



CEPEJ(2025)

## **“THE CRYSTAL SCALES OF JUSTICE” PRIZE**

**The European prize for innovative practice  
contributing to the efficiency and quality of justice**

**2025 Edition**

**Rules of the Prize  
and  
Application form**

**For more information: [www.coe.int/CEPEJ](http://www.coe.int/CEPEJ)**

## **Rules of the Prize – 2025 Edition**

### **Preamble**

The European "Crystal Scales of Justice" Prize for innovative practices in court organisation and justice procedures has been created in 2005 by the Council of Europe and the European Commission. It is organised by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe every 2 years (odd years).

### **Article 1 – Competition conditions**

The competition is open to courts, Bars Associations, judicial professionals, non-governmental organisations or entities responsible for justice affairs in one of the Member States of the Council of Europe or of an Observer State to the CEPEJ<sup>1</sup>.

The presented initiative must have been introduced in order to improve efficiency and quality of the functioning of justice, judicial procedures or the organisation of courts, particularly for the users of justice. They must be innovative practices and their results must be measurable.

An initiative presented in the previous editions of the Prize, cannot be presented for another edition of the competition.

### **Article 2 - Applications**

The Call for applications is published on the CEPEJ website as from 17 February 2025 ([www.coe.int/cepej](http://www.coe.int/cepej)).

The applications shall be submitted electronically, to the address indicated below. The deadline for applications is **2 May 2025**.

E-mail: [cepej@coe.int](mailto:cepej@coe.int) (subject : Crystal Scales of Justice)

The applications shall be submitted, in English or in French, official languages of the Council of Europe.

The applications must include:

- 1) the application form duly filled in, in accordance with the attached appendix I;
- 2) if necessary, a limited number of annexed documents can be included- if those are in an original language other than English or French, a brief summary in English or French should be presented.

The CEPEJ Secretariat acknowledges receipt electronically of every application no later than 7 working days after receipt of the application.

### **Article 3 – Composition of the jury**

The jury is composed of 6 members and one President, appointed by the CEPEJ.

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<sup>1</sup> Canada, Guatemala, Holy See, Israël, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, USA, Tunisia.

## **Article 4 – Selection procedure of the initiatives**

The applications which fulfil the abovementioned formal criteria are forwarded to the members of the CEPEJ Secretariat.

Each member of the jury transmits to the CEPEJ Secretariat, electronically and prior to the meeting of the jury, a list of the 10 initiatives which he or she has pre-selected. The CEPEJ Secretariat will draw up a list of the 10 preselected initiatives on the basis of the lists submitted by the members of the jury. This list is sent to the members of the jury for further examination of the respective projects.

The members of the jury, as well as the Secretariat of the CEPEJ shall respect the secrecy as regards the composition of this list.

The jury meets to select 4 initiatives by secret ballot.

For this selection, each member of the jury will select 4 initiatives which they will rank in order of preference from No. 1 (best initiative) to No. 4. The Secretariat of the CEPEJ will award 4 points to each initiative which will have been ranked N°1 position by each member of the jury, 3 points to the initiatives in second position, 2 points to the initiatives in 3rd position and 1 point to the initiatives in 4th position. After having counted the points, in the event of a tie, a second vote by a simple majority can be organised in order to decide between the two projects with the same number of points.

The initiative which has received the highest number of points is awarded the “Crystal Scales of Justice” Prize. The three other initiatives are given a “special mention” by the jury (without ranking).

The decisions of the jury cannot be appealed.

## **Article 5 – Criteria for eligibility and selection of initiatives**

The jury must ensure that the initiatives fulfil the following criteria of eligibility:

- have contributed to the improvement of efficiency and quality of the functioning of the justice system; judicial procedures or the organisation of courts,
- are considered as innovative practices effectively implemented,
- can be applied to other jurisdictions or States,
- their implementation has measurable results.

During the selection of the eligible initiatives, the jury must also ensure:

- compliance with the objectives of the Prize,
- quality of the initiatives,
- balance between the different judicial systems,
- balance in the themes dealt with by the initiatives,
- conformity with the main values of the Council of Europe, in particular the European Convention for Human Rights.

## **Article 6 - Prize awarding and visibility of nominated initiatives**

The Crystal Scales of Justice Prize is awarded to the winner by the Council of Europe. The practice during the last editions of the Prize is that the ceremony takes place in the country that won the last edition.

Two representatives of each institution or organisation which submitted the nominated initiatives are invited to attend the Prize awarding ceremony.

They will send the CEPEJ Secretariat a presentation of their project (video, PowerPoint, etc.) within the time limit set by the CEPEJ.

The CEPEJ undertake to arrange appropriate publicity for the prize-winning initiative and for the three projects that receive a special mention.

#### **Article 7 - Cancellation of the competition**

The CEPEJ reserve the right to cancel the competition at any time. If this happens, participants will be individually informed as soon as possible.



**APPLICATION FORM  
CRYSTAL SCALES OF JUSTICE  
2025 EDITION**

(Please note that this file - without the attachments –  
once completed should not exceed 6 pages)

**To be returned to the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)  
electronically by 2 May 2025 at latest**

E-mail: [cepej@coe.int](mailto:cepej@coe.int) (**Subject** : Crystal Scales of Justice)

**1. Details of applicant (institution/organisation)**

Surname and First name:

Address:

Country:

Tel.:

E-mail:

**2. Represented by**

First name and Surname:

Post held:

Tel.:

E-mail:

**3. Initiative submitted**

Title:

Date of introduction:

**4. Summary of the initiative**

- a. Description of the initiative
- b. Description of the effects of the initiative
- c. Possible future additions which might improve the results of the initiative
- d. Documents, press articles, evidence from members of the public etc. relating to the initiative (with a brief summary in English or French)

**5. Does the initiative have the support of the competent public authorities in your country? If so, please give details.**

**6. Do you believe the initiative to be usable in other courts in European states? Give your reasons.**

**7. Have you already applied in the framework of the same institution/organisation in previous competitions for the Prize (if yes, see article 1, paragraph 3 of the rules of the Prize) ?**

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

**8. Do you certify that the presented initiative is not a pending case before the European Court of Human Rights ?**

- ☐ yes

I, \_\_\_\_\_ representing the aforementioned institution/organisation, declare that I am aware of the rules of the competition, with which I undertake to comply.

Done at

On            2025

Signature