

12 January 2016

**Protocol for the exploitation of the CEPEJ report  
"European judicial systems – Edition 2016"  
in view of preparing specific studies**

1. The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) decided to make data available for use to researchers wishing to benefit from the official scientific support of the CEPEJ. Therefore the CEPEJ is pleased to invite individual researchers or relevant bodies/institutes to work on specific studies. The CEPEJ will also study other proposals based on its report.
2. The CEPEJ will grant an official scientific label to this work.
3. To be eligible for the CEPEJ label, the study should:
  - aim to analyse in depth specific topics regarding the functioning and the organisation of European judicial systems from the data and information of the CEPEJ report, having full understanding for the methodology adopted and used by the CEPEJ while drafting its report; it could possibly include conclusions as regards the functioning of judicial systems;
  - involve a significant number of European countries, on a comparative perspective; a study carried on by a group of researchers from various European states working together could be given priority;
  - be targeted mainly on policy makers and judicial practitioners.
4. The study should be preferably prepared in English or in French (though derogation might be discussed), and presented in a document of around 30 pages (and possibly extra appendices) – however the length of the document might vary according to the issues addressed.
5. The researchers being granted the CEPEJ label will be offered a privileged access to the relevant information included in the unique raw CEPEJ database (existing partly in English and partly in French) resulting from the collection and processing of national data submitting by the member states. This information will be communicated by the CEPEJ Secretariat, in particular as relevant extracts of the database, under specific conditions for the use of the data. They will have the opportunity to work with the active support of the CEPEJ's networks of experts and exchange with them.

6. The finalised studies, if agreed by the CEPEJ, will be published by the Council of Europe, in English and French, under its series "CEPEJ Studies ", mentioning the name of the authors.
7. The researchers might be funded by external sources, but the Council of Europe will not allocate specific funding for the preparation of the study. The researchers will be entitled to use the study for their own purposes. Specific modalities for publication and rules of copyrights will be agreed in a convention between the Council of Europe and the researchers.
8. An intention note must be submitted to the Secretariat of the CEPEJ (DG I – Legal Affairs – 67075 Strasbourg Cedex / [cepej@coe.int](mailto:cepej@coe.int)) indicating in one or two pages the *rationale and* general objectives of the study, as well as the references of the project leader and possibly the other members of the research team.
9. The researchers might then be requested by the CEPEJ to develop their projects. They might be given the possibility to meet with CEPEJ's representatives in Strasbourg to discuss the project and the researchers will be informed on the CEPEJ's decision for supporting studies.
10. The CEPEJ informs researchers that, on a longer term perspective, it has the possibility to designate specific members or experts entrusted with the direction of academic thesis to co-supervise academic works which would be based on one of these studies, provided that this thesis include multinational elements (comparative thesis on a significant number of European countries and/or carried out under the supervision of universities/institutes from at least two European countries).

**For further information, please contact the CEPEJ Secretariat:**

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