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JUDICIAL  
ACADEMY



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE

# EUROPEAN UNION'S SUPPORT TO THE JUDICIAL ACADEMY

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AT  
JUDICIAL ACADEMY,  
NOVEMBER 2016

Annex 10 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Report



# **Entrance Examination at Judicial Academy, November 2016**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report refers to Component 3 of the project “Enhancing Educational Activities and Improvement of Organizational Capacities of the Judicial Academy”, funded by the European Union, managed by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia, and implemented by the British Council in consortium with the International Foundation for Administration and Public Policies of Spain (FIIAP).

The Action plan for Chapter 23 provides a clear, chronological overview of the necessary actions to be taken to align the Serbian judicial system with European standards and lists actions that address the challenges related to independence, impartiality, accountability, and professionalism/competence/efficiency of judiciary. Of course, the Judicial Academy plays an integral role in the transformation of the judiciary.

In order to learn more about the current situation, the entrance examination at the Judicial Academy was observed by Juan Carlos Da Silva, Jorge Obach (KE 2) and Eva Pérez (JE).

## 2. THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

### 2.1 Written exam (test): 31 October 2016, Judicial Academy, Terazije 41

The first requirement for the entrance examination in the Judicial Academy is that the candidate has passed the Bar exam, for which he/she needed to have two years’ experience in the Court, Public Prosecutor’s office or Advocacy, or three years’ experience in State Administration, or four years’ experience in Commerce on a job related to legal matters.

The entrance examination to the Judicial Academy includes a written exam (test), an oral exam and a psychological personality test.

For the written part of the examination, the candidates are identified based on their ID card or passport and shall submit evidence of payment of exam costs.

The tests of candidates are coded, not disclosing their names (Article 7 of the Rulebook on the content and taking the entrance examination).

In terms of duration, the exam lasts for 1.5 hours (90 minutes) at the most, where the candidate may leave the exam 15 minutes before the expiry of the 1.5 hours assigned for the exam, at the earliest (Article 8 of the Rulebook on the content and taking the entrance examination).

During the written exam (test), candidates are not allowed to communicate with each other, to use electronic devices, to use literature, nor to leave the exam room. Only answers circled in pen on the test shall be accepted. After submitting the completed test, the candidate may not return to the exam room (Article 9 of the Rulebook on the content and taking the entrance examination).

The maximum mark on the test is 10, that is 58-60 points, and the minimum passing mark is 3, that is 37-39 points.

The minimum that candidates must accomplish in the written part of the exam, in order to qualify for the personality test, is 37 points.

A candidate who is dissatisfied with his or her mark on the written part of the exam has the right to review their test within 24 hours from the notification being posted on the noticeboard (Article 10 of the Rulebook on the content and taking the entrance exam).

The Rulebook on the content and taking the entrance examination is available at the Judicial Academy webpage [www.pars.rs](http://www.pars.rs).

The exam contains 60 questions in relation to criminal law (both process and substantive law), civil law, and law on misdemeanours, proceedings conducted by the Public Prosecutor and general social and legal culture.

## 2.2. Psychological test: 3 November 2016, Judicial Academy, Terazije 41

The personality tests is aimed at discarding candidates whose personality is not fit to respond to all challenges of the office to which they are supposed to be appointed.

The marks on the personality test shall be “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory”.

## 2.3 Oral exam: 7 November 2016, Judicial Academy, Terazije 41

The oral exam consists of case studies, similar to those encountered in practice. It takes place before the exam panel composed of five members (Judges/Public Prosecutors of the highest judicial instances in the Republic of Serbia).

Each case study comprises of four questions that candidates must answer before the Entry Examination Commission.

## 3. CONCLUSIONS

Observing the entrance examination was very useful for our Project, on one hand, as an opportunity to get acquainted with the process, its strengths and weaknesses and, on the other hand, as a good opportunity to take note of and underline the transparency of the system. It seems to avoid subjectivity; the procedure for the examination is regulated in detail by the law. The entrance examination provides a guarantee that this process is based on merit, with regard to qualifications and abilities of candidates.

Date: 22 November 2016

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This project is implemented by  
a consortium led by the British Council