Academy of Justice of the Azerbaijan Republic
Improvement Qualification of judges and other legal specialists on access to justice on environmental matters and Aarhus convention

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Academy of Justice
Main duties of the Academy of Justice

- Conduction of the trainings for the admission to the professional activity, candidates for the first time admitted to the prosecution authorities.
- Implementation of professional trainings of employees of various categories on the basis of the higher education and also the provision of the supplementary education.
- Conduction the primary long-term training for the candidates to the position of the judges, also conduction systematic education for the judges.
- Preparation of PhD candidates and dissertators in the sphere of the legal sciences.
Long-term education of judges

- According to the state program of 2009-2013 years about development of justice in Azerbaijan one of the main priorities identified increasing the professionalism of the judges, apart employees and justice authorities.

- By the decree of president of October first 2009 on Academy was assigned the duties about involvement to the long-term process of education.
Trainings on access to justice in environmental matters for judges and prosecutors

- initial -
- and in-service trainings

generally provide judges and prosecutors with the level of knowledge required to deal with access to justice in environmental matters
Training concept for judges and prosecutors

- deliver training based on international standards;
- equip the largest possible number of future and practicing judges and prosecutors with basic knowledge on access to justice in environmental matters.
- provide advanced training to a critical number of judges and prosecutors;
- support the continued specialisation and technical training of judges and prosecutors.
Initial trainings

Curriculum contains basic level modules on access to justice in environmental matters and in addition cover in mandatory modules covering substantive and procedural law.
In-service training

Offers a professional level module on access to justice in environmental matters, equip a practicing judges and prosecutors with analytical knowledge and practical skills.
Skills and knowledge required by judges and prosecutors

It is obvious that an increasing number of criminal cases, but also many civil and administrative matters before court will in one way or the other be related to access to justice in environmental matters, and that the majority of judges and prosecutors will be confronted if not with access to justice in environmental matters. It is thus sufficient to train specialized judges and prosecutors only.

Azerbaijan court system provides a specialization among the judges: in civil and criminal cases. The administrative courts hears cases on access to justice in environmental matters, including class action suit. But usually is conducted specialization of judges in courts, for example, hearing of, cases involving minors, etc. and possibly in relation to access to justice in environmental matters.
Basic knowledge

- It cannot be predicted which judge will deal with a particular case so, eventually, all judges, investigators and prosecutors should have a basic knowledge of matters related to access to justice in environmental matters.
“Advanced knowledge”

- means that judges and prosecutors should have practical understanding and are able to apply their knowledge with regard to the access to justice
Training for Advanced knowledge

1. National environmental law
2. Introduction to the Aarhus Convention: development and role in the context of international environmental law
3. Role of judiciary in implementation and enforcement of international environmental law
4. Article 9 of the Aarhus Convention: overview
   Review of compliance and its implications on the national level
5. Article 9, para.1: overview of legal requirements, implementation problems, examples of cases, experience of civil society
6. Article 9, para.2: overview of legal requirements, implementation problems, examples of cases, experiences of civil society
7. Article 9, para.3: overview of legal requirements, implementation problems, examples of cases, experiences of civil society
Some judges and prosecutors may acquire specialist knowledge through post-graduate studies, self-training, networking or professional experience. Such knowledge would not be part of regular training programmes. Judges and prosecutors with such specialist knowledge are a valuable resource for others and as trainers.
Academy of Justice and The Task Force on Access to Justice

-- training of trainers on access to justice on environmental matters;
-- training materials on implementation of article 9 of the Convention;
-- the exchange of information and analytical work on criteria for standing;
-- analytical studies -
Analytical studies

-- Handbook on Access to Justice under the Aarhus Convention 2003;
-- Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: Available Remedies, Timeliness and Costs in the EECCA countries 2012;
Analytical studies


-- Study on standing for individuals, groups and non-governmental organizations before courts in environmental cases in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan. 2014 and etc.
The web portal for the exchange of jurisprudence concerning the Convention

--sharing information, experiences and good practices;

--case summaries of judgments and decisions from the courts and other bodies help in the implementing of the Convention provisions.
Some question of the improvement of judges and other legal specialists qualification

-- Academy provides the listeners with the materials (including materials of regional trainings. But we need the training/self-training materials according to common international standards and good practices. While judges and prosecutors are trained primarily in the application of domestic legislation, it is nevertheless possible to develop standardized training materials in a way that leaves sufficient room to take into account domestic systems and legislation;

-- On-line courses should be developed and made available.
Some question of the improvement of judges and other legal specialists qualification

-- Academy welcomes to improving of the internet resources;

-- organizing of the regional trainings and workshops for High-level Judiciary;

-- to prepare analytical, guidance and training materials;
Thanks for attention