

## **THE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COURTS ADMINISTRATION FOR 2008**

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 self-governance of courts in pursuance of ensuring the effective practice of the self-governance of courts and its subordinate institutions.

The year 2008 to the Administration was important for the achieved results and implemented innovations. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 when amendments of the Law on Courts came into effect and the Law on the Amendment of the Law on the National Courts Administration as well as the Law on Remuneration of Judges were adopted, quite many novelties were introduced in the activities of courts, institutions of self-governance of courts and the Administration. Amendments of the Law on Courts entrenched new principles of forming the institutions of self-governance of courts, the regulation of judges' disciplinary liability procedures by giving more publicity to this process, the basically changed system of selecting candidates to judicial vacancies and the system of assessing activities of judges. The implementation of novelties related to the self-governance of courts and the administrative activities of courts which are established in laws was one of the main activity policies of the Administration in 2008.

Performing the functions vested by the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania, the Administration in 2008 not only organised the meetings of the Judicial Council, other institutions of self-governance of courts, working groups, performed duties within its competence providing help in the formation of corps of judges (administered files of candidates to judicial office, judges and persons seeking promotion in judicial office as well as the related databases) but also fulfilled such significant functions as estimating the needs of finances of courts, preparing the drafts of state budgetary programmes, compiling summary of estimate drafts of court programmes, providing practical and methodological assistance to courts concerning the budget formation issues and the usage of assets, administering and monitoring the information system LITEKO of Lithuania, collecting and analysing the official statistics of courts, performing audits in courts, participating in the committees of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania when draft legal acts related to the activities of courts are considered, cooperating with international and foreign states' organizations. The Administration also made an accounting of judicial establishments (vacancies of judicial office), analysed the demand of judges, their alternation and career processes and provided proposals concerning the optimization. Systemized data on the vacancies in courts and candidates to these vacancies was periodically presented to the President of the Republic, the Judicial Council and the Selection Commission for the selection of candidates to judicial office.

The Administration also prepared various analysis, presented proposals and projects of regulatory enactments, provided the necessary data to institutions of the Republic of Lithuania and the European Union. Providing services to the permanent or ad hoc working groups formed by the Judicial Council for the issues related to the activities of courts the Administration conducted diverse analysis, generalizations needed for the accomplishment of tasks assigned to the working groups. The Administration drew up drafts of conclusions, proposals and otherwise helped the working groups in their work.

In 2008 the creation of the website for institutions of self-governance of courts was completed. This website presents detailed information about the legal regulation of these institutions, their activities, planned and convened meetings, adopted decisions, visits and meetings of representatives in foreign states and publishes information relevant to candidates to judicial office and persons seeking judicial promotion, as well as other important and useful information for the public.

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 human 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 would 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 2008; the information on the financial needs of courts for the current year and 2009 was gathered, systematized and analysed; the drafts of the assignments allocated to courts were prepared.

In 2008 the Administration actively cooperated with the institutions of the foreign states 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.

The year 2008 to the Administration was also significant for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of courts of Lithuania. The Administration organized the festive event for the commemoration of this anniversary and the General Meeting of Judges during which the new Regulation of the General Meeting of Judges was approved and new members of the Judicial Council were elected.