



INVITATION
Convention on European Integration
Working Group I (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights)

Session 1, Topic: Free legal aid in Albania - the role and contribution of non-state actors
Monday, November 16, 2020, 10:30-12:00
Online Zoom Platform

European Movement in Albania (EMA) and the **Ministry of Justice (MoJ)** in partnership with the **Slovak Foreign Policy Association**, with the financial support of **SlovakAid**, are pleased to invite you to **Session 1** of **Working Group I** on *“Free legal aid in Albania - the role and contribution of non-state actors”*.

In order to create a bridge of cooperation between state institutions and civil society and at the same time to strengthen the capacities in both sectors, the Convention on European Integration 2019-2021, implemented by the European Movement in Albania in cooperation with line Ministries, is restored, after the successful development in the period 2014-2016. The Convention on European Integration represents an initiative that aims to institutionalize public debate on the European Union issues, based on the partnership between government and public institutions, civil society and business organizations; to strengthen the skills of experts in negotiations related to European Integration; as well as to transfer the Slovak experience in the field of building democratic institutions and permanent professional dialogue. Initially, this unique model was successfully applied and developed by the Slovak Foreign Policy Association during 2003-2007 and then implemented in Serbia, B&H, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia. In the framework of the Convention in Albania, Working Groups have been set up according to the chapters of negotiations with the EU: (WG I: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights (Chapter 23); WG II: Justice, Freedom, Security (Chapter 24); WG III: Agriculture and Food Safety (Chapters 11 & 12); WG IV: Structural Funds (Chapter 22).

Working Group I, thanks to the experience of experts, will review and discuss topics in the field of judicial system, justice and human rights, predicting a further process of reform and EU accession. Within Chapter 23, mainly discussed are the topic of anti-corruption, children's rights, free legal service and information, reforms in the justice system, etc, which will further reflect on the choice of other possible topics. Four Sessions will be organized in this Working Group. These sessions are planned to be co-chaired by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and internal experts of the Convention. Each session aims to gather representatives from State Institutions, International Organizations, NGOs, law firms, legal experts and academy, which are focused in the topics related with Chapter 23 of Acquis.

In the 1st session of the Working Group I, legal aid in Albania, the challenges in this field and the need for cooperation between state and non-state actors in this field were selected for discussion. This session aims to issue recommendations and suggestions regarding the selected topic and issues related to the legal framework; institutional capacity and handling of issues.

Simultaneous interpretation (English-Albanian) will be provided.

PROGRAM

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Monday, November 16, 2020, 10: 30-12: 30

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10: 00- 10:30	Registration of participants
	Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and institutional framework of free legal aid in Albania • Key challenges: transparency, access to justice, information, training and capacity of service providers, monitoring and quality of service, financial capacity - recommendations from the Slovak experience • Involvement of the civil society in the free legal aid service - best practices from Albania and Slovakia • Promotion and information of groups of interest
10:30 - 10:40	Introductory Speeches
	Mrs. Adea Pirdeni , Deputy Minister of Justice in Albania
	Mr. Gledis Gjipali , Executive Director of the European Movement in Albania
10:40 - 10:50	Free legal aid - challenges in Albania and cooperation between different actors
	Mrs. Patricia Pogaçe , Directory of Free Legal Aid, Ministry of Justice
10: 50-11: 20	Slovak experience of free legal aid - best practices and recommendations
	Mrs. Eva Kovacechova , lawyer and former director of Centre for Legal Aid in Slovakia
11:20–11:40	Open Discussion with interest groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Representatives of NGOs authorized by the MOJ to provide free legal aid -Representatives from Law Clinics at Universities -Representatives from law firms or lawyers
12: 10-12: 30	Drawing conclusions and recommendations
	Moderator : Mrs. Evis Fico , Advisor of Minister, Ministry of Justice