

IN FOCUS

Strengthening the Skills of Judges and Prosecutors

The EU Twinning Project on Strengthening the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Armenia actively continues its planned activities this time concentrating on the capacity building of Armenian judges and prosecutors. In June 2012, the Project organized 2-day workshops on IPR enforcement for judges, prosecutors and their clerks, appointed respectively by the RA Judicial Department and the RA Prosecutor’s General Office.

The workshops included topics such as civil substantial IP and civil enforcement, also issues

concerning criminal IP cases.

Participants were introduced to EU best practices through several study cases. The events provided an opportunity for judges and prosecutors of Armenia to discuss common challenges with their European colleagues and improve future cooperation. The EU experts were Monica Pop, Chief Prosecutor, IPR Unit Head of the Public Ministry of Romania, Vittorio Ragonesi, Supreme Court Judge, Italy, and Erling Vestergaard, Danish Deputy State Prosecutor for Serious Economic Crimes. The trainings were an effective tool to

enhance the knowledge of judges and prosecutors relating to IP enforcement, but also a step towards awareness raise of Armenian IP enforcement authorities on IP protection.

Certificates were awarded to all participants upon completion of the program.



Training Course Participants and the Trainers in the Prosecutors’ School

Harmonizing the RA Legislation to Meet the European Standards

One of the activities of the EU Twinning Project on Strengthening the Enforcement of IPR in Armenia is the legal alignment part. The main aim of this activity is analysing the existing IPR enforcement provisions and assessing to what extent the Armenian legislation should be amended.

Possible amendments could be introduction of an IP enforcement act or amendments to the existing IP legislation and to the Criminal code and the Civil Procedure Code.

Since the beginning of the Project, EU experts together with relevant counterparts of the

Project, are working on the harmonization of the Armenian legislation taking into consideration the EU laws.

Steps should be taken to prepare legislation in all the relevant fields of IP enforcement, including measures for preserving evidence, right of information, provisional measures such as injunctions, legislation concerning assessment of damages in IP matters and legislation concerning the penalties.

Introduction of specialised courts or divisions of courts in the IP field should be taken into consideration as well.

Worth mentioning that Custom Authorities in Armenia work on improving the role of the Custom Authorities in border control in IP matters.

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IPR Enforcement Directive

Directive 2004/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the enforcement of intellectual property rights (also known as "(IPR) Enforcement Directive" or "IPRED") is a European Union directive in the field of intellectual property law, made under the internal market provisions of the Treaty of Rome. The directive covers the remedies that are available in the civil courts, but not criminal offenses.

One Europe Day in Yerevan

In the evening of 11 May 2012 five young artists created large scale paintings reflecting Europe. It marked the celebration of Europe Day at Northern Avenue in Yerevan, Armenia.

It has already become an annual tradition through which European cultural diversity is being represented showing EU-Armenia collaboration.

On 9 May 1950, Robert Schuman, one of the founders of the European Union, the Council of Europe and NATO, presented his proposal on the creation of an organised Europe, necessary for peaceful relations and development. That is the reason in EU the Europe Day is

sometimes called as Schuman Day!

EU-funded projects were represented on that day. The projects tackled issues such as human rights, education, trade, environment, intellectual property rights, etc. Among the projects, the EU Twinning Project on Strengthening the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights was present and provided the public with general knowledge on how their intellectual property rights could be protected.

During the information fair quizzes were organized for the general public the winner of which could have the chance to

enter into the world of European cuisine.

Round-table discussions on EU-Armenia relations with EU Delegation and EU Member State Ambassadors took place.

The day was closed with after party at Bourbon st. during which the best of British music was on.



At the Europe Day

Developing Training Programs for Project Beneficiaries

This activity of the EU Twinning Project on Strengthening the Enforcement of IPR covers development of training courses foreseen for the beneficiary institutions by the EU Twinning Project in close cooperation with the relevant institutions. The institutions that are supposed to receive the trainings thereby ascertain, that their needs and requirements are met and that

the methodology is agreed upon.

The focus of the trainings is interactive and aim at exchanging best practices between the participants. Workshops and introduction of concrete study cases of EU best practices are the means for achieving a sustainable result of the of the trainings.

The EU Twinning Project experts

were highly impressed with the commitment shown by the beneficiaries; most of them had prepared detailed outlines of proposed content for the seminars.

Training programs have been drafted for the Customs officials, Police officials, judges and prosecutors.

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