**JOINT HJC AND SPC REPORT ON THE INTENSIVE LEGAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE, HELD IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FROM DECEMBER 4 TH TO DECEMBER 8TH 2017**

|  |
| --- |
| The Intensive Legal English Language Course was held from 4-8.12.2017, in Brussels, Belgium, in organization of the Academy of European Law. The course was taught by Mr. Stephen Dillon Weston**,** English language teacher**,** who has a degree in languages from the University College, London and a degree in law from the City University, London. The representatives of the High Judicial Council and the State Prosecutorial Council of Serbia attended this 5-days course, with focus on writing and speaking skills. The group was comprised of 13 participants from various European states. At the begining of the course, the participants received the text-book for the course, which served as the basis for the classes and for homework exercises. This text-book, containing legal terminology, texts and exercises, will be very useful also for future reference. The course was proactive, i.e. the participants of the course were actively involved in reading the texts, and group-work, as well as in conversation. |
| **Monday, 4 December 2017** **Introduction to Legal English**The trainer provided brief introduction about him and the contents of the course and asked the participants to introduce themselves. The focus of the first session was the concept and the key terminology of common law and civil law, including sources of law, competent authorities, case-related terminology, procedural terminology and possible outcomes of the case pursued before the court. The participants were then asked to practice this terminology, by citing sources of law and submitting an argument. The next session was devoted to using polite forms and expressing an opinion, The session ended with a conversation exercise, in which the participants were given topics to make a point on and to ask for clarification. |
|  |
| **Tuesday, 5 December 2017** **Legal writing:** In this session the participants were taught the principles of effective legal writing, including reducing the text, cutting it into shorter sentences and using simplified forms. The teacher provided the list of modernized terms currently used in legal English. The session also included use of active, gender neutral language and greetings in written correspondence. The next session addressed **Civil liability - contract law** and focused on contract terminology and writing contract clauses. At the end of this session, the participants were given a group- exercise, to make an offer and counter-offer and to negotiate a deal. |

**Wednesday, 6 December 2017**

**Criminal law:** At the beginning of the session the partticipants were taught criminal legal terminology, i.e. the names of different criminal offences and were asked to use them in an exercise. Also, other relevant legal terminology pertaining to criminal law was reviewed, focusing mostly on introductory part of criminal law – forms of mens rea, actus reus, inchoate crime, attempt, incitement, etc. The next session dealt with **Civil liability: tort law** – focusing on occupier’s duty of care and possible legal consequences. The particupants were provided with a review of tort terminology and were asked to prepare and discuss in teams a legal position in a particular case involving liability in the case of injuries suffered from the use of public facility.

**Thursday, 7 December 2017**

**Civil and criminal procedure:** In this session the participants were taught about the colocations, i.e. which verbs are appropriate to be used with particular nouns in criminal and civil procedure. The participants were asked to recognize and differentiate terminology belonging to criminal and civil procedure. Furthermore, in the next session the teacher presented the key terminology of the **Employment law** and asked the participants to use it appropriatelly in the exercises.

**Friday, 8 December 2017**

**EU English:** The first session dealt with the sources of EU law and its terminology. The participants wre asked to make appropriate use of different EU legal terminology in a group-work exercise. Also, the teacher ponited out at newly emerging terminology in EU institutions’ proceedings and documents, comparing it with its original English meaning (common errors and so-called false friends). The final session was devoted to the **Human rights** terminology. The participants were presented with typical termonology used in human rights conventions and were asked to analyze and discuss in teams a human rights case presented before the CoE European Court of Human Rights, concerning the freedom of religion.

As a conclusion, this Intensive Legal English Course was very useful for the representatives of the High Judicial Council and the State Prosecutorial Council. The newly obtained and refreshed knowledge will help us both in respect of writing reports for the Action Plan for Chapter 23 and Chapter 24 and in correspondence with the EU and other international organizations. Furthermore, it will be very useful for the meetings with international organizations and experts, in the context of international projects, expert missions and needs assessment meetings, as they often pertain to specific legal issues.

For this reason, we are very grateful to the World Bank and MDTF for supporting this valuable learning opportunity and we avail ourselves for future training opportunities that would further enhance our institutions’ capacity in respect of both Legal English language and European law and court practice.

**PARTICIPANTS FROM HJC AND SPC**

**Tomo Zorić, Secretary, State Prosecutorial Council**

**Svetlana Nenadić, member, State Prosecutorial Council**

**Marijana Santrač, senior advisor for international cooperations and projects, State Prosecutorial Council**

**Marija Filipović,senior advisor for normative issues and EU integration process, High Judicial Council**

**Nikola Čolanović, advisor, High Judicial Council**