

1 April 2025

CEPEJ-Pilot Courts(2025)E/OJ/1

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

CEPEJ NETWORK OF PILOT COURTS

DRAFT AGENDA

18th meeting

France, Strasbourg

10 April 2025, 9.00 am – 17.30 pm

Meeting with English - French interpretation



The aim of this meeting is three-fold:

1. inform pilot courts about the CEPEJ tools recently adopted
2. gather feedback from pilot courts on the ongoing work of the CEPEJ
3. exchange of experiences among pilot courts on their practices

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The meeting will be organised **around thematic workshops** throughout the day. The participants will meet in **the plenary** session at the beginning and the end of the meeting. You will be able to attend the workshops according to your interest in the different themes. The French-English simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the plenary session and the workshops held in Room G03. The discussion in the two other workshops held in Room G05 will be provided in English.

PROGRAMME	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration of participants <i>Venue: Council of Europe, Agora building, Room G03</i>
9:30 – 10:30	Plenary session <u>Moderator:</u> Francesco Depasquale, President of the CEPEJ
9:30 – 9:45	Opening of the meeting • Gianluca Esposito, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe • Francesco Depasquale, President of the CEPEJ
9:45 – 10:30	Presentation of the work of the CEPEJ CEPEJ key developments in 2024 and priorities for 2025 ➤ Eva Konecna, Secretary of the Working group on judicial time management Trends identified in the Evaluation Report of European judicial systems ➤ Lidija Naumovska, Statistician Presentation of the Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and AI ➤ Daniel Schmidt, Secretary of the Working Group on Cyberjustice and AI Presentation of CEPEJ Resource Centre on backlog reduction practices ➤ Eva Konecna, Secretary of the Working group on judicial time management Crystal Scales of Justice Prize ➤ Louise Wies, Communication Officer <u>Reference documents:</u> ➤ Link to Special File on the CEPEJ Evaluation of European judicial systems ➤ Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and AI ➤ Resource Centre on Backlog Reduction Practices ➤ Crystal Scales of Justice Prize
10:30 - 11:00	End of the plenary session <i>Coffee break combined with a family photo session</i>

11:00 - 13:00 Room G03	Workshops 1 and 2 in parallel WORKSHOP 1: <i>How best to ensure work-life balance in the judiciary?</i> The CEPEJ has begun exploring work-life balance in the judiciary to develop a potential tool. Justice professionals face high workloads and stress, likely affecting their well-being and commitment to their mission. Balancing successfully work, family commitments and personal life remains challenging for justice professionals who face specific challenges that judicial authorities should address. Enhancing work-life balance has also become increasingly important in enhancing the attractiveness of judicial professions. The workshop aims to collect practices that would help develop the tool in question tailored to the judiciary. <u>Moderators:</u> • Sabine Matejka, President, District Court, Floridsdorf/Vienna, Austria • Clémence Bouquémont, Secretary of the Working Group on the Quality of Justice <u>Key points for discussion:</u> ➤ <i>What practices, specifically tailored to the judiciary, exist in your countries to ensure the balance between professional and personal life?</i> ➤ <i>Who would be the target groups for this tool?</i> ➤ <i>What other measures could be beneficial for courts that could be included in the future tool?</i>
Room G05	WORKSHOP 2: <i>What are the essentials for effective court management?</i> The CEPEJ has begun exploring management models, tools and strategies used in courts to identify effective practices for their optimal functioning. These practices may include management structures, resource allocation, financial oversight, and human resource management. The aim is to support member States in developing their court management policies. The pilot courts are invited to share experiences and tools they use and underline areas needing improvement for more effective court management. <u>Moderators:</u> • Manuel Rubio-Gullon, President, Tribunal, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France • Eva Konecna, Secretary of the Working Group on judicial time management <u>Key points for discussion:</u> ➤ <i>How is the management structure organised in your court? Who is responsible for management functions? Do you receive training on court management?</i> ➤ <i>What management tools and practices are currently implemented in your court? What specific tools do you use for human resource management and budgeting?</i> ➤ <i>Based on your experience, what additional tools would enhance court management at your level?</i>
13:00 - 14:30	End of the first workshop session <i>Lunch break</i>

14:30 – 17:00 Room G05	Workshops 3 and 5 in parallel WORKSHOP 3: What are the skills and competences for the digital workplace? The CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST is currently developing a « Technology » curriculum that should serve the member States in developing their legal education and training policies to ensure a successful transformation towards digitalised justice. Judicial services are increasingly delivered electronically, and AI tools are progressively deployed transforming procedures and working methods in courts, requiring a profound understanding of their functioning to ensure their safe and appropriate use in a judicial context. The pilot courts are invited to voice their individual needs and share existing measures. <u>Moderators:</u> • Jan Spoenle, judge, Regional Court, Stuttgart, Germany • Daniel Schmidt, Secretary of the Working Group on Cyberjustice and Artificial Intelligence <u>Key points for discussion:</u> ➤ <i>Do judges have the necessary knowledge, skills and competences to keep up with the digital transformation of justice?</i> ➤ <i>What do judges need to know, what are the essential competences and skills needed?</i> ➤ <i>How can the knowledge be best transferred, and skills and competences be developed?</i>
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break
Room G03	WORKSHOP 4: What are the steps to ensure access to justice? Despite continuous effort to implement legislation, policies and practices to promote access to justice, users frequently comment that justice remains inaccessible to some due to cost, complexity, lack of information, and professional advice and support and remote facilities. The CEPEJ-GT-QUAL is currently developing a Checklist for promoting access to justice to help policy makers and justice authorities to reflect on the extent to which they have taken all the steps necessary to ensure access to justice for all. The pilot courts are invited to share practices and underline areas needing improvement for broader access to justice. <u>Moderators:</u> • Vivien Whyte, Director of judicial services, Ministry of Justice, France • Clémence Bouquémont, Secretary of the Working Group on the Quality of Justice <u>Key points for discussion:</u> ➤ <i>What practices, specifically adopting a user-centered approach, exist in your court that have clearly enhanced the access to justice?</i> ➤ <i>What is the impact of digitalisation of justice on access to justice, in your country/court? Would you say it has improved or deteriorated access to justice?</i> ➤ <i>Are there any measures specifically targeting various vulnerable groups? Are judges and staff adequately trained to know how to support various vulnerable groups?</i>

17:00 – 17:30 Room G03	Concluding remarks • Francesco Depasquale, President of the CEPEJ
17:30	End of the second workshop session*

** A dinner (registration required) will be held at 19:30 at the restaurant La Grande Dame (5 rue Mercière, 67000 Strasbourg), at the expense of each participant.*