

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 evaluation of judicial systems
(CEPEJ-GT-EVAL)
2026-2027

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, as well as developing tools to measure the efficiency and quality of justice, notably relevant indicators or indexes.

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

(1) analyse data on the functioning of the European judicial systems

- a. implement the reform of the CEPEJ judicial system evaluation cycles on an annual basis by organizing the collection and processing of national judicial data according to a revised timeline and by developing new indicators at the European and, where relevant, at group-of-States levels;
- b. prepare the 2026 (2025 data) and 2027 (2026 data) evaluation reports including a brief analysis of European trends, a synthesis of indicators at the European level and enhanced country profiles, for adoption at the 47th and 49th plenary meetings of the CEPEJ;
- c. pursue the development of the CEPEJ-STAT interactive database, ensuring its improvement and user friendliness developing, in particular predefined data related questions/answers;
- d. from the 2027 cycle onwards, in addition to the judicial systems evaluation report and according to a to-be-defined periodicity, initiate and oversee the preparation of specific thematic reports on topics such as ICT, attractiveness of legal professions or mediation and develop dedicated questionnaires if necessary;
- e. assess the impact of the Report in the Member States and support the promotion of its visibility and use within the Member States;

(2) support the work of the National correspondents

- f. support the CEPEJ national correspondents in their tasks, and in particular in the context of the change in the timeline for data collection and quality control of such data;
- g. organise peer review and *ad hoc* visits to member States aiming to support them in improving the quality of their judicial statistics

(3) implement the regional data collection

- h. coordinate and supervise the preparation of the CEPEJ Studies supporting the annual publication of the “EU Justice Scoreboard” including data presented on Eurostat, CEPEJ “Dashboard Western Balkans” and CEPEJ “Justice Dashboard Eap” consisting in collecting and analysing data on the functioning of the judicial systems of the European Union Member States, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership Beneficiaries following the established CEPEJ methodology and with the view to improve the coherence of the processes of all evaluation exercises in light of the CEPEJ evaluation cycle reform;

The CEPEJ-GT-EVAL shall also:

- i. in co-operation with CEPEJ-GT-QUAL, carry out a reflection on the feasibility to develop indicators and/or indexes for measuring the quality of justice;
- j. develop guidelines, including methodology, for indicators/indexes used and developed by CEPEJ;
- k. 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-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 6 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 is 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-GT-EFF, 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 2027.