



Strasbourg, 16 November 2022

CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2022)10

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

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

43rd meeting

19-21 October 2022

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 43rd meeting on 19 and 21 October 2022, under the chairmanship of Jaša Vrabec (Slovenia). The meeting was organised in hybrid mode, in Strasbourg and by videoconference.
2. The agenda and the list of participants of the meeting can be found in Annexes I and II respectively of this report.

II. EUROPEAN JUDICIAL SYSTEMS CEPEJ EVALUATION REPORT 2022 (2020 DATA)

3. The Secretariat informs the Group of the publication of the European judicial systems CEPEJ Evaluation report 2022 on 5 October 2022 after its presentation to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.
4. It also points out that communication on the report focused on social media networks. The report will be raised again on 3 November 2022 by the President of the CEPEJ, Ramin Garagurbanli, during his exchange of views with the Committee of Ministers.
5. The members of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL report on the reception of the report in their countries and the promotion of it. Some experts (Greece, France) also mention how the report can influence reforms at national level.
6. The Working Group discusses the possibility of preparing a report on an annual basis. Some members suggested reducing the questionnaire or focusing more on efficiency-related data. The time needed for the data collection process, the need to maintain the quality of the data through quality control, the lack of availability of data for some countries and the added value of the analyses accompanying the data were all mentioned as difficulties in preparing a report in a shorter time frame than two years.

III. SPECIFIC STUDY ON THE JUDICIAL PROFESSIONALS (2020 DATA)

7. The International Union of Judicial Officers (UIHJ), the Notaries of Europe (CNUE) and the European Expert and Expertise Institute (EEEI) received the data during the summer and undertook to draft, as for the previous cycles, a specific study which will be submitted for approval to the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL and then published on the CEPEJ website.

IV. PREPARATION OF THE 2024 EVALUATION CYCLE (2022 DATA)

- a. *Preparation of the questionnaire (including contributions from the experts of CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST on the ICT part)*
8. The relevance of the questions and the possible evaluation of the questionnaire by external experts, in whole or in part, were discussed.
 9. The Secretariat presents to the Working Group the proposed changes (additions, deletions, or modifications) on all chapters of the questionnaire, taking into account the feedback from the National Correspondents during the quality control and the 16th meeting of the National Correspondents:
 - some questions are deleted, especially when data have not been available for several years;
 - questions on juveniles, performance and evaluation, court staff, recruitment of judges and prosecutors, status of prosecutors, training and information and communication technologies are modified;
 - gender equality questions, in coordination with the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL and the Council of Europe's Division for Gender equality, should also be reviewed.

b. Preparation of the Explanatory Note

10. The Working Group mandates the Secretariat to prepare a draft explanatory note to accompany the questionnaire, based in particular on the Group's discussions on the new questions and feedback from national correspondents on possible difficulties with certain questions.

c. Timetable of the preparation of the report

11. The Working Group agreed to meet in November to discuss, among other things, the part of the questionnaire relating to the use of information technology in the courts.
12. The Secretariat will then finalise the draft questionnaire and explanatory note for the 2024 cycle (2022 data) for presentation to the CEPEJ plenary meeting on 6-7 December 2022.
13. The questionnaire is expected to be opened in March 2023, following the timetable of the previous evaluation cycle.

d. Data collection support and peer review evaluation

14. The Secretariat informed the Group about the difficulties in organising peer reviews, due to the lack of candidate countries for such reviews. A new format was proposed to two countries (Ireland and Greece) to provide Secretariat support for the data collection and quality control process. Greece responded positively to this proposal from the Secretariat and a short support mission will be organised before the end of the year.

V. PREPARATION OF THE 16TH CEPEJ NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS MEETING (20 OCTOBER)

15. The Working Group thanks all CEPEJ national correspondents for their involvement in the evaluation process, recalling that their contribution is essential to the successful completion of the report.
16. A new format is proposed for the first time for this meeting which will be organised in a first part in the form of three interactive workshops devoted to (i) the role of the CEPEJ national correspondents, (ii) advice and feedback for a better use of CEPEJ-STAT and CEPEJ-COLLECT and (iii) a *brainstorming* on the questionnaire and the results.
17. A second part of the meeting, which can also be followed online, will allow, after a presentation of the last evaluation report (2022 cycle, 2020 data) to encourage exchanges between national correspondents on good practices in the organisation of national data collection for the CEPEJ.

VI. COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

a. Study for the European Commission on the functioning of judicial systems in the Member States of the European Union (Justice Scoreboard)

18. The data collection and quality control process for the 2021 data has started for all participating countries. Only one Member State had not provided data by the time of the meeting. However, the Secretariat is in close contact with the national correspondent of this country.
19. The deadlines for submission of the CEPEJ study remain the same as for the previous cycle: the first part composed of comparative tables and comments from the States for 8 indicators will be sent to the European Commission on 10 December. The country profiles will be sent to the European Commission mid-January.

b. Dashboard Western Balkans

20. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that the 3rd round of data collection has been completed. The comparative tables and graphs (part 1) as well as the beneficiaries profiles (part 2) were sent to the European Commission in accordance with the agreed timetable. This year,

the general overviews of the comparative part have been further condensed at the request of the European Commission.

21. The Commission published the Enlargement Package reports in October and this year it was decided to use CEPEJ data as the main source of information on the efficiency of justice, which the Working Group welcomes.
22. The Secretariat reports that a meeting was held in Dürres (Albania) on 23 September, with a view to improving data collection on judicial training. Another workshop is planned for the end of the year, where the results of the data collection will be presented and the use of the data in the countries will be discussed.
23. Data collection for the 4th cycle covering 2022 data will start in October.

c. Dashboard Eastern Partnership countries

24. The Secretariat reported that the first round of data collection had been completed and welcomed the good level of commitment from the project correspondents. The first report has been sent to the European Commission. It consists of comparative tables and graphs (part 1), beneficiary profiles (part 2) and a condensed version of the main results and analysis (part 3).
25. For the new cycle, the European Commission has requested that two new questions be added, as regards instructions to a prosecutor to prosecute or not, and case reallocations.
26. This new data collection should be opened as soon as possible. It will cover data from 2021.

VII. TRAINING ON CEPEJ EVALUATION TOOLS - HELP MODULE

27. The CEPEJ Secretariat presented the state of progress of the work and mentioned that the draft module on the evaluation of judicial systems, prepared by the President of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL, Jaša Vrabec, must be updated with the most recent data of the 2022 European judicial systems Evaluation report.

1.	Adoption of the agenda	
2.	Information by the members of the Working Group and the Secretariat	
3.	European judicial systems CEPEJ Evaluation Report 2022 (2020 data) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part 1, Analyses of trends - Part 2, Country profiles - CEPEJ-STAT 	Reference document European judicial systems CEPEJ Evaluation Report 2022 Part 1 / Part 2
4.	Specific Study on the judicial professionals (2020 data)	
5.	Preparation of the 2024 evaluation cycle (2022 data) a. Preparation of the questionnaire (Including contributions from the experts of the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST on the ICT part) b. Preparation of the Explanatory Note c. Timetable of the preparation of the Report d. Data collection support and peer evaluation	Working document Scheme for evaluating European judicial systems CEPEJ-GT-EVAL(2022)14 (Under preparation) Reference document Explanatory Note, 2022 cycle CEPEJ(2020)18rev
6.	Preparation of the 16th CEPEJ National correspondents meeting (20 October)	Working document Agenda of CN meeting
7.	Cooperation with the European Commission a. Study for the European Commission on the functioning of judicial systems in the member States of the European Union (Justice Scoreboard) b. Dashboard Western Balkans c. Dashboard Eastern Partnership countries	
8.	Training on CEPEJ evaluation tools – HELP module	
9.	Any other business	42nd meeting report of the Working Group on evaluation of judicial systems CEPEJ-GT-EVAL (2022)1

List of participants / Liste de participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

CROATIA / CROATIE	Ms Martina VRDOLJAK Head of the Department of Statistics, Analytics and Strategic Development of the Judiciary, Directorate for organisation of Judiciary, Ministry of Justice (online)
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE (online)	Ms Simone KRESS Judge, Vice-President of the Tribunal in Cologne (online)
MALTA / MALTE (online)	Ms Joanne BATTISTINO Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Law Courts (online)
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE	Mr Jaša VRABEC Head of the Office for Court Management Development, Supreme Court
SPAIN / SPAIN	Mr Juan Fernando ARMENGOT IBORRA Advisor, Directorate General for International Legal Cooperation and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Justice
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	Mr Christophe KOLLER Researcher, Director ESEHA, Centre for counselling and comparative analysis

PRESIDENT OF THE CEPEJ / PRESIDENT DE LA CEPEJ

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN	Mr Ramin GARAGURBANLI Judge, Criminal Division of the Baku Court of Appeal, Head of the working group on e-Court System, Ministry of Justice
---------------------------------	--

SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS / EXPERTS SCIENTIFIQUES

GREECE / GREECE	Ms Victoria MERTIKOPOULOU Advisor, EU and Competition, Regulatory, Compliance, Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm (online)
FRANCE / FRANCE	Ms Sophie VAN PUYVELDE Adjointe au sous-directeur de la statistique et des études, Service de l'expertise et de la modernisation, Secrétariat général du ministère de la justice, France

PARTICIPANTS / PARTICIPANTS

EUROPEAN EXPERTISE AND EXPERT INSTITUTE / INSTITUT EUROPEEN DE L'EXPERTISE ET DE L'EXPERT (EEEI)	Mr Benoit de CLERCK Co-president of the EEEI
---	--

SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT**Justice and Legal Co-operation Department / Service de la Coopération judiciaire et juridique**
DGI - CEPEJ

Ms Christel SCHURRER Secretary of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL / <i>Secrétaire du CEPEJ-GT-EVAL</i>
Ms Lidija NAUMOVSKA Statistic coordinator/ <i>Coordinatrice des statistiques</i>
Mr Milan NIKOLIC Administrator / <i>Administrateur</i>
Ms Guergana LAZAROVA-DECHAUX Legal officer / <i>Juriste</i>
Ms Sabina STANCU Legal officer / <i>Juriste</i>
Ms Federica VIAPIANA Project manager (Dashboard Western Balkans) / <i>Chef de projet (Tableau de bord des Balkans Occidentaux)</i>
Ms Daniela ZOL Statistician (Dashboard Western Balkans) / <i>Statisticienne (Tableau de bord des Balkans Occidentaux)</i>
Ms Domitille GAUTIER DE CHARNACE Project manager (Dashboard Eastern Partnership) / <i>Chef de projet (Tableau de bord du partenariat oriental)</i>
Ms Oxana GUTU Project manager (Dashboard Eastern Partnership) / <i>Chef de projet (Tableau de bord du partenariat oriental)</i>
Mr Tony VILELA Statistician (Dashboard Eastern Partnership) / <i>Statisticien (Tableau de bord du partenariat oriental)</i>
Ms Ioana VOELKEL <i>Principal Assistant</i>