

In the courtroom: results of all-Ukrainian monitoring of information content of the courts of appeal of Ukraine with materials that promote openness of justice and establish interaction with the media and the community, 2019 / Nazarii Boiarskyi - Kyiv, 2019 - 76 p.

Methodology: Nazarii Boiarskyi, Valeriia Rybak

During January-February 2019 was conducted the All-Ukrainian Monitoring of the information content of the Courts of Appeal of Ukraine with materials that promote openness of justice and establish interaction with the media and the community. The monitoring was coordinated by the Human Rights Vector NGO and is part of a set of actions aimed at the development of the system of press services of courts in Ukraine. This publication was prepared in accordance with the data of this monitoring. A total of 31 courts of appeal were monitored. During the 37 monitoring visits, 32 court buildings were visited. It is worth noting that the results presented in this publication are based on both: the actual data and the evaluative judgments of the monitors. The actual data makes it possible to follow general tendencies in the courts of appeal. These figures are shown in percentages or in the number of cases. The judgments of the monitors is the impression of a particular person visiting the court. This is illustrated by the direct quotes of monitors and highlighted in italics.

We understand that some of the courts are in the process of being reformed or have undergone repair work during their monitoring. We welcome critical comments and suggestions of corrections. We hope that the positive practice of monitoring will be extended to all courts.

We hope that this study will be a driving impulse for creating more favorable conditions for court visits in Ukraine, court premises will become more informative, and the level of trust in the judicial power will increase.

Recommendations based on the results of the study:

1. Create a single standard (structure) for posting information about the court and the press service on court web-sites.
2. To place on the court information boards a clear map indicating the placement of rooms in the court, to introduce in the court premises the system of navigation.
3. To provide explanatory work to the court security services or to explain the functions of the press service (press secretaries) and the admission of visitors to it.
4. Establish a system for checking the presence of badges on all court employees in accordance with paragraph 3.4 of the Rules of Conduct of a court employee.

5. To extend to all courts the positive practice of providing free connection to the public WI-FI network to court visitors.
6. Ensure that visitors have access to bathrooms, including their accessibility for people with limited mobility.
7. Take care of the facilities of the toilets, in particular, cold and hot water, hand soap, the possibility of drying hands (towel, dryer, etc.), toilet paper, mirror, etc.
8. Provide changing tables or boards in court toilets.
9. Take care of creating a comfortable and pleasant atmosphere for the visitors of the courts. Among other things, the good practice of other courts could be extended by: introducing of the source of drinking water (cooler, etc.), placing paper for notes and pens, allocating space for charging electrical devices with cords for charging, broadcasting information and educational materials, creating BookCrossing (a place for free exchange of books), creating a mini-museum, boxes to collect visitor reviews, and more.
10. Provide informational materials on the activities of the court to the checkpoint, so that visitors can read them without unnecessary obstacles. Information about the title, hours of work, etc., should also be available at the entrance to the building for ordinary citizens to have access to it outside of working hours.
11. Ensure the installation of IBOX information systems with the access to the Judicial Power of Ukraine website.
12. Provide comfortable visualization of information on the list of cases appointed for trial.
13. Place in the courts information about the possibility of broadcasting hearings by technical means of the courts, in particular, information posters “Broadcasts and comments on open court hearings in Ukraine” prepared by the Human Rights Vector NGO.
14. Put information in the courts focused on media representatives.
15. Introduce the practice of setting up a database of court visiting journalists to inform about court activities and build communication.

*The full text of the study is available in Ukrainian at:
<http://hrvector.org/zviti/19-06-27-admin>*

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