

OPEN COURTS - ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

In 2012, the National Office for Judiciary has started an education programme in the secondary schools in the name of transparent and open justice, called „**Open Courts Programme**”.

The motto of the program is “You are afraid of what you do not know”.

The Tribunal of Miskolc joined this programme, starting from November 2012.

The primary aim of the programme is, that the younger generation (between at the age of 12-18 years) get an insight into the world of judiciary, thereby get more information about the basic legal rules, in order to help them to be confident and staid adults.

The key focuses of the programme are: crime prevention and the avoidance of the victimization of the younger generation. In order to achieve these aims, the programme pays particular attention to warn the younger generation of the crimes, which are mostly affected them. Thereby contribute to reduce the number of crimes, which are comitted related especially to the youth. The implementation of the programme is continous, the area of it is Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. (North-Eastern Region of Hungary.)

At the beginning of the programme, the tribunal has contacted each secondary school, located in the county, and published a call for application for the judges and for the judicial staff, who are working in the operational area of the tribunal. (Tribunal of Miskolc and each district court in the county.)

Firstly eight judges and fifteen court clerks joined the programme, now in the 2014/2015. academic year the range of lecturers increased to thirty seven professionals.

The tribunal developed a detailed training plan and made education materials, publications.

1. If the secondary school asks, the tribunal’s involved professionals perform an approximately two hours long civic study lesson for the students, involved interactive materials. The presentation includes basic informations about the independence of justice and judges, so about the structure of the judicial system, the rules of competence and jurisdiction, and the main branches of law. During the presentation, the professionals - interactively cooperating with the students – describe the basic legal definitons, make „Who Knows What about the Judiciary” tests. The primary aim of the lesson is to prepare the students for the situations that may occur in their life, relating to the judiciary. (how to behave in the courtroom, rights and obligations, testification, etc.)

In order to the efficiently fix this knowledge , the professionals raise special, thematic cases, such as:

- I downloaded a CD, may I copy it for my friends legally?
- What could be the consequences, if I share my personal data on the Facebook? Dangers of the Internet.

2./ It is an innovative, new method that after the legal lecture in the schools, the programme is revolving with a simulation of a trial, so the trial is shown by the students (students play the judge, defendant prosecutor, lawyer, witness etc.,). The student can learn the fundamental rules of the trial through playing. For example, the title of the simulation in 2012 was: Honey Addiction of Winnie the Pooh.

3./ In the third part students can visit the building of courts: at the appointed time, with a teacher they can have a walk in the building of the Tribunal of Miskolc, they can visit and participate on a real trial (which fits to their age) and after, with the judge they can talk about the case. During this visit many students saw for example the trial of human trafficking.

It is important to emphasize that they can easily fall prey to human trafficking when they enter employment abroad. Foreign countries hold out a hope to make money easily, but it can be very dangerous for young girls.