



CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THE NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF THE KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR-KS)

The institutional perspective: creating the unique ECHR-KS platform

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Honourable Ministers
Honourable President of the Supreme Court of Ukraine,
Judges and Ambassadors,
Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and friends.

Good morning to you all.

It is now my turn and my pleasure, as Registrar of the Court, to open this session on the *institutional perspective* of setting up the new language versions of our KS platform.

I am delighted to share the podium with my dear colleague Gianluca Esposito, Director General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law. It is absolutely fitting to have us both together. Ours is a truly collaborative venture. A concrete example of partnership within the organisation. We should be proud of that fact and it should serve as an inspiration for future work.

President Bošnjak in his opening words has already highlighted the importance of the principle of subsidiarity within the Convention system itself.

Let me now focus on how that principle of subsidiarity has been translated into the *concrete* work of the Court's Registry.

Over the years the Registry has worked hard at creating tools which disseminate our case-law to the primary national actors of the Convention.

An early example was, of course, the creation of our case-law database, HUDOC. In addition to English and French we now have interfaces in eight non-official languages.¹

Another example is of course the creation of the Superior Courts' Network in 2015. It is fitting that as we celebrate this year the 75th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights, we are also marking the tenth anniversary of our Network.

But the example I wish to focus on today is of course the creation of the Knowledge Sharing Platform itself.

Some years ago already, within the senior management team of the Registry we started reflecting on the resources we were offering to our own lawyers and Judges. The need was felt to centralise and modernise the information available in-house.

We then took an important decision. It was to distinguish between *information* and *knowledge*: information is the raw data without analysis or context. "Knowledge" is created when that case-law raw material is analysed by a specialist helping us to understand the information better.

This knowledge had to be comprehensive – covering all Convention articles and transversal issues. It also had to cover emerging issues. It had to be updated regularly. And of course, given our limited budget we also had to work in the most efficient way possible using the resources we had. It was logical that our Jurisconsult's Directorate would lead the project. Let me personally thank our Jurisconsult, Anna Austin and her incredible team for their amazing work in this regard.

So this is how it all started. Our Internal Knowledge-Sharing Platform available to lawyers and judges was born seven years ago from these ideas, with the precious help of our IT Department.

The immediate success our in-house of our Platform led us naturally to the next step: partially opening up to our external partners.

Within a year, a tailored version of the platform was launched for the Superior Courts Network members.

The feedback was immediate and extremely positive.

This naturally led us to ask a further question: what if we opened up access to the wider public?

It was at this stage of the journey that we started our precious collaboration with our Council of Europe partner, the Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law, a collaboration which has culminated in the launch of a fully public version of the platform in English and French in 2022.

Let me take this opportunity to thank, once again, the Director General for the work and input of his Directorate. The Registry's work in making subsidiarity a living and breathing principle naturally partnered your "Subsidiarity Project".

¹ English, French, Georgian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Romanian, Armenian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian.

Today our journey reaches another pivotal moment with the opening up of our platform to three non-official languages. It is indeed, I must admit, an emotional moment for me as I have followed this project extremely closely throughout my tenure as Registrar.

Now is the moment in my speech where I would like to thank the multiple actors who have all enabled us to arrive at this moment.

I would like to start by thanking the Luxembourg Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. You have taken up this cause and supported today's event as one of your Presidency highlights. We are extremely honoured to have Minister Margue here for today's launch. Thank you.

Let me echo President Bošnjak's sincere thanks to our Romanian, Turkish and Ukrainian national partners. Your commitment and hard work have made this day possible. We could not have done it without you. I am truly grateful.

Heartfelt thanks are also due to France, Ireland and the Human Rights Trust Fund. You provided the much needed support in the early days to get this work off the ground. You believed in the underlying necessity of opening up our platform further. You trusted our judgment and backed us in a concrete way. Thank you!

Please, allow me, as Registrar, to publicly thank my own team of Registry staff – lawyers, assistants, translators and IT staff - whose commitment, dedication and enthusiasm for this project have been an inspiration to me. It would be an omission not to thank also President Bošnjak and his predecessors for their unwavering support to this project. Without the full endorsement of the successive Court's Presidents such an ambitious project would not have got very far.

Our journey has only just begun. It's not easy to create, maintain and update multiple language versions of the platform, I won't hide that from you. But we have to do it. We need to break down even more language barriers, we need to reach even more audiences, we need to bring the Convention home. Let us keep up the momentum of today's success and, I dare say, of today's happiness.

Thank you for your attention.