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ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Dear colleagues, distinguished expert public,

last year 2020 was a year of many changes for the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, so in the following lines let me evaluate the central events that had a significant impact on its activities.

In March 2020, the Academy had to deal with the consequences of the spread of COVID-19 and the pandemic declared by the World Health Organization, which made in-person education impossible, and was forced to change its form of education virtually overnight in order to continue the education process to keep up the set standard, to enhance progress as well as the quality of education. Although the transition to the distance form of education was not easy, it can be said that 2020 was full of "conventional" lecture training events, as well as round tables, discussion forums, interactive skills and knowledge exercises and language training.

Wherever the nature of the event and the thematic focus allowed, the events were held remotely through the ZOOM application, a world leader among video conferencing platforms. The training took place in virtual online rooms, while connection security and data confidentiality were ensured by multi-level authentication and two-way encryption. Throughout the online events, participants had the opportunity to use several features of the application, e.g. watch the lecturer as well as his/her presentation at the same time, participate in real-time discussion or ask the lecturer questions via the chat feature. The use of this modern way of education also indirectly supported the technical knowledge and skills of the target group representatives.

As part of lifelong learning, in 2020 the Academy also tried to respond flexibly to legislative changes and current needs of courts and prosecutor's offices and to continuously follow up on the previous year and the established background for quality education of persons in the form of events targeted at a wide range of professional legal specialized topics. A significant part of education was also focused on improving interpersonal skills in the form of trainings and courses in soft skills as well as professional ethics, which the Government of the Slovak Republic deems crucial and which it declared in its program statement in order to enhance the credibility of courts and the prosecution service.

Foreign language training in terms of the project of "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff" was a central activity, which began the process of modernizing education with an emphasis on adapting to the pandemic situation in Slovakia. Intensive language training in the form of regular courses organized twice a week took place via distance learning since April 2020. The change in the form of education made language training accessible to a wider group of persons from all regions of Slovakia, which facilitated both the development of the language skills as such as well as an increased interest of the target group in other language activities, especially summer language schools.

In March, a group internship was organized in the European courts in Luxembourg and Strasbourg, but almost all foreign activities were suspended due to the continuing unfavourable situation. During the short easing of strict anti-pandemic measures in the summer, the Academy managed to conduct two monthly individual internships at the European Court of Human Rights, which were very positively evaluated by the participants. Although other international activities moved online, there was still interest in them.

During the first wave of the pandemic, the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic was used as a repatriation facility intended for state quarantine of persons who returned

from abroad and who were obliged to remain in isolation for a specified period under current measures. These experiences also strengthened the Academy in its further activities.

Dear colleagues, distinguished professional public, I dare say that, despite the difficult situation, the Academy has done a good job of providing services to the judiciary and the prosecutors' community, to which the representatives of the target group are accustomed. We still face many challenges that the Academy will have to face. I firmly believe that together we will be able to continue implementing the established innovative education approaches, and that we will achieve further goals in national and transnational cooperation by improving and modernizing the specialized educational process.

JUDr. Peter Hulla
Director

BOARD OF THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

At its meetings held in 2020, the Board of the Judicial Academy executed its tasks and duties pursuant to Sections § 7 and § 7a of the Act on the Judicial Academy and on the Amendment of Certain Acts as amended in the following composition:

JUDr. Jana Bajánková, Chair of the Board of the Judicial Academy

Presiding Judge of the Civil Law Division of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, elected by the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic

JUDr. Martin Bargel, Vice-Chair of the Board of the Judicial Academy

Presiding Judge over the panel of the Criminal Law Division of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, elected by the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic

JUDr. Roman Greguš, Member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

President of the Regional Court in Nitra, elected by the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic

JUDr. Jaroslav Chlebovič, Member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

Presiding Judge over of the panel of the Criminal Law Division of the Regional Court in Košice, elected by the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic

JUDr. Peter Odaloš, Member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

Deputy Regional Prosecutor for the Criminal Section, Regional Prosecutor's Office in Banská Bystrica, member appointed by the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic on the proposal of the Prosecutor General of the Slovak Republic

JUDr. Branislav Pospíšil, member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

attorney at law and university teacher at the Faculty of Law of the Pan-European University in Bratislava, member appointed by the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic

prof. JUDr. PhDr. Miroslav Slašťan, PhD., member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

Professor, Department of International Law and International Relations, Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava, member appointed by the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic

JUDr. Jozef Szabó, member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

Deputy Prosecutor General of the Slovak Republic, Attorney General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic, member appointed by the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic on the proposal of the Prosecutor General of the Slovak Republic

JUDr. Boris Tóth, member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

President of the Regional Court in Bratislava, elected by the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic

prof. JUDr. Peter Vojčík, CSc., member of the Board of the Judicial Academy

Head of the Civil Law Department, Faculty of Law, P.J. Šafárik University in Košice, member appointed by the Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic

TRAINING OF TARGET GROUPS

2020 was perhaps the most dynamic year in the history of the Judicial Academy, which turned out to require flexible measures and solutions reflecting the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a major impact on the scheduled course of organized events. Despite the difficult societal situation that the Academy had to face, its aim was to contribute to the enrichment and improvement of the educational activities offered in previous years and to fully reflect the needs of the judicial public.

In the first months of 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic provided education in the premises of its headquarters in Pezinok, in the premises of its Training Facility in Omšenie, as well as in regional classrooms at the Regional Court in Košice and the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic in Banská Bystrica. Since April 2020, almost all trainings have been delivered remotely, through a selected video-conference platform, which was approved in advance by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic.

The scheduled events could be carried out without restrictions only until 11 March 2020, when the Slovak government declared a state of emergency in connection with the spread of the coronavirus infection and nationwide restrictions and bans resulting from the deteriorating pandemic situation entered into force. In this context, we immediately took the necessary measures to ensure that the scheduled events would take place and quickly switched from in-person to distance learning wherever the nature of the event allowed. For the purposes of distance education, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic uses the ZOOM application, which is one of the world's most widely used video-conferencing applications. Online teaching takes place in virtual classrooms. Access to the "classroom" is controlled through multi-factor authentication (participants log in via access codes and passwords), which ensures security of the entire connection, while end-to-end encryption ensures that data is kept confidential between participants.

When compiling the 2020 curriculum, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic insisted on the requirements of topicality of subjects, high expertise of lecturers, precision and clarity of the delivery of educational events. The 2020 curriculum included training events that covered almost all areas of law to take into account the content of training for judges and prosecutors. In 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic continued enhancing the quality of training and gradually developing its training programmes intended for judges, prosecutors, court officials and assistants to judges of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, to whom the training events are addressed.

In 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic implemented the trainings in the form of lectures, interactive events, workshops and short-term courses within the system of life-long learning, mainly in the field of legal and social sciences. In judicial training, the emphasis was on modernization and innovation; implementation of specialized training, which consisted of dividing

the target group into smaller groups focusing on various areas of law. Education at the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic was provided mainly by lecturers from the ranks of judges, prosecutors and other important experts, many of whom are external members of the pedagogical staff of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic. The number of external members of the teaching staff increased this year, too.

As for the educational activities themselves, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic kept up the trend of a high number of annual training events, even though the events were organized largely as distance learning events, which was a big challenge for the target group at the beginning of its use in judicial training. In 2020, a total of 104 educational events took place, which were attended by 4,200 persons from the target groups.

One of the main areas of training at the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic consisted of seminars and lectures on public and private law. The main objective of the functioning of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic was to continue to flexibly respond to legislative changes in the field of Slovak and European law, to the requirements of theory, current requirements of adjudication practice, improving professional and non-legal knowledge and skills of both the courts and the prosecution service. Two education departments, the Department of Public Law and the Department of Private Law, participated in providing the training activities in 2020.

Department of Public Law

The **Department of Public Law** tried to flexibly respond to legislative changes and current needs of courts and the prosecution service also in 2020, and thus provide a high-quality background for the target group of persons trained by the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic in the form of targeted events.

To maintain the educational process during the early spring period of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic has switched to a distance form of education. In order to keep up the progress and sharing of knowledge by lecturers with the target group of persons educated by the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, it found optimal ways to share the content of its events online.

The Department of Public Law also organized many educational events in criminal law in 2020. From the whole range of events, several can be selected, to which the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic paid increased attention.

The event focusing on traffic offenses met with great interest, which explained to the participants the technical and legal issues in the analysis of traffic accidents, as well as how to use digital traces in the analysis of traffic accidents. At the end, the participants watched a video presentation of crash tests of the Forensic Engineering Institute of the Žilina University and also a video presentation of the traffic accident procedure.

The protection of victims of crime was a traditional criminal law topic, where the lecturer focused her attention on the duties of law enforcement authorities in contact with victims of crime, presumption of a victim of crime, and the importance of treating a person as a victim of crime. She dedicated a special part of the event to particularly vulnerable victims, the course of their interrogations in the pre-trial proceedings, and pointed out the specifics of the interrogation of a child as a particularly vulnerable victim in criminal proceedings.

The issue of cybercrime and electronic evidence was another popular topic with participants focusing on criminal law. During their lecture, the lecturers drew attention to the cross-border provision of

electronic evidence and briefed the participants on new trends (artificial intelligence, forthcoming EU legislation and the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and other current information).

Another event with representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office, the Presidium of the Police Force, the National Bank of Slovakia and also Europol was dedicated to the international aspect of prosecution of money laundering - information on the results of the current 5th round of evaluation of the Slovak Republic by the MONEYVAL Committee of the Council of Europe focusing on financial investigations in the context of prosecution of money laundering, identification, freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime, Europol support in international money laundering investigations and confiscation of proceeds of crime, the main international typological aspects of money laundering, current financial investigation arrangements at the Police Force Presidium, typology of abuse of legal entities for money laundering in the Slovak Republic, the introduction of the AML/CFT system in the supervisory practice of the National Bank of Slovakia - the range of data available to liable persons usable in the activities of law enforcement agencies, current developments in legal instruments to increase the effectiveness of the operations of law enforcement agencies in financial investigation, freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime.

An event focusing on a range of issues related to the conduct of a trial was organized again for junior judges and prosecutors. In the previous year, an interactive training was held with the participants with a demonstration of various situations that may arise during a trial, however, due to the distance form of this event, the lecturers had to handle this simulation themselves.

Two events were organized also in 2020 within the framework of lifelong learning in terms of the implementation of the project APVV-16-0471 "Sexual Abuse of Children and Wards". In their lectures, the lecturers focused their attention on bodies of crimes related to the sexual abuse of children and wards, the concurrence of crimes, the cessation of criminality and current case law. In the second event, the lecturers focused on the identification of sexual abuse and pointed out the individual aspects and methodology of taking evidence - questioning the witness - the injured party, who can be included in the category of a victim where it is necessary to take care to minimize secondary victimization in the evidence procedure. However, they pointed out that, from the procedural point of view, it is also necessary to take evidence in the pre-trial proceedings, while respecting the principle to investigate as a basic principle of criminal proceedings, as well as the right of defence of the accused.

Another of the topics where criminal law and civil law overlapped was the system of rules governing the granting of funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds in the Slovak Republic based on EU regulations and Slovak law, which was clarified to participants, an analysis of current criminal and civil law in the field of infringement of the EU's financial interests, application challenges and current case law.

Public and European international law was represented via the topic of the European Investigation Order. The participants were comprehensively briefed on the reasons for rejection, knowledge from application practice, the CJ EU case law in the field of the European Investigation Order.

Law is not just a set of legal norms, it is not just society's tool to ensure its internal peace, homeostasis, law is not just a profession, a human activity, law-making and application of law, law is not just courts and judges, lawyers, authorities and officials, law is also an intellectual and moral challenge, often a riddle or conundrum. These were the introductory words that opened the lecture given by Professor Pavel Holländer, which met with great interest from the participants. He pointed out the possible riddles in law that participants may encounter in their legal practice (riddles in legal

evidence, riddles in the interpretation of law, riddles in the history of law, riddles in legal theory, as well as riddles in legal ethics).

The topic of methodology and interpretation of law is also popular in constitutional law. The key idea of the event on this topic was that the legal interpretation and the closely related legal arguments represent a decisive factor in the pursuit of legal certainty.

"Electoral Law, Theory and Application Practice" was a specialized constitutional law topic, in terms of which the participants learned in more detail about the institutes of electoral law in terms of practice, namely the concept, generality, equality and directness of electoral law, secret ballot, consequences of candidacy in elections for a public office and other judicial professions.

In 2020, events on administrative law were held according to the current requirements of individual target groups. The "Administrative Justice" event offered a number of interesting topics and talks of lecturers from both the judiciary and academia. The lecture included, among other things, a presentation of current examples of existing rulings of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic on judgments of administrative courts, an analysis of selected judgments of the Constitutional Court and some selected judgments of the European Union Member States, and current case law of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic in the field of administrative justice.

The event on the topic "Environmental protection and application practice of courts in environmental crimes" was also beneficial in this respect, as well as the event that focused on the application challenges of the Act on Free Access to Information.

Great attention was paid by the participants to the event entitled "Administrative torts and specifics of proceedings on them, administrative law perspectives and perspectives of proceedings on sanction actions under the Administrative Procedure Code". During the lecture, the lecturer addressed substantive-law and procedural-law issues related to administrative torts. He clarified the conditions under which a certain tort must be considered a criminal offense (in the context of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights), with particular emphasis on the procedural specifics of proceedings on such offenses before an administrative body. The space was also devoted to issues of proceedings in matters of sanction actions and other topics.

Three regional events under the title "Aspects of indirect trauma of probation and mediation officers" were organized for another target group, i.e. for probation and mediation officers. The seminar defined the understanding of psychological trauma and explained the content of such theoretical concepts as secondary traumatic stress, mediated trauma, or fatigue from compassion. The participants were briefed on a range of potential consequences of indirect trauma and on options of prevention or intervention, as applicable, in the case of occurrence of this phenomenon in their profession.

Department of Private Law

Pursuant to the approved 2020 curriculum, the **Department of Private Law** carried out training activities aimed at systematically covering most areas of private substantive and procedural law, despite the unfavourable pandemic situation. To maintain the continuity of the educational process, a part of the activities was based on the content of already delivered events, which were fundamentally updated with current knowledge from the adjudication practice of the competent authorities, or new legislation, as applicable (also referred to as update events). In addition to these events, completely new themes have been included in the educational process to respond even more closely to the current needs of application practice.

The beginning of 2020 was launched in the premises of the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie by a pre-examination study stay in preparation for the spring date of professional judicial examinations. Shortly after the first pre-examination study stay, a two-day event entitled "Ownership and management of flats and non-residential premises" was held in the same premises, and in turn the event "360 degree effective communication" was held in the premises of the Judicial Academy itself, with a focus on improvement and enhancements of soft skills, which, from the point of view of the Judicial Academy as well, are constantly being particularly stressed, and which are becoming more and more proclaimed. The event dedicated to the institute of a contractual penalty was also an inspirational event, which was constantly demanded by practitioners.

The range of areas of training also included an event aimed at enhancing the skills in German legal terminology or a repeated event in the field of soft skills entitled "Human Resource Management (Management Mini-Academy; Managerial Communication and People Management)" dedicated to the managerial minimum for judicial staff, in which the participants were provided, among other things, with information concerning managerial skills, management and communication in the practice of the judiciary, or, even, the management of acute stress.

Events on civil procedural law were also significantly represented in 2020, in terms of which a face-to-face event focusing on the issue of distress proceedings, subsequently followed by an event concerning the costs of civil proceedings, took place in February.

The standard and smooth course of in-person events was concluded at the turn of February and March by a trio of events also focusing on practical work with the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights, as well as by an event on bankruptcy and restructuring entitled "Effects of Insolvency Proceedings (Bankruptcy and Restructuring) on Judicial and Other Proceedings", which received a positive feedback from the participating representatives of the target group, and finally a commercial law event dedicated to the liability of members of the statutory bodies of commercial companies and other legal entities for damage. The last two named events were, together with the 3rd part of the pre-examination study stay in preparation for the spring date of the professional judicial examination, also the last events conducted by the Department of Private Law in person in the premises of the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie, or in in-person form at all.

A number of restrictive measures were taken around mid-March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which required the postponement of the scheduled educational events to the second semester of 2020. However, the Judicial Academy responded flexibly to the societal situation by adopting and introducing an online form for events originally planned in person. Throughout the online seminars, participants had the opportunity to follow the lecturer, as well as his/her presentation, participate in the discussion or ask the lecturer questions. However, due to certain objective obstacles, some events had to be cancelled altogether.

Despite the difficult situation and certain technical limitations associated with it, still, many important events took place via the ZOOM online platform, thus ensuring continuous education on the part of the Judicial Academy. Already on 27 April 2020, the first online event under the auspices of the Department of Private Law took place, entitled "Establishment and Application of Foreign Law, Application of Applicable Law on the Basis of the Conflict of Law Rule (Rome I, Rome II)". European or international private law issues were also addressed by an online event on cross-border disputes in the field of parental responsibility for children, an event on current ECtHR case law in the context of civil law aspects, as well as an event entitled "Jurisdiction of General Courts and Arbitral Tribunals in Cross-Border Disputes (Brussels I, International Private Law Act, Arbitration Act)".

Online events were organised in the field of substantive civil law as the main branch of the Department of Private Law with a focus on the issue of co-ownership, the issue of liability for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage from traffic accidents, as well as the current issues of succession law or consumer protection - an area of continuing great interest among participants.

Due to the considerable demand from the judicial public, the Judicial Academy at the same time repeated the popular event dedicated to the lien, which, however, was content-innovated and supplemented with the topic of easements. At the very end of the calendar year, events entitled "Contracts Concluded via Electronic Platforms" and "Medical and Legal Issues in Court Case Law" were extremely topical.

Events in commercial law, labour law or civil procedural law also took place online in addition to the in-person form, which was relevant in the first quarter of the calendar year. For those interested, an event focusing on current issues of labour law or the psychological and linguistic discourse of witness testimony was held, in which emphasis was also put on factors relevant to the credibility and reliability of the witness. At the same time, to maintain the continuity of the educational process, the Judicial Academy offered a relatively standard event, enjoying constant interest, updated with current knowledge, namely "Current Issues of Bankruptcy and Restructuring".

The Judicial Academy did not forget about educational events related to the functioning of the judiciary and the issue of judicial ethics, which has been resonating frequently with the public. In addition to the events covered by the Department of Public Law, the Department of Private Law also held the event "Ethical Dilemmas in the (Almost) Daily Practice of a Judge", the subject of which was, among other things, addressing practical situations related to the impartiality of a judge, the issue of freedom of expression of a judge, the degree of engagement in public life and others.

In the area of soft skills, several online events were also frequently held in addition to the already mentioned in-person event. These included events dedicated to communication and presentation, media training, body language, self-control and personality image, crisis communication or conflict resolution, which were not given much attention a few years ago. All organised events were lectured by leading Slovak and Czech representatives of legal practice and science.

However, the Judicial Academy did not forget about events aimed at developing foreign language knowledge and communication skills. Three-day training events in legal terminology took place during the year. In early March, before the adoption of COVID-19 lockdown measures, in-person training in legal terminology in English took place as part of the project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff" in the Village Resort Hanuliak in Belá. Two in-person German language training events took place in 2020 at the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie.

Three summer language schools focused on the development of English and French were held in August 2020 in the Village Resort Hanuliak in the municipality of Belá as part of the project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff". The summer German language school took place in July 2020 in the premises of the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie.

Coping with Stress Situations in Proceedings and Adjudication in Matters of Minor Children

In 2020, the Department of Private Law also covered a number of events focused on the issue of proceedings in matters with minors, specifically aimed at coping with stress situations in the given proceedings. Psychology experts mentored the target groups of the event participants on how to cope with stress situations that are very often present in these proceedings. It is a part of the

activities of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic within the project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff", which should implement a total of 60 three-day specialized educational events in family law in the period 2017-2021, organised for judges, judicial officers and judicial trainees who deal with the agenda of enforcement of judicial decisions in matters of minors from various aspects - psychological, legal and other. Given that bodies of social-law protection of children and social guardianship are equally involved in the enforcement of judgments in matters of minors, or, as applicable, in the said competence of judges, it is necessary to do the training together, i.e. with the participation of the relevant employees of social-law protection of children and social guardianship. Each training event is attended by approximately the same number of participants, namely 10 judges, senior court officials, trainee judges and the same number of participants from the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

The said educational events took place 15 times in 2020, in the form of distance learning via the ZOOM video-conference platform. The events are lectured by experienced psychologists and judges specializing in the agenda. In 2020, a total of 201 representatives from the courts and 109 representatives from the Department of Social Protection of Children and Social Guardianship, Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and the Family, took part.

Pre-Examination Education

The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic organized and provided two pre-examination trainings in accordance with the approved 2020 curriculum, as well as the Education Policy of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic.

The pre-examination study stay in preparation for the spring date of the professional judicial examination took place in person. However, due to the epidemiological situation associated with the coronavirus since March 2020, the pre-examination study stay in preparation for the autumn date of the judicial examination was carried out in a new, more innovative form. Instead of three conventional parts, the pre-examination study stay was conducted in only two parts, the theory part and the practical part.

The theory part of the 2020 pre-examination training was delivered in the form of audio and video recordings made primarily by the panel of examiners members, but also by other lecturers from among the external members of the Academy's pedagogical staff. The recordings were made available to the judicial examination participants. Their content was focused on successfully passing the written as well as the oral part of the professional judicial examination. In the summer months, the preparation for the practical part took place in person at the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic in Omšenie. The innovative distance form of education has a perspective in the future as well, as it enables more intensive education of participants in the professional judicial examination. The content of education through audio and video recordings will be regularly checked to prevent conflicts between the content of recordings and the current legal status.

Preparatory Training of Candidates for Judicial Office

In accordance with the law in force, in the previous year, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic carried out "Preparatory Training of Candidates for Judicial Office", which took place from 02 December 2020 to 04 December 2020. The aim of this form of training is to brief candidates for judicial office on the development of judicial theory and practice in the Slovak Republic, as well as on judicial practice in a broader context, and to brief them on skills and professional habits needed to execute the judicial office. The event took place in follow up on the concluded general selection procedure. Due to the unfavourable pandemic situation, the event took place online.

The training event was divided into three training days, in which the minimum content of preparatory education was provided in a compacted form:

- judicial status laws, disciplinary liability of a judge and professional ethics, administrative and clerical rules and their application, work with registers and work with information systems and case law of domestic and foreign courts;
- simulated trials in non-criminal as well as criminal cases, public and media participation in the courtroom, training of skills in the courtroom, practical exercises, familiarisation with procedural steps and habits necessary for the exercise of judicial office, analysis of practical cases, proper reasoning of judgments and proceedings without undue delay.

As part of the preparatory training of candidates for judicial office, 33 certificates of participation in this training were issued in 2020.

THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY AS A DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic ensured the creation and administration of statutory databases also in 2020. In addition to the administration and creation of test questions, case studies, documents for translation from foreign languages and the administration of court file databases for the purpose of drafting a judgment in terms of the written part of the selection procedure for judicial office, the Judicial Academy also became the administrator and creator of databases of test questions and documents for translation from foreign languages for the purposes of selection procedures for trainee judge positions in 2020.

The Judicial Academy also creates and administers a database of test questions, court files and prosecutor's files for the purposes of the professional judicial examination and is responsible for their quality.

A fundamental part of the work of the Judicial Academy, specifically the Department of Judicial Training and Judicial Databases, in the first half of 2020 consisted of securing and processing supporting documents for the needs of selection procedures for trainee judge positions. In the second half of 2020, the activities of the Judicial Academy focused mainly on modifying the database of test questions, supplementing and modifying the database of case studies, texts for translation from foreign languages, as well as court files for use in general selection procedures. The database of test questions and court files as well as prosecutor's files for the needs of the professional judicial examination was also modified and updated. What was taken into account in working with the files was the need to include such files in the databases that reflect new substantive-law or even procedural-law challenges, which were not or could not be part of any of the databases in the previous period.

In 2020, the application for general selection procedures underwent several changes. In the course of 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, launched a new form of testing participants in the professional judicial examination, consisting of electronic testing, automatic evaluation of test results and scoring without the need for personal intervention to facilitate the test process and make it more transparent. So far, this fundamental change only affects the professional judicial examination. This switching to an electronic form should also be reflected in the test phase of general selection procedures. The Judicial Academy therefore continues to cooperate with the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic to improve the existing selection procedure software so that its potential can be used more effectively. Other proposals were submitted in the course of 2020 to simplify or improve the operation of the application, or proposals to eliminate minor deficiencies arising as a result of adjustments or in the process of running the individual stages of the selection procedure. Several of

the proposals have already been incorporated into the application, further interventions are planned during 2021.

PROFESSIONAL JUDICIAL EXAMINATION

The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic scheduled and organized two dates of the professional judicial examination in accordance with the approved 2020 curriculum. Following the measures taken by the Government of the Slovak Republic, the Central Crisis Staff, as well as the decisions of the Public Health Authority, declaring a state of emergency and imposing a ban on organizing mass events, the substitute spring date was postponed to 22-23 September 2020 (written part of the examination) and to 30 September 2020 (oral part of the examination). This first date in 2020 was intended for senior court officials, assistants to judges of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, trainee prosecutors and court advisers to the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic. The autumn date of the professional judicial examination took place on 08 October 2020 (written part of the examination) and on 15 October 2020 (oral part of the examination) and was intended for senior court officials, trainee judges, assistants to judges of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic and trainee prosecutors.

The results of the spring as well as the autumn date of the professional judicial examination are recorded in the following charts:

2020 substitute spring date

[chart](#)

2020 autumn date

[chart](#)

Due to the expiration of the term of office of the panel of examiners no. 2 and panel of examiners no. 6, as well as four substitute members of the panel of examiners, and also due to the resignation of a member of the panel of examiners no. 5, the Board of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, at its 6th meeting held on 02 June 2020, elected the panel of examiners no. 2, panel of examiners no. 6, at the same time supplemented the missing member of the panel of examiners no. 5. and elected the chairpersons of the panel of examiners no. 2 and no. 6. Six substitute panel of examiners members were also elected at this meeting.

At its 8th meeting, the Board approved the Examination Regulations of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic with effect from 27 October 2020, which introduced several significant changes to the professional judicial examination. The number of test questions was increased from 25 to 50, the minimum score for passing the examination was adjusted from 19 to 35, and the time limit for taking the written test was increased from 40 minutes to 75 minutes. At the same time, the publication of the assignment of questions for the professional written test within the same period as the publication of questions for the oral part of the professional judicial examination was regulated. Test questions have been published since 13 November 2020 on the website of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic. At the same time, the questions were reformulated to adequately adapt the complexity of the questions to the importance of the professional judicial examination as a progressive professional examination.

GENERAL SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE

The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, as the administrator of the dedicated databases for the written part of the selection procedure, participated in drafting and administration of the individual stages of the written part of the general selection procedure also in 2020.

The fourth (first in 2020) general selection procedure for judicial office took place from 7 September to 2 October 2020. The fifth round of the general selection procedure was announced on 2 October 2020 and took place from 7 December 2020 to 3 February 2021.

The overall success rate of the candidates has decreased compared to the previous rounds of the general selection procedure in previous years. After the written part, it decreased statistically compared to the success rate in previous rounds (2017 - 19.68%; 2018 - 24.30%; 2019 - 30.60%, 9/2020 - 20.65%, 12/2020 - 11.25%), the same applies to the overall success rate after the oral part (in 2017 and 2018 the success rate was more than 19%, in 2019 about 27%, in September 2020 it was less than 19%, the result after the December selection procedure is only 10.63 %).

The results of the fourth as well as the last, fifth general selection procedure were influenced by the fact that a relatively large proportion of the registered candidates did not participate in the selection procedure at all. The reason for this was also the current pandemic situation. However, the reduced success rate in the last round of the general selection procedure may also be due to a change in the wording of the test questions, which took place on the same day when the fifth general selection procedure was announced.

The basic trends of the written part of the general selection procedure established by the previous rounds were confirmed or have not fundamentally changed (sensitivity of the individual stages of the written part of the general selection procedure and their impact on the candidate's success).

The statistical overview shows that the results of candidates in tests and in case studies vary the most. While returning to 2018 figures in September 2020, the last round shows that the success rate has a markedly declining trend. This reduction in success rate can be attributed to a change in the test questions, but also to the addition and modification of the database of case studies, which had a major impact on the resulting statistics in the fifth round. Despite the changes made a year ago in the way in which foreign language knowledge was assessed, the least number of candidates from all rounds of the general selection procedure were successful in this phase of the written part in September 2020. This was not confirmed in the December round, as only one candidate was unsuccessful after the translations. Drafting judgments also continued to have a significant impact on the results. Also, this year, most non-criminal judgments, but also criminal judgments, were accompanied by comments and an opinion from the reviewer, which was intended to assist the panel in assessing the judgments drafted. This procedure was evaluated positively by the selection committees.

The importance of the oral part also remained relatively high in the fourth and fifth round of the general selection procedure. Compared to the previous year, the results of the psychological assessment of candidates also had a fluctuating effect between the individual general selection procedures.

The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic is aware of its role in ensuring the conduct of the general selection procedures and its responsibility for the successful implementation of the selection process. Therefore, to comprehensively improve the selection process, it organized a professional discussion forum in cooperation with the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic, entitled "Selection Procedures for the Judicial Office: Next steps?", which took place on 11 November 2020, some conclusions of which will form the basis for further changes to the course of the general selection procedures in the coming period. Expert discussion and perspectives or opinion of practitioners on the general selection procedures as well as on the professional judicial examination seem necessary, desirable by the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, therefore it will proceed to more intensive communication and discussion on the said topics in 2021, too.

PARTICIPATION OF THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN PROJECTS

Project APVV-16-0471 "Sexual Abuse of Children and Wards"

The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic has been cooperating with the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava since 2017 on the solution of a project financed by the Research and Development Support Agency no. APVV-16-0471 entitled "Sexual Abuse of Children and Wards". The aim of the project is to evaluate the *de lege lata* state of the legal regulation of the bodies of the crime of sexual abuse in individual years (stages) of the project solution, to participate in the formulation of legislative recommendations mainly in relation to drafting the draft law on victims. The project focuses on applied research divided into two key areas - criminal law and criminalistics. The area of criminal law includes substantive and procedural aspects together with elements of criminalistics. From the procedural and criminalistic / forensic point of view, applied research is focused on criminal information, interrogation of a child and a ward in pre-trial proceedings, expert witness evidence and other means of evidence. Based on the results and acquired knowledge presented in the educational activities of practitioners, the solution of the project also consists in the drafting of manuals and organization of educational events for practitioners, where the training participants are briefed on the specific research results. Based on the acquired knowledge and drafted manuals for practitioners (law-enforcement authorities, courts and other legal professions, sworn experts, social workers), training events are carried out for the target group within their professional focus and specialization. The applied research involves the participation of the research team members in international conferences and discussion forums to present the findings and lessons learned. Two training events entitled "Sexual Abuse of Children and Wards (APVV-16-0471)" were held in 2020 with the participation of selected project researchers. One took place in the premises of the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie and the other took place through the video-conference platform ZOOM. A total of 81 participants took part in both training events.

Project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff" supported by the European Social Fund under the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration

The central educational project implemented at the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic is the national project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff", supported by the European Social Fund under the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration. Its key objective is to streamline court proceedings and thus enhance the quality of judgments by improving training activities in the system of training judges, prosecutors and judicial staff (trainee judges, trainee prosecutors, senior judicial officers, assistants to judges of the Supreme Court, probation and mediation officers, court secretaries) and thus improve law enforcement.

The project focuses on the modernization and innovation of judicial education by introducing specialized education, which extends the hitherto applied approaches to the education of the judicial community by dividing the target group into smaller groups according to the judicial agenda with precisely defined specific educational needs, i.e. with specialization, and applies interactive education in small groups with increased involvement of professional foreign and domestic lecturers.

The implementation of the project in 2020 was also significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheduled events could be carried out without restrictions only until 11 March 2020, when the Slovak government declared a state of emergency in connection with the spread of the coronavirus infection and nationwide restrictions and bans resulting from the deteriorating pandemic situation entered into force.

Necessary measures were taken immediately in this context to ensure continued implementation of events, and in-person education was quickly replaced by distance learning wherever the nature of the event allowed. In 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic prepared and ensured the delivery of a total of 59 educational events of lifelong specialized training of judges, prosecutors and court officers in various areas of law and related expert areas as part of the project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff". A total of 2,149 participants took part in these events.

In parallel with the implementation of specialized lifelong learning events, the project team ensured the preparation and delivery of other core activities, including language training for judges, prosecutors and judicial staff in professional legal terminology in English and French and professional internships abroad as part of specialized training.

From 2 to 4 March 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic held a three-day training event in professional legal terminology in English. It was attended by 40 participants. From 1-6 March, the Academy conducted a 5-day group internship at the European Courts in Luxembourg and Strasbourg for 20 judges and prosecutors. The next three-day event in legal terminology in French, which was prepared for April, had to be cancelled following a Public Decree whereby the Chief Hygienist banned the organisation of any mass events. Similarly, it was necessary to cancel all other scheduled group internships abroad in 2020.

Three-semester intensive English language courses with a focus on legal terminology were also delivered in the distance form. The courses were conducted in an interactive online form in small groups on a regular basis, twice a week for 90 minutes during working days. The courses were tailored to the language proficiency level achieved in each study group according to the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) international classification in levels from A2 to B2, C1.

The first semester, which was run from April to July 2020, was successfully completed by 202 participants based on a test. The three-semester language training continued from September to December 2020 with another semester for continuing students and newly admitted participants. 221 participants successfully completed the semester.

The brief summer relaxation of the ban on organizing mass events in August was used to hold three five-day residential training events on professional legal terminology, also referred to as summer language schools. Of these, two events focused on training in English and one event in French. A total of 96 judges, prosecutors and judicial staff took part.

A judge of the Regional Court in Banská Bystrica was successfully sent for an individual one-month professional internship at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in September 2020. A prosecutor of the General Prosecutor's Office in Bratislava was successfully sent for an individual one-month professional internship at the European Court of Human Rights in October. Further individual internships abroad had to be cancelled following the announcement of stricter nationwide measures, which came into force on 14 October 2020 due to the deteriorating pandemic situation.

An important part of the project is the creation and completion of the Media Library, which is related to the modernization and innovation of the electronic library of educational materials. The Media Library enables the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic to make available online materials, such as audio and video recordings of educational events held to further support education. 55 approximately one-hour educational materials were processed for the Media Library in 2020.

As part of the project's supporting activities, new book titles were added to the library collection that reflect the current legal status and topics of educational events.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic continued its cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network based in Brussels and actively participated in fulfilling its obligations under international treaty documents, which formed the framework for developing cooperation either bilaterally or multilaterally with partner institutions abroad. However, international cooperation was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, making international cooperation move online. In-person events were cancelled both by those interested in the training events and by the foreign partner organizations themselves. Despite the above facts, we managed to carry out several foreign activities during the year.

Cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) in 2020

The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic also participated in activities offered by EJTN this year, but due to the pandemic situation only in the months of January - March 2020. Subsequently, the events were cancelled due to lockdown measures. Even in this short period of time, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic got involved via participation of Slovak judges and prosecutors in the programs Catalog Plus (reciprocal exchange of foreign seminar participants), Linguistics (specialized linguistic seminars for target groups), Civil Law (professional training in cross-border civil cases), Administrative Law (professional training in European administrative law), Judicial Training Methods (expert forum for the exchange of experience in education methodology), Criminal law (professional training in criminal law), Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (professional training in human rights and fundamental freedoms), Judgecraft, Rule of Law, Exchange program (exchange placements and study visits) and AIAKOS (exchange placements and study visits for future judges).

The EJTN General Meeting was held on 19 June 2020 through a videoconferencing platform, which was attended by JUDr. Peter Hulla, Director of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic. The programme documents, as well as the 2021 budget, were discussed and approved at the meeting.

In 2020, the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic actively participated in AIAKOS, an exchange program for future judges and prosecutors, which was carried out online for Slovak participants from 02 November to 06 November 2020 and from 16 November to 20 November 2020. They had the opportunity to become acquainted with the judicial systems in various countries of the European Union. A total of 6 applicants from the Slovak Republic participated in the program.

Foreign Activities within the Project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff"

Several activities related to the implementation of this project were scheduled for 2020. A 5-day foreign internship took place at the European courts in Luxembourg and France from 02 March 2020 to 06 March 2020, which was attended by 20 judges and prosecutors from the Slovak Republic. During the internship, they had the opportunity to get acquainted with the practical work of European courts, and the opportunity to participate in hearings and meetings of the European institutions was also of great benefit. The second internship was scheduled in terms of organization and content in the period from 27 April 2020 to 01 May 2020. However, it was subsequently cancelled by the European institutions due to the unfavourable COVID-19 situation. The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic continued to prepare activities related to the project. These were 1-month internships at the European Courts in Luxembourg, namely the Court of Justice of the European Union, the General Court of the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Based on the results of selection of registered candidates, which took place online on 29 June 2020, 2 judges and 1 prosecutor were nominated to the European Court of Human Rights and 6 judges to the European courts in Luxembourg. Despite the deteriorating pandemic situation, 2 secondments to the European Court of Human Rights were carried out. Nominations for European courts in Luxembourg have been suspended due to court closures.

Cooperation of the Visegrad Four Countries

Joint V4 cooperation activities also include professional visits and internships, participation of target groups in educational events, international conferences, seminars and workshops. The cooperation of the Visegrad Four countries also includes foreign language trainings, education on European Union law, digitization of the judiciary, human rights, judicial ethics, as well as education enhancing applied practical knowledge in criminal law. Language seminars focusing on legal terminology in French, German and English have become popular. Every year, judges and prosecutors from the individual V4 countries take part in training events on the basis of specific offers.

In early 2020, specifically from 10 February 2020 to 12 February 2020, a training event "German Language - Legal Terminology" took place at the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie in terms of cooperation of the V4 countries, which was attended by interested parties from the Republic of Hungary, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland.

A training event in criminal law "Financial Investigations - Bases, Practical Execution, Present Challenges for the Future" with the participation of foreign lecturers was also scheduled for the V4 countries in 2020. Unfortunately, due to the impossibility of conducting the training in person, as well as the technical limitations of the foreign lecturer, the event did not take place and was postponed to 2021.

On 25 November 2020, the Hungarian Judicial Academy prepared and organized a round table on the issue of the impact of the pandemic situation on the organization of judicial training events in terms of the cooperation of the V4 countries.

Other International Activities and Receptions of Foreign Delegations

The 22nd meeting of the Slovak-Bavarian Commission took place on 15 November 2020 via the video-conferencing platform Microsoft Teams in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, which was responsible for the event. The representatives of both parties first evaluated the cooperation in recent years. Subsequently, individual consultations were held with representatives of individual departmental organizations. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bavaria was the partner of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic. Specific areas of judicial training cooperation, as well as cooperation in the organizational arrangements of 5-day internships in the Republic of Bavaria within the project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff, were agreed at the meeting.

No foreign receptions took place in 2020.

Participation of the Judicial Academy Representatives in Foreign Events in 2020

The Judicial Academy representatives did not attend any foreign event due to the unfavourable COVID-19 pandemic situation.

LIBRARY OF THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Library collection: The library collection contains books, journals, electronic documents. Library stock status by type of documents as of 31 December 2020:

- Books: 3,922 items
- Journals - hardcover: 526 items
- Electronic documents: 23 items

In 2020, 155 new book titles were added to the library collection and entered into the catalogue, which were purchased as part of the project "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff". In 2020, the Academy subscribed to 29 journal titles, including 28 law titles. No new titles were added to the journals stock.

Library access: 12 new users registered with the library as of 31 December 2020. A total of 309 registered library users were registered as of 31 December 2020.

140 book units were borrowed either for home study or for on-site library study in 2020.

Information services: In 2020 we continued to provide the Delivery Document Service - electronic sending of copies of journal content and follow-up sending of copies of selected journal articles and case law. Quantitative results of the use of this service:

- Number of titles from which the content is sent: 21
- Number of users: 54
- Number of copy orders: 135
- Number of scanned articles: 419
- Number of scanned pages: 2,868

A scan of an article from the collection of the Central Library of Masaryk University in Brno was also provided as part of the International Interlibrary Loan Service.

During 2020, 5 one-off retrospective search outputs were drawn up with a total of 513 bibliographic records. Subsequently, the identified information documents were located. In 2020, bibliographies of selected titles on the topics of two-day seminars continued to be processed. A total of 29 bibliographies were compiled with a total of 3,714 bibliographic records. The following databases were used for processing bibliographies: Slovak National Bibliography, Czech National Bibliography, Beck online, ASPI, summary catalogues of Slovak and Czech libraries, Infogate, Profilib, Internet resources. As the databases with domestic information sources are incomplete / delayed processing of journals/, bibliographic records from Slovak provenance for the years 2018-2020 were searched by direct excerpting of relevant periodicals contained in the library collection. Consulting and information services were increasingly provided regarding information retrieval in Beck online and ASPI databases, information on the availability of required documents, and other information resources.

Other operating activities of the Library

- Preparation of inputs for the Slovakia-wide summary catalogue of journals for 2019 for the University Library in Bratislava;
- Drawing up of the 2019 annual library report as a part of a statistical inquiry for the needs of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic;
- 2020 legislation updates;
- Drafting of an electronic version of lists of added items in 2020;
- Processing of journals and the 2020 catalogue in Profilib;
- Updating data on external information sources on the website;
- Processing journal subscriptions for 2021;
- Ongoing monitoring of new books for acquisitions into the library collection;
- Reorganization of the library collection.

TRAINING FACILITY OF THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN 2020

The Training Facility of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic provided its premises as a quarantine centre for repatriates - citizens of the Slovak Republic returning from abroad - from 08 April 2020 to 10 June 2020. Seven repatriation rounds were provided during this period. In total, state quarantine was provided to 147 persons. Accommodation was provided to repatriates either individually or in pairs according to the instructions of the Central Crisis Staff, depending on their travel history. Meals were provided to quarantined persons three times a day, repatriates paid for them themselves during their entire stay. All services, including disinfection of the quarantine centre premises, were provided to the extent necessary by the employees of the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie. Personal protective equipment was continuously provided to them by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Repatriates were usually tested on the fifth day after arrival at the quarantine facility, leaving the premises of the Training Facility after receiving a negative test result by the Regional Public Health Authority and continuing their mandatory quarantine at their place of permanent residence, temporary residence or tolerated residence. Repatriates tested positive for COVID-19 remained at the Training Facility for additional 14 days until they tested negative twice. Repatriates assessed the care provided during quarantine measures by the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic, as well as its Training Facility in Omšenie, positively.

BUDGETARY COMPLIANCE

Revenue: The 2020 budget in Category 200 Non-Tax Revenue set by a mandatory indicator in the amount of € 39,127.00 was reduced during the year by budgetary measures to the amount of € 18,127.00. Spending in this category in 2020 amounted to € 21,425.88, i.e. 118.20% of the reduced budget. Compliance is lower by € 13,563.69 compared to the same period of the previous year. The decreased budget revenue compliance is related to the limited operation of the Training Facility in 2020 due to the unfavourable pandemic situation.

The implementation of projects is also related to spending of extra-budgetary funds, within the framework of which the 2020 revenue compliance was as follows:

- Source 14 in the amount of € 18,888.00
(Project Implementation Agreement No. APVV-16-0471 as amended)

Please refer to chart: [Category 200 Non-Tax Revenue](#)

Expenditure: The 2020 expenditure in Category 600 Current Expenditure was approved at Source 111 in the amount of € 909,419.00, adjusted during the year by budgetary measures - increased to € 1,096,071.00. To compare, the spending in this expenditure category on Source 111 was € 4,005.00 less in 2020 than in the previous year, which is due to non-implementation of some activities due to the pandemic situation and also due to a more efficient use of funds in connection with the implementation of the project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration*.

The 2020 spending in terms of project implementations was as follows:

- Source 14 in the amount of € 18,888.00
(Project Implementation Agreement No. APVV-16-0471 as amended)
- Source 3AC1 in the amount of € 377,331.78
- Source 3AC2 in the amount of € 94,846.07
- Source 1AC1 in the amount of € 161,110.65
- Source 1AC2 in the amount of € 28,431.28

- Source 1AC3 in the amount of € 61,647.07
(project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration*)

The total 2020 current expenditure spending amounted to € 1,819,437.85.

Please refer to chart: **Category 600 Current Expenditure**

Category 610 - Wages, Salaries, Official Income and Other Personal Compensation: The 2020 budget approved in the amount of € 468,786.00, adjusted by budgetary measures - increased to a final amount of € 539,735.00. Total spending as of 31 December 2020 amounted to 100.00% of the total budget allocation. The spending is higher by € 26,002.00 compared to the same period of the previous year. The increased spending is due to the payment of € 1 648,50 in employee life anniversary bonuses, the 2020 salary indexation, the salary promotions of some employees in the reporting period, the higher number of job positions under the project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration*, and a budget appropriation earmarked for bonuses to employees of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic during the reporting period.

Due to the implementation of the project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration* and the related spending of funds, the 2020 expenditure in other sources in Category 610 was as follows:

- Source 3AC1 in the amount of € 37,607.62
- Source 3AC2 in the amount of € 10,251.26

Please refer to chart: **Category 610 Wages, Salaries, Official Income and Other Personal Compensation**

Category 620 - Insurance Premiums and Contributions to Insurance Companies: Budget spending in Category 620 is related to spending in Category 610 and to the levy obligation, including, inter alia, remuneration of external members of the Academy's teaching staff for lecturing at training events, remuneration of examination panel members in the professional judicial examination, and remuneration to professional guarantors of databases paid under the terms of the Academy for irregular activities in the form of agreements on work performed outside employment. The approved 2020 budget amounted to € 161,989.00. It was adjusted by budgetary measures - increased to the final amount of € 193,429.00, of which the amount of € 244.58 was transferred to Category 630 Goods and Services after the release of binding indicators in December 2020. As of 31 December 2020, the budget appropriations of this Category were spent in the amount of € 193,184.42, i.e. 100.00% of the total volume of budget appropriations. The spending is € 810.70 less compared to the same period of the previous year.

Due to the implementation of projects and the related spending of funds, the 2020 expenditure in other sources within Category 620 was as follows:

- Source 14 in the amount of € 3,465.56
(Funding Agreement No. APVV-16-0471 as amended)
- Source 3AC1 in the amount of € 16,103.83
- Source 3AC2 in the amount of € 4,389.77
- Source 1AC1 in the amount of € 14,685.32
- Source 1AC2 in the amount of € 2,591.52
- Source 1AC3 in the amount of € 3,881.32
(project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration*)

Please refer to chart: **Category 620 Insurance Premiums and Contributions to Insurance Companies**

Category 630 - Goods and Services: The approved 2020 budget in the amount of € 266,554.00 was adjusted by budgetary measures during the reporting period - increased to the final amount of € 333,207.01, thereof on program OEKOC03 (program - support infrastructure) in the amount of €

18,600.00. The budget spending as of 31 December 2020 amounts to a 100.00% spending of the total volume of budget appropriations in this category. The € 47,978.33 spending is lower compared to 2020. This is due to more efficient spending of funds in connection with the implementation of the project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration*.

Due to the implementation of projects and the related spending of funds, the 2020 expenditure in other sources within Category 630 was as follows:

- Source 14 in the amount of € 15,422.44
(Funding Agreement No. APVV-16-0471 as amended)
- Source 3AC1 in the amount of € 323,552.01
- Source 3AC2 in the amount of € 80,186.43
- Source 1AC1 in the amount of € 146,322.18
- Source 1AC2 in the amount of € 25,821.56
- Source 1AC3 in the amount of € 57,738.49
(project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration*)

Category 640 - Current Transfers: The approved 2020 budget amount of € 12,090.00 was adjusted by budgetary measures during the reporting period - increased to the final amount of € 30,153.00. Of this amount, the amount of € 208.43 was transferred to the Category 630 Goods and Services after the release of binding indicators in December 2020. Spending in the amount of € 29,944.57 amounts to 100.00% for the reporting period, with the spending including the payment of the annual membership fee to an international organization (EJTN) in the amount of € 8,800.00, expenses used for sickness benefits to employees in the amount of € 4,975.69 and the cost of paying severance pay to employees in the amount of € 16,168.88. This represents a € 18,782.03 increase in total spending compared to the same period of the previous year. This increase was mainly due to the retirement of two employees and the termination of employment by one employee.

Due to the implementation of the project *Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff* under the Operational Programme *Effective Public Administration* and the related spending of funds, the 2020 expenditure in other sources in Category 640 was as follows:

- Source 3AC1 in the amount of € 68.32
- Source 3AC2 in the amount of € 18.61
- Source 1AC1 in the amount of € 103.15
- Source 1AC2 in the amount of € 18.20
- Source 1AC3 in the amount of € 27.26

Category 700 - Capital Expenditure: No budget was approved in this category for the period of 2020, however, Category 700 was adjusted by budgetary measures - increased to the final amount of € 2,829.60 during the reporting period. The expenditure in question was intended for the purchase of an electric oven for the kitchen of the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie.

Please refer to chart: [Category 630 Goods and Services](#)

Provision of relaxation services by the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy in Omšenie: The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic provided additional relaxation services in 2020, too. The services in question are provided by the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic in accordance with § 3(9) of the Act on the Judicial Academy and on Amendments to Certain Acts to the target group, to participants in activities organized by partner organizations of the Academy from Slovakia and abroad, courts or the Institute of Education of the Ministry of Justice to recreational participants within the scope and at the rate set forth in Instruction of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic 3/2015 no. 37501/2015/23-15303 on the Terms and Conditions of Provision of Catering,

Accommodation and Other Services and Preventive Rehabilitation to Judges dated 11 February 2015 as amended.

A detailed breakdown, the scope provided, as well as a comparison of relaxation services with the year 2019 are given **in the chart**:

Note below the chart:

This is a significant decrease in services provided compared to 2019, which is related to suspended provision of in-person educational activities and limited operation of the Training Facility of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic in Omšenie.

2020 STAFF NUMBER

Approved number: 33 employees

Actual number: 39 employees, of which 6 employees hired in connection with the implementation of the project under the Operational Programme Effective Public Administration "Development of the System of Specialized Training for Judges and Judicial Staff".

Average registered number of employees in 2020: 34.9 employees.

Number of job contracts concluded in 2020:

- **265 agreements for the performance of work,**
- **7 agreements on work activity,**
- **26 copyright agreements,**

accounting for a total of **6,288 hours worked**, with external members of the teaching staff, lecturers of training events to provide lecturing as per the approved 2020 curriculum, examiners in the professional judicial examination, expert guarantors of databases for general selection procedures and other staff.

1. 1. Employee statistics by age and sex - as of 31 December 2020:

Age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
up to 35 y.	2	5	7	17.95
36 - 45 y.	7	7	14	35.9
46 - 60 y.	5	9	14	35.9
over 60 y.	2	2	4	10.26
Total	16	23	39	100
Percentage	41.02	58.98	100	

2. Employee statistics by education and sex - as of 31 December 2020

Education attained	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Secondary vocational without sec. school-leaving exam.	3	3	6	15.38
Secondary vocational with sec. school-leaving exam.	2	11	13	33.33
Undergraduate university education	1	0	1	2.56
Graduate university education	5	8	13	33.33
Post-graduate university education	5	1	6	15.39
Total	16	23	39	100

3. Duration of employment in 2020:

Duration	Number	Percentage
Under 5 years	25	64.10
Up to 10 years	4	10.26
Up to 15 years	10	25.64

Total	39	100
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