



EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE
(CEPEJ)

SCHEME FOR EVALUATING JUDICIAL SYSTEMS 2007

Country: Netherlands

National correspondent

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1. Demographic and economic data

1. 1. General information

1. 1. 1. Inhabitants and economic information

1) Number of inhabitants

16334210

2) Total of annual State public expenditure / where appropriate, public expenditure at regional or federal entity level (in €)

	Amount
State level	408647000000
Regional / entity level	

3) Per capita GDP (in €)

32698

4) Average gross annual salary (in €)

45800

5) Exchange rate from national currency (non-Euro zone) to € on 1 January 2007

Please indicate the sources for the questions 1 to 4

Statistics Netherlands

1. 2. Budgetary data concerning judicial system

1. 2. 2. Budget (courts, public prosecution, legal aid, fees)

6) Total annual approved budget allocated to all courts (in €)

774368000

7) Please specify

High Council for the Judiciary included

8) Does the approved budget of the courts include the following items? Please give for each item (or some of them) a specification of the amount concerned

Annual public budget allocated to (gross) salaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	510422164
Annual public budget allocated to computerisation (equipment, investments,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	239945809

maintenance)

Annual public budget allocated to justice expenses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	4008757
Annual public budget allocated to court buildings (maintenance, operation costs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	102558832
Annual public budget allocated to investments in new (court) buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Annual public budget allocated to training and education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	17307390
Other (please specify):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	15000000

9) Has the annual public budget of the courts changed (increased or decreased) over the last five years?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please specify (i.e. provide an indication of the increase or decrease of the budget over the last five years)

2002: 682,004,000

2006: 774,368,000

10) In general are litigants required to pay a court tax or fee to start a proceeding at a court of general jurisdiction:

☐ for criminal cases?

☒ for other than criminal cases?

If yes, are there exceptions? Please specify:

11) If yes, please specify the annual income of court fees (or taxes) received by the State (in €)

170237000

12) Total annual approved budget allocated to the whole justice system (in €)

5411049000

13) Total annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid (in €)

344666748

14) If possible, please specify

	the annual public budget allocated to legal aid in criminal cases	the annual public budget allocated to legal aid in other court cases
Amount	156708691	187958057

15) Is the public budget allocated to legal aid included in the court budget ?☐ Yes☒ No**16) Total annual approved public budget allocated to the public prosecution system (in €)**

494335000

17) Is the budget allocated to the public prosecution included in the court budget?☐ Yes☒ No**18) Authorities formally responsible for the budget allocated to the courts:**

	Preparation of the total court budget	Adoption of the total court budget	Management and allocation of the budget among the individual courts	Evaluation of the use of the budget at a national level
Ministry of Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other ministry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supreme Court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judicial Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspection body	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19) If other Ministry and/or inspection body and/or other, please specify (in regards to question 18):**You can indicate below:****- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above****- the characteristics of your budgetary system and the main reforms that have been implemented**

over the last two years

- if available an organisation scheme with a description of the competencies of the different authorities responsible for the budget process

Please indicate the sources for the questions 6, 7, 13 et 16

Government Budget

2. Access to justice

2. 1. Legal aid

2. 1. 1. Principles

20) Does legal aid concerns:

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Representation in court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Legal advice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

21) If other, please specify (in regards to question 20):

Mediation

22) Does legal aid foresee the covering or the exoneration of court fees?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please specify:

23) Can legal aid be granted for the fees that are related to the execution of judicial decisions?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please specify:

bailiff costs

24) Number of cases granted with legal aid provided by (national, regional, local) public authorities:

	Number
Total	414762
Criminal cases	153034
Other than criminal cases	261728

25) In a criminal case, can any individual who does not have sufficient financial means be assisted by a free of charge (or financed by public budget) lawyer?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

26) Does your country have an income and asset test for granting legal aid:

	No	Yes	Amount
for criminal cases?		X	22400/yr
for other than criminal cases?		X	22400/yr

27) In other than criminal cases, is it possible to refuse legal aid for lack of merit of the case (for example for frivolous action)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

28) If yes, is the decision for granting or refusing legal aid taken by:

- ☐ the court?
- ☒ an authority external to the court?
- ☐ a mixed decision-making authority (court and external)?

29) Is there a private system of legal expense insurance enabling individuals to finance court proceedings?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Please specify:
Policies sold by private insurance companies

30) Do judicial decisions have an impact on who bears the legal costs which are paid by the parties during the procedure in:

--	--	--

criminal cases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
other than criminal cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your legal aid system and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

Question 26: there was no room for providing the asset test. It is 19698,- Euro

Question 26: There is no asset or income test for criminal cases when the defendant makes use of a lawyer provided to him.

Please indicate the sources for the questions 24 and 26

Q 24: Council for legal aid

Q 26: Legal aid law

2. 2. Users of the courts and victims

2. 2. 1. Rights of the users and victims

31) Are there official internet sites/portals (e.g. Ministry of Justice, etc.) for the following, which the general public may have free of charge access to (Please specify the Internet addresses):

legal texts (e.g. codes, laws, regulations, etc.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	wetten.overheid.nl
case-law of the higher court/s?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	www.rechtspraak.nl
other documents (for example forms)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	www.rvr.org

32) Is there an obligation to provide information to the parties concerning the foreseeable timeframe of the proceeding?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please specify:

33) Is there a public and free-of-charge specific information system to inform and to help victims of crimes?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please specify:

The Public Prosecutor's office runs a website for victims of a crime, who want to be financially compensated for damages caused by the offender. The police also has instructions to point out this service to victims of crimes.

34) Are there special favourable arrangements to be applied, during judicial proceedings, to the following categories of vulnerable persons:

	Information mechanism	Hearing modalities	Procedural rights	Other
Victims of rape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victims of terrorism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children/Witnesses/Victims	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victims of domestic violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic minorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled persons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile offenders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

35) Does your country have a compensation procedure for victims of crimes?

☒ Yes

☐ No

36) If yes, does this compensation procedure consist in:

☒ a public fund?

☒ a court decision?

☐ private fund?

If yes, which kind of cases does this procedure concern?

There is a national fund for the compensation of damages which are the result of a violent crime, installed in 1976. Only damages caused by death and injury can be compensated to a maximum of 22.700 Euro for material damages and 9.100 Euro for immaterial damages. Average compensation for material damages was 1.222 Euro and for immaterial damages 2.027 Euro.

Source: www.schadefonds.nl

37) Are there studies to evaluate the recovery rate of the compensation awarded by courts to victims?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, please specify:

From the CJIB, the agency responsible for collecting the compensation

38) Is there a specific role for the public prosecutor with respect to the (protection of the position and assistance of) victims?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

If compensation from the offender is part of the sanction, the prosecutor takes care of the recovery of the money and the victim receives the money from the state.

39) Do victims of crimes have the right to contest a decision of the public prosecution to discontinue a case?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

Victim (or actually, anyone with an interest in the case) can file a protest against the prosecutor's decision with a court of appeal.

2. 2. 2. Confidence of citizens in their justice system

40) Is there a system for compensating users in the following circumstances:

- ☐ excessive length of proceedings?
- ☐ non execution of court decisions?
- ☒ wrongful arrest?
- ☒ wrongful condemnation?

If yes, please specify (fund, daily tariff):

In general, there can be a compensation if a person has been in pre-trial detention but was dismissed or declared not guilty. Or if the guilty verdict was found out wrong afterwards. There is a standard tariff per diem, but the judge can decide otherwise.

41) Does your country have surveys aimed at users or legal professionals (judges, lawyers, officials, etc.) to measure their trust and/or satisfaction with the services delivered by the judiciary system?

- ☒ (Satisfaction) surveys aimed at judges
- ☒ (Satisfaction) surveys aimed at court staff
- ☒ (Satisfaction) surveys aimed at public prosecutors
- ☒ (Satisfaction) surveys aimed at lawyers
- ☒ (Satisfaction) surveys aimed at citizens (visitors of the court)
- ☒ (Satisfaction) surveys aimed at other clients of the courts

If possible, please specify their titles, how to find these surveys, etc:

1. There is a regular national survey that contains indicators of national trust and satisfaction with the judiciary. (SCP - Sociaal Cultureel Planbureau)
2. Regular standardised customer satisfaction surveys according a model for quality management. Executed by PRISMA (www.prismaweb.nl)

42) If yes, please specify:

	Yes (surveys at a regular interval: for example annual)	Yes (incidental surveys)
Surveys at national level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys at court level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

43) Is there a national or local procedure for making complaints about the performance (for example the length of proceedings) or the functioning (for example the treatment of a case by a judge) of the judicial system?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

44) If yes, please specify:

	Time limit to respond (Yes)	Time limit for dealing with the complaint (Yes)
Court concerned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ministry of Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Council of the Judiciary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other external organisations (e.g. Ombudsman)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you give information elements concerning the efficiency of this complaint procedure?

Occurs not much. 1 - 2 per year.

3. Organisation of the court system

3. 1. Functioning

3. 1. 1. Courts

45) Number of courts considered as legal entities (administrative structures) and geographic locations (please, complete the table)

	Total number
First instance courts of general jurisdiction (legal entities)	19
Specialised first instance courts (legal entities)	2
All the courts (geographic locations)	52

46) Please specify the different areas of specialisation (and, if possible, the number of courts concerned):

1. Environmental issues (one court)
2. Acts of Industrial Organisations (one court)

47) Is there a change in the structure of the courts foreseen (for example a reduction of the number of courts (geographic locations) or a change in the powers of courts)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please specify:

48) Number of first instance courts competent for a case concerning:

	Number
a debt collection for small claims	52
a dismissal	52
a robbery	19

Please specify what is meant by small claims in your country (answer only if the definition has changed compared to the previous evaluation round):

Please indicate the sources for the question 45

Wet op de RO (Law on the organisation of the judiciary)

3. 1. 2. Judges, courts staff

49) Number of professional judges sitting in courts (present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts)

2072

50) Number of professional judges sitting in courts on an occasional basis and who are paid as such:

	Number
gross figure	about 900
if possible, in full time equivalent	

51) Please specify (answer only if the information has changed compared to the previous evaluation round):

52) Number of non-professional judges (including lay judges and excluding jurees) who are not remunerated but who can possibly receive a simple defrayal of costs. Please specify (answer only if the information has changed compared to the previous evaluation round):

53) Does your judicial system include trial by jury with the participation of citizens?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, for which type of case(s)?

54) If possible, indicate the number of citizens who were involved in such juries for the year of reference?

55) Number of non-judge staff who are working in courts (present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts)

5160

56) If possible, could you distribute this staff according to the 4 following categories:

non-judge staff (Rechtspfleger), with judicial or quasi-judicial tasks having autonomous competence and whose decisions could be subject to appeal ☐ Yes

non-judge staff whose task is to assist the judges (case file preparation, assistance during the hearing, keeping the minutes of the meetings, helping to prepare the decisions) such as registrars ☐ Yes

staff in charge of different administrative tasks as well as of the management of the courts (human resources management, material and equipment management, including computer systems, financial and budgetary management, training management) ☐ Yes

technical staff ☐ Yes

Please indicate the sources for the questions 49, 50, 52, 53 and 55

Annual report Council of the Judiciary

3. 1. 3. Prosecutors**57) Number of public prosecutors (present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts)**

675

58) Do any other persons have similar duties as public prosecutors?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please specify:

59) Number of staff (non prosecutors) attached to the public prosecution service (present the information in full time equivalent and for permanent posts)

3575

Please indicate the sources for the questions 57 and 59

3. 1. 4. Budget and New technologies

60) Who is entrusted with the individual court budget?

	Preparation of the budget	Arbitration and allocation of the budget	Day to day management of the budget	Evaluation and control of the use of the budget
Management Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Court President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Court administrative director	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Head of the court clerk office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

61) You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- if available an organization scheme with a description of the competencies of the different authorities responsible for the budget process in the court

62) For direct assistance to the judge/court clerk, what are the computer facilities used within the courts?

	100% of courts	+50% of courts	-50% of courts	- 10 % of courts
Word processing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic data base of jurisprudence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic files	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E-mail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet connection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

63) For administration and management, what are the computer facilities used within the courts?

	100% of courts	+50% of courts	-50% of courts	-10% of courts
Case registration system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Court management information system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial information system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

64) For the communication between the court and the parties, what are the computer facilities used within the courts?

	100% of courts	+50% of courts	-50% of courts	-10% of courts
Electronic web forms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other electronic communication facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

65) Is there a centralised institution which is responsible for collecting statistical data regarding the functioning of the courts and judiciary (answer only if this information has changed compared with the previous evaluation round)?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify the name and the address of this institution:

Central Bureau of Statistics

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your judicial system and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

Please indicate the sources for the questions 62, 63 and 64

3. 2. Monitoring and evaluation

3. 2. 1. Monitoring and Evaluation

66) Are the courts required to prepare an annual activity report?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

67) Do you have a regular monitoring system of court activities concerning the:

- ☒ number of incoming cases?
☒ number of decisions?
☒ number of postponed cases?
☒ length of proceedings (timeframes)?
☐ other?

Please specify:

68) Do you have a regular system to evaluate the performance of each court?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Please specify:

By measuring productivity in the Planning and Control cycle and by audits

69) Concerning court activities, have you defined performance indicators?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

70) Please select the 4 main performance and quality indicators that are used for a proper functioning of courts.

- ☐ Incoming cases
☒ Length of proceedings (timeframes)
☒ Closed cases
☐ Pending cases and backlogs
☐ Productivity of judges and court staff
☒ Percentage of cases that are treated by a single sitting judge
☐ The enforcement of penal decisions
☐ Satisfaction of employees of the courts
☐ Satisfaction of clients (regarding the services delivered by the courts)
☒ Judicial and organisational quality of the courts
☐ The costs of the judicial procedures
☐ Other

Please specify:

In general courts are financed on the base of cost price per (type of) case

71) Are there performance targets defined for individual judges?

☐ Yes

☒ No

72) Are there performance targets defined at the level of the courts?

☒ Yes

☐ No

73) Please specify who is responsible for setting the targets:

☐ executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice)

☐ legislative power

☒ judicial power (for example a High Judicial Council or a Higher Court)

☐ other

Please specify

74) Please specify the main targets applied:

75) Which authority is responsible for the evaluation of the performances of the courts:

☒ the High Council of judiciary

☐ the Ministry of Justice

☐ an Inspection authority

☐ the Supreme Court

☐ an external audit body

☐ other?

Other, please specify:

76) Are there quality standards (organisational quality and/or judicial quality policy) formulated for the courts (existence of a quality system for the judiciary)?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

Surveys among personnel and clients, a complaint system etc.

77) Do you have specialised court staff which is entrusted with quality policy and/or quality systems for the judiciary?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

78) Is there a system enabling to measure the backlogs and to detect the cases which are not processed within a reasonable timeframe for:

- ☒ civil cases?
☒ criminal cases?
☒ administrative cases?

79) Do you have a way of analysing waiting time during court procedures?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, please specify:

80) Is there a system to evaluate the functioning of courts on the basis of an evaluation plan (timetable for visits) agreed a priori?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Please specify (including an indication of the frequency of the evaluation):

Planning and Control cycle, 3 visits a year

Audits, 1 per 5 years

81) Is there a system for monitoring and evaluating the functioning of the prosecution services?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

By tracking individual cases

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your court monitoring and evaluation system

Please indicate the sources for the the question 70,71, 72 and 76

4. Fair trial

4. 1. Principles

4. 1. 1. General principles

82) What is the percentage of judgements in first instance criminal cases in which the suspect is not attending in person or not represented by a legal professional (i.e. lawyer) during a court session (in absentia judgements) ?

38

83) Is there a procedure to effectively challenge a judge if a party considers that the judge is not impartial?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If possible, number of successful challenges (in a year):

84) Please give the following data concerning the number of cases regarding Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (on duration and non-execution), for the year of reference

	Cases declared inadmissible by the Court	Friendly settlements	Judgements establishing a violation	Judgements establishing a non violation
Civil proceedings - Article 6§1 (duration)	0	0	0	0
Civil proceedings - Article 6§1 (non-execution)	0	0	0	0
Criminal proceedings - Article 6§1 (duration)	0	0	0	0

Please indicate the sources for the questions 82 and 84

No article 6/1 cases in 2006

4. 2. Timeframes of proceedings

4. 2. 1. General information

85) Are there specific procedures for urgent matters as regards:

☒ civil cases?

☐ criminal cases?

☒ administrative cases?

If yes, please specify:

KORT GEDING by Court President
VOORLOPIGE VOORZIENING

86) Are there simplified procedures for:

- ☐ civil cases (small claims)?
- ☒ criminal cases (petty offences)?
- ☐ administrative cases?

If yes, please specify (for example if you have introduced a new law on simplified procedures):
WET MULDER Administrative handling of minor offences

87) Do courts and lawyers have the possibility to conclude agreements on the modalities for processing cases (presentation of files, decisions on timeframes for lawyers to submit their conclusions and on dates of hearings)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If yes, please specify:
Preliminary proceedings

4. 2. 2. Penal, civil and administrative law cases

88) Total number of cases in the first instance courts (litigious and non-litigious);
(please complete the table)

	Pending cases on 1 January 2006	Incoming cases	Decisions	Pending cases on 31 December 2006
Total of civil, commercial and		1197690	1188670	

administrative law cases (1-7)				
1 Civil (and commercial) litigious cases*		950450	943590	
2 Civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases*		101580	101580	
3 Enforcement cases				
4 Land registry cases**				
5 Business register cases**				
6 Administrative law cases		145660	143500	
7 Other				
Total criminal cases (8+9)			434950	
8 Criminal cases (severe criminal offences)			156160	
9 Misdemeanour cases (minor offences)		279440	278790	45660

89) * The cases mentioned in categories 3 to 5 (enforcement, land registry, business register) are excluded from this total and should be presented separately in the table. The cases mentioned in category 6 (administrative law cases) are also excluded from this total for the countries which have specialised administrative courts or units in the courts of general jurisdiction.

**** if applicable**

Note: for the criminal law cases there may be a problem of classification of cases between severe criminal law cases and misdemeanour cases. Some countries might have other ways of addressing misdemeanour offences (for example via administrative law procedure). Please indicate if possible what case categories are included under "severe criminal cases" and the cases included under "misdemeanour cases (minor offences)".

Explanation

2. non-litigious is not complete. Only cases from the 'kantongerechten'

90) Total number of cases in the second instance (appeal) courts (litigious and non-litigious); (please complete the table)

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. '06	Incoming cases	Decisions on the merits	Pending cases on 31 Dec. '06
Total of civil, commercial and administrative law cases (1-7)		32930	32820	
1 Civil (and commercial) litigious cases*		22770	23360	16580
2 Civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases*				
3 Enforcement cases				
4 Land registry cases**				
5 Business register cases**				
6 Administrative law cases		10160	9460	
7 Other				
Total criminal cases (8+9)				
8 Criminal cases (Severe criminal offences)			24740	13510
9 Misdemeanour cases (minor offences)				

91) Total number of cases in the highest instance courts (litigious and non-litigious); (please complete the table)

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. '06	Incoming cases	Decisions on the merits	Pending cases on 31 Dec. '06
Total of civil, commercial and administrative law cases (1-7)				
1 Civil (and commercial) litigious cases*		507	446	
2 Civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases*				
3 Enforcement cases				
4 Land registry cases**				
5 Business register cases**				
6 Administrative law cases	2133	6743	7043	1833
7 Other				
Total criminal cases (8+9)				
8 Criminal cases (Severe criminal offences)		3540	3079	
9 Misdemeanour cases (minor offences)				

92) Number of divorce cases, employment dismissal cases, robbery cases and intentional homicide cases received and treated by first instance courts (complete the table)

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. '06	Incoming cases	Decisions	Pending cases on 31 Jan. '06
Divorce cases		33701	44690	
Employment dismissal cases		66295	65788	
Robbery cases			3211	
Intentional homicide case				

93) Average length of proceedings (from the date of lodging of court proceedings)

	% of decisions subject to appeal	% pending cases more than 3 years	1st instance	2nd instance	Total procedure
Divorce cases			25		
Employment dismissal cases			80		
Robbery cases					
Intentional homicide					

94) Where appropriate, please specify the specific procedure as regards divorce:

95) How is the length of proceedings calculated for the four case categories? (please give a description of the calculation method)

The average is given for a) all family cases and b) for all civil cases where complainant actually appears before the court.

96) Please describe the role and powers of the prosecutor in the criminal procedure (multiple options

are possible):

- ☒ to conduct or supervise police investigation?
- ☒ to conduct investigation?
- ☒ when necessary, to demand investigation measures from the judge?
- ☒ to charge?
- ☒ to present the case in the court?
- ☒ to propose a sentence to the judge?
- ☒ to appeal?
- ☒ to supervise the enforcement procedure?
- ☒ to end the case by dropping it without the need for a judicial decision?
- ☒ to end the case by imposing or negotiating a penalty without a judicial decision?
- ☐ other significant powers?

Please specify:

97) Does the prosecutor also have a role in civil and/or administrative cases?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If yes, please specify:

98) Functions of the public prosecutor in relation to criminal cases – please complete this table:

	Received by the public prosecutor	Discontinued by the public prosecutor because the offender could not be identified	Discontinued by the public prosecutor due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation	Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reason of opportunity	Concluded by a penalty, imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor	Charged by the public prosecutor before the courts

Total number of 1st instance criminal cases	267710		17812	16325	77861	150000
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You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your system concerning timeframes of proceedings and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

Question 98 refers to crimes only (not misdemeanors or petty offences). The number charged before court is an estimate.

Please indicate the sources for the questions 92 to 94 and question 98

5. Career of judges and prosecutors

5. 1. Appointment and training

5. 1. 1. Recrutement, nomination and promotion

99) How are judges recruited?

- ☐ Through a competitive exam (for instance after a law degree)?
- ☐ A specific recruitment procedure for legal professionals with long working experience in the legal field (for example lawyers)?
- ☒ A combination of both
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify:

100) Are judges initially/at the beginning of their carrier recruited and nominated by:

- ☐ an authority composed of judges only?
- ☐ an authority composed of non-judges only?
- ☒ an authority composed of judges and non-judges?

101) Is the same authority competent for the promotion of judges?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If no, please specify which authority is competent for promoting judges:

President of the Court

102) Which procedures and criteria are used for promoting judges? (please specify).

Assessment and selection

103) How are prosecutors recruited?

- ☐ Through a competitive exam? (for example after a law degree)
- ☐ A specific recruitment procedure for legal professionals with long working experience in the legal field (for example lawyers)?
- ☒ A combination of both
- ☐ Other

If other, please specify:

104) Are prosecutors initially/at the beginning of their carrier recruited and nominated by:

- ☐ an authority composed of prosecutors only?
- ☐ an authority composed of non-prosecutors only?
- ☒ an authority composed of prosecutors and non-prosecutors?

105) Is the same authority formally responsible for the promotion of prosecutors?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If no, please specify which authority is competent for promoting prosecutors.

The head of the organisational unit

106) Which procedures and criteria are used for promoting prosecutors (please specify)

Assessment and selection

107) Is the mandate given for an undetermined period for judges ?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Are there exceptions? Please specify:

108) Is the mandate given for an undetermined period for prosecutors?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Are there exceptions? Please specify:

**109) If no, what is the length of the mandate?
Is it renewable?**

for judges

☐ yes, please
specify the
length

for prosecutors

☒ yes, please
specify the length until age 65

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of the selection and nomination procedure of judges and prosecutors and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

5. 1. 2. Training**110) Nature of the training of judges.
Is it compulsory?**

- ☒ Initial training
☒ General in-service training
☐ In-service training for specialised judicial functions (e.g. judge for economic or administrative issues)
☐ In-service training for management functions of the court (e.g. court president, court managers)

☐ In-service training for the use of computer facilities in the court

111) Frequency of the training of judges:

	Annual	Regular	Occasional
Initial training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General in-service training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-service training for specialised judicial functions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-service training for management functions of the court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in the court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

112) Nature of the training of prosecutors. Is it compulsory?

☒ Initial training

☒ General in-service training

☐ Specialised in-service training (e.g. specialised public prosecutor)

☐ In-service training for management functions of the prosecution services (e.g. head prosecutor and/or managers)

☐ In-service training for the use of computer facilities in the public prosecution service

113) Frequency of the training of prosecutors:

	Annual	Regular	Occasional
Initial training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General in-service training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialised in-service training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-service training for management functions of the prosecution services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in the public prosecution service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- comments regarding the attention given to the curricula to the European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the Court
- the characteristics of your training system for judges and prosecutors and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

5. 2. Practice of the profession

5. 2. 1. Salaries

114) Salaries of judges and prosecutors (complete the table)

	Gross annual salary (euro)	Net annual salary (euro)
First instance professional judge at the beginning of his/her career	70000	40000
Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court	115000	60000
Public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career	85000	45000
Public prosecutor of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Instance	115000	60000

115) Do judges and public prosecutors have additional benefits?

	Judges	Prosecutors
Reduced taxation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special pension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other financial benefit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

116) If other financial benefit, please specify:**117) Can judges combine their work with any of the following other professions?**

	Yes with remuneration	Yes without remuneration	No
Teaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research and publication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arbitrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

118) If other function, please specify:

Judges may have other professions with or without remuneration, provided these activities are made public. Some professions that could conflict with being a judge (mayor, lawyer etc.) are excluded.

119) Can prosecutors combine their work with any of the following other professions?

	Yes with remuneration	Yes without remuneration	No
Teaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research and publication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arbitrator			

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

120) If other function, please specify:

Prosecutors may have other professions with or without remuneration, provided these activities are made public. Some professions that could conflict with being a prosecutor (mayor, lawyer etc.) are excluded.

121) Do judges receive bonus based on the fulfilment of quantitative objectives relating to the delivering of judgments?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please specify:

Please indicate the source for the question 114**5. 2. 2. Disciplinary procedures****122) Which authority is authorized to initiate disciplinary proceedings against judges and/or prosecutors? Please specify:**

President of the court (judges) or head of the organisational unit (prosecutors)

123) Which authority has the disciplinary power on judges and prosecutors? Please specify:

President of the court (judges) or head of the organisational unit (prosecutors)

124) Types of disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against judges and prosecutors: number of disciplinary proceedings initiated

	Judges	Prosecutors
Total number (1+2+3+4)	NA	NA
1. Breach of professional ethics	NA	NA
2. Criminal offence	NA	NA
3. Professional	NA	NA

inadequacy		
4. Other	NA	NA

125) Types of disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against judges and prosecutors: number of sanctions pronounced

	Judges	Prosecutors
Total number (total 1 to 9)	NA	NA
1. Reprimand	NA	NA
2. Suspension	NA	NA
3. Withdrawal of cases	NA	NA
4. Fine	NA	NA
5. Temporary reduction of salary	NA	NA
6. Degradation of post	NA	NA
7. Transfer to another geographical (court) location	NA	NA
8. Dismissal	NA	NA
9. Other	NA	NA

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your system concerning disciplinary procedures for judges and prosecutors and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

Disciplinary procedures for judges and prosecutors are possible, but hardly ever occur. Data are not available anyhow.

The authority of dismissal of judges lies exclusively with the Supreme Court. This hardly ever occurs (1 or 2 cases a year).

6. Lawyers

6. 1. Statute of the profession

6. 1. 1. Profession

126) Total number of lawyers practising in your country

14955

127) Does this figure include legal advisors (solicitors or in-house counsellor) who cannot represent their clients in court?

☐ Yes

☒ No

128) Number of legal advisors?

129) Do lawyers have a monopoly of representation:

☒ Civil cases*

☒ Criminal cases - Defendant*

☒ Criminal cases - Victim*

☐ Administrative cases*

* If appropriate, please specify if it concerns first instance and appeal. And in case there is no monopoly, please specify the organisations or persons which may represent a client before a court (for example a NGO, family member, trade union, etc) and for which types of cases.

In civil cases in the lower courts and depending on the kind of case no obligatory representation by a lawyer exists. In criminal cases the accused can defend him/herself, but if he asks for a counsel to represent him/her, it should be a lawyer.

130) Is the lawyer profession organised through:

☒ a national Bar?

☐ a regional Bar?

☒ a local Bar?

Please specify:

Lawyers are member of both the local Bar and the national Bar. With regard to disciplinary proceedings the local Bar is responsible and the same for day-to-day business. Both Bars have different responsibilities.

Please indicate the source for the question 126

Netherlands Bar Association

6. 1. 2. Training

131) Is there a specific initial training and/or examination to enter the profession of lawyer?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

132) Is there a mandatory general system for lawyers requiring continuing professional training?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

133) Is the specialisation in some legal fields tied with a specific level of training/ qualification/ specific diploma or specific authorisations?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

If lawyers want to become member of an association specialized in a certain field, some requirements exist. But in The Netherlands everybody can practice every field of law without training/qualification or a specific diploma. An exception exists however for cases before the Highest Court (Hoge Raad) in civil cases. Only lawyers registered with the local Bar in The Hague are allowed to present cases to this court.

6. 1. 3. Fees

134) Can users establish easily what the lawyers' fees will be?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

135) Are lawyers fees:

- ☐ regulated by law?
- ☐ regulated by the Bar association?
- ☒ freely negotiated?

6. 2. Evaluation**6. 2. 1. Complaints and sanctions****136) Have quality standards been formulated for lawyers?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

137) If yes, who is responsible for formulating these quality standards:

- ☒ the Bar association?
- ☒ the legislature?
- ☐ other?

Please specify (including a description of the quality criteria used):

In the very near future various core values will be incorporated in the Act of Advocates.

See for more information also:

<http://www.advocatenorde.nl/algemeen/organisatie/kwaliteitsstandaard.asp> (in Dutch only).

138) Is it possible to complain about :

- ☒ the performance of lawyers?
- ☒ the amount of fees?

Please specify:

139) Which authority is responsible for disciplinary procedures:

- ☐ the judge?
- ☐ the Ministry of Justice?
- ☒ a professional authority or other?

Please specify:

The authority is the disciplinary (appeal) court existing of judges and lawyers.

140) Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against lawyers:**Disciplinary proceedings initiated**

	Breach of professional ethics	Professional inadequacy	Criminal offence	Other
Annual number				781

141) Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions against lawyers:**Sanctions pronounced**

	Reprimand	Suspension	Removal	Fine	Other
Annual number					697

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your system concerning the organisation of the Bar and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

The numbers for Q 140 and 141 are totals. They reflect the average number over the period 2000 - 2006

7. Alternative Dispute Resolution

7. 1. Mediation and other forms of ADR

7. 1. 1. Mediation

142) If appropriate, please specify, by type of cases, the organisation of judicial mediation:

	Possibility of private mediation or court annexed mediation	Private mediator	Public authority	Judge	Prosecutor
Civil and commercial cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family law cases (ex. Divorce)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrative cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment dismissals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

143) Is there a possibility to receive legal aid for mediation procedures?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

144) Can you provide information about the number of accredited mediators?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please provide the number of mediators:

3917

145) Can you provide information about the total number of judicial mediation procedures concerning:

civil cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	2300
family cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	11000
administrative cases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	1000

employment dismissals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	9000
criminal cases?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	

Please indicate the source for the question 145

25421 cases in 2005. Dividing in categories are estimates.
Nederlands Mediation Instituut (not all mediators)

7. 1. 2. Other forms of alternative dispute resolution

146) Can you give information concerning other forms of alternative dispute resolution (e.g. Arbitration, conciliation)? Please specify:

- You can indicate below:**
- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
 - the characteristics of your system concerning ADR and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

8. Enforcement of court decisions

8. 1. Execution of decisions in civil matters

8. 1. 1. Functioning

147) Number of enforcement agents

768

148) Are enforcement agents:

- ☐ judges?
- ☒ bailiff practising as private profession ruled by public authorities?
- ☒ bailiff working in a public institution?
- ☐ other enforcement agents?

Please specify their status:

149) Is there a specific initial training or examination to enter the profession of enforcement agent?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

150) Is the profession of enforcement agent organised by?

- ☒ a national body?
- ☐ a regional body?
- ☐ a local body?

151) Can users establish easily what the fees of the enforcement agents will be?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

152) Are enforcement fees:

☒ regulated by law?

☒ freely negotiated?

Please indicate the source for the question 147

Royal Dutch Organisation of Court Bailiffs

8. 1. 2. Supervision

153) Is there a body entrusted with the supervision and the control of the enforcement agents?

☒ Yes

☐ No

154) Which authority is responsible for the supervision and the control of enforcement agents:

☒ a professional body?

☒ the judge?

☒ the Ministry of Justice?

☐ the prosecutor?

☐ other?

Please specify:

There is a special disciplinary chamber within the Amsterdam court

155) Have quality standards been formulated for enforcement agents?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, who is responsible for formulating these quality standards and what are the quality criteria used?

Royal Dutch Organisation of Court Bailiffs

156) Do you have a specific mechanism for executing court decisions rendered against public authorities, including for monitoring the execution?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

Ministry of Justice

Please indicate the sources for the questions 155 and 156

8. 1. 3. Complaints and sanctions

157) What are the main complaints of users concerning the enforcement procedure? (please indicate a maximum of 3)

- ☐ no execution at all?
☐ non execution of court decisions against public authorities?
☒ lack of information?
☐ excessive length?
☒ unlawful practices?
☐ insufficient supervision?
☒ excessive cost?
☐ other?

Please specify:

158) Has your country prepared or has established concrete measures to change the situation concerning the enforcement of court decisions – in particular as regards decisions against public authorities?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, please specify:

159) Is there a system measuring the timeframes of the enforcement of decisions:

- ☐ for civil cases?
☐ for administrative cases?

160) As regards a decision on debts collection, can you estimate the average timeframe to notify the decision to the parties which live in the city where the court seats:

- ☐ between 1 and 5 days
☐ between 6 and 10 days
☐ between 11 and 30 days
☐ more

Please specify:

No information available

161) Disciplinary proceedings initiated against enforcement agents:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Breach of professional ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> yes,
number: |
| Professional inadequacy | <input type="checkbox"/> yes,
number: |
| Criminal offence | <input type="checkbox"/> yes,
number: |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> yes,
number: |

162) Sanctions pronounced against enforcement agents:

Reprimand	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:
Suspension	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:
Dismissal	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:
Fine	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your enforcement system of decisions in civil matters and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

Please indicate the sources for the questions 157 and 160

8. 2. Execution of decisions in criminal matters

8. 2. 1. Functioning

163) Is there a judge who is in charge of the enforcement of judgments?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, please specify his/her functions and activities (e.g. Initiative or control functions). If no, please specify which authority is entrusted with the enforcement of judgements (e.g. prosecutor).

Prosecutor

164) As regards fines decided by a criminal court, are there studies to evaluate the effective recovery rate?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, please specify:

The annual report of the CJIB (Centraal Justitieel Incasso Bureau) that collects the fines

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above**
- the characteristics of your enforcement system of decisions in criminal matters and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years**

9. Notaries

9. 1. Statute

9. 1. 1. Functioning

165) Do you have notaries in your country? If no, go to question 170.

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

166) Is the status of notaries:

a private one (without control from public authorities)?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	
a status of private worker ruled by the public authorities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	1473
a public one?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number:	
other?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, number and specify:	

167) Do notaries have duties:

- ☐ within the framework of civil procedure?
- ☒ in the field of legal advice?
- ☒ to authenticate legal deeds?
- ☐ other?

Please specify:

Please indicacte the source for the question 166

9. 1. 2. Supervision

168) Is there an authority entrusted with the supervision and the control of the notaries?

- ☒ Yes

☐ No

169) Which authority is responsible for the supervision and the control of the notaries:

- ☒ a professional body?
- ☐ the judge?
- ☒ the Ministry of Justice?
- ☐ the prosecutor?
- ☐ other?

Please specify:

Bureau Financieel Toezicht (Bureau of Financial Supervision)

You can indicate below:

- any useful comments for interpreting the data mentioned above
- the characteristics of your system of notaries and the main reforms that have been implemented over the last two years

10. Functioning of justice

10. 1. Foreseen reforms

10. 1. 1. Reforms

170) Can you provide information on the current debate in your country regarding the functioning of justice? Are there reforms foreseen? (for example changes in legislation, changes in the structure of the judiciary, innovation programmes, etc). If yes, please specify.

One of the major changes is the possibility of the prosecution to give a real sanction to an offender for the majority of crimes. This is called the 'strafbeschikking'. Only if the defendant does not agree the case will go to court. Although in practice this will not be such a big change (the 'strafbeschikking' will be used for cases where a conditional disposal used to be given), in a legal sense it is quite different. Being a sanction, it is a formal declaration of being guilty.