

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Terms of reference of the Working Group on quality of justice
(CEPEJ-GT-QUAL)
2024-2025

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 quality of justice (CEPEJ-GT-QUAL) is instructed to develop means of analysis and evaluation of the work carried out within judicial systems as well as tools, with a view to enhancing within Member States the quality of the public service of the justice system, in particular vis-à-vis the expectations of the justice professionals and users.

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

- a. continue to develop and promote the principles of the European Ethical Charter on the use of artificial intelligence in judicial systems and their environment, by:
 - i. further operationalising the Charter's principles, including by overseeing the testing if need be of the relevant tool,
 - ii. remaining engaged in contributing to the work of the Advisory Board on Artificial Intelligence (AIAB) under its authority and that of CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST;
- b. develop a tool on evaluation of the quality of the work of judges;
- c. develop a tool on the means to ensure the quality of judicial debate at each stage of the proceeding (including exchanges of written procedural documents and court decisions);
- d. prepare a Study on means to raise awareness and promote sustainability practices within the courts and judicial administration;
- e. develop a tool on translation and interpretation in judicial proceedings and their impact on the quality of judicial services, in co-operation with the CEPEJ-GT-CYBERJUST;
- f. consider the development of a toolkit on access to justice for vulnerable people, starting with guidelines for legal professionals on participation of children in judicial proceedings aimed at contributing to operationalising child-friendly justice;
- g. further promote mediation within Member States and, more broadly, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) by:
 - i. developing a practical guide to raise awareness on the participation of children in mediation processes (in civil, family, and restorative justice matters) and/or,
 - ii. enhancing the means of collecting statistics on mediation within Member States, in cooperation with CEPEJ-GT-EVAL;
- h. consider the updating of the Handbook for conducting satisfaction surveys aimed at Court users in the Council of Europe's member States or the Guidelines on the creation of judicial maps to support access to justice within a quality judicial system;
- i. in co-operation with the other CEPEJ Working Groups, carry out a reflection on the feasibility (i) to develop indicators and/or indexes for measuring the quality of justice as well as (ii) to prepare a tool to improve work-life balance in the judiciary;
- j. take into account in its work the identified needs arising from the implementation of relevant cooperation programs and actively contribute thereto.

2. Composition

The CEPEJ-GT-QUAL is composed of 6 members of the CEPEJ or experts, as well as possibly 2 substitute members, proposed by member States through the CEPEJ members and appointed by the CEPEJ Bureau, with an in-depth knowledge in the field of operation of courts, analyse of judicial practice and, when necessary, mediation. Their travel and subsistence expenses will be borne by the budget of the Council of Europe. Other experts appointed by the member States may participate in its work, at their own expenses.

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

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

3. Working structures and methods

The CEPEJ-GT-QUAL will organise 4 meetings.

In carrying out its terms of reference, the CEPEJ-GT-QUAL may rely on the CEPEJ Network of Pilot courts.

It will also coordinate its work with the work of the other CEPEJ's working groups (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL, CEPEJ-SATURN, 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 2025.