Ministry of Justice of Montenegro
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Joint Media Advisory

The Ministry of Justice of Montenegro and the UNDP present a Joint Project: "Reform of the legal aid system – creating an effective and sustainable system of providing legal aid"

What: The Ministry of Justice of Montenegro and the UNDP will present a Joint Project: "Reform of the legal aid system – creating an effective and sustainable system of providing legal aid", which will be a milestone for the country on its path to EU acession, and is a part of the advanced dialogue with the EU.

Opening remarks will be given by:

Mr. Miraš Radović, Minister of Justice in the Government of Montenegro
Ms. Branka Lakočević, Deputy Minister of Justice in the Government of Montenegro
Ms. Siri Andersen, First Secretary of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade
Mr. Mark A. Rutgers van der Loeff, Second Secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade
Mr. Miodrag Dragišić, UNDP Social Inclusion Cluster Leader

When: **Thursday, 29 January, 10:00 a.m.**
Where: **Hotel Podgorica, Podgorica**

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This presentation will bring together representatives of the donor community, high level and expert level representatives of the Government, judiciary, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and relevant international organizations to present the project and its set-up, as well as to discuss the issues and political aspects related to the introduction of Legal Aid in Montenegro.

The Project "Reform of the legal aid system – creating an effective and sustainable system of providing legal aid" presents a part of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Reform of Judiciary 2007-2012. Through this Project, access to justice will be enhanced as it will be easier for indigent parties to seek their rights in courts. The Project components are: 1. Drafting a law on legal aid; 2. Organizing public consultation rounds to discuss the draft; 3. Adoption of the law by the Parliament of Montenegro; 4. Developing the infrastructure to implement the law; 5. Training for staff who will disperse legal aid under the law; and 6. Public awareness and information campaign.

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