

The CEPEJ also contributes with specific expertise to debates about the functioning of the justice system in order to

— provide a forum for discussion and proposals:

The CEPEJ is entrusted with identifying problems and areas of potential improvement (watching and alerting role) and organising and participating in exchanges on the functioning of justice. Every year, the CEPEJ runs the European “Crystal Scales of Justice” Prize, which aims to highlight innovative and efficient practices that improve the functioning of justice systems. An accompanying junior Prize also encourages Master’s students from law schools to get involved.

— bring the users closer to their justice system :

Together with the European Commission In Brussels, each year the CEPEJ promotes the European Day of Justice on 25 October through various events organised by judicial institutions in European Union member States. This allows the public, people working in the field of justice, and students to get better acquainted with their justice systems and how they function.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)



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The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CEPEJ?

In setting up the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) at the end of 2002, on the initiative of the European ministers of Justice who met in London (2000), the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe wanted to establish an innovative body for improving the quality and the efficiency of the European judicial systems and strengthening court users' confidence in such systems.

The CEPEJ is composed of representatives of the 46 member States of the Council of Europe and is entrusted with the following missions:

- ▶ proposing to the States pragmatic solutions as regards judicial organisation that fully take court users into account,
- ▶ enabling better implementation of the Council of Europe's standards in the field of justice ("normative after sale service"),
- ▶ promoting the public service of justice,
- ▶ offering effective solutions to States to prevent violations of the right to a fair trial within a reasonable time (Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights), thus helping to relieve the caseload of the European Court of Human Rights.

The CEPEJ is also a privileged interlocutor of the European and international legal community, particularly via its cooperation with professional organisations which have been granted observer status, and its network of pilot courts, statistical correspondents, or actors in the field of cyberjustice.

WHAT DOES THE CEPEJ DO?

The CEPEJ develops concrete measures and tools aimed at policy makers and judicial practitioners in order to:

■ analyse the functioning of judicial systems and orientate public policies of justice:

the CEPEJ has set up a continuous evaluation process of the functioning of judicial systems in its member and observer States, on a comparative basis. This process is unique in Europe and makes it possible, through the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, to have a detailed picture of the functioning of justice and to measure its evolution. This tool for in-depth analysis allows the orientation of public policies of justice. Comparative studies are led by the CEPEJ thanks to its database on the functioning of European judicial systems (CEPEJ-STAT), which is unique in the world. Furthermore, the CEPEJ replies to occasional requests for evaluation of judicial systems in view of a more targeted analysis,

■ have knowledge of judicial timeframes and optimise judicial time management:

The CEPEJ has been developing practical tools aimed at professionals for a better knowledge and improvement of judicial timeframes and time management in courts in the European States (SATURN Guidelines and Checklist for judicial time management, Study on case-weighting systems, Handbook for the implementation of dashboards for courts),

■ promote the quality of the public service of justice:

beyond the efficiency of judicial systems, the CEPEJ aims to identify the elements which constitute the quality of the service provided to users in order to improve it and to develop innovative measures (Guidelines on the role of

court-appointed experts in judicial proceedings; on the creation of judicial maps to support access to justice, on the organisation and accessibility of court premises; Checklist for promoting the quality of justice and of the courts, Handbook for conducting satisfaction surveys aimed at court users),

■ to accompany the modernisation of judicial systems with a view to improving their efficiency and quality:

the CEPEJ develops tools that offer a framework and guarantees to member States, and justice professionals, wishing to set up cyberjustice or artificial intelligence mechanisms

■ facilitate the implementation of European standards in the field of justice:

the CEPEJ analyses the impact of the existing European standards in the field of justice within the member States (access to justice, enforcement of court decisions, e-justice, mediation, etc.) in order to propose measures which contribute to improving their implementation,

■ support member States in their reforms on court organisation:

on the basis of the methods and tools it has developed, the CEPEJ is entrusted with offering targeted cooperation to States that make a request in the framework of their institutional and legislative reforms or the re-organisation of their judicial systems. Many such programmes are carried out jointly with the European Union, either in its member States or beyond.