Co-funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe

cepej

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice

Commission européenne pour l'efficacité de la justice

Strasbourg, 12/11/2026

CEPEJ(2026)4REV2
Part 2

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

Horizontal Facility III: Towards a better evaluation of the results of judicial reform efforts in the Western Balkans

"Dashboard Western Balkans"

Data collection: 2025

Report prepared by the CEPEJ for the attention of the European Commission

Part 2 - Beneficiary profile - North Macedonia

Generated on 10/06/2026 16:31

This report was produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Council of Europe. The reproduction of extracts (up to 500 words) is authorised, except for commercial purposes as long as the integrity of the text is preserved, the excerpt is not used out of context, does not provide incomplete information or does not otherwise mislead the reader as to the nature, scope or content of the text. The source text must always be acknowledged as follows “© Council of Europe, year of the publication”. All other requests concerning the reproduction/translation of all or part of the document, should be addressed to the Publications and Visual Identity Division, Council of Europe (F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex or publishing@coe.int). All other correspondence concerning this document should be addressed to the CoE - DG1 - CEPEJ,1 Quai Jacoutôt, 67000 Strasbourg Cedex, France, Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 20 00 E-mail: Horizontal.Facility@coe.int
© Council of Europe 2026. All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union under conditions.

Executive Summary - North Macedonia in 2025

Population in 2025



GDP per capita in 2025



Average annual salary in 2025



€13 259

WB Average: €13 849

Judicial organisation

The judicial system of North Macedonia is organised around two parallel court structures: the ordinary court system and the administrative court system. In 2025, the country had 34 courts as legal entities and 38 geographic locations, corresponding to 1,9 and 2,1 courts per 100 000 inhabitants respectively, both below the Western Balkans averages. The ordinary court system consists of 27 first instance courts, 4 Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court, while administrative justice is entrusted to the Administrative Court and the Higher Administrative Court. Specialisation is mainly ensured through specialised chambers and judges, whereas specialised courts exist only in the field of administrative justice.

Budget

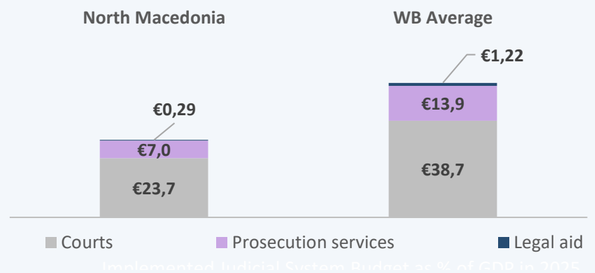
North Macedonia allocated €56,4 million to its judicial system in 2025, corresponding to €31,0 per inhabitant and 0,36% of GDP, both below the Western Balkans averages (€53,8 and 0,51% respectively). Despite remaining below regional levels, the judicial system budget increased by 4,6% compared to 2024 and by 47,3% compared to 2019. The growth was particularly marked for courts (+55,8% since 2019), while expenditure for legal aid rose substantially in 2025 due to the increasing costs of mandatory legal representation in criminal proceedings.

Legal Aid

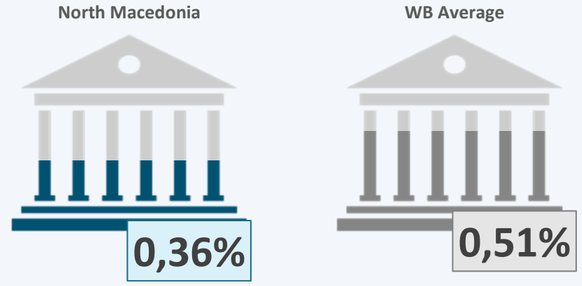
North Macedonia operates a dual free legal aid system, combining legal aid provided by courts under procedural laws and a separate system managed by the Ministry of Justice through the Department for Free Legal Aid. The latter provides both primary legal aid, accessible to all interested persons, and secondary legal aid for persons who fulfil financial eligibility criteria and whose requests are considered justified. In 2025, the implemented legal aid budget amounted to €533 952 (€0,29 per inhabitant), which remains below the Western Balkans median (€0,38 per inhabitant). A total of 7 019 legal aid cases were granted during the year, corresponding to 0,39 cases per 100 inhabitants, slightly above the regional median.

Budget of the Judicial System

Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant in 2025

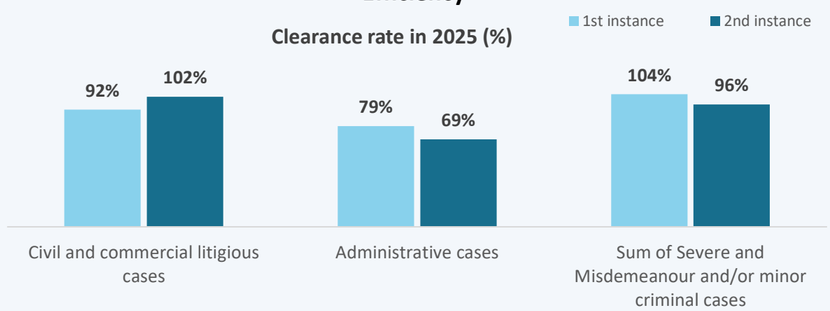


Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP in 2025

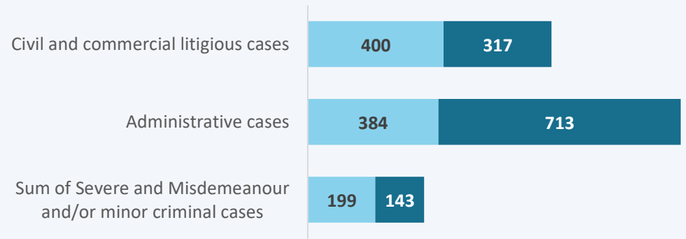


Efficiency

Clearance rate in 2025 (%)



Disposition time in 2025 (days)



Efficiency**

Throughout the period 2019–2025, the performance of North Macedonian courts varied considerably across case categories and court instances. Civil and commercial litigious cases showed a gradual deterioration, with the Disposition Time (DT) increasing at both first and second instance and the Clearance Rate (CR) remaining below 100% in most years. In 2025, the DT reached 400 days at first instance and 317 days at second instance.

Administrative cases recorded the most significant deterioration. While the first instance courts maintained CRs close to or above 100% in most years, the DT increased from 235 days in 2019 to 384 days in 2025. In the second instance, the situation worsened considerably: the DT rose from 188 days in 2019 to 713 days in 2025, while the CR fell to 69%. According to the authorities, this trend is linked to the continuous increase in incoming cases and may also reflect the persistent reduction in the number of judges over recent years.

Criminal cases displayed a more stable performance throughout the period. Clearance Rates remained close to, and in several years above, 100%, while Disposition Times stayed comparatively low. In 2025, the DT amounted to 199 days at first instance and 143 days at second instance, both below the WB Average.

Public prosecution

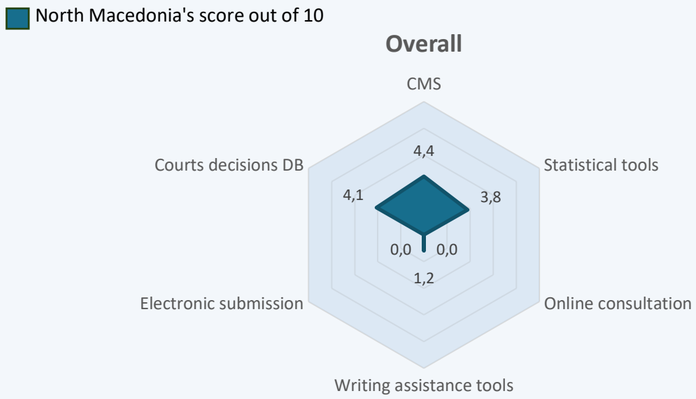
In 2025, the public prosecution services in North Macedonia received 1,4 incoming first instance criminal cases per 100 inhabitants, processed 1,2 cases per 100 inhabitants, and had 0,6 cases per 100 inhabitants pending at the end of the year. The ratio of the number of processed cases to the number of incoming cases was 1,01, indicating a balanced caseflow. Between 2023 and 2025, the number of incoming cases increased markedly, from 0,94 to 1,41 per 100 inhabitants. In 2025, 52% of processed cases were brought to court, while 47% were discontinued during the reference year. Please note that the data are reported by perpetrator and not by case.

**The CEPEJ has developed two indicators to measure court's performance: clearance rate and disposition time.

Clearance Rate (CR) is the ratio obtained by dividing the number of resolved cases by the number of incoming cases in a given period, expressed as a percentage. It demonstrates how the court or the judicial system is coping with the in-flow of cases and allows comparison between systems regardless of their differences and individual characteristics. Its key value is 100%. A value below 100% means that the courts were not able to solve all the cases they received and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases increases. A CR above 100% means that the courts have resolved more cases than they received (they have resolved all the incoming cases and part of the pending cases) and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases decreases.

Disposition Time (DT) is the indicator that calculates time necessary for a pending case to be resolved and estimates the lengths of proceedings in days. It is a ratio between the

ICT Deployment indices (scale 0-10)



The six ICT deployment indices (CMS, Courts decisions DB, Statistical tools, Writing assistance tools, electronic submission and online consultation) range from 0 to 10 points. Their calculation is based on the features and on deployment rates reported. The methodology for calculation provides points for each feature in each case matter. They are summarised and multiplied by the deployment rate as a weight. In this way, if the system is not fully deployed, the value is decreased even if all features are existing.

ICT Tools

In 2025, North Macedonia continued to rely on a well-established Case Management System (ACCMIS), fully deployed across all case categories and providing functionalities such as automatic case allocation, case weighting, electronic transfer of files between court instances, anonymisation of decisions, electronic signatures and advanced search tools. Court decisions are published online across all court instances, with automatic and manual anonymisation, free public access and advanced search functionalities. Statistical tools are integrated with the CMS and provide real-time reporting on caseflow and judicial workload. By contrast, writing assistance remains limited to document templates, while no electronic submission or online consultation services for court cases are currently available. In 2026, an EU-funded project was launched to further digitalise the judiciary, including the development of new case management systems for prosecution offices and improvements to cybersecurity and IT management.

Training

The total budget for training of judges and prosecutors in North Macedonia amounted to €0,67 per inhabitant in 2025, below the WB Average (€0,88). Compared to 2024, the budget decreased by 39,2%, mainly because no new generation of initial training was organised. Nevertheless, 3 708 participants, including 1 807 judges and 916 prosecutors, attended 182 live training sessions. Judges participated on average in 4,3 trainings and prosecutors in 5,0 trainings, both above the WB Average. No internet-based training was provided by the Academy, although judges and prosecutors completed six online courses offered by other institutions such as HELP, EJTN and the UN. Compulsory in-service training remains in place, with a minimum of two training days per year and disciplinary consequences for judges and prosecutors who fail to comply.

ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)

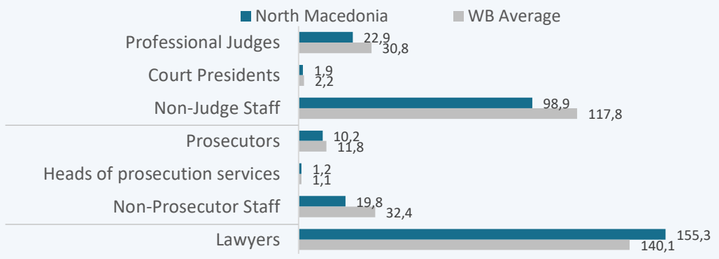
Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are well established in North Macedonia, with mediation, arbitration and conciliation all available. In 2025, the number of accredited mediators reached 2,5 per 100 000 inhabitants, remaining well below the WB median of 6,0. Court-related mediation is mandatory before or instead of court proceedings in certain cases, including commercial disputes up to approximately €15 000. In total, parties agreed to start mediation in 233 cases, mostly civil and commercial disputes, while 42 cases ended with a settlement agreement. Legal aid for court-related mediation is not available. Arbitration has existed since 1993 and is mainly used in commercial disputes through the Permanent Court of Arbitration within the Economic Chamber.

ECHR

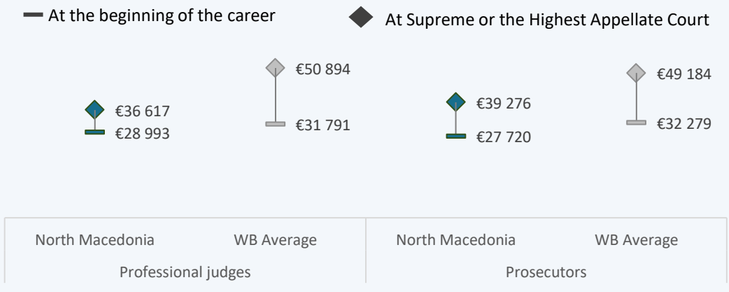
In 2025, the number of applications allocated to a judicial formation for North Macedonia decreased to 233, compared to 328 in 2024. The ECtHR delivered 6 judgments finding at least one violation, down from 10 in the previous two years. Of these, 2 concerned the right to a fair trial under Article 6 and 1 related to non-enforcement of judicial decisions. North

Professionals of Justice

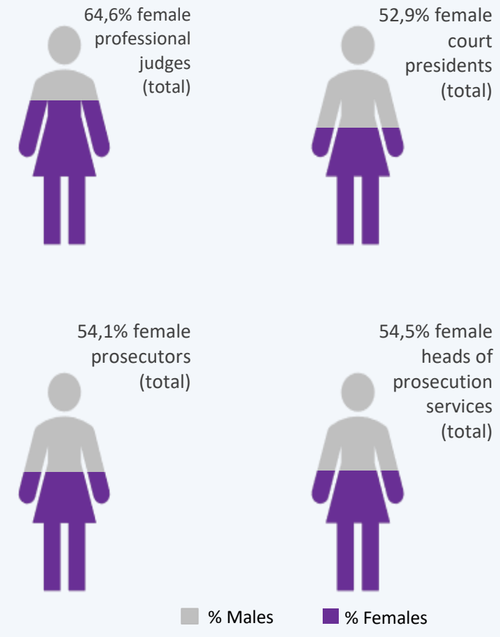
Total number of professionals per 100 000 inhabitants in 2025



Gross annual salaries of professional judges and prosecutors at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2025 (€)



Gender Balance



Professionals and gender balance

North Macedonia continues to have fewer justice professionals than the regional average. In 2025, the country counted 22,9 professional judges and 10,2 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants, compared to WB averages of 30,8 and 11,8 respectively. The number of judges has remained on a downward trend since 2019 (-4%), mainly due to retirements and the lengthy recruitment process through the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, while the number of prosecutors increased by 11% over the same period.

The number of non-judge staff remained below the regional average (98,9 vs 117,8 per 100 000 inhabitants), although the ratio of non-judge staff per judge was relatively high (4,3 compared to the WB average of 3,8). Similarly, North Macedonia had fewer non-prosecutor staff than the regional average (19,8 vs 32,4 per 100 000 inhabitants). Lawyers represented the only category above the regional average, reaching 155,3 per 100 000 inhabitants against a WB average of 140,1.

Women represented the majority of professional judges (64,6%), prosecutors (54,1%), court presidents (52,9%) and heads of prosecution services (54,5%). Female representation among lawyers remained below parity at 43%, although still above the WB average of 38,2%.

Reforms

North Macedonia has undertaken wide-ranging justice sector reforms, including the adoption of the new Law on Judicial Council (in force since January 2026), which introduces clearer procedures for electing and dismissing Council members, strengthens transparency, and defines new standards for disciplinary responsibility and appeals in relation to judges and court presidents. Reforms under discussion also include harmonization and optimization of the court network, the role of lay judges, and improved court efficiency. Draft amendments to the Law on Public Prosecution and the Law on the Council of Public Prosecutors aim to reinforce prosecutors' independence, accountability, and selection criteria, as well as fair trial guarantees in disciplinary proceedings. The Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors is being revised to clarify institutional responsibilities, introduce merit-based training admissions, and enhance continuous professional training. Planned amendments to the Law on Court Budget are intended to strengthen the financial independence and management autonomy of the judiciary, with these reforms proceeding in coordination with broader justice system changes.

Kosovo is not included in the calculation of summary statistics*

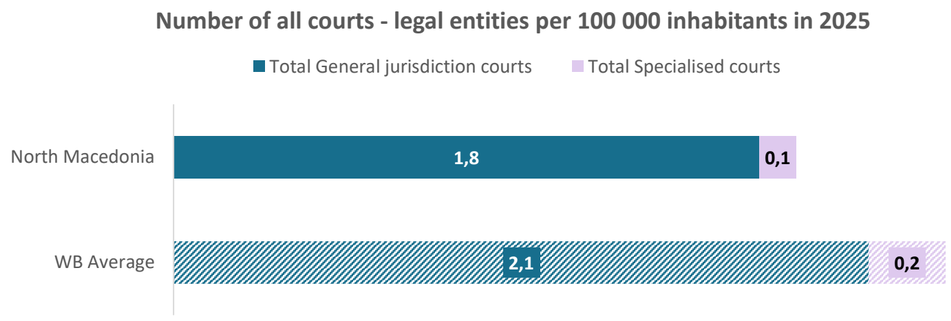
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

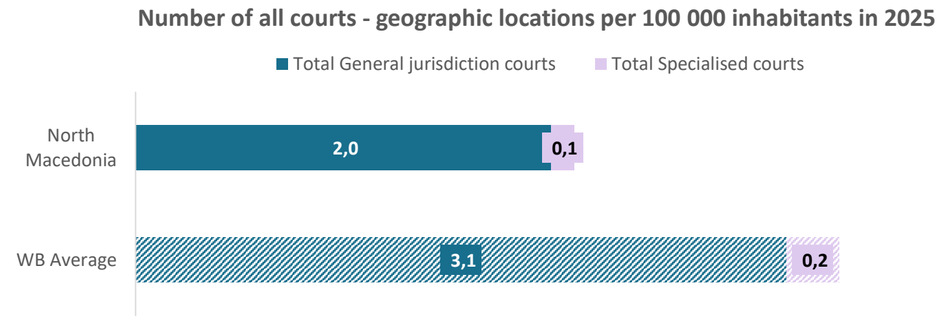
Judicial organisation in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 2.0)

The judicial system of North Macedonia is organised around two parallel court structures: the ordinary court system and the administrative court system. The ordinary court system consists of 27 basic courts acting as courts of first instance, four Courts of Appeal (Bitola, Gostivar, Skopje and Shtip) and the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia as the highest judicial authority. Within the first-instance level, civil and criminal cases in the capital are handled by separate courts, namely the Basic Civil Court Skopje and the Basic Criminal Court Skopje, while the remaining basic courts exercise either basic or extended jurisdiction depending on their competences. Administrative justice is entrusted to a separate two-tier structure composed of the Administrative Court and the Higher Administrative Court, which review disputes involving public authorities.

• Number of courts - legal entities

		Number of courts - legal entities in 2025			Number of courts - geographic locations in 2025		
		Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants	Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total number of all court (1 + 2)		34	1,9	2,3	38	2,1	3,3
General jurisdiction	Total General jurisdiction courts (1)	32	1,8	2,1	36	2,0	3,1
	1st instance	27	1,5	1,6	31	1,7	2,6
	2nd instance	4	0,2	0,4	4	0,2	0,4
	Highest instance	1	0,1	0,1	1	0,1	0,1
Specialised courts	Total Specialised courts (2)	2	0,1	0,2	2	0,1	0,2
	1st instance	1	0,1	0,2	1	0,1	0,2
	2nd instance	1	0,1	0,0	1	0,1	0,0
	Highest instance	NAP	NAP	-	NAP	NAP	-





In addition to established basic courts presented under column Legal entities, there are four court departments in the following cities Demir Hisar, Valandovo, Makedonski Brod and Probishtip.

Specialised first instance courts: Administrative court
Specialised second instance court: High Administrative Court

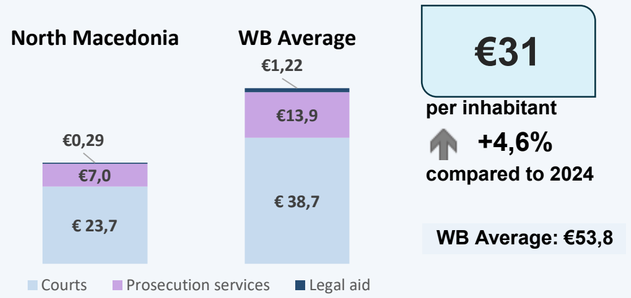
• Specialised courts

Areas of law concerned by the specialisation in 2025	Specialised courts (legal entities)	Specialised chambers and/or judges
Commercial and insolvency		✓
Labour		✓
Family		✓
Rent and tenancies		
Enforcement of criminal sanctions		✓
Administrative	✓	✓
Juvenile		✓
Domestic violence		
Economic crime		
Corruption		✓
Organised crime/terrorism		✓
Cybercrime and internet related disputes		
Environment		
Immigration/asylum		
Other		

In specialised Administrative courts exist different specialised departments for different areas in the framework for the administrative law (for example: denationalization, retirements, urbanism, expropriation, etc.)

Budget of the judicial system in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 1)

Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant



€31

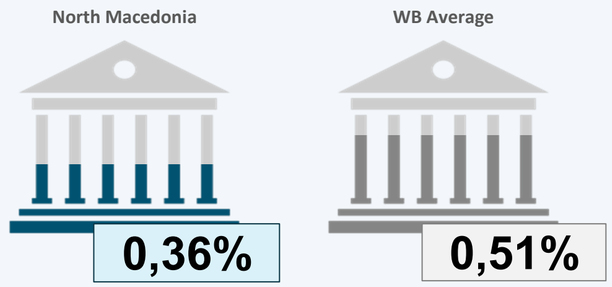
per inhabitant

+4,6%

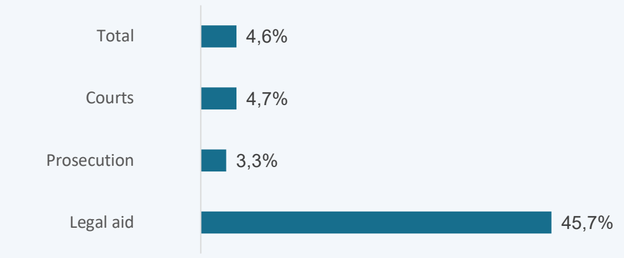
compared to 2024

WB Average: €53,8

Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP



Variation of the JSB per inhabitant between 2024 - 2025



JSB = Judicial System Budget

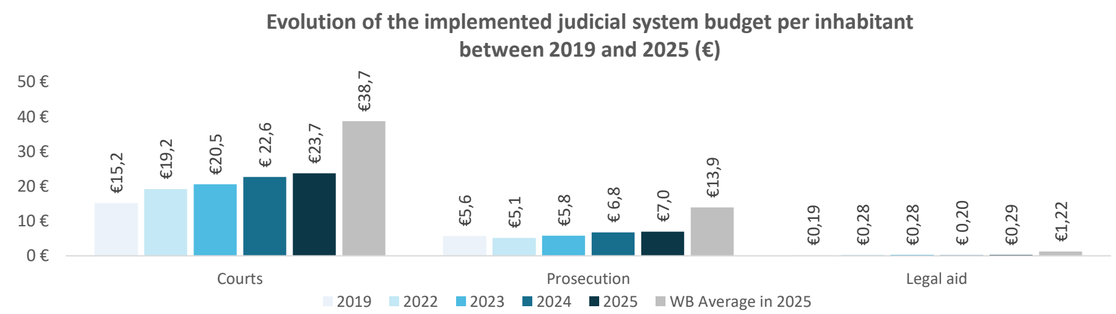
The Judicial System Budget (JSB) is composed by the budget for courts, public prosecution services and legal aid. In 2025, the implemented JBS for North Macedonia was €31 per inhabitant, which is substantially lower than the WB Average (€53,8). This amount reflects a +4,6% increase compared to 2024. Within this budget, €23,7 was allocated to courts, €7 to prosecution services, and €0,29 to legal aid. For the WB Average, the corresponding allocations were €38,7, €13,9, and €1,22 respectively. As a share of the gross domestic product (GDP), North Macedonia dedicated 0,36% of its total economic output to the judicial system, which was considerably lower than the WB Average of 0,51%. These figures illustrate that North Macedonia invests less in its judicial system per inhabitant and as a share of GDP compared to WB Average, but marked increases in all components of the JSB in 2025, especially for courts.

• Budget allocated to the judicial system (courts, prosecution services and legal aid)

In 2025 the implemented judicial system budget reached €56 423 257. Data on the variation of the judicial system budget per inhabitant are not available. With respect to economic output, the judicial system budget accounted for 0,36% of GDP in 2025, compared to the regional average of 0,51%. Notably, this proportion decreased by -0,02 percentage points since 2019 and by -0,01 percentage points since 2024.
Looking more closely at the different components of the judicial system budget, most of the judicial system budget was devoted to courts, which received 76,5% of the total, followed by prosecution services (22,6%) and legal aid (0,9%).The implemented budget for courts was €43 165 059, which represents per inhabitant spending of €23,7 compared with €38,7 for the WB Average. The courts' budget per inhabitant grew by 55,8% since 2019 and by 4,7% from 2024. The courts' share of GDP was 0,28%, below the regional average of 0,36%.
The prosecution saw an implemented budget of €12 724 246 (€7 per inhabitant vs the regional average of €13,9). This budget category soared remarkably since 2019 (24,31%) and rose marginally from 2024 (3,33%). Morevoer, the prosecution's share of GDP was 0,08%, compared to the WB Average of 0,13%.
Meanwhile, legal aid's implemented budget was €533 952, equivalent to €0,29 per inhabitant — significantly lower than the regional average. The legal aid budget rose by 51,7% from 2019 and soared remarkably (45,7%) from the previous year. Its GDP share was 0,003%, lower than the WB Average of 0,012%.

Judicial System Budget	Judicial System Budget in 2025		Implemented Judicial System Budget per inhabitant				Implemented Judicial System Budget as % of GDP			
	Approved	Implemented	Per inhabitant in 2025	WB Average in 2025	% Variation between 2019 - 2025	% Variation between 2024 - 2025	As % of GDP	WB Average in 2025	Variation (in ppt) 2019 - 2025	Variation (in ppt) 2024 - 2025
Total	€60 024 927	€56 423 257	€31,0	€53,8	47,3%	4,6%	0,36%	0,51%	-0,02	-0,010
Courts	€44 945 348	€43 165 059	€23,7	€38,7	55,8%	4,7%	0,28%	0,36%	0,00	-0,008
Prosecution	€14 546 145	€12 724 246	€7,0	€13,9	24,3%	3,3%	0,08%	0,13%	-0,02	-0,003
Legal aid	€533 434	€533 952	€0,29	€1,22	51,7%	45,7%	0,003%	0,012%	0,000	0,001

PPT = Percentage points



Over the last two years, changes in the budget composition have mainly reflected investments in infrastructure, ICT and operational expenditure. In 2024, expenditure for investments in court buildings decreased due to a smaller number of renovation projects compared to 2023. At the same time, investment in computerisation increased following the introduction of a new audio-recording system in courtrooms and the procurement of 365 personal computers. The decrease in other expenditure was mainly related to lower budget allocations for payments resulting from final decisions in labour disputes initiated by employees in the judiciary, as well as reduced travel expenses. In 2025, the increase in the budget of courts is mainly attributable to higher expenditure for translation services in court proceedings and postal services, while the increase in the legal aid budget is due to the growing costs of mandatory legal representation in criminal proceedings.

• Budget allocated to the functioning of the courts - Categories

In 2025, North Macedonia spent € 43 165 059 on the implemented budget for courts. The largest share of the implemented court budget (80,4%) was allocated to gross salaries, reflecting the significant proportion that staff costs occupy within the judiciary's expenditure. The next substantial category is the "other" category, which accounted for 9,23% of the total courts budget, highlighting a variety of miscellaneous costs not specified in other budget lines.
Moreover, maintanance and operation costs of court buildings represented 4,7% of the budget, demonstrating continued investment in the upkeep and day-to-day functioning of court infrastructure. Justice expenses made up 2,8% while computerisation was allocated 2,1% of the total budget. Finally, the budget line for investment in new buildings was allocated 0,83% of the total budget.

	2025		% Variation between 2019 and 2025		% Variation between 2024 and 2025	
	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	€44 945 348	€43 165 059	34,8%	36,7%	8,8%	4,5%
1. Gross salaries	€35 671 197	€34 695 587	47,2%	44,4%	5,0%	2,4%
1.1 Salaries of professional judges	€13 954 793	€12 979 183				
1.2 Salaries of non-judge staff	€21 716 404	€21 716 404				
1.3 Salaries/remunerations of other judges	NAP	NAP				
2. Computerisation (2.1 + 2.2)	€901 937	€896 900	17,3%	16,6%	-25,0%	-25,4%
3. Justice expenses	€1 314 360	€1 208 772	71,1%	57,4%	23,2%	13,3%
4. Maintenance and operational costs of court buildings	€2 023 535	€2 023 535	76,1%	76,1%	14,6%	14,6%
5. Investment in new buildings	€381 056	€356 526	-65,8%	6,5%	12,9%	5,6%
6. Training	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
7. Other	€4 653 263	€3 983 739	-12,4%	-12,2%	163,9%	113,2%

Computerisation: The decrease in expenditure is mainly due to lower costs for the maintenance and servicing of the FEMIDA software compared to 2024.

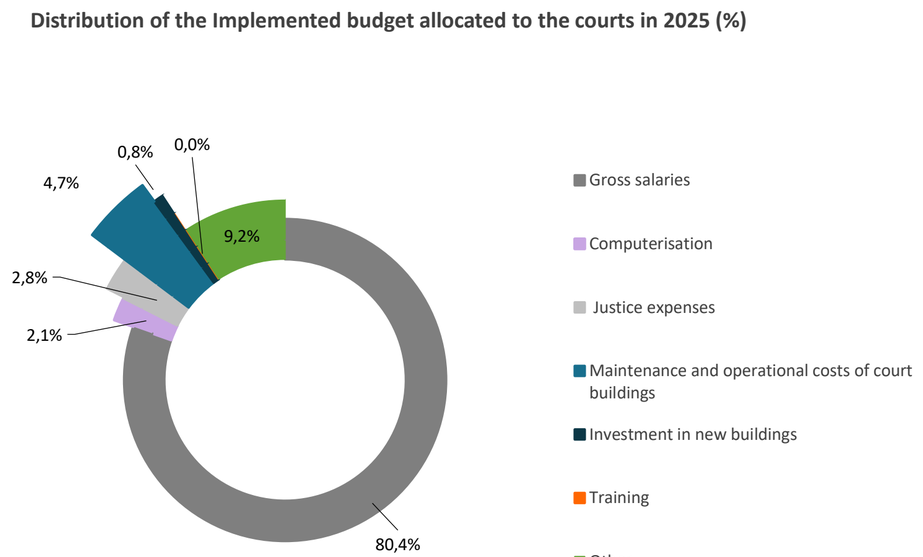
Justice expenses: The increase is mainly attributable to higher expenditure for translation services in court proceedings and postal services.

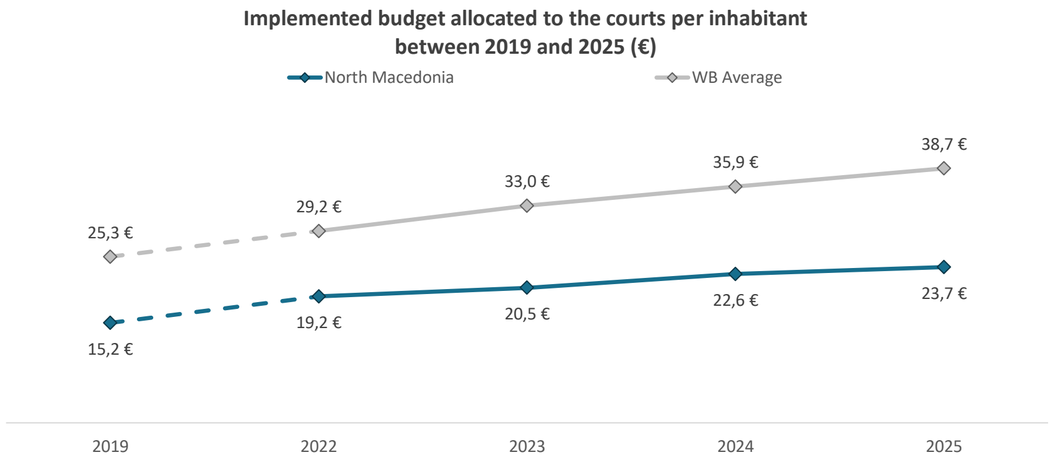
Other: Expenditure in this category reflects costs that could not be allocated to categories 1–6. Changes compared to the previous year are

When reviewing the trend through the years, North Macedonia's budget for courts per inhabitant was €15,2 in 2019 and attained €23,7 in 2025, representing a total growth of 55,8% over this period. The most pronounced annual change occurred between 2023 and 2024 when the budget shifted from €20,5 to €22,6, equating to a 10,1% increase.

In each year, North Macedonia's budget consistently remained below the WB Average, which rose from €25,3 in 2019 to €38,7 by 2025. The gap between North Macedonia and the regional average was most significant in 2025, reaching -€15,0 less per inhabitant than the WB Average. The only period of notable convergence occurred in 2022, when the gap narrowed to -€10,0 per inhabitant.

The analysis demonstrates that while North Macedonia has increased its per inhabitant funding for courts over the recents years, this investment continues to be less than its regional peers.



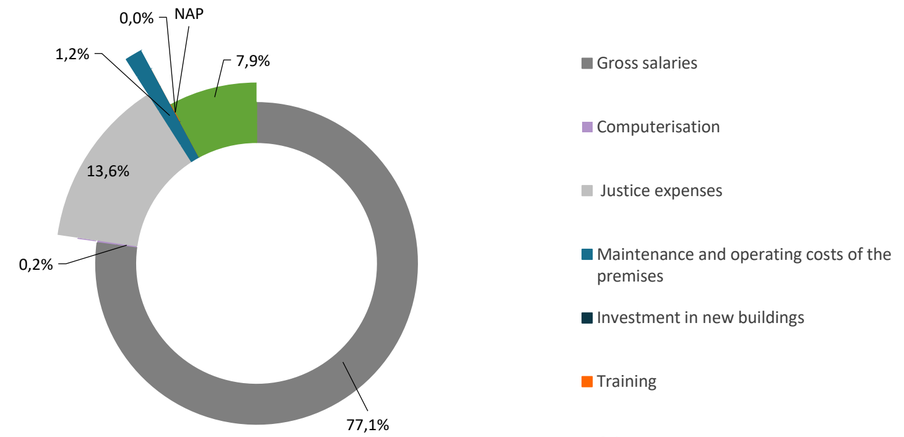


• Budget allocated to the functioning of all public prosecution services - Categories

In 2025, North Macedonia spent € 12 724 246 on the implemented budget for public prosecution services. The largest share of this budget (77,1%) was allocated to gross salaries, highlighting the substantial share of the expenditure dedicated to staff costs. The next substantial category is prosecution expenses, which accounted for 13,64% of the total, indicating the importance of expenditures that are directly tied to the functions of prosecution.
Moreover, the "other" category represented 7,9% of the implemented budget, reflecting a variety of miscellaneous costs not specified in other budget lines. Maintenance and operating costs of the premises made up 1,2% while was allocated 0% of the total budget.

	2025		% Variation between 2019 and 2025		% Variation between 2024 and 2025	
	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget	Approved budget	Implemented budget
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	€14 546 145	€12 724 246	5,6%	9,1%	10,2%	3,1%
1. Gross salaries	€10 466 545	€9 812 106				
1.1 Salaries of public prosecutors	€7 326 582	€6 868 474				
1.2 Salaries of non-public prosecutor staff	€3 139 964	€2 943 631				
1.3 Salaries/remunerations of professionals with similar duties to those of public prosecutors	NAP	NAP				
2. Computerisation	€45 871	€26 643				
3. Prosecution expenses	€2 133 851	€1 735 486				
4. Maintenance and operating costs of the premises	€341 773	€150 372				
5. Investment in new buildings	€3 355	€0				
6. Training	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
7. Other	€1 554 750	€999 639				

Distribution of the Implemented budget allocated to all public prosecution services in 2025 (%)

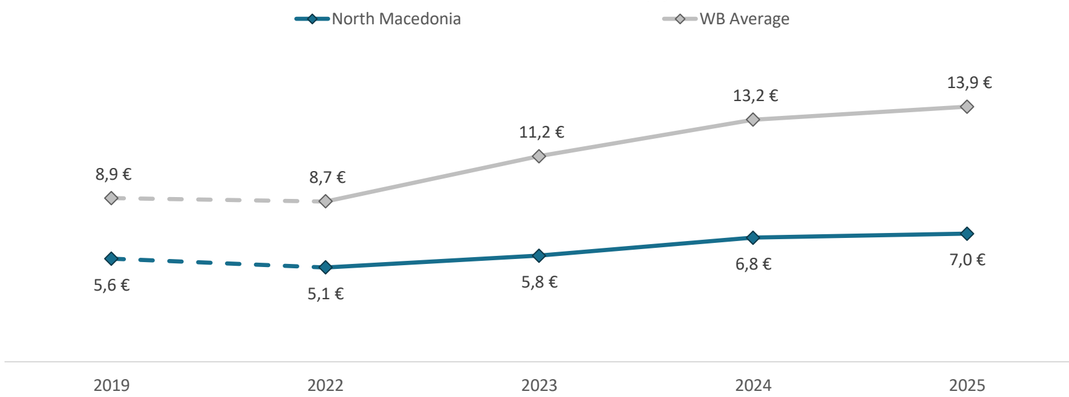


When looking at the trend through the years, North Macedonia's public prosecution services budget per inhabitant was €5,6 in 2019 and attained €7 in 2025, representing a total growth of 24,3% over this period. The most pronounced annual change occurred between 2023 and 2024 when the budget shifted from €5,8 to €6,8, equating to a 16,9% increase.

In each year, North Macedonia's budget consistently remained below the WB Average, which rose from €8,9 in 2019 to €13,9 by 2025. The gap between North Macedonia and the regional average was most significant in 2025, reaching -€6,9 less per inhabitant than the WB Average. The only notable convergence occurred in 2019, when the gap narrowed to -€3,3 per inhabitant.

The analysis demonstrates that while North Macedonia has increased its per inhabitant funding for public prosecution services over the recents years, this investment continues to be less than its regional peers.

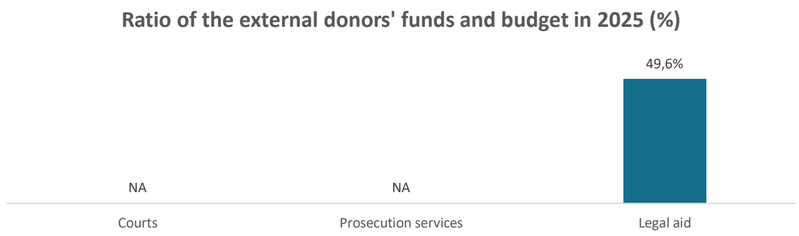
Implemented budget allocated to all public prosecution services per inhabitant between 2019 and 2025 (€)



• Budget received from external donors

The percentages represent an estimate of the ratio between external donations and respective budget. The percentage is calculated in relation to the total implemented budget of each category. However, this does not mean that the external funds cover a percentage of the budget, since donations are not included in the judicial system budget.

	Absolute value	Calculated as %
Courts	NA	NA
Prosecution services	NA	NA
Legal aid	€265 000	49,6%



For budget to courts and public prosecution services the total amount of external donor fund is 718.697 euro. The Project for the courts and public prosecution services is „EU Support for Rule of Law“ and for the legal aid is HF III „Towards a Consolidated and More Efficient Free Legal Aid (FLA) System in North Macedonia“ - Council of Europe

Professionals and Gender Balance in judiciary in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicators 2)

Professional Judges

22,9

per 100 000 inhabitants

-4,0%

compared to 2019

WB Average: 30,8

64,6% female judges (total)

Prosecutors

10,2

per 100 000 inhabitants

+11%

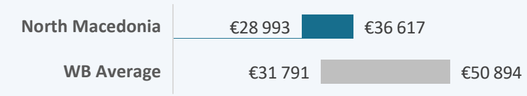
compared to 2019

WB Average: 11,8

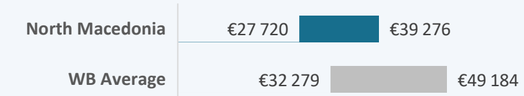
54,1% female prosecutors (total)

Salaries of judges and prosecutors

Professional judges - Gross annual salaries at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2025 (€)



Prosecutors - Gross annual salaries at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2025 (€)



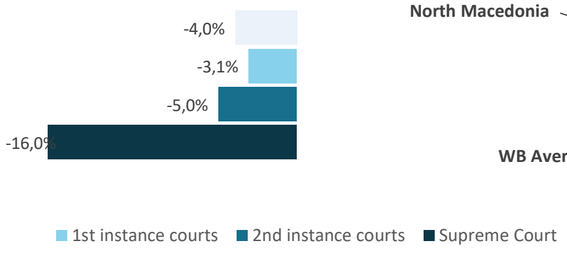
In 2025, North Macedonia had 22,9 professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants and 10,2 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants. Both figures were below the WB Average of 30,8 and 11,8, respectively. More than half of professional judges and prosecutors were women (WB Average was 65,6% and 56,6%, respectively).

• Professional Judges

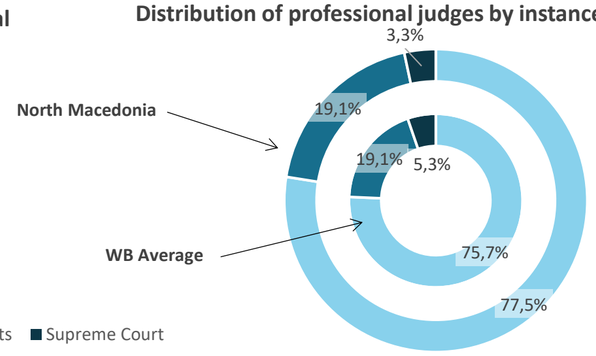
Professional judges in 2025	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	418	100,0%	22,9	30,8
1st instance courts	324	77,5%	17,8	23,2
2nd instance courts	80	19,1%	4,4	6,0
Supreme Court	14	3,3%	0,8	1,6

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 23,4 judges per 100 000 inhabitants.

% Variation of no. of professional judges per 100 000 inh. 2019 - 2025



Distribution of professional judges by instance in 2025 (%)



In 2025, the total number of professional judges in North Macedonia was 418. This number translated to a ratio of 22,9 judges per 100 000 inhabitants, which was significantly lower than the WB Average of 30,8.

When examining the trends over the past 6 cycles, there has been slight decrease in the number of professional judges. Since 2019, the number of professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants declined marginally by -4%.

Looking at the distribution of the professional judges by instance, 77,5% of judges are assigned to the first instance courts. This is 1,8 percentage points higher than the WB Average (75,7%).

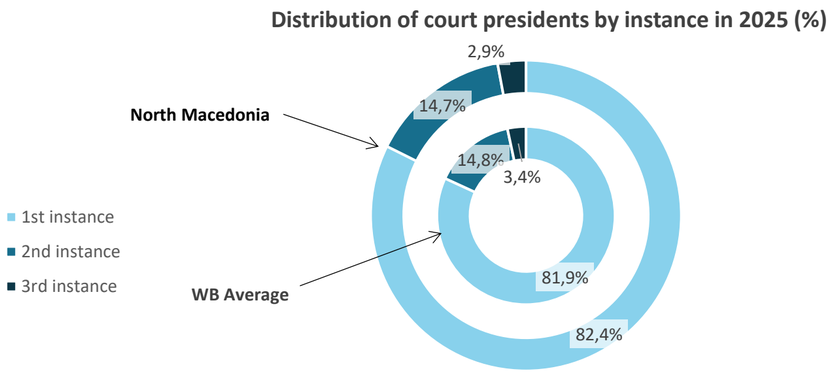
The number of judges is decreasing due to retirements and the lengthy training process at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors. Since 2013, the only selection procedure to become a judge or a public prosecutor has been through the Academy's training programme, which lasts 24 months. As a result, the overall process for the selection and appointment of qualified judges and prosecutors takes around three years.

In addition, the Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector 2017–2022 and its Action Plan included, among its strategic guidelines, the harmonisation of the number of judges in the Republic of North Macedonia with the European average per capita. One of the strategic measures was the optimisation of the number of judges and cases in courts according to European standards through the natural reduction in the number of judges due to retirement. The success indicator for this objective was a 5% reduction in the number of judges.

• Court presidents

	Court presidents in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	34	100,0%	1,9	2,2
1st instance courts	28	82,4%	1,5	1,8
2nd instance courts	5	14,7%	0,3	0,3
Supreme Court	1	2,9%	0,05	0,07

In 2025, North Macedonia had a total of 34 court presidents. This figure corresponds to 1,9 per 100 000 inhabitants and was lower than the WB Average of 2,2.

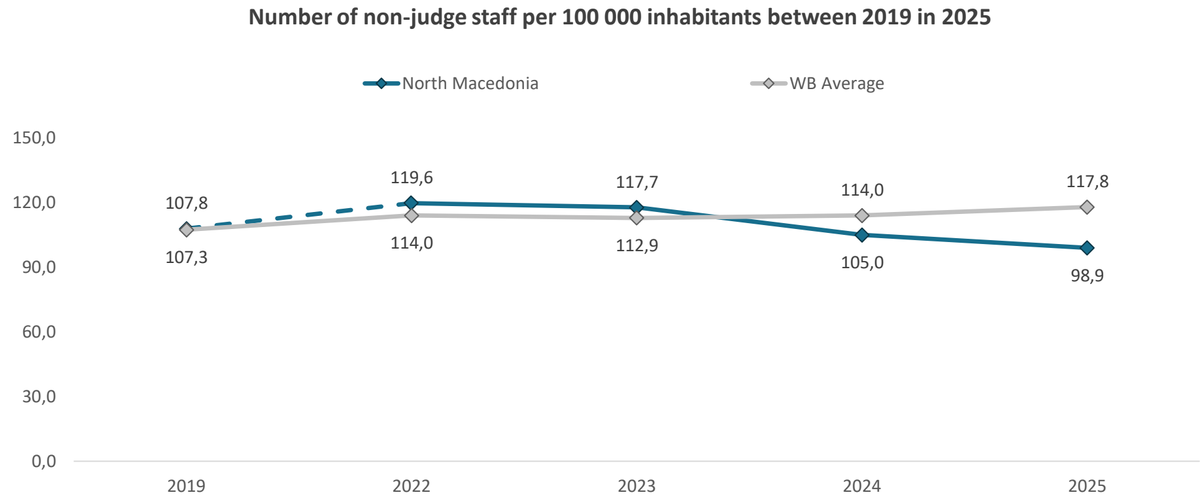


Role of court president:

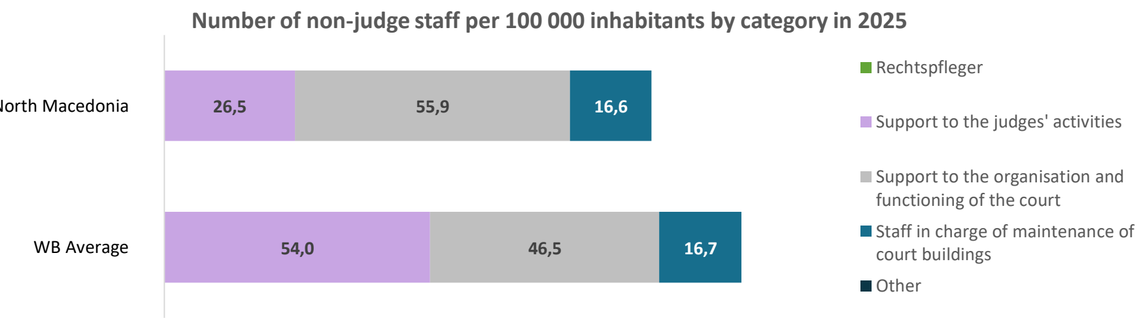
According to Article 88 of the Law on Courts, the President of the Court represents the court, organises its work and takes measures to ensure the timely and proper performance of duties within the court. The President of the Court is also responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Court Rules of Procedure.
The President determines the distribution of work within the court after obtaining the opinion of the session of judges and the general session of the Supreme Court. The President is substituted by a judge designated in the annual work schedule who, in the previous year, received the highest positive evaluation and the highest number of points compared to the other judges.
The annual work schedule also designates, from among the judges, the presidents of court departments and their deputies, as well as the presidents of court divisions and judicial panels.

• Non-judge staff

	Number of non-judge staff by category in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	1 803	100,0%	98,9	117,8
Rechtspfleger	NAP	NAP	NAP	-
Support to the judges' activities	483	26,8%	26,5	54,0
Support to the organisation and functioning of the court	1 018	56,5%	55,9	46,5
Staff in charge of maintenance of court buildings	302	16,7%	16,6	16,7
Other	NAP	NAP	NAP	-



In 2025, the total number of non-judge staff was 1 803, which represents 98,9 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure marks a -5,8% decrease compared to 2024, when non-judge staff totaled 105,0 per 100 000 inhabitants. Over the longer period from 2019 to 2025, the total number of non-judge staff per 100 000 inhabitants dropped somewhat by -8%.
The largest group of non-judge staff were those in charge to support to the organisation and functioning of the court, accounting for 56% of the total, followed by staff supporting judges' activities, who represented 27%.

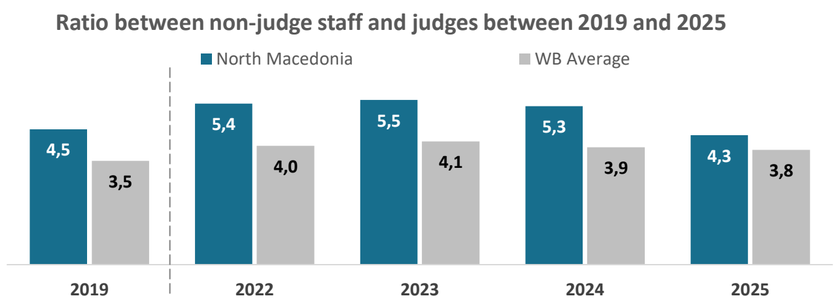


• Ratio between non-judge staff and professional judges

In North Macedonia, the ratio of non-judge staff per professional judge was 4,3 in 2025, whereas the WB Average was 3,8. TO MODIFY: this increased since 2019.....

	Ratio in 2025		% Variation 2019 - 2025
	North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia
Total	4,3	3,8	-4,5%

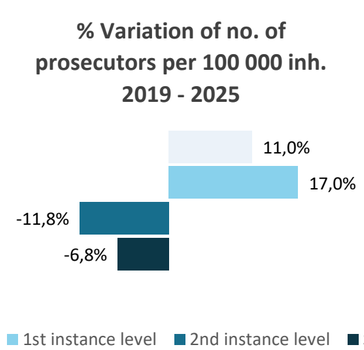
For reference only: the 2024 EU median ratio of non-judge staff per judge is 3,3.

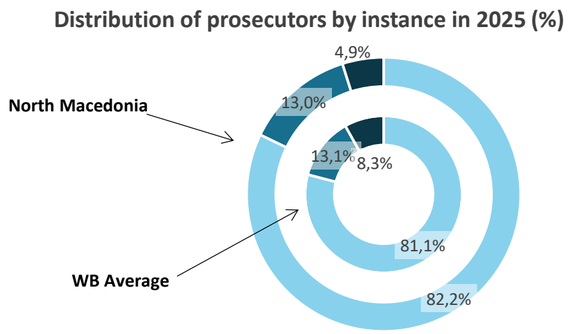


• Prosecutors

	Number of prosecutors by instance in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	185	100,0%	10,2	11,8
1st instance level	152	82,2%	8,3	9,4
2nd instance level	24	13,0%	1,3	1,8
Supreme Court level	9	4,9%	0,5	1,0

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 11,4 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants.





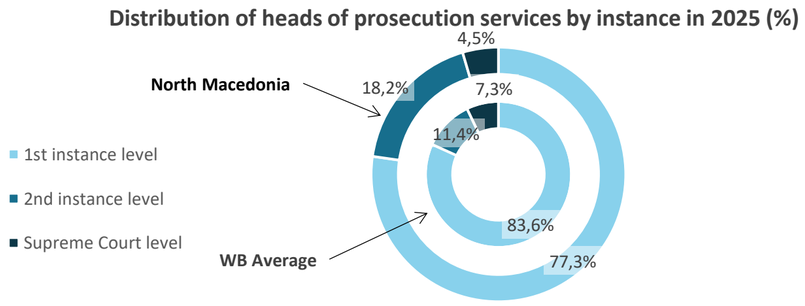
In 2025, North Macedonia had 185 prosecutors in total, which equates to 10,2 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure was lower than the WB Average of 11,8).

Over the period between 2019 and 2025, the total number of prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants slight increase by 11% .

Looking at the distribution of the prosecutors by instance, 82,2% of prosecutors are assigned to the first instance courts. This is 1,1 percentage points higher than the WB Average (81,1%).

• Heads of prosecution services

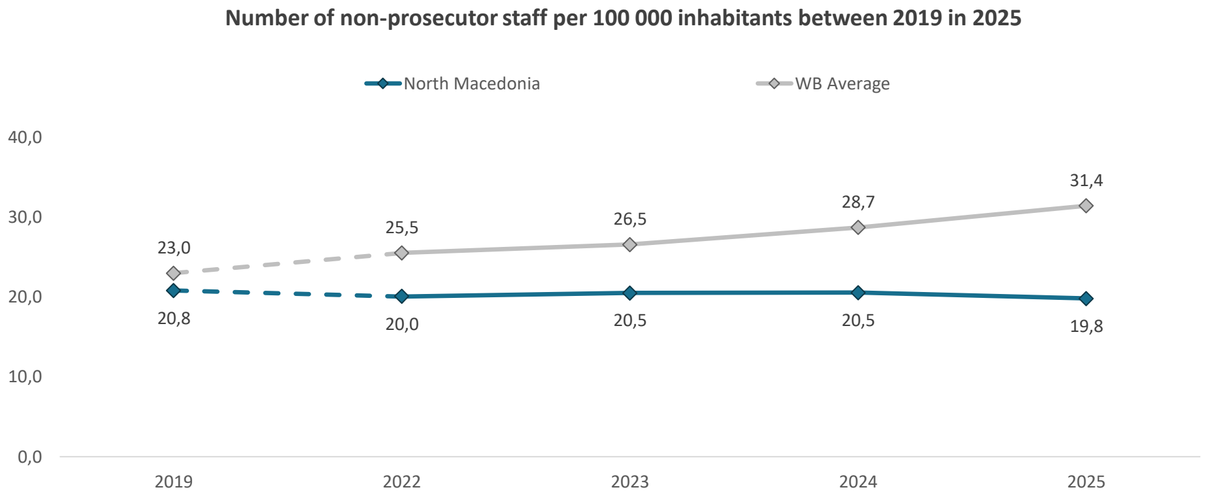
	Heads of prosecution services in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	22	100,0%	1,2	1,1
1st instance level	17	77,3%	0,9	0,9
2nd instance level	4	18,2%	0,2	0,2
Supreme Court level	1	4,5%	0,05	0,07



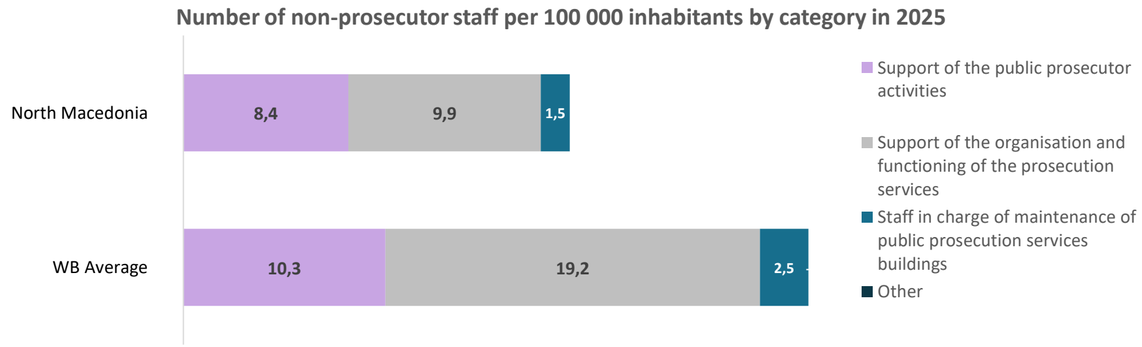
In 2025, North Macedonia had a total of 22 heads of prosecution services, corresponding to 1,2 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure was slightly higher than the WB Average of 1,1.

• Non-prosecutor staff

	Number of non-prosecutor staff by category in 2025			
	Absolute number	% of the total	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants
Total	361	100,0%	19,8	31,4
Support of the public prosecutor activities	154	42,7%	8,4	10,3
Support of the organisation and functioning of the prosecution services	180	49,9%	9,9	19,2
Staff in charge of maintenance of public prosecution services buildings	27	7,5%	1,5	2,5
Other	NAP	NAP	NAP	-



In 2025, the total number of non-prosecutor staff was 361, corresponding to 19,8 per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure represents a -3,5% decrease compared to 2024, when non-prosecutor staff totaled 20,5 per 100 000 inhabitants. Over the longer term, from 2019 to 2025, the total number of non-prosecutor staff declined marginally by -5%.
The largest category of non-prosecutor personnel consisted of those supporting the organisation and functioning of the prosecution services, accounting for 50% of the overall staff. This was followed by staff supporting the public prosecutor activities, who represented 43%.

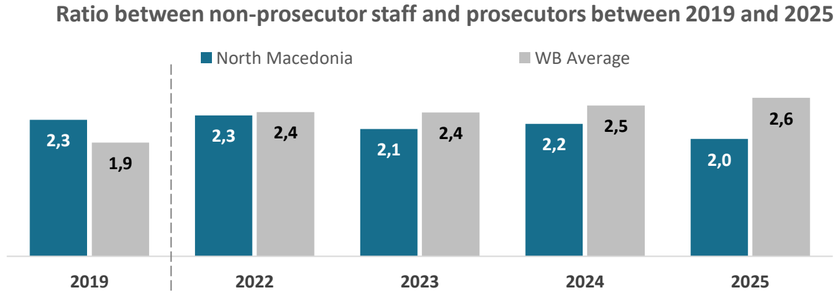


• Non-prosecutor staff and Ratio between non-prosecutor staff and prosecutors

In North Macedonia, the ratio of non-prosecutor staff per prosecutor was 2 in 2025, whereas the WB Average was 2,6. This ratio decreased since 2019.

	Ratio in 2025		% Variation 2019 - 2025
	North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia
Total	2,0	2,6	-14,2%

For reference only: the 2024 EU median ratio of non-prosecutor staff per prosecutor is 1,1.

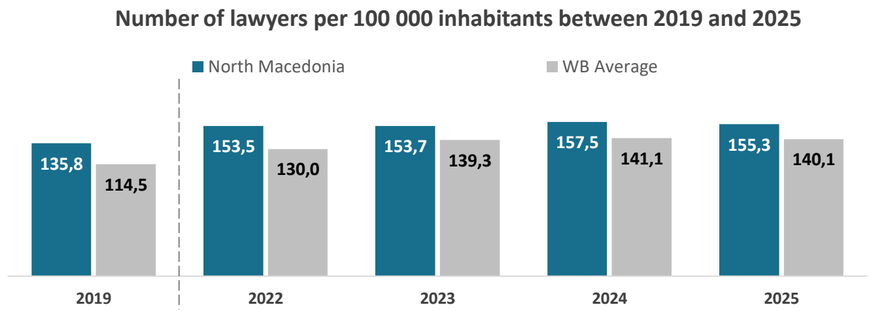


• Lawyers

	Number of lawyers in 2025			% Variation 2019 - 2025
	Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Average per 100 000 inhabitants	North Macedonia
Total	2 831	155,3	140,1	14,4%

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 138,7 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants.

In 2025, there were 155,3 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants, a figure that was slightly higher than the WB Average of 140,1. The number of lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants increased by 14,4% between 2019 and 2025.



Legal representation in courts exclusively exercised by lawyers in 2025

	First instance	Second instance	Third instance
Civil cases			
Dismissal cases			
Criminal cases – Defendant			
Criminal cases – Victim			
Administrative cases			

Yes, always
Yes, in some cases
No/NAP

Legal representation is regulated differently in criminal and civil proceedings.
In criminal proceedings, legal representation is reserved exclusively for licensed attorneys. According to Article 71 of the Law on Criminal Procedure, only a licensed attorney may act as defence counsel.
In civil proceedings, representation is broader. According to Article 81 of the Law on Civil Procedure, a party may be represented by: an attorney; a graduate lawyer employed by the party; a spouse or a blood relative in the direct line, brother or sister, provided that the person has full legal capacity.

If a person appears as an authorised representative contrary to these provisions, the court shall issue a decision denying that person any further representation and shall inform the party accordingly. A separate appeal against such a decision is not allowed.

In addition, pursuant to Article 82 of the Law on Civil Procedure, where the value of the case exceeds 1 000 000 denars (EUR 16 260), legal entities may be represented only by a graduate lawyer who has passed the bar examination and is employed by that legal entity.

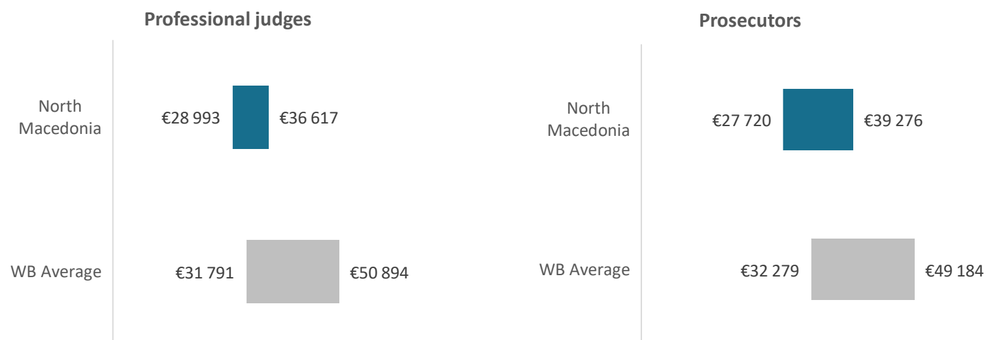
• Salaries of professional judges and prosecutors

In 2025, the salary of a professional judge at the beginning of his/her career was €28 993 which saw more than double by 70,2% since 2019. The ratio of the starting salary of professional judges to the annual gross average salary in North Macedonia was 2,2, which was lower than the WB Average (2,4). At the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court, judges in North Macedonia earned 26,3% more than at the start of their careers (€36 617), which represents a smaller increase compared to the WB Average of 55,1%.

Similarly, the salary of a public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career was €27 720 which saw more than double by 66,2% since 2019. The ratio of the starting salary of prosecutors to the annual gross average salary in North Macedonia was 2,1, which was lower than the WB Average of 2,4. Prosecutors serving at the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Courts earned salaries that were 41,7% higher than at the entry level (€39 276), a percentange increase that was lower than the WB Average increase of 51,1%.

		Salaries in 2025 (absolute values)			Ratio with the average gross annual salary	
		Gross annual salary in €	% Variation 2019 - 2025	Net annual salary in €	North Macedonia	WB Average ratio
Professional judge	At the beginning of his/her career	28 993	▲ 70,2%	19 001	2,2	2,4
	Of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court	36 617	▲ 60,2%	23 928	2,8	3,7
Public prosecutor	At the beginning of his/her career	27 720	▲ 66,2%	18 156	2,1	2,4
	Of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court	39 276	▲ 96,2%	25 656	3,0	3,6

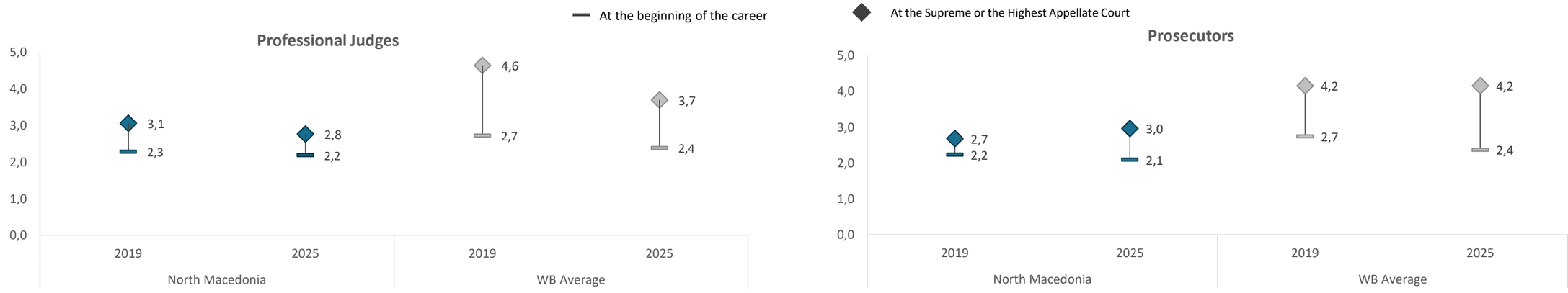
Gross annual salaries of professional judges and prosecutors at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2025 (€)



For reference only: the 2024 EU median for the ratio of judges and prosecutors' salaries with average gross annual national salary is:

- professional judges' salary at the beginning of career: 1,8
- professional judges' salary at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court: 4,3
- prosecutors' salary at the beginning of career: 1,7
- prosecutors' salary at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court: 3,5

Ratio of the gross annual salaries of judges and prosecutors with the average gross annual salary at the beginning of the career and at the Supreme or the Highest Appellate Court in 2019 and 2025



Judges and public prosecutors are entitled to housing and travel benefits. In 2024, they also received salary bonuses. These bonuses were not paid in 2025.

• Performance and evaluation of judges and public prosecutors

	Judges	Prosecutors
A mandatory formal evaluation system regulated by law	✓	✓
An optional formal evaluation system	✗	✗
An informal evaluation system (e.g., discussions with superiors, peer review)	✗	✗
Evaluation based on quantitative criteria	✓	✓
Evaluation based on qualitative criteria	✓	✓

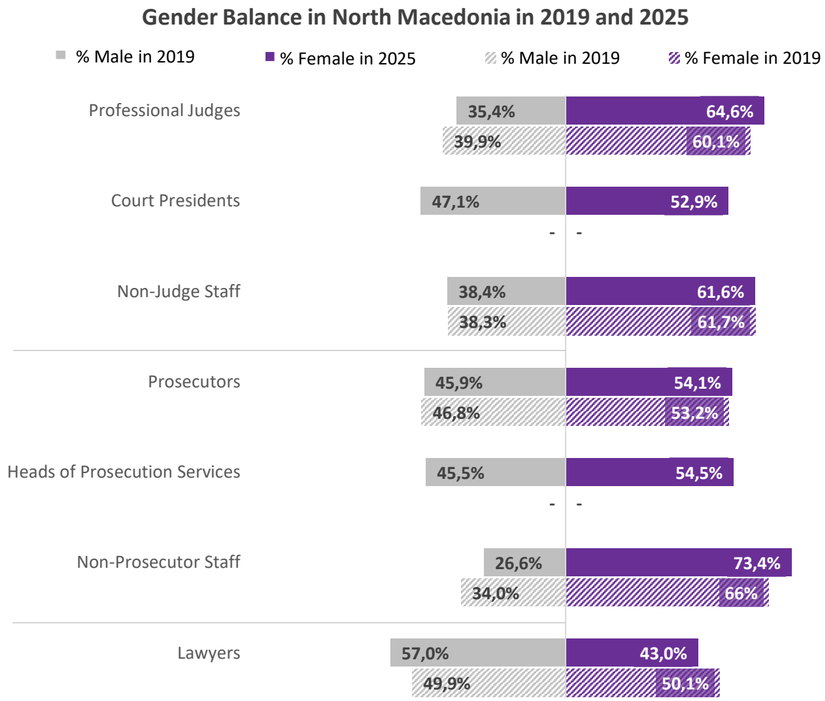
North Macedonia has a mandatory formal evaluation system for both judges and public prosecutors, regulated by law and based on both quantitative and qualitative criteria. Judges are evaluated by the Judicial Council through regular and extraordinary evaluations, while public prosecutors are evaluated within the prosecution service according to their hierarchical position. In both cases, evaluation results are relevant for career advancement and negative evaluations may lead to disciplinary proceedings.

The monitoring of the work of judges and presidents of courts is carried out by the Judicial Council through regular and extraordinary evaluations. Judges are evaluated according to the overall results achieved in their work based on qualitative and quantitative criteria established by the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia. The purpose of monitoring and evaluating the work of judges and presidents of courts is to affirm the judiciary as an independent authority, strengthen the personal motivation of judges and ensure their further professional development based on their personal and professional abilities, free from any influence, while also strengthening their independence and impartiality when performing their judicial functions. Evaluation is one of the criteria for promotion to a higher court. Negative evaluation results may constitute grounds for disciplinary proceedings against a judge.
According to Article 77 of the Law on the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia, the regular evaluation of judges and presidents of courts is conducted once every four years, by the end of June of the current year, covering their work during the previous four years.
Quantitative criteria for the evaluation of judges include:
- the scope of work, assessed through the number and type of resolved cases in relation to the indicative number of cases that the judge should resolve per month, as recorded by the automated case management system;
- the quality of the judge's work in terms of the number of reversed decisions in relation to the total number of resolved decisions.
Qualitative criteria include:
- the quality of conducting court proceedings, including reasoning skills, preparedness for hearings, preparation of minutes, hearing of parties, preparedness to take procedural decisions and ability to resolve conflicts;
- the prompt handling of court cases, including compliance with legal deadlines for procedural actions and for adopting, publishing and drafting decisions, as well as the duration of proceedings;
- the quality of judicial work in terms of the number of annulled decisions due to significant procedural violations in relation to the total number of resolved cases.
Judges may receive a maximum of 120 points for the qualitative criteria. For the quantitative criteria, if the number of resolved cases corresponds to 100% of the indicative number, the judge receives 40 points. For each 1% above or below the indicative number, the score increases or decreases by 0,5 points, with a maximum of 60 points and a minimum of 20 points.
On 31 December 2025, a new Law on the Judicial Council was adopted in the Republic of North Macedonia and entered into force on 8 January 2026. As this law was not applicable to the 2025 reference year, it will be covered in the next evaluation cycle.
The monitoring of the performance of public prosecutors is carried out through regular and extraordinary evaluations. Regular evaluations are conducted every four years, by the end of June of the current year, covering the work of public prosecutors during the previous four years.
The evaluation criteria for public prosecutors are:
- expertise and quality in decisions, legal remedies and other written acts;
- promptness and efficiency;
- impartiality and conscientiousness;
- reputation and ethics worthy of the office;
- cooperation and respect for parties and other prosecution staff;
- ability and willingness to pursue professional development and acquire new knowledge;
- organisational skills.
Public prosecutors may obtain a maximum of 200 points. A score above 120 points is considered positive, while a score below 120 points is considered negative.
Extraordinary evaluation of judges is carried out when a judge applies for election to another court or a higher court, for election as president of a court or for membership of the Judicial Council.
Extraordinary evaluation of public prosecutors is carried out when a public prosecutor applies for election to a higher prosecution office, for the position of chief public prosecutor, for the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for Prosecution of Organised Crime and Corruption, or for membership of the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of North Macedonia.
Public prosecutors are evaluated within the prosecution service according to their hierarchical position. Evaluation results are used for promotion to higher prosecution offices, while negative evaluations may constitute grounds for disciplinary proceedings against a public prosecutor.

• Gender Balance

	% Female in 2025		Variation of the % females between 2019 - 2025 (in ppt)
	North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia
Professional Judges	64,6%	65,6%	4,5
Court Presidents	52,9%	47,6%	
Non-Judge Staff	61,6%	71,6%	-0,2
Prosecutors	54,1%	56,6%	0,9
Heads of Prosecution Services	54,5%	47,5%	
Non-Prosecutor Staff	73,4%	68,7%	7,4
Lawyers	43,0%	38,2%	-7,1

PPT= Percentage points



For reference only: the 2024 EU medians on gender are among professionals are as follows: 63% women judges; 77% women non-judge staff; 63% women prosecutors; 79% women non-prosecutor staff; and 48% women lawyers.

In 2025, the percentage of female professional judges was 64,6%, which was lower than WB Average (65,6%). With a presence of 52,9%, the number of female court presidents in North Macedonia was higher than the WB Average of 47,6%. Moreover, the percentage of female non-judge staff was 61,6%.

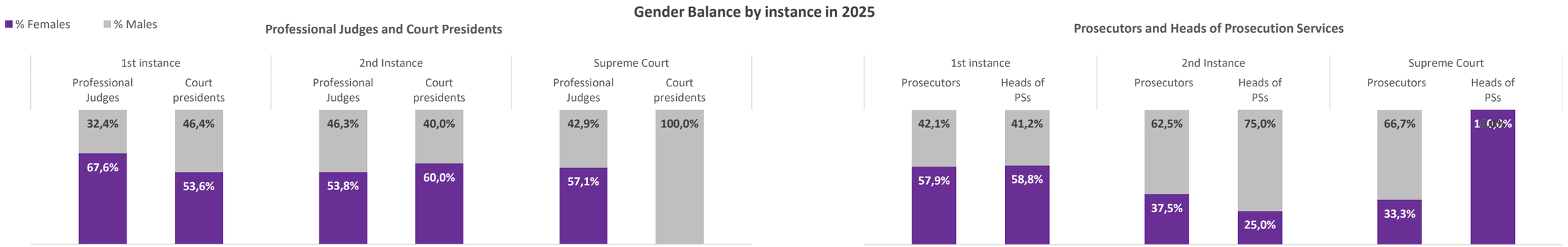
Also, the percentage of female prosecutors was 54,1% (lower than the WB Average of 56,6%).The number of female heads of prosecution services (54,5%) was higher than the WB Average (47,5%). Moreover, the percentage of female non-prosecutor staff was 73,4%.

Finally, the percentage of female lawyers was 43%, which was higher than WB Average (38,2%).

The lawyers were the only category with less than 50% of female presence.

	Professional Judges % Female		Court presidents % Female		Prosecutors % Female		Heads of Prosecution Services % Female	
	North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average
1st instance	67,6%	66,2%	53,6%	46,8%	57,9%	57,1%	58,8%	49,3%
2nd instance	53,8%	65,3%	60,0%	47,6%	37,5%	51,6%	25,0%	43,8%
Supreme Court	57,1%	62,6%	0,0%	53,3%	33,3%	42,7%	100,0%	58,3%

While women are well represented at the entry levels of both the judiciary and the prosecution service, their presence tends to decrease with increasing seniority. This pattern is particularly visible among prosecutors, where the proportion of women declines from 57,9% at first instance to 33,3% at the highest level. A similar trend can be observed among heads of prosecution services, although the highest prosecution office was headed by a woman in 2025. In the judiciary, women remain the majority among professional judges at all court levels, but their representation among court presidents is more uneven, with no female president at the Supreme Court.



• Gender Equality Policies

The Strategy for Gender Equality 2022–2027 was adopted in 2022 as a key strategic document. According to the Strategy, one of the priority areas is Policy and Decision-making. The Strategy aims to increase the number of women in decision-making positions in the executive branch, political parties, the media, sport, local self-government and other areas where no legal quotas are established and where women's participation remains very low, in line with Commitment 50–50.

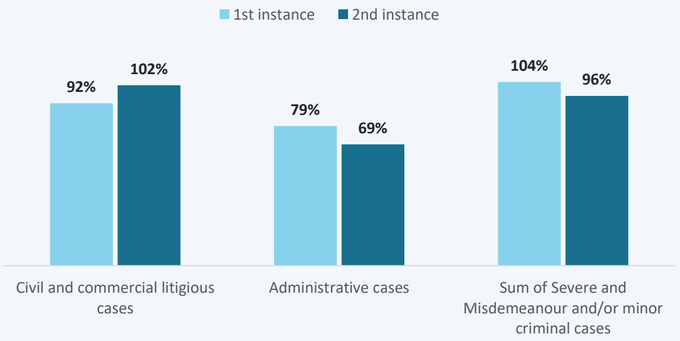
The increase in the number of women decision-makers should be achieved through incentive measures, awareness-raising activities and binding legal measures. Particular emphasis is placed on encouraging women to participate in decision-making structures at the local level, where decisions and measures directly affect the quality of life in local communities.

In addition, several important measures related to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the Law on the Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence were adopted. Amendments to the Criminal Code and new criminal offences in compliance with the Istanbul Convention were adopted in 2023. Furthermore, new by-laws for generating statistics in courts and public prosecution offices on domestic violence were adopted by the Ministry of Justice in December 2022.

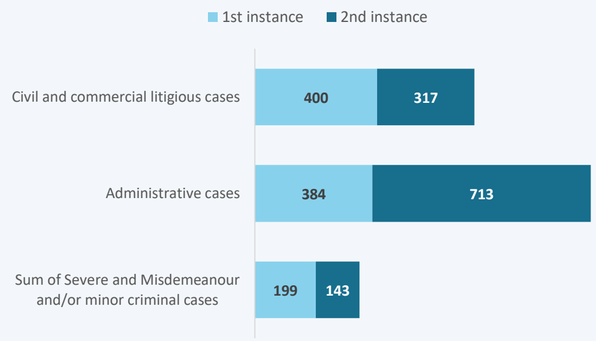
Finally, the first Law on Monetary Compensation to Victims of Criminal Offences was adopted in November 2022, and its implementation started in May 2023.

Efficiency in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicators 3.1 and 3.2)

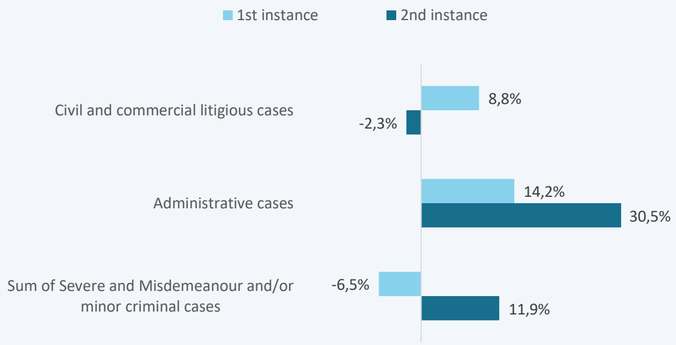
Clearance Rate in 2025



Disposition Time in 2025 (in days)



% Variation of pending cases at the end of year between 2024 and 2025



In 2025, the highest Clearance rate (CR) for North Macedonia was calculated for the first instance sum of the Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases, with a CR of 104%. However, it seems that North Macedonia was not able to deal as efficiently with the second instance Administrative cases (CR of 69%). With a Disposition Time of approximately 143 days, the second instance sum of the Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases were resolved faster than any other type of cases.

Compared to 2024, the pending cases at the end of year increased for the second instance Administrative cases (30,5%), whereas they decreased for the first instance sum of the Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases by -6,5%.

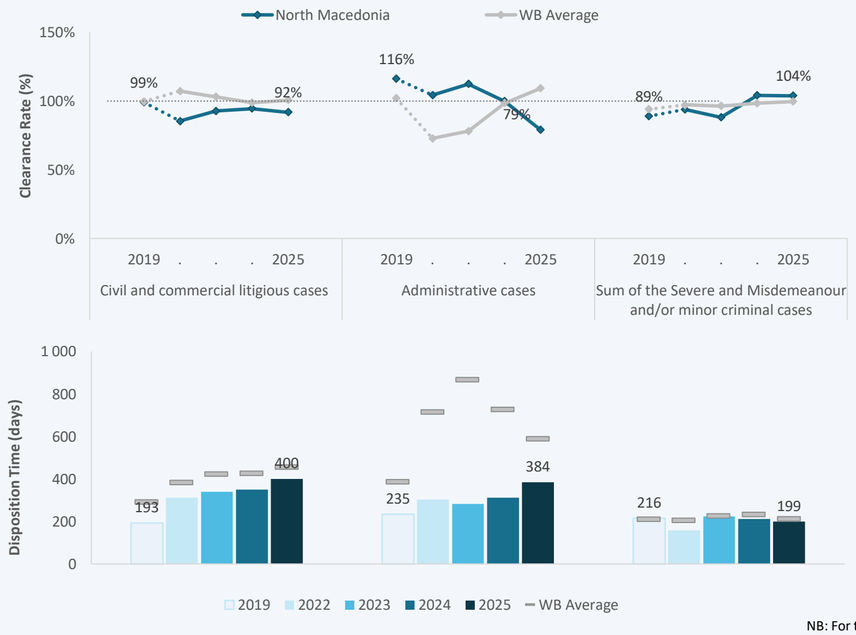
Throughout the period 2019–2025, the performance of North Macedonian courts varied considerably across case categories and court instances. Civil and commercial litigious cases experienced a gradual deterioration, with the disposition time increasing at both first and second instance, while the clearance rate remained below 100% in most years. In 2025, the disposition time reached 400 days at first instance and 317 days at second instance.

Administrative cases showed the most significant deterioration. Clearance rates fluctuated considerably throughout the period and declined sharply in 2025, while the disposition time increased from 235 days in 2019 to 384 days in 2025 at first instance. At second instance, the situation worsened considerably: the disposition time rose from 188 days in 2019 to 713 days in 2025, while the clearance rate fell to 69%. According to the authorities, this trend is linked to the continuous increase in incoming cases and may also reflect the persistent reduction in the number of judges over recent years.

Criminal cases displayed a more stable performance throughout the period. Clearance rates remained close to, and in several years above, 100%, while disposition times stayed comparatively low. In 2025, the disposition time amounted to 199 days at first instance and 143 days at second instance, both below the WB average.

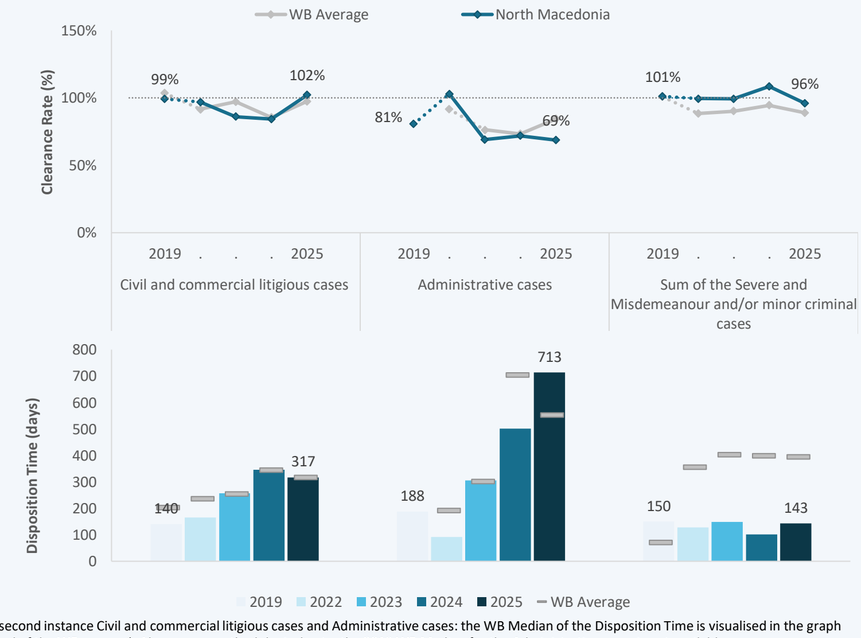
First instance cases

Clearance rate (%) and Disposition Time (days) for first instance cases from 2019 to 2025



Second instance cases

Clearance rate (%) and Disposition Time (days) for second instance cases from 2019 to 2025



NB: For the second instance Civil and commercial litigious cases and Administrative cases: the WB Median of the Disposition Time is visualised in the graph above (instead of the WB average). Also, as per methodological note, the 2019 WB Median for the Administrative cases is not available.

• First instance cases - Other than criminal law cases

1st instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)		North Macedonia (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		59 609	53 097	50 761	NA	-7,0%	-14,6%	13,2%	NA
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	39 502	36 282	39 772	NA	-2,2%	-4,9%	8,8%	NA
2	Non-litigious cases	13 432	11 376	5 679	NA	-24,6%	-37,3%	56,7%	NA
3	Administrative cases	5 607	4 428	4 663	NA	17,2%	-7,3%	14,2%	NA
4	Other cases	1 068	1 011	647	NA	-3,3%	-6,3%	9,7%	NA

In 2025, the incoming civil and commercial litigious cases were 39 502 (2,17 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 2,36). They decreased by -2,2% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 36 282 (1,99 per 100 inhabitants) and they decreased by -4,9%, compared to the previous year. In 2025, the number of resolved cases was lower than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the civil and commercial litigious pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 92% (below the WB Average of 101%). This decreased by -2,6 percentage points compared to 2024.

The Disposition Time for civil and commercial litigious cases was approximately 400 days in 2025 (below the WB Average of 457 days). This increased by 14,4% over the 2024-2025 period.

The incoming administrative cases were 5 607 in 2025 (ie 0,31 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,6). They increased by 17,2% compared to the previous year. In 2025, the resolved cases were 4 428 (0,24 per 100 inhabitants, below of the WB Average of 0,75). Between 2024 and 2025, the number of resolved administrative decreased by -7,3%. The number of incoming cases was thus higher than the resolved cases. As a consequence, the administrative pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024 and the Clearance rate for this type of cases was 79% (below the WB Average (109%). The CR decreased by -20,8 percentage points compared to the previous year.

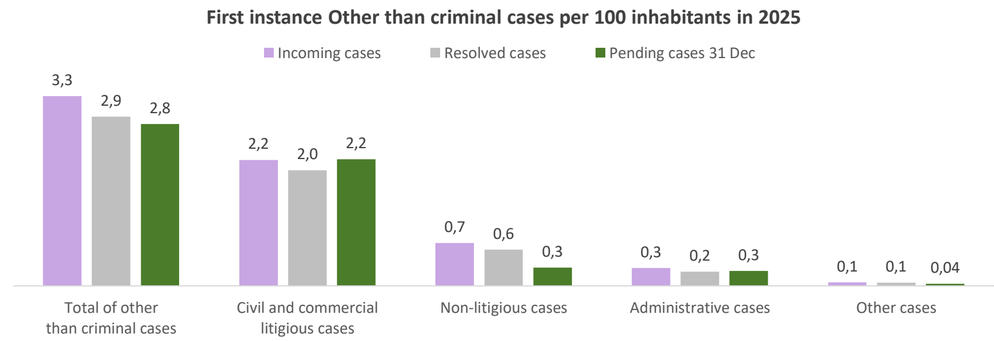
Finally, the Disposition Time for administrative cases was approximately 384 days in 2025. This has increased by 23,2% compared to 2024 and it was below the WB Average (590 days).

The inconsistency between pending administrative cases on 1 January 2025 and pending cases on 31 December 2024 is due to a technical error in the automated statistical collection module within ACCMIS during its testing phase in the previous reporting cycle. The error concerned around 600 public procurement cases and continued to affect comparability in 2025, although the module is now fully operational.
The decrease in incoming first instance non-litigious cases is explained by the fact that, from 2025 onwards, courts no longer processed cases related to the legalisation of vessels and other means of transport.

1st instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)		Incoming cases			Resolved cases			Pending cases 31 Dec			Pending cases over 2 years	
		North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		3,3	<	10,8	2,9	<	11,5	2,8	<	14,2	NA	10,85
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	2,2	<	2,4	2,0	<	2,4	2,2	<	3,0	NA	1,01
2	Non-litigious cases	0,7	<	7,5	0,6	<	7,9	0,3	<	9,8	NA	9,22
3	Administrative cases	0,3	<	0,6	0,2	<	0,8	0,3	<	1,4	NA	0,62
4	Other cases	0,1	<	0,7	0,1	<	0,7	0,04	>	0,03	NA	-

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming first instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases per 100 inhabitants: 1,8;
- incoming first instance Administrative cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,4.

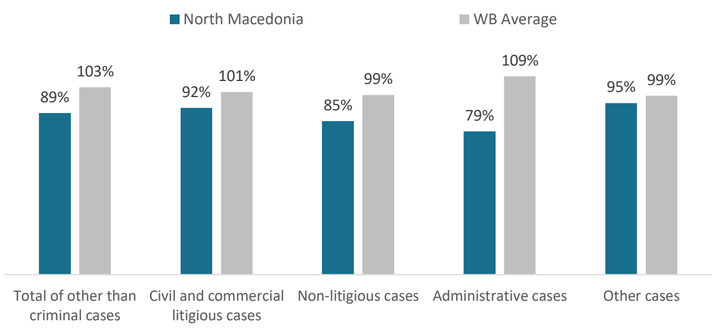


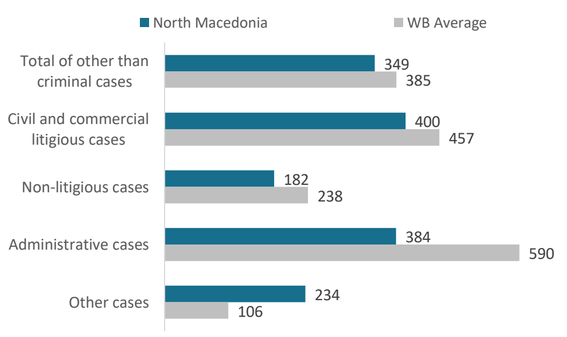
1st instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025		CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		89%	103%	349	385	-7,9	32,5%
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	92%	101%	400	457	-2,6	14,4%
2	Non-litigious cases	85%	99%	182	238	-17,1	149,9%
3	Administrative cases	79%	109%	384	590	-20,8	23,2%
4	Other cases	95%	99%	234	106	-3,1	17,0%

PPT = Percentage points

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the first instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 97,8%; - Disposition time: 248 days.

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the first instance Administrative cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 96,5%; - Disposition time: 327 days.





• First instance cases - Criminal law cases

1st instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)		North Macedonia (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		72 040	74 858	40 854	NAP	0,0%	-0,2%	-6,5%	NAP
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases (1+2)		72 040	74 858	40 854	NA	0,0%	-0,2%	-6,5%	NA
1	Severe criminal cases	10 946	10 708	5 671	NA	1,8%	1,4%	4,4%	NA
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	61 094	64 150	35 183	NA	-0,3%	-0,5%	-8,0%	NA
3	Other cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

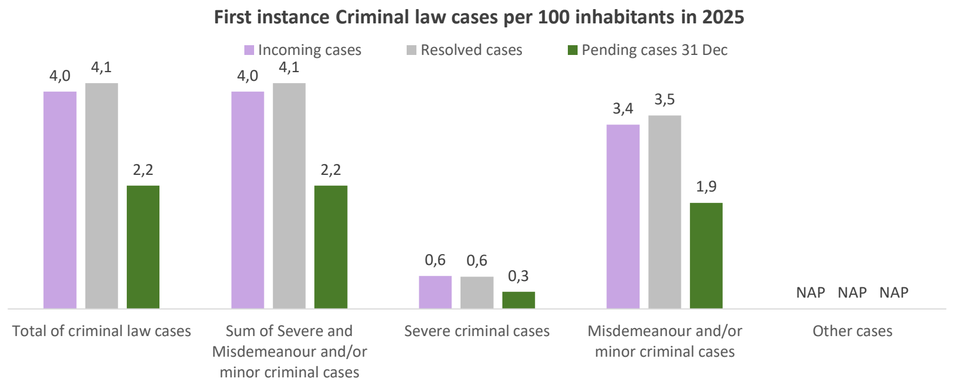
In 2025, the incoming severe and misdemeanour criminal cases were 72 040 (3,95 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 4,11). They decreased by 0% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 74 858 (4,11 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2024 and 2025, they decreased by -0,2%. The number of resolved cases was thus higher than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the severe and misdemeanour criminal pending cases at the end of 2025 were less than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 104% (above the WB Average of 99,6%). This decreased by -0,2 percentage points compared to 2024.

The Disposition Time for severe and misdemeanour criminal cases was approximately 199 days in 2025 (below the WB Average of 213 days). This decreased by -6,2% compared to 2024.

1st instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)		Incoming cases			Resolved cases			Pending cases 31 Dec			Pending cases over 2 years	
		North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		4,0	<	4,3	4,1	<	4,3	2,2	<	2,6	NAP	0,07
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		4,0	<	4,1	4,1	>	4,1	2,2	<	2,6	NA	0,07
1	Severe criminal cases	0,6	>	0,5	0,6	>	0,5	0,3	<	0,3	NA	0,06
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	3,4	<	3,6	3,5	<	3,6	1,9	<	2,3	NA	0,02
3	Other cases	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP	-

Key: > Higher than the WB Average
= Equal to the WB Average
< Lower than the WB Average

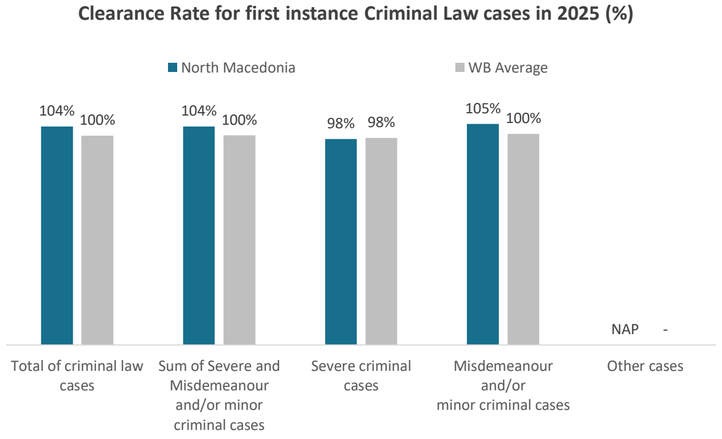
For reference only: for the first instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants: 1,7.

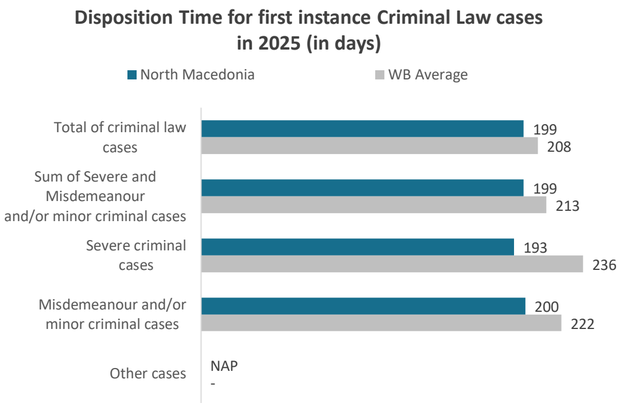


1st instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025		CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		104%	100%	199	208	-0,2	-6,2%
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		104%	100%	199	213	-0,2	-6,2%
1	Severe criminal cases	98%	98%	193	236	-0,3	2,9%
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	105%	100%	200	222	-0,2	-7,5%
3	Other cases	NAP	-	NAP	-	NAP	NAP

PPT = Percentage points

For reference only: for the first instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 98,8%; *- Disposition time: 128 days.*





• Second instance cases - Other than criminal law cases

	2nd instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)	North Macedonia (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
	Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	13 639	13 325	12 910	NA	-11,1%	4,9%	2,5%	NA
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	11 861	12 104	10 524	NA	-12,1%	6,5%	-2,3%	NA
2	Non-litigious cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
3	Administrative cases	1 778	1 221	2 386	NA	-4,0%	-8,2%	30,5%	NA
4	Other cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

In 2025, the incoming civil and commercial litigious cases were 11 861 (0,65 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,9). They decreased by -12,1% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 12 104 (0,66 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2024 and 2025, they increased by 6,5%. The number of resolved cases was thus higher than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the civil and commercial litigious pending cases at the end of 2025 were less than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 102% (above the WB Average of 97%). This increased by 17,8 percentage points compared to 2024.

The Disposition Time for civil and commercial litigious cases was approximately 317 days in 2025 (below the WB Average of 1210 days). This decreased by -8,2% compared to 2024.

The incoming administrative cases were 1 778 in 2025 (ie 0,1 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,15). They decreased by -4% compared to the previous year. The resolved cases were 1 221 (0,07 per 100 inhabitants, below of the WB Average of 0,13). Between 2024 and 2025, the number of resolved administrative decreased by -8,2%. The number of incoming cases was thus higher than the resolved cases. As a consequence, the administrative pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024 and the Clearance rate for this type of cases was 69% (below the WB Average (84%). The CR decreased by -3,1 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Finally, the Disposition Time for administrative cases was approximately 713 days in 2025. This has increased by 42,1% compared to 2024 and it was below the WB Average (1027 days).

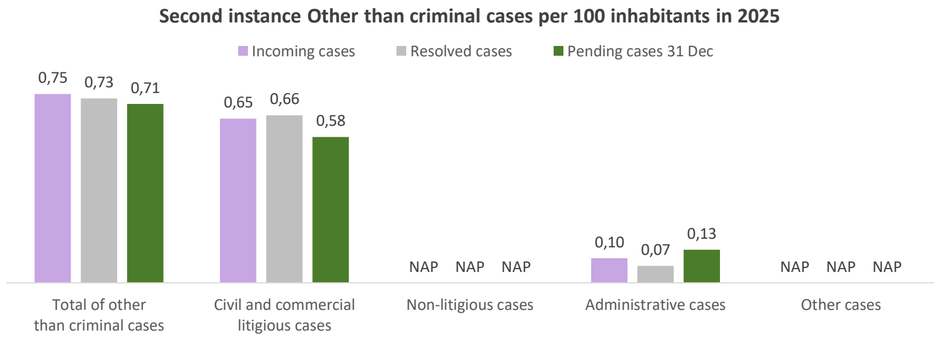
The increase in incoming civil and commercial cases in 2025 is linked to the improved efficiency of first instance courts in 2024 compared to 2023 (38 156 resolved cases in 2024 versus 36 960 in 2023). This improvement was mainly due to the appointment of new first instance judges from among the graduates of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors. As a consequence, the higher number of resolved cases at first instance generated an increase in appeals.

Regarding administrative cases, the increase in Disposition Time is mainly explained by the sharp rise in the backlog at the end of 2024 combined with a low Clearance Rate. According to the authorities, the increase in pending cases resulted from the non-implementation by lower courts of a conclusion adopted by the High Administrative Court concerning the amount of procedural costs, which led to a higher number of appeals. In addition, the low Clearance Rate is related to the insufficient number of judges serving in the High Administrative Court.

	2nd instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)	Incoming cases			Resolved cases			Pending cases 31 Dec			Pending cases over 2 years	
		North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average
	Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	0,75	<	1,07	0,73	<	1,12	0,71	<	1,30	NA	0,77
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	0,65	<	0,90	0,66	<	0,98	0,58	<	0,96	NA	0,56
2	Non-litigious cases	NAP		0,07	NAP		0,07	NAP		0,08	NAP	0,04
3	Administrative cases	0,10	<	0,15	0,07	<	0,13	0,13	<	0,37	NA	0,25
4	Other cases	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP	-

Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming Second instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,2;
- incoming Second instance Administrative cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,1.

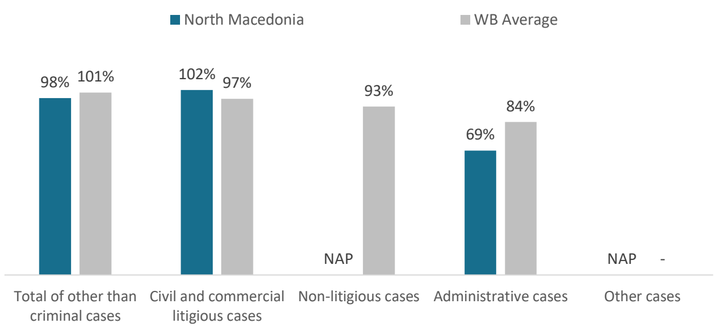


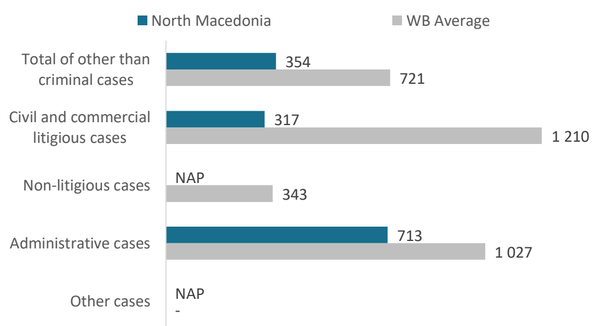
	2nd instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025	CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
	Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	98%	101%	354	721	14,9	-2,3%
1	Civil and commercial litigious cases	102%	97%	317	1 210	17,8	-8,2%
2	Non-litigious cases	NAP	93%	NAP	343	NAP	NAP
3	Administrative cases	69%	84%	713	1 027	-3,1	42,1%
4	Other cases	NAP	-	NAP	-	NAP	NAP

PPT = Percentage points

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the Second instance Civil and Commercial litigious cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 100,8%; - Disposition time: 207 days.

For reference only: the 2024 EU Median for the Second instance Administrative cases was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 98,4%; - Disposition time: 339 days.





• Second instance cases - Criminal law cases

2nd instance cases in 2025 (absolute values)		North Macedonia (2025)				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
		Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases 31 Dec	Pending cases over 2 years
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		6 232	5 983	2 339	NA	-9,8%	-20,2%	11,9%	NA
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		6 232	5 983	2 339	NA	-9,8%	-20,2%	11,9%	NA
1	Severe criminal cases	2 666	2 334	1 365	NA	-5,1%	-8,6%	32,1%	NA
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	3 566	3 649	974	NA	-13,0%	-26,1%	-7,9%	NA
3	Other cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA

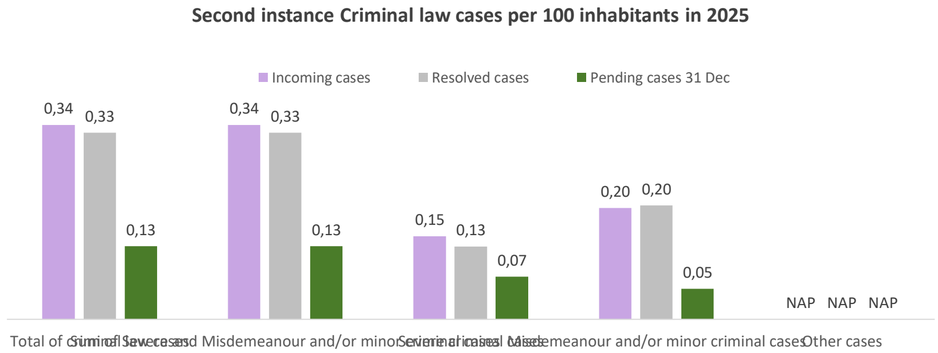
In 2025, the incoming severe and misdemeanour criminal cases were 6 232 (0,34 per 100 inhabitants vs the WB Average of 0,48). They decreased by -9,8% between 2024 and 2025. The resolved cases were 5 983 (0,33 per 100 inhabitants). Between 2024 and 2025, they decreased by -20,2%. The number of resolved cases was thus lower than the incoming cases. As a consequence, the severe and misdemeanour criminal pending cases at the end of 2025 were more than in 2024. Indeed, the 2025 Clearance rate for this type of cases was 96% (above the WB Average of 88,8%). This decreased by -12,5 percentage points compared to 2024.

According to the authorities, the increase in pending severe criminal cases on 1 January of the reference year is due to the continuous rise in incoming cases observed in 2024 and 2025 compared to 2023.

The Disposition Time for severe and misdemeanour criminal cases was approximately 143 days in 2025 (below the WB Average of 395 days). This increased by 40,2% over the 2024-2025 period.

2nd instance cases in 2025 (per 100 inhabitants)		Incoming cases			Resolved cases			Pending cases 31 Dec			Pending cases over 2 years	
		North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia		WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		0,34	<	0,48	0,33	<	0,45	0,13	<	0,21	NA	0,10
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		0,34	<	0,48	0,33	<	0,45	0,13	<	0,21	NA	0,10
1	Severe criminal cases	0,15	<	0,25	0,13	<	0,21	0,07	<	0,18	NA	0,09
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	0,20	<	0,23	0,20	<	0,24	0,05	>	0,04	NA	0,01
3	Other cases	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP		-	NAP	-

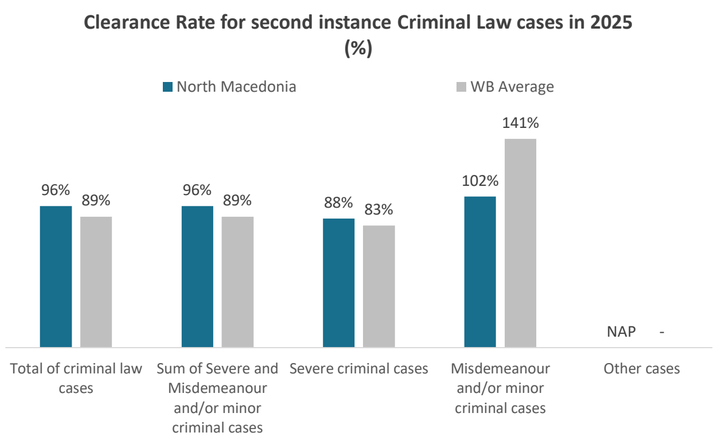
Key: > Higher than the WB Average; = Equal to the WB Average; < Lower than the WB Average

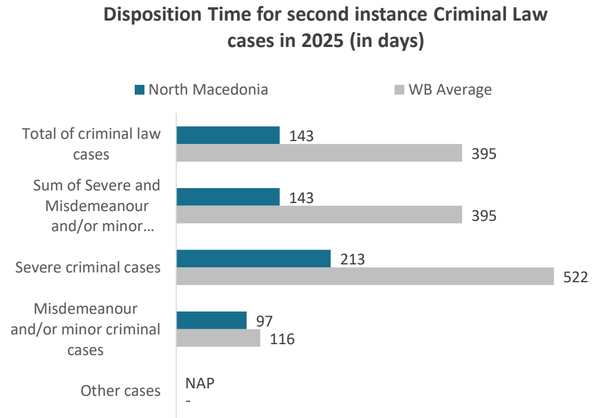


For reference only: for the second instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Incoming cases per 100 inhabitants: 0,1.

2nd instance cases Clearance Rate (CR) and Disposition Time (DT) in 2025		CR (%)		DT (days)		% Variation 2024 - 2025	
		North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average	CR (PPT)	DT (%)
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)		96%	89%	143	395	-12,5	40,2%
Sum of Severe and Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal cases (1+2)		96%	89%	143	395	-12,5	40,2%
1	Severe criminal cases	88%	83%	213	522	-3,3	44,5%
2	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	102%	141%	97	116	-18,2	24,8%
3	Other cases	NAP	-	NAP	-	NAP	NAP

PPT = Percentage points

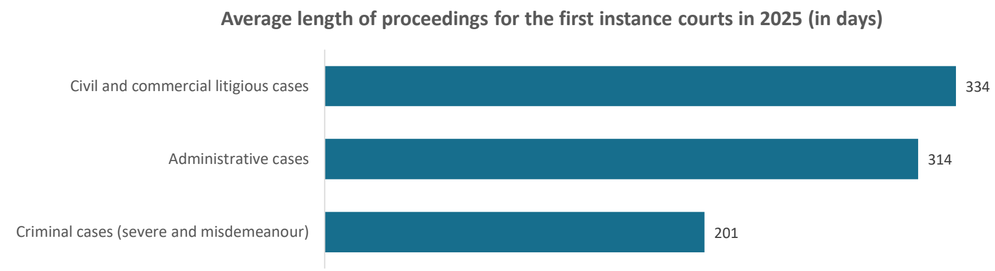




For reference only: for the second instance Total Criminal law cases, the 2024 EU Median was as follows:
- Clearance rate: 99,5%; - Disposition time: 121 days.

• Specific category cases

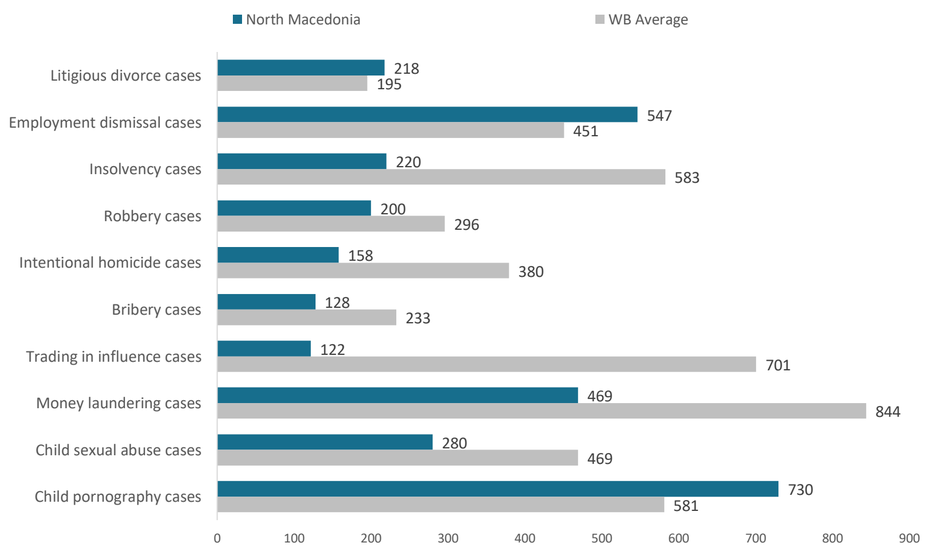
	Average length of proceedings (in days)							
	2025				% Variation between 2024 and 2025			
	First instance	Second instance	Third instance	Total	First instance	Second instance	Third instance	Total
Civil and commercial litigious cases	334	308	388	NA	82,5%	42,6%	1,8%	NA
Administrative cases	314	306	252	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Criminal cases (severe and misdemeanour)	201	228	41	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA



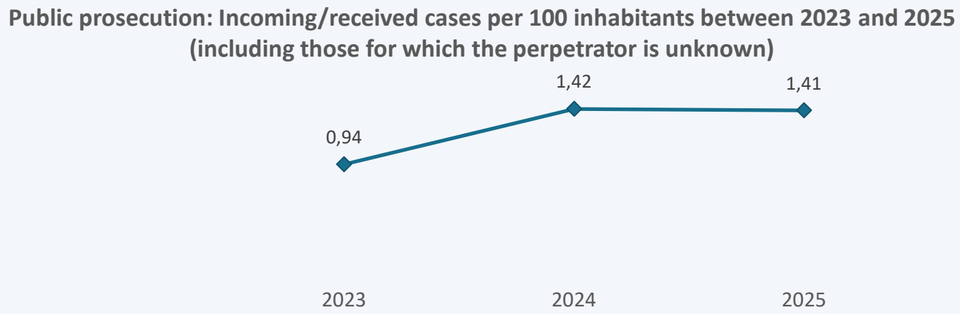
The average length of cases corresponds to the average length of resolved cases at a certain instance within the reference year.

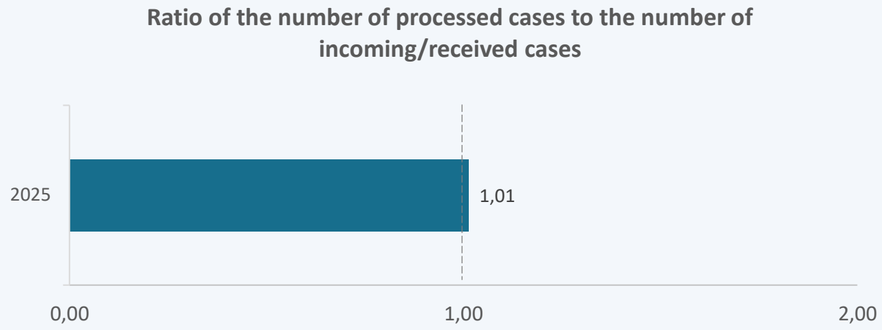
Until now, these data were calculated manually by the courts. Starting in 2025, a new tool was introduced in the software application to calculate them automatically. In addition, the results in this reporting cycle are based on a new formula intended to provide a more accurate picture of the duration of proceedings.

First instance specific cases in 2025						CR (%)		DT (days)	
	North Macedonia								
	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case	North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average
Litigious divorce cases	2365	4 049	4 009	2 393	NA	99%	103%	218	195
Employment dismissal cases	17138	13 171	12 131	18 172	NA	92%	105%	547	451
Insolvency cases	537	1 036	981	592	NA	95%	91%	220	583
Robbery cases	934	1 393	1 464	803	NA	105%	109%	200	296
Intentional homicide cases	33	66	67	29	NA	102%	103%	158	380
Bribery cases	6	21	20	7	NA	95%	98%	128	233
Trading in influence cases	1	3	3	1	NA	100%	108%	122	701
Money laundering cases	7	9	7	9	NA	78%	67%	469	844
Child sexual abuse cases	23	58	43	33	NA	74%	101%	280	469
Child pornography cases	7	6	4	8	NA	67%	79%	730	581



Public Prosecution in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicators 3.1.1)





North Macedonia was able to distinguish criminal cases where the perpetrator is known from those where the perpetrator is unknown. In 2025, the public prosecution services in North Macedonia received 1,2 incoming first instance cases per 100 inhabitants (where the perpetrators were known), processed 1,2 cases per 100 inhabitants, and had 0,6 cases per 100 inhabitants pending at the end of the year. Between 2023 and 2025, the incoming/received cases in the public prosecution offices more than doubled from 0,94 to 1,41 per 100 inhabitants. Over the same period, the trend indicates a significant upward movement. Additionally, in 2025, the ratio of the number of processed cases to the number of incoming cases was 1,01.

Status of public prosecution services

In North Macedonia the public prosecution office has an independent status as a separate entity among state institutions.

The guarantees of the Public Prosecution Office are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia and in the Law on the Public Prosecution Office.

Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia – Article 106
The Public Prosecution Office is a single and autonomous state body responsible for prosecuting persons who have committed criminal offences and other punishable acts determined by law, and for performing other activities established by law.
The Public Prosecution Office performs its duties on the basis of the Constitution, the laws and the international agreements ratified in accordance with the Constitution.
The functions of the Public Prosecution Office are performed by the Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia and by public prosecutors.
The competences, establishment, termination, organisation and operation of the Public Prosecution Office are regulated by a law adopted by a two-thirds majority of the total number of representatives.
The Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia is appointed and dismissed by the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia for a term of six years, with the right to re-election.
Public prosecutors are elected by the Council of Public Prosecutors without limitation of the duration of their term of office.

Law on the Public Prosecution Office (2020)
Article 2
The Public Prosecution Office is the sole independent state body responsible for prosecuting perpetrators of criminal offences and other acts punishable by law and performs other duties as stipulated by law.
Article 3
The Public Prosecution Office is organised according to the principles of hierarchy and subordination.
The Public Prosecution Office is an independent state body.
The observance of these principles does not jeopardise the independence and responsibility of each public prosecutor in the performance of their duties.
Article 6
The office of public prosecutor is incompatible with the performance of any other public office or profession, except in cases determined by law. Membership in, or participation in the activities of, a political party is prohibited.
Article 7
Public prosecutors perform their duties in a lawful, impartial and objective manner. They respect and protect human and civil rights and freedoms, as well as the rights of other legal entities, and ensure the efficiency of criminal prosecution within the scope of their competences.
In performing their duties, public prosecutors ensure equality before the law regardless of race, colour, origin, national or ethnic background, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, belonging to a marginalised group, language, citizenship, social origin, education, religion or belief, political opinion, disability, age, family or marital status, property status, health status, personal capacity, social status or any other ground.
No one may influence the lawful, impartial and objective performance of the functions of the Public Prosecution Office.

Different authorities involved in a pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings

	Police	Public prosecutor	Investigating judge	Judge	Other
Receive a complaint	✓	✓	NAP		✓
Initiate investigation		✓	NAP		
Conduct investigation	✓	✓	NAP		✓
Supervising investigation		✓	NAP	✓	
Dismiss a case at the pre-trial stage		✓	NAP		
Bring a case to court		✓	NAP		
Decide an alternative to prosecution		✓	NAP		
Close a case by imposing or negotiating a penalty or measure		✓	NAP	✓	

According to the Law on Criminal Procedure, the investigation is conducted by the competent public prosecutor, assisted by the judicial police. The judicial police comprise the Ministry of Interior, the Financial Police, officials of the Customs Administration responsible for detecting criminal offences, and officials of the Ministry of Defence responsible for detecting and reporting criminal offences.

The public prosecutor shall reject a criminal complaint by decision if it is evident from the complaint itself that the reported act does not constitute a criminal offence prosecuted ex officio, if the statute of limitations has expired, if the offence is covered by amnesty or pardon, if there are other circumstances excluding prosecution, or if there are no grounds for suspicion that the reported person committed the offence.

According to Article 43 of the Criminal Procedure Code, entitled Conditional postponement of criminal prosecution, the public prosecutor may, with the consent of the injured party, postpone criminal prosecution for offences punishable by up to three years of imprisonment if the suspect is willing to comply with specific instructions and fulfil obligations aimed at reducing or eliminating the harmful consequences of the offence, restoring social order or facilitating the reintegration of the suspect.

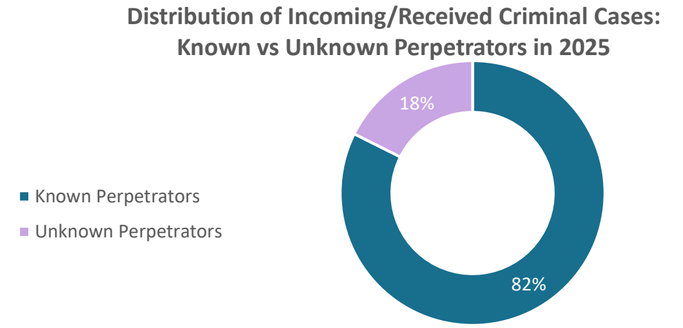
Such obligations may include:
compensation for damages; return of unlawfully obtained items; payment of a monetary contribution to the State budget, another public institution or humanitarian purposes;fulfilment of maintenance obligations; treatment for addictions;psychosocial therapy aimed at eliminating violent behaviour; prohibition of visits or contacts with victims or other persons designated by the public prosecutor for a period not exceeding six months; community service for 40 to 120 hours; fulfilment of conditions for release resulting from compensation for damages, as provided by the Criminal Code.
If the suspect fulfils the obligations within the prescribed period, the public prosecutor shall issue a decision discontinuing criminal prosecution. For obligations involving treatment for addictions or psychosocial therapy, the duration of the conditional postponement is determined in consultation with the competent specialised institution and may not exceed one year.

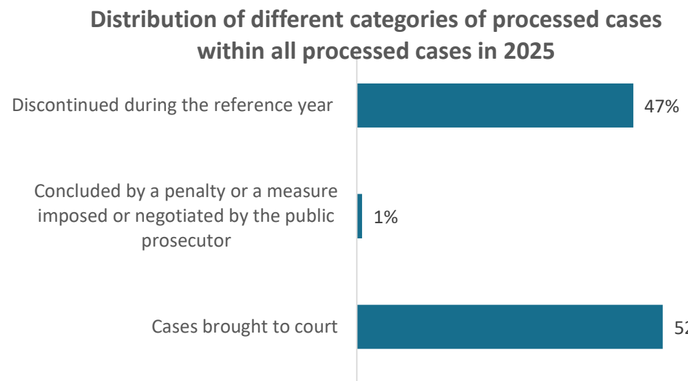
According to Article 44 of the Criminal Procedure Code, entitled Waiving of criminal prosecution, the public prosecutor may decide not to prosecute if:
the Criminal Code allows the court to exempt the offender from punishment and the public prosecutor considers that a criminal sanction is not necessary;
the offence is punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to three years and the suspect has shown genuine remorse, prevented harmful consequences or fully compensated the damage caused, and the public prosecutor considers that a criminal sanction is not necessary;
the suspect, as a member of an organised criminal group or another criminal organisation, voluntarily cooperates before or after detection of the offence or during criminal proceedings, and such cooperation is of essential importance for the criminal proceedings.

• Public prosecution: first instance criminal cases

North Macedonia was able to distinguish criminal cases where the perpetrator is known from those where the perpetrator is unknown. The table below shows only those cases in which the perpetrator is known.

Public prosecution: 1st instance criminal cases in 2025			Absolute number in 2025	Per 100 inhabitants
1	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. Year		11 261	0,62
2	Incoming/received cases		21 100	1,16
3	Processed cases (3.1 + 3.2 + 3.3)		21 376	1,17
	3.1	Discontinued during the reference year (3.1.1 + 3.1.2 + 3.1.3)	10 053	0,55
		3.1.1. Discontinued by the public prosecutor due to the lack of an established offence	7 343	0,40
		3.1.2 Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reasons of opportunity	1 579	0,09
		3.1.3 Discontinued for other reasons	1 131	0,06
	3.2	Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor	194	0,01
	3.3	Cases brought to court	11 129	0,61
4	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year		10 985	0,60

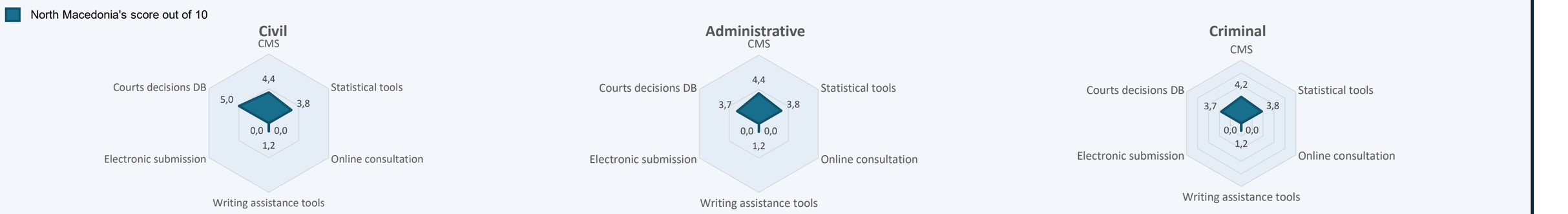




Please note that the data presented are reported by perpetrator and not by case.

Information and communication technology tools in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 3.3)

The six ICT deployment indices (CMS, Courts decisions DB, Statistical tools, Writing assistance tools, electronic submission and online consultation) range from 0 to 10 points. Their calculation is based on the features and on deployment rates reported. The methodology for calculation provides points for each feature in each case matter. They are summarised and multiplied by the deployment rate as a weight. In this way, if the system is not fully deployed, the value is decreased even if all features are existing.



n 2025, ICT deployment in North Macedonia is characterised by relatively higher scores for Courts decisions databases and Case Management Systems. Courts decisions databases achieved the highest score in civil matters (5,0) and remained the most developed ICT tool in administrative and criminal matters (3,7). CMS deployment reached 4,4 in both civil and administrative matters but it is lower in criminal matters (4,2). Statistical tools show a moderate level of development in civil and administrative matters (3,8), while writing assistance tools remain limited across all case categories. No deployment was reported for online consultation or electronic submission services.

In North Macedonia, there does not exist an overall Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategy in the judicial system. However, there are plans for a significant change in the present IT system in the judiciary in 2025.

In 2026, North Macedonia launched an EU-funded project aimed at further digitalising institutions involved in the judiciary and the fight against corruption. The project includes the development of new electronic case management systems for prosecution offices and the State Attorney's Office, the implementation of the AKstats case tracking system, upgrades to existing case management systems and improvements in IT management and cybersecurity.

There is 1 case management systems (CMS), eg software used for registering judicial proceedings and their managementThis has been developed more than 10 years.

• Electronic case management system

The CMS is fully deployed and widely used across all case categories, with deployment and usage rates ranging between 95% and 100%. The system provides several advanced functionalities, including random allocation and weighting of cases, electronic transfer of files between court instances, anonymisation of decisions, access to closed and resolved cases, advanced search tools, protected log files and electronic signatures. The same functionalities are available for civil, administrative and criminal matters.

	Deployment rate	Usage rate	Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases	Active case management dashboard	Random allocation of cases	Case weighting	Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number)	Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court	Anonymisation of decisions to be published	Interoperability with prosecution system	Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register)	Remote access for telework	Access to closed/resolved cases	Advanced search engine	AI-based categorization and allocation of incoming cases	AI-based case analysis tool	Protected log files	Electronic signature	Storage of the electronic evidence file	Other special functionality
Civil	95-100 %	95-100 %			✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓		
Administrative	95-100 %	95-100 %			✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓		
Criminal	95-100 %	95-100 %			✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓		

The allocation of cases is automatic and based on predefined rules. In terms of case weighting, the distribution is based on several criteria, including repeated cases, life imprisonment, organised crime, five-judge panels, public hearings, detention, urgent cases, proceedings involving more than five parties, bankruptcy cases, and other criteria related to legal grounds, types of grounds, registers and types of cases.

The CMS (ACCMIS) includes a dedicated module for the anonymisation of data. The anonymisation process is automatic but is subject to additional manual verification where the module has not identified all personal data.

• Database of court decisions

The database of court decisions in North Macedonia covers civil, administrative and criminal cases across all court instances. Decisions are published online for all case categories, with publication rates highest for civil cases and for the highest courts, while administrative and criminal decisions remain less extensively published at first and second instance.

	1st instance													
			Functionalities											
	Percentage of decisions published	Modalities of publication	AI anonymisation	Manual anonymisation	Free public online access	Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)	Open data	Advanced search engine	AI-based (LLM) exploration tool	Machine-readable content	Structured content	Metadata	European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)	Other special functionality
Civil	95-100 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		
Administrative	50-75 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		
Criminal	50-75 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		

	2nd instance													
Civil	95-100 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		
Administrative	50-75 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		
Criminal	50-75 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		

	Highest Instance													
Civil	95-100 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		
Administrative	95-100 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		
Criminal	95-100 %	Published online (public website)	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		

In North Macedonia, court decisions are published online through a public website across all three main case categories and all court instances. Publication is most extensive for civil cases, which reach 95–100% at all levels, while administrative and criminal decisions are published to a lesser extent at first and second instance (50–75%) and more systematically at the highest court level. Across all matters, the database combines AI and manual anonymisation and provides free public online access. It also includes an advanced search engine, machine-readable and structured content, and metadata. By contrast, no links to ECHR case law, open data access, ECLI or AI-based exploration tools were reported.

Statistical tools

Statistical tools are fully deployed across all case categories, with deployment rates ranging between 95% and 100%. The tools are integrated with the CMS and support the generation of predefined and customised statistical reports, as well as real-time data availability. Statistical analysis is primarily based on caseflow data and indicators related to judicial workload, including the number of cases per judge. No significant differences in functionalities or available data were reported between civil, administrative and criminal matters.

	Deployment rate	Functionalities									Data available for statistical analysis								
		Integration/connection with the CMS	Business intelligence software	Generation of predefined statistical reports	Generation of customised statistical reports	Internal page and/or dashboard	External page with statistics (public website)	Real-time data availability	Automatic consolidation of data at the national level	Other special functionality	Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending)	Age of a pending case	Length of proceedings	Number of hearings	Cases per judge	Case weights	Number of parties in a case	Indicator of appeal	Result of the appeal
Civil	95-100 %	✓		✓	✓			✓			✓				✓				
Administrative	95-100 %	✓		✓	✓			✓			✓				✓				
Criminal	95-100 %	✓		✓	✓			✓			✓				✓				

Writing assistance tools

Writing assistance tools are reported as fully deployed across all case categories (95–100%). However, the only functionality reported is the availability of document templates. According to the beneficiary, OpenOffice is used as a writing assistance tool in courts.

	Deployment rate	Functionalities						
		Templates	Automatically generated text	AI generated proposal for a decision and/or reasoning	AI for summarization of documents	Speech-to-text	Electronic signature	Other special functionality
Civil	95-100 %	✓						
Administrative	95-100 %	✓						
Criminal	95-100 %	✓						

Electronic submission of cases

No electronic submission system for court cases is currently operational in North Macedonia. While the legal framework allows the electronic submission of cases, no technical solution supporting electronic filing was reported for civil, administrative or criminal matters.

	Deployment rate	Usage rate	Electronic or paper			Submitted by:				Data integration	
			Paper submission is still possible	Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way)	Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission)	Public prosecutor (only for criminal)	Lawyer	Party not represented by a lawyer	Other	The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS)	The data are manually re-entered in the CMS
Civil	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP		NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
Administrative	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP		NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
Criminal	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

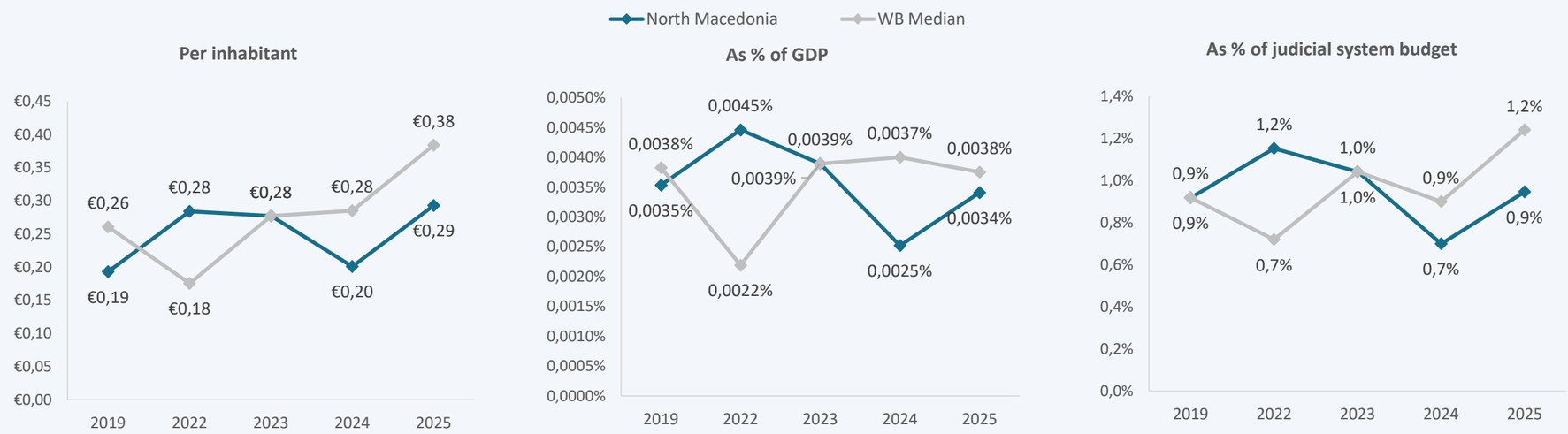
Online consultation

No online consultation services for court cases were reported in North Macedonia for civil, administrative or criminal matters.

	Deployment rate	Usage rate	Content						Access				Consultation format		
			Case status	Documents	Notifications	Events/calendar	Court decision	Other	Public prosecutor (only for criminal)	Lawyer	Party not represented by a lawyer	Other	Electronic access at the court premises	Electronic access from any location	Other, please specify[MandatoryComment]
Civil	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP		NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
Administrative	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP		NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
Criminal	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP

Legal Aid in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 4)

Total implemented budget for Legal Aid between 2019 and 2025



Number of cases for which LA has been granted in 2025

0,39

per 100 inhabitants

WB Median: 0,28

WB Median: 0,28

In 2025, the implemented budget for legal aid spent by North Macedonia was €533 952. Between 2019 and 2025, it soared remarkably from €0,19 to €0,29 per inhabitant. Over the same period, the trend increased in the amount allocated per inhabitant. Compared to the WB Median, which stood at €0,38 in 2025, North Macedonia's value was significantly lower than the median reference point.
Moreover, the implemented budget for legal aid as a percentage of GDP had a slight decrease, starting at 0,0035% in 2019 and reaching 0,0034% in 2025. This value was lower than the WB Median of 0,0038%, indicating a lower national investment relative to economic output.
Looking at legal aid as a share of the judicial system budget, the percentage had a no significant change from 0,92% in 2019 to 0,9% in 2025. In 2025, the share was significantly lower than the WB Median of 1,2%.

• Organisation of the legal aid system (1/2)

The Republic of North Macedonia has a dual system of free legal aid, i.e. one system is provided through the Ministry of Justice and the other through the courts. Namely, the courts provide free legal aid on the basis of legal provisions from procedural laws: the right to defense for the poor in civil proceedings and in criminal procedure - mandatory defense and defense for the poor. In relation to the Ministry of Justice, there is a separate organizational unit, the Department for Free Legal Aid. This Department is responsible for primary and secondary legal aid. The primary legal aid includes:
- initial legal advice on the right to use free legal aid,
- general legal information,
- general legal advice,
- assistance in completing the application for secondary legal aid,
- assistance in filling out forms, forms issued by an administrative body in an administrative procedure for social protection and protection of children's rights; pension, disability, and health insurance; protection of victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence; procedure for registration in the birth registry; acquisition of personal identification and citizenship documents, - drafting of complaints to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and to the Ombudsman and requests for protection of freedoms and rights to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia. Primary legal aid is provided to every interested person. The initial meeting at the Ministry, at the authorized association, at the legal clinic is aimed at explaining to the interested person the nature of the problem or helping him to find out whether the problem is a legal issue, whether it is within the scope of the legal services provided by the Ministry, the association and the legal clinic, as well as the types of legal aid that are most appropriate for the person. In the procedure, while providing primary legal aid, the Ministry, the association, and the legal clinic do not have the right to act on behalf of and for the account of the person. The primary legal aid provided by the Ministry includes:
- initial legal advice on the right to use free legal aid,
- general legal information,
- general legal advice,
- assistance in completing the application for secondary legal aid.
Primary legal aid is provided by the legal clinic in accordance with the education program adopted by the law faculty, to implement practical training for students at the law faculty. When providing primary legal aid, the legal clinic cooperates with lawyers registered in the Register of Lawyers, as well as with the Bar Association of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Secondary Legal Aid is granted to a person who needs professional legal assistance from a lawyer for a specific legal matter and who is unable to pay the costs of the procedure due to their financial situation, and whose request is justified.
Secondary legal aid includes representation in proceedings before a court, a state body, the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Health Insurance Fund of the Republic of North Macedonia, and persons exercising public authority pursuant to Article 14 of this Law, as well as exemption from costs pursuant to the provisions of this and other laws. In the procedure for secondary legal aid, the Ministry cooperates with the Bar Association of the Republic of North Macedonia, judicial authorities, as well as with the Center for Social Work, state bodies and other competent institutions which, according to law, are obliged to submit to the Ministry, free of charge, the necessary data for the provision of secondary legal aid, whereby the data is submitted in accordance with the regulations on the protection of personal data. Secondary legal aid includes those costs of the procedure that have occurred after the date of approval of the request for granting free legal aid and is granted for representation at all levels in civil court proceedings, administrative proceedings, and administrative disputes.
The following costs are covered under secondary legal aid : -āuthorizes the appointed lawyer to provide secondary legal aid,
- exempts the beneficiary from court fees and costs related to the procedure before the court in accordance with the law,
- exempts the beneficiary from the costs of the expert examination and
- exempts the beneficiary from administrative fees.
It's decided in each concrete case whether the request is justified without assessment of the merits of the case.
Namely, the request shall be deemed to be unjustified in the following cases:
- when it is obvious that the request of the requester is unfounded due to the lack of legal facts based on which legal actions can be taken,
- when it is a clear abuse of the right to free legal aid,
- the legal issue for which legal aid is requested is clearly unreasonable,
- if the expectations and requests of the requester are clearly in conflict with the outcomes in issues with the same or similar factual situations for the same legal issues, and
- when the requests of the requester conflict with morality.
According to the Law, there are the following financial eligibility criteria used to grant secondary legal aid:
- the monthly income of the applicant living alone does not exceed the amount of the minimum net wage in the Republic of North Macedonia, determined by the regulations in the field of the minimum wage,
- the monthly income of the applicant living in a common household with the members of his/her family does not exceed the amount of the minimum net wage from paragraph (1) line 1 of this article and the monthly income of each subsequent family member does not exceed the amount of 20% of the minimum net wage determined by the regulations in the field of the minimum wage.

• Organisation of the legal aid system (2/2)

Legal aid is applied to:

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Representation in court	✓	✓
Legal advice, legal assistance and other legal services	✓	✓

Article 75 Criminal procedure law
Defense of indigent persons
(1) When the conditions for mandatory defense are not met, upon his or her motion, the defendant may be assigned counsel, if, taking his or her financial situation into consideration, it is deemed that the defendant cannot bear the expenses of the defense, when required for the purpose of the interest of justice and specifically due to the severity of the crime and complexity of the case. In the motion, the defendant can indicate the preferred attorney from the list of defense counsels of the appropriate legal community.
(2) The judge of the preliminary procedure i.e. the Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber shall rule on the motion as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, and the defense counsel shall be appointed by the President of the Court.
(3) The defense expenses as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be covered by the State Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

Criteria for granting or refusing legal aid

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Legal aid granted based on the financial situation	✓	✓
Legal aid may be refused for cases lacking merit, such as frivolous actions or those with no reasonable chance of success	✗	✗

According to the Law on Free Legal Aid, free legal aid can be refused if the person has given false data regarding his/her status.
The request for free legal aid will also be rejected if the lawyer has submitted a reasoned opinion that it is inexpedient to continue the procedure for which secondary legal aid was previously approved, and which relates to the same legal issue and legal basis.

Legal aid is automatically granted

	Status of the recipient	Category of the case
Legal aid automatically granted	✓	✓

According to the Article 20 from the Law on free legal Aid, there are 3 situations in which free legal aid is automatically granted: victims of domestic violence, due to natural disaster and if the applicant is placed to foster family.

Timeframes of the procedure for granting legal aid

	Criminal cases (days)	Other than criminal cases (days)
Maximum duration prescribed in law/regulation	15	15
Actual average duration	15	15

• Implemented budget for legal aid

	Implemented budget for legal aid in €				Total implemented budget for legal aid per inhabitant		Total implemented budget for legal aid as % of GDP		Total implemented budget for legal aid as % of the judicial system budget	
	Total (a+b)	% Variation 2019 - 2025	Cases brought to court (a)	Cases not brought to court (b)	North Macedonia	WB Median	North Macedonia	WB Median	North Macedonia	WB Median
Total (1+2)	€533 952	33,1%	€533 800	€152	€0,29	€0,38	0,0034%	0,0038%	0,9%	1,2%
In criminal cases (1)	NA	NA	NA	NAP						
In other than criminal cases (2)	NA	NA	NA	NA						

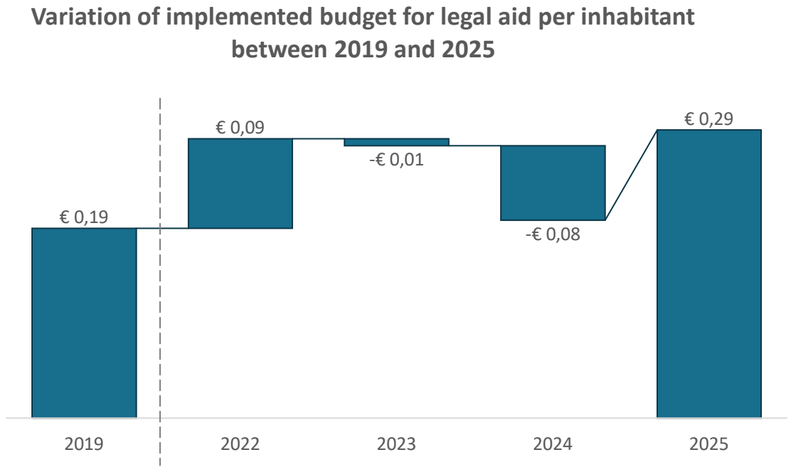
In 2025, the total implemented budget for legal aid, which covers both cases brought to court and those not brought to court, stood at €533 952. There has been a significant increase in the legal aid budget, with a 33,1% rise from 2019 to 2025.

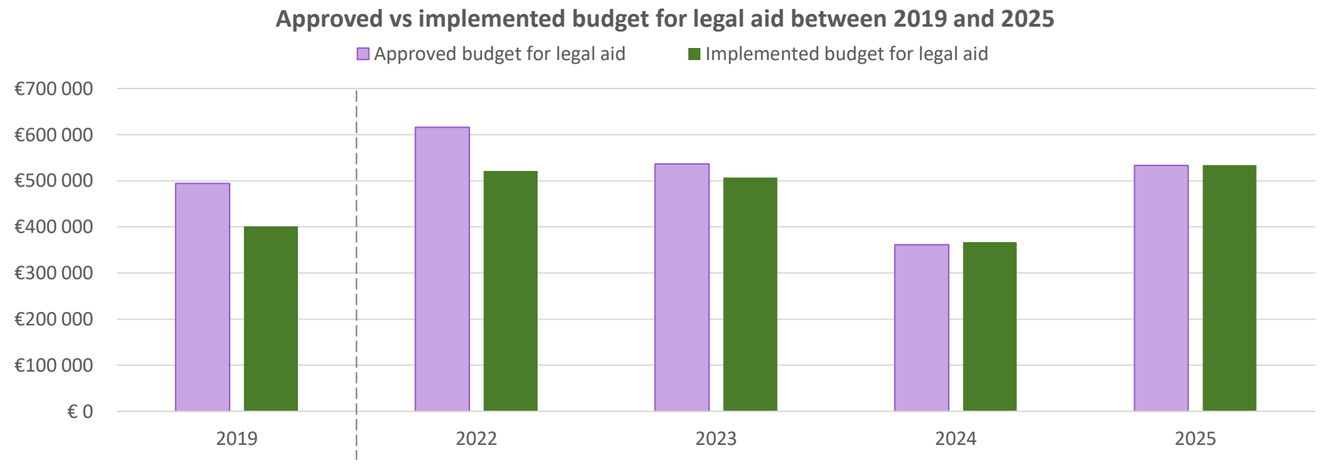
When evaluating the budget on a per capita basis, the amount dedicated to legal aid in 2025 was €0,29 per inhabitant, which was significantly lower than the WB Median of €0,38. This suggests that, compared to the other beneficiaries, North Macedonia allocated a lower share of its resources to legal aid for each resident.

Examining the legal aid budget as a proportion of the GDP, the figure stood at 0,0034%. This percentage was lower than the WB Median of 0,0038%.

Additionally, the portion of judicial system budget set aside for legal aid was 0,9%, significantly lower than the WB Median of 1,2%. Over the period between 2019 and 2025, the trend of this percentage stayed relatively stable.

According to the authorities, the increase in the budget in 2025 is due to the increase of the costs for mandatory legal representation in criminal proceedings



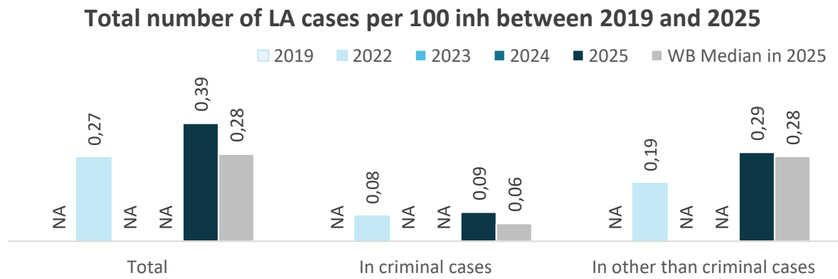


The increase in the budget is due to the increase of the costs for mandatory legal representation in criminal proceedings.

• Number of request for legal aid and number of cases for which legal aid has been granted

	Number of requests of legal aid				
	Total (a+b)			Cases brought to court (a)	Cases not brought to court (b)
	Absolute number	Per 100 inh.	WB Average		
Total (1+2)	NA	NA	0,15	2 050	NA
In criminal cases (1)	NA	NA	-	NA	NAP
In other than criminal cases (2)	NA	NA	-	NA	NA

	Number of cases for which legal aid has been granted					Amount of LA granted per case (€)		
	Total (a+b)			Cases brought to court (a)	Cases not brought to court (b)	Total	Cases brought to court	Cases not brought to court
	Absolute number	Per 100 inh.	% Variation 2019 - 2025					
Total (1+2)	7 019	0,39	NA	1 948	5 071	€76,1	€274,0	€0,03
In criminal cases (1)	1 723	0,09	NA	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA
In other than criminal cases (2)	5 296	0,29	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA



In 2025, the number of cases for which legal aid was granted was 7 019. The number of criminal cases were 1 723, and the other than criminal cases were 5 296. The total cases brought to court were 1 948, while the total cases not brought to court were 5 071. On average, the amount granted per legal aid case was €76,1.

Mandatory representation in court is also included in presented numbers

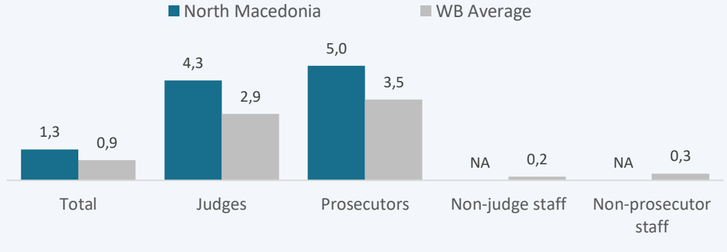
Training of judges and prosecutors in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 11)

Total budget for training per inhabitant



Average number of live training participations per professional

Please see the definition of the indicator on page 2.



Average number of participants per delivered training



The total budget for training of judges and prosecutors in North Macedonia was €0,67 per inhabitant, lower than the WB Average of €0,88 per inhabitant.

In 2025, a total of 3 708 participants - including 1 807 judges and 916 prosecutors - took part in 182 live training sessions held in-person, hybrid or via video conferences. Regarding the internet-based trainings (not-live), no training was provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution for judges and prosecutors, whereas 6 trainings was completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms such as HELP, EJTN, and the UN. The total number of participats was 0 for the institutional platform and 13f or the external platforms. There were 0 participants in internet-based trainings. This shows that the participation on live trainings is higher than the participation in internet-based trainings.

On average, each judge in North Macedonia attended 4,3 live trainings in 2025, which was higher than the WB Average (2,9). Each prosecutor participated in an average of 5 live trainings, more than the WB Average (3,5).

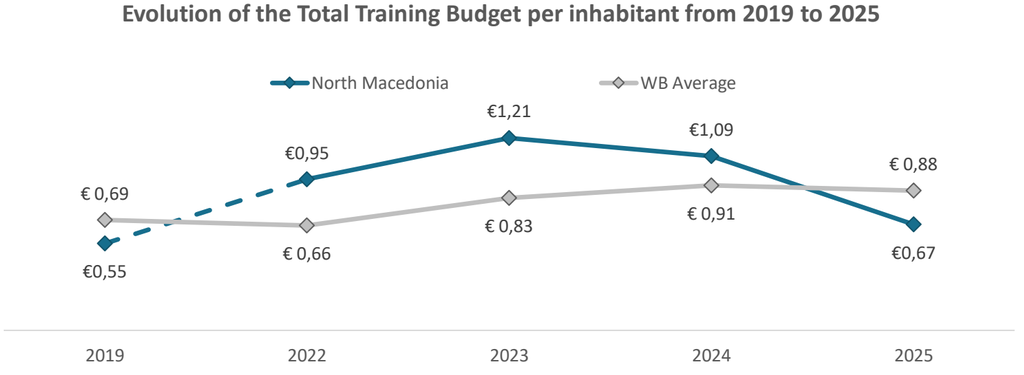
Additionally, both judges and prosecutors in North Macedonia are required to attend a minimum of 2 days of in-service compulsory training.

• Budget for training

This part analises the budget of training institution(s) for judges and prosecutors but also the budgets of courts and prosecutions dedicated to training (when applicable)

	Absolute Number	Per inhabitant		% Variation 2019 - 2025	% Variation 2024 - 2025
		North Macedonia	WB Average		
Total (1 + 2 + 3)	€1 214 057	€0,67	€0,88	22,0%	-39,2%
(1) Budget of the training institution(s)	€1 214 057				
(2) Budget of the courts allocated to training	NAP				
(3) Budget of the prosecution allocated to training	NAP				

Evolution of the Total Training Budget per inhabitant from 2019 to 2025



In 2025, North Macedonia spent in total €1 214 057 for training for judges and prosecutors, which represents €0,67 per inhabitant. This value was considerably lower thanthe WB Average of €0,88. Over the period between 2019 and 2025, it soared remarkably by 22%, while it dropped by -39,2% since 2024.

The Academy is responsible for the training of judges and prosecutors, non-judge and non-prosecutor staff. External donor are not included in the budget of the Academy.
2025 training budget decreased by approximately 40% compared to the previous year. This decrease is result of the fact that there were no new generation of initial training in 2025.

• Number of in-service live trainings and participants

Organisation of the trainings (number, duration and average number of participants on trainings)

	Live (in-person, hybrid, video conference) trainings (2025)						
	Number of delivered trainings	Delivered trainings in days	Number of participants	Average duration of trainings in days		Average number of participants per delivered training	
				North Macedonia	WB Average	North Macedonia	WB Average
Total	182	254	3 708	1,4 >	1,2	20,4 >	14,4
Judges	135	177	1 807	1,3 >	1,2	13,4 <	11,8
Prosecutors	85	115	916	1,4 >	1,3	10,8 <	10,1
Non-judge staff	25	40	NA	1,6 >	1,5	NA	15,2
Non-prosecutor staff	15	30	NA	2,0 >	1,1	NA	2,8

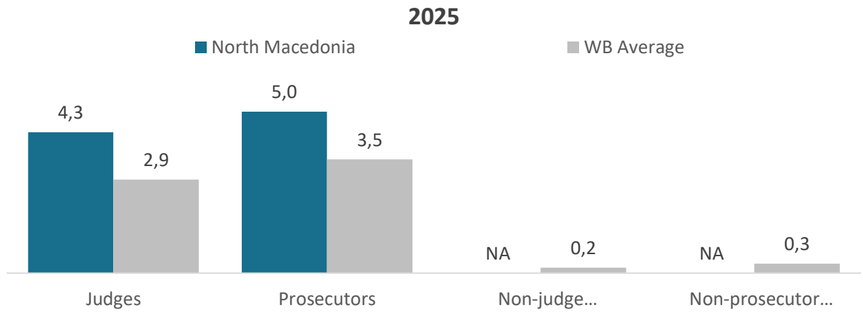
CEPEJ distinguishes these types of trainings:
"A live" training shall be understood as a training conducted in real time. This means that both trainers and participants are physically present in one location or several locations assisted with information technology (digital tools).
"Internet-based" trainings are all trainings that take place over internet, irrespective of the format of the training (such as trainings via specifically designed LMS - Learning Management System platforms, webinars, podcasts and other forms of downloadable lectures and self-learning digital tools). The internet-based training shall be understood as e-training that is implemented according to participant own pace and time of training.

Key:
> Higher than the WB Average
= Equal to the WB Average
< Lower than the WB Average

In 2025, the average duration of trainings for judges in North Macedonia was 1,3 days (slightly above the WB Average of 1,2). During the same period, the average duration of training for prosecutors was 1,4 days, which was above the WB Average of 1,3 days.

Indicators on training participation: Number of training participations per professional and unique participants

	Average number of live training participations per professional		Professionals attending at least one training (unique participants)		
			Number	% of total professionals by category	
	North Macedonia	WB Average		North Macedonia	WB Average
Total	1,3 >	0,9	NA	NA	22,4%
Judges	4,3 >	2,9	NA	NA	75,0%
Prosecutors	5,0 >	3,5	NA	NA	88,1%
Non-judge staff	NA	0,2	NA	NA	6,0%
Non-prosecutor staff	NA	0,3	NA	NA	10,3%



Average number of live training participations per professional

This indicator is calculated as follows: the number of participants in live trainings is divided by the number of professionals for that category. For example, the WB Average for judges is 3,4. This means that, on average, each judge in the region participated to 3,4 live trainings. This indicator should also be analysed together with the indicator on percentage of professionals attending training,shown in the table as well. Indeed, this analysis allows to better understand how long a professional was trained on average and if all were trained.

Looking at the average participations on live trainings, the highest average was for prosecutor (5 live training participations per prosecutor). Hence, compared to the other professionals, North Macedonia gave priority to the trainings for prosecutor, like the rest of the region (the WB Average number of participations per prosecutor on live trainings was 3,5).

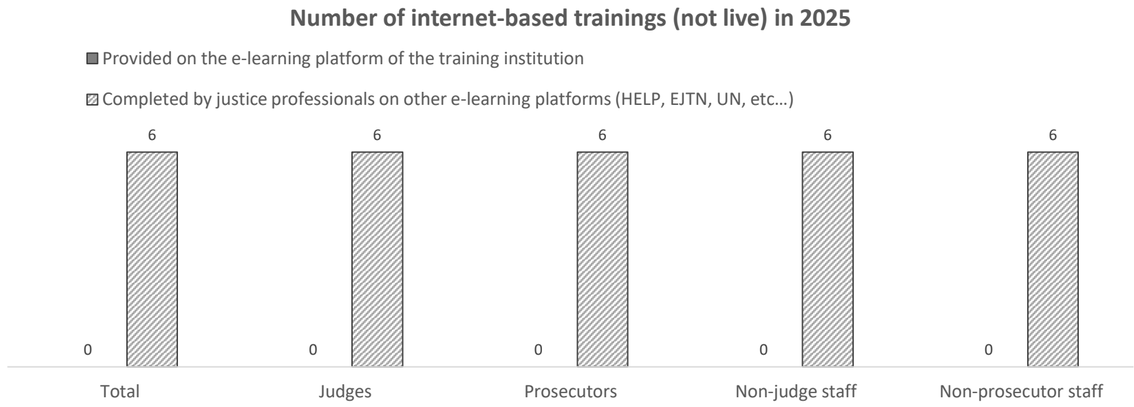
In 2025 the highest priority for live training was given to the training of Prosecutors (5,0 participations on trainings per prosecutor).

985 participants is total number for non-judges and non-prosecutors for in live trainings. The Academy`s system can`t provide separate number for this category.

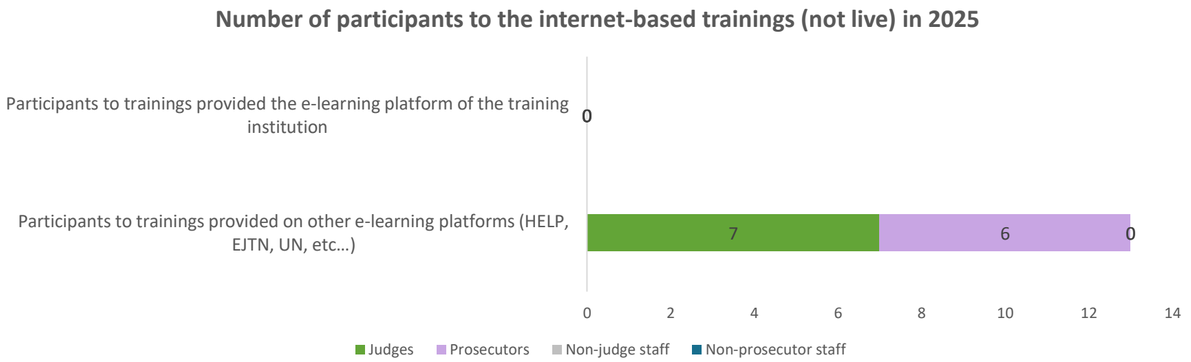
Participation shall be understood as one attendance of a person to a training.

• Number of in-service internet-based trainings and participants

	Number of internet-based trainings (not live) in 2025			
	Provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution		Completed by justice professionals on other e-learning platforms (HELP, EJTN, UN, etc…)	
	Number of trainings	Number of participants	Number of trainings	Number of participants
Total	0	0	6	13
Judges	0	0	6	7
Prosecutors	0	0	6	6
Non-judge staff	0	0	6	0
Non-prosecutor staff	0	0	6	0

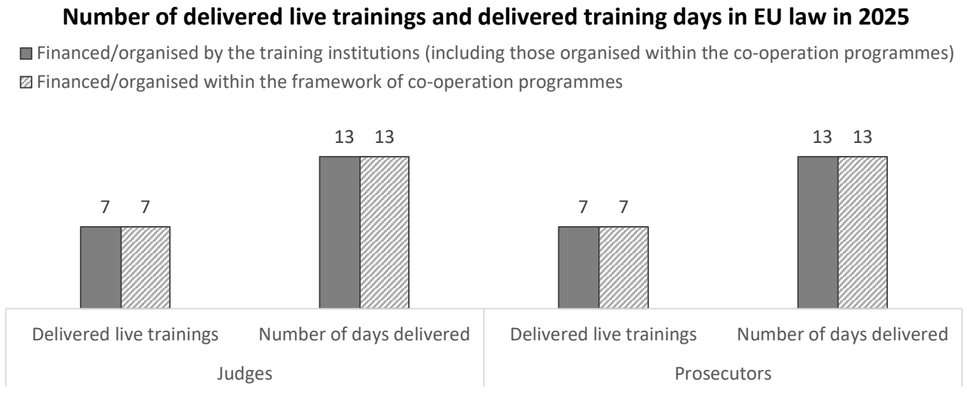


In 2025, North Macedonia did not provide any internet-based trainings through the e-learning platform of the training institution. However, judges and prosecutors completed six online trainings offered by other institutions and organisations, such as HELP, EJTN and the UN, with a total of 13 participants. No participation of non-judge or non-prosecutor staff was reported.



• Number of EU law training courses and participants

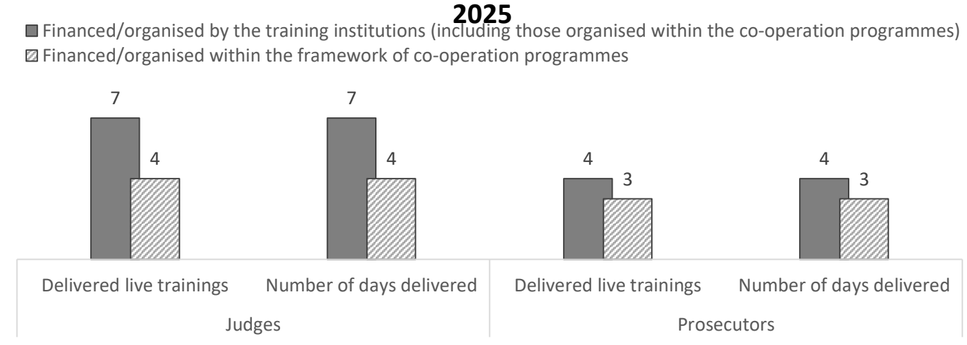
	Training in EU law			
	By the training institutions for judges and prosecutors		Within the framework of co-operation programmes	
Live trainings (2025)	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**
Number of delivered live trainings	7	7	7	7
Number of days delivered	13	13	13	13
Number of participants	37	51		
Internet-based trainings (2025)				
Number of available trainings	0	0	0	0
Number of participants	0	0		



In 2025, judges in North Macedonia received a total of 7 live trainings in EU law, all delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Prosecutors received 7 live trainings in total, all delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Judges participated in 13 training days with 37 participants, while prosecutors took part in 13 training days with 51 participants. No internet-based trainings were available for either group.

Reported trainings on EU law included the HELP course Introduction to the Protection of Human Rights in Europe: the Interaction between the ECHR and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and courses on digital contract law.

	Training in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights/European Convention on Human Rights			
	By the training institutions for judges and prosecutors		Within the framework of co-operation programmes	
Live trainings (2025)	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**	**Judges**	**Prosecutors**
Number of delivered live trainings	7	4	4	3
Number of days delivered	7	4	4	3
Number of participants	111	27		
Internet-based trainings (2025)				
Number of available trainings	0	0	0	0
Number of participants	0	0		



In 2025, judges in North Macedonia received a total of 7 live trainings in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights/European Convention on Human Rights, including 4 delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Prosecutors received 4 live trainings in total, including 3 delivered within the framework of co-operation programmes. Judges participated in 7 training days with 111 participants, while prosecutors took part in 4 training days with 27 participants. No internet-based trainings were available for either group.

The trainings covered topics related to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The subjects included data protection and the right to privacy, recent ECtHR case law on Article 8 of the ECHR (right to respect for private and family life), the role of the ECtHR in defining the scope of human rights through case-law examples, freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, and the enforcement of ECtHR judgments in civil and criminal proceedings.
Judges and prosecutors also participated in the HELP course Introduction to the Protection of Human Rights in Europe: the Interaction between the ECHR and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. In addition, training activities addressed free legal aid and the case law of the ECtHR on access to justice in civil and administrative proceedings.
According to the authorities, the case law of the ECtHR and the recommendations of the Council of Europe were also discussed in approximately 25 additional trainings.

• Type of trainings

		Types of training	
		Judges	Prosecutors
	Initial training	Compulsory for all	Compulsory for all
In-service training	General	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	Specialised judicial functions	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	Management functions of the court	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	Use of computer facilities in courts	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On ethics	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On child-friendly justice	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On gender equality	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On prevention of corruption	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	On conflicts of interest	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
	Other	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some

In North Macedonia, participation in mandatory training is subject to legal obligations and disciplinary consequences for both judges and public prosecutors.

According to Article 77(1)(5) of the Law on Courts, the failure of a judge to attend mandatory training constitutes a disciplinary violation and may lead to disciplinary proceedings and the imposition of a disciplinary measure. The Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors organises mandatory trainings and issues annual certificates indicating the number of training days completed by each judge. The Academy also informs the Judicial Council about the training activities completed by judges and whether they have fulfilled the training requirements corresponding to their length of service.

Similarly, according to Article 70(1)(8) of the Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office, failure to fulfil the obligation of professional education constitutes a disciplinary violation and may trigger disciplinary proceedings against a public prosecutor.

In addition, prosecution offices have public prosecutors specifically trained to deal with domestic violence and sexual violence cases. The Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors includes these topics both in its General Programme for Continuous Training and in the Catalogue of Mandatory Continuous Training. Notifications sent to courts and prosecution offices for each training session specify the target group, and trainings on domestic and sexual violence are addressed to judges and public prosecutors dealing with these types of cases.

• Minimum number of compulsory trainings

	Initial compulsory training		In-service compulsory trainings	
	Minimum number of trainings	Minimum number of days	Minimum number of trainings	Minimum number of days
Judges	NAP	NAP	NAP	2
Prosecutors	NAP	NAP	NAP	2

Initial training lasts 24 months and is organised in two phases: a nine-month theoretical phase at the Academy and a 15-month practical phase carried out in courts, public prosecution offices and other institutions, in accordance with the initial training programme. The initial training is organised into three modules comprising a total of 21 subjects and 1 035 teaching hours, one teaching hour corresponding to 40 minutes.
The Academy also organises mandatory continuous training for judges and public prosecutors. Newly appointed judges and prosecutors are required to attend an intensive five-day training programme based on specialised criminal or civil modules. The number of mandatory training days decreases with seniority: 10 days for judges and prosecutors with up to three years of experience, 6 days for those with 3–8 years of experience, 4 days for those with 8–15 years of experience and 2 days for those with more than 15 years of experience. Failure to complete the required number of training days may result in a lower evaluation score and may negatively affect future promotion prospects.

• Quality of judicial training

North Macedonia identifies (collects information about) future in-service training needs via:

Target audience itself	✓	Relevant judicial institutions	✓
Previous participants in trainings	✓	Ministry of Justice	✓
Trainers	✓	Other	✗
Courts/prosecutor's offices	✓		

Future in-service training needs are assessed annually.
Trainings on specific topics may be included in the Academy's Training Catalogue as a result of obligations arising from the conclusions of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia or other institutions, as well as from national programmes and strategies or agreements concluded with international projects and partners.

Monitoring and evaluation are considered key elements for ensuring the quality of both the General Programme and the training events included in the Training Catalogue. For this purpose, the Academy evaluates each training event through questionnaires completed by participants, covering the quality of the programme, lecturers and training materials, while also providing participants with the opportunity to submit comments and suggestions.

In North Macedonia, in-service trainings (seminars, workshops, round tables) are evaluated immediately after the training is delivered.

The result of the training evaluation process is used:

To prepare a training evaluation report with recommendations	✗	To suppress a training course	✗
To improve the training course which, according to the report, needed improvements	✓	To introduce a new course	✓
To replace the trainers that failed to meet expected learning outcomes/were negatively evaluated	✓	Other	✗

Alternative Dispute Resolution in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 9)

Legal aid for court-related mediation or related mediation provided free of charge ✗

Mandatory informative sessions with a mediator ✗

Mandatory mediation with a mediator ✓

↓

Before/instead of going to court

Mediators

2,5

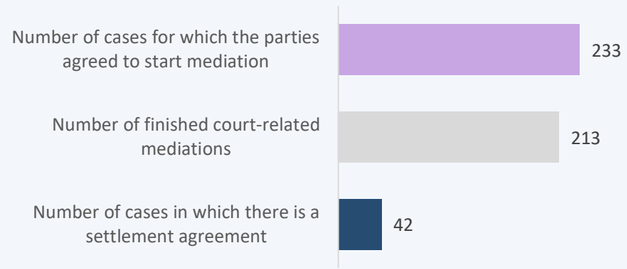
per 100 000 inhabitants

WB Median: 6,0



66,7% female mediators

Total number of court-related mediations



In North Macedonia, legal aid for court-related mediation or related mediation provided free of charge could not be granted. The judicial system provides for mandatory mediation with a mediator before or instead going to court. Also, there are no mandatory informative sessions with a mediator. In 2025, the number of mediators was 2,5 per 100 000 inhabitants, which was below the WB Median (6 per 100 000 inhabitats). The majority of the mediators were women (66,7%). There were in total 233 cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation and 42 mediation procedures which ended with a settlement agreement.

• Court-related mediation procedures

Court related mediation is the mediation which includes the intervention of a judge, a public prosecutor or other court staff who facilitates, directs, advises on or conducts the mediation process. For example, in civil disputes or divorce cases, judges may refer parties to a mediator if they believe that more satisfactory results can be achieved for both parties. In criminal law cases, a public prosecutor (or a judge) can refer a case to a mediator or propose that he/she mediates a case between an offender and a victim (for example to establish a compensation agreement). Such mediation may be mandatory either as a pre-requisite to proceedings or as a requirement of the court in the course of the proceedings.

According to the Law on Civil Procedure, parties involved in commercial disputes with a value of up to MKD 1 000 000 (approximately EUR 15 000) are required to attempt mediation before bringing the case before a court.

In addition, the Law on Civil Procedure provides that, where the judge considers that a dispute may be resolved through mediation, the parties may be referred to a mediation procedure.

• Other ADR methods

Mediation other than court-related mediation	Arbitration	Conciliation (if different from mediation)	Other ADR
✓	✓	✓	✗

Arbitration
Arbitration is available as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism in commercial matters. The Permanent Court of Arbitration, established within the Economic Chamber, allows business partners to settle commercial disputes provided that they have agreed to arbitration in their contracts. Arbitration has existed in North Macedonia since 1993 and the value of disputes resolved through arbitration ranges from a few thousand to several million euros.

Conciliation
North Macedonia provides several legal mechanisms for the amicable settlement of disputes, both within and outside court proceedings.
Under the Law on Civil Procedure, parties may settle their dispute at any stage of the proceedings. The settlement is recorded in the minutes and signed voluntarily by the parties. Although no court judgment is issued, the settlement has the effect of res judicata and the same dispute cannot be brought before the courts again.
In criminal proceedings concerning offences subject to private prosecution, the judge may convene a conciliation hearing and, with the agreement of both parties, refer the case to mediation. If an agreement is reached before the mediator, the court adopts a decision terminating the proceedings.

• Mediators and court-related mediations

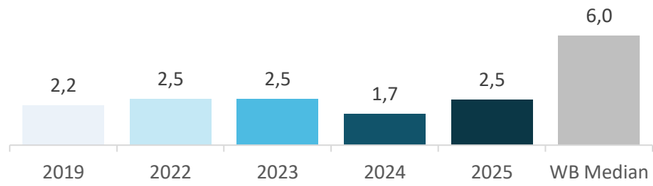
Requirements and procedure to become an accredited or registered mediator:

A licensed mediator may be a person holding a university degree and having at least three years of professional experience after graduation, who has passed a psychological test and an integrity test, completed 70 hours of accredited training, passed the examination before the Mediation Board and obtained a licence issued by the Board. VII. Mediator. Conditions for mediators and mediation. Article 46. (1) A mediator may be a legally capable natural person holding a licence to perform mediation activities (hereinafter: licence for mediator). (2) A licence for mediator shall be issued to a person who has passed the examination testing the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for mediation (hereinafter: mediator examination) before the Board for Ensuring, Monitoring and Evaluating the Quality of Mediation Activities (hereinafter: the Board) and who has submitted a valid liability insurance contract in accordance with Article 24(4) of this Law. (3) The licence is valid for five years and may be renewed or revoked depending on the results of the evaluation of the quality of the mediator's work. (5) The form and content of the mediator licence shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice. Mediator examination. Article 47. (1) The mediator examination may be taken by persons who submit an application to the Board together with proof of: a) completed university education (VII/I level or 300 ECTS credits) in the Republic of North Macedonia, or a decision recognising an equivalent higher education qualification obtained abroad issued by the Ministry of Education and Science; b) completion of an accredited mediation training programme of at least 70 hours in the Republic of North Macedonia or abroad, or a decision recognising equivalent training completed abroad issued by the Board; c) at least three years of professional experience after graduation; d) participation in at least four mediation procedures conducted by a mediator, certified by the mediator and supported by an extract from the Register of Mediation Procedures; e) successful completion of a psychological test and an integrity test issued by a licensed professional; f) citizenship of the Republic of North Macedonia; and g) at least five professional recommendations from persons who know the applicant professionally.

Accredited/registered mediators for court-related mediation			% Variation between 2019 and 2025
Absolute number	Per 100 000 inhabitants	WB Median per 100 000 inhabitants	
45	2,5	6,0	0,0%

For reference only: the 2024 EU median is 19,2 mediators per 100 000 inhabitants.

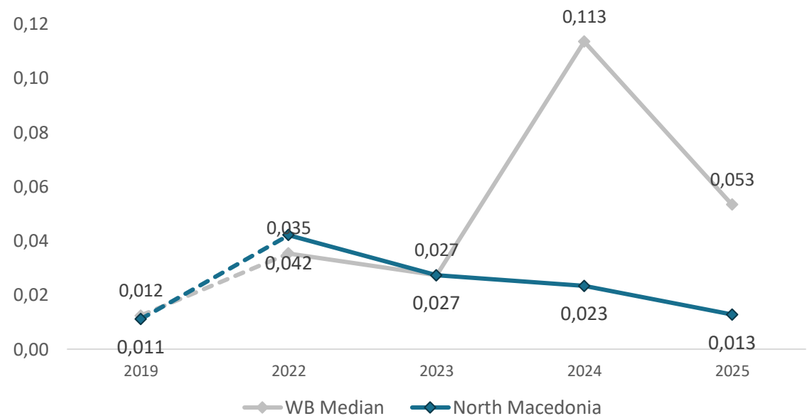
Accredited/registered mediators for court-related mediation per 100 000 inhabitants between 2019 and 2025



In 2025, the total number of mediators in North Macedonia was 45, which is the same as in 2019.The number of mediators per 100 000 inhabitants was 2,5, which is less than the WB Median of 6.

	Number of court-related mediations			Providers of court-related mediation services			
	Number of cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation	Number of finished court-related mediations	Number of cases in which there is a settlement agreement	Private mediator	Public authority (other than the court)	Judge	Public prosecutor
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5+ 6)	233	213	42				
1. Civil and commercial cases	211	191	20	✓	✗	✗	✗
2. Family cases	0	0	0	✓	✗	✓	✗
3. Administrative cases	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
4. Labour cases incl. employment dismissals	22	22	22	✓	✗	✗	✗
5. Criminal cases	0	0	0	✓	✗	✗	✗
6. Consumer cases	0	0	0	✓	✗	✗	✗
7. Other cases	0	0	0				

Evolution of the number of court-related mediation for which parties agreed to start mediation per 100 inhabitants between 2019 and 2025



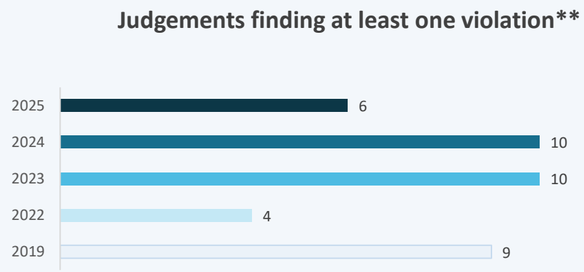
Court related mediations are provided by private mediators and judges. In 2025, mediation was most used for Civil and commercial cases and Labour cases (including employment dismissals) (parties agreed to start mediation in 211 and 22 cases, respectively).
In North Macedonia, it is not possible to receive legal aid for court-related mediation or receive these services free of charge.

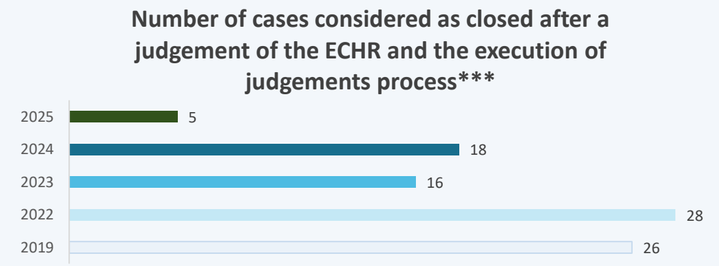
The data are sourced from the Register of Mediation Procedures maintained by the Ministry of Justice. According to the Law on Mediation, mediation is available in property and legal disputes, family disputes, labour disputes, commercial disputes, consumer disputes, insurance disputes, disputes in the field of education, environmental protection and discrimination, as well as in other disputes where mediation is appropriate to the nature of the dispute and may contribute to its resolution. Mediation is also permitted in criminal matters, unless its application is excluded by a special law.

For the category of labor disputes, all 22 cases were resolved through mediation before they went to court. According to the explanatory memorandum, the number 22 is placed in the second category too (Number of finished court-related mediations).

European Convention on Human Rights in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 10)

European Convention on Human Rights – Article 6 – Right to a fair trial (extract):
In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interests of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.





• ECHR

Follow-up at national level to the established violations by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

Raising awareness	
ECHR case law is part of judge's and public prosecutors' training	✓
Publication of the ECHR case law on official judicial internet pages	✓
Annual report before the Parliament on ECHR case law	✓
Integration of the ECHR case law in the annual courts' report	✗
Other	✓

Information / dissemination of the ECHR decisions within the judicial system	
Within the Ministry of Justice	✓
Within other public institutions	✓
Within courts	✓
Within higher instance courts only	✗
Within public prosecution services	✓
Other	✗

The right to claim damages before national courts (besides the just satisfaction due by the State)	
The right to claim damages before national courts (besides the just satisfaction due by the State)	✗
The right to have the case reopened before national courts	✓
Request for annulment of the national court's judgment	✗
Other	✗

For raising awareness, other measures include the publication of newsletters on the website of the Bureau for Representation of the Republic of North Macedonia before the ECtHR.

For the dissemination of ECtHR judgments within the judicial system, other actors involved include the Associations of Judges and Public Prosecutors, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, the Parliament and the Constitutional Court.

Number of applications to the ECHR, number of judgments, and number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR

		2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Applications allocated to a judicial formation of the Court**		262	367	335	328	233
Judgements finding at least one violation**		9	4	10	10	6
Judgements finding at least one violation of the Article 6 of the ECHR	Right to a fair trial (1)	3	2	2	4	2
	Length of proceedings	1	0	0	0	0
	Non-enforcement	0	0	0	0	1

	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR and the execution of judgements process***	26	28	16	18	5

** Source: ECHR
(1) Figures in this line may include conditional violations.
*** Source: Department for the Execution of Judgments of the ECHR

In 2025, the applications allocated to a judicial formation** for North Macedonia were 233 (-95 less than the previous year). The judgements by the ECHR finding at least one violation for North Macedonia were 6; whereas they were 10 in 2024.The number of cases considered as closed after a judgement of the ECHR and the execution of judgements process was 5 in 2025; whereas they were 18 in 2024.

Appointment, recruitment and promotion of judges and prosecutors in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicators 12 and 13)

Judges

Description of the specific procedure of recruitment

All judges are elected by the Judicial Council. Judges in basic courts are appointed by the Judicial Council from the candidates which have finished initial training in the Academy for Judges and public prosecutors. Entrance in the initial training in the Academy for judges and prosecutors is through entrance exam. The initial training entry exam shall consist of taking the following: - test for the knowledge level of one of the three most commonly used languages of the European Union (English, French or German),
- psychological test, - integrity test,
- qualification test and
-practical exam. The answer to the question is in accordance with the Law on Judicial Council from 2019, and not according to the new Law that began to be applied in 2026, given that the reference year is 2025.

Candidates admitted to the initial training at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors must fulfil a number of eligibility criteria established by the Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors. They must hold a law degree corresponding to four years of higher education or 300 ECTS credits, have passed the bar exam and possess at least two years of professional experience in legal matters after passing the bar exam. Candidates must also be citizens of North Macedonia, have active knowledge of the Macedonian language and at least B1 level knowledge of one of the three most commonly used EU languages (English, French or German), demonstrate practical computer skills and meet general health requirements. In addition, candidates must not be subject to any prohibition on exercising a profession, activity or public duty. Candidates must not be subject to any court-imposed prohibition on exercising a profession, activity or public duty.

Authority competent during the entry selection (via judicial Academy)

Judicial Academy

Eligibility

JA	Pre-conditions:	JA **
✓	Basic law studies	✓
	Advanced law studies (masters or PhD)	
✓	Judicial exam/bar exam	✓
	Average grades in education	
✓	Years of work experience	✓
✓	Relevance of previous work experience	✓
✓	Citizenship	✓
	Age	
✓	Clean criminal record	✓
✓	Foreign language knowledge	✓
✓	Entry test / exam	✓
✓	Other	✓

** JA = Via Judicial Academy

Prosecutors

Description of the specific procedure of recruitment

All public prosecutors are appointed by the Council of Public Prosecutors except Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia who is appointed by the Parliament. Public prosecutors in basic public prosecution offices are appointed by the Council of Public Prosecutors from the candidates which have finished initial training in the Academy for Judges and public prosecutors. Entrance in the initial training in the Academy for judges and prosecutors is through entrance exam. The initial training entry exam shall consist of taking the following:
-test for the knowledge level of one of the three most commonly used languages of the European Union (English, French or German),
- psychological test,
- integrity test,
- qualification test and -practical exam.

According to Article 31 of the Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, candidates admitted to the initial training must hold a law degree corresponding to four years of higher education or 300 ECTS credits, have passed the bar exam and possess at least two years of professional experience in legal matters after passing the bar exam. Candidates must also be citizens of North Macedonia, have active knowledge of the Macedonian language and at least B1 level knowledge of one of the three most commonly used EU languages (English, French or German), demonstrate practical computer skills, meet general health requirements and not be subject to any prohibition on exercising a profession, activity or public duty.

Authority competent during the entry selection (via judicial Academy)

Judicial Academy

The entrance examination is conducted by an Entrance Examination Commission composed of a chairperson and nine members appointed by the Management Board of the Academy for a term covering two examination sessions. The Commission includes judges, prosecutors, representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Association of Judges, the Association of Public Prosecutors and an independent psychologist. Members of the Judicial Council, the Council of Public Prosecutors, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice, as well as persons directly involved in the initial training, cannot serve on the Commission.The Academy is managed by a nine-member Management Board. Four members are proposed by the Judicial Council, four by the Council of Public Prosecutors and one is appointed by the Minister of Justice. The Director of the Academy participates in the work of the Board without voting rights.The Managing Board appoints and constitutes the Committee: four members and their deputies on a proposal of the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia from the ranks of judges, two members and their deputies on a proposal of the Council of Public Prosecutors Macedonia from the ranks of public prosecutors and one deputy member of the Association of Judges of the Republic of Macedonia, a member and the deputy of the Association of Public Prosecutors, one member and deputy on the proposal of the Minister of Justice from the managing administrative staff at the Ministry of Justice and a member and the Deputy and professional - psychologist. For the President, members and deputy members of the Commission may be selected judges and prosecutors, as well as senior administrative officers of the Ministry of Justice in previous professional career is distinguished by its professionalism, ethics, proven results and that enjoy high reputation in judiciary. President of the Commission, the Management Board elected from among the judges and public prosecutors.
The members and alternates of the Board, the Programming Council, the Commission for the final examination, the director of the Academy, as well as trainers and mentors at that time engaged in initial training, cannot be members of the Commission. Member of the Commission may not be the chair or the members of the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia or the Council of Public Prosecutors, the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Justice.
The Management Board shall be the managing body of the Academy and shall be composed of nine members. Four members and their deputies in the Management Board shall be proposed by the Judicial Council of the Republic of Macedonia in this manner: one member from the ranks of the judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, from the courts of appeal, from the basic courts, and one member from the Administrative Court or the Higher Administrative Court. Four members and their deputies in the Management Board shall be proposed by the Council of Public Prosecutors in this manner: one member from the ranks of the public prosecutors in the Public Prosecutor's Office of Republic of Macedonia, from the higher public prosecutor's offices, from the basic public prosecutor's offices, and from the public prosecutor's office for organized crime and corruption. The Minister of Justice shall appoint one member and his deputy from the senior administrative officials in the Ministry of Justice. The director of the Academy (hereinafter referred to as: the Director) without the right to vote, shall participate in the work of the Management Board.

Competent authority for entrance in the initial training of the Academy for Judges and public Prosecutors is Commission for entrance exam. The Management Board of the Academy appoints the members of the Commission for entrance exam in the following composition: two members and their deputies upon proposal of the Judicial Council from among the judges, two members and their deputies upon proposal of the Council of Public Prosecutors from among the public prosecutors, one member and his/her deputy from the Association of judges, one member and his/her deputy from the Association of public prosecutors, one member and his/her deputy upon proposal of the Minister of Justice from among the managerial administrative servants in the Ministry of Justice.

In North Macedonia, there exists the possibility for non pre-selected judge candidates to appeal to this decision via Judicial Academy. The body is competent to decide on appeal is the Judicial Academy .

Following the expiry of the application deadline, the Commission for entrance exam shall, with a decision, reject the untimely and incomplete applications. The applicant shall within two working days as of the receipt of the decision be entitled to lodge a complaint with the Management Board of the Academy. The Management Board shall reach the decision on the complaint within two working days.

The Management Board of the Academy is competent to decide on complaints of applicants.

Judges

The Judicial Council has adopted a Rulebook on the method of ranking candidates graduating from the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors. Candidates are ranked on the basis of criteria and procedures established in the Rulebook and appointments are made according to the final ranking list.

OTHER: To pass the final exam on the initial training within the Academy for judges and public prosecutors.

Authority competent during the entry selection (via judicial Academy)

Judicial Academy

Commission for final exam within Academy.

Selection

JA	Criteria	JA
✓	Results/score from Judicial Academy training Additional testing for non-Academy graduates	✓
	Relevance of previous work experience	
	Duration of previous work experience	
	Interview evaluation	
	Performance appraisal (from previous employer)	
✓	Other	✓
	Automatic selection of each successful candidate from the Judicial Academy / Every pre-selected experienced candidate outside the Judicial Academy	

Prosecutors

According to Article 37 of the Law on the Public Prosecutors Council, public prosecutors in Basic Public Prosecution Offices are elected by the Council on the basis of the ranking list submitted by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and according to the results achieved during the initial training. Candidates who do not apply to three consecutive vacancy announcements lose the priority established by the Academy's ranking list.

OTHER: To pass the final exam on the initial training within the Academy for judges and public prosecutors.

Authority competent during the entry selection (via judicial Academy)

Judicial Academy

Commission for final exam within Academy.

Appointment

Judges

Authority competent for the final appointment

Judicial Council

Has a right to appoint some and reject some among the selected (proposed)

In North Macedonia, there exists the possibility for non-selected judge candidates to appeal to this decision.

The Court is competent to decide on the appeal

According to Article 45-a of the Law on Courts, candidates for judicial office are subject to both a psychological test and an integrity test conducted by the Judicial Council. The psychological test aims to assess the candidate's social skills and suitability for judicial office, while the integrity test is based on the applicable ethical and professional codes and aims to assess the ethical and moral values of the candidate. The integrity test includes a written and anonymous examination based on a standardised list of questions. The Judicial Council engages experts from an independent and accredited institution to conduct the psychological test and the written part of the integrity test.

According to Article 45-a of the Law on Courts, candidates for judicial office are subject to both a psychological test and an integrity test conducted by the Judicial Council. The psychological test aims to assess the candidate's social skills and suitability for judicial office, while the integrity test is based on the applicable ethical and professional codes and aims to assess the ethical and moral values of the candidate. The Judicial Council engages experts from an independent and accredited institution to conduct the psychological test and the written part of the integrity test.

Integrity checks through:

✓	**Criminal records**
✓	**Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions**
	Intelligence investigation
✓	**Integrity assessment test**
✓	**Psychological assessment**
	Other

In North Macedonia, judges are appointed to office for an undetermined period, until the compulsory retirement at the age of 64. There is no probation period for them.

The official age of 64 years is new compulsory age for retirement in North Macedonia.
With the amendments to the Labor Law from February 2025, there is a possibility for judges to prolong their retirement until 67.

Prosecutors

Authority competent for the final appointment

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

Has a right to appoint some and reject some among the selected

In North Macedonia, there is no possibility for non-selected prosecutor candidates to appeal to this decision.

In North Macedonia, prosecutors are appointed to office for an undetermined period, until the compulsory retirement at the age of 64. There is no probation period for them.

The official age of 64 years is new compulsory age for retirement in North Macedonia.
With the amendments to the Labor Law from February 2025, there is a possibility for prosecutors to prolong their retirement until 67.

Judges

Authority competent for the promotion

Judicial Council

According to Articles 48 and 49 of the Law on the Judicial Council, judges of the Appellate Court, the Administrative Court, the Higher Administrative Court and the Supreme Court are selected from among candidates who meet the requirements established by the Law on Courts and the Law on the Judicial Council. Candidates are ranked according to the criteria and procedure established by a by-law adopted by the Judicial Council, while the ranking itself is carried out by a commission composed of three members of the Council selected by lot. If the candidate is already serving as a judge, the Council also obtains an opinion from the respective court. The Judicial Council decides on the appointment at a session attended by at least eight voting members, and the selected candidate must obtain at least eight votes. Candidates who are not selected have the right to appeal before the Appeal Council of the Supreme Court within eight days of receiving the decision.

Promotion

Procedure

- Competitive test / Exam
- Previous individual evaluations
- ✓ Other procedure(s) (interview or other)
- No special procedure

Criteria

- ✓ Years of experience
- ✓ Professional skills (and/or qualitative performance)
- ✓ Performance (quantitative)
- ✓ Subjective criteria (e.g. integrity, reputation)
- Other
- No criteria

According to Article 46 of the Law on Courts, judges appointed to Basic Courts must have completed the initial training at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors. Promotion to higher courts requires additional professional experience and positive performance evaluations. Depending on the court level, candidates must have between four and six years of uninterrupted judicial experience, while appointment to the Supreme Court requires at least six years of service as an appellate judge. Judges who have completed a full term at an international court may be appointed at any judicial level, provided that they meet the other legal requirements.
According to Article 48 of the Law on the Judicial Council, candidates for higher judicial positions are assessed on the basis of professional competence and expertise, reputation, specialised knowledge, continuous training, positive performance evaluations, communication skills, length of judicial service and their contribution to reducing case backlogs, mentoring and judicial education.

In North Macedonia, the decision on the promotion of judges can be appealed.

Appeal Council in the Supreme court

The candidate who is not selected as a judge shall have the right to appeal in front the Appeal Council at the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia within a period of eight days as of the day of receipt of the information in a way and procedure prescribed by this law.
The Appeal Council in the Supreme court against a decision for election and promotion on judges is composed from five members and their deputies from the rank of the judges in the Supreme court. The members on this council are elected by the President of the Supreme court with the yearly working plan. This Council is responsible to decide only about submitted appeals by the judge against decisions on the Judicial council for election on a judge in a Basic court, promotion on a judge and election on a president of the court.

Prosecutors

Authority competent for the promotion

Judicial/Prosecutorial Council

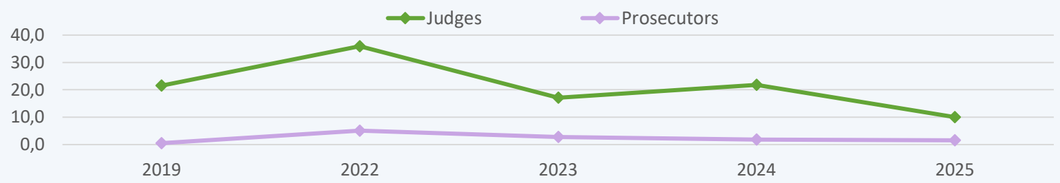
The Council shall elect public prosecutors in the Public Prosecution Office of the Republic of Macedonia, in the Higher Public Prosecution Offices and the Basic Public Prosecution Office for Prosecution of Organized Crime and Corruption from the list of candidates who responded to the advertisement and meet the conditions and criteria as provided by the Law on the Public Prosecution Office.
The Council shall discuss and decide on the election of public prosecutors on a session attended by at least two-thirds of the members of the Council. The candidate who wins the majority of votes from the total number of members of the Council shall be elected for a public prosecutor.
With the amendments on the Law on PPO from 2020, Chief Basic Public Prosecutor on the Basic Public Prosecution office for prosecution of organized crime and corruption is elected by all public prosecutors in the Republic of North Macedonia with voting on elections. After the elections, the Council of Public Prosecutors shall appoint that candidate from the list of candidates who won the majority of votes and who meets the requirements under the Law as a Basic Public Prosecutor of the Basic Public Prosecution Office for prosecution of organised crime and corruption.

Candidates for Public Prosecutor positions in North Macedonia must fulfill basic and special conditions, including demonstrated results, capacity for complex cases, organizational skills, reputation, and professional qualities assessed by criteria such as knowledge, specialization, work attitude, legal problem-solving, extra duties, and ethical standards. Chief Public Prosecutor requires at least ten years' relevant service; prosecutors in the Public Prosecutor's Office need at least eight years (with positive evaluations in the last four years); higher public prosecutors need eight years (with four positive evaluations); prosecutors in higher offices need six years (with four positive evaluations); the Basic Public Prosecutor for Organized Crime and Corruption requires six years (with three positive evaluations); prosecutors in that office require four years (with two positive evaluations); and basic public prosecutors in basic offices require six years (with two positive evaluations).

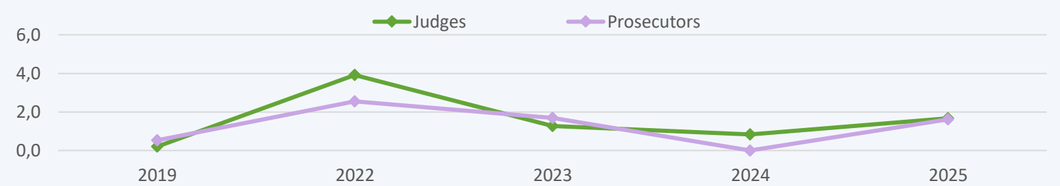
In North Macedonia, the decision on the promotion of prosecutors cannot be appealed.

Accountability in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 14)

Number of initiated disciplinary proceedings against judges/prosecutors between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 judges/100 prosecutors)



Number of disciplinary sanctions against judges/prosecutors between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 judges/100 prosecutors)



• Promotion of integrity and prevention of corruption

Legal provisions guaranteeing the independence of judges and prosecutors

In North Macedonia, the independence of judges and prosecutors is guaranteed by the Constitution and the Law on courts, the Law on Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Law on court budget and other relevant laws in the field of judiciary.

The independence of judges in Macedonian legal system is regulated with the Constitution and the Law on courts.

The independence of judges is guaranteed by the Constitution, the Law on Courts, the Law on the Judicial Council and the Law on the Court Budget.
According to Articles 8 and 98 of the Constitution, the judiciary is a separate branch of power and courts are autonomous and independent. Judges adjudicate on the basis of the Constitution, laws and ratified international agreements, while special courts are prohibited.
Article 99 of the Constitution provides that judges are elected for an unlimited term of office and may not be reassigned against their will. Their office may terminate only in the cases provided by law, including resignation, retirement, permanent incapacity, conviction for a criminal offence or dismissal on disciplinary grounds.
Article 100 of the Constitution guarantees judicial immunity. Judges cannot be held criminally liable for opinions expressed or decisions rendered in the exercise of their judicial functions and cannot be detained without the consent of the Judicial Council, except when caught committing a serious criminal offence. Membership in political parties and political activities within the judiciary are prohibited.
Furthermore, the Law on Courts establishes that courts are autonomous and independent state bodies and that judges must decide impartially, applying the law on the basis of free evaluation of evidence. Any form of influence on the independence, impartiality and autonomy of judges is prohibited, and final court decisions are binding on all natural and legal persons.

Guarantees of the independence of prosecutors are regulated in the Constitution, the Law on Public Prosecution office, the Law on Council of Public Prosecutors and other relevant laws in the field of judiciary.

Number of criminal cases and sanctions against judges and prosecutors in 2025

	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced
Judges	1	1	0
Prosecutors	2	0	0

Measures to prevent corruption

	Gift rules	Specific training	Internal controls	Safe complaints mechanisms	Other	No mechanism in place
Judges	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Prosecutors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

For the latest GRECO Evaluation Report on Prevention of corruption in respect of judges and prosecutors, please click here: https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/evaluations/round-4

Training on ethics and prevention of corruption

	Training on ethics	Training on prevention of corruption
Judges	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some
Prosecutors	Compulsory for some	Compulsory for some

Code of Ethics

In North Macedonia, there exists a Code of Ethics applicable for both judges and prosecutors.

For judges, there exists an institution/body giving guidelines and/or opinions on ethical questions of their conduct. Its members are only judges. Its guidelines and/or opinions are publicly available and, in 2025, it provided 0 guidelines/opinions.

For prosecutors, there exists an institution/body giving guidelines and/or opinions on ethical questions of their conduct. Its members are only prosecutors . Its guidelines and/or opinions are publicly available and, in 2025, it provided 0 guidelines/opinions.

Integrity of court staff

In North Macedonia, legislation provides for various breaches of integrity in respect of court staff, including conflicts of interest, unauthorized disclosure of confidential or sensitive information on court cases and procedures and breaches of Codes of Conduct.

Recusal of judges

In North Macedonia, there exists a procedure to effectively challenge a judge (recusal), if a party considers that the judge is not impartial.

Total number of initiated procedures	4 754
Total number of recusals pronounced	4 153

The recusal of judges is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on Litigation Procedure. Judges must withdraw from a case when they have a personal interest in the proceedings, when they are related to one of the parties or their representatives, when they have previously participated in the same case in another capacity, or when they have taken part in the decision-making process at a lower instance. Recusal is also required whenever circumstances exist that may cast doubt on the judge's impartiality. Judges are obliged to inform the President of the Court and cease acting in the case. In cases concerning mandatory grounds for recusal, the President of the Court must decide immediately and no later than three days after the request is filed. Parties may request the recusal of an individual judge before the end of the hearing or immediately after becoming aware of the grounds for recusal. Decisions on recusal are generally taken by the President of the Court or, in specific cases, by the President of the immediate higher court or by the Supreme Court. Judges against whom a recusal request has been submitted must refrain from acting in the case until the request is decided, except for urgent actions where there is a risk of delay.

Transparency in distribution of court cases

Organisation of the distribution of court cases	
Automatic allocation	✓
Random allocation	
Other type of allocation	
Specific allocation for priority cases	
Possibility to exclude a judge from the allocation	
All interventions on the system irreversibly logged / registered	✓

In North Macedonia, court cases are, in principle, automatically allocated. Typically, there is a predefined list of judges and cases, which are assigned sequentially according to the order on the list (chronologically). There are no exceptions to the general method allocating of priority cases.The system does not anticipate situations in which a judge could be excluded from the allocation of cases. Finally, the system provides for all alterations to the allocation process to be logged/registered. This ensures adherence to the rules and maintains transparency in the distribution of cases.

	Reasons for reassigning a case	Number of reassignments
Conflict of interest declared by the judge or by the parties	✓	32797
Recusal of the judge or requested by the parties	✓	NA
Physical unavailability (illness, longer absence)	✓	2683
Other	✓	4910

Method to reassign a case	
Automatic allocation	✓
Random allocation	
By discretion of a president of a court	
Other	

**Data for conflict of interest declared by the judge or by the parties are already calculated in recusal of the judge or requested by the parties, because conflict of interest is ground for recusal of the judge.
**Other: retirement of a judge, return of judges who were delegated in other courts, return of a judge who was a member of the Judicial council, dismissed judge, change in the annual schedule, delegated judges, merging of cases
According to legislation, conflict of interest is a ground for recusal of the judge or requested by the parties, because of this, the data overlaps and cannot be separated.

Court cases are assigned electronically in accordance with the Law on Case Flow Management in the Courts. The reassignment of cases is permitted only on the basis of a reasoned decision of the President of the Court and is recorded in the relevant register. According to Articles 177-180 of the Court Rules of Procedure, cases may be reassigned when a judge is recused, no longer deals with a certain category of cases, is transferred to another department, is absent for a prolonged period or when a newly appointed judge takes over a specific category of cases. In cases of recusal or sudden absence, the President of the Court appoints a replacement judge and the case is automatically redistributed, excluding judges who have been recused from the allocation process. When a judge permanently ceases to deal with a category of cases, the President of the Court must amend the Annual Work Schedule and cases are either transferred to a specific judge or automatically redistributed among the judges of the relevant department. Failure to comply with the rules on case allocation and the Annual Work Schedule may constitute grounds for the dismissal of the President of the Court.

• Disciplinary procedures against judges/prosecutors

Judges

In North Macedonia, the Judicial Council is the authority with disciplinary powers over judges.

Law on courts
Dismissal of a judge Article 74
According to the **Law on Courts in North Macedonia**, a judge may be dismissed by the Judicial Council for serious disciplinary offenses that discredit judicial office, or due to unprofessional and neglectful performance as defined by law. Dismissal applies if the violation is intentional or due to apparent negligence without justification and results in severe consequences; for lesser violations, a disciplinary measure may be imposed. Serious disciplinary offenses include acts like seriously breaching public order, interfering with other judges' work, failing to declare assets or providing grossly inaccurate information, and blatant violations of recusal rules. The unprofessional or unethical performance of judicial duties mainly refers to chronic underperformance, wrongful conviction related to judicial work, unauthorized disclosure of classified or case information, unjustified delays, allowing statutes of limitation to lapse, taking unassigned cases, or gross professional errors not related to legal interpretation. Disciplinary procedures begin with the court president notifying the Judicial Council, which may act after a Commission of Rapporteurs reviews requests to determine the grounds, timeliness, relevance, and merit of the complaint, with decisions progressing according to the regulations set out by the law.

Law on Judicial Council (2019)
A request for initiation of a procedure for determination of liability of a judge or a president of a court Article 62
(1) The reasoned request for initiation of a procedure for determination of liability of a judge or a president of a court (hereinafter: the request) shall be submitted to the Council and shall contain: name and surname of the judge or the president of the court, address and place of residence, in which court he exercises the office, description of the violation, legal term for the violation by stating the provisions of the Law on Courts, and proposed evidence that have to be exhibited at the discussion.)

Who is authorised to initiate of a disciplinary proceedings

	Judges	Prosecutors
Relevant Court / Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior	✓	
High Court (Supreme Court) / Prosecutor General (State public prosecutor)	✓	
Judicial Council / Public Prosecutorial Council		✓
Disciplinary court	✗	
Disciplinary body		
Parliament		
Executive power		
Other		
This is not possible		

Prosecutors

In North Macedonia, the authorities with disciplinary powers over prosecutors are the Public prosecutorial Council (Judicial Council) and the disciplinary court or body.

Law on Public Prosecution office Article 93
Under Article 93 of the Law on Public Prosecution Office, disciplinary proceedings against a public prosecutor in North Macedonia are conducted by a five-member committee drawn from higher prosecution offices and the central office. The committee first invites the prosecutor in question to respond in writing to the allegations. If there are no reasonable grounds, proceedings are not initiated. If the proposal is found justified, the committee opens a disciplinary proceeding, during which the prosecutor may present a defense and evidence. Decisions—including the type of disciplinary sanction—are made by majority vote, starting from the most serious measures. If necessary, the committee can propose dismissal to the Council of Public Prosecutors, and the public prosecutor has the right to appeal within seven days.

Law on Public Prosecution office Article 93
(1) The proceedings for establishment of liability of public prosecutors for committed disciplinary infringement shall be conducted upon annotated proposal of the Chief Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia for all public prosecutors, and upon annotated proposal of a Higher Public Prosecutor of a Higher Public Prosecutor's Office for public prosecutors in a Higher Public Prosecutor's Office, or the Basic Public Prosecutor of the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for public prosecutor in a basic public prosecutor's office, ex officio or after obtained information on committed infringement. The applicant shall submit proofs for committed disciplinary infringement accompanying the proposal for initiation of disciplinary proceeding. Proceeding for establishment of public prosecutors' liability for committed disciplinary infringement shall be initiated within six months as from the day of becoming aware of the committed infringement, but no later than three years from the day when the infringement was committed.

A judge may present an argumentation in hearing and written submission. He/she has also the possibility to appeal against the disciplinary decision.

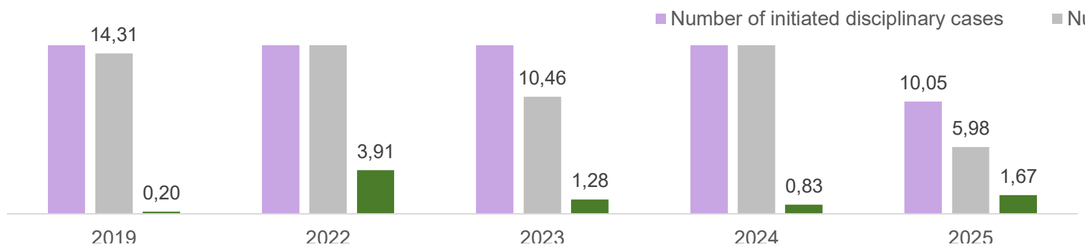
The Higher Court / Supreme Court is the authority competent to decide on the appeal

A prosecutor may present an argumentation in hearing and written submission. He/she has also the possibility to appeal against the disciplinary decision.

The Public prosecutorial Council (Judicial Council) is the authority competent to decide on the appeal

According to Articles 72 and 73 of the Law on the Judicial Council, a judge or president of a court subject to disciplinary proceedings may appeal the Council's decision within eight days before an Appeals Council. The Appeals Council is composed of nine judges selected by public drawing, including three Supreme Court judges, one appellate judge and two judges from the court where the judge concerned serves. The Appeals Council must decide within 30 days and may either confirm or revoke the Council's decision in case of serious procedural violations. If the decision is revoked, the disciplinary procedure is repeated in accordance with the Appeals Council's instructions. No further appeal is allowed. In addition, following a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights finding a violation, the judge or president of the court may request the reopening of the proceedings within three years.

Total number of initiated and completed disciplinary cases and number of sanctions pronounced against judges between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 judges)



According to the Law on Courts, unprofessional and unethical performance of the judicial function includes situations where a judge receives two consecutive negative performance evaluations without justified reasons, is convicted of a criminal offence committed in connection with the exercise of judicial office, unlawfully discloses confidential information, unjustifiably delays proceedings, allows the statute of limitations to expire in criminal cases, takes over a case not assigned through the automatic case allocation system, or intentionally and inexcusably commits a gross professional error. Differences in the interpretation of law and facts cannot serve as grounds for judicial liability.

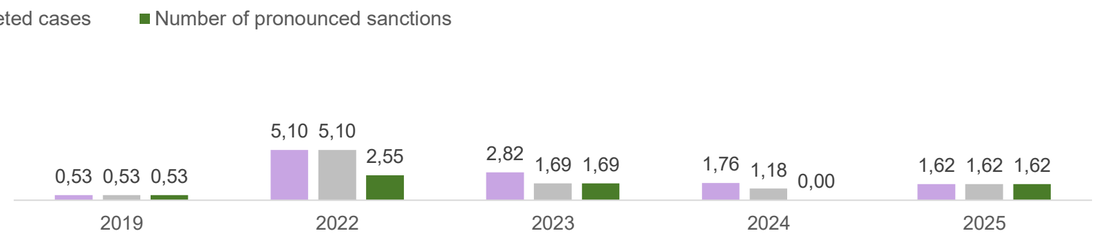
Following the submission of a request to establish disciplinary liability, the Judicial Council appoints by lot a three-member Commission of Rapporteurs composed of two members elected by judges and one member elected by the Parliament. The Commission may reject requests that are out of time, incomplete or manifestly unfounded. If the request is admissible, the Commission collects the necessary information and prepares a report within three months, after which the Judicial Council decides whether to continue the disciplinary proceedings.

In total, 161 requests for accountability were submitted against judges, of which 119 were preliminary dismissed by the

In 2025, 90 requests for initiation of disciplinary proceedings were filed against 161 judges. In the same year, 144 of the proceedings against 161 judges were completed, and there is no data on how many requests were completed, and therefore the number does not correspond to the total.

According to Articles 94 and 95 of the Law on Public Prosecution Office, public prosecutors may incur disciplinary liability for mild or serious disciplinary infringements. In cases of mild infringements, the Disciplinary Committee may impose a written warning or a salary reduction of up to 15% for a period of one to six months. In cases of serious infringements, the available sanctions are a salary reduction ranging from 15% to 30% of the monthly salary for a period of one to six months or dismissal from office. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee, including proposals for dismissal, may be appealed before the Council of Public Prosecutors, which may uphold, revoke or amend the decision. Dismissal requires a majority vote of the Council or, in the case of the Basic Public Prosecutor for Organised Crime and Corruption, a two-thirds majority. Prosecutors may further challenge dismissal before the competent court.

Total number of initiated and completed disciplinary cases and number of sanctions pronounced against prosecutors between 2019 and 2025 (per 100 prosecutors)



In one case a disciplinary measure was imposed - a temporary reduction in the monthly salary and in two cases a disciplinary measure was imposed - a proposal for dismissal of the public prosecutors, but in the both cases, before the final decision of the Council of Public Prosecutors following the submitted proposal for dismissal, they resigned on their own.

• Declaration of assets

Declaration of assets for judges and prosecutors

In North Macedonia, a Special law requires a declaration of assets by judges and prosecutors.

According to Article 82 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest (2019), judges and prosecutors are required to submit a declaration of assets and interests to the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption within 30 days of their appointment and within 30 days after leaving office. The declaration must include a detailed inventory of real estate, movable property exceeding the value of twenty average net monthly salaries, securities, receivables, debts and other assets owned by the official or family members, indicating the legal basis for their acquisition. It must also contain information on professional activities and membership in management boards, associations and foundations. Family members do not submit separate declarations, as their assets and interests are included in the same declaration form.

According to Article 85 of the same Law, judges and prosecutors are required to report, within 30 days, any increase in assets exceeding the threshold of twenty average net monthly salaries, as well as any change in their declared interests. The notification must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documents and submitted electronically to the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.

Santions for non declaration of assets

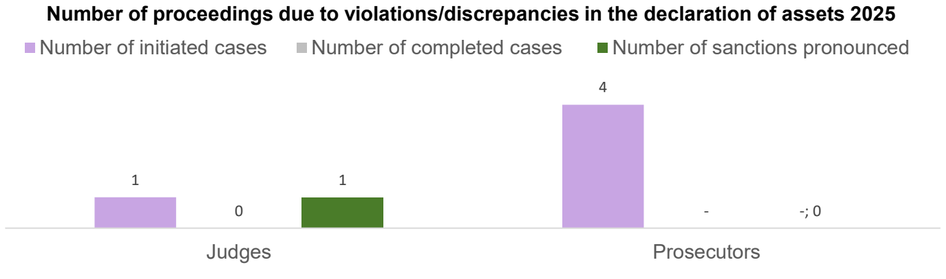
Judges

According to Article 75(1)(3) of the Law on Courts, refusal to submit a declaration of assets and interests or the submission of a declaration containing gross inaccuracies constitutes a serious disciplinary offence. Under Articles 74 and 78 of the same Law, judges may be subject to disciplinary measures, including a written warning, a public reprimand or a salary reduction ranging from 15% to 30% of the monthly salary for a period of one to six months. In serious cases, where the offence is committed intentionally or through obvious negligence and causes serious consequences, the judge may be dismissed from office.

Prosecutors

According to Article 91 of the Law on Public Prosecution Office, the non-submission of a declaration of assets constitutes a serious disciplinary offence. Article 95 of the same Law provides that, when such a violation is established, the prosecutor may be subject to a salary reduction ranging from 15% to 30% of the monthly salary for a period of one to six months or to dismissal from office.

The State Commission is an independent body established by law and is responsible for receiving and verifying the declarations. A public register of asset declarations exists and the declarations of judges and prosecutors are published online.



	Judges	Prosecutors
Items to be declared		
Assets	●	●
Financial interests	●	●
Sources of income	●	●
Liabilities	●	●
Gifts	●	●
Other	●	●
Moment for the declaration		
At the beginning of the term of office	●	●
At the end of the term of office	●	●
When there is a significant change in the items	●	●
Other	●	●
Declaration concerning the members of the family		
Spouse	●	●
Partner	●	●
Children (under legal age)	●	●
Adult children	●	●
Other family members	●	●
Same declaration as for the judge/prosecutor	●	●
Declaration of assets verified as regards:		
Timeliness	●	●
Completeness	●	●
Accuracy of the content	●	●
Unexplained financial discrepancies	●	●

• Conflict of interest and Accessory functions/activities

Procedures/mechanisms for managing (potential) conflicts of interest in 2025		
Regulations / procedures:	Judges	Prosecutors
On reporting a (potential) conflict of interest	✓	✓
For recusal/withdrawal from a case	✓	✓
On receiving gifts	✓	✓
On combining the profession of a judge/ prosecutor with other functions/professional activities	✓	✓
Other		

In North Macedonia, judges need to an authorisation given by the Judicial Council to perform these accessory activities. Prosecutors need to an authorisation given by Judicial/Prosecutorial Council to perform them.

Judges – Conflict of interest

> According to Articles 76 and 77 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption may initiate proceedings ex officio, at the request of an official person, upon a report by another person, at the request of the head of the institution concerned or on the basis of an anonymous report. The State Commission may collect documents, data and information from natural and legal persons and must issue a decision within 30 days after the verification of the allegations. If a conflict of interest is established, the judge must remove it within 15 days. Failure to do so may lead to disciplinary proceedings, dismissal procedures or a public warning, depending on the circumstances.

Judges – Recusal

> The recusal of judges is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Code. Judges must withdraw from a case when they have a personal interest in the proceedings, when they are related to one of the parties or their representatives, when they have previously participated in the same case in another capacity, or when they have taken part in the decision-making process at a lower instance. Recusal is also required whenever circumstances exist that may cast doubt on the judge's impartiality. Judges are obliged to inform the President of the Court and cease acting in the case. Parties may request the recusal of a judge before the end of the hearing or immediately after becoming aware of the grounds for recusal. Decisions on recusal are generally taken by the President of the Court or, in specific cases, by the President of the immediate higher court or by the Supreme Court.

Judges – Gifts

> According to Article 58 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest, judges may not receive gifts except in the limited cases provided by law. Public institutions are required to keep records of gifts received and submit them annually to the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption. If the State Commission determines that a gift affects or may affect the objective and impartial exercise of public duties, it informs the competent authorities and the gift becomes the property of the State or of the relevant local self-government unit.

Prosecutors – Conflict of interest

> The rules on conflict of interest applicable to prosecutors are laid down in the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest. According to Articles 76 and 77, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption may initiate proceedings ex officio, at the request of an official person, upon a report by another person, at the request of the head of the institution concerned or on the basis of an anonymous report. The State Commission may collect documents, data and information and must issue a decision within 30 days after verifying the allegations. If a conflict of interest is established, the prosecutor must remove it within 15 days; otherwise, disciplinary proceedings or dismissal procedures may be initiated, depending on the circumstances.

Prosecutors – Recusal

> The recusal of prosecutors is regulated by Article 38 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The grounds for recusal applicable to judges also apply to prosecutors, with the exception of specific grounds expressly excluded by law. Motions for recusal are decided by the Chief Public Prosecutor of the respective prosecution office, while motions concerning Chief Public Prosecutors are decided by the Chief Public Prosecutor of the immediately higher prosecution office. The same rules apply to record keepers, interpreters, translators and expert witnesses.

Prosecutors – Gifts

> According to Article 84 of the Law on Public Prosecution Office, prosecutors may not accept gifts, promises of gifts or any other benefits connected with the performance of their duties. The same prohibition applies to their spouses, family members and other persons living with them. In addition, Article 58 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest provides that public officials may receive gifts only in the limited cases expressly provided by law, and all gifts must be recorded and reported to the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.

Accessory functions / activities	With remuneration		Without remuneration	
	Judges	Prosecutors	Judges	Prosecutors
Teaching	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research and publication	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arbitrator				
Consultant				
Cultural function	✓	✓	✓	✓
Political function				
Mediator				
Other				

According to Article 52 of the Law on Courts, the judicial office is incompatible with parliamentary mandates, public offices and other professions, except where expressly provided by law. Judges may not be members of management or supervisory boards of profit-making entities, nor engage in political activities or hold political office. They may, however, teach at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors or at higher education institutions and participate in scientific projects. Judges are prohibited from using their office or the reputation of the court to pursue personal interests. In addition, Article 44(6) of the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest allows public officials to earn income from scientific, teaching, cultural, artistic and sporting activities, as well as from copyrights, patents and other intellectual and industrial property rights, unless otherwise provided by law.

Combining the profession with other activities

Judges

According to Article 52 of the Law on Courts, the judicial office is incompatible with parliamentary mandates, membership of municipal councils, public offices and other professions, except where expressly provided by law. Judges may not be members of management or supervisory boards of profit-making entities, nor engage in political activities or hold political office. They may, however, teach at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and at higher education institutions and participate in scientific projects. Judges are prohibited from using their office or the reputation of the court to pursue personal interests.

Prosecutors

According to Articles 49 and 83 of the Law on Public Prosecution Office, the prosecutorial office is incompatible with parliamentary mandates, membership of municipal councils, functions in state institutions and membership of management or supervisory boards of profit-making entities. Prosecutors may, however, teach at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and at higher education institutions and participate in scientific and professional projects in the field of prosecution. Such activities require the prior approval of the Public Prosecutor's Council of the Republic of North Macedonia.

	Regulations on the proceedings for:			
	Breaches of rules on conflicts of interest		Sanctions for breaches of the rules	
	Judges	Prosecutors	Judges	Prosecutors
Law on prevention of conflict of interest	✓	✓	✓	✓
Criminal procedure code				
Criminal code				
Civil procedure code				
Civil code				
Code of ethics				
Law on judges / public prosecutors (public prosecution)				
Law on the Judicial / Prosecutorial Council				
Other				

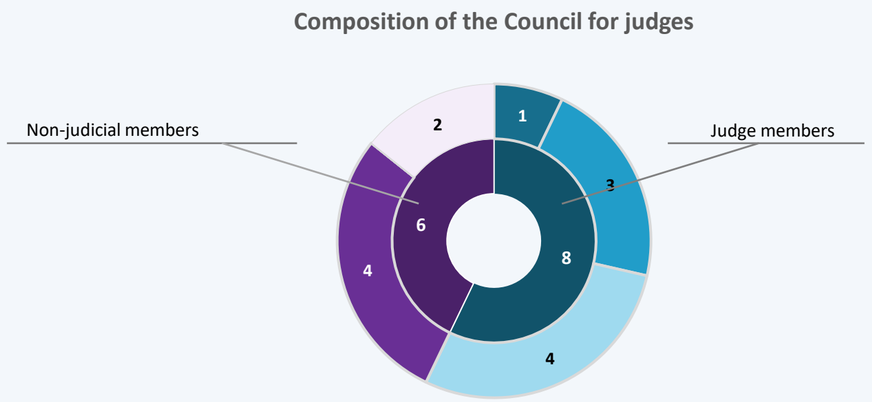
Full title of the law: **Law on prevention of corruption and conflict of interests**.

Procedures for breaches of rules on conflict of interest	Judges					Public prosecutors				
	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of initiated cases	10	0	0	10	2	3	0	0	2	2
Number of completed cases	5	0	0	5	2	1	0	0	1	0
Number of sanctions pronounced	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2

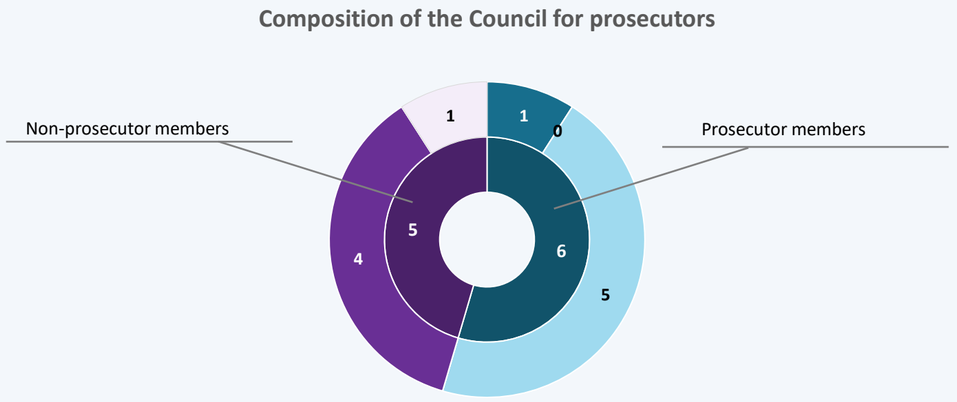
Both cases ended with a recommendation

Between 2019 and 2025, North Macedonia had a small number of proceedings for breaches of conflict of interest rules involving judges and public prosecutors. For judges, 10 cases were initiated in both 2019 and 2024, with half completed and two resulting in sanctions in 2019 and one in 2024. For public prosecutors, cases were initiated and completed sporadically, with two sanctions in 2025 and one in 2019. The overall figures suggest that proceedings and sanctions related to conflicts of interest remain relatively uncommon for both groups during this period.

Council for Judiciary / Prosecutorial Council(s) in North Macedonia in 2025 (Indicator 15)







In North Macedonia, the Council for judges is composed by 14 members, 8 of which are proposed by judge members (4 proposed by the first instance courts, 3 by the second instance courts and 1 by the highest instance courts) and 6 by non-judicial members (4 proposed by the Parliament and 2 proposed by Other). This suggests that the council is almost equally composed of judge and non-judicial members, with the first instance courts and the Parliament playing the main role in proposing the judge and non-judicial members respectively. The Council for prosecutors consists of 6 prosecutor members (5 proposed by the first instance courts, 0 by the second instance courts and 1 by the highest instance courts) and 5 non-prosecutor members. These are proposed as follows: 4 proposed by the Parliament and 1 proposed by Other. This council is thus almost equally composed of judicial and non-prosecutor members, with the first instance courts having the main influence among nominations for prosecutor members and the Parliament being the primary source for non-prosecutor nominations.

The Judicial Council consists of 15 members, including eight judges elected by their peers, three members elected by Parliament and two members proposed by the President of the Republic and elected by Parliament. The President of the Supreme Court and the Minister of Justice participate ex officio without voting rights. The composition of the Council ensures the representation of non-majority communities. Members serve a renewable six-year term. Non-judge members must be citizens of North Macedonia, hold a law degree, have at least 15 years of professional experience in the legal profession, have passed the bar examination, enjoy a high reputation and integrity and must not have been convicted of serious criminal offences.

The Council of Public Prosecutors consists of 11 members. The Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia is an ex officio member. Six members are elected by prosecutors from among their peers, representing the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic, the four Higher Public Prosecutor regions and non-majority communities. Four members are elected by Parliament among university professors of law, lawyers, former Constitutional Court judges, international judges and other distinguished legal professionals, two of whom must belong to non-majority communities. Members serve a renewable four-year term. Non-prosecutor members must be citizens of North Macedonia, hold a law degree, have at least 15 years of professional experience in the legal profession, have passed the bar examination, enjoy a high reputation and integrity and must not have been convicted of serious criminal offences.

• Councils characteristics

Council for Judges

The Judicial Council consists of 15 members. Eight members are elected by judges from among their peers, ensuring representation of all appellate regions and non-majority communities. Three members are elected by Parliament and two are proposed by the President of the Republic and elected by Parliament. The President of the Supreme Court and the Minister of Justice participate ex officio without voting rights. Members serve a six-year renewable term. Non-judge members must hold a law degree, have at least 15 years of professional experience, enjoy high reputation and integrity, and be selected among university professors of law, lawyers, former Constitutional Court judges, international judges or other distinguished legal professionals.

Term of office: 6 years

Body appointing the members

	Judges/ prosecutors members are appointed by:	
✓	Judges/Prosecutors Assemblies	✓
✓	Other	✓
	Non-judge/non-prosecutors members are appointed by:	
	Constitutional Court	
✓	Parliament	✓
✓	Ministry of Justice	
	Academic institution(s)	
	Bar Association	
	Other	

Conditions for the term of office

✓	Term of office of members renewable	✓
✓	Full-time position	✓
	Members subject to evaluation procedures	

Accountability measures

✓	Published activity reports	✓
✓	Published decisions	✓
✓	Reasoned decisions	✓
✓	Other	✓

Council for Prosecutors

The Council of Public Prosecutors consists of 11 members. The Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia is an ex officio member. Six members are elected by prosecutors from among their peers, including representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic, the four Higher Public Prosecutor regions and non-majority communities. Four members are elected by Parliament among university professors of law, lawyers, former Constitutional Court judges, international judges and other distinguished legal professionals, two of whom must belong to non-majority communities. Members serve a four-year renewable term. Non-prosecutor members must hold a law degree, have at least 15 years of professional experience, enjoy high reputation and integrity, and must not have been convicted of serious criminal offences.

Term of office: 4 years

Council for Judges

The Judicial Council is responsible for selecting and dismissing judges, presidents of courts and lay judges, determining the termination of judicial office and following and assessing the work of judges. It decides on the disciplinary responsibility of judges, presidents of courts and members of the Council, on the revocation of judicial immunity, on requests for detention of judges and on the temporary suspension of judges and Council members from office. The Council nominates two judges of the Constitutional Court from among judges, determines the number of judicial posts per court and the orientation number of cases that should be decided monthly by a judge. It reviews and assesses quarterly and annual reports on the work of courts and publishes them on its website, examines complaints submitted by citizens and legal entities concerning judges, presidents of courts and courts, safeguards the reputation of judges and public trust in the judiciary, submits an annual report on its work, adopts its Rules of Procedure and other general acts regulating matters within its competence, and performs other duties provided by law.

Competences of the Council(s)

Council for Prosecutors

The Council of Public Prosecutors provides an opinion to the Government regarding the appointment and dismissal of the Chief Public Prosecutor of the Republic of North Macedonia and is responsible for selecting and dismissing public prosecutors, establishing the termination of prosecutorial office and deciding in second instance in disciplinary proceedings. It decides on cases of unprofessional or negligent performance of duties, monitors the work of prosecutors on the basis of performance evaluations, decides on temporary suspension from office and examines reports and complaints submitted by citizens and legal entities concerning the work of prosecutors. The Council also decides on the disciplinary responsibility of its members, may authorise direct inspections of the work of prosecutors, adopts the Code of Ethics for Public Prosecutors and its Rules of Procedure, determines the total number of prosecutorial posts and vacancies, reviews and evaluates annual reports of prosecution offices, decides on the temporary suspension of prosecutorial functions, issues and withdraws official identity cards, maintains personal records of prosecutors, submits annual reports on its activities, provides opinions on legislation related to its competences and on the programmes of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, carries out procedures for temporary assignments of prosecutors to other prosecution offices, and performs other duties established by law.

Competence of the Council(s) in cases of evident breach of independence or impartiality of judges or in cases of pressure on prosecutors

In North Macedonia, the Council for judges is competent in cases of evident breaches of indipendence or impartiality of judges. Moreover, the Council for prosecutors is competent in cases of pressure on prosecutors.

The Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia is an autonomous and independent judicial body which ensures and guarantees the autonomy and independence of the judiciary, performing its functions in accordance with the Constitution and the law.
According to Article 11 of the Law on Courts, judges decide impartially by applying the law on the basis of the free evaluation of evidence. Any form of influence on the independence, impartiality and autonomy of judges in the exercise of their judicial office, by any person or entity and on any grounds, is prohibited.
The judicial office is incompatible with membership of Parliament, membership of municipal councils, including the Council of the City of Skopje, and offices in state bodies or local authorities, except in cases provided by law. Judges may not hold any other public office or practise another profession, except activities expressly permitted by law that are not contrary to their independence and autonomy. They may not be members of management or supervisory boards of companies or other profit-making legal entities.
Judges may, however, teach at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and at higher education institutions and participate in scientific projects. They must not use their office or the reputation of the court to pursue personal interests and may not be members of political parties or engage in political activities. Where any of these incompatibilities arise, the Judicial Council must determine the termination of the judicial office within ten days from becoming aware of the circumstances, unless the judicial office is suspended under conditions provided by law.
Judges may not accept gifts or enjoy privileges or benefits during the exercise of their office. According to Articles 74 and 75 of the Law on Courts, judges may be dismissed for serious disciplinary offences that render them unworthy to exercise the judicial office. The Judicial Council may decide on dismissal where the violation was committed intentionally or through manifest negligence, without justified reasons, and where serious consequences have resulted. Serious disciplinary offences include gross influence or interference in the judicial function of another judge and manifest violations of recusal rules in situations where the judge knew or should have known of the existence of grounds for recusal.
In the exercise of their functions, judges enjoy immunity. They cannot be held criminally liable for opinions expressed or decisions taken in the course of judicial decision-making. Judges cannot be detained without the approval of the Judicial Council, unless they are caught committing a crime punishable by at least five years of imprisonment. The Judicial Council decides on the revocation of judicial immunity in urgent proceedings. Judges are suspended from exercising their office while in detention, while criminal proceedings are pending for offences punishable by at least five years of imprisonment, or when disciplinary proceedings establishing liability are initiated and justified reasons for suspension exist. The decision on suspension is taken by the Judicial Council.
According to Article 7 of the Law on Public Prosecution Office, public prosecutors perform their functions lawfully, impartially and objectively, while respecting and protecting human and civil rights and freedoms and the rights of legal entities. Within the scope of their competences, they are responsible for ensuring the efficiency of criminal prosecution.
Public prosecutors must ensure equality before the law regardless of race, colour, origin, national or ethnic background, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, belonging to a marginalised group, language, citizenship, social origin, education, religion or belief, political opinion, disability, age, family or marital status, property status, health status, personal characteristics or social status, or any other ground.

No one may influence the lawful, impartial and objective performance of the functions of the Public Prosecution Office.

Reforms in North Macedonia in 2025

Law on Judicial Council - adopted and entered into force on 06.01.2026
-Regulating the procedure for dismissing the President of the Judicial Council
-Further specifying the requirements for candidates for members of the Judicial Council who are elected by the Parliament following a public announcement or upon the proposal of the President – especially the term “prominent lawyer” in Article 12 of the Draft Law
-Increasing publicity and transparency in the procedure for electing members by the Parliament, through a public debate at which candidates will be able to present themselves and be asked questions about their professional experience and expertise
-Strengthening the legitimacy in the process for electing members from among judges
-Further regulating the procedure for determining the responsibility of a member of the Judicial Council, including his/her dismissal
-Establishing a clear obligation of the Judicial Council to specify, individualize and explain the decisions for the election and determination of the responsibility of judges
-Establishing precise deadlines within which actions should be taken to determining disciplinary liability of judges
-Clarifying the grounds and procedure for appealing against the decision of the Judicial Council on determining the liability of a judge or court president

Law on Courts - under discussion
-Harmonization of the Law on Courts with the Law on the Judicial Council regarding the disciplinary procedure for judges
-Reorganization and optimization of the court network
-Revising the function, role and status of lay judges in the court system
-Improving the efficiency and transparency of the court system

Law on Public Prosecution - in parliamentary procedure
-Strengthening the independence of the role
-Improving the efficiency and quality of the actions of the public prosecution office
-Strengthening the mechanisms for
-Strengthening the capacities and efficiency of the public prosecution office
-Strengthening the criteria for selecting public prosecutors
-Prosecutors who are subject to disciplinary proceedings have all guarantees for a fair trial in accordance with the provisions of these two laws
-Harmonization with the draft Law on Courts

Law on Council of Public Prosecutors - in parliamentary procedure
-Strengthening the role of the Council of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of North Macedonia for the successful implementation of the competence for guarantees of the independence of the public prosecution service
-Strengthening the accountability mechanisms
-Strengthening the criteria for the selection of public prosecutors
-Prosecutors who are subject to disciplinary proceedings have all guarantees for a fair trial
-Alignment with the Law on the Public Prosecution

Law on Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors - under discussion
-A clearer distribution of competencies between the Director, the Management Board and the Program Council, thus strengthening institutional governance, accountability and efficiency in decision-making.
-Introducing ex officio members to the Management Board, in order to improve institutional coordination and alignment with broader policies of the justice system.
-Strengthening the role of the Program Council, especially in relation to the development, implementation and quality of initial and continuous training programs.
-Reform of the entrance exam, with a focus on objective assessment of candidates’ legal knowledge and foreign language skills, by abolishing psychological testing and integrity checks.
-Annual admission of candidates to the Academy, based on projections and staffing needs determined by the Judicial Council and the Council of Public Prosecutors. The projections will determine the needs for each basic court and each basic public prosecutor’s office separately, within the four appellate areas in the country (Skopje, Shtip, Bitola and Gostivar).
-Introduction of merit-based ranking rules, whereby candidates with the highest scores on the entrance exams will have priority in the selection of placements after completing the training, according to a model inspired by the French judicial training system.
-Strengthening continuous training, by ensuring regular, structured and high-quality training for judges and public prosecutors throughout their careers.

Law on Court budget-under discussion
-The preparation of amendments to this law is in an early phase as it is initially pending the completion of the law on courts and the planned amendments are mainly aimed at greater financial independence of the courts and financial management.

Co-funded by the European Union
EUROPEAN UNION
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
Co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe



This report was produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Council of Europe.