

## **THE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COURTS ADMINISTRATION FOR 2007**

The National Courts Administration (hereinafter referred to as Administration) was established and started functioning on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2002 after the adoption of the Law on the National Courts Administration on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2002 which was based on the resolution of the Constitutional Court adopted on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1999. The Administration was authorised to provide services to institutions of the self-governance of courts in pursuance of ensuring the effective practice of the self-governance of courts and its subordinate institutions.

Performing the duties vested by the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania, the Administration in 2007 organised the meetings of institutions of the self-governance, at the request of these institutions performed various researches, analyses, generalizations, gathered information about the enforcement of the decisions adopted by institutions of the self-governance of courts, analysed the activities of courts unrelated to the administration of justice, administered personal files of judges and the register of judges, as well as the list of candidates to judicial vacancies and the register of persons seeking promotion in judicial office. The Administration also administered the record of vacancies of judicial office, analysed the need of judges, the change and career processes of judges and handed in proposals for their optimization. Systematic data about the judicial vacancies in courts and information concerning candidates for these judicial vacancies was periodically presented to the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Judicial Council and the Selection Commission.

Accomplishing its objective the Administration performed different analyses, formulated proposals, prepared the draft legislation, presented information that was needed to the institutions of the Republic of Lithuania and the European Union. Providing services to the permanent and ad hoc working groups set up by the Judicial Council, dealing with various issues of court activities, the Administration made different analyses and generalizations needed for the fulfillment of tasks assigned to the working groups. The Administration also prepared conclusions, projects of proposals and helped the working groups in their activities.

The Internal Audit division of the Administration was successful in its activities of 2007. Currently it is a pleasure to notice that Chairmen of courts realised the importance and assistance of internal audit. Chairmen of audited courts actively participate in the process of eliminating the identified shortages and irregularities in the economic and financial activities of courts. There is a growing tendency that the promptitude of implementing the recommendations provided by the internal audit is influenced not only by the financial possibilities of courts but also by the qualification and motivation of staff and the most important by the attitude and the interest of chairmen in the process of improving the economic and financial activities of courts.

The Administration analysed the impact of environmental factors to the activities of institutions and courts in the process of strategic planning. It considered and envisaged the most effective usage of financial, material and work resources for the achievement of goals. The aim of this activity is to plan the usage of resources and activities of the institution in such a way that a concrete result shall be achieved within a specific period of time. In order to reach these goals the economic financial indicators and their change throughout the previous years were analysed during 2007; the information on the financial needs of courts for the current year and 2008 was gathered, systematized and analysed; the drafts of the assignments allocated to courts as well as letters to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Seimas on the sponsorship of courts were prepared.

Speedy rate of economic development in Lithuania positively affect the incomes of the budget and therefore more assets is allocated for the implementation of executive functions of courts. Collaborative efforts of the Judicial Council and the Administration created a chance to ensure the increased judicial sponsorship: in 2006 a sum of 142635 LTL was allocated to courts, in 2007 – 151568 LTL, 2008 – 176869 LTL of state budget assignments.

As the Administration is responsible for the official statistics of courts, every half year it gathered, reviewed and systematized the statistics of courts and presented it to the Judicial Council, the Ministry of Justice, courts, working groups, the department of Statistics and other institutions. The statistical data is the main index with the help of which the activities of the judge and court are evaluated. Considerations about the change of the number of judges in court are also based on this information.

The Administration actively cooperated with the institutions of the foreign countries and international organizations, participated in the activities of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary and its formed working groups. The European Network of Councils for the Judiciary is the organization, which joins the EU institutions of self-governance of courts and their administrative organs which are independent from the executive and legislative authorities. The participation in the activities of the network, the exchange of experience with other institutions of self-governance of courts situated in the progressive countries helps to ensure the judicial independence and the administration of justice. It is the guarantee that other state authorities shall not influence the judiciary and courts shall secure the human rights and freedoms laid down in the Constitution.

In 2007 the Administration moved to new premises where there are proper working conditions for the Judicial Council, the Judicial Court of Honour, Judicial Ethics and Discipline Commission as well as Selection and Examination commissions, various working groups. This practice allows continuing implementation of ongoing tasks and starting fulfillment of the new activities for the improvement of the self-governance of courts.

Adoption of the new Law on Courts brings some changes, new objectives to the self-governance of courts and the Administration. At the same time it is a maturity stage for the Administration which is prepared for it.