Co-funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe

cepej

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice

Commission européenne pour l'efficacité de la justice

Strasbourg, 12/11/2026

CEPEJ(2026)4REV2
Part 2

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

Horizontal Facility III: Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans

"Dashboard Western Balkans"

Data collection: 2025

Report prepared by the CEPEJ for the attention of the European Commission

Part 2 - Beneficiary profile - Bosnia and Herzegovina

This report was produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Council of Europe. The reproduction of extracts (up to 500 words) is authorised, except for commercial purposes as long as the integrity of the text is preserved, the excerpt is not used out of context, does not provide incomplete information or does not otherwise mislead the reader as to the nature, scope or content of the text. The source text must always be acknowledged as follows “© Council of Europe, year of the publication”. All other requests concerning the reproduction/translation of all or part of the document, should be addressed to the Publications and Visual Identity Division, Council of Europe (F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex or publishing@coe.int). All other correspondence concerning this document should be addressed to the CoE - DG1 - CEPEJ,1 Quai Jacoutôt, 67000 Strasbourg Cedex, France, Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 20 00 E-mail: Horizontal.Facility@coe.int
© Council of Europe 2026. All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union under conditions.

Executive Summary - Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025

Population in 2025



GDP per capita in 2025



Average annual salary in 2025



€15 260

WB Average: €13 849

Judicial organisation

The judiciary in BiH comprises 55 first instance courts and 17 second instance courts, distributed between the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska. There are two highest instance courts: the Supreme Court of the Federation of BiH and the Supreme Court of Republika Srpska (both handling appellate matters within their entities). The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the state level, which has criminal, administrative and appellate jurisdiction over cases defined by state law, but no authority over entity Supreme Courts decisions. Additionally, there are 7 specialised commercial courts in Republika Srpska.

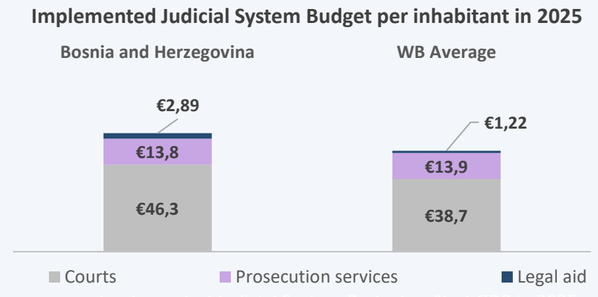
Budget

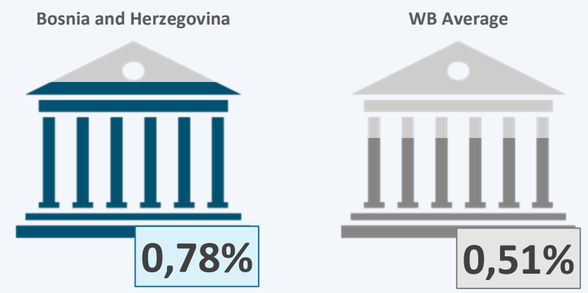
BiH allocated €215.3 million to its judicial system, corresponding to €63.1 per inhabitant - a 12.4% increase over 2024 and well above the WB average (€53.8). Courts received the largest share (73.5%, or €46.3 per inhabitant), prosecution services 22% (€13.8), and legal aid 4.6% (€2.89), with each category's spend per capita above the regional average except for prosecution services, which were nearly equal. The judicial budget represented 0.78% of GDP (regional average: 0.51%).
The majority of court and prosecution budgets were spent on salaries (over 82% in both), with the remainder divided among operational costs, computerization, and a small share for training and investments. Court budget per capita grew 76.7% since 2019, consistently outpacing the WB average by an expanding margin, while prosecution funding also nearly doubled but remained just below regional peers.

Legal Aid

Free legal aid in BiH is provided by courts (e.g. mandatory defense, exemption from costs) and specialized government institutions under laws at all levels, with eligibility based on financial criteria. In 2025, the legal aid budget reached €9,862,360 - a 24.3% increase since 2019 - amounting to €2.89 per inhabitant, significantly higher than the WB median (€0.38).

Budget of the Judicial System





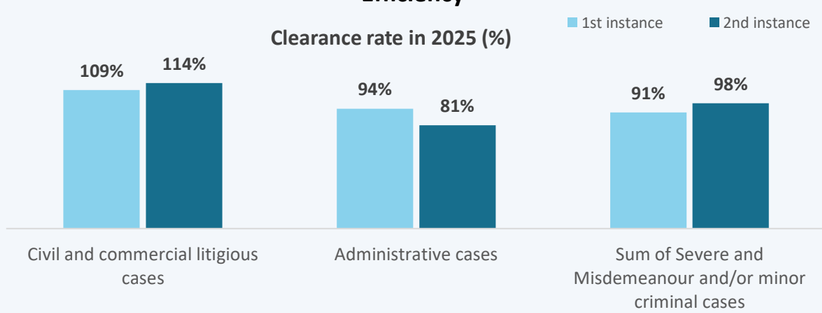
Efficiency**

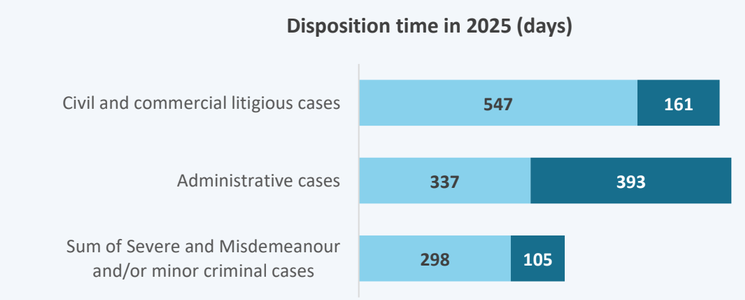
In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded a Clearance Rate (CR) of 109% for first instance civil and commercial litigious cases, above both the previous year and the WB average (101%), with disposition time (DT) of 547 days. Administrative cases had a CR of 94% (below the 109% WB average) and DT of 337 days, with a notable increase in pending cases due to more incoming than resolved cases. For severe and misdemeanour criminal cases, the CR rose to 91% (still below the WB average of 99.6%), and DT was 298 days, with a 22.7% rise in new cases and 40.9% more resolved cases over 2024.
At second instance, civil and commercial litigious cases achieved a CR of 114% (WB average: 97%) and DT reduced to 161 days. Administrative cases had a lower CR (81%, below WB's 84%) and DT of 393 days, with a backlog increase. Severe and misdemeanour criminal cases saw a CR of 98%—above the WB average of 88.8%—and DT was 105 days, well below the WB average (395 days).
Overall, the courts reduced pending civil cases, but administrative and criminal case backlogs increased due to more inflow than resolution. Most disposition times remain competitive or lower than WB averages, especially at the second instance.
**The CEPEJ has developed two indicators to measure court's performance: clearance rate and disposition time.
Clearance Rate (CR) is the ratio obtained by dividing the number of resolved cases by the number of incoming cases in a given period, expressed as a percentage. It demonstrates how the court or the judicial system is coping with the in-flow of cases and allows comparison between systems regardless of their differences and individual characteristics. Its key value is 100%. A value below 100% means that the courts were not able to solve all the cases they received and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases increases. A CR above 100% means that the courts have resolved more cases than they received (they have resolved all the incoming cases and part of the pending cases) and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases decreases.
Disposition Time (DT) is the indicator that calculates time necessary for a pending case to be resolved and estimates the lengths of proceedings in days. It is a ratio between the pending cases at the end of the period and the resolved cases within the same period, multiplied by 365 days. More pending than resolved cases will lead to a DT higher than 365 days (one year) and vice versa.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

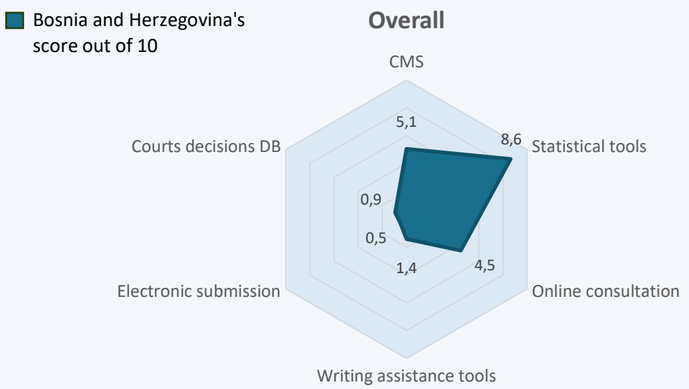
In 2025, mediation in BiH remained voluntary, with no mandatory mediation or informational sessions required by law. Overall number of mediations in BiH has historically been low. Conciliation is required by law in some legal fields (such as before divorce), carried out by social welfare institutions. Arbitration is also available by party agreement, and other ADR forms are provided by public agencies like the Consumer Ombudsman and the Public Agency for Labor cases. In 2025, there were 203 mediators (5.9 per 100,000 inhabitants, 55.7% women), and parties agreed to start mediation in 121 cases, mostly in civil, commercial, and administrative matters. Out of 120 completed mediations, 98 concluded with a settlement agreement.

Efficiency





ICT Deployment indices (scale 0-10)



The six ICT deployment indices (CMS, Courts decisions DB, Statistical tools, Writing assistance tools, electronic submission and online consultation) range from 0 to 10 points. Their calculation is based on the features and on deployment rates reported. The methodology for calculation provides points for each feature in each case matter. They are summarised and multiplied by the deployment rate as a weight. In this way, if the system is not fully deployed, the value is decreased even if all features are existing.

ICT

In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to strengthen the digitalisation of its judiciary through two complementary case management systems, with the new CMS/TCMS v3 gradually replacing the previous version. The CMS is fully deployed across all courts and case categories and provides advanced functionalities, including random case allocation, electronic transfer of files between courts, interoperability with prosecution systems and public registers, remote access, and protected log files. A particular strength of the judicial ICT framework is the SIPO reporting and decision-support system, which integrates data from all judicial information systems and provides real-time statistical dashboards and performance indicators to support court management. Electronic filing is available for enforcement and small claims cases, while parties and lawyers can consult civil and administrative case files online through dedicated web and mobile applications.

Public prosecution

Public prosecution services received 0.7 incoming first instance cases per 100 inhabitants, processed 0.6, and had 0.6 pending. The processed-to-incoming ratio was 0.94. Prosecutor's offices are autonomous institutions, with prosecutors enjoying broad investigative powers and independence from external influence. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC BiH) appoints and oversees prosecutors, manages appointments, disciplinary actions, training, and organizational standards, and ensures parity with the judiciary in terms of legal status and remuneration.

Training

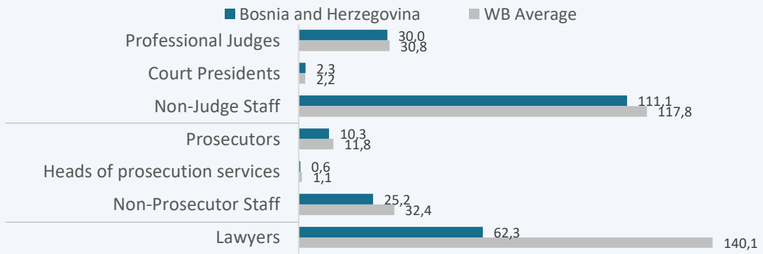
In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina spent a total of €929,786 on judicial and prosecutorial training, or €0.27 per inhabitant, significantly below the WB average of €0.88. The country operates two training institutions serving both judges and prosecutors in their respective entities. Most training was conducted live, with 7,904 participants (4,910 judges and 2,089 prosecutors) attending 279 in-person, hybrid, or video-conference sessions. Online participation remained limited, with just 145 completions on external platforms and none on the national e-learning platform. Judges averaged 4.8 live trainings (WB average: 3.4), and prosecutors 5.9 (WB: 4.1). Attendance at a minimum of three days of in-service training is mandatory. Finally, most training of non-judge/prosecutor court and prosecution staff is ad hoc, with no dedicated budget or specialist institution for their continuous education.

ECHR

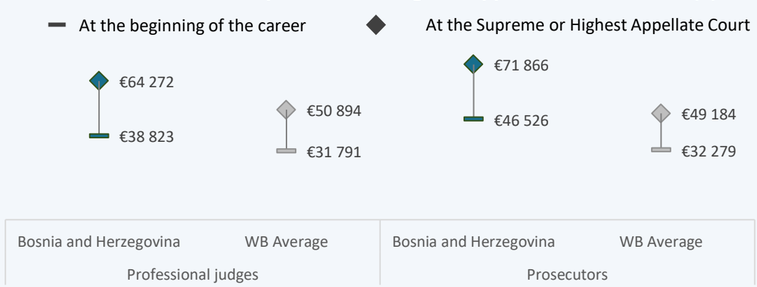
In 2025, 339 applications were allocated to a judicial formation of the European Court of Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina - an increase of 258 over the previous year. The ECHR delivered one judgment finding a violation for the country (down from two in 2024), while six cases were closed after execution of judgments, up from five in the previous year.

Professionals of Justice

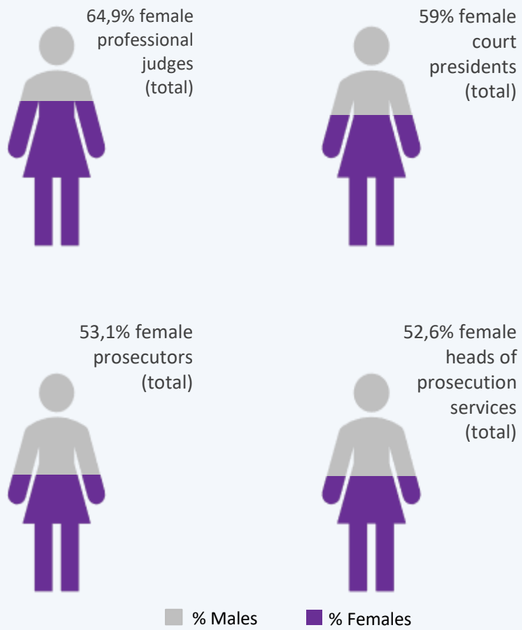
Total number of professionals per 100 000 inhabitants in 2025



Gross annual salaries of professional judges and prosecutors at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2025 (€)



Gender Balance



Professionals and gender

In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 1,025 professional judges (30 per 100,000 inhabitants) and 352 prosecutors (10.3 per 100,000), both slightly below the Western Balkans averages. The share of women among judges and prosecutors remained high. There were 78 court presidents (2.3 per 100,000), 19 heads of prosecution (0.6 per 100,000), and 3,792 non-judge staff (111.1 per 100,000) - a 15% increase since 2019. The ratio of non-judge staff per judge was 3.7, near the WB average, while the ratio of non-prosecutor staff per prosecutor was 2.4, slightly below the average after a notable 25.3% rise since 2019. Bosnia and Herzegovina had 62.3 lawyers per 100,000 inhabitants - onsiderably fewer than the WB average - though this number increased by 22.5% since 2019.

Reforms

Bosnia and Herzegovina continued major judicial reforms led by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH (HJPC BiH), prioritizing efficiency, transparency and tackling complex corruption and organised crime.

The Federation of BiH Prosecutor's Office launched a Special Department for Corruption and Organised Crime, while a new HJPC BiH Asset Declarations Department now publicly verifies asset declarations of judicial officials.

Case law harmonisation advanced with expanded databases and new rules for publication and anonymisation, and disciplinary decisions are increasingly accessible to the public.

Digitalisation progressed through the enhancement of the Judicial Information System and implementation of AI solutions, improved online services, and court efficiency indicators made available via Tableau software.

Training for judges and prosecutors was reformed with new qualitative evaluation criteria, piloting of preparatory programs, and mentoring. Investment in infrastructure, strategic planning, and redesigned business processes support long-term institutional development, and gender-responsive justice measures are now standard. Some legislative reforms, including ADR and civil appeals, are still under development, while backlog reduction and strengthened funding systems show steady improvement.

Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

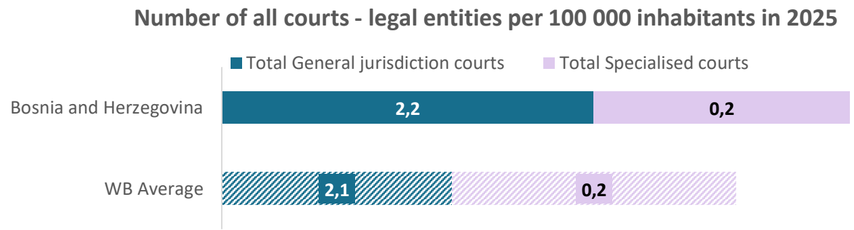
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

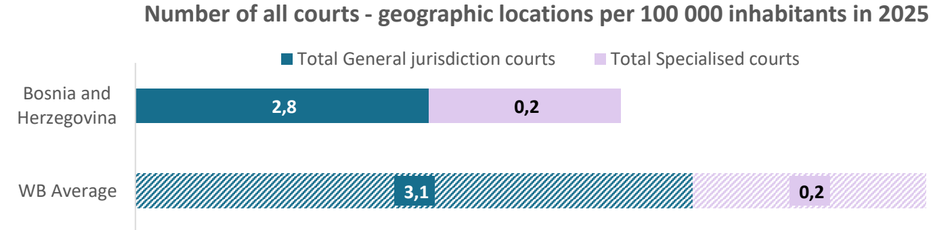
Judicial organisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 2.0)

The judicial system in Bosnia and Herzegovina is organized through the complex network of municipal courts in Federation of BiH and basic courts in Republika Srpska as first instance courts, and cantonal courts in Federation of BiH and district courts in Republika Srpska as dominantly second instance courts. In addition, Brčko District BiH as special administrative unit has two courts: Basic and Appellate court of Brčko District. At the state level there is also Court of BiH, competent for cases initiated by Prosecutor office of BiH and in other cases as stipulated in the law.
The prosecutorial system in BiH is organized at multiple levels, including the state level, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prosecutor Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina is authorized to prosecute cases only before Court of BiH. In Federation of BiH there are Federal Prosecutor's Office and ten cantonal prosecutor's offices prosecuting cases before the courts in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Republic Public Prosecutor Office of Republika Srpska and district prosecutor's offices prosecute cases before courts in Republika Srpska. There is also the Prosecutor office of the Brčko District.
Additionally, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as an independent body, is tasked with ensuring independent, impartial, and professional judiciary throughout the country, consisting of 15 members.
There are three constitutional courts: the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitutional Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Constitutional Court of Republika Srpska.

• Number of courts - legal entities

		Number of courts - legal entities in 2025			Number of courts - geographic locations in 2025		
		Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants	Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total number of all court (1 + 2)		82	2,4	2,3	103	3,0	3,3
General jurisdiction	Total General jurisdiction courts (1)	75	2,2	2,1	96	2,8	3,1
	1st instance	55	1,6	1,6	76	2,2	2,6
	2nd instance	17	0,5	0,4	17	0,5	0,4
	Highest instance	3	0,1	0,1	3	0,1	0,1
Specialised courts	Total Specialised courts (2)	7	0,2	0,2	7	0,2	0,2
	1st instance	6	0,2	0,2	6	0,2	0,2
	2nd instance	1	0,0	0,0	1	0,0	0,0
	Highest instance	NAP	NAP	-	NAP	NAP	-





Courts and court branches are established and dissolved by law. The law regulates the organization, jurisdiction and operation of courts.
1.1 First instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities: all courts that are included in this category have jurisdiction only over the first instance cases (i.e. criminal cases for which less than 10 years of imprisonment is prescribed, minor offence matters, civil and enforcement matters, commercial matters, non contentious matters etc.).
1.2 Second instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities: Only one court from this category has exclusive second instance subject matter jurisdiction. The rest of the courts (i.e. 16 courts) included in this category have prevailing second instance subject matter jurisdiction, namely they decide on appeals against all decisions of the aforementioned first instance courts; in addition, they have first instance jurisdiction in administrative cases and these courts also have mixed competencies in the criminal matters - firstly, they have first instance jurisdiction in criminal cases for which more than 10 years of imprisonment is prescribed; secondly, they decide on appeals against the decisions of first instance courts in criminal cases and minor offence cases. Due to the mixed competencies of the above mentioned group of courts (i.e. 16 courts), they were placed in the category of the first instance courts of general jurisdiction in the previous reporting cycles (i.e. since 2020), together with the courts which have exclusive first instance subject matter jurisdiction. 1.3 Highest instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities:
There are 3 courts of general jurisdiction in Bosnia and Herzegovina that are included in the Supreme Court category. Firstly, at entity level, there are two courts: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court and the Republika Srpska Supreme Court; both courts are competent to decide within the respective entity on legal remedies concerning decisions of the immediately lower courts. Secondly, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina is established at the State level. Its competencies are regulated by the Law on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and are related to criminal, administrative and appellate jurisdiction. However, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has no jurisdiction over the decisions adopted by the entity – level Supreme Courts. Within its criminal jurisdiction, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina tries cases pertaining to the specific category of crimes laid down by the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which include war crimes, organized crime, economic crime and corruption cases. The administrative jurisdiction means that the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina adjudicates cases pertaining to the decisions issued by the State institutions and other organizations in charge of public functions, such as property disputes related to the performance of public functions between the State and the entities, breaches of the election law, etc. Its Appellate Division only decides appeals against the decisions of the Court's first instance divisions. Accordingly, there are three Prosecutor's Offices representing criminal cases before the courts that are included in the Supreme Court category: the Prosecutor's Office before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Prosecutor's Office before the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court; the Prosecutor's Office before the Republika Srpska Supreme Court.

• Specialised courts

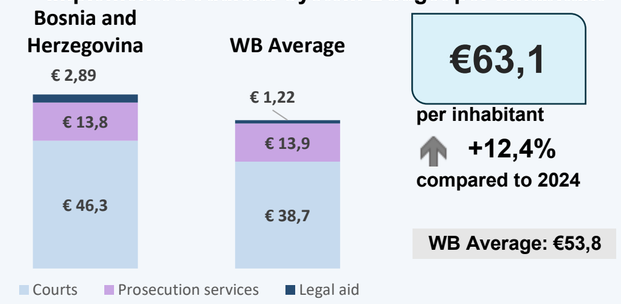
Areas of law concerned by the specialisation in 2025	Specialised courts (legal entities)	Specialised chambers and/or judges
Commercial and insolvency	✓	✓
Labour		
Family		
Rent and tenancies		
Enforcement of criminal sanctions		
Administrative		✓
Juvenile		✓
Domestic violence		
Economic crime		
Corruption		✓
Organised crime/terrorism		✓
Cybercrime and internet related disputes		
Environment		
Immigration/asylum		
Other		

Specialized courts (legal entities) - Specialized commercial courts:
The judicial authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina is exercised by courts of general jurisdiction. As an exception, in one of the jurisdictions within Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e., Republika Srpska), independent commercial courts (i.e., legal entities) have been established by law: 6 first-instance commercial courts and one appellate commercial court (i.e., Higher Commercial Court).
The Higher Commercial Court decides on appeals against the decisions of district commercial courts. The Supreme Court of the Republika Srpska is competent to decide on extraordinary legal remedies against final decisions of commercial courts.
District commercial courts of first instance decide:
i. in civil and non-litigious disputes relating to rights and obligations arising from legal transactions of goods, services, securities, ownership and other real rights in real estate, as well as rights and obligations arising from securities, in which both parties in the proceedings are legal or natural persons, who in the capacity of independent entrepreneurs and in another capacity carry out commercial or other registered activities as their primary or supplementary occupation, ii. in disputes arising from the application of the Companies Act or any other regulation concerning the organization and status of companies, the resolution of disputes arising between members of a company among themselves, as well as between the members and the company, concerning the position of members in the company, the management of the company, and the conduct of matters arising from their position in the company, iii. in disputes relating to ships and navigation on inland waters, as well as in disputes to which maritime law applies, except for disputes regarding passenger transport, iv. in disputes relating to airplanes, as well as in disputes to which aviation law applies, except for disputes regarding passenger transport, v. in disputes concerning copyright, related rights, and industrial property rights. vi. in disputes arising from acts claimed to constitute unfair competition or a monopolistic agreement, vii. in bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings, in accordance with the law, as well as in all disputes arising during and in connection with the implementation of bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings, viii. in matters of registration of legal entities or independent entrepreneurs regulated by the Law on the Registration of Business Entities in the Court Register, ix. regarding the enforcement proceedings based on final and binding enforcement court decisions of commercial courts, x. regarding enforcement proceedings based on authentic documents in which both parties in the proceedings are legal entities or natural persons who, as independent entrepreneurs or in another capacity, perform economic or other registered activities as a primary or supplementary occupation, and on enforcement notarial deeds in which both parties in the proceedings are legal entities, xi. in disputes arising from foreign investment.
The Higher Commercial Court has jurisdiction to:
i. decide on appeals against decisions of district commercial courts, and in the first instance also on other matters determined by law,
ii. decide on conflicts of jurisdiction and on the transfer of jurisdiction of district commercial courts,
iii. establish legal stances for the uniform application of laws within the jurisdiction of district commercial courts, and
iv. perform other tasks determined by law.

Specialized chambers and/or judges:
Courts are established and dissolved by the laws on courts adopted at the relevant levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The laws on courts regulate the organization, jurisdiction, and operation of courts. According to these laws, the judicial authority in Bosnia and Herzegovina is exercised by courts of general jurisdiction, except for 7 commercial courts which were established by the law on courts in one of the jurisdictions within Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e., Republika Srpska). Thus, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the establishment of special specialized courts such as administrative courts, labour courts, juvenile courts, etc., is not envisaged.
When it comes to the establishment of court departments in courts of general jurisdiction in Bosnia and Herzegovina, regulations provide that court departments can be established by a decision of the president of the court in courts where three or more judges decide on matters from the same or several related areas of law. Accordingly, in most first-instance courts of general jurisdiction, at least these court departments are established to reflect the case flow: criminal department, misdemeanor department, civil department, and non-litigious department; and in the largest first-instance courts of general jurisdiction, other court departments are also established for other types of cases, such as: enforcement cases, commercial cases, labor cases, small-claims non-litigious cases. Higher instance courts that have a sufficient number of judges to establish court departments generally establish the following types of court departments: criminal department, civil department, and administrative department.
Members of court departments in first-instance courts and higher courts are judges whose list and number are determined by the president of the court in the decision on the annual work schedule. The work schedule in the court should ensure full efficiency in the execution of judges' work tasks, taking into account their professional knowledge, work abilities, and inclinations. In this way, judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in significant numbers, have the background and have gained experience in certain legal areas by continuously working in some of the key areas (criminal, civil, administrative, etc.), without specialization in any specific groups of cases in those areas. However, judges with acquired experience in a specific legal field may be assigned to handle cases from other legal fields in the same court or in connection with promotion, that is, when being appointed to a higher court.
In addition to the aforementioned basic method of establishing court departments, several laws provide for the establishment of court departments within certain courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Namely, the Law on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina established the Criminal Department, the Administrative Department, and the Appellate Department; also, special laws have established court departments in 3 courts for cases of high corruption and organized crime; furthermore, the Law on Courts in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina determines that the resolution of commercial disputes, bankruptcy proceedings, liquidation proceedings, registration of business entities and other legal persons is allocated to the competence of only 10 first-instance courts in that jurisdiction, while in the other jurisdiction within Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e., Republika Srpska) these cases are resolved in specialized commercial courts. Also, special laws stipulate that only specialized judges can handle criminal cases involving minor offenders.

Budget of the judicial system in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 1)

Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant



€63,1

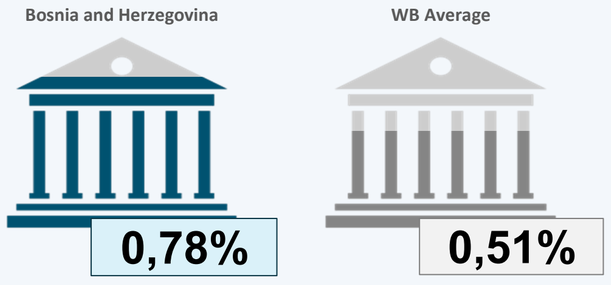
per inhabitant

+12,4%

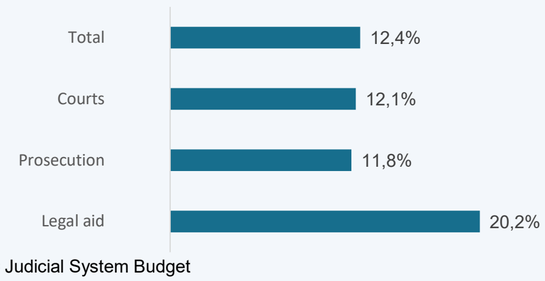
compared to 2024

WB Average: €53,8

Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP



Variation of the JSB per inhabitant between 2024 - 2025



JSB = Judicial System Budget

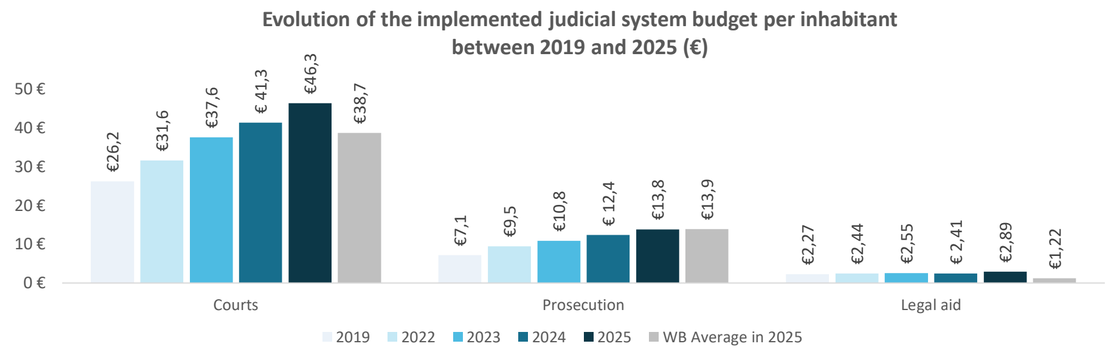
The Judicial System Budget (JSB) is composed by the budget for courts, public prosecution services and legal aid. In 2025, the implemented JBS for Bosnia and Herzegovina was €63,1 per inhabitant, which is higher than the WB Average (€53,8). This amount reflects a +12,4% increase compared to 2024. Within this budget, €46,3 was allocated to courts, €13,8 to prosecution services, and €2,89 to legal aid. For the WB Average, the corresponding allocations were €38,7, €13,9, and €1,22 respectively. As a share of the gross domestic product (GDP), Bosnia and Herzegovina dedicated 0,78% of its total economic output to the judicial system, which was Considerably higher than the WB Average of 0,51%. These figures indicate that Bosnia and Herzegovina invests more in its judicial system both per inhabitant and as a share of GPD compared to the WB Average.

• Budget allocated to the judicial system (courts, prosecution services and legal aid)

In 2025 the the implemented budget reached €215 254 036. The data show a remarkable increase of 77% in the total budget since 2019 and an increase compared to 2024 (12,4%). With respect to economic output, the judicial system budget accounted for 0,78% of GDP in 2025, compared to the regional average of 0,51%. Notably, this proportion increased substantially by 0,09 percentage points since 2019 and by 0,031 percentage points since 2024.
Looking more closely at the different components of the judicial system budget, most of the judicial system budget was devoted to courts, which received 73,5% of the total, followed by prosecution services (22%) and legal aid (4,6%). The implemented budget for courts was €158 140 955, which represents per inhabitant spending of €46,3 compared with €38,7 for the WB Average.
The courts' budget per inhabitant grew by 76,7% since 2019 and by 12,1% from 2024. The courts' budget per inhabitant grew by 12,1% since 2024. The courts' share of GDP was 0,58%, ahead of the regional average of 0,36%. The prosecution saw an implemented budget of €47 250 721 (€13,8 per inhabitant vs the regional average of €13,9). This budget category almost doubled since 2019 (93,89%) and rose from 2024(11,82% . The prosecution's share of GDP was 0,17%, compared to the WB Average of 0,13%. Meanwhile, legal aid's implemented budget was €9 862 360, equivalent to €2,89 per inhabitant — substantially higher than the regional average. The legal aid budget soared remarkably by 27,4% from 2019 and soared remarkably (20,2%) from the previous year. Its GDP share was 0,036%, higher than the WB Average of 0,012%.

Judicial System Budget	Judicial System Budget in 2025		Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant				Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP			
	Approved	Implemented	Per inhabitant in 2025	WB Average in 2025	% Variation between 2019 - 2025	% Variation between 2024 - 2025	As % of GDP	WB Average in 2025	Variation (in ppt) 2019 - 2025	Variation (in ppt) 2024 - 2025
Total	NA	€ 215 254 036	€ 63,1	€ 53,8	77,0%	12,4%	0,78%	0,51%	0,09	0,031
Courts	€ 159 661 782	€ 158 140 955	€ 46,3	€ 38,7	76,7%	12,1%	0,58%	0,36%	0,07	0,021
Prosecution	€ 50 227 515	€ 47 250 721	€ 13,8	€ 13,9	93,9%	11,8%	0,17%	0,13%	0,03	0,006
Legal aid	NA	€ 9 862 360	€ 2,89	€ 1,22	27,4%	20,2%	0,036%	0,012%	-0,008	0,004

PPT = Percentage points



Data on the approved budget are classified according to the economic classification adopted by the ministries of finance. The data regarding the approved budget is classified in a way that allows obtaining data only on the following elements:
-TOTAL - Annual budget allocated to the functioning of all courts, and -1. Annual public budget allocated to (gross) salaries. The classification used for budget approval does not allow to obtain data on other elements.
The reports on execution budgets make it possible to distinguish budget figures for all the elements in the table. The amounts of all items are calculated using the budget execution reports as the best possible estimation.

Computerization in courts: In 2025, all courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina had to acquire new licenses for the Microsoft Windows operating system because support for the old operating system had ended. The significant deviation in this budget item is due to the significant expenditures on licenses for the new operating system, as well as investments in new computers that are needed to make the new operating system work.
Due to the introduction of new operating systems, old computers were replaced in 2025 in all courts, which significantly increased depreciation costs in courts.

The budget allocated for other purposes includes funds allocated for employee benefits such as sick leave, maternity leave and various other benefits. Also, the budget allocated for other purposes includes provisions for deposits. Provisions for retained bails and deposits are reported as long-term provisions for costs that will occur with great certainty in the coming years on the basis of retained bails and deposits. All of these costs can vary significantly from year to year.

Gross salaries in prosecutor offices:
Data on gross salaries broken down by categories (e.g., prosecutors versus other staff) cannot be presented because the structure of budget accounts in prosecutor's offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina does not allow the separation of the requested categories.

Computerization in prosecutor offices:
Currently, it is not possible to provide comprehensive and reliable information for this category.

Other:
The amount entered does not represent additional or undefined costs, but rather a technical difference arising from limitations between the budget systems of prosecutor's offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the CEPEJ methodology. Certain budget items in the budgets of prosecutor's offices include different types of costs which, under the CEPEJ classification, fall into multiple categories, while part of the capital and operational costs cannot be clearly separated between categories.

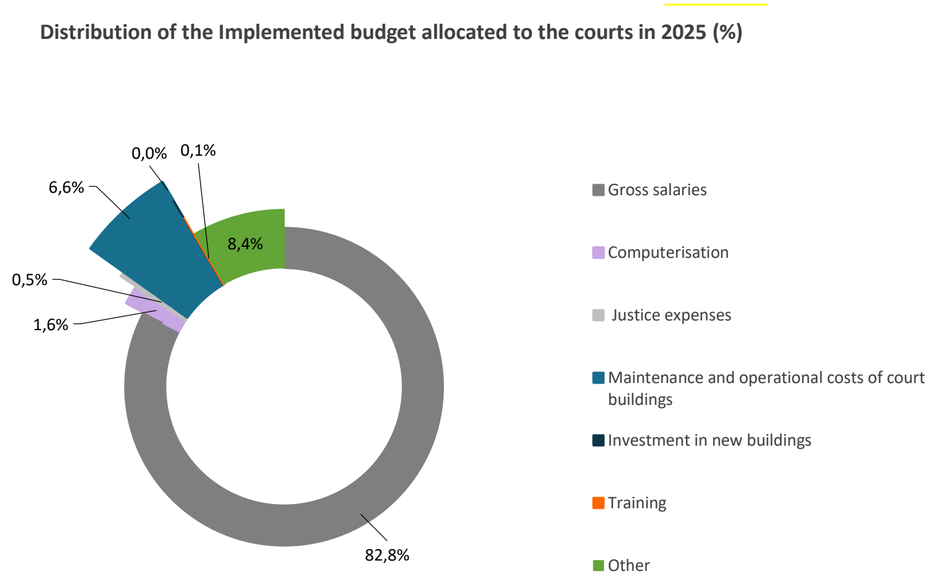
The annual public budget allocated to training of public prosecution services was calculated on the basis of the data of the prosecutor's offices on the funds spent in the reporting year for the procurement of professional literature and the like. These amounts can vary significantly from year to year. This figure does not include the funds spent by judicial training centers and international donors for prosecutors' trainings.

The legal aid is financed through the budgets of individual courts (e.g. funds for legal aid are mainly used to pay for the services of ex officio appointed attorneys in criminal cases) and the budgets of legal aid institutions that are government bodies independent from the courts. The accounting methodology does not make it possible to distinguish the amount of budget funds earmarked by the courts for legal aid from other funds, which are planned within the same line in the court budget. However, it is possible to differentiate the amount of funds spent for legal aid in the implemented court budget. On the other hand, the lawyers employed by the government legal aid institutions provide legal aid in different legal fields (i.e. representation in criminal, civil, administrative court proceedings; provision of legal advice outside of court or other proceedings), therefore it is not possible to split the planned or implemented budget funds of the legal aid institutions between different legal fields. In conclusion, it is only possible to make the calculation of the annual implemented public budget allocated to legal aid without dividing it among criminal and other than criminal cases.

• Budget allocated to the functioning of the courts - Categories

In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina spent 158 140 955€ on the implemented budget for courts. The largest share of the implemented court budget - 82,8% - was allocated to gross salaries, reflecting the significant proportion that staff costs occupy within the judiciary's expenditure. The next substantial category is the "other" category, which accounted for 8,4% of the total courts budget, highlighting a variety of miscellaneous costs not specified in other budget lines.
Moreover, maintanance and operation costs of court buildings represented 6,6% of the budget, demonstrating continued investment in the upkeep and day-to-day functioning of court infrastructure. Computerisation made up 1,6% while justice expenses was allocated 0,5% of the total budget. Finally, training and investment in new buildings were allocated 0,08% and 0,03% of the total budget, respectively.

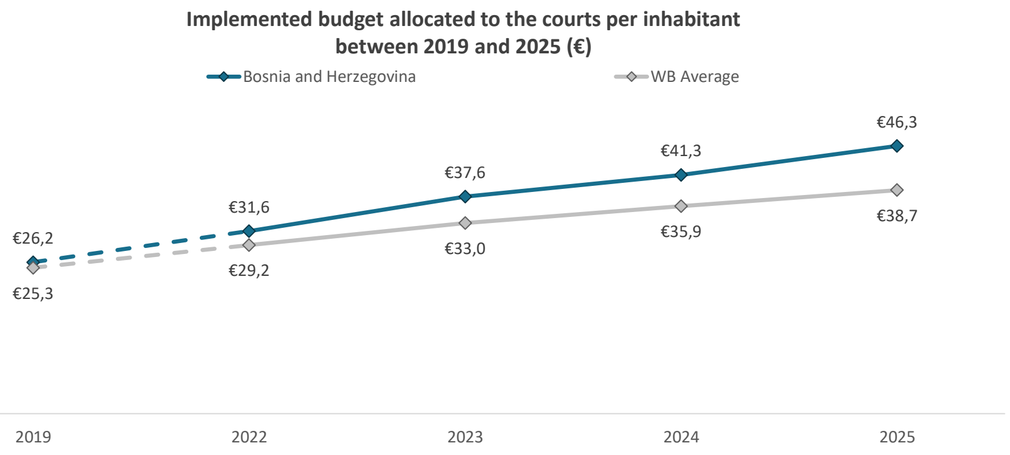
	2025		% Variation between 2019 and 2025		% Variation between 2024 and 2025	
	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	159 661 782 €	158 140 955 €	64,1%	72,5%	5,6%	11,8%
1. Gross salaries	139 856 078 €	130 880 442 €	71,1%	70,0%	15,6%	12,0%
1.1 Salaries of professional judges	74 026 839 €	69 275 969 €				
1.2 Salaries of non-judge staff	61 180 937 €	57 254 488 €				
1.3 Salaries/remunerations of other judges	4 648 302 €	4 349 985 €				
2. Computerisation (2.1 + 2.2)	NA	2 557 125 €	NA	45,2%	NA	44,4%
3. Justice expenses	NA	779 629 €	NA	120,5%	NA	5,8%
4. Maintenance and operational costs of court buildings	NA	10 450 350 €	NA	25,2%	NA	6,7%
5. Investment in new buildings	NA	54 170 €	NA	-41,7%	NA	13,5%
6. Training	NA	133 974 €	NA	46,5%	NA	17,7%
7. Other	NA	13 285 265 €	NA	225,8%	NA	9,8%



When reviewing the trend through the years, Bosnia and Herzegovina's court budget per inhabitant was €26,2 in 2019 and attained €46,3 in 2025, representing a total growth of 76,7% over this period. The most notable annual change occurred between 2022 and 2023 when the budget shifted from €31,6 to €37,6, equating to a 18,8% increase.

In each year, Bosnia and Herzegovina's budget consistently remained above the WB Average, which rose from €25,3 in 2019 to €38,7 by 2025. The gap between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the regional average was most significant in 2025, reaching €7,7 more per inhabitant than the WB Average. The only period of notable convergence occurred in 2019, when the gap narrowed to €1,0 per inhabitant.

The analysis demonstrates that Bosnia and Herzegovina has increased its per inhabitant funding for courts over the recents years and this investment continues to be higher than its regional peers.



• Budget allocated to the functioning of all public prosecution services - Categories

In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina spent 47 250 721€ on the implemented budget for public prosecution services. The largest share of the implemented court budget was allocated to gross salaries (82,2%), highlighting the substantial share of the expenditure dedicated to staff costs. The next substantial category is prosecution expenses, which accounted for 9,86% of the total courts budget, indicating the importance of expenditures that are directly tied to the functions of prosecution.
Moreover, other represented 4,4% of the budget, reflecting a variety of miscellaneous costs not specified in other budget lines. Maintenance and operating costs of the premisses made up 2,7% while computerisation was allocated 0,8% of the total budget. Finally, investment in new buildings and training were allocated 0,04% of the total budget allocation.

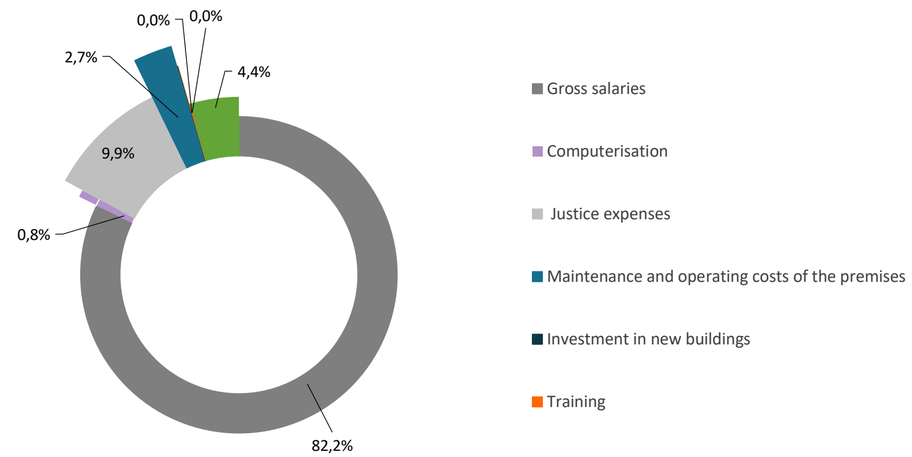
	2025		% Variation between 2019 and 2025		% Variation between 2024 and 2025	
	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	50 227 515 €	47 250 721 €	67,5%	89,2%	15,6%	11,6%
1. Gross salaries	41 719 904 €	38 829 107 €				
1.1 Salaries of public prosecutors	NA	NA				
1.2 Salaries of non-public prosecutor staff	NA	NA				
1.3 Salaries/remunerations of professionals with similar duties to those of public prosecutors	NA	NA				
2. Computerisation	NA	359 986 €				
3. Prosecution expenses	4 708 577 €	4 660 558 €				
4. Maintenance and operating costs of the premises	1 179 090 €	1 261 846 €				
5. Investment in new buildings	22 200 €	18 762 €				
6. Training	NA	20 684 €	NA	NA	NA	12,4%
7. Other	2 597 744 €	2 099 777 €				

Looking at the trend through the years, Bosnia and Herzegovina's budget per inhabitant for the public prosecution services was €7,1 in 2019 and attained €13,9 in 2025, representing a total growth of 94,6% over this period. The most notable annual change occurred between 2023 and 2024 when the budget shifted from €10,8 to €12,4, equating to a 14,3% increase.

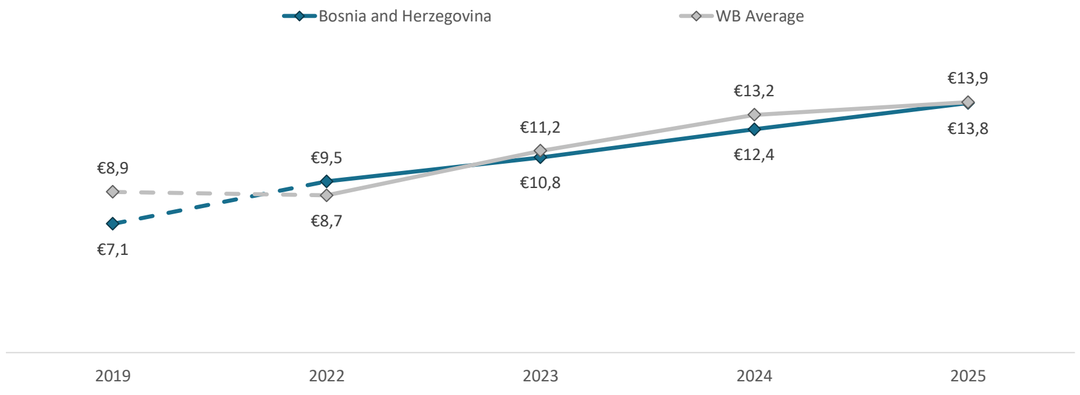
Compared with the regional average trend, Bosnia and Herzegovina's budget for public prosecution services steadily rose over the years, reaching -€0,1 difference with the WB Average in 2025. The gap between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the regional average was most significant in 2019, reaching -€1,8 less per inhabitant than the WB Average. Only in 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina's allocation was higher than the WB average (€9,5 vs €8,7 per inhabitant).

Over the years, the trend of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's budget for the public prosecution services is similar to the WB average. However, the analysis demonstrates that while Bosnia and Herzegovina has increased its per inhabitant funding for public prosecution, this investment continues to be less than its regional peers.

Distribution of the Implemented budget allocated to all public prosecution services in 2025 (%)



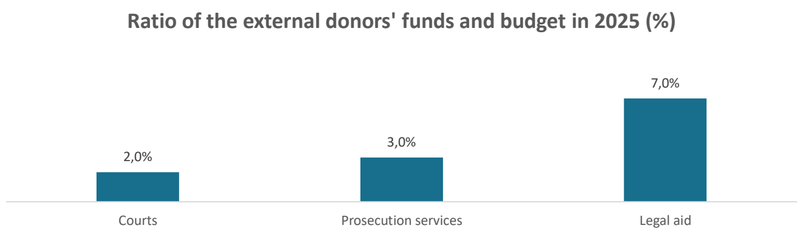
Implemented budget allocated to all public prosecution services per inhabitant between 2019 and 2025 (€)



• Budget received from external donors

The percentages represent an estimate of the ratio between external donations and respective budget. The percentage is calculated in relation to the total implemented budget of each category. However, this does not mean that the external funds cover a percentage of the budget, since donations are not included in the judicial system budget.

	Absolute value	Calculated as %
Courts	NA	2,0%
Prosecution services	NA	3,0%
Legal aid	NA	7,0%



Looking at these figures, the highest ratio between external donations and budget of Bosnia and Herzegovina is for legal aid (7%).

Donor funds are not included in the budgets of the courts, public prosecution services and legal aid institutions; the external funds are implemented in addition to the budgets within the projects financed by the donors or by a nongovernmental organization that provides legal aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The most important donors are the European Commission, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland.

Professionals and Gender Balance in judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicators 2)

Professional Judges

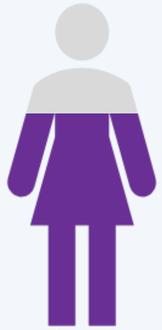
30,0

per 100 000 inhabitants

+3,9%

compared to 2019

WB Average: 30,8



64,9% female judges (total)

Prosecutors

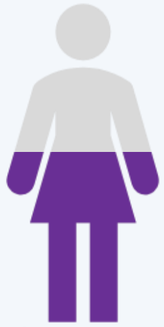
10,3

per 100 000 inhabitants

-3,0%

compared to 2019

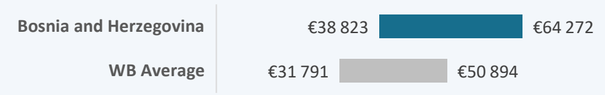
WB Average: 11,8



53,1% female prosecutors (total)

Salaries of judges and prosecutors

Professional judges - Gross annual salaries at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2025 (€)



Prosecutors - Gross annual salaries at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2025 (€)



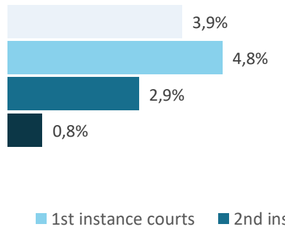
In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 30 professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants and 10,3 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants. Both figures were below the WB Average of 30,8 and 11,8, respectively. More than half of professional judges and prosecutors were women (WB Average was 65,6% and 56,6%, respectively).

• Professional Judges

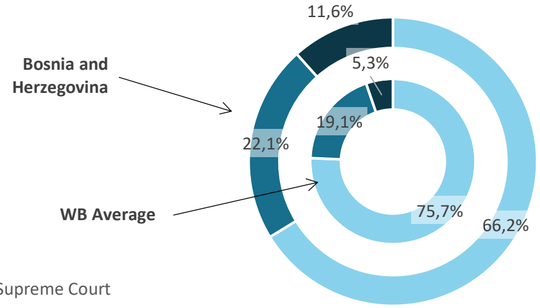
Professional judges in 2025				
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	1 025	100,0%	30,0	30,8
1st instance courts	679	66,2%	19,9	23,2
2nd instance courts	227	22,1%	6,7	6,0
Supreme Court	119	11,6%	3,5	1,6

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 23,4 judges per 100 000 inhabitants.

% Variation of no. of professional judges per 100 000 inh. 2019 - 2025



Distribution of professional judges by instance in 2025 (%)



In 2025, the total number of professional judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 1 025. This number translated to a ratio of 30 judges per 100 000 inhabitants, which was slightly lower than the WB Average of 30,8.

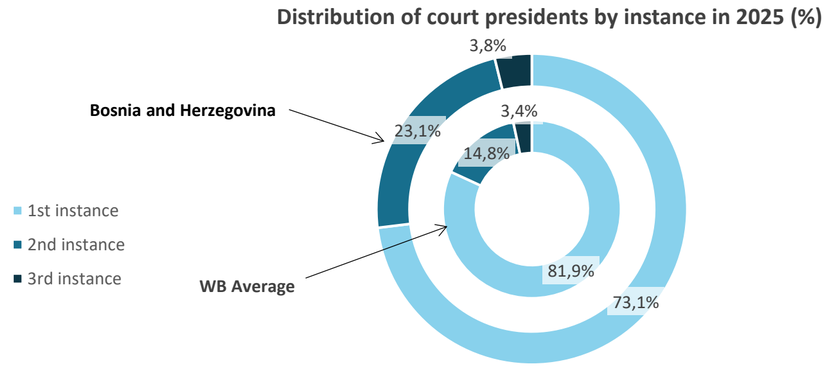
When examining the trends over the past 6 cycles, there has been no significant change in the number of professional judges. Since 2019, the number of professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants remained stable by 3,9%.

Looking at the distribution of the professional judges by instance, 66,2% of judges are assigned to the first instance courts. This is -9,4 percentage points lower than the WB Average (75,7%).

The number of court presidents is included in the number of judges.
There are 3 courts of general jurisdiction in Bosnia and Herzegovina that are included in the Supreme Court category.
Firstly, at entity level, there are the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court and the Republika Srpska Supreme Court.
Both courts are competent to decide within the respective entity on legal remedies concerning decisions of the immediately lower courts.
Secondly, there is the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the State level. Its competencies are regulated by the Law on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and are related to criminal, administrative and appellate jurisdiction. However, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has no jurisdiction over the decisions adopted by the entity – level Supreme Courts. Within its criminal jurisdiction, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina tries cases pertaining to the specific category of crimes laid down by the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which include war crimes, organized crime, economic crime and corruption cases. The administrative jurisdiction means that the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina adjudicates cases pertaining to the decisions issued by the State institutions and other organizations in charge of public functions, such as property disputes related to the performance of public functions between the State and the entities, breaches of the election law, etc. Its Appellate Division only decides appeals against the decisions of the Court's first instance divisions. Accordingly, there are three Prosecutor's Offices representing criminal cases before the courts that are included in the Supreme Court category: the Prosecutor's Office before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Prosecutor's Office before the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court; the Prosecutor's Office before the Republika Srpska Supreme Court.

• Court presidents

	Court presidents in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	78	100,0%	2,3	2,2
1st instance courts	57	73,1%	1,7	1,8
2nd instance courts	18	23,1%	0,5	0,3
Supreme Court	3	3,8%	0,09	0,07



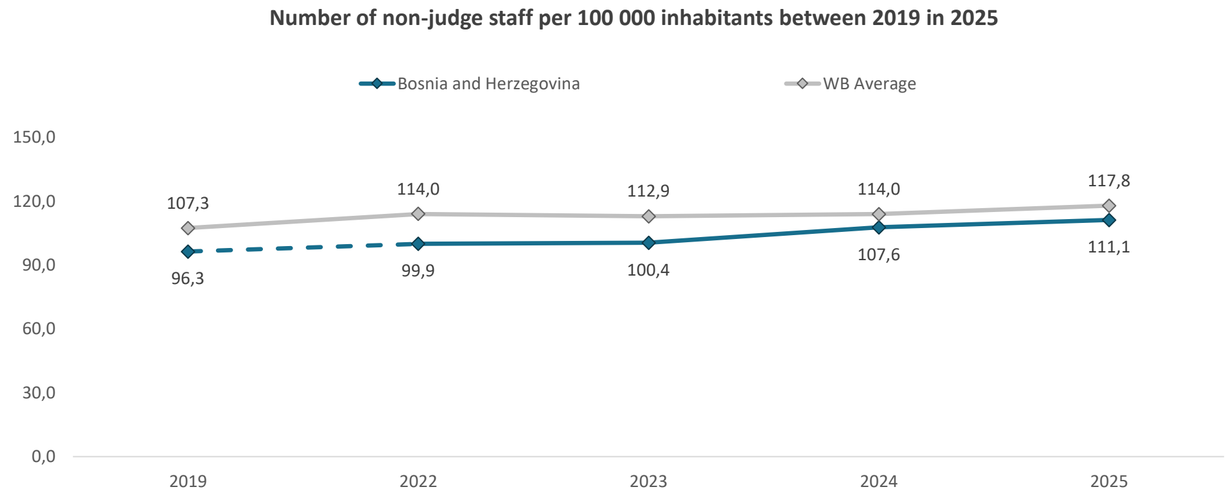
In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina had a total of 78 court presidents. This figure corresponds to 2,3 per 100 000 inhabitants and was close to the WB Average of 2,2.

Role of court president:

Across the laws on courts in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska, and the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the court president is defined as the head of court administration responsible for ensuring the efficient and lawful functioning of the court. The president represents the court externally, organizes and supervises its internal operations, assigns cases to judges in accordance with established rules, and takes measures to improve efficiency and reduce backlog. They also manage personnel and administrative matters, ensure proper implementation of the annual work plan, and coordinate with higher judicial authorities where required, while respecting judicial independence in adjudication.

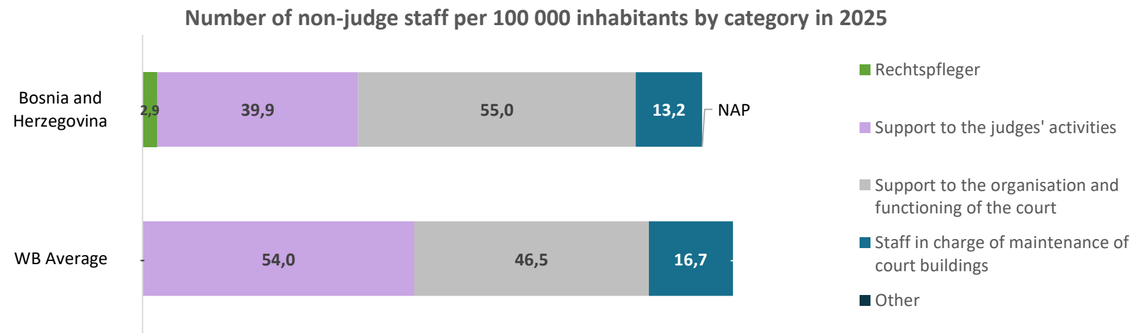
• Non-judge staff

	Number of non-judge staff by category in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	3 792	100,0%	111,1	117,8
Rechtspfleger	99	2,6%	2,9	-
Support to the judges' activities	1 363	35,9%	39,9	54,0
Support to the organisation and functioning of the court	1 878	49,5%	55,0	46,5
Staff in charge of maintenance of court buildings	452	11,9%	13,2	16,7
Other	NAP	NAP	NAP	-



In 2025, the total number of non-judge staff was 3 792, which represents 111,1 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure marks a 3,3% increase compared to 2024, when non-judge staff totaled 107,6 per 100 000 inhabitants. Over the longer period from 2019 to 2025, the total number of non-judge staff per 100 000 inhabitants rose by 15%.
The largest group of non-judge staff were those in charge to support to the organisation and functioning of the court, accounting for 50% of the total, followed by staff supporting judges' activities, who represented 36%.

The High and Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina appoints judicial associates in municipal courts (i.e. first instance courts) in one part of the country, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for an undetermined period. A judicial associate may proceed and decide non-contentious matters, enforcement matters, including payment orders, and small claims cases in accordance with the law and as assigned by the court president. Appeals against their decisions are decided by the second instance courts. As for the requirements in terms of qualifications set by the legislation, judicial associates must possess a law degree and have to pass the bar examination. The provisions of the Law on the High and Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina that refer to judges are applied accordingly also for judicial associates (i.e. appointment procedure, disciplinary procedure etc.).

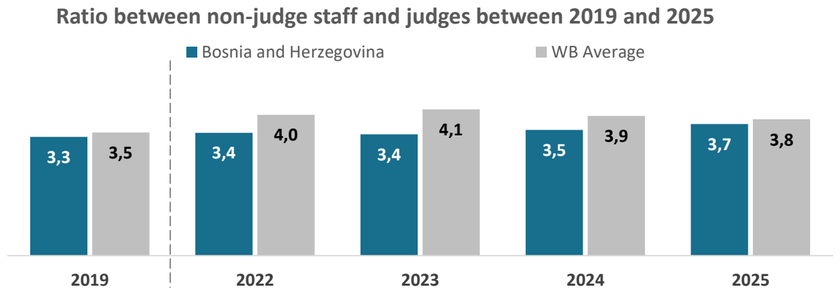


• Ratio between non-judge staff and professional judges

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ratio of non-judge staff per professional judge was 3,7 in 2025, whereas the WB Average was 3,8. This increased since 2019 by 11.1 %

	Ratio in 2025		% Variation 2019 - 2025
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total	3,7	3,8	11,1%

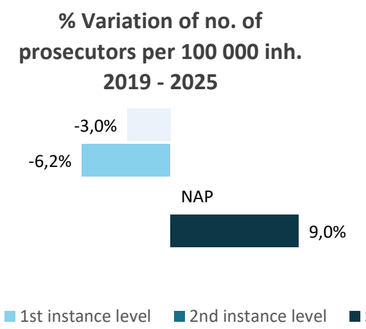
For reference only: the 2024 EU median ratio of non-judge staff per judge is 3,3.

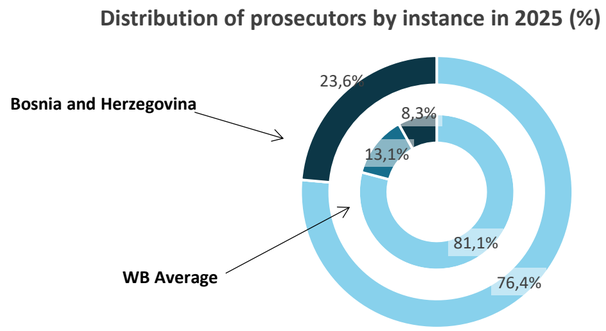


• Prosecutors

	Number of prosecutors by instance in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	352	100,0%	10,3	11,8
1st instance level	269	76,4%	7,9	9,4
2nd instance level	NAP	NAP	NAP	1,8
Supreme Court level	83	23,6%	2,4	1,0

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 11,4 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants.





In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 352 prosecutors in total, which equates to 10,3 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure was lower than the WB Average of 11,8).

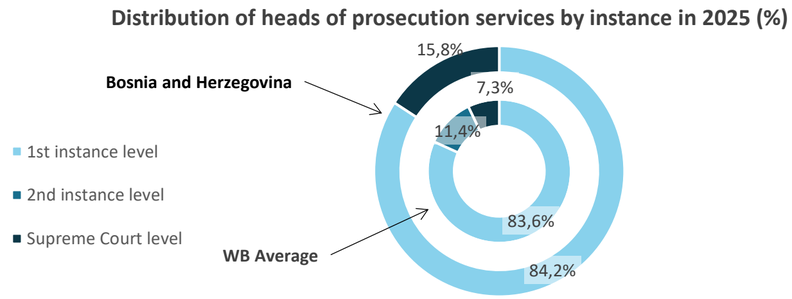
Over the period between 2019 and 2025, the total number of prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants slight decrease by -3% .

Looking at the distribution of the prosecutors by instance, 76,4% of prosecutors are assigned to the first instance courts. This is -4,7 percentage points lower than the WB Average (81,1%).

The number of heads of prosecution offices is included in the number of prosecutors.
There are 3 courts of general jurisdiction in Bosnia and Herzegovina that are included in the Supreme Court category.
Firstly, at entity level, there are the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court and the Republika Srpska Supreme Court.
Both courts are competent to decide within the respective entity on legal remedies concerning decisions of the immediately lower courts.
Secondly, there is the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the State level. Its competencies are regulated by the Law on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and are related to criminal, administrative and appellate jurisdiction. However, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has no jurisdiction over the decisions adopted by the entity – level Supreme Courts. Within its criminal jurisdiction, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina tries cases pertaining to the specific category of crimes laid down by the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which include war crimes, organized crime, economic crime and corruption cases. The administrative jurisdiction means that the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina adjudicates cases pertaining to the decisions issued by the State institutions and other organizations in charge of public functions, such as property disputes related to the performance of public functions between the State and the entities, breaches of the election law, etc. Its Appellate Division only decides appeals against the decisions of the Court's first instance divisions. Accordingly, there are three Prosecutor's Offices representing criminal cases before the courts that are included in the Supreme Court category: the Prosecutor's Office before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Prosecutor's Office before the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court; the Prosecutor's Office before the Republika Srpska Supreme Court.

• Heads of prosecution services

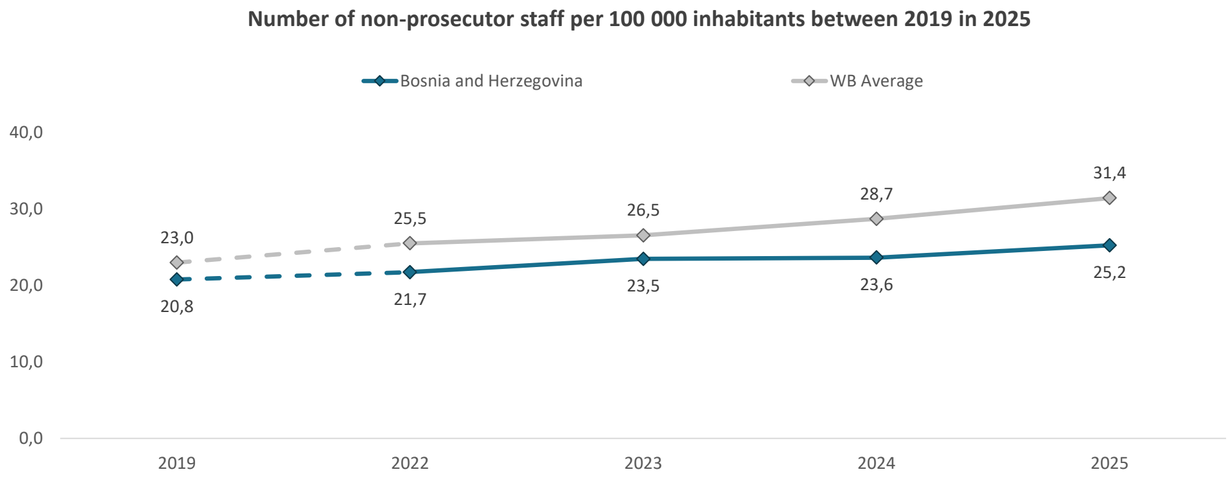
	Heads of prosecution services in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	19	100,0%	0,6	1,1
1st instance level	16	84,2%	0,5	0,9
2nd instance level	NAP	NAP	NAP	0,2
Supreme Court level	3	15,8%	0,09	0,07



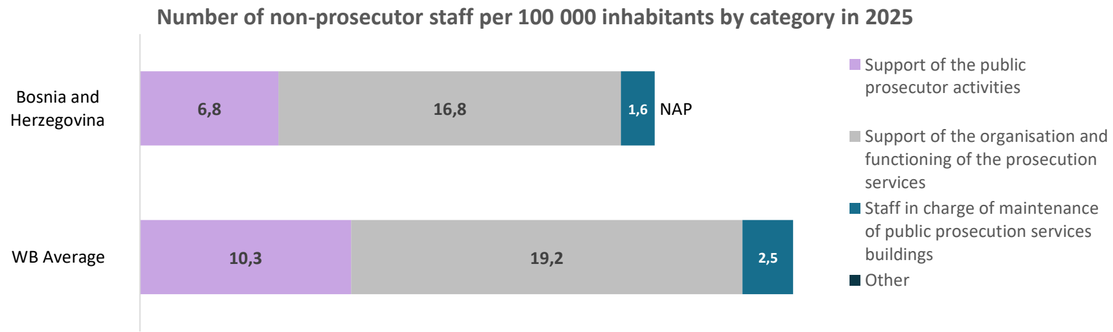
In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina had a total of 19 heads of prosecution services, corresponding to 0,6 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure was remarkably lower than the WB Average of 1,1.

• Non-prosecutor staff

	Number of non-prosecutor staff by category in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	861	100,0%	25,2	31,4
Support of the public prosecutor activities	232	26,9%	6,8	10,3
Support of the organisation and functioning of the prosecution services	573	66,6%	16,8	19,2
Staff in charge of maintenance of public prosecution services buildings	56	6,5%	1,6	2,5
Other	NAP	NAP	NAP	-



In 2025, the total number of non-prosecutor staff was 861, corresponding to 25,2 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure represents a 6,8% increase compared to 2024, when non-prosecutor staff totaled 23,6 per 100 000 inhabitants. Over the longer term, from 2019 to 2025, the total number of non-prosecutor staff rose by 22%.
The largest category of non-prosecutor personnel consisted of those supporting the organisation and functioning of the prosecution services, accounting for 67% of the overall staff. This was followed by staff supporting the public prosecutor activities, who represented 27%.
The number of staff includes all categories of employees in prosecutors' offices except prosecutors. Employees who assist prosecutors in the work on cases, employees who perform all other tasks necessary for the functioning of the prosecutor's office and employees who perform the necessary technical tasks.
The categories of employees who are included in our response are the following:
-Administrative, accounting and legal affairs
-Typists, prosecutorial assistant
-ICT staff
-Investigators in prosecutors' offices
-Public Relations officers
-Expert for Witness support/protection of minors
-Support to prosecutors in case work (example – trainees)
-Expert associates/advisors - support to prosecutors in the work on cases (example – Economic expert)
-Supporting Technical staff (example – driver)



• Non-prosecutor staff and Ratio between non-prosecutor staff and prosecutors

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ratio of non-prosecutor staff per professional prosecutor was 2,4 in 2025, whereas the WB Average was 2,6. This increased since 2019 by 25.3 %.

	Ratio in 2025		% Variation 2019 - 2025
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total	2,4	2,6	25,3%

For reference only: the 2024 EU median ratio of non-prosecutor staff per judge is 1,1.

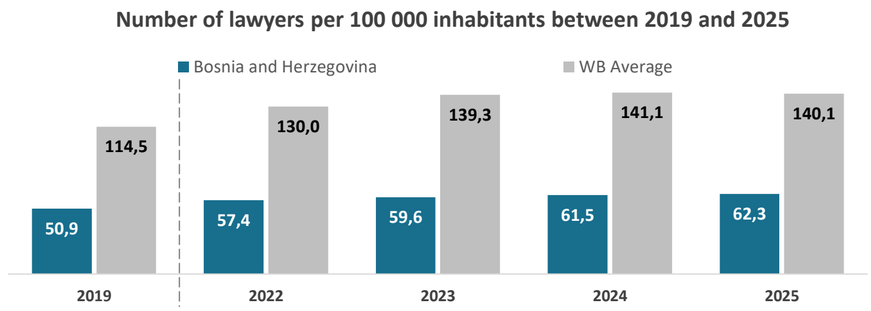


• Lawyers

	Number of lawyers in 2025			% Variation 2019 - 2025
	Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total	2 127	62,3	140,1	22,5%

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 138,7 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants.

In 2025, there were 62,3 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants, a figure that was remarkably lower than the WB Average of 140,1. The number of lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants increased by 22,5% between 2019 and 2025.



Number of lawyers: Bar associations from Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted data on the number of lawyers registered in their official registers at the end of the reporting year. Only lawyers enrolled in the public registry of lawyers have the right to represent and defend all physical and legal persons before courts, administrative authorities and all other institutions in the state.
Number of enforcement agents:
Courts from Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted data on the number of enforcement agents at the end of the reporting year. Enforcement agents are court employees who, by order of the court, take immediate actions in the enforcement proceedings. The enforcement proceedings are managed by the individual judge.
Number of notaries:
Notary chambers from Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted data on the number of notaries registered in their official registers at the end of the reporting year.
Number of judicial experts:
The relevant ministries of justice keep records of appointed expert witnesses. This directory is a public register.

Legal representation in courts exclusively exercised by lawyers in 2025

	First instance	Second instance	Third instance
Civil cases			
Dismissal cases			
Criminal cases – Defendant			
Criminal cases – Victim			
Administrative cases			

Yes, always
Yes, in some cases
No/NAP

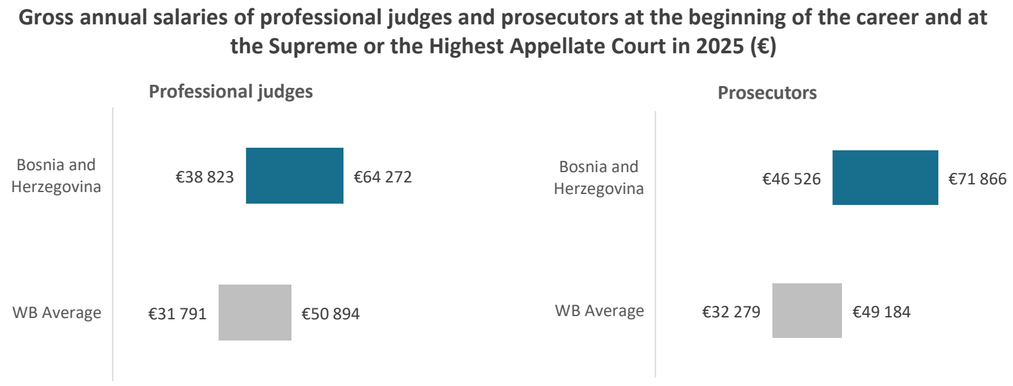
In criminal cases the suspect/accused has the right to present his/her own defence or to be defended by a defence counsel who has to be a lawyer or, in some parts of the state, a legal aid official employed by a legal aid institution. Only in cases specified by the law defence by a defence counsel is mandatory. Many of the criminal cases dealt with by the highest courts fall under the terms of mandatory defence by a defence counsel. Civil society organisations, family members or trade unions cannot represent a client before courts in criminal cases. As for the victims, they can represent themselves while the criminal procedure legislation does not contain an explicit general provision on the right of victims to have a representative in criminal proceedings; however, criminal procedure laws include several provisions that indirectly foresee this possibility for victims without stating that these representatives can only be lawyers.
Litigants can represent themselves in civil and administrative cases. They can also be represented by family members (spouse, life partner or by a relative by blood or by marriage), legal aid officials (employed by legal aid institutions or legal aid NGOs) or by trade union employee in labour cases.
Self-representation before the highest instance courts in civil cases is restricted in the revision cases (extraordinary legal remedy). Request for revision can be submitted to the highest instance courts by either a lawyer or by a litigant or his agent provided they have the same qualifications as lawyers (bar exam).

• Salaries of professional judges and prosecutors

In 2025, the salary of a professional judge at the beginning of his/her career was €38 823 which saw a remarkable increase by 57,4% since 2019. The ratio of the starting salary of professional judges to the annual gross average salary in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 2,5, which was slightly higher than the WB Average (2,4). At the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court, judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina earned 65,6% more than at the start of their careers (€64 272), which represents a higher increase compared to the WB Average of 55,1%.

Similarly, the salary of a public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career was €46 526 which saw a remarkable increase by 88,6% since 2019. The ratio of the starting salary of prosecutors to the annual gross average salary in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 3, which was higher than the WB Average of 2,4. Prosecutors serving at the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Courts earned salaries that were 54,5% higher than at the entry level (€71 866), a percentange increase that was close to the WB Average increase of 51,1%.

		Salaries in 2025 (absolute values)			Ratio with the average gross annual salary	
		Gross annual salary in €	% Variation 2019 - 2025	Net annual salary in €	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average ratio
Professional judge	At the beginning of his/her career	38 823	▲ 57,4%	25 072	2,5	2,4
	Of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court	64 272	▲ 48,9%	41 456	4,2	3,7
Public prosecutor	At the beginning of his/her career	46 526	▲ 88,6%	29 025	3,0	2,4
	Of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court	71 866	▲ 66,4%	44 329	4,7	3,6



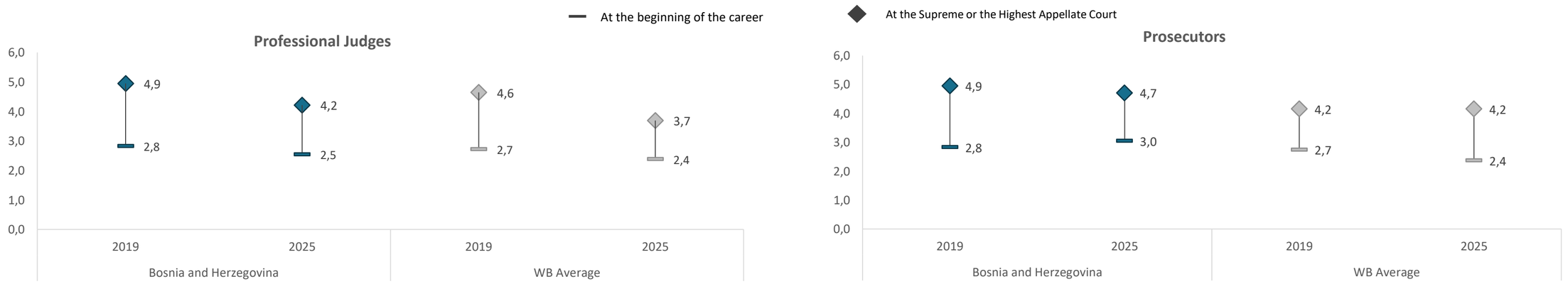
For reference only: the 2024 EU median for the ratio of judges and prosecutors' salaries with average gross annual national salary is:

- professional judges' salary at the beginning of career: 1,8

- professional judges' salary at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court: 4,3

- prosecutors' salary at the beginning of career: 1,7

- prosecutors' salary at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court: 3,5



First of all, the work experience affects the amount of net and gross salaries. The following assumptions were used for the above stated calculations of the salaries of judicial office folders (i. e. judges and prosecutors): three-year working experience of judge/prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career; twenty-year working experience of a judge/prosecutor of the supreme court or the highest appellate instance. There are somewhat different general regimes for the salary contributions in different jurisdictions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, these regimes apply to the salaries of the judicial office holders as well. Having in mind the aforementioned factors, the above stated calculations of the salaries are made as the weighted average salary based on the number of judges/prosecutors.
The method used to calculate net and gross salaries for judges/prosecutors is based on the basic salary amount as prescribed by law together with allowances added to the net salary subject to years of employment, and other contributions for the calculation of gross salaries. Deviations occur due to the application of different legal regulations on entity level, i.e. specifically with reference to judicial office positions in one of the jurisdictions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e. the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina), where there are far more judges than prosecutors, which directly impacts the calculation of overall indicators.

• Performance and evaluation of judges and public prosecutors

	Judges	Prosecutors
A mandatory formal evaluation system regulated by law	✓	✓
An optional formal evaluation system	✗	✗
An informal evaluation system (e.g., discussions with superiors, peer review)	✗	✗
Evaluation based on quantitative criteria	✓	✓
Evaluation based on qualitative criteria	✓	✓

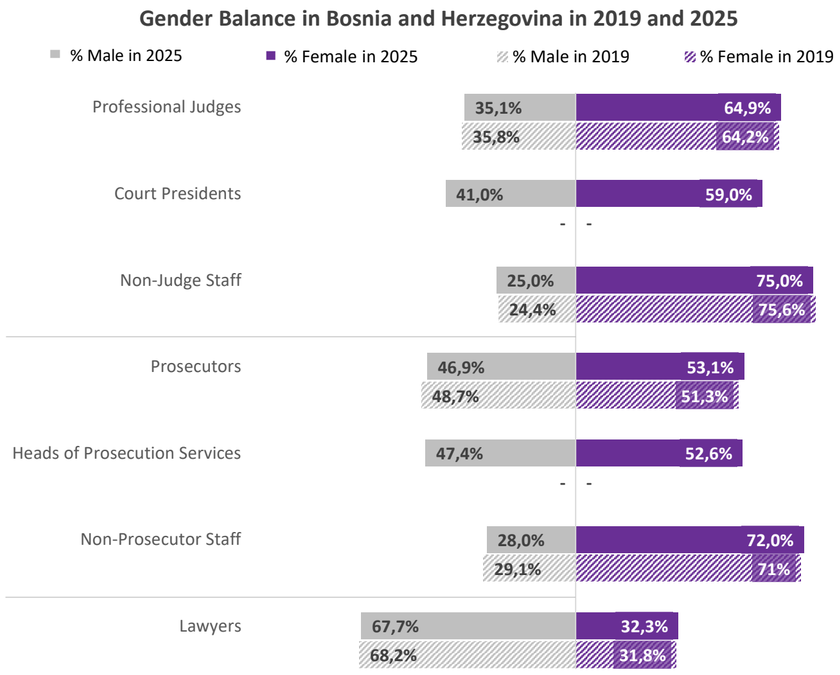
According to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopts two sets of criteria - criteria for evaluating the performance of judges and criteria for evaluating the performance of prosecutors.
The evaluation of the work results of all judges and prosecutors is carried out once a year. The performance of judges is assessed by the president of the court, whereas the chief prosecutor evaluates the work of prosecutors in accordance with the criteria established by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
In December 2024, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted new criteria for evaluating the work of judges and prosecutors. With the adoption of the new criteria, analytical evaluation was introduced into the evaluation system for judicial function holders. This involves a qualitative element of work evaluation („Analytical evaluation of prosecutor's work“ and „Analytical quality of judge's work and decisions“) which will enable a better assessment of the professional competencies of each judge and prosecutor. Thus, a reform of the evaluation system was initiated, which had previously been predominantly based on the assessment of results according to quantitative indicators. This reform was undertaken after the recommendations of experts engaged by the European Commission for the preparation of a 'Peer Review on the evaluation of the work of judges and prosecutors' from 2017 were accepted, suggesting that it is necessary to strengthen quality criteria in the evaluation system. The presidents of courts and chief prosecutors will evaluate the work of the holders of judicial functions according to new criteria during the first quarter of 2026.
The criteria and points structure for the annual performance evaluation of judges are as follows: Quantity of work (i.e. annual quota) – up to 30 points, Percentage of realization of individual case resolution plan - up to 10 points, Analytical quality of judge's work and decisions – up to 10 points, Statistical quality of decisions (i.e. confirmation rate) – up to 50 points.

The criteria and points structure for the annual performance evaluation of prosecutors are as follows: Quantity of work (i.e. annual quota) – up to 30 points, Percentage of realization of individual case resolution plan - up to 10 points, Analytical evaluation of prosecutor's work - 10 points, Statistical quality of decisions – up to 50 points.
The statistical quality of decisions issued by a judge is evaluated based on the following sub-criteria:
a)the percentage of reversed decisions compared to the total number of decisions upheld, modified and reversed by a higher instance court;
b)the percentage of reversed and modified decisions compared to the total number of cases in which a final decision was rendered to which a legal remedy may be filed with the higher instance court.
The chief prosecutor determines the analytical evaluation of the prosecutor's work based on a reasoned assessment of the prosecutor's work according to the following elements: a) the ability to determine the established facts relevant for making prosecutorial decisions; b) the ability to handle complex cases; c) timeliness in making decisions and compliance with legal deadlines; d) the ability to organize and efficiently conduct investigations in a proactive manner; e) the professional level of prosecutorial decisions, demonstrated legal knowledge, and use of legal remedies.
The president of the court determines the analytical assessment of a judge's work based on a reasoned evaluation of the judge's work according to the following elements:
a) the consistency of the introduction, ruling, and reasoning of the court decision from the perspective of responding to all requests and significant objections or essential appeal claims, as well as the existence of clear instructions to the higher court in case of annulment of the decision.
b) the quality of the reasoning of court decisions in terms of the ability to correctly assess evidence and properly and fully determine the factual situation, legal analysis of analytical reasoning, consistency of argumentation in the reasoning, knowledge of the application of regulations and case law, including the application of international treaties, case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and other international courts.
c) the skill of oral and written expression, particularly the ability to express oneself clearly and concisely, and the use of appropriate legal terminology.
e) quality of conducting the proceedings, with particular regard to: - the ability to handle complex cases, - preparation for trial through proper preparation of the main hearing/session, precise definition of actions to be carried out at the hearing and evidence to be presented, as well as concentration of evidence, - conducting the proceedings in accordance with the principle of efficiency and economy, avoiding unjustified postponement and adjournment of hearings, and taking legally prescribed measures to ensure the presence of the accused, or parties to the proceedings, witnesses, and experts, taking measures to prevent abuse of procedural rights by the parties and other participants in the proceedings, compliance with statutory deadlines for scheduling and continuing hearings/sessions/proceedings, and taking legally prescribed actions, which must be recorded in the hearing minutes, for the conclusion of the dispute through a judicial settlement, - timely drafting of court decisions
As mentioned above, one of the criteria is the annual quota, i.e. the number of cases that a prosecutor/judge should resolve over the course of a year. A prosecutor/judge may receive a maximum of 30 points under this criterion if they exceed the annual quota. However, if a prosecutor/judge fails to reach the best possible result than a certain number of points are awarded in the annual performance procedure as follows:
a) up to 50% of the achieved quota: 0 points; b) 51–60% of the achieved quota: 5 points; c) 61–70% of the achieved quota: 10 points; d) 71–80% of the achieved quota: 15 points; f) 91–100% of the achieved quota: 25 points; g) over 100% of the achieved quota 30 points.
It is not in itself a disciplinary offense if the judge or prosecutor resolves a smaller number of cases than the intended target. However, a poor work result results in a judge or prosecutor receiving a poor grade, which may indicate that a judge or prosecutor is negligently performing his or her duties. The Disciplinary Prosecutor's Office in the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina examines the circumstances due to which the target was not achieved in individual cases.
In general, according to the criteria for evaluating the work of judges and prosecutors adopted by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the evaluation of the work of judges and prosecutors is carried out for the purpose of:
a) improving the efficiency and quality of the judicial system, through enhancing the professional and expert abilities of those holding judicial functions; b) career advancement and determining the training needs of those holding judicial functions; c) improving the management of judicial institutions and achieving their more efficient and effective operation; d) improving the accountability of the judicial system and strengthening citizens' trust.
When it comes to the promotion of judges and prosecutors, the purpose of performance evaluation is reflected in the procedure of recruitment and selection of judges and prosecutors is conducted by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Rules of Procedure of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Book of Rules on Entrance Exams and Written Tests for Candidates for Judicial Office in the Judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A public announcement of vacant positions in any court or prosecutor's office (regardless of the level) precedes the appointment of judges, including court presidents. The Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina in general does not distinguish the recruitment of new judges and prosecutors from the promotion or transfer of judicial office holders to a different position in judiciary. Thus a public vacancy is applicable to both internal candidates (candidates who hold judicial office) and external candidates, who compete each other for the vacant position. However, certain aspects of selection procedure are different for internal or external candidates. Selection procedure may include entrance exams and written tests, depending on the status of the candidate. Entrance exams and written tests shall be carried out mainly for candidates who do not hold judicial office and who have applied for positions of judges on any level. Results of the aforementioned tests are relevant for the establishing the competences of the external candidates. Competences of the candidates who are already judges or prosecutors are established based on the performance evaluation. All candidates have to be interviewed by the interview panel, which assesses the criteria regulated in the aforementioned Rules of Procedure. Candidates are ranked based on their success in the selection procedure. The points received according to the competence criterion (results of entrance exam/written test or performance evaluation) are added to the points received at the interview and candidates are ranked according to the total points scored. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina appoints judges and prosecutors from the list of successful candidates upon proposal of relevant nomination sub council (internal body within the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina). The decision on the appointment has to be reasoned.

• Gender Balance

	% Female in 2025		Variation of the % females between 2019 - 2025 (in ppt)
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Professional Judges	64,9%	65,6%	▲ 0,7
Court Presidents	59,0%	47,6%	
Non-Judge Staff	75,0%	71,6%	▼ -0,6
Prosecutors	53,1%	56,6%	▲ 1,8
Heads of Prosecution Services	52,6%	47,5%	
Non-Prosecutor Staff	72,0%	68,7%	▲ 1,1
Lawyers	32,3%	38,2%	▲ 0,6

PPT= Percentage points



For reference only: the 2024 EU medians on gender are among professionals are as follows: 63% women judges; 77% women non-judge staff; 63% women prosecutors; 79% women non-prosecutor staff; and 48% women lawyers.

In 2025, the percentage of female professional judges was 64,9%, which was lower than WB Average (65,6%). With a presence of 59%, the number of female court presidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina was significantly higher than the WB Average of 47,6%. Moreover, the percentage of female non-judge staff was 75%.

Also, the percentage of female prosecutors was 53,1% (lower than the WB Average of 56,6%).The number of female heads of prosecution services (52,6%) was higher than the WB Average (47,5%). Moreover, the percentage of female non-prosecutor staff was 72%.

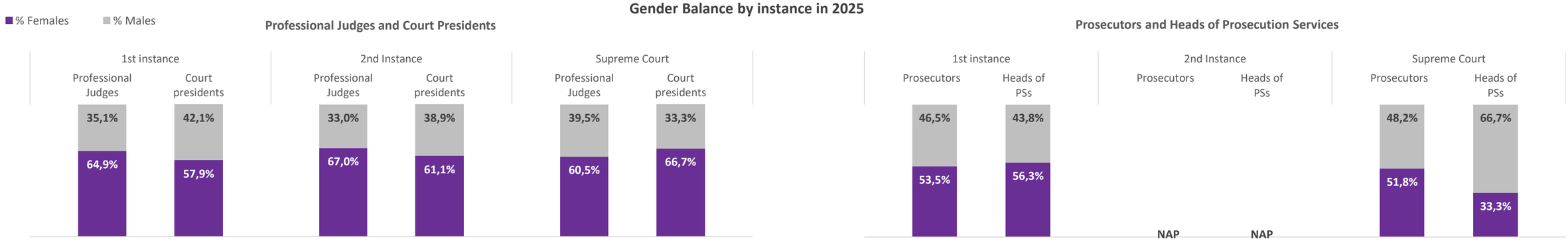
Finally, the percentage of female lawyers was 32,3%, which was lower than WB Average (38,2%).

The lawyers were the only category with less than 50% of female presence.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the percentage of women among professional judges is generally high across all court instances, with a slightly higher representation at the second instance (67.0%) compared to first (64.9%) and Supreme Court (60.5%).

	Professional Judges % Female		Court presidents % Female		Prosecutors % Female		Heads of Prosecution Services % Female	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average
1st instance	64,9%	66,2%	57,9%	46,8%	53,5%	57,1%	56,3%	49,3%
2nd instance	67,0%	65,3%	61,1%	47,6%	NAP	51,6%	NAP	43,8%
Supreme Court	60,5%	62,6%	66,7%	53,3%	51,8%	42,7%	33,3%	58,3%

This trend is broadly in line with WB (Western Balkans) averages. Among court presidents, Bosnia and Herzegovina shows a consistent increase from first (57.9%) to second instance (61.1%), and the Supreme Court (66.7%), all exceeding regional averages. For prosecutors, female representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is slightly below the WB average at first instance (53.5%) but above at the Supreme Court level (51.8%). Regarding heads of prosecution services, Bosnia and Herzegovina shows strong female representation at the first instance (56.3%), above the WB average. Overall, female participation remains strong and often at or above regional averages, with the representation tending to increase at higher court instances, especially among court presidents.

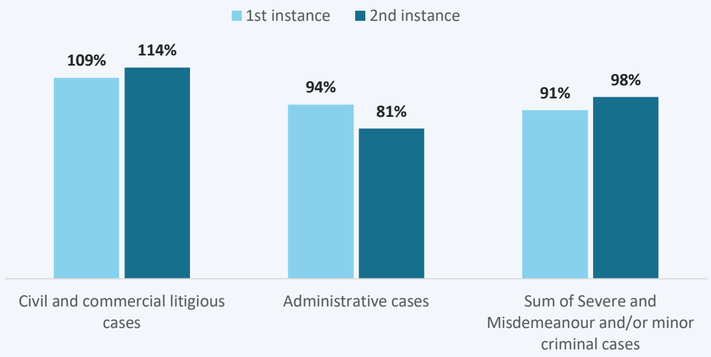


• Gender Equality Policies

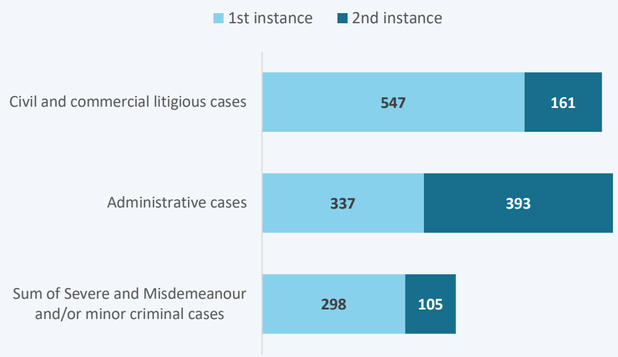
In October 2020, the HJPC adopted the Strategy on Improving Gender Equality in the Judiciary of BiH, based on which all judicial institutions developed their respective implementation plans. The implementation of these plans began in 2022 and the HJPC BiH has since been regularly monitoring their progress and issuing recommendations aimed at further improvement.
The Strategy was created within the Project Improving Court Efficiency and Accountability of Judges and Prosecutors in BiH - Phase 2, financed by the Government of Sweden, in cooperation with the Swedish National Courts Administration
The Strategy is available here: https://pravosudje.ba/vstvfo/E/141/article/95500

Efficiency in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicators 3.1 and 3.2)

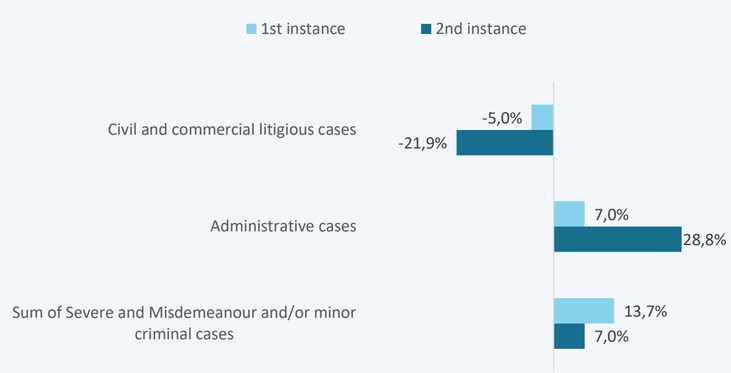
Clearance Rate in 2025



Disposition Time in 2025 (in days)



% Variation of pending cases at the end of year between 2024 and 2025



In 2025, the highest Clearance rate (CR) for Bosnia and Herzegovina was calculated for the second instance Civil and commercial litigious cases, with a CR of 114%. However, it seems that Bosnia and Herzegovina was not able to deal as efficiently with the second instance Administrative cases (CR of 81%). With a Disposition Time of approximately 105 days, the second instance sum of the Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases were resolved faster than any other type of cases.

Compared to 2024, the pending cases at the end of year increased for the second instance Administrative cases (28,8%), whereas they decreased for the second instance Civil and commercial litigious cases by -21,9%.

For first instance cases, the clearance rate slightly decreased for civil/commercial and administrative cases, but showed a minor increase for criminal cases over the period.
In 2025 compared to 2019, DT is higher for civil/commercial (+19 days) and criminal cases (+35 days), but lower for administrative cases (−49 days).

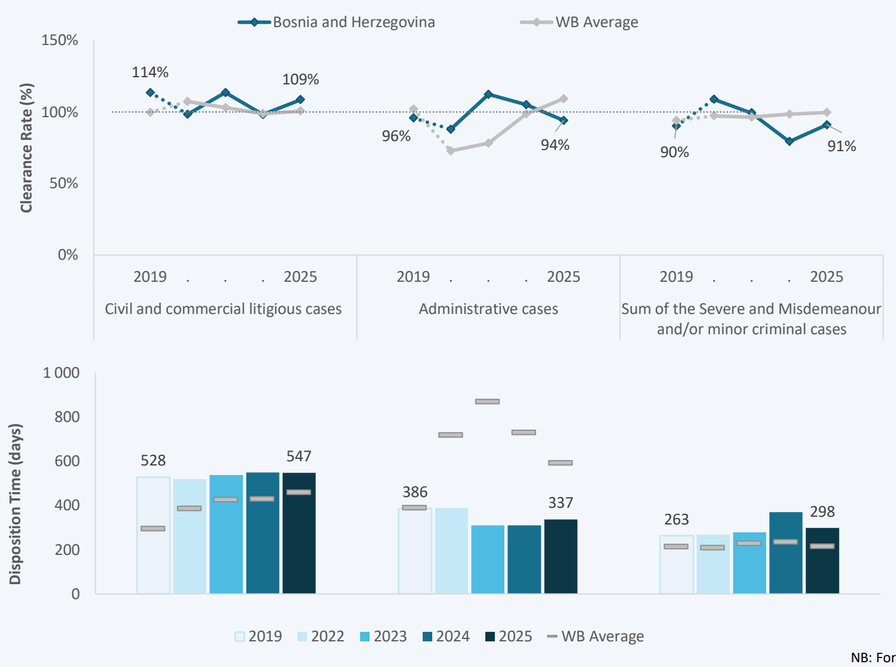
For second instance cases, the clearance rate increased slightly for civil/commercial cases, but decreased for administrative and criminal cases.
DT for second instance cases decreased significantly for civil/commercial (−284 days) and administrative cases (−148 days), but increased for criminal cases (+8 days).

Overall, the data shows that courts have generally improved efficiency in resolving civil and administrative cases at the second instance, as evidenced by reduced disposition times. However, some case types, especially criminal cases, show slower resolution or a decline in clearance rates.

Between 2019 and 2025, most case categories experienced a significant reduction in disposition time, especially at the second instance level, reflecting faster case resolution.

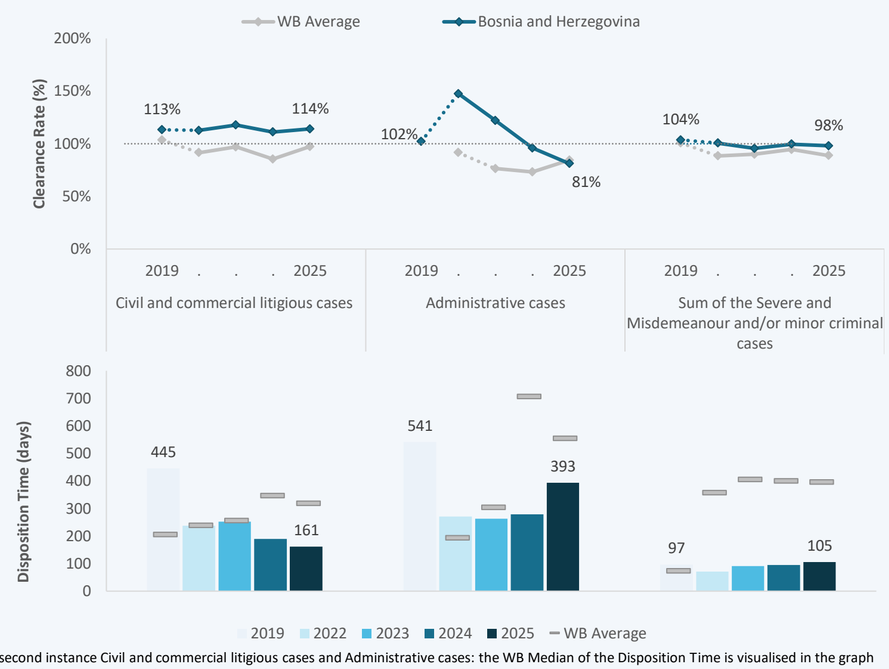
First instance cases

Clearance rate (%) and Disposition Time (days) for first instance cases from 2019 to 2025



Second instance cases

Clearance rate (%) and Disposition Time (days) for second instance cases from 2019 to 2025



NB: For the second instance Civil and commercial litigious cases and Administrative cases: the WB Median of the Disposition Time is visualised in the graph above (instead of the WB average). Also, as per methodological note, the 2019 WB Median for the Administrative cases is not available.

• First instance cases - Other than criminal law cases

1st instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)		Bosnia and Herzegovina (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		1 070 711	1 163 518	1 757 759	1 311 937	13,6%	6,2%	-4,3%	-3,5%
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	89 624	97 320	145 739	59 827	-13,6%	-4,5%	-5,0%	-9,5%
2	Non-litigious cases	971 919	1 057 575	1 604 059	1 251 307	17,0%	7,4%	-4,3%	-3,2%
3	Administrative cases	9 168	8 623	7 961	803	10,2%	-1,4%	7,0%	-17,0%
4	Other cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

In 2025, the incoming civil and commercial litigious cases were 89 624 (2,63 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 2,36). They decreased by -13,6% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 97 320 (2,85 per 100 inhabitants) and they decreased by -4,5%, compared to the previous year. In 2025, the number of resolved cases was higher than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the civil and commercial litigious pending cases at the end of 2025 were less than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 109% (above the WB Average of 101%). This increased by 10,3 percentage points compared to 2024.

The Disposition Time for civil and commercial litigious cases was approximately 547 days in 2025 (above the WB Average of 457 days). This decreased by -0,5% compared to 2024.

The incoming administrative cases were 9 168 in 2025 (ie 0,27 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,6). They increased by 10,2% compared to the previous year.In 2025, the resolved cases were 8 623 (0,25 per 100 inhabitants, below of the WB Average of 0,75). Between 2024 and 2025, the number of resolved administrative decreased by -1,4%. The number of incoming cases was thus higher than the resolved cases. As a consequence, the administrative pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024 and the Clearance rate for this type of cases was 94% (below the WB Average (109%). The CR decreased by -11,1 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Finally, the Disposition Time for administrative cases was approximately 337 days in 2025. This has increased by 8,6% compared to 2024 and it was below the WB Average (590 days).

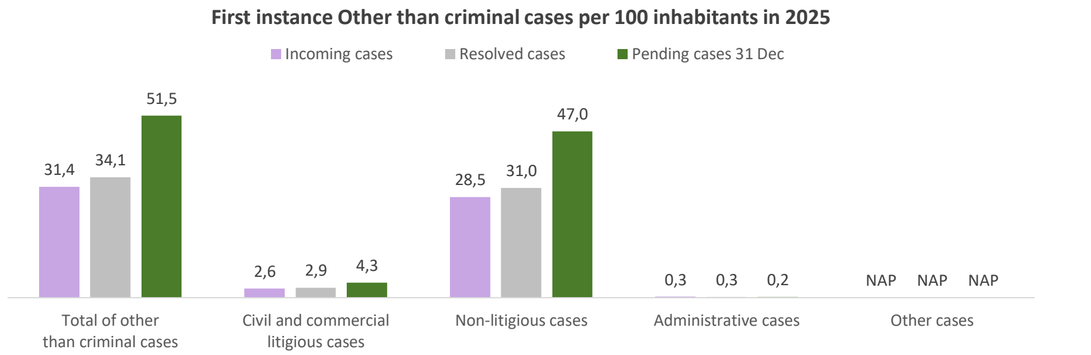
In 2025, the decrease in incoming first instance civil and commercial litigious cases was mainly driven by a lower number of utility-bill cases, particularly at the Municipal Court in Sarajevo. This also contributed to a reduction in pending cases in this category, including a slight decrease in the number of cases older than two years, which continue to consist largely of small claims related to unpaid utility bills.

In first instance non-litigious matters, the number of incoming cases increased slightly in several major courts, but courts overall continued to resolve these cases with clearance rates above 100%, thereby further reducing backlogs. As in previous years, enforcement cases related to unpaid utility bills represented the largest share of the caseload and of the backlog of cases older than two years, especially in courts located in the largest cities. At the same time, land-registry and related cases generated a particularly heavy workload in 2025, notably due to the continuation of projects aimed at harmonising land register and cadastre data, while registration of business entities remained broadly stable and most courts achieved clearance rates of around 100% in this area.

1st instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)		Incoming cases			Resolved cases			Pending cases 31 Dec			Pending cases over 2 years		
		Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		31,4	>	10,8	34,1	>	11,5	51,5	>	14,2	38,45	>	10,85
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	2,6	>	2,4	2,9	>	2,4	4,3	>	3,0	1,75	>	1,01
2	Non-litigious cases	28,5	>	7,5	31,0	>	7,9	47,0	>	9,8	36,67	>	9,22
3	Administrative cases	0,3	<	0,6	0,3	<	0,8	0,2	<	1,4	0,02	<	0,62
4	Other cases	NAP		0,7	NAP		0,7	NAP		0,03	NAP		-

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming first instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases per 100 inhabitants: 1,8;
- incoming first instance Administrative cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,4.

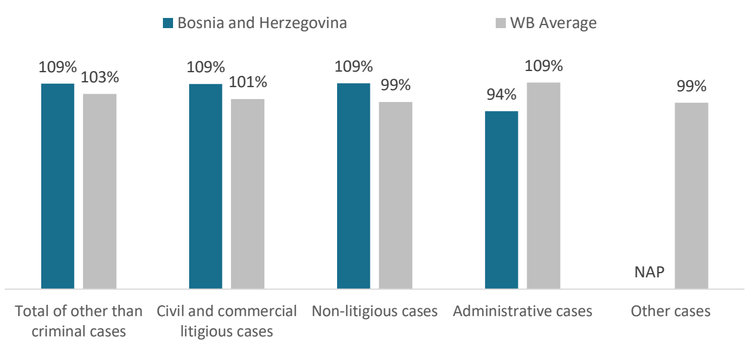


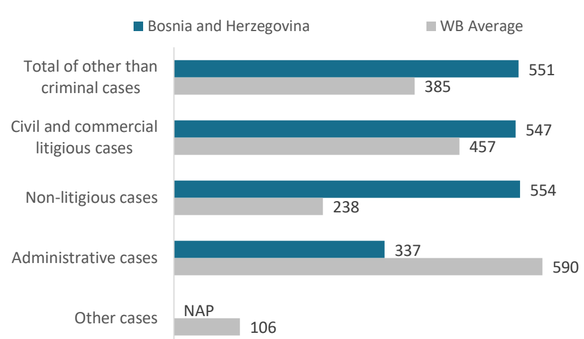
1st instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025		CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		109%	103%	551	385	-7,5	-9,9%
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	109%	101%	547	457	10,3	-0,5%
2	Non-litigious cases	109%	99%	554	238	-9,7	-10,9%
3	Administrative cases	94%	109%	337	590	-11,1	8,6%
4	Other cases	NAP	99%	NAP	106	NAP	NAP

PPT = Percentage points

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the first instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 97,8%; - Disposition time: 248 days.

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the first instance Administrative cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 96,5%; - Disposition time: 327 days.





• First instance cases - Criminal law cases

1st instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)		Bosnia and Herzegovina (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		105 011	95 612	78 140	1 534	-51,1%	-52,0%	-48,0%	-95,1%
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases (1+2)		105 011	95 612	78 140	1 534	22,7%	40,9%	13,7%	-8,0%
1	Severe criminal cases	9 187	8 770	8 427	1 436	3,0%	2,3%	5,2%	-6,7%
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	95 824	86 842	69 713	98	25,0%	46,5%	14,8%	-23,4%
3	Other cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

In 2025, the incoming severe and misdemeanour criminal cases were 105 011 (3,08 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 4,11).They increased by 22,7% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 95 612 (2,8 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2024 and 2025, they increased by 40,9%. The number of resolved cases was thus lower than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the severe and misdemeanour criminal pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 91% (below the WB Average of 99,6%). This increased by 12 percentage points compared to 2024.

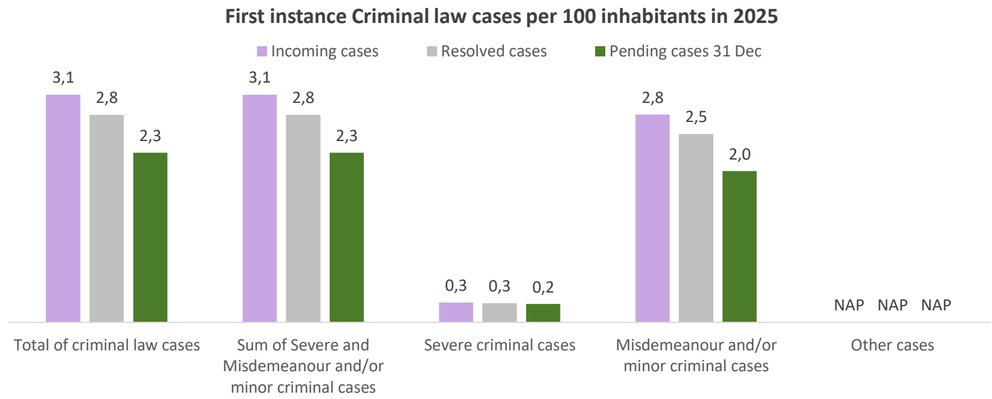
The Disposition Time for severe and misdemeanour criminal cases was approximately 298 days in 2025 (above the WB Average of 213 days). This decreased by -19,3% compared to 2024.

As of 2022, statistics for severe criminal cases and other cases include data from first instance criminal cases within second instance courts. Starting in 2025, statistical data excludes the investigation phase handled by prosecutor's offices, judges' decisions on preliminary motions by prosecutors, and execution of final criminal convictions. This change causes major discrepancies in data values for 2025 compared to 2024.
Severe criminal offences are serious crimes defined by law, such as homicide, corruption, theft, rape, or serious traffic accidents. Statistics cover cases beginning at the main proceedings after indictment confirmation.
Minor offences or misdemeanors are violations of public order or economic regulations, with sanctions like fines, suspended sentences, and protective measures. Misdemeanor statistics reflect cases reaching the main part of proceedings; from 2025, they no longer include the execution phase, again impacting comparability with previous years' data.

1st instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)		Incoming cases			Resolved cases			Pending cases 31 Dec			Pending cases over 2 years		
		Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		3,1	<	4,3	2,8	<	4,3	2,3	<	2,6	0,04	<	0,07
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		3,1	<	4,1	2,8	<	4,1	2,3	<	2,6	0,04	<	0,07
1	Severe criminal cases	0,3	<	0,5	0,3	<	0,5	0,2	<	0,3	0,04	<	0,06
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	2,8	<	3,6	2,5	<	3,6	2,0	<	2,3	0,00	<	0,02
3	Other cases	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-

For reference only: for the first instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants: 1,7.

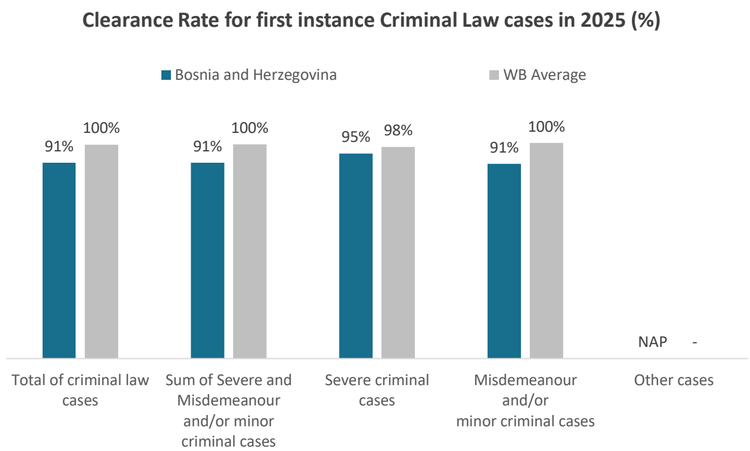
Key: > Higher than the WB Average
= Equal to the WB Average
< Lower than the WB Average

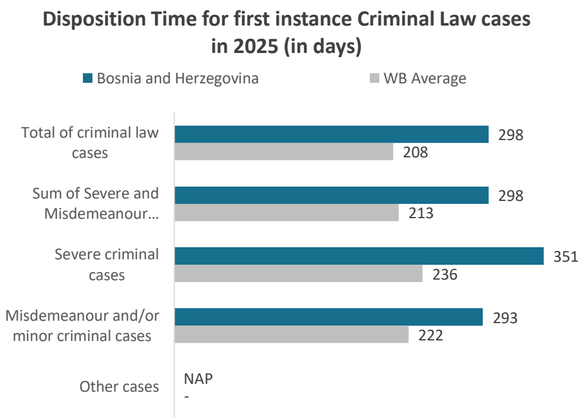


1st instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025		CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		91%	100%	298	208	-1,8	8,2%
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		91%	100%	298	213	11,8	-19,3%
1	Severe criminal cases	95%	98%	351	236	-0,7	2,9%
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	91%	100%	293	222	13,3	-21,6%
3	Other cases	NAP	-	NAP	-	NAP	NAP

PPT = Percentage points

For reference only: for the first instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 98,8%; - Disposition time: 128 days.





• Second instance cases - Other than criminal law cases

2nd instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)		Bosnia and Herzegovina (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		31 154	34 026	17 400	2 042	-8,1%	-8,0%	-14,0%	-31,4%
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	26 522	30 269	13 350	2 042	-10,4%	-8,0%	-21,9%	-31,4%
2	Non-litigious cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
3	Administrative cases	4 632	3 757	4 050	0	8,1%	-8,7%	28,8%	-100,0%
4	Other cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

In 2025, the incoming civil and commercial litigious cases were 26 522 (0,78 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,9). They decreased by -10,4% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 30 269 (0,89 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2024 and 2025, they decreased by -8%. The number of resolved cases was thus higher than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the civil and commercial litigious pending cases at the end of 2025 were less than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 114% (above the WB Average of 97%). This increased by 3 percentage points compared to 2024.
The Disposition Time for civil and commercial litigious cases was approximately 161 days in 2025 (below the WB Average of 1210 days). This decreased by -15,2% compared to 2024.

The incoming administrative cases were 4 632 in 2025 (ie 0,14 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,15). They increased by 8,1% compared to the previous year. The resolved cases were 3 757 (0,11 per 100 inhabitants, below of the WB Average of 0,13). Between 2024 and 2025, the number of resolved administrative decreased by -8,7%. The number of incoming cases was thus higher than the resolved cases. As a consequence, the administrative pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024 and the Clearance rate for this type of cases was 81% (below the WB Average (84%). The CR decreased by -14,9 percentage points compared to the previous year.

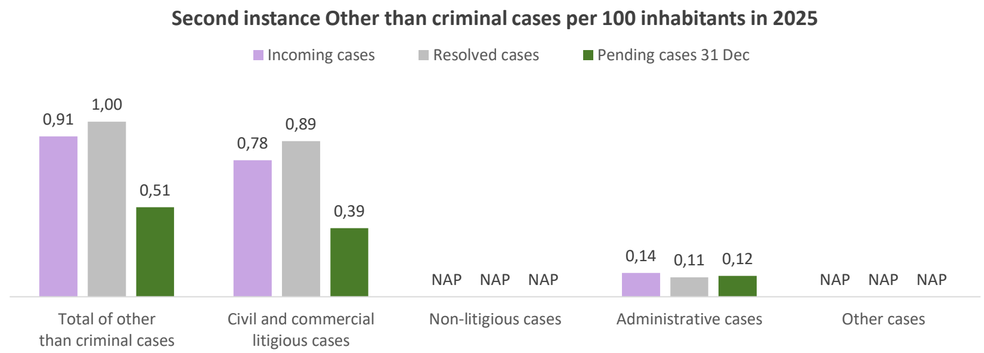
Finally, the Disposition Time for administrative cases was approximately 393 days in 2025. This has increased by 41% compared to 2024 and it was below the WB Average (1027 days).

Civil (and commercial) litigious cases: In 2025, the trend of decreasing total number of unresolved civil commercial cases at the second level continued, as well as a decrease in the number of unresolved cases older than two years. This trend was especially facilitated by the continuous reduction of backlog in several of the largest courts that have jurisdiction over civil commercial disputes at the second stage. It is important to note that as in 2024 one of the second-level courts received a large number of simple cases, which were all resolved during the reporting year, contributing especially to the increase in the improvement of results in terms of clearance rate in the reporting year.
Administrative cases: The number of unresolved cases in this category has increased significantly because one of the courts continued to receive an increased number of cases in 2025, as it did in 2024, under those circumstances, this court was unable to increase the number of resolved cases and achieved a clearance rate of 68%. Other courts from this group achieved better results, but it was not enough to reduce the negative result generated by the above-mentioned court.

2nd instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)		Incoming cases		WB Average	Resolved cases		WB Average	Pending cases 31 Dec		WB Average	Pending cases over 2 years		WB Average
		Bosnia and Herzegovina			Bosnia and Herzegovina			Bosnia and Herzegovina			Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		0,91	<	1,07	1,00	<	1,12	0,51	<	1,30	0,06	<	0,77
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	0,78	<	0,90	0,89	<	0,98	0,39	<	0,96	0,06	<	0,56
2	Non-litigious cases	NAP		0,07	NAP		0,07	NAP		0,08	NAP		0,04
3	Administrative cases	0,14	<	0,15	0,11	<	0,13	0,12	<	0,37	0,00	<	0,25
4	Other cases	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming Second instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,2;
- incoming Second instance Administrative cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,1.

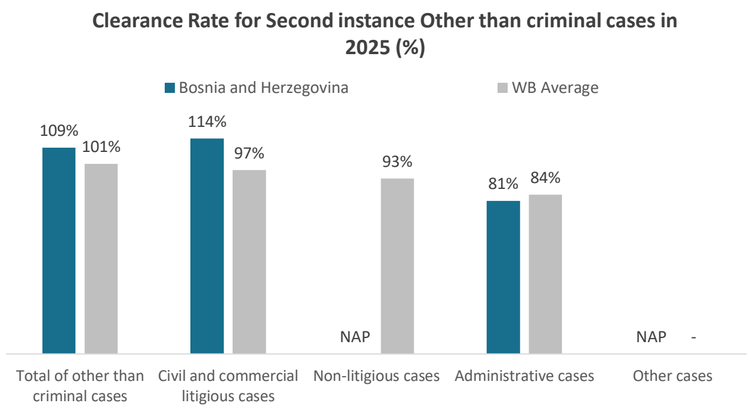


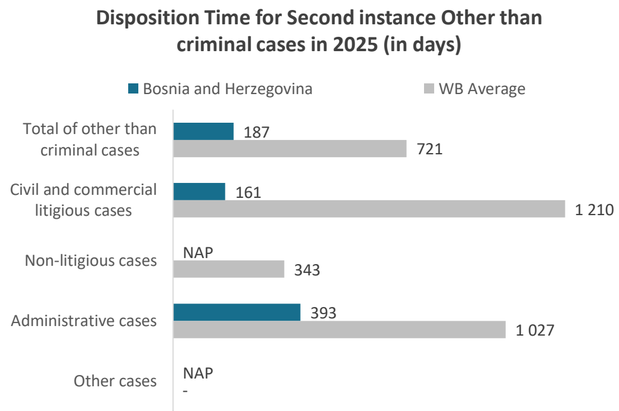
2nd instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025		CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		109%	101%	187	721	0,0	-6,5%
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	114%	97%	161	1 210	3,0	-15,2%
2	Non-litigious cases	NAP	93%	NAP	343	NAP	NAP
3	Administrative cases	81%	84%	393	1 027	-14,9	41,0%
4	Other cases	NAP	-	NAP	-	NAP	NAP

PPT = Percentage points

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the Second instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 100,8%; - Disposition time: 207 days.

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the Second instance Administrative cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 98,4%; - Disposition time: 339 days.





• Second instance cases - Criminal law cases

2nd instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)		Bosnia and Herzegovina (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		5 360	5 261	1 519	70	-29,3%	-30,2%	-1,2%	536,4%
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		5 360	5 261	1 519	70	-2,4%	-3,8%	7,0%	536,4%
1	Severe criminal cases	2 526	2 495	1 220	70	-4,9%	-0,9%	2,6%	536,4%
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	2 834	2 766	299	0	-0,1%	-6,4%	29,4%	NA
3	Other cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA

In 2025, the incoming severe and misdemeanour criminal cases were 5 360 (0,16 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,48). They decreased by -2,4% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 5 261 (0,15 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2024 and 2025, they decreased by -3,8%. The number of resolved cases was thus lower than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the severe and misdemeanour criminal pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 98% (above the WB Average of 88,8%). This decreased by -1,4 percentage points compared to 2024.

The Disposition Time for severe and misdemeanour criminal cases was approximately 105 days in 2025 (below the WB Average of 395 days). This increased by 11,2% over the 2024-2025 period.

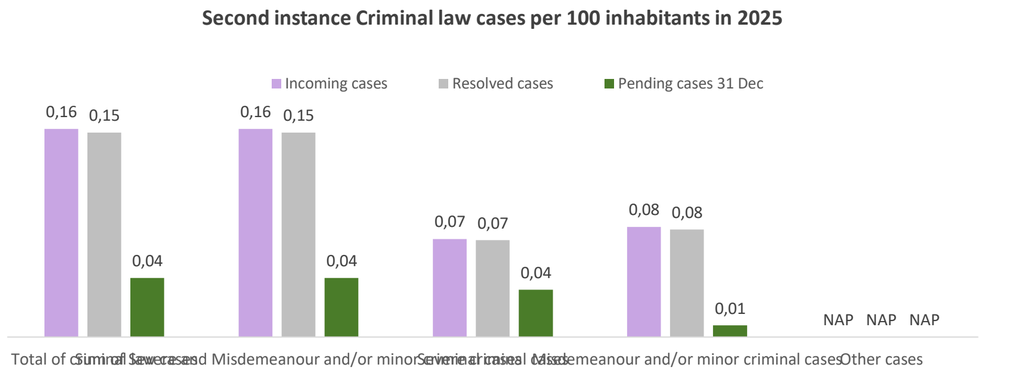
Since 2025 statistical data on the investigation phase of criminal proceedings in BiH, which falls under the competence of the prosecutor's offices, are not included in the other criminal cases category; also, from 2025 onwards, these data do not include statistics on decisions of judges on motions/applications submitted to a judge by prosecutors during the preliminary phase of the criminal case, nor data on cases for the execution of final convictions in criminal cases, hence the huge discrepancies in the statistical data values for 2025 compared to 2024.

The general trends for the second instance criminal cases in 2025 remain similar to the tendencies from the previous reporting cycle, with the only exception being that in percentage terms the number of pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the second instance court has significantly increased, although in absolute terms that number of cases has not increased substantially.
Misdemeanor cases: In 2025, the total number of unresolved second-instance misdemeanor cases increased marginally in terms of absolute numbers, due to a somewhat weaker results in terms of clearance rate in some courts. Otherwise, in most courts, the caseflow of second-instance misdemeanor cases continues to be stable.

2nd instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)		Incoming cases			Resolved cases			Pending cases 31 Dec			Pending cases over 2 years		
		Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		0,16	<	0,48	0,15	<	0,45	0,04	<	0,21	0,00	<	0,10
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		0,16	<	0,48	0,15	<	0,45	0,04	<	0,21	0,00	<	0,10
1	Severe criminal cases	0,07	<	0,25	0,07	<	0,21	0,04	<	0,18	0,00	<	0,09
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	0,08	<	0,23	0,08	<	0,24	0,01	<	0,04	0,00	<	0,01
3	Other cases	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

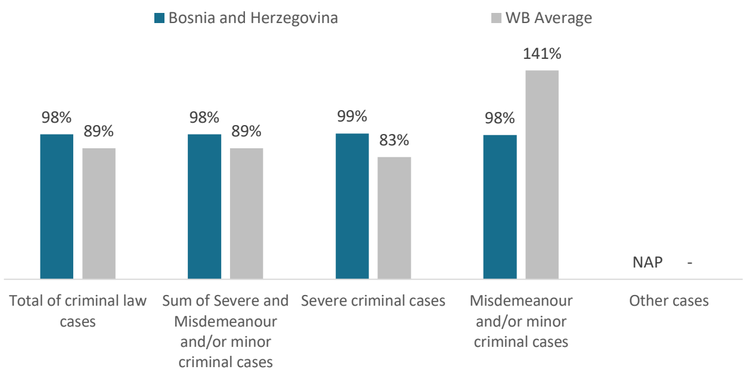
For reference only: for the second instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,1.

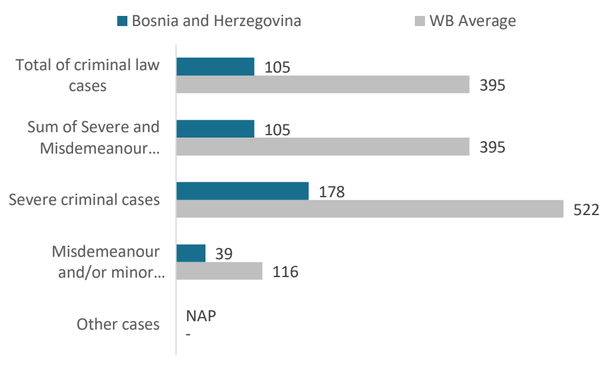


2nd instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025		CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		98%	89%	105	395	-1,3	41,5%
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		98%	89%	105	395	-1,4	11,2%
1	Severe criminal cases	99%	83%	178	522	4,0	3,5%
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	98%	141%	39	116	-6,5	38,2%
3	Other cases	NAP	-	NAP	-	NAP	NAP

PPT = Percentage points

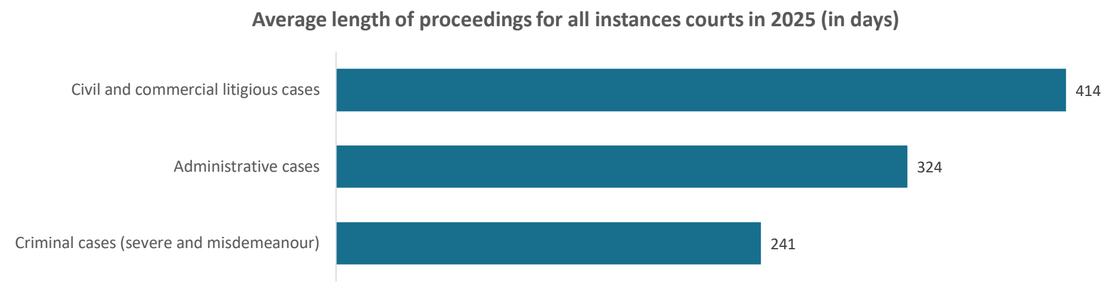
For reference only: for the second instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 99,5%; - Disposition time: 121 days.





• Specific category cases

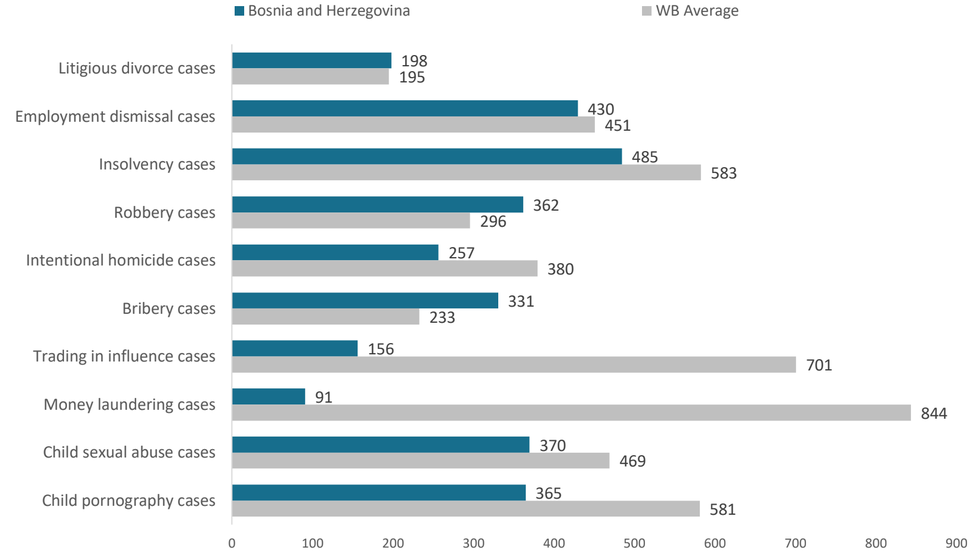
	Average length of proceedings (in days)							
	2025				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
	First instance	Second instance	Third instance	Total	First instance	Second instance	Third instance	Total
Civil and commercial litigious cases	483	237	72	414	-5,8%	-28,4%	-40,0%	-9,8%
Administrative cases	327	316	NAP	324	NA	NA	NA	NA
Criminal cases (severe and misdemeanour)	248	100	308	241	NA	NA	NA	NA



The average length of cases corresponds to the average length of resolved cases at a certain instance within the reference year.

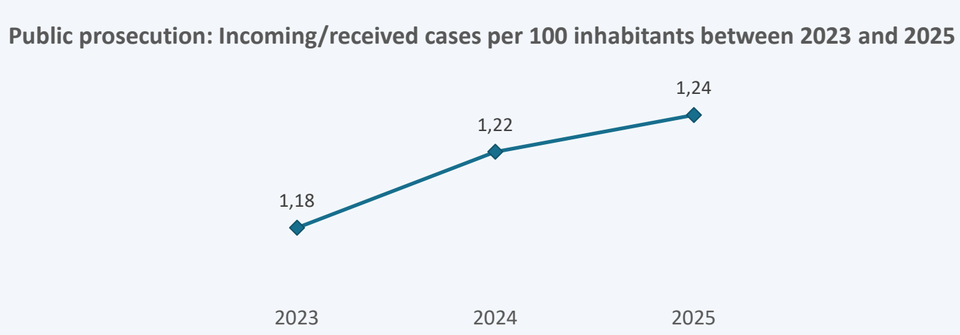
Description of calculation method: The average length of court procedure is calculated as the average of time needed to resolve a case for cases resolved during the reporting year. The average length of court procedure for resolving the case is calculated separately for different phases of the court procedure - from the day of initiating the phase of the court procedure to its completion. The data are retrieved from the case management system.
Average total length of the total procedure:
The average length of the total procedure is calculated as the average of time needed to resolve a case for all cases resolved in the different phases of court procedure during the year. (e. g. The first instance civil case is resolved in 100 days from its lodging with the first instance court, second instance civil case is resolved in 120 days from its lodging with the second instance court, and third instance civil case was resolved in 120 days. The average length of the total procedure is calculated as follows: 100+120+120/3=113,3 days.)

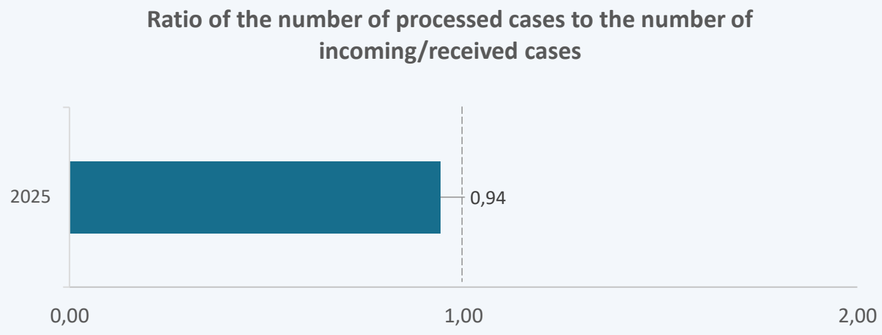
First instance specific cases in 2025					CR (%)		DT (days)	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina							
	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	cases older than 2 years from the date the case	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average
Litigious divorce cases	1577	2 810	2 844	1 543	25	101%	103%	198	195
Employment dismissal cases	410	387	366	431	28	95%	105%	430	451
Insolvency cases	640	524	500	664	226	95%	91%	485	583
Robbery cases	110	119	115	114	44	97%	109%	362	296
Intentional homicide cases	87	97	108	76	24	111%	103%	257	380
Bribery cases	27	34	32	29	7	94%	98%	331	233
Trading in influence cases	6	4	7	3	2	175%	108%	156	701
Money laundering cases	3	42	36	9	1	86%	67%	91	844
Child sexual abuse cases	75	74	74	75	18	100%	101%	370	469
Child pornography cases	19	19	19	19	5	100%	79%	365	581



Overall, the statistics on the case flow of specific cases in the first instance courts, which are concerned under Q61, remain relatively stable in the reference year (i.e. 2025) compared to the previous relevant reporting period (i.e. 2022). Primarily, the variations exist within a relatively small number of cases. In addition, the registered variations are high percentage wise but they are not significant in absolute terms. It is important to note that certain number of pending criminal cases (i.e. robbery cases, homicide cases), which are older than 2 years, cannot be resolved due to the procedural gridlock that the courts cannot resolve (e.g. an accused person is not traceable). When it comes to the Bribery, Trading in influence, it is important to note that the prosecutors' offices and the courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina process very often the corruption cases as the cases of the Abuse of Office (i.e. An official or responsible person who, by taking advantage of his office or official authority and by exceeding the limits of his official authority or by failing to perform his official duty, acquires a benefit to himself or to another person or causes damage to another person or seriously violates the rights of another, shall be punished by imprisonment). In addition, the statistics included in the reply for Q61 do not include the court cases in which Bribery, Trading in influence, and Money laundering are dealt with together in conjunction with Organized crime and other criminal offences.

Public Prosecution in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicators 3.1.1)





Bosnia and Herzegovina was able to distinguish criminal cases where the perpetrator is known from those where the perpetrator is unknown. In 2025, the public prosecution services in Bosnia and Herzegovina received 0,7 incoming first instance cases per 100 inhabitants (where the perpetrators were known), processed 0,6 cases per 100 inhabitants, and had 0,6 cases per 100 inhabitants pending at the end of the year. Between 2023 and 2025, the incoming/received cases in the public prosecution offices rose marginally from 1,18 to 1,24 per 100 inhabitants. The general trend over these years stayed relatively stable. Additionally, in 2025, the ratio of the number of processed cases to the number of incoming cases was 0,94.

Status of public prosecution services

In Bosnia and Herzegovina the public prosecution office is part of the judicial power but enjoys functional independence.
The judicial system in in Bosnia and Herzegovina is consisted of both courts and prosecutor's offices, as mutually independent institutions in performing their powers. The law establishes prosecutor's offices and courts as autonomous institutions. Judges and prosecutors are considered to be judicial office holders. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina– an institution with mixed composition- appoints judges and prosecutors; it has identical competences over issues regarding both judges and prosecutors/courts and prosecutor's offices. The same legislation regulates salaries of public prosecutors and judges. Prosecutor's offices have their own respective budgets, adopted by parliaments in the procedure applicable to all other public institutions. Pursuant to the specific legislation regulating the legal status of prosecutors' offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they constitute independent authorities which prosecute perpetrators of criminal offenses and file legal expedients for the purpose of protecting legality and constitutionality. Public prosecution offices shall perform their functions on the basis of the constitution and the law. No one shall have the right to influence the public prosecutor's office in the execution of its constitutional and legal functions.
The basic right and the basic duty of the prosecutor is the detection and prosecution of perpetrators of criminal offenses. The prosecutor has have the following rights and duties: a) as soon as the prosecutor becomes aware that there are grounds for suspicion that a criminal offense has been committed, to take necessary steps to discover it and investigate it, to identify the suspect(s), guide and supervise the investigation, as well as direct the activities of authorized officials pertaining to the identification of suspect(s) and the gathering of information and evidence; b) to conduct an investigation in accordance with the law; c) to grant immunity in accordance with law; d) to request information from governmental bodies, companies and other physical and legal persons; e) to issue summonses and orders and to propose the issuance of summonses and orders in accordance with the law; f) to order authorized officials to execute an order issued by the court as provided by the law; g) to propose the issuance of a warrant for pronouncement of the sentence; h) to issue and defend indictment before the court; i) to file legal remedies; j) to perform other tasks as provided by the law.
The Chief Prosecutor shall have the right and duty to give mandatory instructions to the public prosecutor regarding his/her work, and may, apart from that: take certain actions which are in the competence of the public prosecutor; authorize a different public prosecutor to process individual cases that are within the competence of the public prosecutor; authorize a public prosecutor to perform individual activities that are within the competence of another public prosecutor. The Chief Prosecutor may perform criminal prosecution within the competence of a public prosecutor, and in doing so, s/he may: undertake necessary measures related to detection of crimes and identification of perpetrators with the purpose of directing preceding criminal proceedings; request investigation conduct; bring and represent indictment, i.e. indictment proposals and other proposals before competent court; file appeals against unlawful court decisions, i.e. withdraw already filed appeals.
The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina has the following competencies: appointing Chief Prosecutors, Deputy Chief Prosecutors and prosecutors; receiving complaints against prosecutors, conducting disciplinary proceedings, determining disciplinary liability, and imposing disciplinary measures on prosecutors; deciding upon appeals in disciplinary proceedings; deciding upon suspensions of prosecutors; deciding upon issues of incompatibility of other functions performed by prosecutors; deciding upon the temporary assignment or transfer of prosecutors to another prosecutor's office; supervising the advanced professional training of prosecutors and advising the Centers for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training in their adoption of programmes of advanced professional training for prosecutors; determining the minimum amount of advanced professional training to be undertaken by every prosecutor each year; determining the induction training for candidates chosen for prosecutorial office and supervising the provision of such training; determining the number of prosecutors and/or Deputy Chief Prosecutors, after consultation with the relevant Chief Prosecutor, relevant budgetary authority, and the relevant Ministry of Justice; setting criteria for the performance evaluations of judges and prosecutors; setting criteria for the performance prosecutors' offices, and initiating enquiries concerning administrative or financial conduct; issuing codes of ethics for prosecutors.

Different authorities involved in a pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings

	Police	Public prosecutor	Investigating judge	Judge	Other
Receive a complaint	✓	✓	NAP	NAP	NAP
Initiate investigation	NAP	✓	NAP	NAP	NAP
Conduct investigation	NAP	✓	NAP	NAP	NAP
Supervising investigation	NAP	✓	NAP	✓	NAP
Dismiss a case at the pre-trial stage	NAP	✓	NAP	NAP	NAP
Bring a case to court	NAP	✓	NAP	NAP	NAP
Decide an alternative to prosecution	✓	✓	NAP	NAP	NAP
Close a case by imposing or negotiating a penalty or measure	NAP	✓	NAP	NAP	NAP

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR:
Pursuant to the criminal procedure legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the basic duty of the prosecutor is the detection and prosecution of perpetrators of criminal offenses. The prosecutor has the following powers: a) as soon as the prosecutor becomes aware that there are grounds for suspicion that a criminal offense has been committed, to take necessary steps to discover it and investigate it, to identify the suspect(s), guide and supervise the investigation, as well as direct the activities of authorized officials pertaining to the identification of suspect(s) and the gathering of information and evidence; b) to conduct an investigation in accordance with the law; c) to grant immunity in accordance with law; d) to request information from governmental bodies, companies and other physical and legal persons; e) to issue summonses and orders and to propose the issuance of summonses and orders in accordance with the law; f) to order authorized officials to execute an order issued by the court as provided by the law; g) to propose the issuance of a warrant for pronouncement of the sentence; h) to issue and defend indictment before the court; i) to file legal remedies; j) to perform other tasks as provided by the law.
According to the legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the protection and treatment of children and minors in criminal proceedings, prosecutor may end the cases against juvenile offenders by imposing certain types of criminal sanctions - i.e. cases in which prosecutors impose educational measures against minor defendants without bringing them to court. In addition, for criminal offenses punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to five years, the prosecutor may decide not to initiate preliminary proceedings even if there is evidence that the minor has committed a criminal offense, if he considers that it would not be appropriate to conduct proceedings against the minor, taking into account the nature of the criminal offense and the circumstances under which it was committed, the minor's previous life, and his personal characteristics. The prosecutor may act in the same manner in the case of a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment of more than five years if such action is in accordance with the principle of proportionality as stated in Article 9 of this law. To determine these circumstances, the prosecutor may request information from the parents, i.e., the guardian of the minor, other persons and institutions, and when necessary, may summon these persons and the minor for direct information. The prosecutor seeks the opinion of the guardianship authority on the appropriateness of initiating proceedings against the minor.

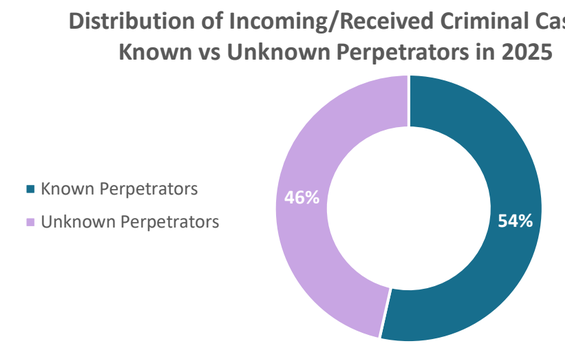
JUDGE:
The preliminary proceeding judge is a judge who acts during the investigative procedure in accordance with the criminal procedure legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. For example, the preliminary proceedings judge decides at the request of the prosecutor on the issuance of a search warrant.

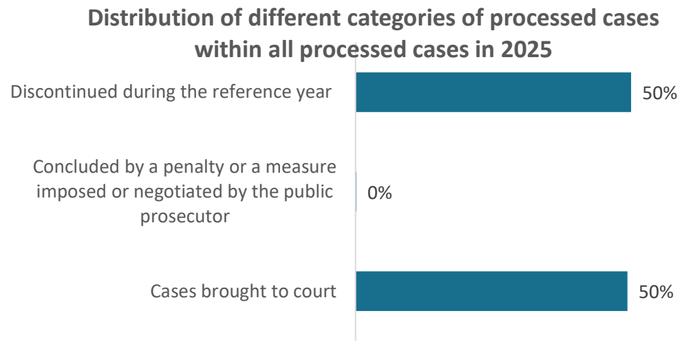
POLICE:
An authorised official person is a person having an appropriate authorisation within the police authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In acordance with the criminal procedure legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, if there are grounds for suspicion that a criminal offense has been committed that carries a prison sentence of more than five (5) years, an authorized official shall immediately inform the prosecutor and shall under the Prosecutor’s direction take the steps necessary to locate the perpetrator, to prevent the suspect or accomplice from hiding or fleeing, to detect and secure the clues to the criminal offense and objects which might serve as evidence, and to gather all information that might be of use for the criminal proceedings. If there are grounds for suspicion that a criminal offense has been committed that carries a prison sentence of more than five (5) years, and the delay would pose a risk, an authorized official is obligated to carry out necessary actions in order to fulfil the above mentioned tasks. When carrying out these actions, the authorized official is obligated to act in accordance with the criminal procedure legislation. The authorized official shall be bound to inform the prosecutor on all taken actions immediately and deliver the collected items that may serve as evidence. If there are grounds for suspicion that a criminal offense has been committed that carries a prison sentence of up to five (5) years, an authorized official shall inform the prosecutor of all available information, actions and measures performed no later than seven (7) days after forming the grounds for suspicion that a criminal offense has been committed.
A minor offender can be issued a police warning for criminal offenses for which a fine or imprisonment of up to three years is prescribed, if the legal requirements are met and if it is proportionate to the circumstances and the severity of the committed criminal offense. A police warning can be issued under the following conditions: a) that the minor admits to the criminal offense, b) that the admission is given freely and voluntarily, c) that there is sufficient evidence that the minor committed the criminal offense, and d) that the minor has not previously been issued a police warning, applied a corrective recommendation, or imposed a criminal sanction. A police warning is issued by a police officer with special knowledge of working with minors with the approval of the prosecutor. The purpose of issuing a police warning is a) not to initiate criminal proceedings against the minor and b) to influence the proper development of the minor and strengthen their personal responsibility through the application of corrective recommendations, so that they do not repeat criminal offenses.

• Public prosecution: first instance criminal cases

Bosnia and Herzegovina was able to distinguish criminal cases where the perpetrator is known from those where the perpetrator is unknown. The table below shows only those cases in which the perpetrator is known.

Public prosecution: 1st instance criminal cases in 2025			Absolute number in 2025	Per 100 inhabitants
1	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. Year		20 266	0,59
2	Incoming/received cases		22 568	0,66
3	Processed cases (3.1 + 3.2 + 3.3)		21 259	0,62
	3.1	Discontinued during the reference year (3.1.1 + 3.1.2 + 3.1.3)	10 685	0,31
		3.1.1. Discontinued by the public prosecutor due to the lack of an established offence	NA	NA
		3.1.2 Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reasons of opportunity	NA	NA
		3.1.3 Discontinued for other reasons	NA	NA
	3.2	Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor	32	0,001
	3.3	Cases brought to court	10 542	0,31
4	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year		21 575	0,63

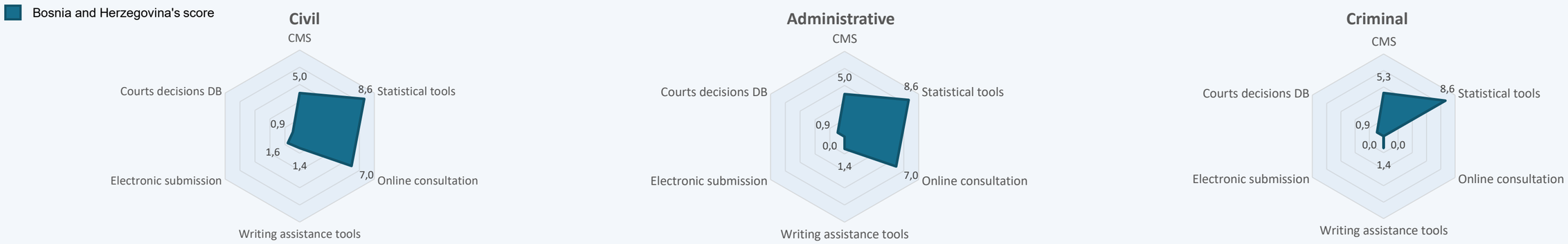




Traffic offence cases are dealt with by the courts under the legislation on misdemeanor proceedings. In general, the misdemeanor offences are determined by the law and other regulations as violations of public order punishable by fines. The police, not the prosecution, initiate and present traffic offence cases in the courts.

Information and communication technology tools in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 3.3)

The six ICT deployment indices (CMS, Courts decisions DB, Statistical tools, Writing assistance tools, electronic submission and online consultation) range from 0 to 10 points. Their calculation is based on the features and on deployment rates reported. The methodology for calculation provides points for each feature in each case matter. They are summarised and multiplied by the deployment rate as a weight. In this way, if the system is not fully deployed, the value is decreased even if all features are existing.



In 2025, ICT deployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina is characterised by relatively high scores for Statistical tools (8,6) and Online consultation (7,0) across civil and administrative matters. Case management systems are moderately developed (5,0 in civil and administrative matters and 5,3 in criminal matters), while Writing assistance tools remain limited (1,4 in civil and administrative matters and 0,0 in criminal matters). Electronic submission is only partially available in civil matters (1,6) and is not deployed for administrative and criminal cases, whereas Courts decisions databases show the lowest level of deployment across all case categories (0,9).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there exists an overall Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategy in the judicial system and there are plans for a significant change in the present IT system in the judiciary in 2025.

Two case management systems (CMS) are currently in use in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The older CMS/TCMS v1, developed more than ten years ago, is planned to be fully phased out during 2026 and replaced by CMS/TCMS v3, which was developed between two and five years ago.

• Electronic case management system

The CMS is fully deployed and widely used across all courts and case categories (95–100%). Judicial data are stored in centralised and interoperable databases, and the system includes several advanced functionalities, such as active case management dashboards, random allocation of cases, identification of related cases, electronic transfer of files between court instances, access to closed and resolved cases, advanced search tools, interoperability with other public registers and prosecution systems, and protected log files.

	Deployment rate	Usage rate	Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases	Active case management dashboard	Random allocation of cases	Case weighting	Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number)	Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court	Anonymisation of decisions to be published	Interoperability with prosecution system	Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register)	Remote access for telework	Access to closed/resolved cases	Advanced search engine	AI-based categorization and allocation of incoming cases	AI-based case analysis tool	Protected log files	Electronic signature	Storage of the electronic evidence file	Other special functionality
Civil	95-100 %	95-100 %	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓			
Administrative	95-100 %	95-100 %	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓			
Criminal	95-100 %	95-100 %	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓			

• Database of court decisions

The database of court decisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina covers Civil, Administrative, and Criminal cases, with a deployment rate ranging from 1 to 25% for each category and for each instance.

	1st instance												
			Functionalities										
	Percentage of decisions published	Modalities of publication	AI anonymisation	Manual anonymisation	Free public online access	Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)	Open data	Advanced search engine	AI-based (LLM) exploration tool	Machine-readable content	Structured content	Metadata	European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)	Other special functionality
Civil	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Administrative	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Criminal	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓

	2nd instance												
Civil	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Administrative	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Criminal	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓

	Highest Instance												
Civil	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Administrative	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Criminal	1-25 %	Published online (public website)		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓

Court decisions are published online through public websites and are also available through internal databases within courts. The published databases provide several functionalities, including manual anonymisation, free public access, links to relevant ECtHR case-law, advanced search tools, structured content and metadata. The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) is also used, facilitating the identification and retrieval of judicial decisions and supporting consistency with European standards.

There are two national databases where court decisions are published:
The Database of Court Decisions, accessible online at https://portalfo1.pravosudje.ba/vstvo/B/142/kategorije-vijesti/141/simple, which focuses primarily on selected decisions from all court levels, particularly cases of public interest.
The Case-law Portal, accessible online at https://sudskapraksa.pravosudje.ba/, which focuses on selected decisions of the highest courts and on cases that impact case-law.

All publications are made in line with the Guidelines for Publication of Judicial Decisions, Acts and Information on Cases issued by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Rulebook on the Publication of Court Decisions.
Additional internal databases exist within individual courts, although no nationwide internal database is currently available.

The Case-law Portal also contains legal positions and case-law guidance issued by the highest courts, in addition to selected judicial decisions. The Database of Court Decisions includes summaries of war crimes and high-corruption cases, which are publicly accessible through the Map of Court Cases of Public Interest: https://mapepredmeta.pravosudje.ba/?lang=E.

• Statistical tools

Statistical tools are fully deployed across all court instances and case categories (95–100%). They are integrated with the CMS and business intelligence software and provide a wide range of functionalities, including the generation of predefined and customised statistical reports, internal dashboards, public statistical websites and real-time data availability. The tools support the analysis of various performance indicators, including caseflow data, age of pending cases, length of proceedings, number of hearings, cases per judge, number of parties in a case, appeal indicators and appeal outcomes.

	Deployment rate	Functionalities									Data available for statistical analysis								
		Integration/connection with the CMS	Business intelligence software	Generation of predefined statistical reports	Generation of customised statistical reports	Internal page and/or dashboard	External page with statistics (public website)	Real-time data availability	Automatic consolidation of data at the national level	Other special functionality	Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending)	Age of a pending case	Length of proceedings	Number of hearings	Cases per judge	Case weights	Number of parties in a case	Indicator of appeal	Result of the appeal
Civil	95-100 %	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Administrative	95-100 %	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Criminal	95-100 %	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

In the judicial system of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an Information System for Reporting and Decision Support (SIPO) is used to support court presidents in the proactive management of courts. Its objective is to ensure more efficient, reliable and timely use of statistical data through improved reporting.
SIPO integrates data from all information systems used within the judiciary (CMS/TCMS, HRMIS and SOKOP). Reports can be generated significantly faster and more securely than from the original databases, ensuring consistency across reports produced by different justice institutions. The system also facilitates cooperation and information exchange with justice sector institutions, the media and other public and non-profit organisations, thereby increasing the transparency of the judiciary.
Another key feature of SIPO is the ability to generate predefined reports and automatically deliver them by e-mail at scheduled times, ensuring both the quality and timeliness of management information.
Most of the data recorded in the integrated information systems can be processed within SIPO. These include, among others, indicators on the implementation of plans for resolving old cases, achievement of indicative norms, predicted case resolution timeframes, statute of limitations, inheritance cases referred to notaries, finality of decisions, unresolved cases, criminal proceedings, discrimination cases, cases assigned to judges and legal associates, and cases with or without a decision.
Additionally, the HJPC BiH has developed a public dashboard where users can monitor overall efficiency indicators, efficiency, human and budgetary resources, quality indicators, and quality indicators by case type for all courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

• Writing assistance tools

Writing assistance tools are partially deployed across all case categories, with deployment rates ranging between 50% and 75%. The available functionalities consist of document templates integrated into the CMS and automatically generated text. According to the beneficiary, templates covering approximately 50–75% of the most relevant judicial documents are available to judges, prosecutors and court staff.

	Deployment rate	Functionalities						
		Templates	Automatically generated text	AI generated proposal for a decision and/or reasoning	AI for summarization of documents	Speech-to-text	Electronic signature	Other special functionality
Civil	50-75 %	✓	✓					
Administrative	50-75 %	✓	✓					
Criminal	50-75 %	✓	✓					

Writing tools consist of two groups of templates for various legal documents that can be used by judges, prosecutors and other staff (i.e. users) at judicial institutions: (i) templates with headers and case details, which also include auto-generated text, and (ii) templates with headers and case details. Considering the needs of judges, prosecutors and other staff, it is estimated that templates for 50–75% of relevant documents are available in the Case Management System for all users.

As for the usage rate, it is estimated that 50–75% of users are using the available templates. The templates are developed by judges and prosecutors selected by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The templates are integrated into the Case Management System. The use of templates is optional.

• Electronic submission of cases

In civil matters, Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented an electronic filing system for enforcement and small claims cases. While deployment remains limited (1–25%), the system is used in all competent courts and records a moderate usage rate (50–75%). It allows lawyers and unrepresented parties to submit cases electronically, with data automatically transferred to the Case Management System. Paper submission remains available as an alternative.

	Deployment rate	Usage rate	Electronic or paper			Submitted by:				Data integration	
			Paper submission is still possible	Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way)	Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission)	Public prosecutor (only for criminal)	Lawyer	Party not represented by a lawyer	Other	The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS)	The data are manually re-entered in the CMS
Civil	1-25 %	50-75 %	✓				✓	✓		✓	
Administrative	NAP	NAP									
Criminal	NAP	NAP									

The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina has deployed a system for the electronic filing of enforcement and small claims cases in all first-instance courts (i.e. civil cases). The system is used to register new cases and receive documentation submitted electronically by utility companies. Cases may subsequently be transferred to the courts' general Case Management System once the relevant procedural requirements have been met.

The use of the system by utility companies remains optional. According to the beneficiary, certain utility companies in some local communities have not yet started submitting cases electronically.

As of 2025, all 61 competent courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina use the system. The number of new court cases registered through the system in the reporting year was 104 925, while the number of pending cases in the system at the end of 2025 was 1 201 870.

• Online consultation

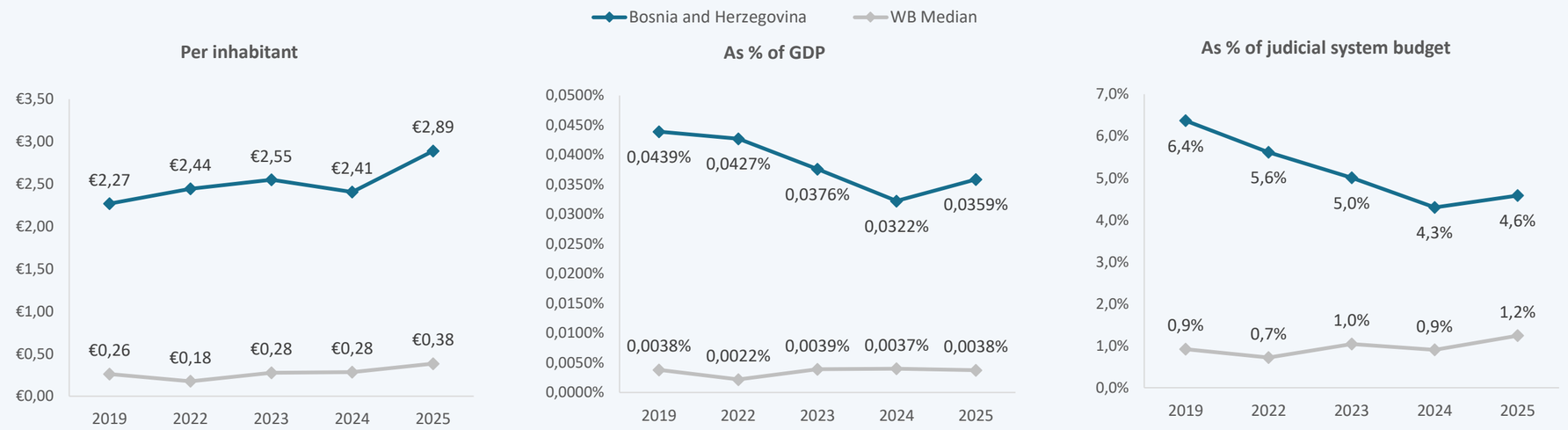
Online consultation services are available for civil and administrative matters, with deployment rates between 95% and 100% and usage rates ranging from 50% to 75%. Users can consult case status, documents, events and court decisions electronically. Access is provided to lawyers and parties not represented by a lawyer and can be carried out remotely from any location.

	Deployment rate	Usage rate	Content						Access				Consultation format		
			Case status	Documents	Notifications	Events/calendar	Court decision	Other	Public prosecutor (only for criminal)	Lawyer	Party not represented by a lawyer	Other	Electronic access at the court premises	Electronic access from any location	Other
Civil	95-100 %	50-75 %	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	
Administrative	95-100 %	50-75 %	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	
Criminal	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

Electronic consultation of court case files by parties is possible in civil and administrative matters. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina approves requests submitted by parties for the issuance of a uniform access code. Detailed requirements for issuing the code are prescribed by the Rulebook on the Case Management System in Courts, adopted by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
The code can be used in the Online Case Access Module to obtain case information. Access through the Module is available to parties involved in court proceedings and their lawyers. The Module can be accessed through the website of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
In addition, lawyers may use a mobile application to access cases in which they represent their clients. This official application was developed by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
If parties have multiple cases before the courts, they must apply for a separate access code for each case. However, they may create a user account allowing access to all those cases in one place. The same possibility is available to lawyers for all civil and administrative cases in which they represent clients.

Legal Aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 4)

Total implemented budget for Legal Aid between 2019 and 2025



Number of cases for which LA has been granted in 2025



0,70

per 100 inhabitants

WB Median: 0,28

WB Median: 0,28

In 2025, the implemented budget for legal aid spent by Bosnia and Herzegovina was €9 862 360. Between 2019 and 2025, it rose from €2,27 to €2,89 per inhabitant. Over the same period, the trend indicates a significant upward movement in the amount allocated per inhabitant. Compared to the WB Median, which stood at €0,38 in 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina's value was substantially higher than the median reference point.
Moreover, the implemented budget for legal aid as a percentage of GDP had a significant decrease, starting at 0,0439% in 2019 and reaching 0,0359% in 2025. This value was substantially higher than the WB Median of 0,0038%, indicating a Considerably higher national investment relative to economic output.
Looking at legal aid as a share of the judicial system budget, the percentage had a significant decrease from 6,37% in 2019 to 4,6% in 2025. In 2025, the share was substantially higher than the WB Median of 1,2%.

• Organisation of the legal aid system (1/2)

The courts and the specialized government institutions provide free legal aid to citizens in relation to court proceedings.
Free legal aid is provided by the courts in criminal proceedings by assigning a lawyer to a suspected or accused person if that person meets the conditions laid down by law (e.g. obligatory defense etc.) Also, the courts may make a decision on exemption from the costs of proceedings for parties in different types of proceedings (e.g. criminal, civil). In addition, free legal aid centers have been established by the legislation adopted at all levels of government as a part of the respective public administration system. Employees of free legal aid institutions represent the citizens in various types of court and non-court proceedings or give legal advice to the citizens and compose legal documents for them. Citizens are entitled to free legal aid provided by the legal aid institutions if they fulfill financial and property criteria prescribed by the relevant legislation.

Legal aid is applied to:

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Representation in court	✓	✓
Legal advice, legal assistance and other legal services	✓	✓

Legal aid is exercised in different types of court proceedings as a right to:
a) general information on rights and obligations,
b) legal advice and assistance in filling out forms,
c) legal assistance in compiling all types of correspondence,
d) representation in court,
e) making an appeal and
f) legal assistance in the procedures of peaceful settlement of the dispute (e.g. mediation).

• Organisation of the legal aid system (2/2)

Criteria for granting or refusing legal aid

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Legal aid granted based on the financial situation	✓	✓
Legal aid may be refused for cases lacking merit, such as frivolous actions or those with no reasonable chance of success	✓	✓

Financial criteria for granting free legal aid: In general, a person of poor financial status, who is entitled to free legal aid, is considered to be someone whose income per household member does not exceed a certain portion of the average salary in the previous calendar year and who also meets other criteria, for example, not having real estate or other assets that could cover the costs of the court proceedings.
Varying financial criteria for granting free legal aid to potential beneficiaries are used by institutions of different levels of government for deciding on granting free legal aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina; these criteria are primarily linked to the amount of average salary.

These institutions also use criteria for owning property with regard to granting or refusing free legal aid cumulatively with the income criterion, as well as other additional criteria (e.g. income of other family members); however, these property criteria are not intended to be expressed through monetary amounts. The examples of the assets criteria: beneficiaries of legal aid may not own or co-own a business; they also may not own two or more housing units (i.e. a house or a flat) and they may not own business premises. Legal aid may be refused for cases lacking merit, such as frivolous actions or those with no reasonable chance of success:
A request for legal aid will not be granted if: it is obviously ill founded (i.e. legal requirements are clearly not met); the proceedings in question are unjustified (i.e. the potential client has slim chances to win the case); the right to legal aid is misused (i.e. the potential client has provided incorrect data that was relevant for approving legal aid).

Legal aid is automatically granted

	Status of the recipient	Category of the case
Legal aid automatically granted	✓	✓

Status or personal characteristic of the recipient:
According to the legislation on the protection of and proceedings with children and minors in criminal procedure, a minor must have a defender during the first questioning by the prosecutor or an authorized official, as well as throughout the entire criminal proceedings.
According to the laws that prescribe the rules for the work of free legal aid institutions, the right to free legal aid based on status is exercised, for example, by: children, persons deprived of legal capacity, etc. In different jurisdictions within Bosnia and Herzegovina, the laws regulating the functioning of free legal aid institutions provide additional possibilities to exercise the right to free legal aid on the basis of other types of status (e.g., asylum seekers, victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence).

Category of the case:
A suspect in the criminal proceedings must have a defense attorney at the first questioning if he is mute or deaf or if he is suspected of a criminal offense for which a penalty of long-term imprisonment may be pronounced.
A suspect or accused in the criminal proceedings must have a defense attorney immediately after he has been assigned to pre-trial custody, throughout the pre-trial custody. After an indictment has been brought for a criminal offense for which a prison sentence of 10 years or more may be pronounced, the accused must have a defense attorney at the time of the delivery of the indictment.
If the suspect, or the accused in the case of a mandatory defense, does not retain a defense attorney himself, or if his family members do not retain a defense attorney, the preliminary proceeding judge, preliminary hearing judge, the judge, the presiding judge, or the court president appoints him a defense attorney in the criminal proceedings. In one of the jurisdictions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the court selects the defense attorney for the suspect or the accused if he fails to choose an ex officio defense attorney from the predetermined list. In other jurisdiction in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the court president appoints the defense attorney using the predetermined list of ex officio defense attorneys without giving an opportunity to the suspect or accused to select the defense attorney from the list.

Timeframes of the procedure for granting legal aid

	Criminal cases (days)	Other than criminal cases (days)
Maximum duration prescribed in law/regulation	15	15
Actual average duration	9	7

Maximum duration prescribed in law for deciding on granting initial legal aid request is 15 days. This deadline applies to all types of cases. It is prescribed in the relevant legislation on the functioning of legal aid institutions. In addition, the criminal procedure codes oblige the court to urgently appoint an ex-officio attorney to the suspect/accused persons such as minors, detainees, a defendant in a criminal case in which one my be given long-term prison sentence etc.; also, pursuant to the criminal procedure codes the court will decide urgently if an attorney shall be assigned to the suspect or accused at his request if due to an adverse financial situation, he is not able to pay the expenses of the defense in the proceedings that are conducted for an offense for which a prison sentence of three or more years may be pronounced or when the interests of justice so require.

Actual average duration was 9 days in criminal cases, whereas it was 7 days in other than criminal cases. This calculation is based on the actual duration of time passed between initial requests and final approvals for all procedures for granting legal aid completed in the reference year. The aforementioned calculation is based on the data gathered from the courts and legal aid institutions for 2025. The courts provided data on the timeframes with regards to deciding on requests for appointing ex-officio lawyers in criminal proceedings as well as data on granting requests for exemption from paying court taxes and other costs in the civil proceedings. The legal aid institutions provided statistics on the actual timeframes of the procedure for granting legal aid.

• Implemented budget for legal aid

	Implemented budget for legal aid in €				Total implemented budget for legal aid per inhabitant		Total implemented budget for legal aid as % of GDP		Total implemented budget for legal aid as % of the judicial system budget	
	Total (a+b)	% Variation 2019 - 2025	Cases brought to court (a)	Cases not brought to court (b)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Median	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Median	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Median
Total (1+2)	€9 862 360	24,3%	NA	NA	€2,89	€0,38	0,0359%	0,0038%	4,6%	1,2%
In criminal cases (1)	NA	NA	NA	NA						
In other than criminal cases (2)	NA	NA	NA	NA						

In 2025, the total implemented budget for legal aid, which covers both cases brought to court and those not brought to court, stood at €9 862 360. There has been a increase in the legal aid budget, with a 24,3% rise from 2019 to 2025.

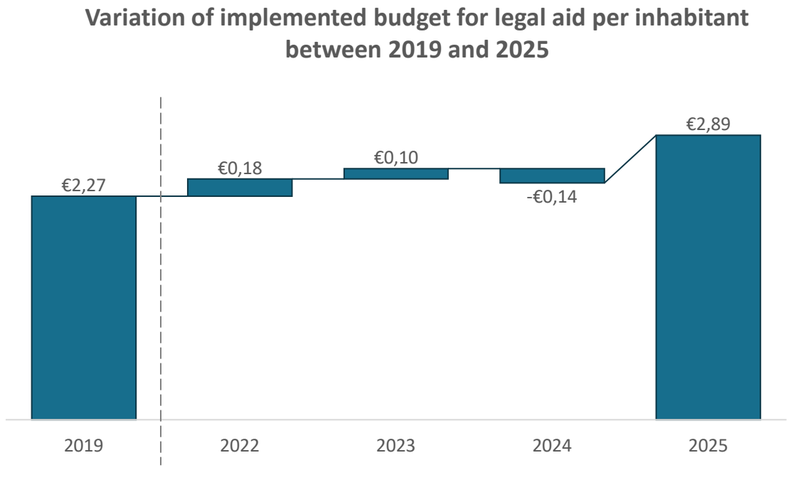
When evaluating the budget on a per capita basis, the amount dedicated to legal aid in 2025 was €2,89 per inhabitant, which was substantially higher than the WB Median of €0,38. This suggests that, compared to the other beneficiaries, Bosnia and Herzegovina allocated a higher share of its resources to legal aid for each resident.

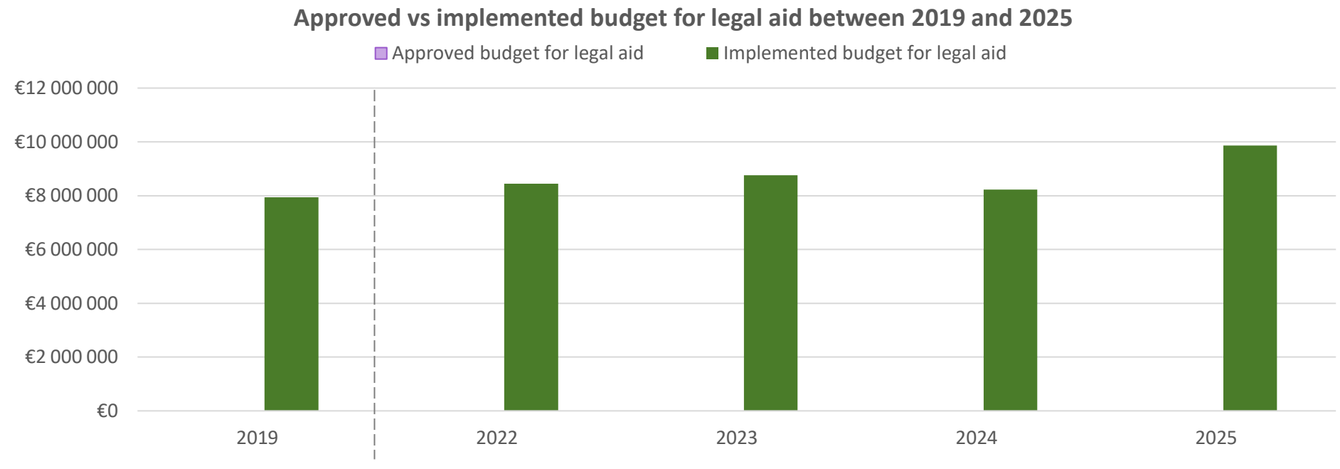
Examining the legal aid budget as a proportion of the GDP, the figure stood at 0,0359%. This percentage was substantially higher than the WB Median of 0,0038%.

Additionally, the portion of judicial system budget set aside for legal aid was 4,6%, substantially higher than the WB Median of 1,2%. Over the period between 2019 and 2025, the trend of this percentage stayed relatively stable.

The legal aid is financed through the budgets of individual courts (e.g. funds for legal aid are mainly used to pay for the services of ex officio appointed attorneys in criminal cases) and the budgets of legal aid institutions that are government bodies independent from the courts. The accounting methodology does not make it possible to distinguish the amount of budget funds earmarked by the courts for legal aid from other funds, which are planned within the same line in the court budget.

However, it is possible to differentiate the amount of funds spent for legal aid in the implemented court budget. On the other hand, the lawyers employed by the government legal aid institutions provide legal aid in different legal fields (i.e. representation in criminal, civil, administrative court proceedings; provision of legal advice outside of court or other proceedings), therefore it is not possible to split the planned or implemented budget funds of the legal aid institutions between different legal fields. In conclusion, it is only possible to make the calculation of the annual implemented public budget allocated to legal aid without dividing it among criminal and other than criminal cases.



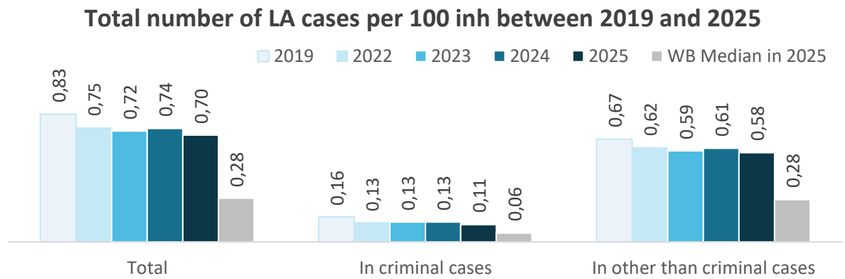


• Number of request for legal aid and number of cases for which legal aid has been granted

	Number of requests of legal aid				
	Total (a+b)			Cases brought to court (a)	Cases not brought to court (b)
	Absolute number	Per 100 inh.	WB Average		
Total (1+2)	NA	NA	0,15	NA	NA
In criminal cases (1)	NA	NA	-	NA	NA
In other than criminal cases (2)	NA	NA	-	NA	NA

The legal aid institutions can produce data on the number of requests for legal aid and decisions on granting legal aid. However, the manner in which it is envisaged that courts in criminal proceedings assign defense attorneys ex officio to suspects and accused persons does not allow for precise recording of requests for granting legal aid in the Case Management System.

	Number of cases for which legal aid has been granted					Amount of LA granted per case (€)		
	Total (a+b)			Cases brought to court (a)	Cases not brought to court (b)	Total	Cases brought to court	Cases not brought to court
	Absolute number	Per 100 inh.	% Variation 2019 - 2025					
Total (1+2)	23 784	0,70	-16,3%	7 880	15 904	414,7 €	NA	NA
In criminal cases (1)	3 877	0,11	-29,9%	3 702	175	NA	NA	NA
In other than criminal cases (2)	19 907	0,58	-13,0%	4 178	15 729	NA	NA	NA



In 2025, the number of cases for which legal aid was granted was 23 784, which was -16,3% less compared to 2019. The number of criminal cases were 3 877, and the other than criminal cases were 19 907. The total cases brought to court were 7 880, while the total cases not brought to court were 15 904. On average, the amount granted per legal aid case was 414,7€.

Criminal cases brought to court: cases (criminal/misdemeanor) in which free legal aid was given trough representation in court and cases in which free legal aid was given for the costs of proceedings.

Other cases brought to court: cases in which free legal aid was given trough representation in court and the preparation of legal documents, cases in which free legal aid was given only trough preparation of legal documents required within the court procedure, and cases in which free legal aid was given only for the costs of proceedings.

Cases not brought to court: cases (civil, enforcement, administrative, administrative-non judicial, criminal/misdemeanor, etc.) in which free legal aid was given trough legal advice only by the government founded free legal aid institutions.

Free legal aid is provided in courts and by the specialized free legal aid institutions formed by the different levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Free legal aid is provided by the courts in criminal proceedings by assigning a lawyer to a suspected or accused person if that person meets the conditions laid down by law. Also, the courts make a decision on exemption from the costs of proceedings for parties in different types of proceedings (e.g. criminal, civil). Employees of institutions providing free legal aid represent the party in various types of court proceedings, compose legal documents and give legal advice to a person who meets financial and property criteria. The data refer to the number of cases in which courts and institutions of free legal aid provided legal assistance in the described ways. It is important to that the number of persons who received free legal aid may be higher than the number of cases in which free legal aid was provided.

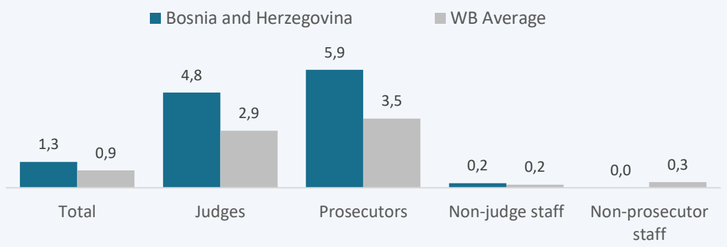
Training of judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 11)

Total budget for training per inhabitant



Average number of live training participations per professional

Please see the definition of the indicator on page 2.



Average number of participants per delivered training



The total budget for training of judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina was €0,27 per inhabitant, lower than the WB Average of €0,88 per inhabitant.

In 2025, a total of 7 904 participants - including 4 910 judges and 2 089 prosecutors - took part in 279 live training sessions held in-person, hybrid or via video conferences. Regarding the internet-based trainings (not-live), no training was provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution for judges and prosecutors, whereas 8 trainings was completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms such as HELP, EJTN, and the UN. The total number of participats was 0 for the institutional platform and 145for the external platforms. There were 0 participants in internet-based trainings. This shows that the participation on live trainings is higher than the participation in internet-based trainings.

On average, each judge in Bosnia and Herzegovina attended 4,8 live trainings in 2025, which was higher than the WB Average (2,9). Each prosecutor participated in an average of 5,9 live trainings, more than the WB Average (3,5).

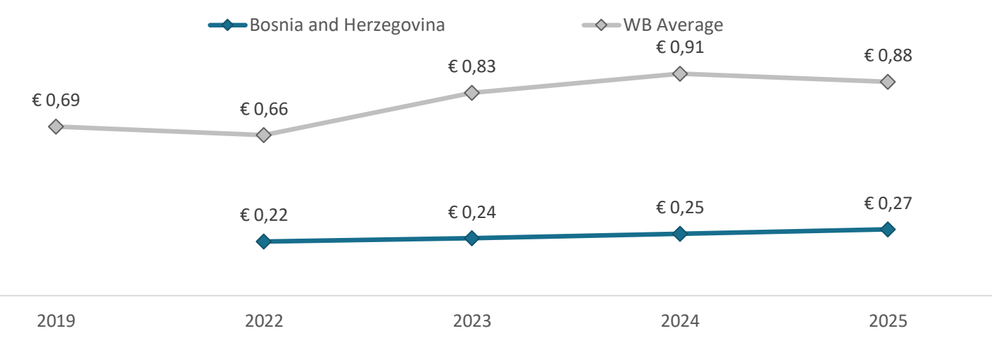
Additionally, both judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina are required to attend a minimum of 3 days of in-service compulsory training.

• Budget for training

This part analises the budget of training institution/s for judges and prosecutors but also the budgets of courts and prosecutions dedicated to training (when applicable)

	Absolute Number	Per inhabitant		% Variation 2019 - 2025	% Variation 2024 - 2025
		Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average		
Total (1 + 2 + 3)	€929 786	€0,27	€0,88	NA	6,9%
(1) Budget of the training institution(s)	€775 128				
(2) Budget of the courts allocated to training	€133 974				
(3) Budget of the prosecution allocated to training	€20 684				

Evolution of the Total Training Budget per inhabitant from 2019 to 2025



In 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina spent in total 929 786€ for training for judges and prosecutors, which represents 0,27€ per inhabitant. This value was considerably lower than the WB Average of 0,88€. Over the period between 2024 and 2025, it rose by 6,9%.

There are two training institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina which are responsible for training of judges and prosecutors in two different entities within the state. Each of these institutions is responsible for both judges and prosecutors. Many of training courses delivered in the training institutions are prepared by domestic experts who are financed directly by external donors. Only some of the external donor funds used for this purpose are included in the budget of the training institutions.
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are no institutions specialized in training employees in prosecutor's offices and courts. The training they receive is provided on an ad hoc basis: in house, by relevant civil servant agencies as well as other public sector employees, or to a lesser extent by judicial training institutions (i.e. legal associates of prosecutors and judges). No special budget is allocated for such training.

• Number of in-service live trainings and participants

Organisation of the trainings (number, duration and average number of participants on trainings)

	Live (in-person, hybrid, video conference) trainings (2025)							
	Number of delivered trainings	Delivered trainings in days	Number of participants	Average duration of trainings in days			Average number of participants per delivered training	
				Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average
Total	279	369	7 904	1,3	>	1,2	28,3 >	14,4
Judges	171	211	4 910	1,2	=	1,2	28,7 >	11,8
Prosecutors	84	110	2 089	1,3	=	1,3	24,9 >	10,1
Non-judge staff	24	48	905	2,0	>	1,5	37,7 >	15,2
Non-prosecutor staff	0	0	0	0,0	<	1,1	0,0 <	2,8

CEPEJ distinguishes these types of trainings:
"A live" training shall be understood as a training conducted in real time. This means that both trainers and participants are physically present in one location or several locations assisted with information technology (digital tools).
"Internet-based" trainings are all trainings that take place over internet, irrespective of the format of the training (such as trainings via specifically designed LMS - Learning Management System platforms, webinars, podcasts and other forms of downloadable lectures and self-learning digital tools). The internet-based training shall be understood as e-training that is implemented according to participant own pace and time of training.

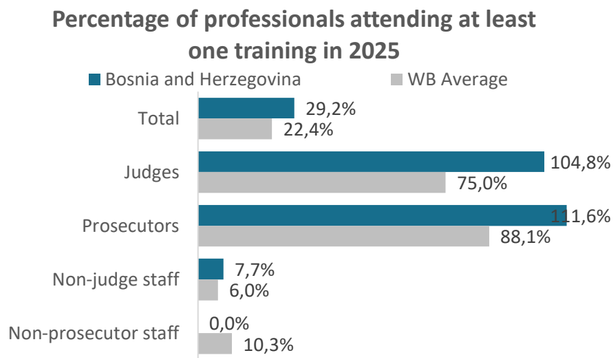
Key: > Higher than the WB Average
= Equal to the WB Average
< Lower than the WB Average

In 2025, the average duration of trainings for judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 1,2 days (same as the WB Average of 1,2). During the same period, the average duration of training for prosecutors was 1,3 days, which was slightly above the WB Average of 1,3 days. Non-judicial staff are professional associates in courts and prosecutor's offices who attend the initial training and other seminars provided by the judicial training centres.

Indicators on training participation: Number of training participations per professional and unique participants

	Average number of live training participations per professional		Professionals attending at least one training (unique participants)			
			Number	% of total professionals by category		
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	WB Average		Bosnia and Herzegovina		WB Average
Total	1,3 >	0,9	1 759	29,2%	>	22,4%
Judges	4,8 >	2,9	1 074	104,8%	>	75,0%
Prosecutors	5,9 >	3,5	393	111,6%	>	88,1%
Non-judge staff	0,2 <	0,2	292	7,7%	>	6,0%
Non-prosecutor staff	0,0 <	0,3	0	0,0%	<	10,3%





Average number of live training participations per professional

This indicator is calculated as follows: the number of participants in live trainings is divided by the number of professionals for that category. For example, the WB Average for judges is 3,4. This means that, on average, each judge in the region participated to 3,4 live trainings. This indicator should also be analysed together with the indicator on percentage of professionals attending training, shown in the table as well. Indeed, this analysis allows to better understand how long a professional was trained on average and if all were trained.

Looking at the average participations on live trainings, the highest average was for prosecutor (5,9 live training participations per prosecutor). Hence, compared to the other professionals, Bosnia and Herzegovina gave priority to the trainings for prosecutor, like the rest of the region (the WB Average number of participations per prosecutor on live trainings was 4,1).

In 2025 the highest priority for live training was given to the training of Prosecutors (5,9 participations on trainings per prosecutor). At the same time, the percentage of prosecutor attending at least one training was 111,6%.

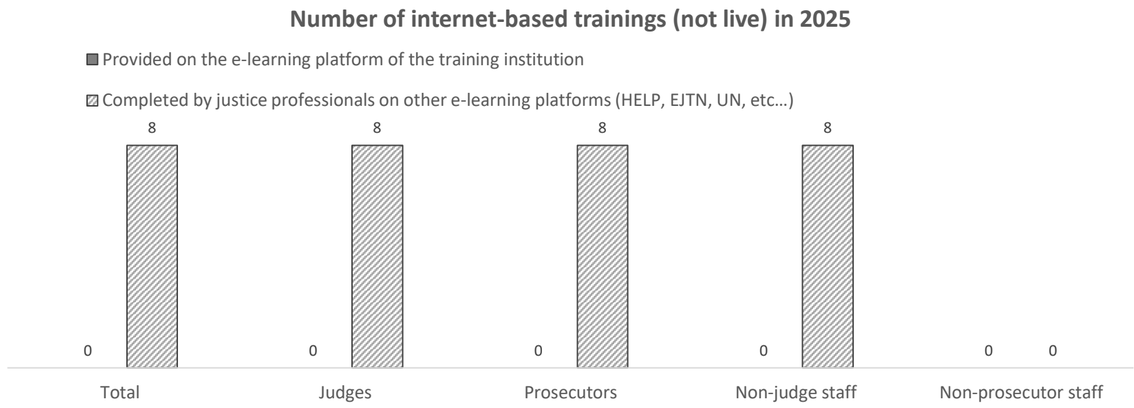
In 2025, the number of participants in the trainings slightly rose compared to the previous reporting year because there were more newly appointed judges, prosecutors and professional associates/advisors who were eligible to attend the initial training courses.

Court presidents and chief prosecutors are counted in the number of judges and prosecutors. The number of professional judges sitting in courts on an occasional basis (i.e. 11 reserve judges on 1 January 2025), is not included in the data provided for Number of professional judges in full time equivalent and Number of unique participants in the trainings during the reference year. Data on the number of judges and prosecutors who attended training during the reporting year but left the judiciary before the end of the reporting year due to resignation, retirement, death, etc. were not excluded from Number of unique participants in the trainings during the reference year. This may lead to inconsistencies between data reported under Number of unique participants in the trainings during the reference year with data prepared for total number of judges, as the latter do not include data on judges and prosecutors who left the judiciary during the reporting year.
Non-judicial staff are professional associates in courts and prosecutor's offices who attend the initial training and other seminars provided by the judicial training centers.

Participation shall be understood as one attendance of a person to a training.

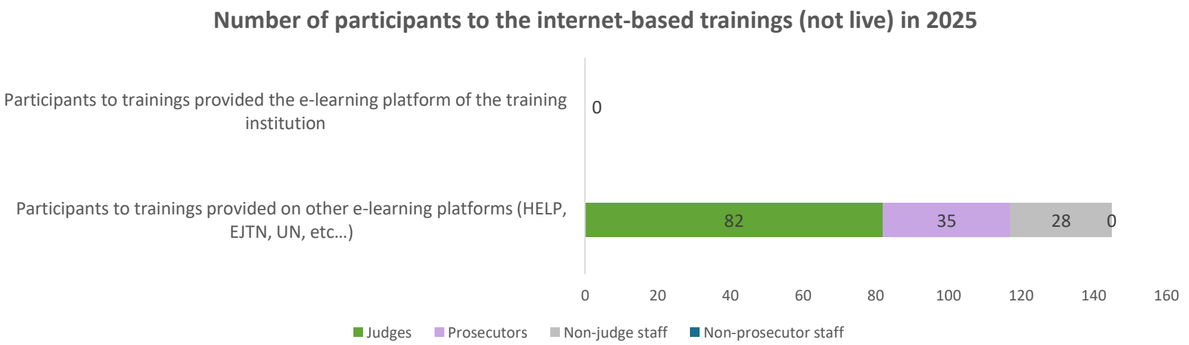
• Number of in-service internet-based trainings and participants

	Number of internet-based trainings (not live) in 2025			
	Provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution		Completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms (HELP, EJTN, UN, etc…)	
	Number of trainings	Number of participants	Number of trainings	Number of participants
Total	0	0	8	145
Judges	0	0	8	82
Prosecutors	0	0	8	35
Non-judge staff	0	0	8	28
Non-prosecutor staff	0	0	0	0



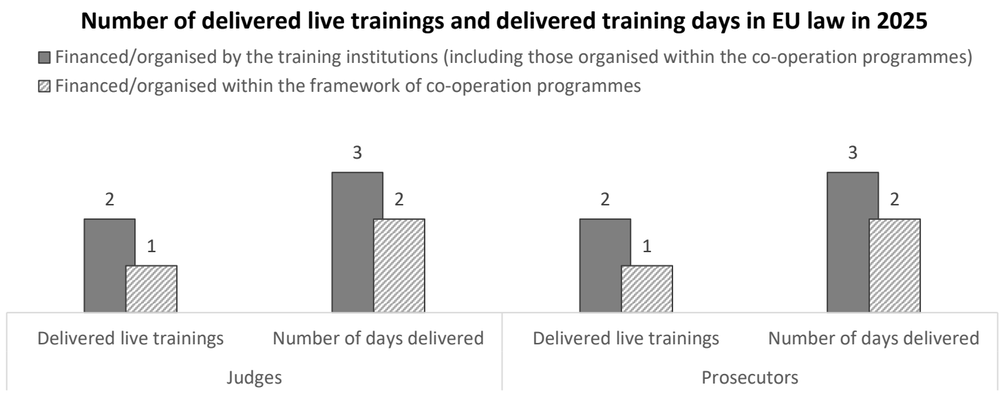
Non-judicial staff are professional associates in courts and prosecutor's offices who attend the initial training and other seminars provided by the judicial training centres.

In comparison to the previous reporting year, there were more courses available on the HELP platform in 2025. In addition, in 2025 newly appointed judges and prosecutors were required, as part of their mandatory initial training course, to complete 4 HELP courses, which was a prerequisite for them to be eligible to attend the further sessions within the mandatory initial training course. Consequently, there was an increase in the number of available online training courses as well as in the number of participants in those courses.



• Number of EU law training courses and participants

	Training in EU law			
	By the training institutions for judges and prosecutors		Within the framework of co-operation programmes	
Live trainings (2025)	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**
Number of delivered live trainings	2	2	1	1
Number of days delivered	3	3	2	2
Number of participants	42	31		
Internet-based trainings (2025)				
Number of available trainings	0	0	0	0
Number of participants	0	0		

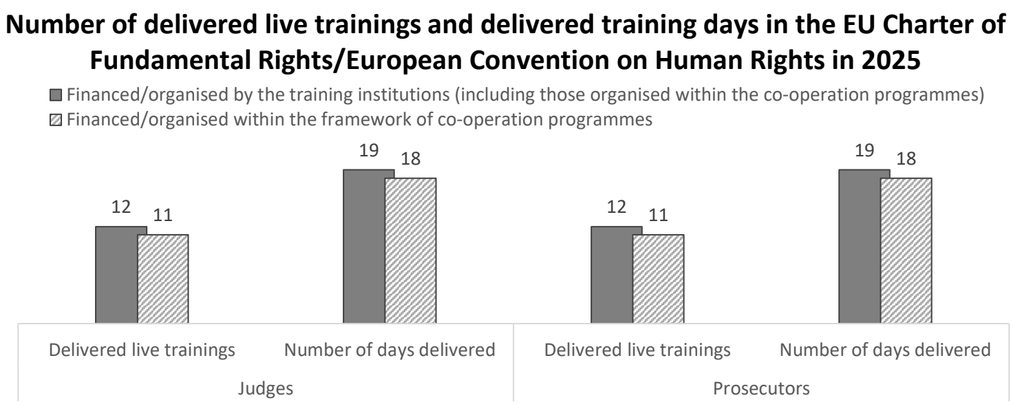


In 2025, judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina received a total of 2 live trainings in EU law, including 1 delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Prosecutors received 2 live trainings in total, including 1 delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Judges participated in 3 training days with 42 participants, while prosecutors took part in 3 training days with 31 participants. No internet-based trainings were available for either group.

The list of delivered EU Law trainings for in 2025 according to the information provided by the judicial training institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina:
"The relationship between European Law and the Domestic Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina".
“Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Court Judgments – Domestic Case Law and International Trends”.
Both of the above-mentioned trainings were attended by judges and prosecutors.

The training on the topic “The relationship between European Law and the Domestic Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina” was organized with the support of the IRZ Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e. IRZ: The German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation).

	Training in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights/European Convention on Human Rights			
	By the training institutions for judges and prosecutors		Within the framework of co-operation programmes	
Live trainings (2025)	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**
Number of delivered live trainings	12	12	11	11
Number of days delivered	19	19	18	18
Number of participants	218	85		
Internet-based trainings (2025)				
Number of available trainings	0	0	0	0
Number of participants	0	0		



In 2025, judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina received a total of 12 live trainings in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights/European Convention on Human Rights, including 11 delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Prosecutors received 12 live trainings in total, including 11 delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Judges participated in 19 training days with 218 participants, while prosecutors took part in 19 training days with 85 participants. No internet-based trainings were available for either group.

The list of delivered trainings on ECHR in 2025 according to the information provided by the judicial training institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina:
“Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights”. “Prohibition of Discrimination”. “The Judiciary and Freedom of Expression in the Courtroom”. “Safety of Journalists and Protection of Whistleblowers”. “Freedom of Expression in the Digital World”. “Introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights”. “Procedural Rights - European Convention on Human Rights”. “Human Rights of LGBTI Persons – Experience from BiH and the Region”. Several trainings on Gender Based Violence. All of the above-mentioned trainings were attended by judges and prosecutors.

According to the information provided by the judicial training institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the majority of trainings on ECHR in 2025, were delivered with the financial support of different domestic and international stakeholders.

• Type of trainings

		Types of training	
		Judges	**Prosecutors**
	Initial training	Compulsory for all	Compulsory for all
In-service training	**General**	Compulsory for all	Compulsory for all
	Specialised judicial functions	Compulsory for all	Compulsory for all
	Management functions of the court	Compulsory for all	Compulsory for all
	Use of computer facilities in courts	Optional	Optional
	On ethics	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On child-friendly justice	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On gender equality	Optional	Optional
	On prevention of corruption	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On conflicts of interest	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	Other	Optional	Optional

The relevant legislation on juvenile criminal justice requires that in-service training for specialized functions is obligatory for prosecutors and judges assigned to work on criminal cases involving juveniles; they must take certain training courses in order to be able to work on such cases.
This program lasts 4 days and covers 7 topics.
As for general in-service training, the minimum requirement for prosecutors and judges is to attend trainings at the judicial training center for at least 3 days during one year. There is no minimum requirement for prosecutors and judges to attend a certain number of trainings over the course of one year. The judicial office holders may choose between training topics related to the issues they most frequently work on.
In addition, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina decided that as of 2022 an in-service online training on ethics, prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest is compulsory for all judges and prosecutors. Furthermore, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina has introduced in 2022 a mandatory managerial training for newly appointed court presidents and chief prosecutors. It includes the following topics: 1) Developing leadership and management skills 2) Proactive role of court presidents and 3) Modern public relations. Moreover, all chief prosecutors and court presidents are required to attend the training on the role of chief prosecutors and court presidents in preserving the judicial integrity.

Initial training is compulsory for all newly appointed judges and prosecutors.

As for general in-service training, the minimum requirement for prosecutors and judges is to attend every year at least 3 days of training at the judicial training center(s). The judicial office holders may choose between various training topics, but the topic selected must be related to the cases they work on.

In 2025, The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina has declared the following trainings as mandatory for newly appointed presidents of courts and chief prosecutors:
1) The role of chief prosecutors and court presidents in preserving the judicial integrity, and
2) Developing leadership and management skills. In addition, all presidents of courts and chief prosecutors are obliged to attend training in Modern public relations.

In addition, in 2025 the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a decision that all judges and prosecutors need to renew their knowledge on ethics and conflict of interest by attending online training on ethics, prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest every third year. The relevant legislation on juvenile criminal justice requires that in-service training for specialized functions is obligatory for prosecutors and judges assigned to work on criminal cases involving juveniles. They must attend in full the specialized training provided by JPTCs in order to receive appropriate certificate and be able to work on such cases. This program was revised in Y2025. It lasts 6 days and covers 3 tematic areas. First thematic area „Criminal proceedings involving children and minors“ has the following key areas of study: The etiology and phenomenology of juvenile delinquency from a criminological perspective, the juvenile justice system and international standards based on relevant international legal instruments in the field of children's rights, criminal procedure concerning juveniles, juvenile material and procedural criminal law, as well as the protection of juveniles and an introduction to children's rights. Second thematic area „The application of the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings in practice“ covers the following: the use of alternative measures and diversion in criminal proceedings against juveniles, criminal offenses against children, and the implementation of the Law in practice with a focus on the protection and resocialization of child victims through practical examples. Third thematic area „The study of juvenile psychology and the role of guardianship authorities in criminal proceedings against minors“ encompasses an examination of the psychological dimensions of juvenile participation in criminal justice processes, an analysis of the role and significance of guardianship authorities in supporting judicial bodies responsible for conducting proceedings involving juveniles, and experiential learning through visits to institutional facilities. Before attending this specialized program, judges and prosecutors need to finish online CoE HELP module related to Child friendly justice.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, sanctions are foreseen if judges and prosecutors do not attend the compulsory training sessions.

The Law on High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Article 56) defines the list of disciplinary offences for judges which includes the following "failure to fulfill the obligation to participate in forms of compulsory professional training“. Historically, none of the judges has been found liable for this offence.

Prosecution offices have prosecutors specially trained in domestic violence and, also, specifically trained in dealining with cases when minor victims are involved.

The majority of prosecution offices have specialized departments with prosecutors who are experienced in investigating and prosecuting sexual violence cases. Specialized trainings for prosecution of domestic violence cases are held regularly for prosecutors who are responsible for domestic violence cases

• Minimum number of compulsory trainings

	Initial compulsory training		In-service compulsory trainings	
	Minimum number of trainings	Minimum number of days	Minimum number of trainings	Minimum number of days
Judges	11	NAP	NAP	3
Prosecutors	11	NAP	NAP	3

IN-SERVICE TRAINING:
The minimum requirement for prosecutors and judges is to attend trainings at the judicial training center for at least 3 days during one year. There is no minimum requirement for prosecutors and judges to attend a certain number of trainings over the course of one year. The judicial office holders may choose between training topics related to the issues they most frequently work on.
INITIAL COMPULSORY TRAINING
The newly appointed prosecutors and judges must undergo an initial training program that is consisted of 11 different trainings; typically, the program lasts for 15 days. In order to qualify for appointment to judicial or prosecutorial office, one must have passed a bar examination and have a certain number of years of practical experience after having passed the bar examination. The program includes topics focused on development of relevant skills, ethics, human rights protection etc. Besides, newly appointed prosecutors receive on the job support and guidance from more experienced prosecutors (i.e. consultative prosecutors). Mentorship system for newly appointed judges is under the development.

• Quality of judicial training

Bosnia and Herzegovina identifies (collects information about) future in-service training needs via:

Target audience itself	✓	Relevant judicial institutions	✓
Previous participants in trainings	✓	Ministry of Justice	✓
Trainers	✓	Other (Proposals from domestic institutions	✓
Courts/prosecutor's offices	✓		

Future in-service training needs are assessed annually.
The analysis and creation of training programs is done by the judicial training institutions once a year.
There are two types of evaluation questionnaires that the judicial training institutions use to gather the relevant information:
1. Heads of courts and prosecutor's offices – there is a questionnaire aimed at collecting their proposals with regards to topics they find relevant for their respective institutions.
2. All judges and prosecutors – there is a questionnaire which has a purpose to obtain their proposals with regards to topics they think should be included in the annual training programs.
In addition, the judicial training institutions cooperate with the Standing Committee for Training of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina trough the analysis of relevant case - law.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, in-service trainings (seminars, workshops, round tables) are evaluated immediately after the training is delivered.

The Centers for Training of Judges and Prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina are using the Kirkpatrick training evaluation model except that the trainings are not evaluated after 6 months or after a year from the date of realization.

For all judicial office holders and non-judicial staff (all topics except the ethics) only post-training satisfaction questionnaires are used.
The questionnaires are anonymous and contain three parts:
1. The first part: satisfaction with technical realization, satisfaction with the trainer and topic, 2. The second part is evaluation of the trainer - methodology, communication, knowledge sharing,
3. The third part are comments related to improvement of training, personal impressions and proposals of new topics.
The training grades range from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest grade).

The result of the training evaluation process is used:

To prepare a training evaluation report with recommendations	✓	To suppress a training course	✗
To improve the training course which, according to the report, needed improvements	✓	To introduce a new course	✗
To replace the trainers that failed to meet expected learning outcomes/were negatively evaluated	✓	Other	✗

In 2025, the Centers for Training of Judges and Prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina did not introduce new training courses as the result of their analysis of training evaluation during 2025.

Alternative Dispute Resolution in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 9)

Legal aid for court-related mediation or related mediation provided free of charge	✓
Mandatory informative sessions with a mediator	✗
Mandatory mediation with a mediator	✗

Mediators

5,9

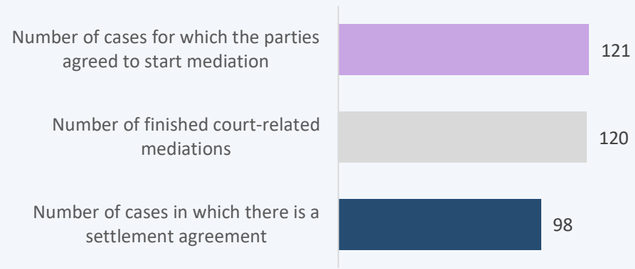
per 100 000 inhabitants

WB Median: 6,0



55,7% female mediators

Total number of court-related mediations



In Bosnia and Herzegovina, legal aid for court-related mediation or related mediation provided free of charge could be granted. The judical system does not provide for mandatory mediation. Also, there are no mandatory informative sessions with a mediator. In 2025, the number of mediators was 5,9 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was below the WB Median (6 per 100 000 inhabitats). The majority of the mediators were women (55,7%). There were in total 121 cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation and 98 mediation procedures which ended with a settlement agreement.

• Court-related mediation procedures

Court related mediation is the mediation which includes the intervention of a judge, a public prosecutor or other court staff who facilitates, directs, advises on or conducts the mediation process. For example, in civil disputes or divorce cases, judges may refer parties to a mediator if they believe that more satisfactory results can be achieved for both parties. In criminal law cases, a public prosecutor (or a judge) can refer a case to a mediator or propose that he/she mediates a case between an offender and a victim (for example to establish a compensation agreement). Such mediation may be mandatory either as a pre-requisite to proceedings or as a requirement of the court in the course of the proceedings.

The civil and criminal procedure codes in Bosnia and Herzegovina foresee court-related mediation procedures.
Civil proceedings: At the preparatory hearing at the latest, the court conducting the civil proceedings may, if it finds it appropriate with regard to the nature of the dispute and the circumstances, propose to the parties the resolution of the dispute through mediation proceedings, as prescribed by a separate law. The parties may jointly put forward such proposal until the conclusion of the main hearing.
The legislation on civil proceedings applies subsidiarily to administrative matters as well
Criminal proceedings: The court may propose mediation through the mediator to the injured party and the accused or to the defense attorney in accordance with law, if the court considers that the claim under property law is such that it would be purposeful to refer it to the mediation. Injured party, accused and the defense attorney may propose referral to the mediation until the closing of the main trial. In les complex juvenile cases involving issuing educational recommendations (i. e. an apology to the injured party or compensation of damages to the injured party) a prosecutor or a judge may suggest the mediation between the offender and the injured party.

• Other ADR methods

Mediation other than court-related mediation	Arbitration	Conciliation (if different from mediation)	Other ADR
✓	✓	✓	✓

The members (i. e. mediators) of the Association of the Mediators of Bosnia and Herzegovina are in charge of conducting court-related mediation and other than court-related mediation.
Conciliation is foreseen by the law in different legal fields (e. g. the conciliation is obligatory as a prerequisite for the divorce proceedings, the conciliation is carried out by the social welfare institution).
As for the arbitration, the civil procedure legislation regulate that the parties may agree to entrust the resolution of the disputes on to the arbitration. An arbitration agreement may be concluded with an existing dispute or on future possible disputes that could stem from certain legal relation. Other ADR procedures are handled by the various public agencies: The Consumer Ombudsman, The Public Agency for Labor cases etc.

• Mediators and court-related mediations

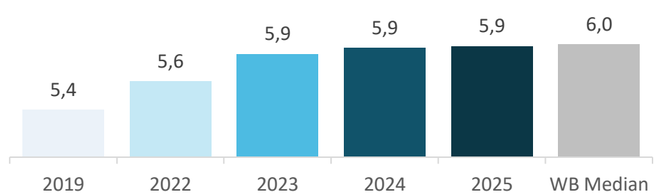
Requirements and procedure to become an accredited or registered mediator:

The Law on mediation procedure governs the mediation procedure on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mediation tasks are by a separate law transferred to the association of mediators by the procedure set forth in that law. Parties to an individual procedure jointly select a mediator from the list of mediators established by the association of mediators.
The Law on mediation procedure determines the requirements for conducting the mediation as follows.
The mediator may be a person meeting general requirements for employment.
In addition, the mediator must meet the following requirements:
a) a university degree,
b) completed training in mediation according to the program of the association or according to another training programs recognized by the association,
c) entry into the registry of mediators held by the association.
The mediator will submit proof of payment of the registration fee to the Association of Mediators. The person who is successful in completing the training program for mediators shall be issued an appropriate certificate serving as a basis for entry into the registry of mediators in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Accredited/registered mediators for court-related mediation			% Variation between 2019 and 2025
Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Median per 100 000 inhabitants	
203	5,9	6,0	7,4%

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 19,2 mediators per 100 000 inhabitants.

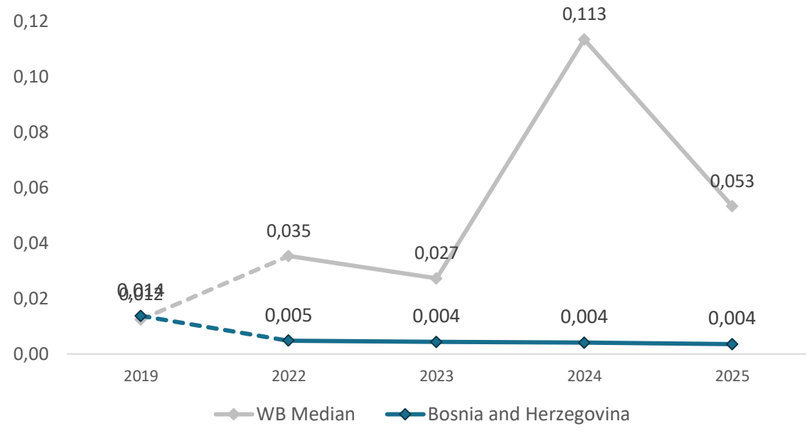
Accredited/registered mediators for court-related mediation per 100 000 inhabitants between 2019 and 2025



In 2025, the total number of mediators in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 203, which is 7,4% more than in 2019.The number of mediators per 100 000 inhabitants was 5,9, which is less than the WB Median of 6.

	Number of court-related mediations			Providers of court-related mediation services			
	Number of cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation	Number of finished court-related mediations	Number of cases in which there is a settlement agreement	Private mediator	Public authority (other than the court)	Judge	Public prosecutor
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5+ 6)	121	120	98				
1. Civil and commercial cases	105	105	83	✓	✓	✗	✗
2. Family cases	0	0	0	✓	✓	✗	✗
3. Administrative cases	9	8	8	✓	✓	✗	✗
4. Labour cases incl. employment dismissals	7	7	7	✓	✓	✗	✗
5. Criminal cases	0	0	0	✓	✓	✗	✗
6. Consumer cases	0	0	0	✓	✓	✗	✗
7. Other cases	0	0	0				

Evolution of the number of court-related mediation for which parties agreed to start mediation per 100 inhabitants between 2019 and 2025



Court related mediations are provided by private mediators and public authorities (other than the court). In 2025, mediation was most used for Civil and commercial cases and Administrative cases (parties agreed to start mediation in 105 and 9 cases, respectively).

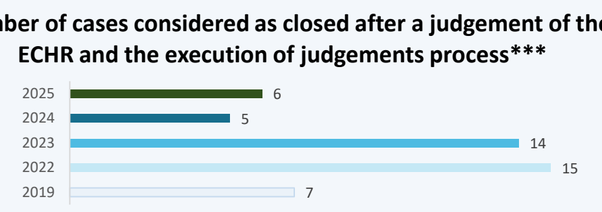
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is possible to receive legal aid for court-related mediation or receive these services free of charge.

The Association of Mediators of Bosnia and Herzegovina produced the statistics on mediations. Historically, the number of mediations is small in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

European Convention on Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 10)

European Convention on Human Rights – Article 6 – Right to a fair trial (extract):
In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interests of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.





ECHR

Follow-up at national level to the established violations by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

Raising awareness	
ECHR case law is part of judge's and public prosecutors' training	✓
Publication of the ECHR case law on official judicial internet pages	✓
Annual report before the Parliament on ECHR case law	✗
Integration of the ECHR case law in the annual courts' report	✗
Other	✗

Information / dissemination of the ECHR decisions within the judicial system	
Within the Ministry of Justice	✗
Within other public institutions	✓
Within courts	✓
Within higher instance courts only	✗
Within public prosecution services	✓
Other	✓

The right to claim damages before national courts (besides the just satisfaction due by the State)	
The right to claim damages before national courts (besides the just satisfaction due by the State)	✓
The right to have the case reopened before national courts	✓
Request for annulment of the national court's judgment	✗
Other	✓

Information/dissemination of the ECHR case law within the judicial system: The ECHR case law is part of annual training programs of both judicial training institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are responsible for training of judges and prosecutors in two different entities within the state. Each of these institutions is responsible for the provision of training of both judges and prosecutors. The training regarding the ECHR case law includes: 1) training sessions solely focusing on human rights standards and ECHR case law; 2) training sessions that are primarily focused on national law, but is complimented with information of ECHR case law; 3) specialized three year program on ECHR standards and case law, with topics ranging from introduction to ECHR, principles of ECHR application, procedural human rights' issues, etc.; 4) online learning through access to HELP courses, includ the ones with national tutoring. The training is offered and tailored to the needs of different training groups, starting from interns, judicial and prosecutorial associates, lawyers, law students, newly appointed judges and prosecutors, but also for more experienced judges and prosecutors.
The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina publishes online the ECHR case law. Information is accessible through High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina's specialized web site for knowledge sharing, which is updated weekly. The selection of cases to be disseminated is done in cooperation with the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. All updates are in local languages. This online publication mechanism makes it possible that judiciary and public in general have easy access to the ECHR decisions few days after they are adopted. Example of the information provided can be found at the following link: Praksa Europskog suda za ljudska prava od 21. i 23. listopada 2025. godine. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina also ensures public access to information on development of the ECHR case law through the abovementioned web site. This information is prepared by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina on quarterly bases in cooperation with the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina; its content is drawn from the information prepared by the ECHR Jurisconsult. Examples of the quarterly information on the ECHR case law are available at the following link: Kategorije vijesti | pravosudje.ba
Furthermore, reports containing the ECHR case law are regularly distrubuted by HJPC's Department to entire judicial community, but also to law faculties and bar associations operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ensuring transparent knowledge sharing and equality of arms. They are distributed mostly on weekly basis via e-mail together with the case law of highest instance courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With regards to the question on which institution is competent to disseminate the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, there is an Article 7, paragraph 2 of the Decision on the Representative/Agent of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina before the European Court of Human Rights and the Office of the Representative/Agent of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina before the European Court of Human Rights (BiH Official Gazette of BiH, nos. 41/03, 65/05, 22/19, and 36/21), which prescribes that final judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are published in the BiH Official Gazette and formally delivered to the bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina found to have violated certain rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Additional Protocols, as well as to the bodies competent for the enforcement of the final judgment.
Possible Remedies:With regard to the section Possible Remedies – The right to claim damages before national courts, we recall that Article 41 of the Convention stipulates that if the Court finds that there has been a violation of the Convention or its Protocols, and the domestic law of the High Contracting Party concerned allows only partial reparation, the Court shall, if necessary, award just satisfaction to the injured party.
Therefore, if the European Court has established that the applicant suffered a violation of their rights under the Convention but has not been awarded just satisfaction on that basis, the applicant is entitled to file a claim for damages in civil proceedings before domestic courts if they consider that, as a result of the established violation of rights under the Convention, they have suffered non-pecuniary and/or pecuniary damage not awarded by the Court's judgment. Regarding compensation for non-pecuniary damage arising from the established violation of rights, the applicant has the right to seek compensation in civil proceedings before the competent court for mental anguish due to violation of their reputation, honor, freedom, or personal rights, in accordance with the general rules of obligations law. As for pecuniary damage, if the Court rejected the applicant's claim on the grounds that the applicant failed to prove the existence of a causal link between the established violation of rights under the Convention and the damage suffered, the applicant is also entitled seek compensation for pecuniary damage with the competent court under the general rules of obligations law in civil proceedings. To date, no case has been recorded in which a lawsuit for damages has been filed before domestic courts following a violation of rights established by the European Court of Human Rights.
Furthermore, the second enforcement measure mentioned – The right to have the case reopened before national courts – is one of the possible remedies that is often applied, and for which the domestic legislator at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina has prescribed a clear legal basis (see, for example: Article 68(2) of the Rules of the Constitutional Court of BiH (BiH Official Gazette nos. 22/14 and 57/14); Article 327(1)(f) of the Criminal Procedure Code of BiH (BiH Official Gazette nos. 3/03, 32/03 corr., 36/03, 26/04, 63/04, 13/05, 48/05, 46/06, 29/07, 53/07, 58/08, 12/09, 16/09, 53/09, 93/09, 72/13 and 65/18); Article 204(3)(f) of the Civil Procedure Code before the Court of BiH ("Official Gazette of BiH" nos. 36/04, 84/07, 58/13 and 94/16); Article 343(1)(f) of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Federation of BiH (Federation of BiH Official Gazette nos. 35/03, 56/03, 78/04, 28/05, 55/06, 27/07, 53/07, 9/09, 12/10, 8/13 and 59/14); Article 264a of the Civil Procedure Code (Federation of BiH Official Gazette nos. 53/03, 73/05, 19/06, 98/15); Article 343(1)(d) of the Criminal Procedure Code of Republika Srpska (RS Official Gazette nos. 53/12, 91/17 and 66/18); Article 264a of the Civil Procedure Code of RS (RS Official Gazette nos. 58/03, 85/03, 74/05, 63/07, 105/08, 45/09, 49/09 and 61/13); Article 327(1)(f) of the Criminal Procedure Code of Brčko District (Brčko District Official Gazette nos. 34/13, 27/14, 3/19 and 16/20); Article 359(3)(c) of the Civil Procedure Code of Brčko District (Brčko District Official Gazette, nos. 28/18 and 6/21)).
With regard to Other enforcement measures, there is a wide range of measures that have been undertaken with the aim of remedying the identified violation of rights under the Convention. The list of enforcement measures in the table above is not complete, so for more information on enforcement measures taken in response to violations of rights determined under judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against Bosnia and Herzegovina, please visit: https://www.coe.int/en/web/execution/bosnia-and-herzegovina

Number of applications to the ECHR, number of judgments, and number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR

		2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Applications allocated to a judicial formation of the Court**		1 784	407	248	81	339
Judgements finding at least one violation**		21	10	2	2	1
Judgements finding at least one violation of the Article 6 of the ECHR	**Right to a fair trial (1)**	3	1	0	1	0
	Length of proceedings	2	2	0	0	0
	Non-enforcement	13	3	1	0	0

** Source: ECHR

(1) Figures in this line may include conditional violations.

	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR and the execution of judgements process* **	7	15	14	5	6

*** Source: Department for the Execution of Judgments of the ECHR

In 2025, the applications allocated to a judicial formation** for Bosnia and Herzegovina were 339 (258 more than the previous year). The judgements by the ECHR finding at least one violation for Bosnia and Herzegovina were 1; whereas they were 2 in 2024.The number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR and the execution of judgements process was 6 in 2025; whereas they were 5 in 2024.

Appointment, recruitment and promotion of judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicators 12 and 13)

Judges

Description of the specific procedure of recruitment

- Public call for candidates.
- Qualification and written testing.
- Interview evaluation.
- Selection of candidates done by High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council.
- High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council is entitled for formal decision on appointment.
- Non-selected candidates can appeal against the decision of appointment to the state level court.
- Conducting an asset and interest check.
- Making a decision on the date of assuming office.

Clean criminal record:
During the appointment procedure consideration shall also be given to circumstances relevant for the evaluation of candidate suitability, such as information concerning any previous disciplinary offences, previous criminal convictions and other circumstances that may deem a candidate unsuitable to hold judicial office. The candidate in the application form must reply to the following question: Have you been convicted of a felony or been found responsible for a misdemeanor offense or been found responsible for disciplinary offense?
Also, the candidate is required to submit as an attachment to the application form an official court document confirming that there is no pending criminal proceedings against him or her. Candidate's criminal record does not constitute an eliminatory criterion in the process of appointment of candidates. But in this regard, the Interview panel and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the appointment procedure determine the ability of the candidate with criminal record to perform the judicial function.

Authority competent during the entry selection

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

Eligibility

WJA	Pre-conditions:	WJA
✓	Basic law studies	✓
	Advanced law studies (masters or PhD)	
✓	Judicial exam/bar exam	✓
	Average grades in education	
✓	Years of work experience	✓
✓	Relevance of previous work experience	✓
✓	Citizenship	✓
	Age	
✓	Clean criminal record	✓
	Foreign language knowledge	
✓	Entry test / exam	✓
	Other	

** WJA = Without Judicial Academy

Prosecutors

Description of the specific procedure of recruitment

- Public call for candidates.
- Qualification and written testing.
- Interview evaluation.
- Selection of candidates done by High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council.
- High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council is entitled for formal decision on appointment.
- Non-selected candidates can appeal against the decision of appointment to the state level court.
- Conducting an asset and interest check.
- Making a decision on the date of assuming office.

Clean criminal record: During the appointment procedure consideration shall also be given to circumstances relevant for the evaluation of candidate suitability, such as information concerning any previous disciplinary offences, previous criminal convictions and other circumstances that may deem a candidate unsuitable to hold judicial office. The candidate in the application form must reply to the following question: Have you been convicted of a felony or been found responsible for a misdemeanor offense or been found responsible for disciplinary offense? Also, the candidate is required to submit as an attachment to the application form an official court document confirming that there is no pending criminal proceedings against him or her.
Candidate's criminal record does not constitute an eliminatory criterion in the process of appointment of candidates. But in this regard, the Interview panel and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the appointment procedure determine the ability of the candidate with criminal record to perform the prosecutorial function.

Authority competent during the entry selection

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

The procedure of recruitment and selection of prosecutors is conducted by the HJPC BiH in accordance with the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Rules of Procedure of the HJPC BiH and the Book of Rules on Entrance Exams and Written Tests for Candidates for Judicial Office in the Judiciary of BIH. A public announcement of vacant positions in any prosecutor's office (regardless of the level) precedes the appointment of prosecutors, including chief prosecutors. The Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina in general does not distinguish the recruitment of new prosecutors from the promotion or transfer of prosecutors to different positions within the judiciary. Thus a public vacancy is applicable to both internal candidates (candidates who hold judicial office) and external candidates, who compete each other for the vacant position. However, certain aspects of selection procedure are different for internal or external candidates. Selection procedure may include entrance exams and written tests, depending on the status of the candidate. Entrance exams and written tests shall be carried out mainly for candidates who do not hold judicial office and who have applied for positions of prosecutors on any level. Written tests shall be carried out mainly for candidates who do not hold judicial office and who have applied for positions in highest prosecutors' offices, and who have previously passed the entrance exam. Results of the aforementioned tests are relevant for the establishing the competences of the external candidates. Competences of the candidates who are already prosecutors are established based on the performance evaluation. All candidates have to be interviewed by the interview panel, which assesses the criteria regulated in the aforementioned Rules of Procedure. Candidates are ranked based on their success in the selection procedure. The points received according to the competence criterion (results of entrance exam/written test or performance evaluation) are added to the points received at the interview and candidates are ranked according to the total points scored. The HJPC BiH appoints prosecutors from the list of successful candidates upon proposal of the relevant nomination sub-council. The decision on the appointment has to be reasoned.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there exists the possibility for non pre-selected judge candidates to appeal to this decision without the Judicial Academy. The body is competent to decide on appeal is the Court.

The decision on appointment made by the HJPC BiH is the final administrative act and an administrative dispute may be initiated against the decision by the candidate in the appointment procedure. The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has jurisdiction to resolve these administrative disputes. In the event of an administrative dispute, the appointment of the newly appointed judge or prosecutor shall be postponed for that position until the court proceedings have been completed.

Judges

The candidates who do not hold judicial office and who have applied for a judge position on any level of court system must take entrance exam and written tests.

Selection

WJA	Criteria	WJA
✓	Results/score from Judicial Academy training Additional testing for non-Academy graduates	✓
✓	Relevance of previous work experience	✓
✓	Duration of previous work experience	✓
✓	Interview evaluation	✓
✓	Performance appraisal (from previous employer)	✓
✓	Other	✓
	Automatic selection of each successful candidate from the Judicial Academy / Every pre-selected experienced candidate outside the Judicial Academy	

Prosecutors

The candidates who do not hold judicial office and who have applied for a public prosecutor position must take entrance exam and written test.

Authority competent during the entry selection

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

Recruitment and selection of judges is conducted by the HJPC BiH in accordance with the relevant law, Rules of Procedure, and regulations on entrance exams and written tests. A public announcement precedes the appointment of judges at any court level, including court presidents. The law does not distinguish between recruitment, promotion, or transfer—public competition applies to both internal (existing judges) and external candidates. Certain selection steps differ: entrance exams and written tests are mainly for candidates who are not already judges, and their results assess external candidates' competence. Current judges/prosecutors are evaluated based on performance. All candidates undergo an interview, with ranking based on total points from tests/evaluations and interviews. Appointments are made by HJPC BiH from the ranked list, following a reasoned decision on the proposal of the relevant nomination subcouncil.

Authority competent during the entry selection

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

Recruitment and selection of prosecutors is conducted by HJPC BiH according to the law, Rules of Procedure, and rules on entrance exams and written tests. A public announcement always precedes prosecutor appointments at any level, including chief prosecutors. The law treats recruitment, promotion, and transfer alike, so both internal (current office holders) and external candidates compete for vacancies. Some selection steps differ: entrance and written exams are mainly for those not already in the judiciary, especially for higher offices. External candidates' competence is assessed by test results; for existing prosecutors, it's based on performance evaluation. All candidates are interviewed and ranked by total points from tests/evaluations and interviews. HJPC BiH appoints prosecutors from the ranked list on proposal of the relevant nomination subcouncil, and each decision must be reasoned.

Appointment

Judges

Authority competent for the final appointment

Judicial/Prosecutorical Council

Has a right to appoint some and reject some among the selected (proposed)

Relevant rules adopted by HJPC BiH state:

The Council decides on each appointment separately, based on the relevant subcouncil's proposal. If a proposal isn't adopted and no new candidate is proposed, any Council member can propose a candidate who meets appointment criteria, considering suitability and circumstances.
The subcouncil ranks candidates and considers points scored, suitability, ethnic and gender representation, and relevant legal experience. If necessary criteria (ethnicity/specialisation) aren't met on the list, the competition is repeated once.
The competition can also be repeated if no candidate gets a majority vote or meets minimum criteria.
For managerial positions, if no candidate receives a majority after presenting work programs, any Council member can propose a candidate who met the criteria to present again at the next session.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there exists the possibility for non-selected judge candidates to appeal to this decision.

The Court is competent to decide on the appeal

Prosecutors

Authority competent for the final appointment

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

Has a right to appoint some and reject some among the selected

HJPC BiH has the right to appoint or reject candidates, including those not proposed by its subcouncil. The recruitment and selection of prosecutors is managed by HJPC BiH according to the law, Rules of Procedure, and regulations on exams. Public announcements cover all levels and both internal and external candidates. The process may include entrance and written tests, mainly for candidates outside the judiciary and for higher prosecutorial positions. External candidates are assessed by test results, while existing prosecutors are evaluated based on performance. All candidates must attend an interview, and ranking is based on total points from evaluations/tests and interviews. HJPC BiH appoints prosecutors from the ranked list on proposal of the subcouncil, and each decision must be reasoned.

Relevant rules from HJPC BiH provide that each appointment decision is made separately based on the subcouncil's proposal. If the subcouncil's proposal is not adopted, any Council member can propose another qualified candidate, considering factors such as candidate suitability, ethnic and gender representation, and relevant work experience. The subcouncil ranks candidates and sends proposals to the Council. If essential criteria (such as ethnicity or specialization) are not met, or no candidate achieves the required majority or results, the competition can be repeated once. For managerial posts, if no candidate receives a majority vote, any Council member may propose a qualified candidate to present again at a future session.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there exists the possibility for non-selected prosecutor candidates to appeal to this decision.

The Court is competent to decide on the appeal

The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has jurisdiction to resolve these administrative disputes. In the event of an administrative dispute, the appointment of the newly appointed judge or prosecutor shall be postponed for that position until the court proceedings have been completed.

During the selection process for judge or prosecutor posts, it is checked whether disciplinary proceedings are ongoing or if final disciplinary measures or convictions exist against the candidate. This affects whether they are invited to interview or allowed to proceed in the competition. If a disciplinary sanction was imposed within a certain period, the candidate may be excluded depending on the sanction.
Integrity assessment is also done in the interview, evaluating the candidate's ability to act responsibly, impartially, and with good reputation, including conduct outside of work. Previous disciplinary offences, criminal convictions, and other relevant circumstances are considered when assessing suitability.
Candidates must state in the application if they have been convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or disciplinary offence, and must attach a court certificate showing no pending criminal proceedings. A criminal record is not automatically disqualifying, but HJPC BiH and the interview panel assess whether a candidate with a record is fit for judicial office.

Integrity checks through:

- Criminal records
- Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions ✓
- Intelligence investigation
- Integrity assessment test ✓
- Psychological assessment
- Other

During selection for judge or prosecutor posts, candidates are checked for any ongoing disciplinary proceedings, past disciplinary sanctions, or convictions. This information determines if they move forward in the competition, including invitations to interview. Certain recent sanctions may result in disqualification, depending on the type.
Integrity is also assessed during interviews, focusing on the candidate's impartiality, responsibility, professional reputation, and conduct outside of work. The process considers previous disciplinary or criminal offenses or any factors that may make a candidate unsuitable.
Candidates must declare any prior convictions or disciplinary offenses on their application, and submit a court certificate proving no ongoing criminal proceedings. Having a criminal record does not automatically bar appointment; HJPC BiH and the interview panel ultimately decide on the candidate's fitness for judicial office.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, judges are appointed to office for an undetermined period, until the compulsory retirement at the age of 70. There is no probation period for them.

According to the Law on High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina the mandatory retirement age for judges is age seventy (70). A judge can be removed from office as a disciplinary sanction. The disciplinary measure of dismissal shall only be used in cases where a serious disciplinary offence is found and the severity of the offence makes it clear that the offender is unfit or unworthy to continue to hold his or her office. A judge can resign from office. A judge can be removed from the office because it has been proven by the medical documentation that she or he has permanently lost the working capacity to perform his/her judicial function.
Reserve judges may be appointed on a temporary basis (up to 2 years).
Their role is to assist courts in reducing case backlogs, or to replace temporarily judges who are absent for a prolonged period of time. They are appointed in the publicly announced procedure by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina upon application by the president of a court; the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina may renew the mandate of reserve judges following the request of the president of a court.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, prosecutors are appointed to office for an undetermined period, until the compulsory retirement at the age of 70. There is no probation period for them.

Pursuant to the Law on High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the mandatory retirement age for prosecutors is age seventy (70). According to the Law, the disciplinary measure of dismissal shall only be used in cases where a serious disciplinary offence is found and the severity of the offence makes it clear that the offender is unfit or unworthy to continue to hold his or her office. A prosecutor is entitled to resign from office. He/she can be removed from office if it has been proven by the
medical documentation that he/she has permanently lost the working capacity to perform his/her judicial or prosecutorial function.

Promotion

Judges

Authority competent for the promotion

Judicial Council

Promotion can be achieved only through public competition procedure which is conducted by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Public competition for the vacant position of the judge, prosecutor, president of the court, chief prosecutor and deputy chief prosecutor is published in a daily newspaper and on website of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The procedure includes:
a) Publishing competition procedure;
b) Conducting interview with candidates;
b) Ranking candidates in accordance with the criteria and making appointment proposal (Sub-council);
c) Deciding on appointment (HJPC)

Prosecutors

Authority competent for the promotion

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

Promotion can be achieved only through public competition procedure which is conducted by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Public competition for the vacant position of the judge, prosecutor, president of the court, chief prosecutor and deputy chief prosecutor is published in a daily newspaper and on website of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The procedure includes:
a) Publishing competition procedure;
b) Conducting interview with candidates;
b) Ranking candidates in accordance with the criteria and making appointment proposal (Sub-council);
c) Deciding on appointment (HJPC)

Procedure

	Competitive test / Exam
✓	Previous individual evaluations ✓
✓	Other procedure(s) (interview or other) ✓
	No special procedure

Criteria

✓	Years of experience ✓
✓	Professional skills (and/or qualitative performance) ✓
✓	Performance (quantitative) ✓
✓	Subjective criteria (e.g. integrity, reputation) ✓
	Other
	No criteria

Candidate ranking for judge or prosecutor positions in public competition is based on expertise, legal analysis ability, professional responsibility and impartiality, reputation, conduct outside work, previous experience, professional development, and communication skills. Additional criteria apply for managerial roles. For current judges or prosecutors, expertise and legal analysis ability are assessed from their last three years' performance, evaluated annually by the court president or chief prosecutor per HJPC BiH criteria. Other ranking criteria are evaluated during the interview.

Candidate ranking for judge or prosecutor positions in public competition is based on expertise, legal analysis ability, professional responsibility and impartiality, reputation, conduct outside work, previous experience, professional development, and communication skills. Additional criteria apply for managerial roles. For current judges or prosecutors, expertise and legal analysis ability are assessed from their last three years' performance, evaluated annually by the court president or chief prosecutor per HJPC BiH criteria. Other ranking criteria are evaluated during the interview.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the decision on the promotion of judges could be appealed.

The Court is competent to decide on the appeal

The decision on appointment made by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the final administrative act pursuant to the Law on Amendments to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 63/23), which entered into force in December 2023, and an administrative dispute may be initiated against the decision by the candidate in the appointment procedure.

The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has jurisdiction to resolve these administrative disputes. In the event of an administrative dispute, the appointment of the newly appointed judge or prosecutor shall be postponed for that position until the court proceedings have been completed.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the decision on the promotion of prosecutors could be appealed.

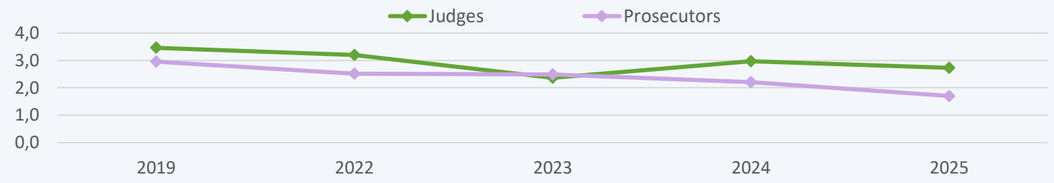
The Court/prosecution office is competent to decide on the appeal

The decision on appointment made by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the final administrative act pursuant to the Law on Amendments to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 63/23), which entered into force in December 2023, and an administrative dispute may be initiated against the decision by the candidate in the appointment procedure.

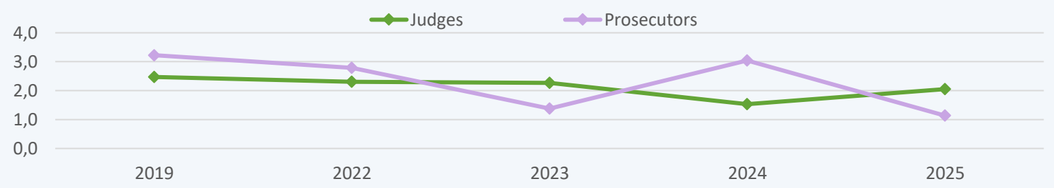
The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has jurisdiction to resolve these administrative disputes. In the event of an administrative dispute, the appointment of the newly appointed judge or prosecutor shall be postponed for that position until the court proceedings have been completed.

Accountability in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 14)

Number of initiated disciplinary proceedings against judges/prosecutors between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 judges/100 prosecutors)



Number of disciplinary sanctions against judges/prosecutors between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 judges/100 prosecutors)



• Promotion of integrity and prevention of corruption

Legal provisions guaranteeing the independence of judges and prosecutors

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the independence of judges and prosecutors is guaranteed by the Constitution and a Special law.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, courts and prosecutors' offices are regulated by constitutions and special laws at different government levels.
Judges/Courts:Judicial independence is explicitly protected in entity, cantonal, and Brčko District constitutions, and reinforced by laws guaranteeing autonomy and impartiality. No authority may influence judges in their decision-making.
Prosecutors/Prosecutors' Offices:Prosecutors' independence is specified in the Republika Srpska Constitution and Brčko District Statute, while other constitutions are mostly silent. Laws define prosecutors' offices as independent, with the Chief Prosecutor empowered to direct and reassign cases among prosecutors.
HJPC BiH: The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC BiH) independently appoints, evaluates, and disciplines both judges and prosecutors, ensuring professionalism and impartiality throughout the justice sector.

Number of criminal cases and sanctions against judges and prosecutors in 2025

	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced
Judges	1	0	0
Prosecutors	0	2	0

In 2025, an indictment was confirmed against one judge whereas there were no new confirmed indictments against prosecutors. As for completed cases, there were no verdicts in criminal trials that had been instituted against judges before the reporting year; in addition, two prosecutors were acquitted in 2025 following criminal trials that had been initiated before the reporting year.

Measures to prevent corruption

	Gift rules	Specific training	Internal controls	Safe complaints mechanisms	Other	No mechanism in place
Judges	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Prosecutors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Guidelines for the prevention of conflicts of interest in the judiciary (July 2016), covering a) incompatibilities; b) reporting on property, income, obligations and interests; c) gifts and other benefits; d) contacts with third persons and abuse of confidential information; e) nepotism; and f) education and awareness-raising. The Guidelines elaborate the existing legislation and code of ethics and go into further detail with practical "do's and don'ts" in a variety of situations.

There is an automated case assignment system in place, where cases are randomly assigned to judges, according to predetermined criteria.
In a situation where the judge to whom a case is assigned must, as required by law, be disqualified or recused from further proceedings, the case will be reassigned to another judge by the Court President or his deputy.
Disqualification of judges is governed by the civil procedure codes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Law on Civil Procedure before the Court of BiH and civil procedure codes of the BiH Federation, Republika Srpska and Brcko District of BiH), which stipulate that:
a) the judge may be disqualified if circumstances exist that cast doubt to his impartiality (disqualification); b) the motion for disqualification of a judge shall be decided by Court President, and the motion for disqualification of Court President shall be decided by the court in plenary session; c) the provisions on disqualification of judges shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to record keepers. The criminal procedure codes of BiH, BiH Federation, Republika Srpska and Brcko District of BiH stipulate that:
a) the provisions on disqualification of a judge shall accordingly be applied to prosecutors and persons authorised to represent the prosecutor in the proceedings, record keepers, court interpreters and other staff members; b) the prosecutor shall decide the disqualification of persons authorised to represent him in criminal proceedings, and the Collegium of the Prosecutor's Office shall decide the disqualification of the prosecutor. c) the panel, presiding judge or judge shall decide the disqualification of record keepers, court interpreters and other staff member, and, until the indictment is filed, it shall be decided by the prosecutor. In a situation where the judge to whom a case is assigned must be disqualified or recused from the case, the case will be reassigned to another judge. The same rule applies to prosecutors.
Case reassignment is governed by the books of rules on the case management systems in courts and prosecutor's offices (the Book of Rules on CMS and the Book of Rules on TCMS).
The case is reassigned to another judge by the Court President or a person authorised by him, who must state the grounds for reassignment.
The case is reassigned to another prosecutor by the Chief Prosecutor, who must state the grounds for reassignment.

For the latest GRECO Evaluation Report on Prevention of corruption in respect of judges and prosecutors, please click here:

https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/evaluations/round-4

Training on ethics and prevention of corruption

	Training on ethics	Training on prevention of corruption
Judges	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
Prosecutors	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some

Legislation requires mandatory in-service training for judges and prosecutors working on juvenile criminal cases; they must complete specific courses before handling such cases. The juvenile training lasts 4 days and includes 7 topics.

Initial training is mandatory for all newly appointed judges and prosecutors. For general in-service training, each judge and prosecutor must attend at least 3 days of training per year at the judicial training center, choosing topics relevant to their work.
In 2025, HJPC BiH mandated specific trainings for newly appointed court presidents and chief prosecutors: (1) preserving judicial integrity, (2) leadership and management skills, and all must also attend training on modern public relations. Additionally, starting 2025, all judges and prosecutors must complete online training on ethics, anti-corruption, and conflict of interest every three years.
For juvenile justice, legislation requires compulsory specialized training before judges and prosecutors can handle juvenile criminal cases.

Code of Ethics

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there exists a **Code of Ethics** applicable for both judges and prosecutors.
https://vstv.pravosudje.ba/vstvfo/E/141/kategorije-vijesti/1198/1178/1359
https://vstv.pravosudje.ba/vstvfo/E/141/kategorije-vijesti/1198/1178/1359

For judges, there exists an institution/body giving guidelines and/or opinions on ethical questions of their conduct. Its members are judges and other legal professionals. Its guidelines and/or opinions are publicly available and, in 2025, it provided 48 guidelines/opinions.

For prosecutors, there exists an institution/body giving guidelines and/or opinions on ethical questions of their conduct. Its members are prosecutors and other legal professionals . Its guidelines and/or opinions are publicly available and, in 2025, it provided 16 guidelines/opinions.

The Standing Committee on Ethics, Integrity and Accountability of Judges and Prosecutors is a committee established by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is authorized to give binding opinions on ethical and incompatibility questions raised by judges and prosecutors. Only the members of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina are eligible to be appointed the members of the Committee. Currently, the members of the Committee have the following background: 2 judges, 1 prosecutor, 1 lawyer, and 1 law professor who has been appointed as the member of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH gives opinions and decides on the issues of judicial ethics and compatibility of additional activities with the judicial function through its Standing Committee on Ethics, Integrity and Accountability of Judges and Prosecutors, which is competent for examination of submitted requests for opinions. Additional activities of judges which are usually subject of opinions are activities such as being paid as lecturers at conferences and seminars, experts on legal reform projects or commissions for the drafting of legal regulations, members in bar or state exam panels etc.

Integrity of court staff

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, legislation provides for various breaches of integrity in respect of court staff, including conflicts of interest, unauthorized disclosure of confidential or sensitive information on court cases and procedures, breaches of Codes of Conduct and other related violations.

https://vstv.pravosudje.ba/vstvfo/E/141/kategorije-vijesti/1198/1178/1359

Recusal of judges

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there exists a procedure to effectively challenge a judge (recusal), if a party considers that the judge is not impartial.

Total number of initiated procedures	544
Total number of recusals pronounced	63

A judge cannot adjudicate the case if circumstances exist that raise a reasonable suspicion as to his/her impartiality. The court president decides on the request for exemption of a judge in civil proceedings.
The court in plenary session decides on the petition for exemption of a judge in criminal proceedings.

Transparency in distribution of court cases

Organisation of the distribution of court cases	
Automatic allocation	
Random allocation	✓
Other type of allocation	✓
Specific allocation for priority cases	✓
Possibility to exclude a judge from the allocation	✓
All interventions on the system irreversibly logged / registered	✓

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, court cases are, in principle, randomly allocated by a computer algorithm. Alternatively, cases may be distributed through another type of allocation.Additionally, there exist rules particularly envisaged for allocating priority cases, as an exception to the general method. The system also anticipates different situations in which a judge could be excluded from the allocation of cases. Finally, the system provides for all alterations to the allocation process to be logged/registered. This ensures adherence to the rules and maintains transparency in the distribution of cases.

Random allocation is carried out in accordance with the predefined settings for assigning cases to judges. These settings relate to the division, type of cases, legal basis, the initial document, or the administrative unit in which the judge acts.
Other type of allocation: Cases could be allocated in accordance with the decision of the court president or chief prosecutor.
Specific allocation for priority cases: Priority cases (e.g. cases involving detention, cases involving minors etc.) are distributed urgently as prescribed by the law or by the decision of the court president. The law stipulates shorter deadlines for priority cases, so these cases have to be allocated to judges urgently and judges have to start working on them immediately.

Possibility to exclude: It is possible to exclude a judge from the allocation for various reasons. Judge can be temporarily excluded due to illness, vacation, longer absence, overload with cases etc. Also, it is possible to exclude a judge from the allocation for reasons prescribed by the law.

The system for distribution of cases in the courts of BiH is organized as random and automatic allocation, in accordance with predefined parameters. Due to the parameters the system for distribution of cases is classified as "other type of allocation". These parameters are prescribed by the decision of the court president, and they include specialization of judges and percentage of participation of every judge in the distribution of cases. After these parameters are set, system randomly distributes cases to judges of particular specialization and in accordance with the percentage of each judges' participation in the distribution but also considering workload of individual judges. Priority cases (e.g. cases involving detention, cases involving minors etc.) are distributed urgently as prescribed by the law or by the decision of the court president. The law stipulates shorter deadlines for priority cases, so these cases have to be allocated to judges urgently and judges have to start working on them immediately.

	Reasons for reassigning a case	Number of reassignments
Conflict of interest declared by the judge or by the parties	✓	460 135
Recusal of the judge or requested by the parties	✓	NA
Physical unavailability (illness, longer absence)	✓	NA
Other	✓	NA

Method to reassign a case	
Automatic allocation	
Random allocation	✓
By discretion of a president of a court	✓
Other	✓

The relevant legislation on court procedures in Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes circumstances that call into question his/her impartiality in which a judge cannot adjudicate the case. These circumstances indicate that the judge has a conflict of interest in the individual case and therefore there is a legal base for initiating procedures to prevent or recuse him/her from dealing with the case.
As an example, the judge must not deal with the case if the party, legal representative or authorized agent is his/her blood relative in direct line to any degree or in the lateral line up to fourth degree, or if they are spouses or relatives up to second degree, regardless of whether the marriage has been terminated or not. In addition, as another example, the judge must be taken off the case if it turns out that he/she has participated in the same case in reaching the judgment of the inferior instance court. In conclusion, the legislation on court procedures defines the basis (i.e. aforementioned circumstances that pertain to the conflict of interest) and the procedure for the recusal of the judge.
In this regard, the legislation does not refer specifically to the conflict of interest, i.e. the laws do not foresee it as a separate category. However, it is in the law that the recusal of the judges as a legal term comprises all matters related to the protection of the impartiality in the court procedures. Consequently, it is not possible in Bosnia and Herzegovina to differentiate data on the number of reassigned cases for the following category: Recusal of the judge or requested by the parties. In the context of data on the total number of reassigned court cases in 2025 (i.e. 460 135), it is important to take into account that these court cases were redistributed primarily because the judges in charge of these court cases have ceased to work in a particular court (i.e. appointment to another court, retirement, resignation etc.). In addition, courts had to reassign a significant number of cases owing to the longer absence of judges because of sick leave. Finally, harmonizing the burden of judges with court cases in a single court and regrouping judges within the court made it necessary to reassign noteworthy number of court cases.

Unlike in 2024 when reassignments were processed in 663 080 cases, the number of cases with processed reassignments in 2025 was lower, namely 460 135. The reduction in the number of reassignments was not a result of the implementation of any guidelines or legislative changes.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the reassigment of cases is required to be reasoned in all circumstances.

When reassigning the case through the Case Management System it is necessary to select a valid reason for reassignment. Users of system have to select an option from the list of the reasons for obligatory reassignment prescribed by the law, or the alternative option “Other reasons”. When the latter option is selected, a detailed explanation on reasons for reassignment of the case needs to be submitted pursuant to the Article 9 of the Rulebook on the Automated Case Management System in Courts.

Priority cases are allocated to judges and prosecutors through automatic allocation algorithm based on specific setup of predefined parameters used for priority cases. This basically means that in courts and prosecutor offices there is always at least one judge or prosecutor determined in advance, who is person on duty for certain period and to whom such cases will be assigned automatically by system.
All other non-priority cases are also allocated to judges through automatic allocation algorithm but setup for this allocation is more complex and based on more than one information from new case, and usually with more judges available in pool to select from. Both algorithms (for priority and non-priority cases) are always based on court president decision, which is created once per year or more often if necessary.
Regarding reassignment of cases:
All reassignments of cases are processed through the computerized distribution of cases , whether new judge is selected by automatic allocation algorithm (in accordance to predefined parameters) or by court president decision. In every case, reason for reassignment has to be entered in the system by selecting from predefined list of reasons for reassignment and/or adding free text as description. Reassignments of cases can be processed as random and automatic where system will choose from the judges of same specialization, or it can be processed in a way that court president makes a decision and chooses the judge to whom the case will be reassigned.

• Disciplinary procedures against judges/prosecutors

Judges

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Judicial Council is the authority with disciplinary powers over judges.

Judges may be subject to disciplinary proceedings for violations stipulated by the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC). The Disciplinary Panels (first-and second instance) comprising of the members of the HJPC decide in disciplinary procedures initiated by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel against a judge. During the disciplinary proceeding, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel may submit a request to remove a judge temporarily from any duty, until the completion of the disciplinary proceeding on the basis of which there was a temporary removal from the court. Temporary removal from the court can be requested until completion of an initiated dismissal procedure as well as until the termination of a criminal proceeding initiated against a judge, while the temporary removal from office is mandatory in case when a judge is in pre-trial detainment, until pre-trial detainment ends.

Who is authorised to initiate of a disciplinary proceedings

Relevant Court / Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior
High Court (Supreme Court) / Prosecutor General (State public prosecutor)
Judicial Council / Public Prosecutorial Council
Disciplinary court
Disciplinary body
Parliament
Executive power
Other
This is not possible

Prosecutors

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Public prosecutorial Council (Judicial Council) is the authority with disciplinary powers over prosecutors.

Prosecutors may be subject to disciplinary proceedings for violations stipulated by the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC). The Disciplinary Panels (first-and second instance) comprising of the members of the HJPC decide in disciplinary procedures initiated by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel against a prosecutor. During the disciplinary proceeding, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel may submit a request to remove the prosecutors temporarily from any duty, until the completion of the disciplinary proceeding on the basis of which there was a temporary removal from office. Temporary removal from office of a prosecutor can be requested until completion of an initiated dismissal procedure as well as until the termination of a criminal proceeding initiated against a prosecutor, while the temporary removal from office is mandatory in case when a prosecutor is in pre-trial detainment, until pre-trial detainment ends.

A judge may present an argumentation in hearing and written submission. He/she has also the possibility to appeal against the disciplinary decision.

The Judicial Council and in last instance Court are the authorities competent to decide on the appeal

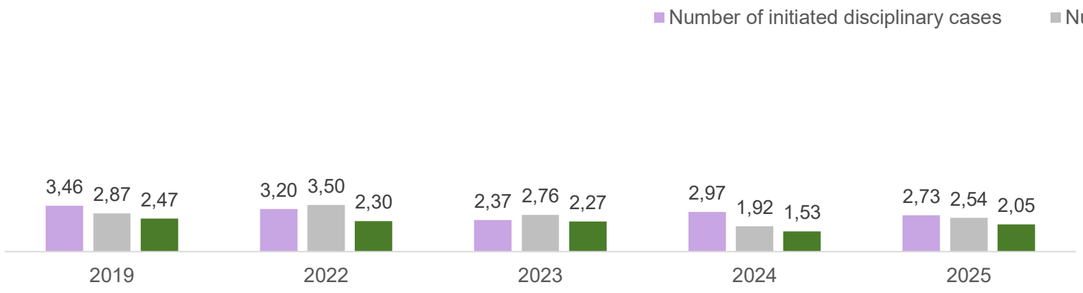
A prosecutor may present an argumentation in hearing and written submission. He/she has also the possibility to appeal against the disciplinary decision.

The Judicial Council and in last instance Court are the

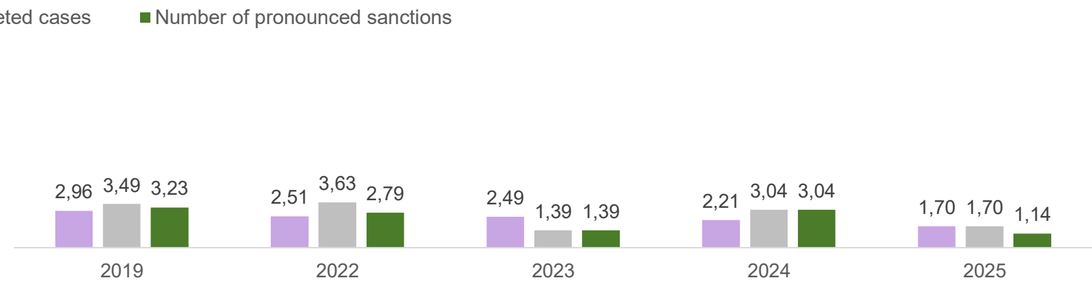
The Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina Article 68
Rights of Parties during Disciplinary Proceedings
Disciplinary procedures shall be governed by fairness and transparency. During the course of disciplinary proceedings, the judge or prosecutor concerned shall have the following rights that must be guaranteed in the Rules of Procedure for disciplinary proceedings adopted by the Council:
(a) the right to be duly notified of the allegations of the violation and the supporting evidence, along with the right to respond in writing or to have a verbal statement recorded in writing;
(b) the right to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial panel established by law. The press and public may be excluded from all or part of the hearing in the interests of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the panel in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice;
(c) the right to assert the privilege against self-incrimination and to appear at any hearing and defend against the allegations with legal counsel of choice;
(d) the right that judgments shall be pronounced publicly and/or made public in some manner; and
(e) the right to appeal adverse decisions.

Decisions of first-instance disciplinary panel can be appealed to a second-instance disciplinary panel. Decisions of second- instance disciplinary panel decisions can be appealed to the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, but only regarding pronounced disciplinary sanction. In the event of removal from office, appeal is possible to the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Court of BiH). There is also a possibility of appeal to the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, against final decision of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC)/Court of BiH, regarding possible breach of appellant's right prescribed by European Convention of Human Rights, in disciplinary proceedings. The Constitutional Court can revoke decisions of the HJPC.

Total number of initiated and completed disciplinary cases and number of sanctions pronounced against judges between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 judges)



Total number of initiated and completed disciplinary cases and number of sanctions pronounced against prosecutors between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 prosecutors)



Total number disciplinary proceedings initiated during the reference year (29) against 31 judges. One disciplinary case was initiated against three judges.

• Declaration of assets

Declaration of assets for judges and prosecutors

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Law on High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and the Book of Rules on Disclosure of Assets and Interests require a declaration of assets by judges and prosecutors.

THE LAW ON THE HIGH JUDICIAL AND PROSECUTORIAL COUNCIL OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA The Article 86, paragraph 1 (Declaration of Assets and Interests) regulates as follows:
Judges and prosecutors shall submit to the HJPC their initial and annual declaration of assets and interests, including the manner and time of acquiring those assets and their acquisition value, income, interests, liabilities, expenditures and guarantees for themselves, their spouse or civil law partner, parents and children and other persons with whom they share a household. BOOK OF RULES OF THE HIGH JUDICIAL AND PROSECUTORIAL COUNCIL OF BOSNIA ON DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS AND INTERESTS HERZEGOVINA
The Article 19 regulates as follows:
(Types of Declarations and Filing Deadlines)
(1) First-time appointed judges and prosecutors shall file their asset declarations for the previous calendar year within 30 days from the date of publication of the decision on appointment on the website of the Council, while elected members of the Council shall file their asset declarations for the previous calendar year before taking office and within 30 days from the receipt of the decision on election.
(2) In the promotion procedure, the last annual report filed for the previous calendar year shall be taken as the initial report.
(3) Within the meaning of this Book of Rules, the term promotion shall not mean the appointment of:
1. of judges to the same or lower instances courts at Entity level;
2. of prosecutors to the same or lower instance prosecutor's offices at Entity level.
(4) Following the filing of their initial declaration, judges, prosecutors and Council members shall file their annual declarations by 1 March every year. (5) A judge, prosecutor and Council member whose term of office has expired shall, by 1 March of the year following the year for which the declaration is filed, file their asset declarations for the year in which their term expires and for the first calendar year following their end of term.

The Article 86, paragraph 2 of the Law on the HJPC BiH, regulates as follows
(1)Declaration from paragraph (1) of this Article shall contain the following data:
a) name and surname, date of birth, place and address of temporary/permanent residence, marital status/kinship with the declarant, employment status, function and place of work;
b) data on all income for the judge, prosecutor, spouse or civil-law partner, parents, children and other persons from paragraph (1) of this Article with whom they share a household;
c)đata on income from other paid activities;
d)đata on ownership of real estates, including the manner and time of their acquisition, and acquisition value;
e)đata on ownership of vehicles, including the manner and time of its acquisition, and acquisition value;
f)đata on ownership of other movables the individual value of which exceeds EUR 2,500 including the manner and time of acquisition;
g)đata on deposits in banks or other financial institutions, including e-currencies and cash the value of which exceeds EUR 2,500;
h)đata on life insurance policy;
i)đata on gifts and donations received in connection with the performance of office, the value of which exceeds EUR 15;
j)đata on gifts and donations received as a private person if their individual value exceeds EUR 250 or 500 in total per year;
k)đata on investments, including shares and other securities;
l)đata on other expenses; the individual value of which exceeds EUR 2,500
m)đata on liabilities.

In accordance with the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, judges in Bosnia and Herzegovina are obliged to submit annual declaration of assets within the deadline set by the HJPC which shall not extend beyond 30 April of the current year.
A judge who is appointed to a judicial office for the first time, shall submit his/her entry declaration within 30 days from the day of assuming the office.
A judge whose mandate has expired shall submit his/her declaration pursuant to this Law for the first year following the expiry of their mandate.
In accordance with the Article 86, paragraph 1 of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina the judges and prosecutors are obliged to submit the asset declaration for themselves, their spouse or civil-law partner, parents and children and other persons with whom they share a household.

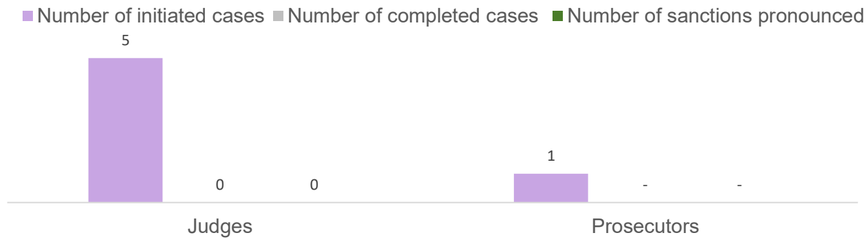
In accordance with the amendment to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e. the Article 86e), which has been applied since 2024, HJPC has established the Register of Declarations on Assets and Interests. Declarations of judges and prosecutors whose mandate has terminated shall be expunged from the Register ten years after mandate termination. Expungement is suspended during any ongoing use of the declarations and attached documents by the Council or any other authority for an official procedure.

	Judges	Prosecutors
Items to be declared		
Assets	●	●
Financial interests	●	●
Sources of income	●	●
Liabilities	●	●
Gifts	●	●
Other	●	●
Moment for the declaration		
At the beginning of the term of office	●	●
At the end of the term of office	●	●
When there is a significant change in the items	●	●
Other	●	●
Declaration concerning the members of the family		
Spouse	●	●
Partner	●	●
Children (under legal age)	●	●
Adult children	●	●
Other family members	●	●
Same declaration as for the judge/prosecutor	●	●
Declaration of assets verified as regards:		
Timeliness	●	●
Completeness	●	●
Accuracy of the content	●	●
Unexplained financial discrepancies	●	●

The authority that receives and verifies the declaration is the HJPC BiH Asset Declaration Department.

In accordance with the Article 86f of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2025 the HJPC established the Asset Declaration Department responsible for processing declarations within the HJPC Secretariat (hereinafter: the Department), which is independent in performing its tasks and shall be competent for implementing the provisions of this Law that regulate the processing of declarations, without receiving any instructions and without any interference in its work on specific cases. The Department is independently managed by the Head of the Department, who organizes and ensures the lawful and efficient performance of tasks, while performing the function entrusted to him/her conscientiously. The Head of the Department is assisted in his/her work by the Deputy Head, legal advisers, expert advisers and other employees tasked to perform duties laid down in the Rulebook on Internal Organization and Job Systematization in the Secretariat.
Furthermore, in accordance with the Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Book of Rule, as an integral component of the HJPC BiH Secretariat's organisational structure, the Asset Declaration Department independently and autonomously carries out the competences outlined in Article 86g of the Law on the HJPC BiH, in accordance with the Law on the HJPC BiH and the Law on Civil Service in the Institutions of BiH.

Number of proceedings due to violations/discrepancies in the declaration of assets 2025



There exists a register of the declaration of assets for judges and prosecutors. Moreover, the declarations are published on internet.

In accordance with the amendment to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e. the Article 86e), which has been applied since 2024, HJPC has established the Register of Declarations on Assets and Interests. Declarations of judges and prosecutors whose mandate has terminated shall be expunged from the Register ten years after mandate termination. Expungement is suspended during any ongoing use of the declarations and attached documents by the Council or any other authority for an official procedure.

The Article 86a. of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes that declaration of assets shall be published on the HJPC website with the purpose to strengthen integrity, transparency and public trust in the judiciary, and to prevent conflict of interest and other impermissible influence on the performance of a judicial office. The following data from the declaration shall not be available to the public: names of minor persons listed in the declaration, except for the first letter of their first name, personal identity number and residence address of the judge or prosecutor or other persons listed in the declaration, the name and number of the street where the property listed in the declaration is located, bank account numbers and other financial ID numbers, individual amounts of cash owned by a judge or prosecutor and individual amounts of money owned by other household members, registration numbers of vehicles.
Annual income tax return and other attachments that a judge submit with their declarations shall not be available to the public.
First and last names of the relatives of a judge working in the judiciary, the bar, public attorney or notary offices shall be published on the HJPC website. Relatives shall include relatives in the direct line of descent, relatives in the lateral line of descent up to a third degree, relatives-in-law to a second degree and the child of a spouse, spouse or a civil-law partner, adoptive parents and adopted children.
Information from asset declarations of judges whose term of office has been terminated will not be publicly available three years after the termination.
The sanctions for judges and prosecutors foreseen in case of non-declaration of assets (including non-submission of declaration) are: a warning, a fine, a transfer to another geographical (court) location , a suspension and other disciplinary sanction.

The Article 56, paragraph 1 of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes the list of the disciplinary offences for judges which includes (among others):
l) violating provisions of this Law on submitting declaration of assets and interests.
Therefore non-declaration of assets is prescribed by the law explicitly as a disciplinary offence for the judge for which any disciplinary measure can be imposed depending on the circumstances of an individual disciplinary case. Article 58 of the the Law prescribes the disciplinary measures, which the HJPC may impose, to the judges:
(1) The Council may impose one or more of the following disciplinary measures: (a) a written warning which shall not be made public; (b) public reprimand; (c) reduction in salary or emoluments up to a maximum of 50% (fifty per cent) for a period of up to one (1) year; (d) temporary or permanent reassignment to another court or prosecutor's office; (e) demotion of a Court President to an ordinary judge or the Chief Prosecutor or Deputy Chief Prosecutor to an ordinary prosecutor; (f) removal from the office. (2) As a separate measure, instead of or in addition to any of the disciplinary measures set out above, the Council may, if appropriate, order that a judge or prosecutor participate in rehabilitation programmes, counselling, or professional training. (3) All rights and privileges under labour relations of a judge, Court President, Chief Prosecutor, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, or prosecutor who is removed from office pursuant to a disciplinary proceeding shall cease upon removal by the Council. A judges or prosecutor who is removed from office under this article shall be barred from further exercise of judicial or prosecutorial function. Article 59 of the Law refers to the Principles for determining of the measures:
(1)Disciplinary measures imposed should be governed by the principle of proportionality. Before pronouncing the measures for a disciplinary offence, the following aspects shall be taken into consideration by the disciplinary commissions:
(a)the number and severity of the disciplinary offence committed and its consequences;
(b)the degree of responsibility;
(c)the circumstances under which the disciplinary offence was committed;
(d)the previous work and behaviour of the offender; and
(e)any other circumstances that may affect the decision on the severity and type of disciplinary measure, including the degree of remorse and/or cooperation shown by the judge or prosecutor during the disciplinary proceedings.
(2)The disciplinary measure of dismissal shall only be used in cases where a serious disciplinary offence is found and the severity of the offence makes it clear that the offender is unfit or unworthy to continue to hold his or her office.
(3)The Council may take into account any prior suspension, imposed in the course of the proceedings in question, and may reduce the disciplinary measure accordingly, or may, at its discretion,determine that the prior suspension is itself a sufficient measure for the disciplinary violation or violations found.
In order to support the disciplinary commissions and the Council in determining and imposing disciplinary measures in accordance with the Article 59 of the Law, the Council adopted in July 2016 internal Guidelines for Determining Disciplinary Measures in Disciplinary Proceedings. These Guidelines prescribe the manner in which an appropriate disciplinary measure should be determined in a specific disciplinary case, and ensure consistency and fairness in all cases relating to similar disciplinary offences and circumstances. The Guidelines serve as a means of achieving the primary purpose of disciplinary responsibility, which includes the following: (a) protecting the interests of the public, judicial institutions and the judicial system; (b) maintaining the highest professional standards; and (c) preserving public confidence in the judiciary.

• Conflict of interest and Accessory functions/activities

Procedures/mechanisms for managing (potential) conflicts of interest in 2025		
Regulations / procedures:	Judges	Prosecutors
On reporting a (potential) conflict of interest	✓	✓
For recusal/withdrawal from a case	✓	✓
On receiving gifts	✓	✓
On combining the profession of a judge/ prosecutor with other functions/professional activities	✓	✓
Other		

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, judges do not need an authorisation to perform any of these accessory activities but they have to inform his/her hierarchy about these accessory activities. Prosecutors do not need an authorisation to perform any of them but they has to inform their hierarchy about them.

Conflicts of interest, recusal, external activities, assets, and the acceptance of gifts by judges and prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina are regulated by the Law on HJPC BiH, Criminal and Civil Procedure Codes, and the Code of Ethics. Judges must request a binding opinion from HJPC BiH on any activity potentially incompatible with their office. Recusal procedures and grounds are defined by procedure codes and the Code of Ethics, requiring judges to avoid cases where their impartiality could be questioned due to personal or prior interests. The acceptance of gifts is generally prohibited except for occasional, token items that cannot affect impartiality. Judges are barred from incompatible offices (such as political parties, discriminatory groups, or company boards) but may participate in certain academic, educational, or professional activities within strict limits on time and remuneration. Annually, judges must declare their and their close relatives' assets and relevant interests to HJPC BiH. Violations, including failure to recuse, accepting improper gifts, or engaging in prohibited activities, are subject to disciplinary procedures.

Accessory functions / activities	With remuneration		Without remuneration	
	Judges	Prosecutors	Judges	Prosecutors
Teaching	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research and publication	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arbitrator	✓	✓	✓	✓
Consultant				
Cultural function	✓	✓	✓	✓
Political function				
Mediator				
Other				

If a judicial office holder is not certain whether an activity is compatible with the judicial function and the relevant prerequisites from the law, he or she will obtain a binding opinion from the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina to clarify the issue.

A judicial office holder must make sure to comply with the prerequisite that the total amount of remuneration for other activities may not exceed 40% of his or her annual salary.

	Regulations on the proceedings for:			
	Breaches of rules on conflicts of interest		Sanctions for breaches of the rules	
	Judges	Prosecutors	Judges	Prosecutors
Law on prevention of conflict of interest				
Criminal procedure code				
Criminal code				
Civil procedure code				
Civil code				
Code of ethics	✓	✓		
Law on judges / public prosecutors (public prosecution)				
Law on the Judicial / Prosecutorial Council	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other				

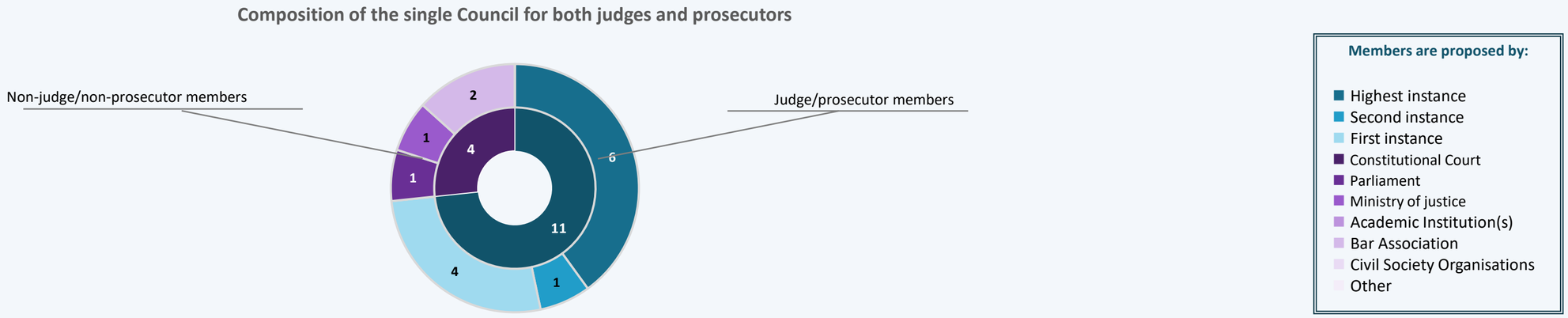
The Article 56, paragraph 1 of the Law on the HJPC BiH prescribes the list of the disciplinary offences for judges that includes (among others):
c) not disqualifying himself or herself from hearing a case when a conflict of interest exists; o) being engaged in activities that are incompatible with the judicial function;
p) exceeding any limitations related to income generated from fees for additional activities;
t) accepting a gift or reward whose purpose is to inappropriately influence the judge's decisions or actions, including cases where the gift or reward only give an impression of inappropriate influence.
Therefore the breaches of rules on conflict of interests are prescribed by the law explicitly as a disciplinary offences for the judge for which any disciplinary measure can be imposed depending on the circumstances of an individual disciplinary case. Article 58 of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes the disciplinary measures, which the HJPC may impose, to the judges:
(1) The Council may impose one or more of the following disciplinary measures: (a) a written warning which shall not be made public; (b) public reprimand; (c) reduction in salary or emoluments up to a maximum of 50% (fifty per cent) for a period of up to one (1) year; (d) temporary or permanent reassignment to another court or prosecutor's office; (e) demotion of a Court President to an ordinary judge or the Chief Prosecutor or Deputy Chief Prosecutor to an ordinary prosecutor; (f) removal from the office.
(2) As a separate measure, instead of or in addition to any of the disciplinary measures set out above, the Council may, if appropriate, order that a judge or prosecutor participate in rehabilitation programmes, counselling, or professional training.
(3) All rights and privileges under labour relations of a judge, Court President, Chief Prosecutor, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, or prosecutor who is removed from office pursuant to a disciplinary proceeding shall cease upon removal by the Council. A judges or prosecutor who is removed from office under this article shall be barred from further exercise of judicial or prosecutorial function.

Article 59 of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina refers to the Principles for determining of the measures:
(1)Disciplinary measures imposed should be governed by the principle of proportionality. Before pronouncing the measures for a disciplinary offence, the following aspects shall be taken into consideration by the disciplinary commissions:
(a)the number and severity of the disciplinary offence committed and its consequences;
(b)the degree of responsibility;
(c)the circumstances under which the disciplinary offence was committed;
(d)the previous work and behavior of the offender; and
(e)any other circumstances that may affect the decision on the severity and type of disciplinary measure, including the degree of remorse and/or cooperation shown by the judge or prosecutor during the disciplinary proceedings.
(2)The disciplinary measure of dismissal shall only be used in cases where a serious disciplinary offence is found and the severity of the offence makes it clear that the offender is unfit or unworthy to continue to hold his or her office.
(3)The Council may take into account any prior suspension, imposed in the course of the proceedings in question, and may reduce the disciplinary measure accordingly, or may, at its discretion, determine that the prior suspension is itself a sufficient measure for the disciplinary violation or violations found.
In order to support the disciplinary commissions and the Council in determining and imposing disciplinary measures in accordance with the Article 59 of the Law on the HJPC BiH, the Council adopted in July 2016 internal Guidelines for Determining Disciplinary Measures in Disciplinary Proceedings. These Guidelines prescribe the manner in which an appropriate disciplinary measure should be determined in a specific disciplinary case, and ensure consistency and fairness in all cases relating to similar disciplinary offences and circumstances. The Guidelines serve as a means of achieving the primary purpose of disciplinary responsibility, which includes the following: (a) protecting the interests of the public, judicial institutions and the judicial system; (b) maintaining the highest professional standards; and (c) preserving public confidence in the judiciary.

Procedures for breaches of rules on conflict of interest	Judges					Public prosecutors				
	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of initiated cases	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Number of completed cases	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Number of sanctions pronounced	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Between 2019 and 2025, very few cases related to breaches of conflict of interest rules were initiated or completed for both judges and public prosecutors, with only four cases initiated against judges (in 2019 and 2024) and two against prosecutors (both in 2019). Almost no cases resulted in sanctions—only one prosecutor was sanctioned in 2019, and there were no sanctions against judges in any year.

Council for Judiciary / Prosecutorial Council(s) in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025 (Indicator 15)



In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there exists a single Council competent for both judges and prosecutors. It is composed by 15 members, 11 of which are proposed by judge members (4 by the first instance courts, 1 by the second instance courts and 6 by the highest instance courts) and 4 by non-judicial members (1 proposed by the Parliament, 1 by the Ministry of justice and 2 by the Bar Association). This suggests that the council is mainly composed by judge members, with the highest instance courts and the Bar Association playing the main role in proposing the judge and non-judicial members respectively.

There is a single regulatory body in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC), which is responsible for all judges, as well as prosecutors in BiH. The HJPC was established by the Law on the HJPC as an independent and autonomous body, with the task of ensuring the maintenance of an independent, impartial and professional judiciary.
The independence of the HJPC is ensured through the autonomous status of this body, which is not in a hierarchical relationship with the legislative or executive authority, nor is a part of the state administration system.
The independence of the institution is reflected in the structure of the HJPC members, as well as in a system in which they are elected.
Out of the 15 HJPC members, 11 members are judges and prosecutors elected by their colleagues. The other 4 members of the HJPC are elected by the legislative and executive authority of BiH and the two Entity Bar Chambers.
The HJPC consists of 15 members as follows: 1. one (1) member who is a judge from the Court of BiH, elected by the judges of that Court; 2. one (1) member who is a judge from the Supreme Court of the Federation of BiH, elected by the judges of that Court; 3. one (1) member who is a judge from the Supreme Court of the Republika Srpska, elected by the judges of that 4. one (1) member who is a judge from either a Cantonal or Municipal level court from the Federation of BiH, elected by the Cantonal and Municipal court judges; 5. one (1) member who is a judge from a District or Basic level court of the Republika Srpska, elected by the district and basic courts judges (including judges of the Higher Commercial and District Commercial Courts in RS); 6. one (1) member who is a prosecutor from the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, elected by the prosecutors of that Office; 7. one (1) member who is a prosecutor from the Prosecutor's Office of the Federation of BiH, elected by the prosecutors of that Office; 8. one (1) member who is a prosecutor from the Prosecutor's Office of the Republika Srpska, elected by the prosecutors of that Office; 9. one (1) member who is a prosecutor from a Cantonal level prosecutor's office of the Federation of BiH, elected by the Cantonal prosecutors; 10. one (1) member who is a prosecutor from a District level prosecutor's office of the Republika Srpska, elected by the district prosecutors; 11. one (1) member who is a judge or prosecutor elected by the Brcko District of BiH Judicial Commission; (Judges/prosecutors members are appointed by Other: The process for selection of the HJPC members from the members of judiciary is conducted at all levels of the judiciary in BiH. The judges and prosecutors elect their representatives directly at the respective levels. Selections are conducted within the courts and prosecutor's offices of a certain level, with an exception with regard to one segment of the judiciary (i e Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina), within which one HJPC member (i.e. judge or prosecutor) is not elected directly by the judges and prosecutors, but by the Brcko District Judicial Commission. The elected member may be a judge of the Brcko District Court of Appeal or Basic Court, or a prosecutor of the Brcko District Prosecutor's Office.); 12. one (1) member who is an attorney, elected by the Bar Association of the Federation of BiH; 13. one (1) member who is an attorney, elected by the Bar Association of the Republika Srpska; 14. one (1) member who is not a member of the judiciary or a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, elected by the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH; and 15. one (1) member who is not a member of the judiciary and who is not a member of the Council of Ministers of BiH, elected by the Council of Ministers of BiH upon the proposal of the Minister of Justice of BiH. There are 3 courts of general jurisdiction in Bosnia and Herzegovina that are included in the Supreme Court category.
Firstly, at entity level, there are the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court and the Republika Srpska Supreme Court. Both courts are competent to decide within the respective entity on legal remedies concerning decisions of the immediately lower courts.
Secondly, there is the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the State level. Its competencies are regulated by the Law on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and are related to criminal, administrative and appellate jurisdiction. However, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has no jurisdiction over the decisions adopted by the entity – level Supreme Courts. Within its criminal jurisdiction, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina tries cases pertaining to the specific category of crimes laid down by the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which include war crimes, organized crime, economic crime and corruption cases. The administrative jurisdiction means that the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina adjudicates cases pertaining to the decisions issued by the State institutions and other organizations in charge of public functions, such as property disputes related to the performance of public functions between the State and the entities, breaches of the election law, etc. Its Appellate Division only decides appeals against the decisions of the Court's first instance divisions. Accordingly, there are three Prosecutor's Offices representing criminal cases before the courts that are included in the Supreme Court category: the Prosecutor's Office before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Prosecutor's Office before the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Supreme Court; the Prosecutor's Office before the Republika Srpska Supreme Court.

Moreover, the non-judge/non-prosecutor members in the council are subject to some selection criteria.

According to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a member of the HJPC who is elected by the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina must not be a member of the judiciary or a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, a member of the HJPC who is elected by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina must not be a member of the judiciary or a member of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Finally, two members of the HJPC who are lawyers are elected by the Entity Bar Chambers.
The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, the Council of Ministers of BiH and the Entity Bar Chambers carry out the procedure of selection of their representatives in the HJPC in accordance with their own rules and also by respecting the basic rules defined by the HJPC Rulebook on Selection of the HJPC Members. The Rulebook on the selection of HJPC members specifies the rules on ethnicity and gender structure and defines the basics of the procedure for selection of HJPC members.

• Councils characteristics

High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council

The process for selection of the HJPC members from the members of judiciary is conducted at all levels of the judiciary in BiH. The judges and prosecutors elect their representatives directly at the respective levels. Selections are conducted within the courts and prosecutor's offices of a certain level, with an exception with regard to one
segment of the judiciary (i e Brcko District), where the HJPC member is not elected directly by the judges and prosecutors, but by the Brcko District Judicial Commission. The elected member may be a judge of the Brcko District Court of Appeal or Basic Court, or a prosecutor of the Brcko District Prosecutor's Office.
The House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, the Council of Ministers of BiH and the Entity Bar Chambers carry out the procedure of selection of their representatives in the HJPC in accordance with their own rules, by respecting the basic rules defined by the HJPC Rulebook on Selection of the HJPC Members. The Rulebook on the selection of HJPC members specifies the rules on ethnicity and gender structure, and defines the basics of the procedure for selection of HJPC members.

In accordance to the Law on the HJPC (Article 5), the HJPC members have a mandate of four (4) years and may have a maximum of two (2) consecutive mandate of four years. A person who has held two (2) consecutive mandates as a member of the HJPC may not be appointed again as a member of the HJPC until the expiration of four (4) years since the end of his/her previous mandate as a member of the HJPC. One year after the end of the Council Member's mandate, he/she may not apply or be elected to vacant positions in the judiciary which would constitute a career advancement, including the Constitutional Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Constitutional Court of Republika Srpska, and may not apply for vacant positions of chief disciplinary counsel or deputy in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and the Director and the Deputy in the HJPC Secretariat. There is no specific procedure for renewing the mandate of a HJPC member. The HJPC member who wishes to be reappointed applies for the member position and goes through the selection process as other candidates. The HJPC has a President and two (2) Vice-Presidents. The President and two Vice-Presidents of the HJPC are elected by simple majority vote of the members present and voting. The mandate of the President of the HJPC shall be four (4) years or until the expiration or termination of his/her mandate for other reasons. Only the President and up to three members work on a full-time basis in the HJPC.

Body appointing the members

Judges/ prosecutors members are appointed by:	
Judges/Prosecutors Assemblies	✓
Other	✓
Non-judge/non-prosecutors members are appointed by:	
Constitutional Court	
Parliament	✓
Ministry of Justice	
Academic institution(s)	
Bar Association	✓
Other	

Conditions for the term of office

Term of office of members renewable	✓
Full-time position	
Members subject to evaluation procedures	

Term of office: 4 years

Annual reporting:
In accordance with Article 17, item 27 of the Law on the HJPC BiH, the Council shall, not later than 1 May each year, prepare an annual report documenting its activities and describing the state of the judiciary and prosecutorial authority, including recommendations for improvement. The report shall be delivered to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Cantonal Parliaments, the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, the State and Entity Ministries of Justice, and the Assembly of Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina for information. The report shall be available to the public.
Publishing Reasoned Decisions: In accordance with the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH, decisions on the appointment of judges and prosecutors, which contain reasoning on the application of appointment criteria, are published on the website of the HJPC of BiH. Decisions of the disciplinary commissions of the HJPC of BiH made in disciplinary proceedings against judges and prosecutors are also published on the HJPC BiH website, after prior anonymization.
Other: 1. On the website of the HJPC BiH, announcements are published about the scheduled sessions of the HJPC BiH, with the planned agenda of each session, as well as announcements about the adopted conclusions and decisions that the HJPC BiH has made at each session.
2. In accordance with the HJPC Law (Article 14), the HJPC BiH acts and decides as a single body. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the members present and voting. The quorum requires the presence of at least 11 the HJPC BiH members. In matters on which the votes are divided, a vote shall be taken by roll call of the members, and the vote of the President or the Vice-President has the casting vote. In a case that the HJPC BiH member who is present but abstains from voting, it will be deemed to have cast an abstention vote, and this abstention vote will not be included in the vote count. The HJPC BiH may delegate certain decisions within its jurisdiction, with the exception of appointment decisions, to standing committees. The powers of standing committees to make decisions relate to less complex issues (eg simpler queries on compatibility of functions, opinions on laws that are not systemic and organizational and do not regulate the status of judicial office holders, shorter absences from office etc). In disciplinary proceedings against judges and
prosecutors, decisions are taken by the competent disciplinary commissions, as well as by the HJPC BiH when in the third instance, the HJPC BiH decides on appeal against the decision of the second instance disciplinary commission. Members of the First Instance and the
Second Instance Disciplinary Committees have the right to participate in the decision making process of the HJPC BiH a whole, unless their exemption is requested for reasons other than their earlier participation in the decision on the same matter. In accordance
with the Rules of Procedure of the HJPC BiH, the HJPC BiH members are required to inform the President of the HJPC BiH on any possible conflict of interest it may arise during their work, and must state the reasons for the exemption in writing or orally in the minutes of
the HJPC BiH session. If any the HJPC BiH member considers that another member should be exempted from participating in the proceedings, he/she informs the President of the HJPC BiH on that issue. In accordance with the HJPC Law (Article 10a) a conflict of interest for a HJPC Member shall be deemed to exist when a HJPC BiH member or his/her blood relative in direct line of descent, the child of the spouse, a spouse or a civil-law partner, adoptive parent and adopted child, applies for a vacant position in the judiciary including the Constitutional Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Constitutional Court of Republika Srpska or a vacant position of a chief disciplinary counsel and deputy in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel or Director or Deputy Director in the HJPC Secretariat or in other situations in which the HJPC BiH Member has a blood relative in the lateral line of descent, a relative-in-law or has close friendly, business or any other ties or a private interest which affects or may affect the legal, transparent, objective and impartial performance of official duty, i.e. in which a private interest is detrimental or may be detrimental to the public interest or public trust. If a HJPC BiH Member applies to a vacant position his/her mandate shall be terminated. If a HJPC BiH Member's relative or a person applies to the vacant position, the HJPC BiH Member shall report it to the HJPC BiH immediately upon learning about it and request recusal from the panel for conducting interview and the procedure for nomination and appointment of candidates. Other cases which imply the existence of conflict of interest shall be regulated in more detail in the HJPC BiH Book of Rules.

Accountability measures	
Published activity reports	✓
Published decisions	✓
Reasoned decisions	✓
Other	✓

Competences of the Council

In accordance to the Law on the HJPC (Article 17), the Council has the following competencies:
(1) Appointment of judges, including Court Presidents, lay judges and reserve judges in all courts at the State, Entity, Cantonal, District, Basic and Municipal levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but excluding the Constitutional Courts of the State and Entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
(2) Appointment of Chief Prosecutors, Deputy Chief Prosecutors and prosecutors in all prosecutors' offices at the State, Entity, Cantonal and District levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
(3) Making proposals to the relevant authorities in relation to, their proposal and election of judges to the Constitutional Court of Republika Srpska and their nomination of judges to the Constitutional Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When exercising its competence under this paragraph, the Council shall seek a written opinion of the relevant Constitutional Court before it makes its proposal;
(4) Receiving complaints against judges and prosecutors, conducting disciplinary proceedings, determining disciplinary liability, and imposing disciplinary measures on judges, lay judges, reserve judges and prosecutors;
(5) Deciding upon appeals in disciplinary proceedings;
(6) Deciding upon suspensions of judges, lay judges, reserve judges and prosecutors;
(7) Supervising the advanced professional training of judges and prosecutors and advising the Entity Centres for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina Judicial Commission in their adoption of programmes of advanced professional training for judges and prosecutors;
(8) Determining the minimum amount of advanced professional training to be undertaken by every judge and prosecutor each year;
(9) Determining the induction training for candidates chosen for judicial and prosecutorial office and supervising the provision of such training;
(10) Approving the annual report of the Steering Boards of the Entity Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres and of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina Judicial Commission insofar as it relates to the induction training and the advanced professional training of judges and prosecutors;
(11) Deciding upon issues of incompatibility of other functions performed by judges and prosecutors;
(12) Deciding upon the temporary assignment or transfer of judges and prosecutors to another court or prosecutor's office;
(13) Deciding upon leaves of absence for judges and prosecutors;
(14) Participating, at the Council's discretion, in the drafting process of annual budgets for the courts and prosecutors offices;
(15) Making recommendations upon, at the Council's discretion, the annual budget proposals made by governmental bodies and/or governments for courts and prosecutors offices;
(16) Making and presenting recommendations, at the Council's discretion, for amendments to the proposed budgets made by governmental bodies and/or governments and/or the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina Judicial Commission before the relevant legislative bodies;
(17) Collecting and analysing reports and relevant budget and revenue data for courts and prosecutors offices, in order to provide statistical data for the effective operation of courts and prosecutors offices;
(18) Advocating for adequate and continuous funding of courts and prosecutors' offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
(19) Participating in the drafting of, and approving, Books of Rules for the operation of courts and prosecutors offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
(20) Monitoring and advising courts and prosecutors offices on appropriate and effective budget, administration and management techniques and procedures and initiating training in this regard;
(21) Initiating, overseeing and coordinating projects related to improving all aspects of the administration of courts and prosecutors offices, including seeking national and international funding therefore;
(22) Setting procedure and criteria for the performance evaluations of judges and prosecutors;
(23) Setting criteria for the performance of courts and prosecutors offices, and initiating enquiries concerning administrative or financial conduct;
(24) Initiating, coordinating and supervising the use of information technology by courts and prosecutors' offices in order to achieve and maintain uniformity in this area between and among courts and prosecutors' offices throughout the country. No court or prosecutors' office shall adopt an automated case-tracking registration, tracking or related system, including backup and storage systems, without obtaining the prior approval of the Council;
(25) Determining the number of judges, prosecutors and/or Deputy Chief Prosecutors of each court or prosecutor's office within the Council's competence, after consultation with the relevant Court President or Chief Prosecutor, relevant budgetary authority, and the relevant Ministry of Justice;
(26) Collecting information and maintaining documentation on the professional status of judges and prosecutors, including their date of appointment, termination of office, statistical information relevant to their work performance, and any other information which the Council considers relevant to the work of Court Presidents, Chief and Deputy Prosecutors, judges and prosecutors;
(27) Providing opinions on complaints lodged by a judge or a prosecutor who considers that his or her rights provided for by this or other law, or more generally his or her independence are threatened;
(28) Providing opinions on draft laws, regulations, or issues of importance that may affect the judiciary, initiate the adoption of relevant legislation and other regulations and to provide guidance to courts and prosecutors' offices on matters falling under the Council's competence;
(29) Issuing codes of ethics for judges and prosecutors;
(30) establish a Department responsible for processing declarations referred to in Article 86f of this Law;
(31) Exercising other competencies as determined by this or other Law.

Competence of the Council in cases of evident breach of independence or impartiality of judges or in cases of pressure on prosecutors

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council is competent in cases of evident breaches of indipendence or impartiality of judges and prosecutors.
In accordance with Article 17, item 27 of the Law on the HJPC BiH, the Council provides its opinion on complaints submitted by a judge or prosecutor who considers that his/her rights established by this or another law, or his/her independence, are endangered. These opinions are issued in order to identify threats to the independence of judicial institutions, that is holders of judicial functions, and to publicize it, as well as to invite relevant participants to refrain from further activities that threaten the independence of the judiciary. The Law does not provide for sanctions that the Council may impose in these situations.
The criminal laws in BiH contain chapters dedicated to the judiciary. The object of the criminal protection of this group of crimes is the functioning of the judiciary. The main objective of the prescribed criminals is to ensure and protect the independence of the judiciary and the legitimate work of the judiciary and other bodies. Most of the offenses in this group relate to endangering the criminal proceedings, endangering the smooth conduct of criminal proceedings and executing the criminal sanctions, ie protecting the special categories of subjects in criminal proceedings.
The criminal laws contain provisions by which obstruction of the judiciary is criminalized (eg. Article 241 of the Criminal Code BiH, Article 339 of the Criminal Code RS, 358, 359, 359a of the Criminal Code FBiH, Articles 352, 353 of the Criminal Code BD BiH) in such a way that attacks, threats or intimidation of a judge or prosecutor in connection with the exercise of judicial or prosecutorial duties, are prescribed as criminal offenses.

Reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2025

The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC BiH) has been implementing a number of reform activities to improve the efficiency, transparency and quality of justice. The judicial reform entails numerous concurrent activities pertaining to institutional capacity-building, funding, digitalization, and procedural improvements.

The key priorities are as follows: increasing the efficiency in processing complex corruption, organised and economic crime cases; transparency and accountability in the funding of judicial institutions; the use of modern technologies as well as digitalization of the preparation and monitoring of court and prosecutor's office budgets.

Processing of corruption and organised crime cases

A Special Department for Corruption, Organised and Intercantonal Crime (FBiH Prosecutor's Office) has been established. The Department officially began operating in May 2025, thereby implementing the FBiH Law on Suppression of Corruption and Organised Crime from 2014. This Department has been created to facilitate more effective processing of the most complex cases of corruption, organised crime and economic crime, as well as other corruption-related offences posing a serious threat to legal security, the rule of law, and social stability. The HJPC BiH has issued the guidelines requiring the courts to ensure uninterrupted course of the proceedings in organised crime and corruption cases, with the progress being monitored on a regular basis. The Asset Declarations Department has began operating in June 2025, establishing a functional system for verification of asset declarations of judicial office holders and members of the HJPC BiH. Asset declarations are published on the HJPC website, while guaranteeing the protection of personal data, and an online functionality for reporting irregularities is also available. For the purpose of data verification, there have been a number of agreements concluded with competent authorities and public registry managers. The plan is to digitalize the process using secure web services for data exchange and validation. Transparency Current judicial reforms in BiH are focused on strengthening transparency and harmonisation of case law. A new work model of the case law harmonisation panels was piloted, with meetings held in the seats of the BiH's highest courts and the new rules of the panels adopted in July 2025. The central database of court decisions has been significantly expanded to include decisions from all courts in BiH, and a faster search engine has also been added, along with a reminder to users that when downloading parts of judgements, they must provide the number, date and name of the court that rendered the decision, and with a warning to external users about the consequences of unauthorized downloading of court decisions. The Case Law Portal and High-Profile Case Map are operational and regularly updated. The HJPC Guidelines for the publication of court and prosecutorial decisions, acts and case-related information and the Book of Rules of Republika Srpska governing the publication of court decisions are in effect, thereby increasing the accessibility of court decisions and high-profile cases and ensuring greater understandability of court decisions and other content published on the aforementioned IT platforms and on the websites of judicial institutions in accordance with the new, improved Instruction for anonymisation. Also, in an effort to increase public confidence the HJPC BiH is taking measures to make disciplinary actions against judicial office holders more transparent. Following the completion of the proceedings, the HJPC BiH regularly publishes anonymised disciplinary decisions and announcements of upcoming hearings in disciplinary cases that are open to the public. Every year, summaries of all disciplinary actions completed the year before are posted on the website, thus ensuring a systematic insight into the practice.

The establishment of a centralised, searchable database of disciplinary decisions is underway. The database will make it possible to filter data based on predetermined parameters, facilitate the work of disciplinary panels by enabling faster comparison of comparable cases, and increase the access to information for the public and judicial office holders. The implementation of this activity is underway, with the focus being placed on the comprehensive search functionality.

Training In parallel, the training concept for newly appointed judges and prosecutors has been improved, and in line with the long-standing EU recommendations, efforts have been stepped up to strengthen the coordination role of the HJPC BiH in the training process and to assess the training effects based on the Kirckpatrick four-level framework. In cooperation with the EU4Justice project, the piloting of the Preparatory Training Programme for candidates for judicial office is underway. In parallel, a mentoring system has already been applied in the BiH Federation and the Brcko District of BiH, and the plan is to introduce it in Republika Srpska as well.

Performance appraisal

According to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopts two sets of criteria - criteria for evaluating the performance of judges and criteria for evaluating the performance of prosecutors.

The evaluation of the work results of all judges and prosecutors is carried out once a year. The performance of judges is assessed by the president of the court, whereas the chief prosecutor evaluates the work of prosecutors in accordance with the criteria established by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In December 2024, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted new criteria for evaluating the work of judges and prosecutors. With the adoption of the new criteria, analytical evaluation was introduced into the evaluation system for judicial function holders. This involves a qualitative element of work evaluation („Analytical evaluation of prosecutor's work“ and „Analytical quality of judge's work and decisions“) which will enable a better assessment of the professional competencies of each judge and prosecutor. Thus, a reform of the evaluation system was initiated, which had previously been predominantly based on the assessment of results according to quantitative indicators. This reform was undertaken after the recommendations of experts engaged by the European Commission for the preparation of a 'Peer Review on the evaluation of the work of judges and prosecutors' from 2017 were accepted, suggesting that it is necessary to strengthen quality criteria in the evaluation system. The presidents of courts and chief prosecutors have evaluated the work of the holders of judicial functions according to new criteria during the first quarter of 2026.

The criteria and points structure for the annual performance evaluation of judges are as follows: Quantity of work (i.e. annual quota) – up to 30 points, Percentage of realization of individual case resolution plan - up to 10 points, Analytical quality of judge's work and decisions – up to 10 points, Statistical quality of decisions (i.e. confirmation rate) – up to 50 points.

The criteria and points structure for the annual performance evaluation of prosecutors are as follows: Quantity of work (i.e. annual quota) – up to 30 points, Percentage of realization of individual case resolution plan - up to 10 points, Analytical evaluation of prosecutor's work - 10 points, Statistical quality of decisions – up to 50 points.

The chief prosecutor determines the analytical evaluation of the prosecutor's work based on a reasoned assessment of the prosecutor's work according to the following elements: a) the ability to determine the established facts relevant for making prosecutorial decisions; b) the ability to handle complex cases; c) timeliness in making decisions and compliance with legal deadlines; d) the ability to organize and efficiently conduct investigations in a proactive manner; e) the professional level of prosecutorial decisions, demonstrated legal knowledge, and use of legal remedies.

The president of the court determines the analytical assessment of a judge's work based on a reasoned evaluation of the judge's work according to the following elements:

a) the consistency of the introduction, ruling, and reasoning of the court decision from the perspective of responding to all requests and significant objections or essential appeal claims, as well as the existence of clear instructions to the higher court in case of annulment of the decision.

b) the quality of the reasoning of court decisions in terms of the ability to correctly assess evidence and properly and fully determine the factual situation, legal analysis of analytical reasoning, consistency of argumentation in the reasoning, knowledge of the application of regulations and case law, including the application of international treaties, case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and other international courts.

c) the skill of oral and written expression, particularly the ability to express oneself clearly and concisely, and the use of appropriate legal terminology.

e) quality of conducting the proceedings, with particular regard to: - the ability to handle complex cases, - preparation for trial through proper preparation of the main hearing/session, precise definition of actions to be carried out at the hearing and evidence to be presented, as well as concentration of evidence, - conducting the proceedings in accordance with the principle of efficiency and economy, avoiding unjustified postponement and adjournment of hearings, and taking legally prescribed measures to ensure the presence of the accused, or parties to the proceedings, witnesses, and experts, taking measures to prevent abuse of procedural rights by the parties and other participants in the proceedings, compliance with statutory deadlines for scheduling and continuing hearings/sessions/proceedings, and taking legally prescribed actions, which must be recorded in the hearing minutes, for the conclusion of the dispute through a judicial settlement, - timely drafting of court decisions.

Digitalization

The judiciary is one of the most digitally advanced branches of government in BiH. The main priorities in further digitisation of the Judicial Information System (JIS) are as follows: the consolidation and expansion of the JIS to ensure full coverage and stability of the system, the introduction and mandatory integration of electronic signatures, ensuring the privacy and security of system users, the digitalisation of public services, including the expansion of online services (e.g. certificates of no pending criminal proceedings) and the reduction of physical visits to courts, the automation and efficiency of the processes: the implementation of AI tools for the anonymisation of court decisions and Speech-to-Text solutions, as well as the strengthening of human resources.

Other reform activities

The reforms also cover criminal and civil procedures, enforcement departments, digitalization of enforcement proceedings, strategic planning and gender equality. The status of implementation indicates that while some measures are currently discussed or piloted, others are already continuously implemented.

The reform activities are also focused on the improvement of courts and prosecutor's offices performance, institutional capacity- building, modernisation of business processes, and digitization, with a particular focus on case management, enforcement, financing, professional development and transparency. One of the key priorities is the efficiency in managing criminal trials, where pilot courts seek to reduce the length of trials, improve trial preparation and procedural discipline. The reform of enforcement procedure is very important. Modernising the current system and exploring the prospect of transferring the enforcement of judgements to state agencies or private enforcement agents are the objectives. This is also connected to the digitalization of the enforcement procedure, which would make it possible for courts and other institutions to effectively share information about debtors' assets.

In terms of infrastructure, the HJPC BiH promotes capital investments in judicial facilities, in order to improve working conditions. Simultaneously, a strategic planning and reporting system has been implemented, strengthening management accountability and connecting strategic objectives with performance results.

Several courts have been reorganising their enforcement departments and business processes in an effort to increase the involvement of bailiffs and legal associates in providing support to judges. Pilot projects have demonstrated the need to introduce a new staff category – a drafting lawyer, and the plan is to expand it to all first instance courts. At the legislative level, the reform of the civil appeal procedure has been initiated, with parallel efforts to increase efficiency and quality of civil justice. The courts have been consistently following the instructions for the preparation of backlog reduction plans, and since 2025, citizens have had access to an online Tableau platform that transparently displays court efficiency indicators.

As part of the financial aspect of the reform, which entails the improvement of the court funding system, the HJPC BiH actively engages in budget preparation and advocates for stable financing. Additionally, an electronic Budget Management Module (HJPC BiH) has been created and tested, with the user training currently underway and full implementation anticipated shortly.

While the strategy for gender-responsive justice has been implemented in all institutions to enhance gender equality, the development of alternative dispute resolution methods (ADR) is also being discussed.

Co-funded by the European Union
EUROPEAN UNION
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe



This report was produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Council of Europe.