

APPENDIX – TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CEPEJ WORKING GROUPS

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Terms of reference of the
Working Group on the effectiveness of judicial proceedings

(CEPEJ-GT-EFF)

2026-2027

1. Tasks

According to article 7.2.b of annex 1 to Resolution [Res\(2002\)12](#), and under the authority of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the Working group on the effectiveness of judicial proceedings (CEPEJ-GT-EFF) 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 efficiency of justice and enabling member States to implement policies aiming to prevent violations of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In order to fulfil its mandate, the CEPEJ-GT-EFF shall in particular on the following topics:

1) *Court management, organisation and training*

- prepare a checklist for efficient, effective, ideal and modern administrative and judicial court management, adaptable to all judicial systems;
- prepare a training curriculum on efficient court management;

2) *Workload measurement*

- prepare guidelines for implementing workload measurement systems in courts;

3) *Backlog reduction*

- strengthen and expand the Resource Centre on backlog reduction practices;
- elaborate proposals for potential tools aimed at reducing duration of judicial proceedings;

4) *Enforcement of judicial decisions*

- Review, if necessary, the existing CEPEJ tools on enforcement of judicial decisions.

The CEPEJ-GT-EFF shall also:

- finalise a study on means to reduce the length of the stages of civil proceedings and consider developing a related tool;

- strengthen the CEPEJ Network of pilot courts to develop and promote CEPEJ tools;
- take into account in its work the identified needs arising from the implementation of relevant co-operation programs and actively contribute thereto.

2. Composition

The CEPEJ-GT-EFF 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 court management and administration and efficiency of justice. Their travel and subsistence expenses will 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 on the Steering group 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 Working group, if the Bureau considers their attendance relevant for the quality of the work.

3. Working structures and methods

The CEPEJ-GT-EFF will hold 4 meetings (subject to budgetary availability).

In carrying out its terms of reference, the CEPEJ-GT-EFF might rely on the CEPEJ Network of pilot courts.

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

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

4. Duration

These terms of reference expire on 31 December 2027.