

Annexe – Terms of reference of the CEPEJ Working Groups

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Terms of reference of the Working Group on evaluation of judicial systems
(CEPEJ-GT-EVAL)
2022-2023

1. Tasks

In accordance with article 7.2.b of Appendix 1 to Resolution [Res\(2002\)12](#), and under the authority of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the Working Group on evaluation of judicial systems (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL) is instructed to implement the common tool set up by the CEPEJ which aims at evaluating in an objective manner the functioning of the judicial systems in Europe and those of its observers.

In order to fulfil its tasks, the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL shall in particular:

- a. determine and follow the implementation of the 2022 evaluation cycle of the European judicial systems (2020 data), including the national judicial data collection and processing and prepare the draft evaluation report, to be adopted at the 38th plenary meeting of the CEPEJ;
- b. make proposals for the appropriate use of the results achieved by the evaluation exercise that constitutes the basis of the Report “European judicial systems - 2022 edition” and allowing the development of indicators and the identification of orientations and trends observed among judicial systems in Europe, so that they may be used in a concrete and fruitful manner in public policies of justice;
- c. pursue the development of the interactive CEPEJ-STAT database;
- d. ensure the proper information and communication regarding the Edition 2022 of the Report and assess the impact of the Report in the member States;
- e. initiate, follow and approve studies using the data of the Report “European judicial systems – Edition 2022”, with a view to publishing them;
- f. organise the 2024 evaluation cycle (based on 2022 data), by advising in due time the national correspondents, organising the concrete modalities for data collection and processing as well as anticipating the structure and the outline of the next Report so as to guide the data processing;
- g. coordinate and supervise the preparation of the CEPEJ Study supporting the annual publication of the “EU Justice Scoreboard”, consisting in collecting and analysing data on the functioning of the judicial systems of the EU Member States, following the established CEPEJ methodology;
- h. coordinate and supervise the preparation of the CEPEJ Evaluation report by collecting and analysing data on the functioning of the judicial systems in Western Balkans Beneficiaries (exercise known as the European Union – CEPEJ “Dashboard Western Balkans”);
- i. coordinate and supervise the preparation of the CEPEJ Evaluation report by collecting and analysing data on the functioning of the judicial systems in Eastern Partnership Beneficiaries (exercise known as the European Union – CEPEJ “Justice Dashboard Eap”);
- j. improve the coherence of the processes of all evaluation exercises (see f, g, h, i above);
- k. organise the implementation of the peer review co-operation process on judicial statistics, analyse the conclusions of this process and, where appropriate, make recommendations aiming to:

- support member States in improving the quality of their judicial statistics and developing their statistics system,
 - facilitate the exchange of experiences between national judicial statistics systems,
 - sharing good practices, identifying common indicators and facilitating knowledge transfer,
 - contribute to ensuring the transparency and accountability of the CEPEJ process for evaluating European judicial systems and to improving the process;
- I. organize *ad hoc* visits to member States in which difficulties have been observed in respect of the data submitted;
 - a. contribute to the HELP training modules reflecting the work in the field of evaluation;
 - b. contribute to the implementation of the relevant co-operation programmes;
 - m. set up and develop, in co-operation with the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL, CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST and the CEPEJ-SATURN, tools and indicators for measuring the performance of justice systems and courts.

2. Composition

The CEPEJ-GT-EVAL shall be composed of 6 members of the CEPEJ or experts, as well as possibly 2 substitute members, proposed by member States through their CEPEJ members and appointed by the CEPEJ Bureau, with an in-depth knowledge in the field of the evaluation of judicial systems. Their travel and subsistence expenses are to be borne by the budget of the Council of Europe. Other experts appointed by the member States might participate in its work, at their own expenses.

The relevant Council of Europe and European Union bodies may be represented to the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.

The non-governmental organisations granted observer status with the CEPEJ may be invited by the Bureau to participate in the work of the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL, if the Bureau considers their attendance relevant for the quality of the work.

3. Working structures and methods

The CEPEJ-GT-EVAL will organise 5 meetings and evaluation visits can be organised in some member States or observer States participating to the evaluation cycle (on States request and subject to budgetary availability).

In carrying out its terms of reference, the CEPEJ-GT-EVAL may in particular be supported by the Network of national correspondents entrusted with the coordination of the answers to the evaluation Scheme.

It will also coordinate its work with other relevant CEPEJ's working groups (namely the CEPEJ-SATURN, CEPEJ-GT-QUAL and CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST)

It may also seek the advice of external experts and have recourse to studies by consultants.

4. Duration

These terms of reference expire on 31 December 2023.