



NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR STATE
GUARANTEED LEGAL
AID

STUDY VISIT OF THE DELEGATION FROM REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN ESTONIA WITHIN THE LEGAL AID FIELD

Performed within the project „Introducing and transferring Estonia’s expertise and best practices in the field of Legal Aid to Republic of Moldova”, implemented by the Bar Association from Estonia, in partnership with National Council for State Guaranteed Legal Aid from Republic of Moldova, with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs from Estonia

During the period of 8-13 November 2015, a delegation from Republic of Moldova performed a study visit in Estonia. The delegation was composed of the representatives of the National Council for State Guaranteed Legal Aid (hereinafter as NCSGLA) and Administrative Apparatus, as following: the Chairman of the NCSGLA, the Executive Director of the NCSGLA, the representatives of the Bar Association within the NCSGLA, the representative of the Ministry of Justice within the NCSGLA, the coordinator of the biggest territorial office of the NCSGLA and consultant from Administrative Apparatus (*see the list of participants as appendix 1*)

The study visit agenda included meetings with different institution representatives from Estonia whose activity is linked to the legal aid management field. In this regard, the delegation met the chancellor of the Bar Association from Estonia, representatives of the Ministry of Justice, lawyers who work within the management of the legal aid system from Estonia, as well as lawyers practicing law. The delegation visited the e-Estonia showroom and had a courtesy visit at the Embassy of Republic of Moldova, having the honour to meet the counsel, Ms Tatiana Gîndea (*see the agenda of visit as appendix 2*)

The visit aim is to introduce and transfer the Estonian experience to Republic of Moldova in the legal aid field, focusing on the management of the system. In this regard, the following topics were addressed within the meetings:

- ❖ The organization of legal profession in Estonia,
- ❖ The management of legal aid in Estonia,
- ❖ The State Legal Aid information system
- ❖ Provision of state legal aid: conditions, procedure, target groups etc.;

- ❖ The role and tasks of the Ministry of Justice within the management of the legal aid system in Estonia.

Also, the Executive Director of the NCSGLA had a presentation regarding the legal aid system in the Republic of Moldova during the meeting with the representatives of the Bar Association working in the management field. It was a good chance for good practices exchange with the colleagues from Estonian legal aid system.

During the visit, the Moldovan delegation met the expert/lawyer Ms. Siret Saks, one of the lawyers who will perform, along with other lawyer, the training for public defenders from Republic of Moldova in May 2016. During the meeting was discussed about the draft agenda of the training. The members of delegation noted that would be in the interest of public defenders who will attend the training to focus on following subjects:

- ❖ Providing legal aid to vulnerable groups of people, in special people with mental disabilities: procedure, best practices in Estonia;
- ❖ Professional standards for lawyers in force in the Estonia;
- ❖ EU acquis regarding the lawyer's quality standards.

Conclusions and recommendations:

The delegation concluded that, currently, the most imperious need is to improve the electronically system within the legal aid in Republic of Moldova. In this regard, the Republic of Moldova made considerable steps, having an electronically system who is offering the statistic data and facilitates the work of the staff. Even so, the Republic of Moldova needs specific help regarding the programming and improving the state legal aid information system.

In this regard, a cooperative partner should be the Centre of Registers and Information Systems from Estonia, who programmed the state legal aid information system in Estonia.

Finally, areas which are recommended by the delegation members to be addressed as priority in the Republic of Moldova legal aid informational system improvement, using the expertise of the Estonia, are as following:

- The electronically submission of the report by the legal aid lawyers, in order to not present the paper based material. This takes a lot of time by lawyer to complete this document and to bring to the territorial office of the NCSGLA and of the legal aid staff who have to check the report and to correct it in majority of cases;
- The electronically evidence of the continuing legal education of legal aid lawyers;
- The electronically submission of the request for legal aid, first of all from the courts and criminal investigation bodies,
- The electronically test issuing an electronically certificate regarding the legal aid background of a lawyer who wants to access in the legal aid system.



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List of participants

Name, Last name	Function
VICTOR ZAHARIA	CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL LEGAL AID COUNCIL
MIHAIL LUPU	DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION WITHIN THE NATIONAL LEGAL AID COUNCIL
DIANA MELENCIUC	REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WITHIN THE NATIONAL LEGAL AID COUNCIL
SERGHEI TURCAN	REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION WITHIN THE NATIONAL LEGAL AID COUNCIL
LILIAN DARIU	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL LEGAL AID COUNCIL
SERGIU CHIRUTA	COORDINATOR, TERRITORIAL OFFICE CHISINAU, NATIONAL LEGAL AID COUNCIL
OLGA RABEI	CONSULTANT, ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS, NATIONAL LEGAL AID COUNCIL

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Agenda

(1) 08.11.2015 Arrival of guests

(2) 09.11.2015

10.00-10.15 Gathering at Radisson Blu seminar room „Rotterdam”

10.15-11.00 Report „Estonian Bar Association“. Kristel Voltenberg, chancellor

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15 -12.00 Report „Estonian Bar Association“. Kristel Voltenberg, chancellor

12.30 Lunch at Radisson Blu hotel

19.00 Dinner at Olde Hansa restaurant

(3) 10.11.2015

9.45 Gathering at the premises of Estonian Bar Association

10.00-10.45 Report „State legal aid and regulations“. Anastassia Malõševa, lawyer

10.45-11.30 Report „State legal aid in Moldova”

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

11.45-13.00 Report „Introduction of the State Legal Aid information system and technical overview“. Maarja Pender, RIS administrator

13.30 Lunch at Radisson Blu hotel

15.00 Meeting at the Bar with Estonian expert Siret Saks

16.30 Visit at the Moldova’s Embassy in Estonia.

(4) 11.11.2015

09.30 Gathering in front of Radisson Blu hotel

10.00-10.45 Meeting the representatives of Ministry of Justice at the ministry. Report „The Ministry of Justice’s role regarding the surveillance of state legal aid; introduction of profession of notaries“. Gunnar Vaikmaa, Sandra Tarum, Helen Vahkal

10.45-12.00 Report „State legal aid in Moldova”

12.30 Lunch at Radisson Blu hotel

14.00 Old Town tour

(5) 12.11.2015

09.30 Gathering in front of Radisson Blu hotel

10.00-12.00 e-Estonia showroom visit. Report „Possibilities of Estonian ID card, Estonian e-services”

12.30 Lunch at Radisson Blu hotel

(6) 13.11.2015 Departure of guests