

Rule Of Law for Lawyers (ROLL) project

As of 16 January 2023, the ICJ-EI is implementing a two-year project „Rule Of Law for Lawyers (ROLL)” seeking to promote independent and effective judicial system to protect fundamental rights by strengthening the knowledge and ability of lawyers and civil society organizations (CSOs) in national and European strategic litigation.

Judicial independence which is under attack or under pressure in many EU countries is a gateway to protecting access to justice and human rights. This project aims at fostering the effective use of strategic litigation to ensure access to judicial systems that are independent and effective through increasing the capacity of human rights lawyers and CSOs and enabling exchange of new and best practices among them, and through increasing the awareness and understanding of the importance and utility of the Rule of Law and use of strategic litigation to protect and promote it by national human rights institutes (NHRI), lawyers and law students.

The project targets eight focus countries – Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechia, Slovakia, Malta and Spain. It is implemented in collaboration with national partner organisations: aditus (Malta), Forum for Human Rights (Czechia and Slovakia), Free Courts (Poland), in close cooperation with Helen Duffy from Human Rights in Practice and supported by the participation of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights.

The first-tier target group of the project are legal practitioners key to litigate Rule of Law cases at national and European level, while second tier target group consists of NHRI, lawyers, law students. The specific focus of the project includes: institutional independence of the judiciary and autonomy of the prosecution service, incl. governance structures and procedures, appointment procedures for the judiciary and prosecution and freedom of expression of judges and disciplinary procedures and accountability of judges and prosecutors and judicial ethics and accountability.

The project partners will throughout the project: (i) publish a factsheet on the link between the EU Charter and the Rule of law, (ii) organize three capacity-building and Exchange workshops for lawyers and CSOs from the eight target countries, (iii) provide a set of mentoring sessions to lawyers, (iv) publish 10 series of a podcast on the Rule of Law and (v) publish the final Mapping Report with recommendations.

