1. INTRODUCTION

The last two issues of the present journal presented the IRZ in general (Harmonius 2012, p. 191 et seq.) as well as the journals co-published by the IRZ in Southeast Europe (Harmonius 2013, p. 359 et seq.). In continuation, the current issue aims to give its readers an insight into the activities of the IRZ by providing topical examples, in particular as regards the basic and further training of legal experts in Southeast Europe, followed by a presentation of the most recent IRZ publications for Southeast Europe and, finally, information as to where these publications can be found on the Internet, also with reference to the two websites “antidiskriminacijanacija.info” and “evropskopravo.info” set up in 2014.

2. TRAINING LEGAL EXPERTS

Regular cooperation with institutions in charge of the basic and/or further training of legal experts in the respective partner states is one of the main focuses of IRZ activities. In the author’s project area within the university area in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the two main institutions are the Law Faculty of Sarajevo, and in Serbia the Law Faculty of Belgrade. The IRZ has for some years been organising a supplementary study course on German law, in cooperation with the Law Faculty in Sarajevo, which is given in German. This study course is aimed at offering students an introduction to German law, but also to the legal
day-to-day business in Germany, with a view to improving their opportunities of securing an assignment within the field of international legal relations with Germany or with regard to the integration of their home country into the EU upon the completion of their studies. In Belgrade, the Masters study course in EU Integration is supported and has a similar target.1

3. FURTHER TRAINING OF LEGAL EXPERTS

The IRZ, which principally targets legal practitioners, is particularly active within the further training of legal practitioners. There is particularly intensive and regular cooperation in place within the “Southeast Europe Central” project area, encompassing Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia, with the institutions in charge of the further training of judges and public prosecutors in these countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, these are the Training Centres of both entities,2 in Macedonia, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors,3 in Montenegro the Judicial Training Centre4 and in Serbia the Judicial Academy.5 Here topical issues according to current needs are covered, with a focus on the practical application of law. Furthermore, classes are offered in German legal terminology and training for other legal professions, such as attorneys-at-law. The range of further training is supplemented by conferences and congresses as well as internships for different legal professions. The following is a brief outline including some examples from the past two years showing the wide range of themes covered by these activities.

1 Cf. http://pogestei.ius.bg.ac.rs/ and as an example of the many activities of the study course e.g. the report “Serbian law students enjoy study trip to EU institutions” at http://www.norveska.org.rs/News_and_events/News-and-events1/Serbian-law-students-enjoy-study-trip-to-EU-institutions/#.VFUQ5hZATBY and http://www.prva.rs/web-tv/info/tacno1/14798/tacno-1---21102014/45185/master-evropskih-integracija.html.


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3.1. Bosnia and Herzegovina

One of the most prominent events in the IRZ’s project work in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2014 was the conference on the new property law in the Federation. This is an example for the support of an effective and expedient implementation of a long awaited law since the new act relating to rights *in rem* of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been expected for years and entered into force (as late as) in 2014. In effect, this removes certain relics of Socialism in this important field of law (important also in economic terms), and on the other hand it also takes over legal institutions from German and Austrian laws, resulting in an equally great demand for information regarding the relevant legal practice in these countries. Only two days after this law had entered into effect on 7 March 2014, the IRZ managed to organise the well-attended conference “The New Property Law in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina” in cooperation with its co-organisers, the Law Faculty of the University of Sarajevo and the Regional Austrian Cooperation Office in Science and Culture. This conference covered in particular the German, Austrian and Croatian experiences with the new legal institutions of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The international speakers were Mr Andreas Luckow of *Verband Deutscher Pfandbriefbanken* (Association of German covered bond banks) in Berlin, Professor Dr Tatjana Josipovic of the Law Faculty of the University of Zagreb and University Professor Mag. phil. Mag. Dr iur. Tomislav Boric of the Law Faculty of the Karl Franzens University of Graz. Furthermore, the Director of the Open Regional Funds for Southeast Europe, Legal Reform of GIZ, Mr Christian Athenstaedt, gave an overview of the advice provided by his organisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as regards commercial law, in particular property law, reform. The representative of the German Embassy, Mr Christian Reissmueller, highlighted the good cooperation of different German organisations and their Austrian colleagues in his address.

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7 The author who was trained in German law dispenses with a differentiation between the entry into force and the application of provisions.
After all, this shows the great significance which these organisations attach to the setting-up of a system according to the principles of a constitutional state (*Rechtsstaat, pravna država*) in their country. All speakers emphasised the importance of the Act; however, they also pointed out that this Act should have been adopted years ago. The event, which also generated broad media coverage, is another milestone in the long-standing successful cooperation between the IRZ and the Law Faculty of Sarajevo.

Some months earlier, on 20 November 2013, the series of events headlined “Days of German Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina” celebrated its fifth anniversary. Once a year this deals with issues relating to German law and its reception as well as European law and is organised by the IRZ in cooperation with the German-Bosnian-Herzegovinian Lawyers’ Association BHJV in addition to an alternating law faculty from one of the country’s universities. After the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had previously hosted the conference, in 2013 the host was the Law Faculty of the University of Pale in Republika Srpska. The topic of the event was the civil and public law aspects of anti-discrimination law. It was opened by the Dean, *Prof. Dr Prof. Dr Milan Tomic*, and the IRZ, and there followed welcome addresses by the Permanent Representative of the German Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Mr Adran Pollmann*. He pointed out that this series of events illustrates German bilateral support for the transformation of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has been ongoing for half a decade. The speakers were *Prof. Dr Goran Marković, Prof. Dr Dijana Marković-Bajalović, Prof. Dr Ranka Račić, Prof. Dr Jasmina Gradaščević-Sjierčić, Prof. Dr Meliha Povlakic, Prof. Dr Zlatan Meškić*, as well as the bilingual German attorneys-at-law *Dr Karolina Mihaljevic-Schulz*, Berlin, and *Doc. Dr Darko Samardžić*, Hanover. Emphasis was repeatedly placed on the fact that this event focused exclusively on legal aspects, whereas the anti-discrimination law in Bosnia and Herzegovina is usually discussed in a political context. This facilitated a factual discussion even of controversial topics among the participants, comprising law experts from all ethnic groups of the country. As all the speakers, including those from Germany, spoke the local language, a spontaneous and direct discussion was possible without the need for interpreters.
3.2. Macedonia

The IRZ cooperates closely with the European Court of Human Rights in the Western Balkans, issuing publications on the ECHR and the case law of the ECtHR translated into the respective national languages which are thereupon presented with publicity effect in cooperation with the respective national project partners of the IRZ and are additionally posted by the ECtHR on its homepage.

The most recent activity in this context involved the Macedonian versions of the “Führer zu Art. 5 EMRK” (guide to Art. 5 ECHR) and the “Forschungsbericht über die positiven Verpflichtungen gemäß Art. 10 EMRK” (Research Report on Positive Commitments pursuant to Art. 10 ECHR) set up by the IRZ. These were presented at an event on 24 October 2014 which was organised by the IRZ in cooperation with the ombudsman, the Bar Association and the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and generated broad media coverage. The Macedonian Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Dr Mirjana Lazarova Trajkovska, gave a presentation which dealt with the topical issue “The Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights with Regard to the Freedom of Expression and the Internet”, which was well received and was followed by a lively discussion. The event was opened with a welcome address by the German Ambassador Dr Christine D. Althauser. The other speakers were the Deputy Ombudsman, Ms Vaska Bajramovska-Mustafa, the Deputy President of the Bar Association, Mr Boro Tasevski, and Mr Donche Boskovski, a Council of Europe project member. The presented publication is an addition to the publications issued by the IRZ in the Macedonian language until now.

8 Some links to press articles related to the promotion written in Macedonian are http://www.dw.de/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%B1%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B0%D1%82-%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BE%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D1%83%D0%B4%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BD%E0%B4%8D1%82%D1%82%8D1%80%8D1%83%8D1%80/a-18022744?maca=maz-rss-maz-pol_makedonija_timemk-4727-xml-mrss (Deutsche Welle) and http://www.mia.mk/mk/Inside/RenderSingleGalleryTest/132342264/1?month=10&year=2014&day=24&desc=0 as well as http://www.mia.mk/mk/Inside/RenderSingleNews/380/132342144# (both Macedonian New Agency MIA).
These include, *inter alia*, a translation of the German Code of Criminal Procedure (*StPO*), which is provided with an introduction adapted to the legal situation in Macedonia, highlighting the advantages of rules of procedure oriented towards Continental Europe.

Macedonia, however, was also the venue of regional events organised by the IRZ.

One example is the regional conference “Judicial Ethics and Fight against Corruption in the Judiciary: Comparative Experiences and Common Challenges”, which the IRZ organised in cooperation with the German Association of Judges and the Macedonian Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors in Skopje, Macedonia, on 14 and 15 November 2013. One of the results of the presentations and discussions was that both the states of Southeast Europe and Germany want to increase trust in the judiciary by strengthening judicial ethics and by preventing and combating corruption. However, they differ not only as regards their point of departure but also in the way they approach this issue. Nevertheless, these very differences gave rise to a particularly fruitful dialogue. The German Ambassador Ms Gudrun Steinacker gave a welcome address at this event, which was attended by judges as well as by representatives of the further training institutions for judges and public prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The speakers were the Judge at the Macedonian Supreme Court (ret.) Ljubinka Muratovska-Markovska, the Director of the Academy and Head of the Macedonian GRECO Delegation, Aneta Arnaudovksa, her German counterpart, Marcus Busch of the Federal Ministry of Justice, as well as the Vice-President of the German Association of Judges, the Judge at the Higher Regional Court, Andrea Titz. The event focused, among other topics, on the evaluation of the judiciary by GRECO (Groupe d’Etats contre la Corruption), which will soon be carried out in Macedonia and Germany.

The presentations and contributions to the discussions showed that judicial ethics is understood as a compulsory system of rules in the transformation states and one that is reinforced by sanctions. In Germany, an extensive codification of ethical rules of conduct is viewed with scepticism. The judges and public prosecutors of the transformation states are committed to disclosing their financial situation, and they are forbidden to engage in any political activities. This was substanti-
ated by one of the discussants with regard to the “mental condition” prevailing in these societies. This condition, the speaker continued, was characterised by great national, religious and political sensitivities in the states of former Yugoslavia. Against this background, he concluded, an explicit political activity of judges might be detrimental to the reputation of the judiciary, which is in any case still struggling to establish its credibility. Cases of corruption in the judiciary were not denied by some discussants. However, it should not be concluded from this that the whole judiciary was steeped in corruption. After all, it was stated, it was the individual personality of a judge that mattered.

Furthermore, a publication was presented which deals with the theses on judicial ethics and exemplary cases drawn up by the respective working group of the Association of Judges in Macedonian and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian translations. This publication gives the judges from the region the opportunity to deal with these materials and the related German discussion independently.

3.3. Montenegro

Most IRZ activities with regard to Southeast Europe also take place in the respective states. However, in those cases where a direct insight into the German practice is necessary, working visits to Germany are also organised. As the participants in such visits will no doubt confirm, there is always an intensive and busy programme awaiting them. This also applies to the different delegations of notaries from Montenegro who came on working visits to Bonn and Cologne in 2014, jointly organised by the Rheinische Notarkammer (Chamber of Notaries of the Rhine district), the Chamber of Notaries of Montenegro and the IRZ. These visits took place within the context of a long-standing partnership between the notaries of the Regional Court District of Bonn and notaries in Montenegro, both Bonn and Montenegro having approximately the same number of notaries and comparable population sizes. It should be pointed out that this partnership was initiated by the notaries’ associations involved. Its main focus is the support of the notary system established in Montenegro three years ago through an exchange of experience between practitioners. The varied pro-

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9 Another figure in this context is the fact that the IRZ has slightly more employees than the number mentioned in the notary districts, i.e. slightly above fifty.
gramme of the second group, headed by the Deputy President of the Montenegrin Chamber of Notaries, *Darko Curic*, and accompanied by the Head of the Notary Division of the Montenegrin Ministry of Justice, *Jadranka Vuckovic*, in October 2014, included a visit to the Regional Court in Bonn. The delegation was welcomed by the President of the Regional Court, *Gräfin Margarete von Schwerin*, and this was followed by a visit to the Commercial Register and the Land Register. The Judge at the Regional Court, Walter Cuno, gave a presentation about the “Conversion of the Commercial Register and the Land Register into e-registers”. Thereupon the delegation visited the IRZ, where it was welcomed by IRZ Director Dirk Mirow. At this meeting, the group learnt about the experience and role of the IRZ during the transformation of law in Southeast Europe in general and in the field of the notary system in particular. The Montenegrin delegation also visited a notary’s office, where it obtained detailed information about office organisation and different procedures, with electronic communication in the focus of interest here as well. At the premises of the *Rheinische Notarkammer* (Chamber of Notaries of the Rhine district), the delegation then discussed the function, organisation and work procedures of a chamber of notaries. The programme was rounded off by a presentation on the topic “Drafting and Processing of Property Development Contracts”, given by the Bonn-based notary *Dr Hanns-Jakob Pützer*, who is also the initiator of the partnership.

The working visit by the Montenegrin notaries was not a “one-way street”, since it also provided the opportunity for the German participants to obtain information about current trends and problems inherent in Montenegro’s notary system. Hence they learnt that with the upcoming reform of the law on non-disputed proceedings in Montenegro (which corresponds to the *FGG-Verfahren* (procedure pursuant to the law of voluntary jurisdiction)). The jurisdiction for composition proceedings is to be transferred to the notaries. This is why there is considerable need for training in this field. Furthermore, a reform of company law is under preparation. It is not yet settled in this regard whether notaries are to be made competent for capital company matters as well – something which would definitely contribute to an increase in legal certainty in this important area.
3.4. Serbia

Another example for regional activities is the regional conference on the “Protection of the Right to Freedom and Security and the Ban on Torture” organised jointly by the Serbian Constitutional Court and the IRZ in the Serbian city of Zlatibor in June 2014. Apart from the judges of the hosting Serbian Constitutional Court and its President, Ms Vesna Ilic Prelic, the conference participants included the Presidents of the Constitutional Courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Valerija Galic, of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr Katja Senjak, of the Macedonian Constitutional Court, Ms Elena Goseva, and of the Montenegrin Constitutional Court, Ms Desanka Lopicic. Further participants comprised judges from the above-mentioned courts and academic staff members of the Serbian Constitutional Court. The conference focused on an intensive exchange regarding the individual case law of the participants’ countries. In addition, the former judge at the German Federal Constitutional Court, Dr Dieter Hömig, and the present Macedonian judge at the ECtHR, Dr Mirjana Lazarova Trajkovska, gave introductions into the relevant case law of their own courts. The discussion focused on the violation of human rights by unlawful pre-trial detention orders. The attending Constitutional Court judges from Southeast Europe unanimously criticised the fact that in many of the region’s states pre-trial detention orders are issued too quickly, although the mandatory legal requirements are not fulfilled, and that they are substantiated in a very formulaic way. Some participants also expressed their concern about the danger of relativising the absolute ban on torture as a consequence of voices in American literature which consider preventive torture, for instance in the fight against international terrorism, to be admissible. It was pointed out with regard to the relationship to the ECtHR that the Constitutional Courts of the region are aware of its decisions and also quote them in their judgements. However, this is not enough for effective protection of citizens’ rights in this state, as such legal protection is not only dependent on the Constitutional Court. Therefore, it is important for the ordinary jurisdiction to follow the decisions of the national Constitutional Courts and the ECtHR, and as the President of the Serbian Constitutional Court, Ms Vesna Ilic Prelic, put it in her conclusion, it is important “for the ordinary courts to start thinking like Constitutional Courts”.
4. PUBLICATIONS

To complete the picture, in addition to the aforementioned translations dealing with the ECHR and the case law of the ECtHR, reference should also be made to some recent IRZ publications in Southeast European languages. Through the publication of books and journals, the IRZ has long supported regional exchange, but also familiarity with German law in Southeast Europe. The latter is achieved thanks, *inter alia*, to a series of publications providing translations (complete with commentaries) of German laws and of monographs and textbooks which are also of interest in these states. In this context the following translations have so far been published, *inter alia*: the German Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO), the German “Guidelines for Criminal Proceedings and Proceedings Concerning Regulatory Offences (RiStBV)”, which govern in particular the cooperation between public prosecutors and the police, and the 10th book of the German Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO) (which contains the German law on arbitration), but also provisions covering the laws of the German Federal States, such as the Bavarian Law Examination Rules (JAP). Other publications include textbooks on European law, a volume of lectures on administrative law and administrative jurisdiction as well as a monograph by the former President of the Federal Constitutional Court, *Professor Dr Jutta Limbach*, and another constitutional monograph by *Professor Dr Hans Vorländer*. A Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS) translation of the German insurance contract law (VVG) has now been issued within these activities. Hence, the text of this German law is now also available in a language that is spoken by most law professionals in the successor states of the former Yugoslavia. Furthermore, a detailed introduction which also refers to the law of the region provides for an easier understanding of the text of the German law by regional readers. (Authors: *Dr Slavko Djordjevic*, a German-speaking professor at the Law Faculty of Kragujevac, Serbia, and *Dr Slavko Samardzic*, a German lawyer with a Serbian background.) The former President of the Serbian Insurance Law Association, *Professor Dr Jovan Slavnic*, made a contribution in which he submits some suggestions for the future regulation of insurance contracts in Serbian law based on German law. This provides an important contribution to the discussion of the statutory regulation of this field of law, which is also being conducted in the context of the considerations for the creation of a uniform code.
of civil law in these states. There is a foreword by the Chairman of the Executive Board of the German Insurance Association GDV, Dr Jörg Freiherr Frank von Fürstenwerth, and by the acting President of the Serbian Insurance Law Association, Professor Dr Slobodan Jovanovic. The publication is part of the IRZ’s long-standing cooperation with the above-mentioned Serbian Association in the field of insurance law, which the GDV regularly supports with speakers.

But also the publication of law journals which have already been presented within this journal continued. The 1/2014 issue of Nova Pravna Revija – Casopis za domace, njemacko i evropsko pravo (Neue Juristische Umschau – Zeitschrift für regionales, deutsches und europäisches Recht or NPR (new judicial survey – journal for regional, German and European law)), which is published as a joint Bosnian-Herzegovinian-Serbian project, but also provides a platform for authors from other Southeast European states, focused on the law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is covered in five contributions. The themes range from problems regarding service in civil proceedings, issues regarding acquisition in good faith in the case law of the Supreme Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina through to the possibilities for administration arrangements in insolvencies in national law. However, this issue also deals with questions of Serbian law, namely the recognition and execution of foreign notarial deeds, as well as current developments in European law. The journal furthermore contains practical information. It includes, for instance, an article which outlines in detail which sources of law and other material on European law can now be found on the internet regarding the accession of Croatia to the EU for readers from the region lacking foreign language skills. As a contribution to the current discussion in the region on this topic, examples of the administrative regulations of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia with regard to the official appraisal of judges are given in translation and annotated with reference to the standards in the region. It becomes especially clear in this context that in Germany, in contrast with the countries in the region, it is not so much the number of processed cases and the duration of proceedings which are assessed but rather the soft skills of the individual judges. This could be due to the fact that the image of a judge in Southeast Europe apparently still differs significantly from that in Germany. The broad spectrum of the journal, as outlined above, is similarly completed in this issue with book reviews and event reports.
The journal “Evropsko Pravo” (European Law, or EP) is published by the IRZ in Macedonia. Its choice of topics is more specific than NPR, but it is as committed in its outlook and as content-rich. The 1/2014 issue contains contributions regarding European investigation order, the consumers’ right to revoke a contract, European standards on freedom of expression and the European banking union. It also deals with the question as to whether a codified European administrative procedure can be put into practice or must remain a dream. The section “European Human Rights and the Case Law of the ECtHR” furthermore outlines the role of the judicature of the Strasbourg Court for the national courts. This publication also comprises a comprehensive service section with book reviews. This journal is published in Macedonian, but there are many authors from other states in the region and also from Germany who work for it. Hence the journal is not only “European in its contents” but it is also produced by a “European team”. This also includes the publication of translations of articles published in German journals which are also of interest to readers in Southeast Europe. In this context, the IRZ benefits from its strong membership network in Germany. The current EP issue also contains translations of contributions which were published in German in “Deutsche Richterzeitung” (German journal for judges) by Deutscher Richterbund (German Association of Judges) as well as in “Anwaltsblatt” (German journal for attorneys-at-law) by Deutscher Anwaltverein (German Bar Association).

5. ACTIVITIES OF THE IRZ ON THE INTERNET

The above-mentioned IRZ publications are widely available and can also be downloaded from the websites of the IRZ’s project partners, such as the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Belgrade scientific database SINGIPEDIA and the Southeast European HARMONIUS network of law professionals.

In 2014, the project division for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia also started to set up its own websites providing IRZ publications in the languages of the region along with the following websites:

11 See http://www.singipedia.singidunum.ac.rs/content/3214-nova-pravna-revija.
12 See http://www.harmonius.org/.
with further information in a regionally appropriate thematic context. The first one was the homepage of the “Implementation of the European Anti-Discrimination Standards” project, which was set up using funds for the promotion of human rights supplied by the German Foreign Office. This website gives essential information about this project both in the local language and in German. It also incorporates other information in Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian, including reports and media coverage relating to various activities carried out within the framework of the project. The publication “Praxisorientierte Einführung zu den europäischen Antidiskriminierungsstandards” (Praktični uvod u evropske standarde protiv diskriminacije) (practical introduction into the European anti-discrimination standards) can also be downloaded from the site. Links are also available to the texts of the anti-discrimination legislation of the regional states as well as other useful information, including ECtHR videos with instructions for lodging complaints with the ECtHR.

Other IRZ publications in the languages of the region can be found at http://evropskopravo.info/. Strictly speaking, this is “only” the homepage of the Macedonian journal on European law published by the IRZ. Hence, all issues of this journal can be downloaded there. As not all readers always want to download the entire journal, it is also possible to download individual articles. Readers with a command of German can also download individual tables of contents, prefaces and abstracts of articles in German translation and gain an idea of the content and scope of the journal.

The website also contains every volume of the book series “Beiträge aus der Arbeit der IRZ in Mazedonien” (contributions from the IRZ’s work in Macedonia), written in Macedonian and including presentations about administrative law and administrative jurisdiction, an introduction to European law and a Macedonian translation of the German Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) with an introduction (complete with commentary) geared to the situation in Macedonia. There are also publications about the ECHR in Macedonian issued by the IRZ. The section “Publikationen der IRZ in anderen südosteuropäischen

13 See http://antidiskriminacija.info.
Sprachen” (IRZ publications in other Southeast European languages), which is constantly being added to, currently provides a translation of the German insurance contract law (VVG), again with an introduction tailored to the region (Nemačko ugovorno pravo osiguranja sa prevodom zakona), and translations of the Guidelines for Criminal Proceedings and Proceedings Concerning Regulatory Offences (RiStBV) (Uputstva za krivični postupak i postupak kažnjavanja novčanom kaznom) and of the German Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO) (Zakon o krivičnom postupku Savezne Republike Njemačke). This website already constitutes a little downloadable library, a further extension to which is currently in preparation. So it is worth visiting the website www.evrpskopravo.info every once in a while.

What is more, the IRZ homepage provides a large range of information materials in various languages, for instance Russian translations of German provisions about the law on the advocacy, building law, insolvency law, law on notaries, insurance law and law on competition.17

This website furthermore contains the annual reports of the IRZ in German and English, the regular country-specific progress reports from the journal WiRO – Wirtschaft und Recht in Osteuropa (Journal on economy and law in Eastern Europe) and specialised contributions by employees and experts of the IRZ issued in this journal.20 Another subsection provides papers by employees and experts of the IRZ issued in other publications. Last but not least, the website contains press reports about the work of the IRZ which were published in such highly-acknowledged publications as “Süddeutsche Zeitung” (Southern German journal) or “Deutsche Richterzeitung” (German journal for judges) and in the broadcasting programme of Deutsche Welle.

6. CONCLUSION

The activities of the IRZ in Southeast Europe are a work in progress, just like the transformation of the law in this region. Constant changes make it necessary to adapt continuously, and for this reason the current article can provide no more than a snapshot. However, there are also constants. These are, on the one hand, the financial support for the respective activities with funds from the Federal Government (Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Foreign Office), and on the other hand the committed work of IRZ employees in Germany and in the region. An essential prerequisite for achieving the results outlined above, however, is the cooperation of the project partners in the region in the true spirit of partnership. This spirit of partnership is the driving force behind such cooperation. Unfortunately, it is not possible to mention any names here for lack of space. But those who are meant will certainly know who they are. The approximation to the EU is a joint task, involving the cooperation of both those who are already members and those who are striving to become members. If we succeed in this, we will rightly be in a position to say: “We are making progress every day and in every way”.