

"THE JUDICIARY - INFORMED CHOICE AND CIVIL CONFIDENCE. OPEN COURTS AND PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES"



Creation:

The Educational Programme is an initiative of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The approved Concept is aimed at:

- > Raising the awareness of the students with the structure and the functions of the Judiciary;
- Providing legal education and culture;
- > Improving the confidence of the students in the judiciary and compliance with laws.





Partners:

- In 2014/2015 school year, it started as a Pilot Programme, in compliance of an Agreement for Cooperation signed with the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), and with Regional Education Administration Offices and Media as main partners;
- Local communities and institutions, law enforcement bodies, such as Regional Departments of the Ministry of Interior, the Directorate General for Combatting Organised Crime, the National Customs Agency, Child Counselling Services, the

Local Committees on Anti-social Behaviour of Juveniles and Minors and other joined the Programme.





Target groups:

- The Programme has started with students from 10th to 12th degree, but actually, students from 8th to 12th degree are already taking part;
- Fig. 12 It is implemented in lessons on Ethics and Law, in classes dedicated to organizational matters and in lessons on Philosophy;
- Judges, prosecutors and judicial officials from judicial authorities have been involved as lecturers and mentors.





Educational subjects:

- Initially, there in the Concept have been specified 7 subjects of lectures on the structure and functions of the Judiciary;
- In 2015, upon a proposal of magistrates participating as lecturers, the subjects have been revised and extended;
- As of 2016, there have been also included subjects on administrative and criminal proceedings.





Upgrade of the Programme:

In 2015 the objectives of cooperation between the SJC and the Ministry of Education and Science have been extended on:

- > Prevention of juvenile delinquency;
- > Implementation of one of the elements of the civil education in practice.

In order to achieve sustainability of the Programme, in 2016 the SJC has signed a new Agreement for a five-year period.





Outcomes:

- The Programme started in 2014/2015 school year with 23 District Courts (Second Instance Courts) and 21 District Prosecutors' Offices in 28 municipalities.
- During 2015/2016 school year the Programme has been implemented by 187 Judicial Authorities in 140 schools;
- During 2016/2017 school year 156 courts and prosecutor's offices in partnership with 132 schools in 84 municipalities have taken part in the Programme;
- > 484 magistrates and judicial

officials have been lecturers and mentors;

According to data provided by the Ministry of Education and Science, a total of 11 622 students have been included.





Best practice:

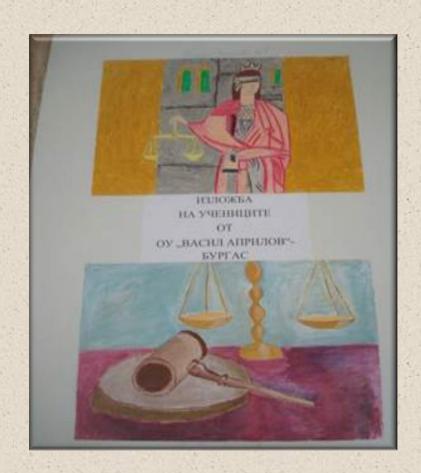
- The Courts and the Prosecutor's Offices have been working together;
- > A differentiated approach has been applied, be taken account of the age and the interests of the students;
- Closing events have been combined with the "Open days" initiative;
- > Study visits of students in court buildings;
- > Drawn up learning and information materials.





Innovative practices:

- Conducting simulated court proceedings (over 60 conducted during 2016/2017), quizzes, discussions, essay contests, paintings and other;
- Proactive Approach of the Judiciary;
- > Conducting raising awareness campaign;
- > All participating students have obtained a Certificate of attendance.





Funding:

- In 2017 the SJC has provided 97 courts with prize funds for the students and 31 courts with funds for learning and information materials;
- The SJC has provided Judicial Authorities with 12 000 printed copies of the "Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria" intended for the participating students.





Assessment and Achievements:

- A positive evaluation has been given by students and teachers for the usefulness of the Programme;
- Prime Minister Mrs. Meglena Kuneva has presented the Programme to the National Assembly and has given it a high appreciation;
- > The work on the Programme shall be taken into consideration in the appraisal of the participating magistrates;
- > The strategic objective for better knowledge and understanding of the judicial institutions and increasing the confidence in justice has been achieved.







Thank you for your attention!