

The Report on Access to Legal Information Released

Judges and Prosecutors need better access to legal information was the conclusion of the latest Independent Judicial Commission (IJC) Report on Access to Legal Information. This report analyses the types of legal information available to judges and prosecutors and proposes eleven low-cost low-tech recommendations that will improve the quality and the dissemination of information to courts and prosecutors' offices throughout BiH.

The Director of the IJC, Rakel Surlien, will be sending this report to contributors to the project, Entity and Canton Ministers of Justice and to key Courts across BiH over the next few days.

The report finds that the pivotal role of the Ministries of Justice in gathering and disseminating legal information should be enhanced. The report shows that many of the technical tools that can improve the dissemination and quality of legal information already exist but need to be updated or upgraded.

The recommendations identified in the report range from publishing and disseminating legal texts to the coordination of the technical networking of the courts. These recommendations constitute the first part of a two-step approach. IJC hopes that the implementation of the recommendations will begin without delay. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) provided funding for this project, and the project team conducted numerous interviews with members of the legal profession and providers of legal information.

This project forms part of the International Community's

strategy to increase the quality and efficiency of the judicial system. The report can be found on the Internet at <https://www.ohr.int/ijc/reports/doc/ali-eng.doc>

For more information please contact, IJC Press Office at 033/445-216 ext 205 or at 061-131-785.