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CEPEJ-COOP(2023)2

*EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE
(CEPEJ)*

**CEPEJ cooperation programmes
State of implementation (on 1 December 2023)**

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ALBANIA

*Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme
"Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Türkiye III" (HFIII)*

Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice in Albania (SEJ IV)

*co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

Duration	January 2023 - December 2026
Objective	To support the justice governing institutions and courts in the implementation of the reforms aimed at increasing the efficiency and quality of justice system based on the CEPEJ tools and methodologies as adapted to the Albanian context, building upon achievements of the three first phases of the action.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministry of Justice, High Judicial Council, High Prosecutorial Council, Courts and court users, High Inspector of Justice, School of Magistrates, Bar Association, Mediation Chamber
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased transparency and efficiency of judiciary institutions through improved court management and performance, improved quality of services for users in accordance with CEPEJ standards and tools - Improved judicial statistics in accordance with CEPEJ standards and tools and in coordination with the Dashboard Western Balkans action, Judiciary institutions become more transparent and efficient through improved infrastructure and IT tools - Expanded use of alternative dispute resolution in accordance with CEPEJ standards and tools - School of Magistrates is further supported to provide quality training on efficiency and quality of justice to magistrates and court administration - High Inspector of Justice is supported to streamline judicial inspection in line with European standards
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 new appointed press judges were introduced to the CEPEJ Guide for the communication of courts and prosecution offices with media and the public through 2 tailored workshops. • Recommendations were provided for the implementation of the new judicial map related to the reallocation of cases in reorganised courts and establishment of court sections in appeal and first instance courts. • Two court coaching activities were organised in the Appeal court of general jurisdiction and first instance court of Durres in the frame of reorganisation of the new judicial map. • Training on thematic inspection were provided for 38 inspectors from High Inspector of Justice in cooperation with European Network of Justice Inspection Services (RESIJ). • Initial mediation fact-finding mission was completed (with participation of the National mediation chamber, Bar association, Ministry of Justice and Tirana administrative court).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 non - judge staff of assistance units in the domestic courts, including legal advisors and judicial assistants, were trained on CEPEJ tools on judicial time management aiming to strengthen the role of court administration in ensuring timely judgement and support backlog reduction. • Support was provided to the newly established working group on justice system digitalisation. • Initial needs assessment visits were organised to the High Prosecutorial Council, General Prosecution Office, Tirana Prosecution Office and Elbasan Prosecution Office.
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining training sessions for court administration and legal assistance units on judicial time management tools. • Next training sessions for press judges and prosecutors on judicial communication. • Further awareness raising sessions for court staff, presidents and judges on CEPEJ tools on judicial time management and court performance. • Awareness raising activities to further expand the use of mediation in line with CEPEJ toolkit. • Expansion of the use of web-based court user satisfaction surveys to other courts. • Follow-up to initial needs assessment visits of the prosecution services.

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AZERBAIJAN

Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme "Partnership for Good Governance (PGGIII)"

Fostering mediation in Azerbaijan

*co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

Duration	March 2023 – February 2026
Objective	Improved recourse to mediation in Azerbaijan via increasing the availability and the quality of mediation services, further strengthening the capacities of mediators, and by raising awareness on mediation amongst justice sector professionals and citizens.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministry of Justice, Academy of Justice, Mediation Council and mediators, judges, lawyers, the civil society, users
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert analysis of the state of play and recommendations for further improvements in the area of mediation - Expert report on mediation statistics with recommendations to adopt a standard system to gather statistics based on CEPEJ Mediation Baseline Statistics - Ex post analysis of the state of play of mediation - Strengthen the capacity of the Mediation Council (ethics, fees, monitoring, data collection and analysis) - Strengthen the capacity of mediators - Increased knowledge of mediation trainers to provide in-depth and specialised trainings - Increased knowledge and awareness of various mediation stakeholders, including judges and lawyers, with a view to supporting the recourse to mediation and the dissemination of good practices - A mediation pilot to improve geographical outreach is carried out - Promotion and awareness plan on mediation in Azerbaijan is developed
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of the key national partners are informed regularly about the relevant CEPEJ tools on mediation, which are translated into the Azerbaijani language and published for awareness raising purposes. • CEPEJ experts report with recommendations on data collection and digitalisation of the mediation system in Azerbaijan was submitted to partners following an experts mission conducted in June 2023. • CEPEJ experts conducted consultations on improving the mediation training framework in Azerbaijan and an advanced training of trainers to increase the competence of existing mediation trainers and heads of mediation organisations.
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to digitalisation of the mediation system – creation of a tool for automated data gathering, monitoring, and evaluation of the results of providers of mediation services. • Enhancing the competences of mediation trainers and the training resources of the Academy of Justice on mediation. • Support to the development of customised training materials based on local culture and experience. Drawing up a mediator's handbook. • Launching a working group to establish and monitor the mediation pilot to facilitate the access to mediation services in regions etc.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

*Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme
"Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye III" (HFIII)*

Strengthening the Efficiency and Quality of Justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiHSEJ)

*co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

Duration	January 2023 - December 2026
Objective	To support the justice system of Bosnia and Herzegovina in improving its efficiency and quality in accordance with the standards and tools developed by the CEPEJ.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministry of Justice, High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC), judicial training institutions (JPTC), chief judges, chief prosecutors, court administrators, judges and prosecutors, courts, and Association of Mediators.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Efficiency and quality of the justice system of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be strengthened (including support in shortening the length of proceedings and in reducing the backlog) - The capacities for collecting, processing and analysis of data on the functioning of the judicial system and judicial statistics according to the CEPEJ methodology will be supported, in strong coordination with the CEPEJ Dashboard Western Balkans action - Justice professionals' capacities on topics related to efficiency and quality of justice will be strengthened, in line with CEPEJ standards and tools
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In close coordination with the HJPC of BiH, 5 first instance pilot courts were selected to cooperate with the CEPEJ in the areas of efficiency and quality of justice through court coaching activities. • 15 participants including court presidents, directors of the JPTCs and the HJPC representatives participated in awareness raising sessions on CEPEJ methodology and tools on efficiency and quality of justice and court coaching methodology. • 3 needs assessment visits to the pilot courts (Sokolac, Brčko, Cazin) and 2 initial needs assessment visits to JPTC's in Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska were conducted in order to identify main challenges faced by these institutions in terms of quality and efficiency of justice. • Gender analysis exercise was launched to identify specific actions to mainstream gender equality throughout the project and its activities. • Cooperation between the CEPEJ GT-CYBERJUST working group and HJPC was established; HJPC participates as observer in the work of the CEPEJ GT-CYBERJUST.
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining 2 needs assessment visits to pilot courts (Trebinje and Livno) to design tailored court coaching projects. • Finalisation of the recommendations for 5 pilot courts in order to suggest tailored court coaching programmes (early 2024).

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BULGARIA

Establishing a balanced workload distribution in the judicial system

funded by the European Union via the Structural Reform Support Programme and in cooperation with the European Commission's DG Structural Reform Support

Duration	November 2022-May 2024
Objective	To support Bulgaria in its efforts to improve the efficiency of the management and administration of the courts through improved control and verification of statistical data, and improved workload management of judges.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministry of Justice, Supreme Judicial Council of Bulgaria, the judiciary at national and regional level including judges and prosecutors, and court staff.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved statistical data on the functioning of courts - Rebalance the distribution of cases to judges in Bulgaria through advanced workload management - Justice sector stakeholders are trained in new methodologies for the control and verification of statistical data, and workload distribution
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact-finding mission conducted on 20-21 February and discussions held with representatives from the key Bulgarian partner institutions, such as the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), as well as representatives of courts located in the capital city • A preliminary situation analysis has been established based on bilateral consultations with relevant stakeholders at national and regional level and an analysis of the documents collected in terms of data collection and workload allocation have been produced • Experience sharing visits carried out from 28 to 30 June, in courts located in the capital city (Sofia Regional Court, Sofia Appellate Court, and Sofia City Court) and regions (Veliko Turnovo Regional Court, Veliko Turnovo Administrative Court, Varna District Court, Varna Administrative Court) • A draft assessment report with recommendations on the methodology for control and verification of the statistical data reflecting the activities of the judicial authorities and judges in Bulgaria has been prepared (September 2023). • A draft situation and assessment report on the existing criteria to measure the workload of judges in Bulgaria has been prepared (September 2023).
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop to present the assessment reports is implemented (end of 2023/beginning of 2024). • A study-visit is organised to get acquainted with best EU practices and training sessions are organised (January-May 2024).



GEORGIA

Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme “Partnership for Good Governance (PGGIII)”

Support to the modernisation of court management in Georgia

*co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

Duration	March 2023 – February 2026
Objective	<p>To improve the efficiency of the Georgian judicial system by reducing backlogs and shortening case proceedings.</p> <p>To enhance the quality of judicial services through dialogue between justice professionals and the public.</p> <p>To increase judges' referrals to mediation and improve data collection for mediation cases using the CEPEJ Mediation Development Toolkit.</p>
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Common Courts of Georgia, High Council of Justice, High School of Justice, Independent Inspector of the High Council of Justice, Judges, Court Staff, Mediators' Association,
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courts adopt quality and efficiency standards and tools - The delivery of efficient and quality judicial services to citizens at the national and court level is enhanced - Court coaching program allows to improve court management and disseminate practical measures to other courts - Court performance through strengthened court management is improved - The recourse to mediation is enhanced
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four courts have been nominated to participate in CEPEJ court coaching programme: the Supreme Court, Rustavi City Court, Batumi City Court, and Zugdidi District Court. • Needs assessment visits to the Supreme Court of Georgia and Rustavi City Court were conducted by CEPEJ experts in May so to identify the main areas and design tailored court coaching programmes. • Presentation of the findings of the needs assessment at Supreme Court of Georgia and Rustavi City Court. Selection for coaching directions from these courts. • Needs assessment visits to the Zugdidi Regional Court and Batumi City Courts to identify main areas and design tailored court coaching programmes. • Capacity building activity conducted for 10 statisticians representatives of statistics units from various courts, in cooperation with Dashboard Eastern Partnership action.
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of the annual Managers' Forum with the aim to increase knowledge on CEPEJ time management tool, as well as share good practices by court managers on practical implementation of CEPEJ tools in courts • Capacity building activity for the Independent Inspector on data collection, analysis and reporting • Updating the mediation training module in line with CEPEJ tools for the High School of Justice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation and putting into use by the High School of Justice of the new HELP course on CEPEJ standards • Implementation of Court Coaching programme in four pilot courts • Study visit for selected court managers
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KOSOVO*

*Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme
"Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye III" (HFIII)*

Strengthening the Quality and Efficiency of Justice in Kosovo (KoSEJ III)

*co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

Duration	January 2023 – December 2026
Objective	To successfully foster the implementation of the Rule of Law Strategy 2021-2026 by sustaining and expanding CEPEJ tools and methodologies notably on judicial time management, digitalisation of justice and e-filing, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), judicial map, organisation and accessibility of court premises, etc.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministry of Justice; Kosovo Justice Academy; Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC); Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC) and prosecution offices; Courts; Kosovo Bar Association (KBA); Kosovo Chamber of Mediators.
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support to the authorities responsible for the administration of justice to monitor the implementation of the Rule of Law Strategy based on accurate and automatically generated judicial statistics - To strengthen capacities on timeframes of judicial proceedings, better distribution of human resources with an assessment of the complexity of cases, on cyberjustice and mediation tools to justice based on CEPEJ methodology - To increase consultation between courts, parties and other actors and to detect delays - To support to courts to collect users' feedback to enable courts to undertake measures to improve court organisation, court services and court premises - To facilitate electronic communication between courts and parties, starting with electronic notifications
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the KJC IT Strategic Plan (2024-2029) based on CEPEJ Cyberjustice tools to support the change within KJC towards a sustainable digital transformation of the court system, centred around the Case Management Information System (CMIS). • A Guide/Methodology to Interpret Judicial Statistics in the Courts in the light of judicial statistics (Clearance Rate, Disposition Time, Case Per Judge indicator) and caseload was finalised and translated into Albanian. The Chairman of the Kosovo Judicial Council is now closely monitoring the Clearance Rate and is setting some targets for the end of the year. • An online presentation to the Commission on Administration of Prosecution Offices on collecting and analysing statistics to monitor the work of prosecution offices and ensuring quality of the data collected. • 30 Courts Presidents and Chief Prosecutors were trained in using CEPEJ tools and indicators for data driven decisions, which triggered a follow-up

* 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.

	<p>meeting of the Commission on Administration of Prosecution Offices to decide on starting to generate statistics from the Case Management Information system (CMIS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Court staff were trained on case and time management in coordination with the Justice Academy • 25 Lawyers were trained on CEPEJ tools on judicial time management in coordination with the Bar Association
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Interpreting Judicial Statistics based on Methodology for the KJC • Expert mission on Data Quality, focusing on key selected data (incoming and resolved cases) generated from the CMIS for/with the Prosecution Offices • Support to the implementation of some activities listed in the KJC IT Strategic Plan, based on CEPEJ Cyberjustice tools (alarms, templates)

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LATVIA

Strengthening access to justice in Latvia through fostering mediation and legal aid services (Phase II)

*funded by the European Union via the Structural Reform Support Programme and in cooperation with
the European Commission's DG Structural Reform Support*

Duration	January 2022-March 2024
Objective	To widen the scope, availability, and quality of state ensured legal aid in Latvia. To increase the awareness of and recourse to mediation in Latvia as a means of conflict resolution.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministry of Justice, the Legal Aid Administration of Latvia, the Council of Certified Mediators, and the Judicial Training Centre
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The preliminary legal aid system will work using a new model specifically adapted to its national context using a combination of European good practices, and experience from the previous project - A module to train frontline advisers that will provide preliminary legal aid and have the capacity to refer cases to mediation when appropriate, will exist - A quality assurance mechanism will have been developed that enables efficient monitoring of the quality of the provided legal aid services - Lastly, specific groups will be identified for targeted campaigns to raise awareness on the advantages of mediation as an alternative method to judicial dispute resolution
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop with stakeholders on the promotion of mediation among specific target groups. • Workshop with stakeholders on the scope of a new primary legal aid service in Latvia, identifying what this "referral service" will and will not be able to provide. • Workshop on the development of a new class of legal professional in Latvia, identifying those who will provide the "referral service". • Workshop on the development of a training module for these new legal professionals – what to include, what should not be. • Workshop on quality standards and quality assurance in the legal aid system of Latvia. Exploring good practices and identifying those of relevance to the Latvian context. • Development of the Terms of Reference for the pilot project on legal aid including its action plan. • Development of a module to train lawyers in mediation, that will be part of a campaign to promote mediation. • Draft Assessment report on the strategic promotion of mediation in Latvia • Training of non-lawyer primary legal aid providers in preparation for the pilot project on primary legal aid • Implementation of a pilot project offering primary legal aid in Latvia in 10 locations including municipal centres, social centres, NGOs, in-person and on the phone.
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using information from previous workshops and the pilot project: continued development of the Assessment report on the establishment of a primary legal aid model in Latvia; the creation of Quality Assurance and Standards for legal aid in Latvia; an Assessment report on the training of

	<p>primary legal aid providers, along with a recommended set of modules and themes, and a specially developed module on soft skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development of the campaign to promote mediation in Latvia targeting legal professionals. Adaptation and testing of a new, interdisciplinary training on mediation, which unites several CEPEJ tools to propose a new method which mixes various legal professionals together. • Closing event of the project aiming to present project results and deliverables.
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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme "Partnership for Good Governance (PGGIII)"

Support to further modernisation of court management in the Republic of Moldova

*co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

Duration	March 2023 – February 2026
Objective	To promote further modernisation of the judicial administration, improving the evaluation, efficiency, and quality of the functioning of courts, in particular by strengthening the court management and preventing backlogs, improving the transparency, communication, and accessibility of courts, as well as the public trust and user satisfaction, in line with European standards.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Superior Council of Magistrates, Ministry of Justice, Agency for Court Administration, and the National Institute of Justice, Court users and the general public are final beneficiaries.
Expected results	Based on the lessons learnt from the cooperation in previous phases, three main axes will be pursued by the action, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court approach: improving the evaluation of courts and their efficiency by strengthening court management - Justice professionals' approach: improving the working conditions, the transparency, and the communication of the judiciary - Users' approach: improving the quality of judicial services with better accessibility of the judiciary and user satisfaction
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching of the JUSTAT AIS, new tool for gathering and analyses of statistics on court performance. • Launching, in cooperation with national partners, of two working groups, to develop (1) detailed guidance for uniform reporting on court performance and (2) recommendations for optimisation of HR policies of the judiciary, including a balanced workload for judges and court staff, ensuring non-discrimination, gender equality, and social inclusion in the employment. • Training provided to 22 court managers and staff on performance evaluation, reporting, and court resource planning.
What is next?	In the coming months the project will contribute towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating JUSTAT AIS by a 4th dashboard (caseload and structure of the caseload of courts) and promoting its use for the purpose of evaluation and reporting on court performance; • Supporting the evaluation of the performance of courts and uniform yearly reporting with a view to improving their efficiency and the quality of judicial services. Assessment of the backlog and the age of pending cases in overburdened courts and supporting the implementation of remedies; • Developing recommendations for the adoption and implementation of modern HR policies and supporting a mechanism for the optimisation of the workload of judges. • Updating the policy documents on judicial communication and supporting practical steps for their implementation, etc.



SOUTH PROGRAMME V – SP V

European Union/Council of Europe Joint Programme

“Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean (South programme V)”

financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument of the European Union

Duration	September 2022 – August 2025
Objective	To strengthen the capacities of the Southern Mediterranean beneficiaries in the field of implementation of judicial reforms and the efficiency and the quality of justice systems, and to reinforce the dialogue and networking between justice professionals, institutions and bodies at national, regional and international level, based on the CEPEJ methodology and on relative European and international standards.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministries of Justice, High Councils of Justice, justice inspection services, pilot courts, courts' staff, lawyers and other relevant beneficiaries in the region, Council of State of Egypt
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional, multilateral and bilateral events are organised to raise awareness on the CEPEJ tools and methodology as well as best international practices, and to promote regional exchanges on good practices - Regional events in the framework of existing networks are organised (notably, the informal network of justice inspection services, the development of which was supported in phase IV of the South Programme), these networks are consolidated, and further support is provided - Tailored support is provided to the beneficiaries, subject to national authorities' demand
Key Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second meeting of the South-Mediterranean Network of Justice Inspection Services in Agadir, Morocco, from 3-4 July 2023, including delegations from Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon, as well as members of the European network (RESIJ) France, Portugal, and Spain. Exchange of good practices on three specifically prepared cases. • Finalisation and adoption of the Charter for the Network by members. • Development of a questionnaire by the Network, to collect necessary information on the inspection services of each country and enable comparison between them.
What is next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the SUDMEDIJ Website and logo, • Continued outreach to potential members of the Network. • Visit to the CEPEJ Plenary in December by a delegation from the Lebanese Council of State and discussion of potential future cooperation. • Preparations for the third annual meeting of the Network.

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TUNISIA

Joint European Union/Council of Europe Programme

Improving the functioning, performance, and access to justice in Tunisia (AP-JUST)

*co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe
and implemented by the Council of Europe*

Duration	January 2019 – September 2023
Objective	Strengthening, further developing, deepening and sustaining justice reform with a view to improve the quality and efficiency of day-to-day justice service provided by courts to court users.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministry of Justice, Higher Judiciary Institute (ISM), High Judiciary Council (CSM), courts, judges and non-judge staff, Tunisian Bar Association (ONAT).
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laws and policies in the area of justice comply with European standards - Capacities of justice stakeholders: judges, lawyers, clerks are strengthened and courts users benefit from a better quality of services - Functioning and governance of the judicial system are improved and more efficient
Key achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabled newly appointed magistrates to be rapidly operational by developing training modules appropriate to the functions of investigating judge, cantonal judge, member of the State Counsel's Office, commercial judge, company judge and by providing the ISM with the methodology and skills to adapt other existing modules. • Supported efforts to improve the efficiency of justice by developing specific instruments: manual of good practices for judicial experts, guidelines for the implementation of remote trials, tools to facilitate the work of the judge rapporteur, action plan for the implementation of mediation, dashboards for judiciary and administrative courts. • Contributed to improving the functioning of the courts: training of court clerks on the GBO, courts records management and judicial communication, raising awareness of lawyers on the digitisation of procedures and code of ethics, reorganisation of the Court of Cassation (unification of jurisprudence, filtering). • Facilitated the exchange of experiences between ONAT and its European counterparts concerning the organisation of the continuous training (in-service) for lawyers. • Brought justice actors closer together by promoting cooperation and joint approaches, particularly between magistrates and lawyers. • Enhanced the capacities of more than 3700 actors in the justice system (legal professionals, magistrates, court clerks, lawyers and auditors) on European and International standards.

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DASHBOARD EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

(ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS*, GEORGIA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, UKRAINE)

Framework of intervention	European Neighbourhood Instrument Support for a better evaluation of the result of judicial reform efforts in the Eastern Partnership - "Dashboard EaP"
Duration	January 2021- January 2024
Objective	To support the beneficiaries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus*, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine) in their efforts to achieve an effective, systematic and data-based monitoring and evaluation on the quality, efficiency, independence and accountability of their justice systems, including the prosecution services.
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministries of Justice and/or other relevant institutions such as High Councils of the Judiciary (notably their statistical departments); courts and users of the judicial systems
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support the EaP countries in identifying weaknesses in their judicial data collection mechanisms and to suggest measures for their improvement provided - To increase the use of new skills to improve the mechanism of collection, processing and analysis of judicial data in accordance with CEPEJ standards and tools in the EaP countries - To build the capacity of the EaP countries to identify and take into account the strengths and weaknesses of their judicial system and the results of the judicial reforms
State of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2023 Report on 2021 data has been submitted to the European Commission on 30 June 2023, completing the 2nd cycle of data collection - A peer review and support to data collection mission to the Republic of Moldova has been carried out, along with continuous support being provided to all countries. - The revision of the Questionnaire and Explanatory Note for the 3rd cycle of data collection has been finalised in consultations with EC and beneficiaries; further synergies with the Western Balkans Dashboard were achieved. - The 3rd cycle will be on 2023 data; the data collection was launched in November. This is a transition cycle due to the change of the year of reference (from "N-2" to "N-1"), upon the EC request. - The report to be submitted to EC in June 2024 will contain data from the regular Evaluation cycle (2022 data) and 2023 data for questions common to CEPEJ Evaluation and EaP Dashboard. Data collected since 2020 will be part of the report. - A request for an addendum to extend the duration of the project is under consideration by EC.

* In line with the European Council Conclusions of February 2022 and the Decision of the Council of Europe Ministers' Deputies of March 2022, while the Partnership for Good Governance does not include activities with the participation of the Belarusian authorities, activities may be organised with the representatives of Belarusian civil society and democratic forces as appropriate.

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DASHBOARD WESTERN BALKANS

(ALBANIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, KOSOVO*, MONTENEGRO, NORTH MACEDONIA, SERBIA)

Framework of intervention	EU/CoE Joint Programme "Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Türkiye III", Theme I: Ensuring justice, Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans - "Dashboard Western Balkans II"
Duration	January 2023 – December 2026
Objective	<p>To support the beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) in completing their judicial reforms and preparing their future policies and budget allocations based on CEPEJ findings, through the achievement of a better measurement of the results of their judicial reforms.</p> <p>To this end, the Action supports the annual collection and processing of data on the functioning of the judicial systems of the beneficiaries and provide and implement tailor-made technical expertise and capacity building activities designed from the results of the data collection.</p>
Beneficiaries and stakeholders	Ministries of Justice and/or other relevant institutions such as High Councils of the Judiciary (notably their statistical departments); courts and users of the judicial systems
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiaries are reinforcing their mechanisms of collection, processing, and analysis of judicial data in accordance with CEPEJ standards and tools within the beneficiaries - Beneficiaries own the capacities and resources to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their judicial systems, measure the results of the judicial reforms and develop relevant policies for the future
State of implementation	<p>The new Dashboard Western Balkans started in January 2023 under Horizontal Facility III. The fourth round of data collection has already started.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverables are provided every year to the European Commission according to the agreed calendar. In 2023, the first report (comparative tables) is provided on 31 May, while the second one (beneficiary profiles) on 30 June. • Capacity-building activities are organised as necessary to support data collection. In 2022, two regional workshops on judicial training and CMS took place. Furthermore, a closing event was organised to share information about the beneficiaries' spreading and use of dashboard data. Specific fact-finding mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and

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	Kosovo were carried out in 2023. A regional workshop on case flow data and courts' efficiency took place in November 2023
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