



Strasbourg, 27 March 2025

CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)7

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

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

48th meeting  
6-7 March 2025

**MEETING REPORT**

Document prepared by the Secretariat  
Directorate General I – Human Rights and the 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 48<sup>th</sup> meeting on 6 and 7 March 2025, in Venice, under the chairmanship of Jaša Vrabec (Slovenia). The agenda and the list of participants to the meeting can be found respectively in Annexes I and II to this report.

## **II. 2026 CEPEJ JUDICIAL SYSTEMS EVALUATION CYCLE (2025 data)**

2. The Secretariat informs the Working Group that following the 43<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting of the CEPEJ, held on 3 and 4 December 2024, a message has been sent to the CEPEJ national correspondents to inform them of the ongoing reform of the CEPEJ evaluation cycles, which aims in particular to publish the European Judicial Systems Evaluation Report on an annual basis.
3. Accordingly, the next European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Report will be published at the end of 2026, based on 2025 data.

### **a. Proposals for the content of the Evaluation Report**

4. The Group discusses the different options presented by the Secretariat concerning the content of the next European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Report (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)3) and agrees that the Report could be composed of:
  - a brief presentation and analysis of European trends, without mentioning individual countries, based on existing chapters (budgets, professionals, access, efficiency, information and communication technologies) or a more transversal approach;
  - an overview presenting the main indicators, existing ones and possibly new ones, at European level;
  - country profiles enhanced with new indicators and an analytical part presenting the main aspects of judicial systems; certain new indicators could be common to all states while others, which would be relevant only for some of them, could complete solely the profiles of those countries, if they provide a better reflection of the situation of the judicial systems concerned. In the latter case, the evolution of these indicators over time could be presented rather than their comparison with the European median which would not be relevant since not all states would be concerned.
  - CEPEJ-STAT, which will have to be revised to facilitate its use and make it more user-friendly;
  - an in-depth thematic report on a chosen topic, possibly giving rise to an *ad hoc* questionnaire developed for this report, not necessarily on an annual basis.
5. The Group also agrees that the Report (brief analysis of European trends, overview of European indicators, country profiles) should be published for the first time at the end of 2026 on the basis of 2025 data. The thematic report could be published at a later date.
6. The Group also agrees that the data available on CEPEJ-STAT should not be free to download.

### **b. Revision of the questionnaire**

7. The Group examines the various proposals for revising the questionnaire (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)1) and entrusts the Secretariat to present, in the light of the discussions held, an updated version of the document for the next meeting of the Working Group which will take place on 14 and 15 May.
8. As the condition for the annual periodicity of the Report is that there are significantly fewer questions, the Group decides that certain parts of the questionnaire will be excluded from the annual cycle, but used at a later date in the context of a specific report with a revised or expanded

version of the questions concerned (e.g., organisation of the working conditions of judges and public prosecutors; recruitment, promotion and mandate of judges and public prosecutors, training, performance and evaluation, ethics, gender equality, other professionals).

9. Some of the questions have been replaced by narrative “open questions” that provide specific information on the different judicial systems. The replies to these questions could be used in the analytical part of the “country profiles”, rather than in the “European trends” part.
10. The part concerning information and communication technologies (“IT part”, document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)5) will be examined at the next meeting of the Group. The Group welcomes the possibility of opening this part of the questionnaire to an “IT correspondent”, who will be in charge of answering it, under the responsibility of the national correspondent. The latter will remain the Secretariat's sole contact for the data collection and quality control phases of all the questionnaires.
11. The Group also agrees that, in addition to its presentation at the meeting of CEPEJ national correspondents to be held in Strasbourg on 25 September 2025, the questionnaire could be tested by the members of the Working Group and by certain national correspondents who express a wish to do so.

**c. Timetable of the preparation of the evaluation report and the other evaluation exercises**

12. The Group instructs the Secretariat to revise the proposed timetable for the next evaluation exercise (document CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)2) in the light of the discussions concerning the content of the future report and ensuring as far as possible the harmonisation of the four evaluation exercises carried out by the CEPEJ, the evaluation exercise and the regional collections.

**d. Reflexion on the creation of new indicators**

13. The Group agrees to discuss this point at its next meeting in May 2025, but instructs the Secretariat, as part of the revision of the questionnaire, to take account of the questions necessary for the development of new indicators.

**e. *Ad hoc* collection of 2024 data**

14. 2024 data will be collected as part of the EU Justice Scoreboard and the Dashboards for the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries for 37 member States. Specific information has also been sent to countries not participating in these regional data collections to propose an *ad hoc* collection of 2024 data, on a voluntary basis, to avoid these data not being collected over too long period for these countries. This 2024 data collection will not give rise to a specific report, but the data will be published on the CEPEJ-STAT database.

**f. Coordination with data collections for the European Commission (European Union Justice Scoreboard, Dashboard Western Balkans, Dashboard Eastern Partnership countries)**

15. The Secretariat informs the Group of the work carried out with a view to the possible harmonisation of the four CEPEJ data collection exercises and of the possible impact of the revision of the questionnaire for the evaluation of judicial systems on the questionnaires used for the regional data collections.

**g. Support to National correspondents and peer evaluation**

16. The Working Group instructs the Secretariat to update the “welcome package” document for new national correspondents (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)26rev) in the light of the new timetable for the

preparation of the evaluation report prior to its publication on the national correspondents page of the CEPEJ website.

17. Missions to support data collection have been organised in France (9 December 2024) and Belgium (3 February 2025). A mission is also planned to Cyprus in April and another one to Switzerland in May 2025. Further contacts have been made with Spain and San Marino with a view to organising such missions before the summer.

### **III. COOPÉRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

18. The Secretariat informs the Working Group of the ongoing negotiations for the renewal of the contract between the CEPEJ and the European Commission for the preparation of the CEPEJ study for the Justice Scoreboard, the current contract ending on 31 March 2025.

### **IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

19. The next meeting of the Working Group will be held online on 14 and 15 May.

## Annexe I

### Agenda of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL meeting

1.	<b>Adoption of the agenda</b>	
2.	<b>Information by the members of the Working Group and the Secretariat</b>	
		<b>Working documents</b>
		<a href="#">Revised scheme for evaluating European judicial systems</a> – 2026 cycle <a href="#">CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)1</a> English only
	<b>2026 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ Evaluation Cycle (2025 data)</b>	
	a. Revision of the evaluation questionnaire and the explanatory note	<a href="https://cs.coe.int/team21/cepej_forums/CEPEJ_Plenary/02_Evaluation/Projet_CEPEJ_grille_fr_2020-2022_rev2.doc?Web=1">https://cs.coe.int/team21/cepej_forums/CEPEJ_Plenary/02_Evaluation/Projet_CEPEJ_grille_fr_2020-2022_rev2.doc?Web=1</a> Revised scheme for evaluating European judicial systems - 2026 cycle – IT part <a href="#">CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)5</a> English only
	b. Timetable of the preparation of the evaluation report and the other evaluation exercises	Timeline for the preparation of the four evaluation exercises CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)2 English only
	c. Proposals for the content of the evaluation report	Proposal for the content of the next evaluation report CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)3 English only
3.	d. Reflexion on the creation of new indicators	Proposal of new indicators CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2025)4 English only
	e. <i>Ad hoc</i> collection of 2024 data	Welcome package for the CEPEJ National Correspondents CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)26rev
	f. Coordination with data collections for the European Commission (European Union Justice Scoreboard, Dashboard Western Balkans, Dashboard Eastern Partnership countries)	Reference documents Note on the evolution of the CEPEJ evaluation cycles CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)28rev
	g. Support to National correspondents and peer evaluation	List of question Evaluation cycles/Scoreboard/Dashboards <a href="#">CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)29</a>

		<p>General structure of the questionnaire  <a href="#">CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)</a><sup>30</sup> (English only)</p> <p>2024 European Judicial Systems CEPEJ  Evaluation Report</p> <p><a href="#">Scheme for evaluating European judicial  systems</a> – 2024 cycle  <a href="#">CEPEJ(2022)9rev1</a></p> <p>Explanatory note to the Evaluation Scheme –  2024 cycle  <a href="#">CEPEJ(2023)2</a></p>
<p><b>Cooperation with the European  Commission</b></p> <p><i>Renewal of the contract relating to the study  for the European Commission on the  functioning of judicial systems in the member  States of the European Union (Justice  Scoreboard)</i></p>		
4.		
		<b>Working document</b>
5.	<b>CEPEJ Working Groupe on work-life  balance (CEPEJ-GT-WLB)</b>	Ad hoc working group on work life balance CEPEJ(2025)1rev1
6.	<b>Any other business</b>	47 Meeting report of the CEPEJ-GT- EVAL CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2024)31

Annexe II  
List of participants / liste des participants

**MEMBERS**

<b>CROATIA / CROATIE</b>	<b>Martina VRDOLJAK</b> Head of department for statistics, analytic and strategic development of Judiciary, Directorate for organisation of Judiciary, Ministry of justice <b>Online</b>
<b>GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE</b>	<b>Simone KREß</b> Judge, Vice-President of the Regional Court of Cologne
<b>MALTA / MALTE</b>	<b>Joanne BATTISTINO</b> Senior Manager, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, The Law Courts
<b>SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE</b>	<b>Jaša VRABEC</b> Head of the Office for Public Relations Supreme Court, Chair of CEPEJ-GT-EVAL
<b>GREECE / GRECE</b>	<b>Victoria MERTIKOPOULOU</b> Advisor, EU & Competition, Regulatory, Compliance, Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm <b>Online</b>
<b>TÜRKİYE / TÜRKİYE</b>	<b>Seçkin KOÇER</b> Judge and Head of Department, General Directorate for Strategy Development, Ministry of Justice

**PRESIDENT OF THE CEPEJ**

<b>MALTA / MALTE</b>	<b>Francesco DEPASQUALE</b> The Honourable Mr Justice, Superior Courts, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs
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**SCIENTIFIC EXPERT**

<b>SWITZERLANDS / SUISSE</b>	<b>Christophe KOLLER</b> Researcher, Director ESEHA, Centre for counselling and comparative analysis
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**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>EUROPEAN EXPERTISE AND EXPERT INSTITUTE / INSTITUT EUROPEEN DE L'EXPERTISE ET DE L'EXPERT (EEEI)</b>	<b>Fabrizia BEMER</b> International Judicial Cooperation office - Court of Florence, Bureau de coopération judiciaire internationale - Cour de Florence (06/03)  <b>Jean-Raymond LEMAIRE Online</b> Président honoraire
<b>COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES / CONSEIL DES BARREAUX EUROPÉENS (CCBE)</b>	<b>Stéphanie ALVES Online</b> Conseiller juridique senior

## SECRETARIAT

### Department for Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation standard-setting activities

<b>Muriel DECOT</b> Executive Secretary of the CEPEJ / Secrétaire exécutive de la CEPEJ
<b>Christel SCHURRER</b> Secretary of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL / Secrétaire du CEPEJ-GT-EVAL
<b>Lidija NAUMOVSKA</b> Statistic coordinator / Coordinatrice des statistiques
<b>Federica VIAPIANA</b> Project manager (Dashboard Western Balkans) / Chef de projet (Tableau de bord des Balkans Occidentaux)
<b>Guergana LAZAROVA-DECHAUX Online</b> Lawyer / Juriste
<b>Oksana IAVORSKA Online</b> Lawyer / Juriste
<b>Emilija DEOLSKA Online</b> Legal officer / Juriste
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<b>Oxana GUTU Online</b> Project manager (Dashboard Eastern Partnership) / Chef de projet (Tableau de bord du partenariat oriental)
<b>Bakar JIKIA Online</b> Project manager (Dashboard Eastern Partnership) / Chef de projet (Tableau de bord du partenariat oriental)
<b>Tony VILELA Online</b> Statistician (Dashboard Eastern Partnership) / Statisticien (Tableau de bord du partenariat oriental)
<b>Sandrine LUTZ Online</b> CEPEJ assistant / Assistante de la CEPEJ