



Study on the extent to which and how Member States used the ESF and the ERDF in the programming periods 2007–2013 and 2014–2020 to support their justice system

Member State Chapter – Latvia



Jānis Volberts
July – 2017

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
Directorate C: Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law
Unit C1 — Justice policy and rule of law

Contact: Gabor Magyar

E-mail: JUST-C1-POLICY@ec.europa.eu

*European Commission
B-1049 Brussels*

Study on the extent to which and how Member States used the ESF and the ERDF in the programming periods 2007– 2013 and 2014–2020 to support their justice system

Member State Chapter – Latvia

***Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers
to your questions about the European Union.***

Freephone number (*):

00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(*) The information given is free, as are most calls (though some operators, phone boxes or hotels may charge you).

This document has been prepared for the European Commission however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.'

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).
Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2019

PDF	ISBN 978-92-76-09526-2	doi: 10.2838/091925	DS-01-19-681-EN-N
-----	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------

© European Union, 2019

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	15
2.	FUNDING PERIOD 2007–2013.....	19
2.1.	The needs of the Member State relating to the national justice system	19
2.2.	Planning stage: The extent to which the Member State programmed support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF.....	19
2.2.1.	High-level objectives related to justice set in the programming documents.....	19
2.2.2.	Planned projects listed in the programming documents aiming to support justice.....	20
2.3.	Implementation stage: Support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF.....	20
2.3.1.	Support to the justice system: reported at programme level	20
2.3.2.	Support to the justice system: reported at project level (Task 2).....	21
2.4.	Relevant programme output and result indicators.....	31
2.4.1.	Programme indicators	31
2.4.2.	Annex XXIII data	31
2.5.	Budget information.....	31
3.	FUNDING PERIOD 2014–2020.....	34
3.1.	The needs of the Member State relating to the national justice system	34
3.2.	Planning stage: The extent to which the Member State programmed support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF.....	34
3.2.1.	High-level objectives related to justice set in the programming documents.....	34
3.2.2.	Planned projects listed in the programming documents aiming to support justice.....	36
3.3.	Implementation stage: Support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF.....	36
3.3.1.	Support to the justice system: reported at programme level	36
3.3.2.	Support to the justice system: reported at project level (Task 2).....	37
3.4.	Relevant programme output and result indicators.....	46
3.4.1.	Programme indicators	46
3.4.2.	Project indicators	47
3.5.	Budget information.....	47
4.	OVERVIEW OF EXISTING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DATA AND DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO THE ESF AND ERDF	49
4.1.	Ex-ante evaluations and needs assessments.....	49
4.2.	Programming documents.....	49
4.3.	Implementation reports	49
4.4.	Interim and ex-post evaluations.....	49
4.5.	Other non-project level documents.....	49
4.6.	Project-level data sources	49

List of abbreviations

Abbreviation in English (as used in the report)	Full name/title in English	Full name/title in original language
ADR	Alternative types of dispute resolution	Alternatīvi strīdu risināšanas veidi
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund	Eiropas Reģionālās attīstības fonds
ESF	European Social Fund	Eiropas Sociālais fonds
ICT	Information and communication technology	Informācijas un komunikācijas tehnoloģija
ISS	Information Source Sheet	N/A
MA	Managing Authority	Vadošā iestāde
MC	Monitoring Committee	Uzraudzības komiteja
MoF	Ministry of Finance	Finanšu ministrija
MoJ	Ministry of Justice	Tieslietu ministrija
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework	Valsts stratēģiskais ietvardokuments
OP	Operational Programme	Darbības programmas
PA	Partnership Agreement	Partnerības līgums
SO	Specific Objective	Specifiskais atbalsta mērķis

Document checklist

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)	National Strategic Reference Framework 2007–2013	Valsts stratēģiskais ietvardokuments 2007–2013. gada periodam	Yes	No	Yes	NA	No	Yes	Yes
Partnership Agreement (PA)	Partnership Agreement for the European Union Investment Funds Programming Period 2014–2020	Partnerības līgums ESI fondu 2014–2020.gada plānošanas periodam	N/A	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operational Programme (OP)	OP 'Human Resources and Employment' 2007–2013	Darbības programma 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' 2007–2013 gadu periodam;	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operational Programme (OP)	OP 'Infrastructure and Services' 2007–2013	Darbības programma 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' 2007–2013 gadu periodam	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Operational Programme (OP)	OP 'Growth and Employment' 2014–2020	Darbības programma 'Izaugsme un nodarbinātība' 2014–2020 gadu periodam	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Needs assessments	Existing situation analysis for 2007–2013	Esošās situācijas analīze 2007–2013 gadiem	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	No	No	Yes
Needs assessments	The Court system development Guidelines 2009–2015 and the Court and law enforcement institutions' employees' capacity	Tiesu sistēmas attīstības vadlīnijas 2009–2015.gadam un Tiesu varas un tiesībsardzības iestāžu darbinieku cilvēkresursu kapacitātes stiprināšanas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Study on ESF and ERDF support to justice systems - Member State Chapter for Latvia

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
	building plan 2015–2020	un kompetenču attīstīšanas plāns 2015–2020.gadam.							
Country Specific Recommendations	COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on the National Reform Programme 2012 of Latvia and delivering a Council opinion on the Convergence Programme of Latvia, 2012-2015		Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country Specific Recommendations	COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 9 July 2013 on the National Reform Programme 2013 of Latvia and delivering a Council opinion on the Convergence Programme of Latvia, 2012-2016		Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country Specific Recommendations	COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 8 July 2014 on the National Reform Programme 2014 of Latvia and delivering a Council opinion on the Stability Programme of Latvia, 2014		N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country Specific Recommendations	COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 14 July 2015 on the 2015 National Reform Programme of Latvia and delivering a Council opinion on the 2015 Stability Programme of Latvia		N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country Specific Recommendations	COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of		N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Study on ESF and ERDF support to justice systems - Member State Chapter for Latvia

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
	12 July 2016 on the 2016 National Reform Programme of Latvia and delivering a Council opinion on the 2016 Stability Programme of Latvia								
Action Plans	Action Plans	Aktivitāšu plans	No	No	NA	NA	NA	N/A	N/A
Evaluation plan	EU Fund's Evaluation Plan 2014–2020	Eiropas Savienības struktūrfondu un Kohēzijas fonda Izvērtēšanas plāns 2014–2020.gadam	No	Yes	NA	Yes	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Ex-ante evaluation	EU and Cohesion fund planning documents 2007–2013 initial (ex-ante) assessment	Eiropas Savienības struktūrfondu un Kohēzijas fonda plānošanas dokumentu 2007–2013. gadam sākotnējais (ex-ante) izvērtējums	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Ex-ante evaluation	Ex-ante evaluation summary	Kopsavilkums par ex-ante nosacījumu izpildi	NA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Ex-post evaluation	Ex-post evaluation for OP 'Human Resources and Employment' and OP 'Infrastructure and Services'	Noslēguma ziņojums DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' un DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi'	Yes	No	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Interim evaluation	Mid-term review on NSRF implementation	2007–2013. gada plānošanas perioda ES fondu VSID prioritāšu, pasākumu un aktivitāšu ieviešanas efektivitātes vidus posma (mid-term) izvērtējums' (Pamata	Yes	No	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.

Study on ESF and ERDF support to justice systems - Member State Chapter for Latvia

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
		daļa) izvērtējuma ziņojums							
Interim evaluation	Informative report on implementation of The Court system development guidelines 2009 to 2015	Informatīvais ziņojums 'Par Tiesu iekārtas attīstības pamatnostādņēs 2009–2015. gadam iekļauto pasākumu īstenošanu'	No	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2010 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment' and for year 2012 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2010.gads un DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' 2012.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2007 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2007.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2008 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2008.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2009 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2009.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.

Study on ESF and ERDF support to justice systems - Member State Chapter for Latvia

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2010 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2010.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2011 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2011.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2012 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2012.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2013 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2013.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2014 for OP 'Human Resources and Employment'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Cilvēkresursi un nodarbinātība' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2014.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2007 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2007.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.

Study on ESF and ERDF support to justice systems - Member State Chapter for Latvia

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2008 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2008.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2009 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2009.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2010 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2010.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2011 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2011.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2012 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2012.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2013 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2013.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.

Study on ESF and ERDF support to justice systems - Member State Chapter for Latvia

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2014 for OP 'Infrastructure and services'	Ziņojums EK par DP 'Infrastruktūra un pakalpojumi' īstenošanu 2007–2013.gada plānošanas periodā 2014.gads	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes, as excluded in the ISS.
Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) (for each relevant OP)	Annual Implementation Report for year 2014 and 2015	ZIŅOJUMS EIROPAS KOMISIJAI PAR DARBĪBAS PROGRAMMAS 'IZAUGSME UN NODARBINĀTĪBA' ĪSTENOŠANU 2014–2020. gada plānošanas periodā 2014. un 2015. gads	NA	Yes	NA	Yes	No	Yes (to explain it does not include anything on justice)	No
Annual Progress Reports	Annual Progress Reports	Ikgadējie progresā ziņojumi	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Annual Work Programme (AWP)	Annual Work Programme	Ikgadējā darba programma	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Any other evaluation	NA	NA	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Any other relevant study previously undertaken	NA	NA	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Calls for proposals	The Cabinet of Ministers regulations to evaluate and select projects according to the OP 'Growth and Employment'	Ministru kabineta noteikumi projektu atlasei	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consultation of stakeholders	Consultation of major stakeholders	Darbības programmas izstrādē iesaistīto partneru būtiskākie komentāri	No	Yes	NA	Yes	No	No	No

Study on ESF and ERDF support to justice systems - Member State Chapter for Latvia

Document type	Title in English	Title in original language	Does the document exist?		Did the researcher have access to the document?		Does the document refer to the justice system?	Is it reviewed and summarised in the MS chapter in the relevant period(s)?	Is it included in the summary table?
			2007–2013	2014–2020	2007–2013	2014–2020			
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Decision	MC Decisions	Uzraudzības padomes lēmumi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	For period 2014–20 OP 'Growth and employment'	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Minutes	MC Minutes	Uzraudzības padomes protokoli	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	For period 2014–20 OP 'Growth and employment'	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Other	NA	NA	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Monitoring Committee (MC) – Report	NA	NA	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
National Reform Programme	National Reform Programme	Latvijas nacionālā reformu programma	Since 2011	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other implementation reports	NA	NA	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other – please specify	NA	NA	No	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

1. Introduction

Member State	
Country Expert Name	Jānis Volberts
Data Collection Period Task 1	April–May 2017
Data Collection period Task 2	May–August 2017
Number of regions/OPs covered	<p>Projects supporting the justice system were funded under 3 OPs:</p> <p>2007–2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OP Human Resources and Employment (ESF): 2 projects • OP Infrastructure and Services (ERDF): 4 projects <p>2014–2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OP Growth and Employment (Multi-fund): 1 project so far

Task 1

All of the documents related to the usage of the EU funds in Latvia for Task 1 were available online (PA, NSRF, OPs, ex-ante evaluations, MC minutes, ex-post evaluations, etc.) and were taken mainly from the official EU fund's website: www.esfondi.lv and from the Ministry of Justice website: www.tm.gov.lv.

The search for the documents was conducted according to the Data Collection Manual. During the data collection period for Task 1, no official requests for information were sent to the MA.

The main challenges were to understand from planning documents whether for the 2007–2013 programming period actual activities are directly related to the justice system. The NSRF did not include objectives related to the justice system, but objectives related to public administration. The description of the OPs 'Human Resources and Employment' and 'Infrastructure and Services' relating to the justice system was vague, as described in Section 2.

Task 2

For Task 2, the basic information about ongoing and closed projects supporting justice was found on the website <http://www.esfondi.lv>. After reviewing publicly available information, a number of officials were also contacted (please see Table 2 for details).

For the programming period 2007–2013, a list of projects was extracted from the database of the Ministry of Finance (the Managing Authority). After selecting those projects that relate to the justice system, additional detailed information from the database of the Ministry of Finance were extracted to complete the Excel table. For the programming period 2014–2020, almost all the information was publicly available on the website <http://www.esfondi.lv>, but any missing information or the latest information (including project applications) was requested from the Court Administration (beneficiary) via email or phone. In total, five emails and three phone calls were conducted with the responsible Project Manager from the Court Administration to complete the request on the missing information after collecting publicly available information. In the end, all the requested information that existed was obtained.

Intervention logic (2007–2013 and 2014–2020 programming periods)

For the programming period 2007–2013, Latvia's needs relating to the national justice system were not mentioned in either the ex-ante evaluations or the NSRF. Two OPs (ESF 'Human Resources and Employment' and EDRF OP 'Infrastructure and Services') mentioned that justice system institutions (without giving an explicit list of the institutions) will be among the beneficiaries for the EU funds, enabling the use of EDRF and ESF funding to

improve and develop ICT in the justice system (five projects) and strengthen the capacity of the Latvian Judicial Training Centre (one small-scale project).

The majority of the projects implemented in the area of justice have been funded in order to upgrade ICT by purchasing both software and hardware, developing web portals and digitalising the archives and civil registry services for obtaining certificates and registering events such as births and deaths.

According to the information provided by IBs/beneficiaries contacted by the Country Expert, the **projects funded had not yet been evaluated** to measure their results or impacts, or else the evaluation had been very general (at the level of priority or sub-priority axis level for LV1 and LV2 projects).

In **conclusion**, for the first programming period the need for modernising the justice system through digitalisation and ICT was mainly identified. Although the programming documents referred to the need for developing ICT infrastructure and services in public administration more generally, two OPs mentioned the justice system as one of the sectors of administration to be modernised. Through these OPs, six projects supporting the justice system were funded. Thus, although support to justice was not programmed for in a very detailed manner in Latvia, the justice system has been supported through ERDF and ESF funding.

For the programming period 2014–2020, the needs, objectives and expected outputs of the Latvian justice system were clearly and explicitly mentioned in the only OP (OP Growth and Employment) and one large-scale project (EUR 10.5 million) is supporting the justice system (funded only through the ESF). Furthermore, the project application¹ by the Court Administration of Latvia includes some additional activities alongside training, namely building an individual and systematic approach and modernisation of the training environment, and an assessment of the judicial system to measure its effectiveness, identify its needs and build trust in the justice system.

Unexpectedly, after a request from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, on 8 August 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to invest EUR 5 million in an e-Justice system (courts, prosecution office and prison administration) from the ERDF Cultural heritage digitalisation programme, which was not included in the programming documents and not originally planned (<http://tap.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?pid=40433681&mode=mk&date=2017-08-08>).

Table 1: Overview of the justice system

Institutions and bodies of the judiciary ²		Other institutions and bodies that are part of or supporting the justice system ³	
English	Original Language	English	Original Language
Ordinary court system - District and city courts - Land Registry Offices - regional courts - Supreme court	Tiesu sistēma: - Rajonu (pilsētu) tiesas - Zemeģrāmatu nodāļa - Apgabaltiesas - Augstākā tiesa	Ministry of Justice - Court administration - Latvian Prison Administration - State Probation Service - Register of Enterprises of the Republic of Latvia	Tieslietu ministrija - Tiesu administrācija - Ieslodzījumu vietu pārvalde - Valsts probācijas dienests - Uzņēmumu reģistrs
Administrative courts	Administratīvās tiesas	- Mediation Council - Mediation and ADR - Integrated Mediation in Latvia - Integration for Society (Victim Support Centre)	- Biedrība 'Mediācijas padome' - Biedrība 'Mediācija un ADR' - Biedrība 'Integrētā mediācija Latvijā'

¹ Obtained by the Expert from the Court Administration of Latvia.

² i.e. the judiciary as defined in the national legal framework and following the definition used for the purpose of this study.

³ i.e. justice system as defined for the purpose of this study.

Institutions and bodies of the judiciary ²		Other institutions and bodies that are part of or supporting the justice system ³	
English	Original Language	English	Original Language
		- The Commercial Mediators Association	- Biedrība 'Integrācija sabiedrībai' (Cietušo atbalsta centrs) - Biedrība 'Latvijas komercstrīdu mediatoru asociācija'
Constitutional Court	Satversmes tiesa	Latvian central computerized land register ⁴	Valsts Vienotā Datorizētā Zemesgrāmata
		The Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates	Latvijas Zvērinātu advokātu padome
Public prosecution - Office of the Prosecutor-General - regional public prosecutors' offices - district or city public prosecutors' offices - specialised public prosecutors' offices: - a specialised public prosecutor's office for organised crime and other sectors - a specialised multi-sectoral public prosecutor's office - Riga Road Transport Public Prosecutor's Office - a public prosecutor's office for investigating financial and economic crime - a public prosecutor's office for investigating crimes involving the illegal circulation of narcotics - Anti-Money-Laundering Service	- Ģenerālprokuratūra - Tiesu apgabalu prokuratūras - Rajona vai republikas pilsētu prokuratūras - Specializētās prokuratūras: - Organizētās noziedzības un citu nozaru specializētā prokuratūra - Specializētā vairāku nozaru prokuratūra - Rīgas autotransporta prokuratūra - Finanšu un ekonomisko noziegumu izmeklēšanas prokuratūra - Narkotiku nelegālas aprites noziegumu izmeklēšanas prokuratūra - Noziedzīgi iegūtu līdzekļu legalizācijas novēršanas dienests	Latvian Bar Association Insolvency Administration	Latvijas Zvērinātu advokātu padome Maksātnespējas administrācija
Council for the Judiciary	Tieslietu padome	Latvian Certified Notaries Association	Latvijas Zvērinātu notāru kolēģija
Judicial Qualification Committee	Tiesnešu kvalifikācijas kolēģija	Latvian Council of Certified Notaries	Latvijas Zvērinātu notāru padome
		Certified bailiffs	Latvijas Zvērinātu tiesu izpildītāju padome
		Latvian Judicial Training Centre (LJTC) ⁵	Latvijas Tiesnešu mācību centrs

⁴ The register is managed and maintained by the Court Administration of Latvia. All data in the computerised land registries of the Land Registry Offices are aggregated in the State Unified Computerised Land Register.

⁵ LJTC is a foundation.

Table 2: Stakeholders contacted for Task 2

Name of institution in English	Name of institution in original language	Relevance to the study (MA, IB, beneficiary, part of target group, other)	Position (if known)	Method of information request (email exchange/phone call etc.)	Did you hear back from the stakeholder? (y/n)	Date of conversation/e mail exchange
The Ministry of Justice	Tieslietu ministrija	Beneficiary	Director of Project Department	Meeting at the Ministry of Justice and phone call	Yes	April, November
The Ministry of Finance	Finanšu ministrija	Managing Authority	Senior Expert	Email exchange (including with official electronic signature) and phone call	Yes	28.06 – 13.11
The Court Administration of Latvia	Tiesu administrācija	Beneficiary	Project Manager	Email exchange and phone call	Yes	17.07 – 15.11
The Latvian Judicial Training Centre	Latvijas Tiesnešu mācību centrs	Beneficiary	The Latvian Judicial Training Center Program manager	Email exchange and phone call	Yes but forwarded to Court Administration Project Manager Anna Skrjebina	09.11.2017
Administration of Maintenance Guarantee Fund	Uzturlīdzekļu garantiju fonda administrācija	Beneficiary	Head of Finance division	Email exchange and phone calls	Yes	9.11.2017
Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Latvia	Latvijas Republikas Prokuratūra	Beneficiary	Project Manager	Email exchange and phone call	Yes	07.11.2017

2. Funding Period 2007–2013

2.1. The needs of the Member State relating to the national justice system

No needs were considered relating to the national justice system in ex-ante analysis or the NSRF for the 2007–2013 programming period. Instead, needs relate to public administration (including improvement of judicial policies) and digitalisation of public registries and databases.

In 2012 and 2013, the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) issued by the European Council have included some necessary reforms in the area of justice. In 2012, the CSR's recitals highlighted the negative impact of the inefficiencies in the civil justice system on the business and economic environment and a specific recommendation was made to "take measures to improve management and efficiency of the judiciary, in particular to reduce the backlog and length of procedures. Take steps to improve the insolvency regime and the mediation laws"⁶. In 2013, the inefficiency of the civil justice system was highlighted once again and a recommendation was made to "complete pending reforms to improve the efficiency and quality of the judiciary and reduce the backlog and length of proceedings, including as regards insolvency. Put in place a comprehensive human resources policy and take steps to implement the mediation laws and streamline the arbitration court system"⁷. The 2013 CSR was taken into consideration in preparation of the Partnership Agreement, as is further discussed in section 3 below.

2.2. **Planning stage:** The extent to which the Member State programmed support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF

Neither the Latvian NSRF nor the OPs include explicit information on expected results and impacts related to the justice system.

The OP 'Infrastructure and Services', Paragraph 1265, indicates that access to services, including courts and public organisations, are an integral part of quality living space. However, OP 'Infrastructure and Services' does not provide any further information on how proposed information and communication technologies can be relevant for the justice system.

2.2.1. High-level objectives related to justice set in the programming documents

No objectives or priorities relating to support to the national justice system were included in the Latvian NSRF; instead objectives relate to public administration.

In the Latvian NSRF, Paragraph 352 stated that the E-government Development Programme will provide for measures to increase the efficiency of investments in the ICT infrastructure of the public administration; to integrate the main national registers; to create the base infrastructure of e-government; to improve public administration services through ICT, including the development of e-services; to improve existing and create new information systems of public administration; to digitalise archives, databases and registers; and to improve security, as well as the compatibility and interoperability of the databases, in order to create an information area without frontiers.

However, in the NSRF, under the public administration development policy goals, judicial policies are specifically mentioned as a policy area to be supported through ESF assistance (Paragraphs 279 and 280, pp. 70 and 71).

OP name in English	OP 'Human Resources and Employment'
CCI	2007LV051PO001
Relevant funds for the OP	ESF

⁶ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11261-2012-INIT/en/pdf>

⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32013H0730%2812%29>

Total OP budget (EC and national contribution) EUR million	EUR 686.00 million
PA5 'Administrative Capacity Building' budget (EC and national contribution) EUR million	EUR 24.27 million

Source: OP 'Human Resources and Employment', September 2011 http://www.esfondi.lv/upload/04-kohezijas_politikas_nakotne/dp_aktivitates/1dp/FMProgr_1OP_30092011_ENG.pdf

In the **OP 'Human Resources and Employment'**, under Priority 5 'Administrative Capacity Building', Measure 5.1 'Better Regulation Policy', one of the priority measures includes legal policy.

Paragraph 789 defines that the 'objective of the measure is to improve action policy design and implementation, increase operation quality and efficiency of public administration institutions, as well as to foster accessibility of public services to inhabitants'.

Paragraph 796 indicates the target groups of the measure – 'direct public administration institutions, courts, institutions that have been delegated to carry out particular tasks of state authority, users of public services, entrepreneurs, planning regions and amalgamated municipalities, NGOs and social partners, higher education establishments and further education establishments'.

Comparing the original version of the OP 'Human Resources and Employment' with the revised version of the OP, there are no changes in the document text regarding the support to justice systems (still mentioning justice very little), but the budget for Priority 5 'Administrative Capacity Building' decreased significantly – from initial EUR 61.65 million to EUR 24.27 million.

The OP 'Human Resources and Employment', which discusses digitalisation solutions to improve the connectivity of databases in general, only refers to the justice system in relation to the target groups for measure 5.1 'Better Regulation Policy', which are courts, and in relation to activities which according to the OP will improve accessibility of social services, namely courts.

OP name in English	OP 'Infrastructure and Services'
CCI	2007LV161PO002
Relevant funds for the OP	ERDF and KF
Total OP budget (EC and national contribution) EUR million	EUR 3,940.76 million
PA 3.4 'Quality Environment for Life and Economic Activity' budget (EC and national contribution) EUR million	EUR 441.52 million

Source: OP 'Infrastructure and Services', September 2013 http://www.esfondi.lv/upload/04-kohezijas_politikas_nakotne/FMProgr_260913_3OP_ENG_update.pdf

In Latvia, no Action Plans or Evaluation Plans exist in relation to ERDF or ESF that would include objectives or priorities on the justice system.

2.2.2. Planned projects listed in the programming documents aiming to support justice

No projects relating to support to the justice system were mentioned in the programming documents. Nonetheless, the OP 'Infrastructure and Services' included an objective to digitalise public registries and databases in pursuit of more effective operation of the public administration, including the courts.

2.3. **Implementation stage:** Support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF

2.3.1. Support to the justice system: reported at programme level

Parts of the ESF and ERDF funded projects which related to public administration development and digitalisation of public registries and databases related to the courts.

The Annual Implementation Report for the OP 'Human Resources and Employment' for 2010 states that the activities of the project 'Quality Management at the Chancery of the Court' aim at improving processes (and software) in three Latvian court chancelleries.

The Annual Implementation Report for OP 'Infrastructure and Services' for 2012 describes implemented digitalisation solutions to use better connectivity between the Courts Information system and other databases and registers (e.g. land register, maintenance guarantee fund).

The Monitoring Committee documents, the mid-term review of the NSRF implementation and the ex-post evaluation did not provide information on supporting the Latvian justice system.

2.3.2. Support to the justice system: reported at project level (Task 2)

'Specific' project selection criteria for both OP 'Human Resources and Employment' (ESF) and OP 'Infrastructure and Services' (ERDF) were very general and included a description of a justification for the necessity of the project, activities planned, the results to be achieved within the framework of the actions and a description of the solution to the problem of the chosen project, describing the direct link between problems, objectives, activities and results. Selection criteria were described in the respective Cabinet Regulations.⁸

The criteria were the same for all the projects, with one exception: ERDF-funded projects were quite general and administrative, whereas the specific call for proposals opened just for the ESF-funded programme for NGOs, under which the Latvian Judicial Training Centre received EU funding of the amount of EUR 15,800, had criteria that were more concrete and required the project applicant to be a non-governmental organisation that participates in the policy planning process and in the provision of public services.⁹

.

For the 2007–2013 programming period, six justice-related projects were selected and implemented.

This support is in line with the OPs 'Infrastructure and Services' (ERDF) and 'Human Resources and Employment' (ESF), even though they both mentioned support to the justice system only very briefly. Both OPs had only mentioned that justice system institutions would be among the beneficiaries of EU funds, without further explanations or objectives.

⁸ e.g. <https://m.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=215664>.

⁹ <https://m.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=184993>

Table 3: Overview of projects supporting justice 2007–2013

Project name in ENG / national language	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project (years)	Budget allocated ¹⁰ in thousand EUR	Budget spent ¹¹ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities undertaken
OP 'Human Resources and Employment', CCI 2007LV051PO001, ESF							
Quality Management at the Court Registry <i>Kvalitātes vadība tiesas kancelejā</i>	2010	2010	<0.5	35.34	34.71	29.50	Evaluation of internal and customer-related processes of the Court Registry. Development of registry and document circulation processes within the Court Registries. The following interlinked activities were undertaken – 1) Evaluation of internal and customer related processes of the Court Registries; 2) Development of registry and document circulation processes within the Court Registries; 3) ICT purchase for assessed needs.
Administrative and Human Resource Capacity Building of the Latvian Judicial Training Centre (LJTC) <i>Latvijas Tiesnešu mācību centra administratīvās un cilvēkresursu kapacitātes stiprināšana</i>	2013	2014	1	21.16	17.19	15.83	The project included the following activities: 1) Increasing the competence of the LJTC employees and the cooperation partners; 2) Improving the management processes by introducing quality management systems; 3) Promoting the prestige of the justice system and the availability of information on the career path by improving the LJTC website; 4) Strengthen the international recognition and activity of the LJTC in

¹⁰ Planned/ committed¹¹ Budget actually paid/ disbursed

Project name in ENG / national language	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project (years)	Budget allocated ¹⁰ in thousand EUR	Budget spent ¹¹ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities undertaken
							<p>the EU's area of rights by ensuring the participation of the LJTC in the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) for the further education of EU judges and prosecutors.</p> <p><i>The difference between allocated and spent budget was due to inappropriate expenditures, i.e. they were not related to particular project.</i></p>
OP 'Infrastructure and Services', CCI 2007LV161PO002 ERDF							
<p>Improvement of the State Information System 'Register of Applicants and Debtors of the Maintenance Guarantee Fund'</p> <p><i>Valsts informācijas sistēmas 'Uzturlīdzekļu garantiju fonda iesniedzēju un parādniestu reģistrs' pilnveidošana</i></p>	2009	2013	4	653.05	581.63	581.63	<p>The project aimed to improve the State Information System 'Register of Applicants and Debtors of the Maintenance Guarantee Fund' and enable bailiffs to obtain information about the property of debtors, thus facilitating their day-to-day work, by implementing the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performing a feasibility study for the project realisation; 2. Preparation of the technical specifications for the necessary improvements to the information system; 3. Development and putting in place of information system improvements; 4. Development of additional electronic services for different database user types; 5. Purchase of server equipment and end-user technical support for accommodation and use of the system.

Project name in ENG / national language	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project (years)	Budget allocated ¹⁰ in thousand EUR	Budget spent ¹¹ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities undertaken
							<i>The difference between allocated and spent budget was due to inappropriate expenditures, i.e. they were not related to particular project.</i>
Preparation of archives of the Ministry of Justice and its subordinate institutions for the provision of electronic services – Stage 1 <i>Tieslietu ministrijas un tās padotībā esošo iestāžu arhīvu sagatavošana elektronisko pakalpojumu sniegšanai – 1.kārta</i>	2009	2013	4.5	1588.51	1537.08	1537.08	The aim of the project was to change the process around paper documents to receiving, processing and storing electronic documents, while ensuring the availability and security of the necessary data in the Land Registry Offices. The following activities were undertaken: 1) Development and putting in place of the electronic archive system of land registers; 2) Development of the information services for the electronic receipt, transmission and publication of data; 3) Developed integrated land register data registration and distribution systems with electronic archive system; 4) Improvement of information system security.
Unified civil status information registration system <i>Vienota civilstāvokļa aktu reģistrācijas informācijas sistēma</i>	2009	2012	3	829.65	826.09	826.09	The project had the following activities: 1. Development and implementation of civil status information registration system; 2.Purchase of infrastructure for the operation of the system and the provision of e-services;

Project name in ENG / national language	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project (years)	Budget allocated ¹⁰ in thousand EUR	Budget spent ¹¹ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities undertaken
							<p>3. Development of user manual (guidebook) within the framework of the project. 4. Training of the developed system administrators.</p> <p><i>The Ministry of Justice specified that the gap between allocated and spent budget was the result of cheaper actual project implementation costs.</i></p>
<p>Prosecutor's Information System Project for the Development of the Judiciary</p> <p><i>Prokuratūras informācijas sistēmas projekts tiesu sistēmas attīstībai</i></p>	2013	2015	2	2533.07	2272.61	2272.61	<p>The project included the following activities:</p> <p>1) Establishment of a Prosecutor's Office information system for ensuring the functioning of the core business processes and support processes in the offices of the Prosecutor's Office; 2) Establishment of a system for the processing of confidential, secret and especially sensitive documents; 3) Establishment of e-services 'Decisions about me at the prosecutor's office' and 'Provision of information on unusual and suspicious financial transactions'; 4) Ensuring infrastructure for ProIS, Private Record Management System and e-services; 5) Digitisation of supervised criminal cases; 6) Improvement of the Criminal Process Information System Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior.</p>

*The budget spent is also for Ministry of Justice and other subordinated institutions, not just the Land registry.

Source: MoF, extract from the official database

In three of the projects there was a rather large discrepancy between allocated and spent budget. For the project 'Administrative and Human Resource Capacity Building of the Latvian Judicial Training Centre (LJTC)', this was due to some activities not being approved by the certifying authorities (no further details were provided by the beneficiary). For the projects 'Improvement of the State Information System Register of Applicants and Debtors of the Maintenance Guarantee Fund' and 'Unified civil status information registration system', beneficiaries confirmed that the discrepancy was the result of lower implementation costs compared to the original envisaged budget.

All the projects are now closed. The budget spent for the four ERDF-funded digitalisation projects is EUR 5.2 million, while the budget spent for the two much smaller ESF-funded projects is about EUR 52,000.

Table 4: Number and budget spent (in thousand EUR) of projects supporting justice, funded by ESF and ERDF in the programming period 2007–2013

	Number of projects supporting justice	Budget allocated in thousand EUR	Budget spent in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR
ESF	2	56.50	51.90	45.33
ERDF	4	5,604.28	5,217.41	5,217.41
Both (ESF and ERDF)				
TOTAL	6	5,660.79	5,269.30	5,262.73

Source: MoF, extract from the official database

Project beneficiaries

In the programming documents for the period 2007–2013, beneficiaries for the justice system were not explicitly named. At implementation stage, project beneficiaries for all implemented projects were varied. The main beneficiary was the Ministry of Justice, though it should be noted that the Court Administration is also included in this category and was the beneficiary of two projects. The other three beneficiaries were the Prosecutor's Office, the Latvian Judicial Training Center (LJTC) and the Administration of Maintenance Guarantee Fund.

Table 5: Number of times the following entities were the beneficiary of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Relevant ministries	Courts and tribunals	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Registry offices	Regional administration	Specialised training or research institutions	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Total
ESF	1						1				2
ERDF	2		1						1		4
Both											
TOTAL	3		1				1		1		6

Source: MoF, extract from the official database

Project activities undertaken related to support to justice

The most common activity for projects funded through the ESF and the ERDF, were new electronic services through digitalisation activities. For these projects supporting justice the activities included digitalisation of court services, training, evaluations and studies amongst others, outlined in the table below.

Table 6: Number of times a type of activity was undertaken as part of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Training	Activities relating to ADR/ODR	Developing/upgrading business processes at courts	Developing/upgrading HR management processes within the judiciary	Introduction of case management system	Digitalisation of court services	Purchase of ICT systems (hardware and software)	Putting in place/upgrading the cooperation and communication within the judiciaries	Development and circulation of best practices	Evaluations and studies	Support to reform initiatives	Upgrading physical infrastructure at courts	Others	No information available	Total
ESF	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
ERDF	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Both	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	11

Source: MoF, extract from the official database

Project final recipient related to support to justice

In the NSRF and OPs, final recipients relating to the justice system were not mentioned. At the implementation stage, final recipients for all implemented projects varied, and included courts and tribunals, relevant ministries, registry offices, national prosecution offices as well as specialised training bodies of the judiciary (classified as 'Others').

Table 7: Number of times the following entities were the final recipient of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Total
ESF	1							1		2
ERDF		2	2		1			1		6
Both										
TOTAL	1	2	2		1			2		8

Source: MoF, extract from the official database

Project Outputs, results and impacts related to support to justice

The project outputs from ERDF and ESF-funded activities were the number of electronic services created and NGOs (Latvian Judicial Training Centre) supported. However, the impact indicators were very vague. Projects had no result indicators, or else they were the same as the output indicators.

The most common output indicators in the first programming period were electronic services created (in total 15 new electronic services were created). For the project 'Register of Applicants and Debtors of the Maintenance Guarantee Fund'¹² funded under the OP Infrastructure and Services, the initial target was two new electronic services (applying for maintenance and processing the case and debt information); however, within the implementation period another electronic service was created (Debt information provision) with respective amendments in the project.

As there were only a small number of indicators which would not fit into the predefined categories, Table 8 reports the actual indicators rather than indicator groups.

The impact of the projects funded had not been evaluated yet, or the evaluation was very general (at the level of priority or sub-priority axis level (for LV1 and LV2 projects)). The evaluation on sub-priority level for LV1 and LV2 projects included positive feedback but there was no specific mention of support to the justice system.¹³

Table 8: Project output indicators and data

Individual Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	No. of project indicators included (N=)
OP Human Resources and Employment					
<i>PA 1.5.Administrative Capacity Building</i>					
<i>1.5.1.Better Regulation Policy</i>					
Quality management system implementation	Number of Supported Institutions	N/A	N/A	3	1
<i>1.5.2.Capacity Building of Human Resources</i>					
Quality management system implementation	Number of Supported NGOs	N/A	N/A	4	1
OP Infrastructure and Services					
<i>PA 3.2.Promotion of Territorial Accessibility</i>					
<i>3.2.2.ICT Infrastructure and Services</i>					
Electronic services created	Number of Electronic Services Created	N/A	N/A	10	4

Source: MoF, extract from the official database

¹² No 3DP/3.2.2.1.1/09/IPIA/IUMEPLS/001 Improvement of the State Information System

¹³ http://www.esfondi.lv/upload/Petijumi_un_izvertejumi/gala-zin_pec-saskanosanas-sanaksmes_081015.pdf

Table 9: Project output indicators and data

Individual Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline, available if	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	No. of project indicators included (N=)
OP Human Resources and Employment					
<i>PA 1.5.Administrative Capacity Building</i>					
<i>1.5.1.Better Regulation Policy</i>					
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
<i>1.5.2.Capacity Building of Human Resources</i>					
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
OP Infrastructure and Services					
<i>PA 3.2.Promotion of Territorial Accessibility</i>					
<i>3.2.2. ICT Infrastructure and Services</i>					
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

2.4. Relevant programme output and result indicators

Projects had output indicators; however, results and impact indicators were not identified and evaluated.

2.4.1. Programme indicators

No output and result indicators are available specifically for the justice system. No evaluation plans exist which would include indicators covering justice.

No project indicators are available specifically for the justice system.

2.4.2. Annex XXIII data

No Annex 23 indicators were identified in the AIRs relating to the justice system.

2.5. Budget information

Overall budget information for projects supporting the justice system funded through the ESF and ERDF was generally available. However, there is no universally accepted taxonomy for project budget owners to classify budgets according to type of activity or final recipient. Moreover, many projects involve multiple activities and/or multiple final recipients. Whether and how budgets for these complex projects are analysed by activity or final recipient varies across project owners and countries. This militates against using reported data to make meaningful comparisons between projects and Member States.

For the purpose of this study, the researchers have therefore created a high-level taxonomy in order to enable an analysis of budget allocations for activities and final recipients of the identified projects funded through the ESF and ERDF supporting the justice system. Information from interviews and documents has been used to apply this taxonomy and allocate budgets based on the main focus of the projects as well as the final recipients.

In cases where it has not been possible to determine budget allocations for projects with **multiple final recipients**, these have been classified as 'multiples' (further details and explanations have been provided in the text below). Where a project had **multiple activities** and/or included activities which did not fall under one of the focus categories, the categorisation of that project reflects its aim and not necessarily all individual activities

undertaken in the context of this project. This approach is further explained in the Final Report.

Table 10: Budget spent in thousand EUR by project focus category undertaken

	Improving internal processes	Digitalisation & ICT	Training & Raising awareness	Research and evaluation	Activities related to ADR/ODR	Upgrading physical infrastructure	No information available
ESF	34.71		17.19				
ERDF		5,217.41					
Both							
TOTAL	34.71	5,217.41	17.19				

During the 2007–2013 programming period, the main activity focus funded in Latvia was digitalisation under the ERDF. Under the ESF, the two funded projects related to Improving Internal Processes (Project: Quality Management at the Court Registry) and Training and Raising Awareness (Project: Administrative and Human Resource Capacity Building of the Latvian Judicial Training Centre (LJTC))

Table 11: Budget spent in thousand EUR by final recipient category

Fund	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Multiple
ESF	34.71							17.19		
ERDF			1,537.08					581.63		3,098.70
Both										
TOTAL	34.71		1,537.08					598.82		3,098.70

Final recipients in Latvia include courts and tribunals, as well as the Latvian Judicial Training Centre and the Administration of Maintenance Guarantee Fund. Under the ERDF, two projects had multiple final recipients. The final recipients of the project 'Prosecutor's Information System Project for the Development of the Judiciary' were the Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of the Interior, while in the project 'Unified civil status information registration system' these were court staff, Municipal registry offices and the Register of Enterprises, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

3. Funding Period 2014–2020

3.1. The needs of the Member State relating to the national justice system

Needs relating to the national justice system are assessed in the Court and law enforcement institutions' employees' capacity building plan 2015–2020. An ex-ante evaluation refers to this document, which provides the main direction for the development of the court system. The plan provides detailed information on how to improve the qualification of persons related to the justice system and measures for the execution of a more effective mediation system. The plan consists of a list of activities, participants and expected results in order to address six directions of action: promoting access to justice, developing judicial infrastructure and governance, promoting human resources development, reducing courts' overload, improving the independence of the judiciary and making the land register process more effective.

The Partnership Agreement for the 2014–2020 programming period provides a detailed overview of the needs related to the national justice system. As the Latvian justice system has been heavily criticised by the business community and international business development organisations, Paragraph 54 of the PA refers to the Economic Freedom Index, which indicates that the main problem in doing business in Latvia is the judicial system, and in particular in relation to business starting procedures and termination (insolvency) procedures (partly done by the courts). The PA also refers to the Country Specific Recommendations, which focused on improving court capacity (minimising current overload) and increasing the effectiveness of the judicial system management. The PA also refers to the Court system development guidelines for the 2009–2015 period, indicating that the main challenge is to ensure a fair, independent, efficient, accessible and high-quality court system that provides a prompt service.

Latvian National Reform Program 'EU 2020' also refers to the need to ensure better accessibility of the court system and improve the insolvency process in order to create a better business environment in Latvia.

From 2014 onwards, CSRs and corresponding recitals issued by the European Council continued to refer to the needs of the justice system. In 2014 the document acknowledged that Latvia had taken steps to improve the justice system, but still included a specific recommendation to "complete judicial reforms including the pending reforms of insolvency, arbitration and mediation frameworks to ensure a more business- and consumer-friendly legal environment"¹⁴. In 2015, the CSRs' recitals reiterated the need to complete the reform of the judicial system and included a specific recommendation to "improve efficiency of the judicial system, by increasing accountability of all parties (including insolvency administrators), by providing adequate means to fight tax evasion and by strengthening the role of the Judicial Council"¹⁵. In 2016 only the CSR recitals recognised that Latvia had "introduced several successful initiatives to improve the efficiency and quality of the justice system"¹⁶, and no justice-specific recommendation was included in the document.

3.2. **Planning stage:** The extent to which the Member State programmed support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF

3.2.1. High-level objectives related to justice set in the programming documents

The PA specifically refers to the Council Country Specific Recommendation to complete the decided reforms, in order **to improve the efficiency and quality of the judicial authorities; to reduce the number of backlog cases and the length of procedures, including cases concerning insolvency; to introduce a common human resources**

¹⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014H0729%2812%29>

¹⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32015H0818%2818%29>

¹⁶ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2016.299.01.0083.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2016%3A299%3ATOC

policy and measures for the execution of mediation rights and rationalisation of the arbitration system; to complete judicial reforms, including the pending reforms of insolvency, arbitration and mediation frameworks, in order to ensure a more business- and consumer-friendly legal environment.

Furthermore, the OP Growth and Employment 2014–2020 provides practical examples of why slow handling of cases regarding economic and financial crimes is a serious problem for the Latvian justice system. In the event of slow legal proceedings, the amount of financial resources 'frozen' in civil proceedings (e.g. to recover the debt or incurred losses) are unavailable to enterprises. Up until 29 May 2013 the total sum of such claims ('frozen assets') in the court of the first instance was EUR 304.3 million, which as a result cannot be invested in the development and growth of economic activity. However, fast and effective procedures, and better-trained judges, prosecutors and other personnel could reduce the time for investigation and final court decisions regarding frozen assets.

Currently there is no unified training strategy for judges and other court staff. The content of training of judges and the staff of courts is developed autonomously, based on the content of training for public prosecutors and investigators, as well as on other persons involved in the judicial system. According to the OP, there is a lack of understanding and application of the principles of law between court institutions, law enforcement authorities and persons involved in the judicial system. Likewise, professional knowledge of the staff of courts and law enforcement authorities, and persons in other legal professions, is insufficient. Thus it does not promote fast and high-quality consideration of cases and public trust in the courts.

OP Growth and employment (ESF, ERDF, CF)

OP name in English	OP 'Growth and Employment'
CCI	2014LV16MAOP001
Relevant funds for the OP	ESF, ERDF, CF
Total OP budget (EC and national contribution) EUR million	EUR 5,192.80 million.
PA 3 'Competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises' (EC and national contribution) EUR million	EUR 21.25 million (from ERDF)

Source: OP 'Growth and Employment' published in 2014 (dated 27.01.2015); there were two amendments in 2016 that did not change the support to justice system

The OP 'Growth and Employment' (in the 2014–2020 programming period Latvia has only one OP), 3. Priority Axis 'Competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises' Specific Objective (SO) **No. 3.4.1.: To improve the competence of the staff of courts and law enforcement authorities to promote improvement of business environment** proposes EU funding allocation to the training and improvement of qualifications of justice system personnel, thus ensuring high-quality and timely investigation and hearing of both civil and criminal cases. Funding will also be allocated to conduct the research to provide the definition and further implementation of evidence-based policy development directions, and support is also provided for the implementation of specific qualification improvement programmes for the personnel of judiciary and law enforcement authorities.

Within the same OP and SO No. 3.4.1., one of the objectives is to develop 'Alternative types of dispute resolution' (ADR), particularly through mediation and courts of arbitration, which have a crucial significance in dispute settlement systems. The use of such alternative methods makes it possible to significantly reduce the burden upon the judicial system, by ensuring that courts only resolve disputes which require the involvement of state power (judicial power). As a result, the professional competence of the persons engaged in the consideration of disputes (e.g. judges and certified mediators) regarding recovery of debts and losses will be improved through training. This will, among other things, allow for the reduction of the number of lengthy (i.e. one year or more) civil cases dealing with the recovery of debts and losses in courts of first instance.

Planned activities:

- the implementation of interdisciplinary and specific programmes of broad content and training and the preparation of study materials to improve the qualifications of the employees of courts and law enforcement authorities (courts, employees of courts, public prosecutors, investigators and court experts);
- training of candidates for the position of judges and public prosecutors;
- assessment of the judicial system in order to ensure the definition and further introduction of directions for the development of policy-based evidence, conclusions and practice, as well as research related to judicial practice, organisational management and other issues;
- improvement of the qualifications of the employees involved in the consideration of cases on the recovery of debts and losses, insolvency and alternative disputes, and in the development of legislation;
- interdisciplinary training programmes to increase the competence of persons working for the judicial system; and
- the introduction of new digital solutions allowing the available legal resources to be used with maximum efficiency, resulting in significant state budget savings.

Expected outputs (see also OP indicators below):

- Number of persons belonging to judicial power, law enforcement authorities and judicial system (judges, court employees, sworn notaries, sworn advocates, sworn bailiffs, prosecutors, investigators, court experts, mediators), who have increased competence in interdisciplinary training programmes for business environment improvements.
- Training programmes concerning business environment; for example, effective enforcement of an adjudication of a court, latest amendments in Civil Procedure Law, practice of Court of Justice of EU in cases concerning business environment.

Expected results (see also OP indicators below):

Number of people from courts, law enforcement institutions and persons working for the court system who have improved their professional competence for business environment improvements.

Proposed beneficiaries:

Court Administration

Proposed target groups:

People from courts, law enforcement institutions and persons working for the court system. Judges, employees of courts, court experts, officials and employees of the prosecutor's office and investigation institutions, policy developers. While planning and implementing interdisciplinary training, representatives of liberal legal professions (sworn advocates, sworn notaries, sworn bailiffs), arbitrators, mediators and professionals in other fields of law (insolvency administrators) will be involved in respective training seminars according to the content of the training.

3.2.2. [Planned projects listed in the programming documents aiming to support justice](#)

No specific projects were mentioned in the programming documents with an objective to support justice; however, the OP 'Growth and Employment' SO No. 3.4.1.: 'To improve the competence of the staff of courts and law enforcement authorities to promote improvement of business environment' proposes a rather clear vision how the EU funding should be allocated to the justice system.

3.3. **Implementation stage:** [Support to the justice system through ESF and ERDF](#)

3.3.1. [Support to the justice system: reported at programme level](#)

According to available documents reviewed, the Monitoring Committee (subcommittee) had a meeting on 24 September 2015 to approve criteria for how to evaluate proposals and select activities and projects for training and other activities according to the OP 'Growth and Employment' SO No. 3.4.1. Apart from administrative criteria, the specific eligibility criteria required that:

- The project will be implemented in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Human Resources Capacity Building and Competence Development Plan 2015–2020.
- The project will be implemented by providing demarcation with support for capacity building and competence development of human resources within the framework of other national, foreign and European Union financial support instruments.
- The project application describes the sustainability of the project results.
- The project application provides appropriate training modules and materials, based on analysis of the needs of the target groups.
- The quality criteria required that:
 - The project application for providing quality training provides for advisory support and describes its implementation model, as well as the updating of the contents of the training and its frequency during the implementation of the project.
 - The project application contains information about the planned research and the related results to be achieved.
 - The project application describes the types of study and teaching methods.
 - The project application describes the learning implementation mechanism.
 - The specific actions envisaged in the project proposal contribute to compliance with the horizontal principle of Equal Opportunities (gender equality, disability, age and ethnicity).

Consequently, the Cabinet of Ministers approved regulations on 8 December 2015 that aim to increase the qualification of courts and law enforcement institution personnel to further a better and more reliable business environment.

The Annual Implementation Reports for 2014 and 2015 do not say anything about activities undertaken relating to the justice system. Progress Reports are not available at this time.

3.3.2. Support to the justice system: reported at project level (Task 2)

To date only one project has been funded related to support to justice; funded solely under the ESF, it has a total allocated budget of EUR 10,474,822.00. The project is supervised by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Justice and implemented by the Court Administration. The project includes: 1) Extensive judicial training, 2) Individual, systematic approach¹⁷ & modernisation of the training environment, 3) Assessment of the Judicial System, 4) Building trust in the judiciary.

On 24 September 2015, the Monitoring Committee (sub-committee) approved **specific selection criteria** for this project, according to the OP 'Growth and Employment' SO No. 3.4.1. Apart from administrative criteria (e.g. properly prepared documentation and calculation, eligible project time frame), the specific eligibility criteria required that¹⁸:

- The project will be implemented in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Human Resources Capacity Building and Competence Development Plan 2015–2020.
- The project will be implemented by providing demarcation with support for capacity building and competence development of human resources within the framework of other national, foreign and European Union financial support instruments.
- The project application describes the sustainability of the project results.
- The project application provides appropriate training modules and materials, based on analysis of the needs of the target groups.

The quality criteria required that:

¹⁷ The beneficiary explains this as a standardised training programme for the professional candidates (judges, prosecutors). Young professionals are under development through an evaluation of skills and competences to be used as the basis for a targeted approach in the framework of planning professional training programmes in the future. The use of modern technologies will be supported in the training programmes and in the daily activities in the justice sector.

¹⁸ <http://www.esfondi.lv/uzraudzibas-komiteja>

- The project application for providing quality training provides for advisory support and describes its implementation model, as well as the updating of the contents of the training and its frequency during the implementation of the project.
- The project application contains information about the planned research and the related results to be achieved.
- The project application describes the types of study and teaching methods.
- The project application describes the learning implementation mechanism.
- The specific actions envisaged in the project proposal contribute to compliance with the horizontal principle of Equal Opportunities (gender equality, disability, age and ethnicity).

The approved source of these criteria are the regulations approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 8 December 2015 that aim to improve the qualifications of staff working at courts and law enforcement institutions, to contribute to more efficient and reliable business environments, as listed in an Annex.¹⁹

A call for proposals for projects was launched in the form of a limited project application selection, meaning that the only eligible project applicant was the Court Administration within the framework of the specific support objective. The submitted project application was approved according to the agreement between the Court Administration and the Managing authority on 7 June 2016. According to information available from the project proposal that the Court Administration provided to the expert it is implemented within the aim of the programming documents, although its scope was not clearly defined in these documents.

At the beginning of 2016, the Court Administration began the implementation of the approved project, which is built on the basis of an Action Plan adopted by the Government of the Republic of Latvia in mid-2015.²⁰ Between December 2016 and June 2017 the total spending amounted to EUR 845,661.44.

According to the planning documents, this was supposed to be the only project supporting the justice system during the current programming period. However, unexpectedly, following a request from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, on 8 August 2017 the Cabinet of Ministers decided to invest an additional EUR 5 million in an e-justice system (for courts, prosecution office and prison administration) from the ERDF Cultural Heritage digitalisation programme.²¹ Country expert did not include this project in the evaluation because the cut-off for including new projects in this report was June 2017.

¹⁹ (TMKrit_121115; Kritēriji ESI fondu darbības programmas 'Izaugsme un nodarbinātība' 3.4.1. specifiskā atbalsta mērķa 'Paaugstināt tiesu un tiesībsargājošo institūciju personāla kompetenci komercdarbības vides uzlabošanas sekmēšanai' īstenošanai).

²⁰ <https://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=272711>

²¹ <http://tap.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?pid=40433681&mode=mk&date=2017-08-08>

Table 12: Overview of projects supporting justice 2014–2020

Project name in English / national language	Project status	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ²² in thousand EUR	Budget spent ²³ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities undertaken
OP Growth and Employment CCI 2014LV16MAOP001 (ESF and ERDF)								
Justice development <i>Justīcija attīstībai</i>	Ongoing	2016	2022	6	10,474.82	221.67	188.42	<p>The four types of activities listed below are to be put in place under direct supervision of the Court Administration, in cooperation with the Supreme Court, General Prosecutor's Office, and Ministry of Interior, realised in cooperation and with involvement of the Judicial Council, in order to support the ongoing reforms and priorities in the judicial sector, with a view to realising the Justice for Growth concept.</p> <p>Component I: Judicial training; training for judges and judicial staff, prosecutors, investigators, judicial experts, lawyers, bailiffs, notaries, mediators, insolvency practitioners (administrators), policy makers and implementers and other persons related to the judiciary on topics including ADR, arbitration and conciliation, fight against corruption, tax crimes, corporate governance, etc. The training also includes training for the development of personal skills, IT knowledge and languages. Other activities include the organisation of internships with the ECHR and ECJ for the exchange of best practices</p>

²² Planned/ committed²³ Budget actually paid/ disbursed

Project name in English / national language	Project status	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ²² in thousand EUR	Budget spent ²³ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities undertaken
								<p>at the European level; the compilation of case law, and the development of handbooks and best practice guidelines.</p> <p>Component II: Individual, systematic approach & modernisation of training environment. This includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of standardised training programmes for professional candidates (judges, prosecutors), young professionals; - evaluation of skills and competences to be used as the basis for targeted approach in the framework of planning professional training programmes in the future; - modernisation of the training environment. <p>Component III: Assessment of the Judicial System. This includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measuring effectiveness & identifying needs / evaluation of the whole Latvian judicial system in cooperation with Council of Europe (CEPEJ) experts, with the aim of providing an in-depth analysis regarding efficiency, evaluating the resources dedicated in comparison with operational effectiveness, identifying strengths and weaknesses and providing recommendations for the next period. Results of the evaluation are intended to be used as a basis for the further reforms in the framework of the judicial sector and to

Project name in English / national language	Project status	Start of project (year)	End of project (year)	Duration of project	Budget allocated ²² in thousand EUR	Budget spent ²³ in thousand EUR	Actual EU contribution in thousand EUR	Summary of activities undertaken
								<p>be included in the different policy planning documents elaborated by the Ministry of Justice and other related state institutions.</p> <p>Component IV: Building trust in the judiciary. In 2015 the Judicial Council adopted the Communication Strategy for Courts and Communication Guidelines for the Judicial System. The Court Administration will support both strategies through an Implementation plan, currently under development. The following activities are foreseen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of the Communication Plan, comprising two parts: namely, priorities for the communication for the concrete period and methods of communication; - evaluation of the status quo and proposal for the reforms in the context of the organisation of the communication; - trainings that support the Communication Plan; - handbooks on best practices for key players within the judicial system and media.

Source: The Court Administration

Table 13: Number and budget allocated (in thousand EUR) of projects supporting justice, funded by ESF and ERDF in the programming period 2014–2020

Project Name	Number of projects supporting justice	Budget allocated in thousand EUR	Actual contribution in thousand EUR	EU in
ESF	1	10,474.82	188.42	
ERDF				
Both				
TOTAL	1	10,474.82	188.42	

Source: The Court Administration

Project beneficiaries

The only formal **project beneficiary** is the Court Administration (according to the OP 'Growth and Employment', as highlighted in Task 1), which falls under the Ministry of Justice, but all activities will be implemented in cooperation with the Supreme Court, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Interior, State Forensic Science Bureau and the Judicial Council.

Table 14: Number of times the following entities are the beneficiary of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Relevant ministries	Courts and tribunals	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar	Registry offices	Regional administration	Specialised training or research institutions	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Total
ESF	1										1
ERDF											
Both											
TOTAL	1										1

Source: The Court Administration

Activities of projects in tendering process and of ongoing projects related to support to justice

According to the 2016 Annual Implementation Report for the OP 'Growth and Employment', activities under the project have started, but to a very limited extent. The frequency of training and, accordingly, the amount of payments made for SO No. 3.4.1.: 'To improve the competence of the staff of courts and law enforcement authorities promote improvement of business environment',²⁴ will increase in 2017, when several training modules are planned to start (according to the AIR 2016). According to the 2016 AIR, only two people have received planned training so far.

There are four main types of **activities planned** within the project: (1) Extensive judicial training, (2) Individual, systematic approach & modernisation of the training environment, (3) Assessment of the judicial system, (4) Building trust in the judiciary.

(1) Judicial training includes (1) extensive professional training organised in addition to currently available training; inter alia, ADR, arbitration and conciliation, fight against corruption, tax crimes, corporate governance, etc., (2) Development of personal skills, IT

²⁴ According to information released by the Court Administration on 'Latest trends in strengthening capacity and human resources in the judicial sector and law enforcement authorities in Latvia'.

knowledge and languages, (3) Internship (ECHR, ECJ) and exchange of best practices at the European level, and (4) Compilation of case law, development of handbooks and best practice interdisciplinary & cross-border guidelines.

At the beginning of 2016, an assessment of the training needs was carried out. Identification of training needs was organised by the Court Administration of Latvia and supported by Advisory Committee, comprising representatives of the judiciary (all three instances, including Supreme Court), Judicial Council, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, and professional associations.

Thirty topics for the further training were identified and divided into three modules:

- Effectiveness and quality (for example, management of the judicial and law enforcement authorities, mentoring, lecturing skills, implementation of ADR, etc.)
- Professional knowledge (commercial law, economic and financial crimes, administrative law, energy law, labour law, etc.)
- Trust in the judiciary (inter alia, in the context of cross-border cooperation) (judicial ethics, communication and PR, cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters, etc.)

Training activities are available for judges and judicial staff, prosecutors, investigators, judicial experts, lawyers, bailiffs, notaries, mediators, insolvency practitioners (administrators), policy makers and implementers and other persons related to the justice system.

It is expected that in the period between 2016 and 2022, 12,000 people employed in the judicial sector will be trained (the indicator represents the number of training visits,²⁵ not the number of unique training participants), more than ten handbooks and best practice guidelines will be produced and five case law compilations will be developed.

(2) Individual, systematic approach & modernisation of training environment. In order to ensure a sustainable result – standardised training programmes for the professional candidates (judges, prosecutors) a competence module for young professionals is under development. Overall evaluation of skills and competences will be carried out and used as the basis for a targeted approach in the framework of planning professional training programmes in the future. Training in the use of modern technologies will be provided on a broader basis, in the training programmes as well as on a daily basis in the routine activities in the justice sector. The new and substantially modernised training environment is under development.

The installation of additional 19 sets of videoconference equipment, and the development of an e-training system and competence module, is also foreseen.

(3) Assessment of the judicial system: measuring effectiveness & identifying needs.

In line with extensive training and system modernisation activities, it is planned to develop the overall evaluation of the Latvian judicial system in cooperation with Council of Europe (CEPEJ) experts.

As stated in the Project application by the Court Administration, the aim of the mentioned external and independent research carried out by the independent evaluation team is to provide an in-depth analysis on the efficiency of the justice system, evaluating the resources spent in comparison with operational effectiveness, identifying strengths and weaknesses and providing recommendations for the next period. The scope of the evaluation includes not only the court system, but the entire justice sector. The results of the evaluation are intended to be used as basis for further reforms in the framework of the

²⁵ Within the OP and other official documents, 'visits' refers to the number of participants in trainings. One participant can attend several trainings and therefore count as several 'visits'. Therefore the indicator of 2,287 in Table 19 refers to the actual number of people who should be trained.

judicial sector. The evaluation was supposed to be completed at the end of the first half of 2017. However, at the time of submitting this report, no evaluation was publicly available. The assessment will include the following aspects with a view to providing recommendations for further development:

- Effectiveness and quality in relation to the resources provided, identifying issues that affect backlog, length of the procedure and quality (procedural, institutional, technical and external factors).
- Independence within the system.
- Potential for the development of the system, identifying issues related to it (budget and administration, policy development, human resources, inter-institutional coordination).

(4) Building trust in the judiciary. The following steps are foreseen:

- Development of the Communication Plan, comprising two parts, namely: priorities for the communication for the concrete period and methods of communication.
- Evaluation of status quo and proposal for reforms in the context of the organisation of the communication.
- Training that supports the Communication Plan.
- Handbooks on best practices for key players within the judicial system and media.

Table 15: Number of times a type of activity is foreseen/ongoing as part of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Training	Activities relating to ADR/ODR	Developing/upgrading business processes at courts	Developing/upgrading HR management processes within the judiciary	Introduction of case management system	Digitalisation of court services	Purchase of ICT systems (hardware and software)	Putting in place/upgrading the cooperation	Development and circulation of best practices	Evaluations and studies	Support to reform initiatives	Upgrading physical infrastructure at courts	Others	No information available	Total
ESF	1			1				1	1	1	1				6
ERDF															
Both															
TOTAL	1			1				1	1	1	1				6

Source: The Court Administration project application

Project final recipient related to support to justice

There is no information available yet on the number of times entities were the final recipient of the project, but judges are expected to be one of the major groups of final recipients, alongside Court Administration, Prosecutors and other law enforcement institutions representatives (categorised as "other" in the table below).

Table 16: Number of times the following entities were the final recipient of a project supporting justice, by Fund

	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Total
ESF	1	1			1			1		4
ERDF										
Both										
TOTAL	1	1			1			1		4

Project outputs, results and impacts related to support to justice

The project documents only mention one outcome indicator – the number of persons trained for the improvement of the business environment, trained courts, law enforcement agencies and the court system. Indicators are not divided into output, result and impact indicator groups.

As only one project indicator was available, it is listed in Table 17 (rather than categorised in an indicator group).

Table 17: Project output indicators and data

Individual Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	No. of project indicators included (N=)
OP Growth and Employment					
<i>PA 3.4.Competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises</i>					
<i>3.4.1. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance</i>					
Number of people from courts, law enforcement institutions and persons belonging to the court system, who have improved their professional competence for business environment improvements	Number of people	NA	2287	2	1

Source: Annual Implementation Report 2016

Table 18: Project output indicators and data

Individual Indicators	Unit of measurement	Baseline, if available	Target, if available	Reported value, if available	No. of project indicators included (N=)
OP Growth and Employment					
<i>PA 3.4.Competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises</i>					
<i>3.4.1. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance</i>					
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

Source: Annual Implementation Report 2016

3.4. Relevant programme output and result indicators

3.4.1. Programme indicators

OP 'Growth and Employment' SO No. 3.4.1. refers to the following output indicators.

Table 19: Programme indicators

Priority axis / Sub-priority	Output indicators	Base line (beginning of 2013)	Target (2023)	Achieved/ reported, if available
SO No. 3.4.1.a.	Number of people from courts, law enforcement institutions and persons belonging to the court system who have improved their professional competence for business environment improvements	614	2,287	NA
SO No. 3.4.1.a.	Number of people from courts, law enforcement institutions and persons belonging to the court system who have participated in the training for business environment improvements	456	11,433	NA

3.4.2. Project indicators

To be completed as part of Task 2

3.5. Budget information

Overall budget information for projects supporting the justice system funded through the ESF and ERDF was generally available. However, there is no universally accepted taxonomy for project budget owners to classify budgets according to type of activity or final recipient. Moreover, many projects involve multiple activities and/or multiple final recipients. Whether and how budgets for these complex projects are analysed by activity or final recipient varies across project owners and countries. This militates against using reported data to make meaningful comparisons between projects and Member States.

For the purpose of this study, the researchers have therefore created a high-level taxonomy in order to enable an analysis of budget allocations for activities and final recipients for projects funded through the ESF and ERDF supporting the justice system. Information from interviews and documents has been used to apply this taxonomy and allocate budgets based on the main focus of the projects as well as the final recipients.

In cases where it has not been possible to determine budget allocations for projects with **multiple final recipients**, these have been classified as 'multiples' (further details and explanations have been provided in the text below). Where a project had **multiple activities** and/or included activities which did not fall under one of the focus categories, the categorisation of that project reflects its aim and not necessarily all individual activities undertaken in the context of this project. This approach is further explained in the Final Report.

For the 2014–2020 programming period it is also important to note that the majority of projects are still ongoing. The tables below therefore only provide an overview of the **budget allocated** for project activities and final recipients.

Table 20: Budget allocated in thousand EUR by project focus category foreseen

	Improving internal processes	Digitalisation & ICT	Training & Raising awareness	Research and evaluation	Activities related to ADR/ODR	Upgrading physical infrastructure	No information available
ESF			10,474.82				
ERDF							
Both							
TOTAL			10,474.82				

The key type of activity of the project is training. However, this will be accompanied by many other sub-activities, as described in detail above.

Table 21: Budget allocated in thousand EUR by final recipient targeted

	Courts and Tribunals	Relevant ministries	Registry offices	Regional administration	National prosecution offices	Professional association of magistrates and bar associations	Specialised governance bodies of the judiciary	Others	No information available	Multiple
ESF										10,474.82
ERDF										
Both										
TOTAL										10,474.82

As the project will cover the whole justice system, final recipients are categorised in Table 21 as 'multiples', as they include judges, prosecutors and court staff, law enforcement institutions and persons belonging to the court system.

4. Overview of existing national and regional data and documentation related to the ESF and ERDF

4.1. Ex-ante evaluations and needs assessments

For funding period 2007–2013 – Existing situation analysis for National strategic framework 2007–2013 and Ex-ante evaluation report, done by PriceWaterhouseCoopers for the Managing Authority.

For funding period 2014–2020 – Ex-ante evaluation report.

4.2. Programming documents

For funding period 2007–2013 – National strategic reference framework, 2007 and Operational programmes 'Human resources and employment', 'Entrepreneurship and innovations', 'Infrastructure and services'. However, no needs were included on justice; instead, needs relate to public administration and digitalisation of public registries and databases.

For funding period 2014–2020 – Partnership agreement, 2014 and Operational programme 'Growth and Employment', 2014.

4.3. Implementation reports

For funding period 2007–2013 no direct activities were included to improve the justice system.

For funding period 2014–2020 no officially finalised implementation reports have been produced to date. Project application submitted by the Court Administration was approved and an agreement signed by the MA Just on 7 June 2016. Therefore, according to AIR 2016 only two people had the training but more intense project implementation and training module launches are planned in 2017.

4.4. Interim and ex-post evaluations

For funding period 2007–2013 no direct activities were included to improve the justice system; however, an ex-post evaluation report is available.

For funding period 2014–2020 no interim or ex-post evaluations have been done so far.

4.5. Other non-project level documents

The Court system development guidelines 2009 to 2015.

4.6. Project-level data sources

The Cabinet of Ministers approved regulations on 8 December 2015 to evaluate and select projects according to the OP.

- <http://www.esfondi.lv/es-fondu-projektu-mekletajs/project?number=3.4.1.0%2F16%2FI%2F001>
- Email correspondence with the Court Administration responsible project manager Anna Skrjabina.
- The Court Administration Project application 'Justīcija attīstībai' for period 2014–2020 OP 'Growth and Employment' (3.4.1. specifiskā atbalsta mērķis 'Paaugstināt tiesu un tiesībsargājošo institūciju personāla kompetenci komercdarbības vides uzlabošanas sekmēšanai').
- The Monitoring Committee protocol.

- the Human Resources Capacity Building and Competence Development Plan 2015-2020
- AIRs for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Getting in touch with the EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

On the phone or by email

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696 or
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

Finding information about the EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en

EU publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications at: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.



Publications Office
of the European Union