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**Aleksandra
Cvetanovska**

In 2024, our association continued with the success it has been building for more than two decades. The organization's efforts are constant, and its aspirations are always continuously focused on preserving the principles for which we diligently advocate. Those are the things that brought caution which we did not build easily, but it marked MYLA as a strong organization that enjoys the trust of citizens, institutions, and the donor community.

I had the honor of leading the organization until August 2024 and together as a team over the past years we have implemented numerous activities, successfully built wonderful partnerships, and above all, helped people towards successfully completed stories and provided legal aid.

I am confident that the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association will always convey, with the same strength, the message that an effective system for human rights protection, the vision of the rule of law, and access to justice are principles that allow no compromise, and that the Association will continue to walk the path of building a healthy civil society, which is always, without an exception, a hallmark of democracy.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENTS



**Bojana
Bozinovska Siljanovska**

The year 2024 was a year of change. Nevertheless, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association succeeded in climbing another rung on the ladder of success, proving that we are ready to adapt and progress. We marked 21 years of existence – more than two decades committed to justice, human rights, and the rule of law.

I am proud to have taken on the leadership role in a mature and stable organization that places people at the center of its focus. Our work is not just a number in a report – it is real change in people's lives. Therefore, I am particularly proud to share that in the course of 2024, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association assisted 4,828 citizens with free legal advice, provided legal information to 3,900 foreigners and refugees, initiated 14 court proceedings, published 28 publications, and implemented 23 projects.

At the same time, we actively participated in several national, regional, and international networks, contributed to improving laws and policies, and, within our efforts to strengthening civil society, we supported 23 civil society organizations with small grants. I proudly emphasize that in 2024 we also supported young lawyers in their internship and practical work, thereby investing in the future of 42 dedicated professionals and human rights advocates.

This is not all about just numbers, but a story of commitment of every person we helped and of every lawyer who took a step forward toward a career in the service of justice. We believe that the law should work for everyone, protect the disadvantaged, guarantee individual freedom, and ensure full protection of the rule of law and the environment.

Therefore, we continue with the same energy, determination, and commitment – for a better tomorrow!

ABOUT THE MACEDONIAN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) is an independent, non-profit professional organization founded in 2003, which provides legal aid and engages in strategic litigation for protection of human rights.

MYLA puts the knowledge and innovative capacities of the young lawyers towards affirmation and promotion of the rule of law principle and influences public policies through drafting pieces of research and analyses.

MYLA aims towards a society in which the rule of law is fully established and the people are proactively requiring respect of their basic human rights and freedoms.



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01

Vision

A just and fair society where the law protects human dignity, serves the public interest, and ensures a sustainable and safe environment.

02

Mission

MYLA protects and promotes the basic principles and values determined by the Constitution. By using the power of law, it protects and empowers the disadvantaged, advocates for the improvement of laws and policies in which individual freedoms, the rule of law, and the environment are fully protected.

MYLA aims to ensure that the law in North Macedonia works for everyone, serves the public interest, and aligns with international and EU standards

03

MYLA's strategic objectives

1. Legal empowerment and protection of basic human rights;
2. Promotion of the rule of law and harmonization of the national policies with the EU acquis;
3. Strengthening the professionalism, competences and integrity of young lawyers
4. Improving the quality of services of institutions to the citizens.

04

MYLA's activities

In order to achieve the established strategic objectives, MYLA's activities are structured into three interrelated programs:

- Legal Aid and Strategic Litigation;
- Legal Research and Policy;
- Legal Education.

05

Areas of work

MYLA's priority areas of work are:

- Access to justice for vulnerable categories of citizens;
- Asylum, migration, and statelessness;
- Legal protection against discrimination and violations of human rights;
- Rights of victims of crimes and trafficking in human beings;
- Protection of rights of persons deprived of liberty;
- Protection of the right to a healthy environment;
- Legal support for civil society organizations;
- Strengthening the skills of young lawyers.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS PRESENTED IN NUMBERS



4,828 pieces of free legal advice and information were provided to citizens.



3,900 pieces of legal advices and information on the asylum procedure were provided to persons transiting the country and to refugees from Kosovo.



14 court proceedings were initiated, including **3 strategic cases** with significant public and systemic impact.



28 expert publications on specific legal topics to promote legal culture and advocate for systemic change were published.



MYLA actively took part in **11 working groups for drafting laws** and drafting **by-laws**, contributing to human rights-based legal solutions.



42 young lawyers gained practical knowledge and skills through internships in **4 basic courts, 2 civil society organizations, the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, the Ombudsman's Offices (Skopje and Kumanovo), the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, and 5 law offices across 5 cities** in the country.



A total of **69 events** were held – including trainings, workshops, lectures, academies, fora, conferences, and roundtables – covering **13 legal areas**.



1,184 individuals were trained, including **young lawyers, students, attorneys, representatives of institutions, the education system, civil society, journalists, students**, as well as the general public.



MYLA provided support to **23 projects** of civil society organizations in the Western Balkans region, contributing to the enhancement of legal protection for vulnerable groups.



The organization is actively involved in **13 national and regional networks**, providing continuous contributions to the development of legal and public policies.



5 Agreements and Memoranda of Cooperation were signed to strengthen partnerships and expand institutional collaboration.



MYLA provided financial support for the development of a new website for the Career Center and the Alumni Support Board at the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus,” hosted as a subdomain of the faculty’s official website, aiming to promote professional orientation and networking of young lawyers.

FREE LEGAL AID

The fulfillment of human rights cannot be achieved without genuine access to efficient and high-quality legal aid.

However, for many persons in our society – in particular those facing poverty, low levels of education, social exclusion, or discrimination – this access remains out of reach.

MYLA is strongly committed to providing **free legal aid as a basis for equality before the law and the protection of the rights of the vulnerable**. By means of individual cases, the organization operates just where the law is most threatened – providing a voice, support, and justice for those who are most often left on the margins of the system.



MYLA PROVIDES LEGAL AID IN THE FOLLOWING CASES AND FORMS:



Preliminary legal aid in accordance with the Law on Free Legal Aid, which is intended for the poor and other vulnerable categories of citizens. It includes providing information, counselling, guidance, and assistance in the completion of secondary legal aid submissions.



Legal advice and strategic litigation in cases of violations of constitutionally guaranteed human rights and discrimination, including representation before institutions and courts.



Legal aid in the area of asylum, migration, and integration, as well as in cases of limited access to personal documents and citizenship, in particular for persons at risk of statelessness.



Legal support to civil society organizations and informal initiatives, which do not have access to other forms of legal aid related to **internal organization, compliance with legal provisions, and the implementation of activities and initiatives contingent on legal expertise.**

LEGAL AID FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS AND FAMILIES AT-RISK

In the course of 2024, MYLA provided **primary legal aid to 345 persons** in accordance with the Law on Free Legal Aid, targeting **low-income persons** and other categories in need of such support.

The primary legal aid included:

- general legal information (GLI),
- general legal advice (GLA),
- information on the right to use free legal aid (IRUFLA),
- assistance in filling out applications for secondary legal aid.

Legal aid was available through: **in-person visits to MYLA offices, phone, email, social media (Facebook and Instagram), www.pristapdopravda.mk the platform**, as well as other online communication tools.

As an authorized association, MYLA regularly reported to the **Ministry of Justice** through **12 monthly reports**. Additionally, **22 applications for secondary legal aid**, in accordance with legal procedures, were submitted.

Overview of Types of Legal Issues by FLA beneficiaries

No.	Legal Issue	Total
01	Real estate issues	104
02	Social protection and insurance	43
03	Child protection and juvenile justice	43
04	Pension and disability insurance	8
05	Health insurance and healthcare	9
06	Labor relations	38
07	Gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence	12
08	Status-related legal issues	33
09	Protection of human rights (HR)	6
10	Other legal issues	66



As part of its activities to provide legal aid to low-income persons and families at-risk, **MYLA submitted an initiative to the Constitutional Court** to evaluate the constitutionality and legality of the **Decision on the Allocation of Social Housing and the Conditions for Its Use**, with a specific focus on **Article 7, paragraph 2, line 1**, which envisages a criterion on the **submission of a decision on receiving a disability allowance or special allowance**.

The initiative points out that this provision **narrowed the definition of a person with a disability**, limiting it only to persons who already exercise certain social protection rights, which **excludes persons with disabilities who do not receive such allowances**, despite having a real need for social housing.

The decision does not provide for a clear definition of persons with disabilities, instead refers to other laws, leading to **unfair and discriminatory application of the criteria**. **After reviewing the initiative, the Constitutional Court made a decision not to initiate a procedure** for evaluating the constitutionality and legality of the provision.



LEGAL AID IN THE AREA OF DISCRIMINATION

In the course of 2024, the **Basic Civil Court Skopje** issued a judgment partially upholding a petition in a case supported by MYLA, related to **determining discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender in the field of women's wrestling.**

Following a complaint filed by MYLA, the **Commission for Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination** determined **direct intersectional discrimination on the grounds of sex, gender, and personal status – pregnancy,** committed by a private company in the area of labor relations. While on annual leave, the employee informed her employer about starting an in vitro fertilization procedure.

Six days later, she was retroactively deregistered from the Employment Service Agency, thereby losing access to health insurance and being forced to **cover treatment costs herself.** In its recommendation, the Commission ordered **reimbursement of the in vitro fertilization procedure costs, establishment of internal non-discrimination policies, and termination of practices that lead to unequal treatment on the grounds of sex, gender and personal status.**

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) issued a **landmark judgement in the case of Mitrovska v. North Macedonia.** In a proceeding supported by MYLA, **the European Court of Human Rights issued a landmark judgement in the case Mitrovska v. North Macedonia,** finding a **violation of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights,** which guarantees the right to private and family life.

The case regarded the applicant's inability to obtain information about her adoption. The Court found that **the Macedonian authorities failed to consider the individual circumstances,** particularly the applicant's interest in receiving information on her origins and medical history. The judgement underscores the **value of the right of every individual to know their biological parents** and to have access to related health data, which creates a need for urgent amendments to the **Family Law.**

LEGAL AID IN THE AREA OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE

- By means of legal aid provided by MYLA, O.D., a person suffering from a Parkinson's disease for over 20 years, finally **realized his right to health care** – one of the basic human rights. After **three and a half years of legal proceedings**, the Health Insurance Fund issued a **positive decision for treatment abroad**.

Even though the **right to health** is guaranteed by the Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the lengthy legal battle and institutional inefficiency subjected O.D. to inhumane conditions. Thanks to his perseverance and MYLA's support, he finally gained access to the necessary treatment.





MYLA actively engages in the legal environmental protection, guided by the real needs and challenges encountered by our society. Under the conditions of serious threats to nature and public health, the legal environmental protection becomes a fundamental component of protecting basic human rights – above all the right to life, right to health, and inviolability of private and family life.

Any action or institutional failure that leads to environmental degradation also constitutes a **violation of constitutionally and internationally guaranteed human freedoms and individual dignity.**

LEGAL AID AND PROTECTION

- **59 pieces of legal information** related to environment and strengthening environmental organizations were provided.



STRATEGIC LITIGATION

- In 2024, MYLA initiated **seven strategic litigation cases** related to **legal certainty and environmental protection** before the **Constitutional Court, civil courts, the State Environmental Inspectorate, the Ombudsman, public enterprises, and the City of Skopje**.
- Following an **initiative submitted** by MYLA, the **Constitutional Court by a decision U. no. 121/2024 did not initiate proceedings** to assess the constitutionality of part of the **Decree on Environmental Reports (elaborates)**, and rejected the initiative regarding its compliance with the **Aarhus Convention**.
- **3 appeals** were filed against decisions of the **Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning** on determining the scope of Environmental Impact Assessment Studies for the following road sections **Tetovo–Gostivar, Gostivar–Bukojchani (Corridor 8) and Prilep–Bitola (Corridor 10D)**.
- **Legal aid** was provided to an **environmental activist** sued for insult and defamation due to a view expressed in a Facebook post against a former director of a public enterprise. The proceedings ended before the Appellate Court without a judgment in favor of the defendant.



- In cooperation with **Milieukontakt Macedonia**, MYLA submitted an initiative to the **State Environmental Inspectorate** requesting an extraordinary inspection, due to construction activities initiated without an approved Environmental Impact Assessment Study for **Corridors 8 and 10D**.
- For the same case, MYLA submitted a **complaint to the Ombudsman** against the **Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, State Environmental Inspectorate, State Commission for Administrative Procedure, and the Public Enterprise for State Roads**, due to violations of the **Aarhus Convention, the Constitution and relevant laws**.
- An **objection was filed** with the **Public Enterprise “Parks and Greenery”** and with the **Mayor of Skopje** due to failure to provide the public service of “maintaining urban green spaces”, despite prior reactions raised by citizens to the municipality.

PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY PAPERS

IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY PAPERS WERE PUBLISHED:

Improving Access to Environmental Justice: Compliance with Standards of the Aarhus Convention, which analyzes the legal framework and institutional setup for the protection of environmental rights in the Republic of North Macedonia through the lens of the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention.

Access to Justice for the Affected Public in the Permitting Procedures for Compliance with the Operational Plans, a policy paper.

Why Do We Struggle to Ensure Meaningful Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making? is a policy paper that identifies key barriers to effective public involvement and offers recommendations for improving processes in line with the Aarhus Convention.

Shadow Report on Chapter 27 for 2023 is a comprehensive review of the alignment of national legislation with European standards in the area of environment and climate change, focusing on implementation at both the national and local levels.

Six Reasons Why the Decree on the Law on Urban Planning Should Not Have Been Signed is a policy brief pointing out essential shortcomings in the transparency, process, and content of the legal amendments.

Environment in the Secondary Education, is a paper that analyzes how well environmental protection topics are represented in the secondary school curricula.

Highway Construction and Environmental Protection analyzes how infrastructure projects, in particular highway construction, impact the environment and emphasizes the need for integrating green infrastructure and complying with European environmental protection standards.

The paper titled **Forests Must Be a State Priority** analyzes the situation of forest protection and management in North Macedonia, points out institutional and legal weaknesses in addressing forest fires, and proposes urgent reforms for better prevention, protection, and accountability.



PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS FOR DRAFTING LAWS AND BY-LAWS IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENT

- Drafting Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for responding to wildlife poisoning cases
- Providing comments on the Waste Management Strategy
- Providing comments on the Law on Climate Action
- MYLA is a member of the working subgroup monitoring Commitment 5.1. of the National Action Plan for Open Government Partnership 2024–2026



MEMORANDA OF COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENT SIGNED WITH:

- State Environmental Inspectorate,
- Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors,
- Judges Association.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

In 2024, MYLA continued implementing activities to raise public awareness about the importance of legal environmental protection through educational content and relevant informative posts and messages on social media, community-based events, interviews, media appearances, as well as joining international environmental campaigns and observance days.

These activities promote environmental law as an integral part of human rights and encourages public engagement in protecting nature and a healthy environment.





SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENT

- MYLA served as **Vice President of the Environmental Justice Platform.**
- MYLA's work was **presented at a panel discussion organized by** the Independent Trade Union of Journalists and Media Workers.
- MYLA's work was presented during a training organized by the Ombudsman.
- **Participation in a meeting with European Member of Parliament Tineke Strik.**
- **A request was submitted to the President of North Macedonia** being asked not to sign the Law on Urban Planning.
- **A meeting was held with the Ombudsman.**
- Participation in **the first meeting of the Steering Committee.**



RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP AND LEGAL IDENTITY

As a long-standing strategic partner of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, MYLA has been providing free legal aid to stateless persons for 15 years.

In 2024, the activities were focused on resolving already identified cases to help these persons gain legal identity and access to citizenship.

LEGAL AID

Free legal aid was provided to 345 persons at risk of statelessness.

Out of these, 66 persons acquired Macedonian citizenship.

- **21 new cases** of stateless persons **were identified**;
- Free legal aid was provided to **25 persons in procedures for regulating their residence status**;
- **39 children** were registered in **the Registry of Births** and received their first birth certificates as proof of identity;
- A **court proceeding for establishing paternity** for one person, as a precondition for acquiring citizenship, **was initiated**.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE LAW ON CIVIL REGISTRY

MYLA conducted **monitoring on the implementation of the Law amending and supplementing the Law on Civil Registry**, which allows for **every child born on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia** to be registered in the Registry of Births **immediately, or within a maximum of 45 days**, regardless of **their parents' personal status or citizenship**.

In cases where parents do not assign a name within the prescribed period, it is determined by a **special guardian appointed by the Center for Social Work in charge**.



As part of the activities to promote institutional implementation of these provisions, **two trainings were organized** for representatives of the **Ministry of Interior and Centers for Social Work**, focusing on the application of the **Law amending and supplementing the Law on ID Cards** and the **Law on Registration of Residence and Domicile**.

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

- **MYLA was part of the state delegation on a study visit to the Republic of Moldova**, a country recognized for good practices in implementing procedures for determining stateless person status.
- **A training was organized for representatives of relevant national institutions**, during which Moldova's experiences were shared to support the drafting of a law that would protect stateless persons who are asylum seekers or long-term residents in North Macedonia without a regulated status.
- **A first-instance positive judgement was received upon a class action (Actio Popularis)** submitted by MYLA and the **European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)**, determining discrimination against individuals who received documents from the Special Registry of Births but were denied access to legally guaranteed rights.
- **The Parliamentary Oversight Commission** for monitoring the implementation of the amended **Law amending and supplementing the Law on Civil Registry and Article 4a** was activated, in the activities of which MYLA participated alongside representatives of the **Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth, Office for Management of Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, UNHCR, Romalitico, and UNICEF**.



SUCCESS STORIES

After many years of legal struggle, with MYLA's support and representation, two significant proceedings were concluded successfully – two persons finally obtained **Macedonian citizenship**.

- B.B., a mother of six minor children, and R.Gj., after years of legal uncertainty, through free legal aid provided by MYLA, **realized their right to citizenship**, thereby gaining access to basic rights and services.
- At the same time, **MYLA successfully secured citizenship for S.A. as well**, after previously providing legal aid for his registration in the Registry of Births. Having the citizenship granted, S.A. enrolled in the Faculty of Information Science and Computer Engineering (FINKI) under the state quota, becoming the first stateless person to pursue higher education at a university in North Macedonia.

ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

MYLA has been a strategic partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in North Macedonia for 15 years. Within the joint cooperation, MYLA provides legal aid to refugees, asylum seekers, and persons under international protection.

Legal aid refers to the procedure for recognition of the right to asylum, legal remedy procedure, as well as the refugee integration procedures.

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Four specialized trainings on asylum and international protection were organized in cooperation with the **Institute for Social Affairs**, focusing on the **legal and institutional framework**, as well as the **rights of asylum seekers and persons under international or temporary protection**. Topics also included issues related to **housing, social protection, health insurance, and education**.

As part of the trainings, a focus was placed on discussing **Article 4a of the Law on Civil Registry**, with a special emphasis on the **measures to prevent statelessness**. The trainings involved a total of **63 social workers** from public institutions for social protection.

LEGAL AID

- **3,900 pieces of legal advice** were provided;
- **9 petitions** were filed to establish paternity;
- **5 appeals** were submitted against negative first-instance decisions.



PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY PAPERS ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

The following reports were published in the area of asylum and migration:

[Asylum Report 2023](#)

[Annual Field Report 2023](#)

[Annual Report on Detention for Migration-Related Reasons 2023](#)
(published in 2024)

Additionally, a **Guide on Free Legal Aid for Asylum Seekers** was developed and adopted by the Ministry of Justice. The purpose of the document is to be used as a guide on action by concerned institutions by detailed steps and deadlines in procedures upon submitted asylum applications for asylum seekers who want to realize free legal aid.

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the PI Reception Center for Asylum Seekers Vizbegovo.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS (STATELESSNESS, ASYLUM, AND MIGRATION)

In 2024, MYLA continued its strategic efforts to improve the public narrative about refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons through communication activities conducted in partnership with UNHCR.

The focus was on raising awareness and promoting solidarity and human rights.

By using social media, media outlets, and video formats, MYLA shared human stories, **pointed out institutional challenges**, and emphasized positive examples. A particular importance was given to the **video story** of B.B., and a **joint video with UNHCR** featuring messages from project teams, which was screened at the Journalism Awards ceremony.



By means of new formats and digital tools, MYLA expanded its outreach to traditional media with TV segments on refugee integration, appearances on the show **“Story”**, features on evening news broadcasts focused on statelessness. In parallel, the public was informed about the professional activities such as **trainings for social workers and lawyers** ,public workshops and study visits.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, at the tenth anniversary, **journalism awards** for reporting on the situation of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons were awarded for the 10th time in a row. The call for submissions, stories of the awarded journalists, and their articles were published on MYLA’s website and social media, whereas the media coverage included several **segments** across various media outlets.



RESOCIALIZATION

MYLA actively works to advance **policies and practices for the resocialization, reintegration, and post-penal support** of convicted persons and formerly convicted persons, with the aim of **reducing recidivism and vulnerability** after release. The activities are being conducted in accordance with **international and European standards** for the treatment of persons deprived of liberty.

In addition to direct support, MYLA advocates for **strengthening institutional cooperation** between the penitentiary facilities, courts, probation services, centers for social work and the service providers in the areas of resocialization, probation, and alternative measures.

The organization also focuses on **improving the legal framework and public policies** through research, analysis, and application of good practices to ensure long-term and effective reintegration support for these categories of persons.

LEGAL AID

- **179 persons** received **legal aid and psychosocial support**,
- **85 persons** -prisoners **were provided with penal legal aid**,
- **94 persons** who had served prison sentences or **were under probation supervision were provided with post-penal support**.

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

- In cooperation with the partner organization **IZBOR – Strumica**, a **six-month cognitive-behavioral therapy program** was implemented at **Stip Prison** for convicted persons up to one year before release. The program included **10 participants**, and in addition to the psychosocial support, it aimed to prepare them for successful return and reintegration into society.

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

In cooperation with the **Institute for Social Affairs**, MYLA developed a **specialized training program to build the capacity of social workers** to work with convicted and formerly convicted persons. The training is available on the **E-learning platform for professionals in the social protection system** and aims to enhance social workers' knowledge about:

- o functioning of the penitentiary system,
 - o resocialization and reintegration processes,
 - o the role of social services in post-penal support,
 - o the program enables professionals from centers for social work to acquire practical and theoretical knowledge relevant to their critical role in providing continuous support to individuals included in the process of being reintegrated into society.
- A **cycle of trainings** was held on providing post-penal support to previously convicted persons, with a participation of **99 representatives** from probation offices, centers for social work, resocialization sectors, and NGOs from **three regions** in the Republic of North Macedonia.
- **8 regional fora/roundtables** were held, with a participation of **probation officers**, representatives from **penitentiary facilities, courts, centers for social work, regional or municipal social protection councils, civil society organizations, service providers**, and **representatives from the Employment Service Agency**.

MEMORANDA OF COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF RESOCIALIZATION

- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the KPU Strumica Prison.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

- In order to raise public awareness of the importance of resocialization and reintegration, MYLA conducts activities aimed at enhancing social understanding and acceptance of convicted and formerly convicted persons.

By means of **expert statements, media appearances** and cooperation with the community, the organization emphasizes the need for systemic support to reduce recidivism and create safer communities.



LEGAL EDUCATION FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

Since MYLA's founding, one of its key activities has been to provide legal education and training to young lawyers, as one of the ways to enhance their capacities and practical legal skills.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

MYLA is committed to strengthening the role of young lawyers in the promotion of the legal profession, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights. This mission is fulfilled through continuous education and inclusion of young people in project activities that develop their knowledge and hands-on experience.

In the course of 2024, **three cycles** of the **Internship Program** were implemented, thus enabling young lawyers to gain meaningful practical experience and skills, which make them more competitive in the labor market.

A total of **42 interns** completed the program successfully, by participating in **three-month internships** in institutions and organizations in **Skopje, Tetovo, Prilep, Kumanovo, and Bitola**.

The interns were engaged in:

- o 4 Basic Courts,
- o 2 non-governmental organizations,
- o Commission for Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination,
- o Ombudsman's Offices in Skopje and Kumanovo,
- o Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning,
- o Law Firms



As part of the program, interns attended training on:

- o practical legal skills and ethical values of the profession,
- o job-seeking skills in the legal sector,
- o sensitizing in working with vulnerable groups.

Additionally, in the course of the year, **17 trainings** intended for **young lawyers, law graduates, and law students**, to further enhance their professional capacities, were held.



SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

As part of its commitment to young lawyer development, in 2024, MYLA organized a series of trainings and professional events to enhance legal skills, critical thinking, and professional integrity.

- **Two (2) trainings on academic writing standards** for authors of professional articles, published in the 5th and 6th edition of the *Legal Focus* magazine, were organized.
- One (1) training on legal reasoning and argumentation for young lawyers and law students was organized.
- One (1) training on the topic of legal research and ethical aspects in the legal profession intended for young lawyers and law students was organized.
- One (1) training on the topic of principles of communication with victims of discrimination, intended for young attorneys was organized.
- A two-day training on the topic of “Legal Aspects of the Digital Era”, intended for young attorneys and young lawyers, attended by **30 participants**, was organized.
- **One training** was held on the topic of “Active lawyers in recognizing and handling cases of public Interest”, attended by **17 young lawyers**.
- **2 roundtables/professional debates** presenting conclusions from professional articles in the 5th and 6th editions of *Legal Focus magazine* were organized.

283 law students, young lawyers, and young attorneys attended these trainings/workshops on various significant legal education topics.

HELP DESK – OFFICE FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG LAWYERS

The office provides support to young lawyers when looking for a job and internship by connecting them with potential employers and helping in the creation of a resume, motivation letters and preparation for a job interview.

MYLA maintains a database containing information in open job positions and internship/volunteering calls, which are regularly shared via e-mail. Additionally, through the Help Desk tool, the young lawyers are regularly informed about trainings and workshops for improvement of their professional capacities.

In 2024, 40 calls for employment and 50 calls for training were shared, while MYLA directly helped connect 19 law graduates with law firms and civil society organizations.

SUPPORT TO THE CAREER CENTER AT THE FACULTY OF LAW “IUSTINIANUS PRIMUS”

In the course of 2024, MYLA continued to provide financial and consulting support for the establishment and operation of the Career Center and Support Board (Alumni) at the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus”.

The Center mediates the practical work and volunteering of the law students, in collaboration with the Alumni community, relevant institutions, and online platform for mediation.

Additionally, the support included development of a **new dedicated website**, hosted as a subdomain of the faculty’s official site, with the aim of enhancing access to professional development opportunities.



PUBLICATIONS

MYLA actively works on promoting critical thinking among young lawyers on key issues related to human rights and the rule of law.

In 2024, two thematic editions of the *Legal Focus* magazine, serving as a professional forum for publishing expert articles by young authors, were published.

The 5th edition features 8 articles on the topic of Access to Justice and Inclusive Institutions, whereas the 6th edition features 8 articles on the topic of *Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*. The magazine provides a platform for idea exchange and legal discourse promotion, shaped by the new generation of legal professionals.



PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

In 2024, MYLA reinforced its commitment to protecting personal data and digital rights through public awareness-raising initiatives and by promoting legal protections in this area.

In cooperation with the Center for Legal Research and Analysis (CLRA) and the Personal Data Protection Agency, MYLA marked the European Data Protection Day under the slogan **“Empowering the Judiciary and Protecting Youth in the Digital Era”**.

The event focused on technological advancements, the need for adapting legal frameworks to digital challenges, and the risks of abuse and cybercrimes in the online space.

POLICY PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2024, MYLA conducted research and analyses on privacy and personal data protection in the digital space, focusing on legislation and institutional frameworks. The papers covered the current situation, the challenges, and specific recommendations proposed for improving practices in North Macedonia.

The following publications have been published:

- The analysis titled [“Privacy and Personal Data Protection on Social Media and Websites”](#) is a piece of research on how personal data is processed, shared, and (mis)used on digital platforms.
- The study titled [“Use of Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in the Judiciary”](#) analyzes the risks and challenges of using algorithms in court processes, in the context of fairness, transparency, and data protection.
- The paper titled [“The Role of Courts and Public Prosecutor’s Offices in the Digital Era”](#) is an assessment of the judiciary bodies’ capacity to handle digital evidence, online investigations, and personal data protection.



- The paper titled “Digitalization in the Judiciary and Personal Data Protection” is a detailed overview of the legal framework with an emphasis on balancing efficiency and fundamental rights protection in digital court proceedings.
- The “Guide on Protecting the Right to Privacy in the Digital Space Intended for Legal Professionals” offers practical guidelines for lawyers, judges, and prosecutors on privacy protection based on international standards and best practices.
- The analysis titled “Digital Privacy Protection – Analysis of the Legislation and Practice in the RNM and beyond” provides a comparative review of regulations on personal data protection in North Macedonia, the European Union and other regions.
- The policy paper titled “Towards Improved Digital Privacy Protection in the RNM” is a set of recommendations for legal changes and institutional improvements, presented to relevant stakeholders in order to encourage reforms.



As part of MYLA's joint campaign with Center for Legal Research and Analysis (CLRA), several activities were implemented to raise public awareness about personal data protection in the digital space.

- **4 educational workshops** were organized in high schools in **Skopje, Bitola, and Veles**, whereby students acquired knowledge and practical skills on recognizing and preventing online frauds and protecting personal data.
- **Thematic workshops** were held for dialogue between judiciary institutions, ministries, regulatory bodies and civil society sector on digital challenges and the application of AI in judiciary.
- **Specialized training** was held for judges, public prosecutors, and institutions on the application of national and international legal frameworks for personal data protection.
- **An advanced trainer program** was implemented to build a sustainable network of experts and long-term educational resources in the area of digital privacy.

- A **guerrilla action**, titled **“My Childhood Is My Story”**, was organized in cooperation with the artist Ozbek Ajvaz for World Children’s Day, aiming at raising awareness about children’s digital privacy and responsible online behavior.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

On the European Data Protection Day, MYLA launched the campaign titled **“Privacy Is Priceless. Protect Your Digital World!”**, which attracted significant attention and engagement by young people, citizens and area experts.

The campaign led by 15 young activists, by means of different activities and social media posts, raised awareness about online privacy and digital safety.

- **12 workshops** were organized for **186 high school students and law students** on topics such as online privacy, personal data, and cybersecurity.
- **Guerrilla actions** were organized by young activists to raise awareness of the risks of inadequate sharing of personal data.
- **9 articles** on aspects of online privacy and cybersecurity were published on MYLA’s website.
- A **survey**, showing high concern among youth about data misuse and a lack of awareness of protection mechanisms, was conducted.
- A **cybersecurity and privacy conference**, attended by institutions and civil society organizations, was held.



VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Trafficking in human beings is a serious violation of human rights and most often affects the most vulnerable groups. MYLA continuously works on identifying and providing legal protection to victims, in order to ensure full respect for their rights.

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

In 2024, through its representatives, MYLA continued to take part in the **Mobile Teams for Identification of Vulnerable Groups**, active since 2018. The organization has its representatives in the teams in **Bitola, Gevgelija, Kumanovo and Tetovo**. The mobile teams are composed of representatives of the Centers for Social Work, the Ministry of Interior - National Unit for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and civil society organizations.

Through their work in 2024, **398 persons from vulnerable groups** were covered, including **7 potential victims** and **1 identified victim** of trafficking in human beings.

- In cooperation with lawyers, MYLA provided legal advice and representation to two victims of trafficking in human beings in criminal proceedings before the competent institutions, including the **Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for Prosecution of Organized Crime and Corruption (BPPO POCC)** and the **Basic Criminal Court**. The legal aid was aimed at ensuring fair proceedings, protecting the rights of the injured parties and promoting positive judicial practice.



- In 2024, MYLA submitted 1 application for secondary legal aid to represent a victim of trafficking in human beings. One of the victims was represented by a lawyer within the free legal aid in **19 court hearings**, which resulted in a **judgement of conviction** with a total prison sentence of **47 years and 6 months** for the defendants.

Additionally, the court ordered the defendants to pay **700,000 denars** for non-pecuniary damage due to mental pain suffered. Despite the judgement, MYLA believes that the sentences are **disproportionately low**, given the gravity of the crime – **child trafficking and exploitation committed in the period from 2020 to September 2021**.

- MYLA is part of the **new working group for amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid**, which will contribute to improving access to justice for victims of trafficking in human beings, particularly children.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

- **The Mobile Team in Gevgelija** organized **two meetings** with the representatives from the local community, **Red Cross, civil society organizations, and youth groups**. These meetings aimed to provide information on recognizing trafficking in human beings, the role of the mobile team, and opportunities to report and seek support. A total of **24 participants** contributed to developing local support networks and strengthening prevention mechanisms.
- **The Mobile Team in Tetovo**, in cooperation with the Red Cross, held a **lecture at the SMI Gymnasium “Kiril Pejchinovik”**, informing students about the mobile team’s work, methods of reporting suspicions, and opportunities for seeking help. Additionally, **two info meetings with school counselors and psychologists** from various schools, focusing on the role of schools in early identification and support of potential victims, were held. A total of **39 participants** were covered.
- **The campaign titled “Privacy Is Priceless. Protect Your Digital World!”** (January–June 2024), targeting youth and enhancing awareness about online risks, exploitation, and the misuse of personal data as common methods used by traffickers to recruit victims.



Key activities:

- o Workshops with **172 high school students** and **14 law students**,
 - o Interactive social media posts,
 - o Guerrilla actions.
- **July 29, 2024 – World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.**
Activities were organized by a call for action and **raising visibility of the issue**.
 - A **series of social media posts**: Topics on child victims of trafficking in human beings and its forms - forced labor, begging, illegal adoption, recruitment into armed groups, and sexual exploitation.
 - **October 18, 2024 – European Anti-Trafficking Day**: Marked by a series of informational posts on social media.
 - MYLA participated in a media story by “*Sloboden Pechat*” focusing on labor exploitation of seasonal workers. A MYLA representative pointed out the legal risks and lack of institutional protection for these persons, emphasizing the need for timely prevention and legal support.



BUILDING RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

In the context of increasing global and regional challenges related to violent extremism, radicalization, and the need for inclusive responses, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association continued to actively contribute to the development of sustainable protection and prevention mechanisms.

In the course of 2024, MYLA implemented activities aimed at promoting cooperation between institutions, civil society sector and international partners, as well as enhancing the capacities of local multidisciplinary teams.

These efforts focused on developing integrated approaches to prevention, resocialization, and reintegration of vulnerable categories of persons, with the purpose of creating safer and more resilient communities.

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

- A **regional conference on the prevention of violent extremism-experiences of representatives of state institutions and non-governmental organizations**, attended by representatives from Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Montenegro, was organized.
- A **roundtable** on the topic of “The System for Preventing Violent Extremism and Combating Terrorism in the RNM”, attended by representatives of the National Committee for PVE/CT, NGOs, and international organizations, was held. Comparative experiences from Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina were presented, and the event resulted in conclusions and recommendations for improving the national system.
- **Activities to enhance the capacities of local multidisciplinary teams** to work with radicalized persons, foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) returnees and their family members were implemented.
- **Seven (7) meeting with the multidisciplinary teams** (Skopje, Kumanovo, Gostivar, Prilep, Kicevo, Makedonski Brod, and Stip) were held.

- **Three (3) two-day joint workshops** were organized for multidisciplinary teams from Prilep Prison, Idrizovo Penitentiary Facility, Stip Penitentiary Facility, and Kumanovo Prison.
- **Two (2) two-day trainings for local multidisciplinary** teams on the topic of providing post-penal treatment and support for formerly convicted persons/FTF returnees were conducted.

Through these activities, MYLA has strengthened its role as a relevant actor in the area of prevention of violent extremism and promotion of inclusive policies at local and national level.

By building on the knowledge gained and partnerships established, the organization will continue to develop integrated approaches that recognize the complexity of radicalization and the importance of coordinated action.

In the upcoming period, special emphasis will be placed on monitoring the implementation of adopted recommendations, ongoing support for multidisciplinary teams and developing sustainable solutions based on fairness, respect for human rights and community resilience.



INCLUSION OF FOREIGNERS – ACCESS TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

The Macedonian Young Lawyers Association actively works on improving the protection and promoting the rights of foreigners, with a particular focus on the economic and social rights of vulnerable individuals in the Western Balkans

By means of regional cooperation, capacity building for institutions and civil society organizations, as well as research and advocacy, MYLA contributes to inclusive policy making that facilitates access to basic rights and supports the social and economic integration of foreigners.

These activities are part of a broader regional effort to ensure equal treatment and institutional support for persons in vulnerable migration situations.

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

- **4 grants were awarded** to local organizations in North Macedonia under the initiative *“Inclusion of Foreigners in the Western Balkans – Access to Social and Economic Rights”*.
- Additional **19 grants were awarded** to organizations in Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to strengthen their role in protecting foreigners in local contexts.
- A **training was organized** on the topic of *“Access to Justice and Legal Protection for Foreigners”* attended by **20 representatives** from competent institutions and non-governmental organizations.
 - Trainings covering the same topic were conducted **in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania**, with a total of **62 participants** from institutions and the civil society sector.
- **Two (2) regional train-the-trainer trainings were organized** in Montenegro and Serbia, aimed at building the capacity of organizations and institutions across the region, attended by **57 representatives** from Western Balkan countries.

These activities directly contribute to strengthening regional cooperation, the standardization of approaches, and the improvement of the legal and social status of foreigners in the region.

POLICY PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

IN THE AREA OF INCLUSION OF FOREIGNERS, THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY PAPERS WERE PUBLISHED:

- **Six (6) analyses** on the legal frameworks for the social and economic rights of vulnerable categories of foreigners in all Western Balkan countries (North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro).
- **One (1) analysis** on the legal framework for the social and economic rights of vulnerable categories of foreigners in North Macedonia.

This analysis is designed to contribute to the promotion of the harmonization of national legal frameworks with EU principles regarding human freedoms and rights, as well as the adoption of non-discriminatory policies and effective practices for the inclusion of vulnerable categories of foreigners as one of the preconditions for a successful implementation of the EU accession process, but also sustainable development of the Western Balkan countries.



YOUTH ACTIVISM FOR GREENER MUNICIPALITIES

In the course of 2024, MYLA continued to implement the activities focused on youth activism for greener municipalities, the purpose of which is enhanced influence of youth activists and youth organizations in environmental protection policies and processes implemented at the local level.

Two (2) significant conferences were held on this topic:

- In February 2024, a conference titled “Youth Initiatives for a Sustainable Local Environment”, which gathered young activists, representatives of civil society and youth organization and organizations for youth, as well as representatives of the municipalities to discuss the importance of youth impact on environmental protection and climate change at local level, was held.
 - Discussions at the conference also addressed the need for legal, mentoring, and activist support to take initiatives for environmental protection at local level, as well as identifying challenges encountered by youth in implementing the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies.
- In September 2024 in Skopje, a conference titled “Empowered Youth and Youth Organizations – Joint Action for Greener Municipalities” was held. The conference was attended by young activists, representatives from civil society and youth organizations and representatives from the municipalities.
- The main topic was youth involvement in environmental protection at local level, benefits of newly established local youth councils, the challenges and activities undertaken by young people.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FOR INDEPENDENT AND EFFICIENT JUDICIARY

IN 2024, MYLA CONTINUED TO COORDINATE
THE BLUEPRINT GROUP FOR JUDICIAL REFORMS.

POLICY PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Blueprint Group for judicial reforms developed:

- A Report on the Drafting Process of the Judicial Reform Strategy for 2024–2028. For the purpose of monitoring the strategy, a new monitoring methodology was also developed and updated, which, among other things, should also serve for evaluating the adoption of envisaged laws, taking measures for their implementation, as well as other measures and activities aimed at achieving its goals.

PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS FOR DRAFTING LAWS AND BY-LAWS IN THE AREA OF JUDICIARY

The Blueprint Group work continued through its membership and nomination of its representatives in various working groups for drafting laws, including:

- Law amending and supplementing the Law on the Judicial Council of Republic of North Macedonia,
- Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office,
- Representative of the Blueprint Group in the Council for coordination of information and communication technology in judiciary institutions – ICT Council.



SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

- **Five (5) roundtables were organized** to discuss phenomena, identified by the Blueprint Group, having a negative impact and requiring urgent addressing, joint cooperation with stakeholders and rapid intervention by the institutions in charge.
- 5 policy papers on 5 (five) significant topics were developed: dysfunctionality of legally foreseen monetary compensation for victims of violent crimes, access to expert witness for beneficiaries of secondary legal aid and challenges in this process, problem with lay judges in criminal proceedings, identified and well-known shortcomings in administrative and administrative court proceedings, and finally, (non)uniformity of case law and its impact on legal certainty. The papers are publicly available on the official Blueprint Group' website.
- **A final conference titled “Judiciary Reforms – what happened to the independence and efficiency in the judiciary?”**, featuring three panel discussions regarding the past reforms in the judiciary and their impact on the independence and efficiency in the judiciary; the new Development Strategy 2024–2028 and its possible implications, and the position of the judiciary in the EU Accession Rule of Law Roadmap and the alignment of the new strategy with this roadmap, was held.

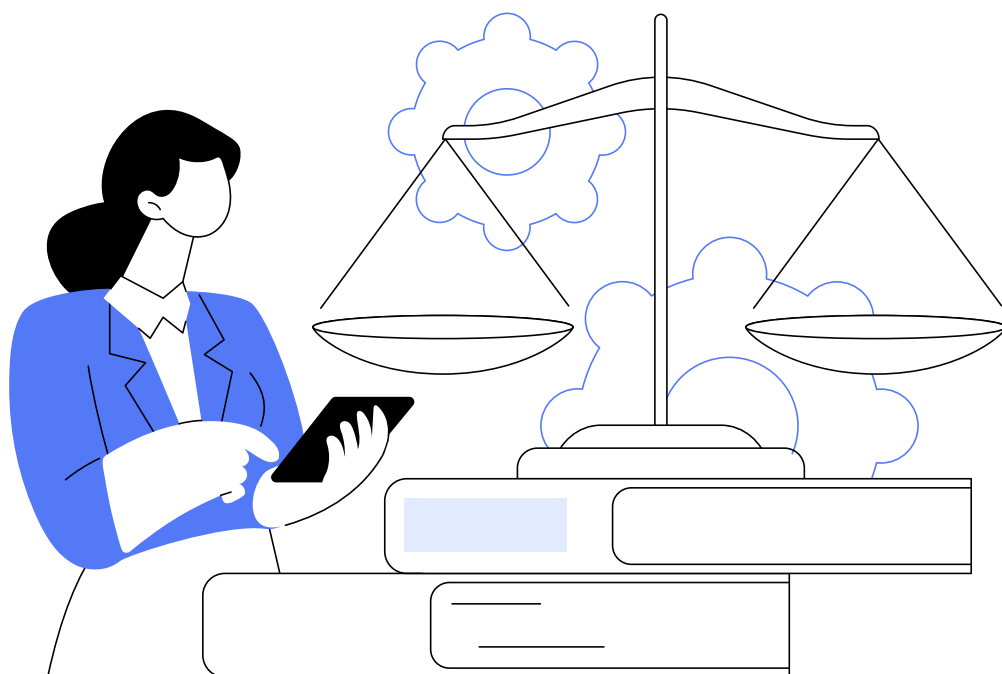


OTHER ACTIVITIES

- In the course of 2024, MYLA submitted **expert opinions and comments** on several draft laws with the aim of promoting **human rights protection** and aligning national legislation with international standards. Comments were submitted on the following laws:
 - Law on Health Insurance,
 - Law on Primary Education,
 - Law on Secondary Education,
 - Law on Adult Education,
 - Law on Vocational Education,
 - Law on Civil Registry.

Through these interventions, MYLA gave a specific contribution to **enhanced inclusiveness, legal certainty, and better protection of the rights of vulnerable groups**.

Additionally, as a partner in the **National Monitoring Mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, in September 2024, MYLA submitted comments on the **set of proposed amendments to education laws**, with an emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring equal access to education.



- Within the “Labor Rights for Independent Journalism” project implemented by the Independent Trade Union of Journalists and Media Workers (SSNM) and the Research Institute on Social Development – RESIS, funded by the European Union, MYLA developed two publications dedicated to the labor rights protection for journalists and media workers.

The following publication have been published:

- o Protection and Opportunities for Exercising Labor Rights of Journalists and Media Workers – A Comparative Analysis
- o Labor Rights of Journalists and Media Workers – The Legal Framework of the Republic of North Macedonia

These papers contribute to mapping legislative and institutional challenges, as well as targeting reform-oriented recommendations for promoting labor rights in the media sector.

- In November 2024, **MYLA joined the Network of lawyers and NGOs providing legal and psychosocial support to women victims of violence**, initiated by the Council of Europe. The network aims to enhance protection by means of professional engagement, timely response, and compliance with international standards.

MYLA supported the commitments for implementation of dynamic risk assessment, effective investigations, prevention of secondary victimization and systematic training for institutions. By informing the public and involving relevant professionals, MYLA contributed to expanding the network and advocated for greater cross-sectoral cooperation in combating domestic and gender-based violence.

- MYLA celebrated December 10, the International Human Rights Day, by launching the **"Navigator"** online game - an educational tool that creatively brings human rights closer to the public. The game features nine interactive "planets of knowledge", each covering a topic related to fundamental rights and freedoms. MYLA took part in developing the game, particularly in designing human rights questions adjusted to a broad audience.

By a visually engaging design and accessible language, "Navigator" offers an opportunity for informal learning, fostering understanding, curiosity and engagement. The game is part of the broader commitment of MYLA to educate and raise public awareness about human rights.

- In 2024, MYLA joined the public debate on human rights and public transport, emphasizing that freedom of movement is a key precondition for realizing other human rights such as the right to health care, education, and access to work. Via [social media post](#), MYLA pointed out that the condition of public bus transport in Skopje undermines the dignity and safety of citizens, in particular low-income persons, residents of suburban neighborhoods, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- MYLA filed a complaint to the Ombudsman regarding public transport in Skopje, pointing out that public transport disruptions violate basic human rights, such as freedom of movement, education, health care and dignified life. The complaint called for urgent institutional action and accountability for competent bodies, including the Council of the City of Skopje, Public Transport Company (JSP), and the Ministry of Transport.
- MYLA [posted information](#) and expressed an expert view in a [TV show](#) on national television regarding possible financial and legal consequences of issuing personal documents bearing the country's old name, informing the public about the potential for damage compensation in cases where the direct link between the documents and damage caused can be proved.

- MYLA took part in a debate show discussing the shortcomings of the new draft-laws on primary and secondary education, and pointed out the need for clear and unambiguous legal protection of all students against discrimination, and emphasized that the educational system must enable mechanisms to recognize, report, and prevent such cases.
- On the occasion of October 25 – European Day for Civil Justice, MYLA participated in a national TV show titled “Do Citizens Know Their Basic Rights?” The show reviewed the challenges encountered by citizens in accessing justice, legal awareness and the need for a more efficient legal aid system.
- MYLA also participated in a podcast episode of *Your Financial Coach* on the topic of quick loans.
MYLA representative joined the expert discussion on legal risks and implications related to taking quick loans, emphasizing the consequences of uninformed borrowing and the importance of reading contracts involving high interest rates carefully.
- In Negotino, a small group of individuals, led by the activist Simon Andov, launched an initiative which made a change for the persons with disabilities in the community.

By the support of MYLA and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the initiative titled “I Am a PART Too” managed to mainstream the need for accessible infrastructure, using field research, visual tools, and public engagement.

As a result of their commitments, the reconstruction of sidewalks in the center of the town, a tangible step toward a more inclusive community, began.



ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE

In the course of 2024, the Assembly of the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association held two sessions — one extraordinary and one regular annual session:

- **The extraordinary session**, held on **August 14, 2024**, was convened for the election of a new President. **Bojana Bozinovska Siljanovska** was elected as the new President of MYLA.
- **The regular annual session** was held on **December 16, 2024**, featuring the presentation and unanimous adoption of:
 - o The Annual Report on the work of MYLA,
 - o The Final Account and Financial Plan for 2024,
 - o The Report on the work of the Management Board.

Additionally, a decision was made **to extend the mandates of two members of the Management Board**.

Current members of the Management Board of MYLA are **Dime Gjorcheski, Borjanka Monevska, Ljupka Noveska Andonova, Ana Bozarova, and Filip Gochevski**.



HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2024, MYLA team consisted of **28 persons**, of whom **25 employees** and **3 persons hired under a service contract**. According to the gender structure, **79% are women**, and **21% are men**.

According to educational and professional background:

- **23 persons are law graduates**, 12 of whom have passed the bar exam,
- **3 persons work in the field of finance**,
- **1 person is in charge of communications**,
- **2 persons are interpreters/translators** for Arabic, Urdu, and Farsi.

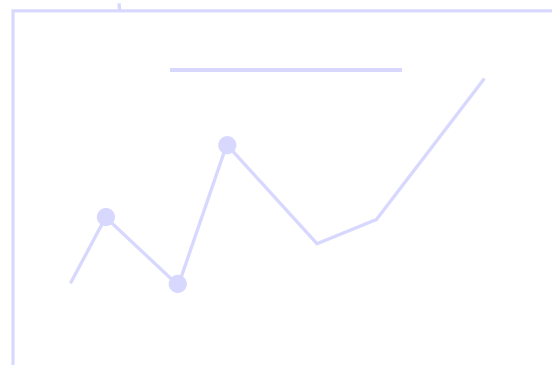
MYLA continuously invests in the professional development of its team through participation in trainings, study visits and capacity-building activities.



FINANCES

Funds for the implementation of program activities and coverage of operational costs of the Association in 2024 were mainly secured through **grants and donations**, and to a lesser extent through **own sources of income and membership fees**. The **Income and Expenditure Account** as well as the **Balance Sheet** are publicly available on MYLA [website](#).

List of realized income from donors and other sources (in thousands of denars)	2024
European Commission	30.769.945,00
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	2.036.441,00
UNHCR	12.688.020,00
Sigrid Rausing Trust	9.544.310,00
Danish Refugee Council	215.286,00
GCERF	12.720.640,00
ABA Fund for Justice & Education	318.486,00
Roche Macedonia	550.000,00
CIVICA	79.910,00
Council of Europe	1.172.052,00
UNDP	612.642,00
CLRA – EU (Center for Legal Research and Analysis)	2.189.439,00
Income from services	1.006.855,00
Excess income over expenses from the previous year	36.000.193,00
Own income from membership fees	17.400,00
Interest and foreign exchange gains	2.041,00
Other income	46.205,00
Returned funds of grants from previous years	1.742.970,00
TOTAL INCOME	108.226.895,00





MYLA

SKOPJE, 2025