

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL



REGIONAL COURT – HASKOVO



# Supreme Judicial Council

- **Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) was founded with the enactment of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria in 1991.**
- **According to the Judiciary System Act, the Supreme Judicial Council is a permanent acting body, which:**
  - **represents the judicial authorities;**
  - **secures its independence;**
  - **determines its personnel and the work organization of the judicial system;**
  - **manages its activities without interfering with the independence of its bodies.**



## **Commission "Public communication" with the SJC - powers and activities:**

- implements the SJC's communication policy and Communication Strategy of the Judiciary 2014 - 2020;
- implements the information policy of the SJC;
- coordinates and interacts with the judicial authorities, institutions, NGOs and professional associations of magistrates;
- analyzes the effectiveness of the SJC's communication policy and prepare periodic reports to the members of the SJC;
- approves expertise by participating in workshops and meetings on international and inter-institutional projects related to public relations.



- **Initiative of Commission "Public Communication" with the SJC for developing and implementing Pilot educational program "The judiciary - an informed choice and civic trust. Open courts and prosecution offices".**
- **Study of experience in organizing and conducting the "Open courts" program in Hungary and results.**
- **Preparation of a Pilot educational program concept, approved by the Supreme Judicial Council and an integral part of the Agreement for cooperation, signed between the SJC and the Ministry of Education and Science.**



## Objectives of the Pilot training program, according to the Concept:

- enrichment of students' knowledge about the status, structure and functions of the judiciary;
- formation of legal literacy, aimed at observance /in compliance with laws/;
- prevention of child abuse;
- achieving understandable and open to the public justice;
- increasing the credibility to the judiciary /public confidence, trust/;
- practical implementation of an element of civic education.



## Haskovo Regional Court:

- **judicial district;**
- **geography of the judicial district;**
- **population data**





## Haskovo Regional Court

- serves a population of **234,557** people;
- **five district courts** in the judicial region;
- **border region - specific crimes: smuggling, trafficking in human beings and drugs;**
- **specifics in the implementation of public communication – how children can protect their rights.**





## Organization and implementation of the Pilot program in the Regional Court – Haskovo

- Discussion of the Pilot training program concept with the Head of the Regional Inspectorate of Education in Haskovo and with the Director of the pilot school in Haskovo.
- Determination of coordinators of the court and the prosecution office and development of the themes.
- Publication on the website of the Regional Court - Haskovo press release and briefings with the media on the launch of the Pilot educational program.
- Conducting lectures on assigned topics to pre-agreed and approved schedule. Lecturers on any topic - judge and prosecutor, determined to participate in the program voluntarily and for free.







# Open Lesson

**Open Lesson "How can we protect our rights. Access to justice"**

- **Lecturers: Judge in Haskovo District Court and Prosecutor in the District Prosecution Office Haskovo.**
- **Invitation to the students to visit the Courthouse in the town of Haskovo.**
  - to be informed about requirements and security measures when entering the Courthouse.
  - to be informed about institutions in the Courthouse - Court, Prosecution office, Judicial - Executive Office, Registration Office and about the services they provide to citizens.





## Conduction of the Open Lesson

- **Introduction to the courtroom interior, about the case proceedings and about the role of each participants in public hearings.**
- **The lecture was held as a discussion with the active participation of children on important matters.**
- **Coverage of the event in the media.**





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**The final part of the Pilot educational program "Judiciary - an informed choice and civic trust. Open courts and prosecutors' offices"**

- **Meeting with the participating students to summarize the lessons learned during the Pilot educational program.**
- **A quiz to check the acquired knowledge.**
- **Certificates of participation for all students.**
- **Awarding the winner of the essay contest on the topic "The reform of the judicial system in Bulgaria".**



## Assessment of the usefulness of the pilot program.

- **increase legal culture of students;**
- **better information about the structure, function and importance of the judiciary in Bulgaria;**
- **an awareness of the work of judges and prosecutors;**
- **discussion of topical issues of judicial reforms**
- **analysis of the program and sending it to the Commission's "Public Communication" with the SJC for summery.**



**Good experience in developing and implementing Pilot educational program "The judiciary - an informed choice and civic trust. Open courts and prosecution offices" led us to express our recommendation that it is useful, to continue in the future and expand its range. SJC also saw the program as very successful. As a result it was adopted, the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science to continue during this year and to include participation of magistrates not only of regional, but also of other courts and prosecutors' offices. The expansion of the Program aims to cover more students from schools in the district towns and students from schools in other - smaller settlements.**



## "Open Days"

- 2015 "Open Days" in the SJC and five appellate judicial districts;
- Annual campaign "Open Day" initiated by the SJC and implemented at all courts and prosecutor's offices.
- Publication by the SJC of pre-approved schedule for the Open Days in the bodies of the judiciary.
- Conducting an essay contest and competition for journalistic publication.



## **“Open Day” at the Haskovo Courthouse**

**16th of April – The Day of Bulgarian Constitution and the professional holiday of Bulgarian lawyers and court officials**

- **Organized jointly by the Regional Court – Haskovo, Regional Prosecution Office – Haskovo, District Court – Haskovo, District Prosecutor's Office - Haskovo.**
- **Target group - students from the Foreign Languages School "Prof. Dr. Zlatarov "- Haskovo, Mathematics High School" Acad. Bojan Petkanchin "- Haskovo, Financial and Business High School "Atanas Burov"- Haskovo and volunteers of Preventive - informative center on drugs at the Youth Center – Haskovo.**



## Events held:

### "Chairperson of the Court for a Day"

- Students, guests and media were welcomed in the Cabinet of the Chairperson of the Court.
- "Assignment of the post" Chairperson of the court " of elected student.
- Getting to know the work and allowing for participation in the distribution of cases.







Simulated trial in criminal case presented by students from the three partner schools.

- Drawing on case study jointly by the judge and the prosecutor on an urgent and fundamental problem for society associated with teenagers.
- Distribution among students of their roles in the process. Forming teams.
- Team meetings and consultations with the judge and prosecutor.
- Invitation to the public to visit the event.
- Invitation to the media to cover the event.
- Conducting simulated process in the courtroom.
- Public announcement of the verdict in the case /adoption of a judgment/.
- Certificates of participation for all students. Photos.





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**Thank you for your attention!**