



Policy Plan 2021 – 2025

Stichting Microjustice4All

Excerpts



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1. Mission & Objective

Microjustice's vision is to end inequality and injustice worldwide, and to provide vulnerable people with legal protection in all their day-to-day (legal) issues.

The mission of Microjustice is to promote universal access to legal protection through our global legal protection barometer and platform, providing knowledge about basic legal rights and the access to affordable legal aid. The promotion of Universal Access to Legal Protection is squarely placed with the framework of United Nation's SDG 16 of 'Leaving no-one behind'.

Lack of knowledge about their basic rights, how to arrange them and the access to affordable legal aid, prevents vulnerable people from building a better life. We have successfully worked on this need by bridging the underprivileged to local legal professionals. Our 25 years of knowledge and grassroots experience has now been successfully transformed into our Legal Protection Barometer and online Legal Protection Platform, which we implement through the Legal Protection Program 2021 – 20130.

Legal Protection Barometer

Microjustice has developed country specific reports consisting of so-called "legal inclusion mapping". The focus of these mappings is on basic legal needs such as access to property titles, business registrations, use of contracts, wills and other civil and administrative documentation. For each country, the mapping includes tangible recommendations on how access to justice can be improved. Current mappings are available for Bolivia, Kenya and Serbia. The mappings have led to the development of a legal protection barometer in which we can identify per country the groups in need of legal protection, their specific problems, best practices and recommendations, allowing for comparative development to increase the level of legal protection in eventually all countries worldwide. The Barometer has therefore the potential to become a benchmark for national and international legal institutions.

Digital Legal Protection Platform (LPP)

Our digital Legal Protection Platform fulfils the role of a legal assistance provider and makes procedures accessible to the people who need them. The digital platform also aims to promote the right to legal protection.

For each country worldwide a website will be built. This online platform gives access to preventive and day- to-day procedures on legal matters relating to immovable property, movable property, family matters, inheritance matters, business matters, damage claims, claiming debts and employment.

Underprivileged can find answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and can get access to basic legal documentation. The platform empowers them to obtain their basic legal rights, for which they would otherwise lack the know-how, contacts or funding. The platform also has the potential to include the option to match citizens in need of legal assistance on specific matters with attorneys who are registered with the platform, depending whether and to which extent country-specific legislation would allow their involvement. Pilot websites are live for Serbia, Kenya and Bolivia.

2. Activities: Legal Protection Program - Road Map 2021-2025

As the objective of the Program is wide and ambitious its duration is until 2030. The Program will be implemented in 3 phases:

- Phase I Development of the Method 2018-June 2021.
- Phase II July 2021 – 2025 implementation and roll-out (this policy plan)
- Phase III Global Upscaling (2026-2030)

Phase I: 2018- June 2021

Development and testing of the Microjustice Legal Protection Barometer and Platform Method

The Legal Protection Barometer and Platform have been developed, tested and further refined, and retested in Bolivia, Kenya, and Serbia.

Phase II: July 2021-2025 Barometer and LPP implementation and roll-out

July 2021/December 22

- A) New Microjustice Legal Protection Method further developed, implemented, and rolled out globally:
 - Global Legal Protection Barometer in 7 countries: Serbia, Bolivia, Kenya, Jordan, Ukraine and in 2022 at least two additional countries (Bosnia, Montenegro, Syria,). In each country a coordinator.
 - Digital Legal Protection Platform in 5 countries: piloted in Serbia, Bolivia, Kenya, Jordan and Ukraine

- B) Promotion of the Universal Access to Legal Protection and the Microjustice Legal Protection Method within the context SDG 16:
 - Stakeholder involvement and development of global network of legal aid providers to be involved in the Legal Protection Program global rollout (international bar association, Pathfinders for SDG 16, World Justice Project,)
 - Preparation for global upscaling barometer research & promotion of the Universal Access to Legal Aid: ministries of Justice

2023

Barometer rolled out to 15 additional countries, and on the basis of the results of the barometer in 5 countries a LPP will be developed. This upscaling will be done in 3 regions where for average 5 countries the barometer will be implemented by an appointed regional Microjustice representative, trained in the method.

Thus, in total at the end of 2023 the barometer will be implemented in 15 new + 7 old countries= 22, and the LPP in 5 new countries and 5 old = 10.

2024-2025

In two years, the barometer is upscaled globally to 48 countries (2 years x 24), and on the basis of barometer research results the LPP developed in 16 additional countries. Upscaling will be done in 10 regions. Each region with 5 countries will have a regional Microjustice representative, trained in the method.

Total outcome: barometer in 7+15 + 48 countries; LPP 5 + 5 +16 countries:

Barometer in 70 countries

LPP in 26 countries

Phase III 2026-30 Global upscaling

We will ensure the global implementation of the Barometer to 150 countries, setting international standards for legal protection in civil justice related procedures and practices, and developing LPPs in minimum 1/3 of the countries where barometer research has been done.

SDG 16 Indicator: liberalisation of the legal profession globally and universal access to legal protection on the international agenda and national policy framework for at least affordable quality legal aid.

3. Raising income for the activities

To further roll out Microjustice's Legal Protection Barometer and Platform, we are seeking partnerships with donors/stakeholders that are interested to promote the universal access to legal protection through supporting the global barometer and setting up Platforms in countries and/or issues of their liking. We are flexible to identify together a tailor-made approach serving specific interests.

In phase II (2021-2025), we aim to support 70 countries all over the world for which we need a total budget of €3,295,000 million.

The unit costs of the barometer research and setting up a digital Legal Protection Platform per country are at average:

Standard Barometer per country

	Cost
2022: per country first research	€ 25.000,-
2023-2030: follow-up research to monitor progress and recommend further action	per country per year € 5000 ,-

Standard Legal Protection Platform per country

Developing LPP	Cost
Full fledged LPP program set up is in total	€ 35.000
Running and updating the LPP per country per year:	Cost
Total annual implementation per country	€ 12.000

Funding we intend to receive through:

- 1) Grants and subventions with governments and intergovernmental organisations (by requests for proposals or tendering)
- 2) Partnerships with private organisations and charities (e.g. family offices),
- 3) Cooperation with local stakeholders in the target countries, who contract the services of Microjustice organisations.

Next, the Foundation Friends of Microjustice is providing annual financial support to the Program covering overhead expenditure to roll out the mission globally, especially for fundraising, marketing, public communication and PR.

4. Funds management and control

Microjustice has in place the following procedures and practices to ensure that the division of responsibilities as described in the articles of association, is implemented in practice.

The control of assets and expenditure of the foundation is subjected to checks and balances. For example, the general director can only make payments through bank transfers, while the Supervisory Board (SB) has independent access to financial administration at all times. Such procedures and rules guarantee the transparency and clear roles.

Supervisory Board

- The duty of the 3-person Supervisory Board is to safeguard that the Foundation pursues its charitable purpose in a respectable, transparent and efficient way. In addition, the SB in its supervisory role, is also supporting the Director with its wide-business expertise.
- As a general rule, the members of the Supervisory Board are independent, unrelated to each other and to the director.
- Whenever seeking new supervisory board members, the best candidate is subject to rigorous scrutiny, security/ due diligence checks and internal reviews before appointment.

Communications between the supervisory board and the director

The relationship of Board and Management is laid down in internal rules and regulations.

- The supervisory board will statutorily meet with the director 4 times per year. In addition, it can convene as many meetings as though useful to fulfil its advisory role.
- Minutes of the supervisory board meetings are kept in writing and signed.
- One week before the Supervisory Board meeting, the director circulates a draft agenda and relevant supporting documents for discussion or approval. The supervisory board members can actively provide input on the proposed agenda.
- Supervisory Board member will hold their own communications, independent of the Director.

Finances

- The director is responsible for keeping the books of accounts and drawing up financial statements of the Foundation. The financial administration is outsourced to a diploma accountant.
- The donors have an independent right to control the use of their funds. They are updated periodically and/or on request, as per the contract with them.
- The overhead costs of the Foundation are kept as small as possible: the organization is small with no employed staff and limited operational expenses. As is generally accepted practice in similar development and humanitarian organizations, overhead costs are funded from within a ceiling of 7% of the funds provided by the donors and in need by the Friends of Microjustice.
- The Foundation can only make payments through bank transfers. The Foundation does not maintain cashboxes. It does not have bank cards and/or credit cards available which can be misused for non-bank payments or cash transactions
- The Foundation places any (temporary) liquidity surplus in savings accounts of reputable AA- banks in the European Union only.

Consultants

Microjustice hires specialized staff for all activities and tasks. We rely to a large extent on highly motivated individuals that invest their time and expertise in a flexible manner.

- The consultancy fees to be paid are also discussed upfront in the supervisory board meetings. These fees are in line with the available project budget (approved by the supervisory board) as

received from third parties (grants and subsidies). The level of these fees are based on market rates within the sector, experience and expertise.

- The director has significant practical experience in the operational and advisory activities of the Foundation, so he/she is regularly assigned as a consultant to projects. In case the Supervisory Board decides to charge the Director with a consultancy, the fees of the director are based on experience and in line with the project budget as received from donors and other third parties (grants and subsidies).
- Every consultant has a workplan and a timesheet and a contract to match their objectives and the time they spend on these activities.

Payments to Director or Members of Management Team

The President of the Supervisory Board authorises all payments to the Director and other members of the Management team.

This procedure is set to avoid a conflict of interest when the person executing the payment and the beneficiary are in effect the same person.