

Defending and promoting rule of law principles: challenges and ways forward

WEBINAR

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2020

14:30 – 17:30 CET

PLENARY

14:30 – 15:30

Independence and integrity of justice systems

ENG/RU/sign language interpretation provided

Topics to be discussed will include recent challenges to judicial independence across the OSCE region, as well as good practices for ensuring integrity and accountability of justice systems.

Speakers: **José Igreja Matos**, President of the European Association of Judges (EAJ) and Vice-President of the International Association of Judges (IAJ);
Olena Tanasevych, Head of High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC), Ukraine.

15:30 – 16:30

Fair trial rights and trial monitoring

ENG/RU/sign language interpretation provided

Speakers will address prevalent violations of guarantees implicit in the right to a fair trial, including the right to defense, equality of arms and the publicity of trials. Speakers will also reflect on the crucial role that trial monitoring, in particular by civil society, plays in safeguarding the rule of law.

Speakers: **Milan Filipović**, Legal Adviser, YUCOM Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, Serbia;
Natali Petrovska, Executive Director, Coalition All for Fair Trials, North Macedonia.

Moderator of plenary sessions:

Meaghan Fitzgerald, Deputy Head of Democratization Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

BREAKOUT

16:30 – 17:30

Note: breakout sessions are simultaneous and will run in parallel

Breakout Session A: Monitoring of judicial administration in the OSCE region

ENG/RU/sign language interpretation provided

The breakout session will serve to raise awareness of the various challenges related to judicial appointments in the OSCE region and to promote monitoring of judicial administration, including monitoring of the activities of self-governing bodies, as this can be a valuable tool in the process of strengthening the independence of the judiciary and an effective alternative to procedures such as vetting and similar re-evaluation of judges.

Speakers:

Giorgi Burjanadze, Deputy Public Defender, Georgia;
Roman Kuybida, Deputy Head of the Board, Centre of Policy and Legal Reform (CPLR), Ukraine;
Karine Simonsen, Rule of Law Officer, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Breakout Session B: Eliminating the incentives for torture in criminal justice systems: launch of ODIHR and Fair Trials' new publication

ENG/RU interpretation provided

The breakout session will be centered on the presentation of “Eliminating the Incentives for Torture in the OSCE Region: Baseline Study and Practical Guidance”, an ODIHR joint publication with Fair Trials that includes detailed policy recommendations on how to effectively address some common aspects of domestic laws, policies, practices, and institutional and workplace cultures that incentivize and facilitate the use of torture by law enforcement officials and other criminal justice actors.

Opening speech: **Barbara Schedler**, Deputy Head, Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Speakers: **Bruno Min**, Legal Director, Fair Trials;
Julia Kozma, Member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT);
Natalia Taubina, Coordinator, Civic Solidarity Platform's Working Group on the Fight Against Torture and Director, Public Verdict Foundation, Russia;
Andrew Chernousov, Leading Expert, Kharkiv Institute for Social Research, Ukraine

Moderator: **Andrea Huber**, Head of Human Rights Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)