerning the personnel,
- delegated its members to the working groups set up by the President of NOJ and
- actively participated in the professional work of the working parties of the European Judicial Network and contributed to the operation of the secretariat of the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary.



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