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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

European Day of Justice 2020

**Report of events organised in the
Council of Europe member States**

1. Objectives

The European Day of Justice is celebrated every year around 25 October. It is jointly organised by the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The aims of this Day is to bring justice closer to citizens, increase their trust in their judicial system, inform them of their rights and to promote the work of the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of justice, through simulation of procedures and information sessions.

This day is open to all European citizens, students and people who work in the field of justice.

Due to the exceptional circumstances, the member States of the Council of Europe were invited to organise mainly online events to make justice more accessible.

17 member States mobilised this year by organising various events such as free legal aid to citizens on their rights, open doors of courts and notarial chambers, information sessions for younger people and awareness raising campaigns, the provision of social platforms to ask questions, publications of books, projections of movies, online quizzes, a painting competition on how younger people perceive the court, conferences for justice professionals, etc.

2. Resources, support and visibility by the Council of Europe and the European Commission

- The European Commission, jointly with the CEPEJ of the Council of Europe, provided customisable posters that were available to be downloaded in 23 languages on the CEPEJ website.
- The CEPEJ published the programmes of events of all participating countries.
- Each event was promoted on the CEPEJ social media platforms. The celebration of the day was promoted on the Council of Europe's social media accounts and reached more than 120 000 people.
- Ms Hanne Juncher, Head of Division for the Justice and Legal Co-operation Department, explained the aim of the European day of Justice in a small movie and in which way it was celebrated differently in 2020.

➤ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/events/european-day-of-justice>

3. Summary

As in the 2019 edition of the European Day of Justice, the Council of the Notaries of the European Union (CNUE) organised Open days of the "Notaries of Europe" which took place around the European day of Justice (25 October 2020).

In total, 23 events were organised in 17 different countries. Some events even lasted a whole week (in Estonia for example). A statistical overview of the events organised, by country, since 2003 appears in Appendix I.

The public concerned by the events included citizens, justice professionals, law students, students and pupils from elementary schools and politicians.

4. Overview of the list of events:

Belgium

Facebook Live on "How do I prepare my estate?"

[Notaire.be](https://www.notaire.be) hosted a Facebook Live on 26 October 2020 in French, and on 28 October in Dutch. A notary answered all questions live.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Cantonal Court in Novi Travnik published a power point presentation on the court website on 30 October 2020 with a review of promotional bulletins <https://ksud-novitrvnik.pravosudje.ba/>

Power point presentation and other useful contents were delivered on CDs to elementary and secondary schools in the Central Bosnia Canton. This allowed young students, with the help of their teachers, to get acquainted with the activities of this court, and how it related to the celebration of the European Day of Justice within the capacity of the European network of pilot courts.

Denmark

The Courts of Denmark and the Danish Court Administration launched a virtual quiz – www.domstolsdysten.dk on 23 October 2020. The purpose of the quiz was to raise awareness about the work and functions of the courts and about their role in society.

Estonia

Estonian courts celebrated the Administration of Justice Week at the beginning of October, which was held for the eighth time this year. The aim of the week was to introduce the work of the courts to the public and to bring justice closer to the people. This year, the main focus of the events was on young people.

The courts organised, in cooperation with the prosecutor's office, a video campaign which showed, using three real stories, how easily a young person could end up in court out of ignorance or boldness and face life with a criminal record. In the videos, judges, prosecutors and young people themselves described cases of violence, identity theft on social media, and the dealing and delivery of drugs.

<https://www.facebook.com/eestikohtud/videos/950066245483643>

In cooperation with the non-profit association Back to School the judges gave guest e-lessons to students from first to last grade.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDcYRv6xKu0&t=618s>

Successful historical excursions "In the Footsteps of Justice" took place in two major Estonian cities, in Tallinn and Tartu. Young people were also able to solve the crossword puzzle on justice through social media and to participate in the game "Which profession would suit you in court". A sample court hearing was held for students currently studying to become court clerks.

[https://app.ex.co/stories/annettk11/-igusem-istmise-n-dala-](https://app.ex.co/stories/annettk11/-igusem-istmise-n-dala-viktoriin?fbclid=IwAR2B7PDsUm09UmRCZk1EdmICanqhBaeBW-xtGRsy4Rtq10_AIAtfhJs7bxk)

[viktoriin?fbclid=IwAR2B7PDsUm09UmRCZk1EdmICanqhBaeBW-xtGRsy4Rtq10_AIAtfhJs7bxk](https://app.ex.co/stories/annettk11/-igusem-istmise-n-dala-viktoriin?fbclid=IwAR2B7PDsUm09UmRCZk1EdmICanqhBaeBW-xtGRsy4Rtq10_AIAtfhJs7bxk)

Promotion of books where the work of judges or justice plays a central role!

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=oa.740041566544337&type=3>

Several courts organized a step-count competition - the goal was to gather, in a week, the number of steps that would allow you to reach the European Court of Justice from your home country!

An English version of the video introducing the chapter of the courts, made within the framework of the celebration of the 100th birthday of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia, was prepared especially for the celebration of the European Day of Justice.

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AiqWaTJVdo5_kuh4ihXE10qHF4HrSA?e=6Aolro

Georgia

An online conference entitled "New reality of Artificial intelligence in Justice" was organized on 22 October 2020.

Germany

An on-site, or via streaming, conference on "Providing Legal Certainty under Exceptional Circumstances" was organised on 2 November 2020. A prototype developed by the Bundesnotarkammer for the use of blockchain technology in the notarial work environment was also presented.

Italy

The European Day of Justice 2020 was celebrated on 25 October at the court in Pisa, in collaboration with the decentralised configuration of the magistrates of the District of Florence, the Council of the Bar Association of Pisa, the National Observatory on Family Law, and the Civil Chamber of Pisa.

"This Constitution is a show", is a digital version of the play performed in schools for students and in theatres for a generic audience. During the performance, notaries described the Italian Constitution to prisoners as if it were a novel, focusing on the articles reserved to detention and prisoners' rights. The recorded performance was streamed in 6 Italian prisons simultaneously on 25 October.

A decentralised training of magistrates was organised by the Court of Pisa in the District of Florence on 27th October 2020 on "Civil justice: lessons learned from the pandemic and perspectives for the future".

A webinar entitled "The protection of maintenance claims in Europe - The state of play of EU rules on cross-border recovery" was organised on 27 October 2020. The online portal "Aldricus" (<https://aldricus.giustizia.it/>) was launched, where Italian legal professionals can find all kind of information on judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, also through a Blog which informs about developments in the field.

Lithuania

People benefited from free judicial consultations from notaries all over Lithuania on 26 October 2020.

Malta

An interactive webinar on practical aspects of matrimonial regimes and registered partnerships within the framework of Reg. EU2016/1103 and 2016/1104 was organised on 29 October 2020.

North Macedonia

The public awareness campaign on free legal aid was launched on 26 October 2020 with the participation of the Minister of Justice of North-Macedonia.

Poland

The Polish notaries organised "The Open Day of the Notary - Mind your own business. Protect your estate. Talk to a notary" on 28 November 2020. The regional notarial chambers answered questions from the general public by telephone and on the Internet.

Romania

The National Union of Public Notaries of Romania organised individual sessions for each notary chamber, online or in person, on the Open Day of the Notarial Chambers of Romania, on 25 October 2020.

The Netherlands

An online webinar for international couples via zoom, with focus on wedding contracts, registered partnerships and the buying of property. There was the possibility of asking questions on 23 October 2020.

The Digital Open Day "Alle Amsterdamse Akten" was organized on 31 October 2020: stories of the notaries in Amsterdam between 1578 -1915, on the site of the Amsterdam city archives.

Serbia

An online conference "Civil Justice in South Eastern European - local judiciaries reflected by the CEPEJ report 2020" was organised on 5 November 2020. The findings of the report were presented and reflected by discussions such as "Does the budget of courts depend on the wealth of the country?"; "Do small disputes still have their place before the courts?"; and "What is the most efficient level of instance in Europe?".

The Council of Europe Office in Belgrade and the EU Delegation in Serbia, hosted an exchange with Judge Dragomir Milojević, Acting President of the Supreme Court of Cassation and President of the High Judicial Council (HJC) and peer-elected members of the HJC on 23 October 2020. The discussions were focused on the joint plans of the European Union and the Council of Europe, aiming at strengthening the independence and efficiency of the judiciary, in co-operation and co-ordination with the highest representatives of the Serbian judicial branch.

Slovak Republic

An open Day of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic was organized on 4 September 2020 through a video. Along with the video, the Constitutional Court also offered the general public a [film entitled "What if there were no constitution, Constitutional Court and justice"](#) with statements by children and young people on various topics in the field of justice.

The Chancellery of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic organised a [literary and art competition for elementary school pupils and students of secondary and grammar schools](#).

Slovenia

All notary offices in Slovenia had Online Open Days of notary offices on 23 October 2020.

Slovenian notaries raised awareness among citizens about their rights under civil law, with special attention to wills, their content, and their storage.

A virtual ceremonial event was held during which a short documentary about the history of the notariat in Slovenia was been premiered.

Informative contents, Conclusion of the pilot project on specific user-oriented training for judges and court staff were published on 25 October 2020 <https://nasodiscu.si>. Pilot trainings for judges (rhetoric and psychology in the court-

room) and court staff (professional conduct) were concluded with the initiative to include these topics in regular trainings.

Spain

A series of events, highlighting the importance of collaboration and international cooperation to meet the challenges of Justice in this new decade, were organised on 15 October, 21 October, 22 October, 23 October and 25 October 2020.

5. Conclusions

Since the creation of the European Day of Justice by the Council of Europe and the European Commission, among those countries that have organised events, by year Germany has shown to be the most dynamic (17 events since the beginning, which means every year except in 2005), followed by Italy (16 events since the beginning, which means every year except in 2004 and 2005) and by Bosnia and Herzegovina (14).

Since 2016, the European Day of Justice has gained increasing traction, with the number of countries organising events to bring justice closer to their citizens, rising year on year.

APPENDIX I : EDJ participation rate since its creation (2003)

| Country | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | TOTAL since 2003 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Armenia | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Austria | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 9 |
| Azerbaijan | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| Belgium | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| Croatia | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 9 |
| Cyprus | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 7 |
| Czech Republic | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 7 |
| Denmark | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Estonia | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Finland | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| North Macedonia | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 6 |
| France | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 10 |
| Germany | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 17 |
| Georgia | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Greece | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Hungary | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Ireland | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Italy | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Latvia | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Lithuania | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 9 |
| Luxembourg | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Malta | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 7 |
| Norway | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 3 |
| Republic of Moldova | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 7 |
| The Netherlands | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Poland | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Portugal | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 5 |
| Romania | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 10 |

APPENDIX I : EDJ participation rate since its creation (2003)

| Country | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | TOTAL since 2003 | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|----|
| Serbia | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 6 | |
| Slovenia | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Slovak Republic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | |
| Spain | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | |
| Sweden | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Switzerland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Turkey | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Ukraine | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| United Kingdom | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 5 | |
| TOTAL COUNTRIES | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 18 | 17 | | |