



Strasbourg, 27 November 2025

CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)22

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

**WORKING GROUP ON THE EVALUATION OF JUDICIAL SYSTEMS
(CEPEJ-GT-EVAL)**

50th meeting
20-22 October 2025

MEETING REPORT

Document prepared by the Secretariat
Directorate General I - Human Rights and Rule of Law

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Working Group on the Evaluation of Judicial Systems (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL) of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) held its 50th meeting in Valletta (Malta) on 20 and 22 October 2025, under the Maltese Presidency of the Council of Europe. The meeting was chaired by Jaša Vrabec (Slovenia). The agenda and list of participants to the meeting are in Annexes I and II to this report respectively.

II. REFLECTION ON THE NEXT MANDATE OF THE CEPEJ-GT-EVAL AND PREPARATION OF THE JOINT MEETING (21 OCTOBER 2025)

2. The Working Group exchanges views on the priorities and working methods for the next mandate of CEPEJ-GT-EVAL set out in the future CEPEJ activity programme for 2026-2027 (CEPEJ(2025)12). The discussions focus on the current challenges and threats to judicial systems and their quality, as well as the growing mistrust of users towards their judicial systems throughout Europe.
3. The Group agrees that the priority for the next CEPEJ-GT-EVAL mandate should be to implement the reform of the CEPEJ evaluation cycles, which aims to provide states with the most recent data on an annual basis, *i.e.*, data from the year preceding the publication of the European Judicial Systems Evaluation Report, and to continue, within this framework, cooperation with the European Commission (the European Union Justice Scoreboard, the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership Dashboards).
4. The Group also mentions the need to develop new indicators in this context and to create a compendium of all the indicators used by the CEPEJ, to define them and to indicate the methodology for their calculation.
5. In the frame of specific reports to be prepared from the 2027 cycle onwards, possibly on the basis of *ad hoc* data collection, various themes are envisaged: the attractiveness of the legal professions, the needs of users of the justice system, particularly vulnerable persons, and financial accessibility. The Group agrees to define the first theme as early as possible in 2026.
6. Discussions also focus on strengthening synergies with the other CEPEJ working groups, particularly with regard to digitisation and measuring the quality of justice using indicators or indices.

III. PROGRESS OF THE 2024 DATA COLLECTION (AD HOC AND REGIONAL DATA COLLECTIONS)

7. Within the frame of the reform of the CEPEJ evaluation cycles, an *ad hoc* data collection for 2024 has been opened on a voluntary basis for countries not participating in the regional collections related to the European Union Justice Scoreboard and the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Dashboards.

8. Four member States (Norway, Türkiye, Switzerland, San Marino) and two observer States (Israel and Morocco) are currently participating in this collection. These data will not be the subject of a dedicated evaluation report but should be published on CEPEJ-STAT.

IV. CEPEJ 2026 JUDICIAL SYSTEMS EVALUATION CYCLE (2025 data)

a. Questionnaire and explanatory note

9. At its 44th plenary meeting in June 2025, the CEPEJ adopted the questionnaire for the evaluation of judicial systems for the next cycle (2026 cycle, 2025 data), subject to amendments to be made, in particular after a test phase with the CEPEJ's national correspondents.
10. The Group takes note of the final versions of the questionnaire (documents CEPEJ(2025)6rev2 and CEPEJ (2025)7rev1 for the "ICT" part) and the explanatory note (documents CEPEJ(2025)9rev and CEPEJ(2025)10rev for the "ICT" part), as amended by the Secretariat following the *ad hoc* meetings of national correspondents (1 July 2025) and the Working Group (22 July 2025) and the 19th meeting of the CEPEJ national correspondents (25 September 2025).
11. The main amendments concern issues relating to the case-flow of public prosecutors' offices, to the distinction between cases where the perpetrators are known and those where they are unknown, and the addition of case categories relating to sexual abuse of minors and child pornography in the question on specific case-flow. The explanatory note has been completely revised and clarified, particularly with regard to "open questions".
12. The Secretariat also informs the Working Group that nine "ICT" correspondents have been appointed to handle the "ICT" part of the questionnaire, under the responsibility of the national correspondent.
13. The evaluation questionnaire, main part and ICT part, should be available in the CEPEJ-COLLECT system very soon so that national correspondents can respond by 15 March 2026 at the latest. They will be encouraged to reply very quickly, particularly to the qualitative section of the questionnaire.

b. Potential new indicators

14. The Group examines the document prepared by the Secretariat presenting indicators (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)4rev) that could be developed in the future in areas such as budgetary and financial independence, justice professionals, access to justice and efficiency of judicial systems.
15. Some indicators may only be relevant to certain countries and would not be compared to a European median but presented in relation to their evolution over time.
16. The Group emphasises the need to define these indicators very precisely and agrees to send comments to the Secretariat before the end of the year, with a view to discussing them again at its first meeting in 2026.
17. In the frame of the Working Group's next mandate, and in response to the need for greater transparency and methodological consistency, the Group proposes to draw up a reference document defining all the indicators used by the CEPEJ. This document would include the

methods used to calculate the CEPEJ indicators and could also serve as a resource for countries wishing to develop such indicators at the national level.

c. Discussions on the content of the 2026 evaluation report

18. The next evaluation report on European judicial systems will be published in December 2026, based on 2025 data, and will consist of a brief presentation and analysis of European trends, a summary overview presenting the main indicators at European level, enriched country profiles and the CEPEJ-STAT database.
19. The Working Group examines elements that could be included in the European analyses of the next report (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)21), which would ultimately not differ greatly from the analyses in previous editions. The Group has tasked the Secretariat with proposing different model options for this part of the report, which will be examined at the next meeting of the Group.
20. In view of the timetable for preparing the report and doubts about the availability of certain data in September 2026, particularly budgetary data, the Group is currently leaning towards an electronic version of the report so that it can be presented early enough to the CEPEJ members for adoption at the plenary meeting in December 2026.
21. The Secretariat also presents to the Working Group a template for country profiles (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)19) comprising various common and tailor-made indicators to reflect the situation in certain countries only, and the results of the "open questions" in the questionnaire for the narrative part of these profiles. The data profile at European level (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)20) has also been presented to the Working Group. The latter agrees to send its comments to the Secretariat before the end of the year and to discuss these documents again at its first meeting in 2026.
22. The CEPEJ-STAT platform will continue to be developed to make it more easily accessible. The Group considers that it would be useful to include predefined questions and answers to facilitate the use of this database.

d. Support to National correspondents

23. Under the new timetable (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)2rev1), CEPEJ national correspondents will be required to provide data earlier (March 2026 for the 2026 cycle), with a view to stabilise them in September, after the quality control. A number of countries have expressed doubts about their ability to meet these deadlines, particularly for budgetary and case-flow data.
24. The Secretariat will provide increased support to national correspondents throughout the evaluation cycle. However, in order for them to obtain data from their various sources, support from national authorities is necessary. The Secretariat informs the Group that, following the CEPEJ plenary meeting in December 2026, an official letter will be sent to the Ministers of Justice of each country in order to strengthen institutional support for national correspondents.
25. The Group also emphasises the need to raise the profile of the role of CEPEJ national correspondents.

V. COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

26. The Secretariat informs the Group of the discussions held with a view to the possible harmonisation of the four CEPEJ data collection exercises and the possible impact of the revision of the questionnaire for the evaluation of judicial systems on the questionnaires used for regional data collection (European Union, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries).
27. In this context, meetings with DG-JUST and DG-ENEST were held in Brussels on 10 September and will be organised again before the end of 2025 with a view to presenting the reform of the evaluation cycles to the European Commission and considering the continuation of regional evaluation exercises.
28. The Secretariat is working in particular with DG-JUST to avoid parallel data collection by the CEPEJ and DG-JUST, which would result in an unnecessary burden on the participating countries.
29. The Secretariat has also met with representatives of DG-HOME with a view to collecting specific data for European Union countries on issues relating to the case-flow generated by asylum applications. The Secretariat is currently preparing a draft questionnaire on this topic for future discussion.

VI. REQUEST TO ACCESS THE CEPEJ DATABASE

30. The Secretariat informs the Group of the update, with a view to clarifying it, of the protocol for access to CEPEJ data (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)15rev).

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

31. The Group agrees to propose to the CEPEJ that three meetings be organised in 2026 to successfully carry out the reform. The dates and venues of the meetings will be confirmed by the Secretariat at the beginning of next year.

Annexe I

Agenda of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda	
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2. Information by the members of the Working Group and the Secretariat	
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	Working document
3. Brainstorming in preparation of the next CEPEJ-GT-EVAL mandate and preparation of the joint CEPEJ working group meeting (21 October 2025)	Draft CEPEJ Action plan 2026-2029
	Reference document
	Terms of reference of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2024-2025)

	Reference document
4. Status of the 2024 data collection (<i>ad hoc</i> and regional data collections)	Questionnaire for <i>ad hoc</i> data collection (2024 data) CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)13

	Working document
2026 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Cycle (2025 data)	Proposal of new indicators CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)4rev
e. Questionnaires and explanatory notes	Elements for the European analysis – 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)21
f. Potential new indicators (including a new indicator on quality with CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)	
5. g. Brainstorming on the content of the 2026 evaluation report	Draft Country profile 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)19
h. AI and efficiency	Draft European profile 2026 Evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)20
i. Support to National correspondents and peer evaluation	
	Reference documents
	Timeline of the 2026 Evaluation cycle CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)2rev1

Presentations (PPT) of the reform, questionnaire and organigram

Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems – 2026 cycle
CEPEJ(2025)6rev2

Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems - 2026 cycle – IT part
CEPEJ (2025)7rev1

Explanatory note to the Scheme – 2026 cycle
CEPEJ(2025)9rev

Explanatory note to the Scheme – 2026 cycle – IT part
CEPEJ(2025)10rev

2024 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Report

Concept note AI and efficiency
CEPEJ(2025)4rev1

Cooperation with the European Commission

- 6.
- a. Study for the European Commission on the functioning of judicial systems in the member States of the European Union (Justice Scoreboard) and Eurostat
 - b. Dashboard Western Balkans
 - c. Dashboard Eastern Partnership countries
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Reference document

7. Request to access the CEPEJ data base (one request to be examined – see collaborative workspace)

Protocol for the transmission of CEPEJ data
CEPEJ(2025)15rev

8. Any other business

49th Meeting report of the
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL
CEPEJ-GT-
EVAL(2025)12rev

19th Meeting report of the
National correspondent
meeting
CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)17

Annexe II
List of participants / liste des participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

Joanne BATTISTINO, Senior Manager, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, The Law Courts, MALTA

Martina VRDOLJAK, Head of department for statistics, analytic and strategic development of Judiciary, Directorate for organisation of Judiciary, Ministry of justice, CROATIA

Seçkin KOÇER, Judge and Head of Department, General Directorate for Strategy Development, Ministry of Justice, TÜRKİYE

Simone KREß, Judge, Vice-President of the Regional Court of Cologne, GERMANY

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PRESIDENT OF THE CEPEJ / PRESIDENT DE LA CEPEJ

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SECRETARIAT

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Emilija DEOLSKA, Lawyer / *Juriste*

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