



European Network of Councils
for the Judiciary (ENCJ)

Réseau européen des Conseils
de la Justice (RECJ)

Annual Report 2015 - 2016



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THE ENCJ ANNUAL REPORT COVERS THE ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2015 TO JUNE 2016

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR READER,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2015-2016 ENCJ report.

Just like my predecessor, Sir Geoffrey Vos, I will continue to emphasise that the work of the ENCJ is actually given serious attention in our Members' own Councils and that the Network actively tries to help its Members implement its standards and best practices when they have problems and issues and lastly that the Network tries to make better use of its unique status – as the only truly institutional judicial network - to have a greater influence on European justice policy.

I am dedicated to continue in the same vain.

The ENCJ is still going from strength to strength, but these are challenging times for the judiciaries of Europe. We need to keep on reminding the executive and the legislature that their judiciaries are the third arm of state, and that they must be truly independent and accountable if their citizens are to be provided with the efficient and effective justice systems that they are entitled to expect. The quality of justice is now also a priority issue for the ENCJ since the judiciary works to serve the citizens.

At the same time, the judiciaries need to improve on their ability to explain both their work and their position to the citizens. Public trust is of the utmost importance and real effort has to be put into strengthening it.

I am looking forward to working with the ENCJ Members and Observers to strive for truly independent and accountable, high quality justice systems for the benefit of all.

Nuria Díaz Abad

President of the ENCJ



ENCJ ACTIVITIES



On 1st to 3rd June 2016 the ENCJ General Assembly gathered in Warsaw for its annual meeting. The Polish Krajowa Rada Sądownictwa hosted the excellently organised meeting. The general theme of the meeting was the Future of Justice in Europe.

The Warsaw Declaration was adopted in which the ENCJ, amongst others, recognises that the administration of Europe's justice systems in the 21st century will change radically as a result of the use of information and communication technology. It looks forward to the use of online dispute resolution and other technologies to deliver justice more effectively and quickly and at lower cost to all European citizens. It will still be essential for the ENCJ and its Members and Observers to maintain and strengthen the independence and accountability of judiciary for the benefit of European citizens in order to ensure that they have effective access to justice.

Nuria Díaz Abad, member of the Consejo General del Poder Judicial of Spain, was elected as President of the Association to serve a mandate from June 2016 to June 2018. The Raad voor de rechtspraak of the Netherlands, the Romanian Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii, Sodni Svet of Slovenia and the

Scottish Judicial Council were elected into the Board for two years. The Belgian, Polish, Bulgarian and Spanish Councils for the Judiciary ended their mandate as Board member.

In relation to the developing situation in Poland, the ENCJ emphasised the importance of the executive respecting the independence of the judiciary, and only undertaking reforms to the justice system after meaningful consultation with the Council for the Judiciary and the judges themselves.

The ENCJ also welcomed two new Members, namely the Greek Supreme Judicial Council of the Civil and Penal Justice and the Greek Supreme Judicial Council of the Administrative Justice. This brings the number of ENCJ Members to 24 covering 20 EU Member States.



Signing of the ENCJ Statutes by the Supreme Judicial Council of the Civil and Penal Justice and the Greek Supreme Judicial Council of the Administrative Justice.

Executive Board

The Executive Board met in July 2015 and an informal meeting took place in September 2015 in Paris on the first day of the Joint Meeting. In November 2015 a planned meeting was cancelled as a result of the Brussels lock-down and a telephone conference was held instead. In 2016 the Board met twice on 8th February and 9th May. Written reports of the meeting were sent to the Members and Observers of the Association.

Activities of the Executive Board

Relations with the Members and Observers

All efforts were made to ensure the maximum involvement of all Members and Observers in the ENCJ. The President and the Director visited Bratislava in April and discussed the priority issues for the Slovakian judiciary with the Council, the Supreme Court, the Judicial Academy and the Minister of Justice. The President had a meeting with representatives of the Bulgarian Council when he was in Sofia to speak at a Council of Europe Conference.

The President was invited to address a conference in Warsaw which brought together Polish judges. In his [speech](#) he addressed the limits of judicial independence.

Establishing a contact with the Greek Judicial Authorities was high on the wish list of the Board. After many attempts and using all available contacts a contact was realised. At the Timeliness seminar in Bucharest in November the Greek Judiciary was represented. The two Greek Judicial Councils became full Member at the Warsaw General Assembly.

The ENCJ stayed in close contact with the Albanian Judicial Authorities, the Venice Commission and the European Commission in relation to Albania. A Judicial Reform is being prepared which may include a vetting process of all current judges and prosecutors.

The Board held discussions with the Turkish High Council for Judges and Prosecutors on current developments in Turkey. The ENCJ also received many letters from individual judges that were suspended or transferred. The ENCJ has kept in close contact with the European Commission (DG NEAR and the Cabinet of Commissioner Hahn) to monitor developments.

A visit by Ukrainian Judicial Authorities (competences are split between three Councils for the Judiciary) took place in March. The President and the director discussed the main challenges in relation to the Independence and Accountability with the delegation.

Relations with the European Commission

A number of formal and informal meetings with European Commission representatives were held including two meetings with the European Commissioner for Justice Ms Vera Jourova.



The discussions with the Commission on the further development of the Justice Scoreboard also continued with a focus on the use of the work done by the Network on the Independence Indicators and the Survey among judges. The Members provided the relevant data for the 2016 Justice Scoreboard.

Relations with the European Parliament

The Director participated in a meeting with MEP In't Veldt on the Parliament's plan to develop a Pact on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights. The newly elected ENCJ President [addressed](#) a JURI workshop on Common Minimum Standards on Civil Procedures.

Cooperation with the Council of Europe

The President addressed the CCJE at its meeting in October in London.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe published a report which stated that there are widespread weaknesses within Europe's judiciaries. The President wrote a letter to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Mr. Jagland offering ENCJ's support to improve the situation. As a result of the letter ENCJ was invited to contribute to the CCJE-CCPE report [Challenges for the Independence and Impartiality of the Judiciary in the Member States of the Council of Europe](#).

Geoffrey Vos [spoke](#) as UK representative at a Council of Europe conference where the Action plan Strengthening Judicial Impartiality and Independence was adopted. He highlighted some of the outcomes of the project on Independence and Accountability and stressed that the executive in all countries needs to have a clear understanding of what judicial independence and accountability entail. In return, judges, need to realise that the concept of judicial independence is not an absolute one. ENCJ attended a meeting of the Working Group on Quality of Justice of CEPEJ to which ENCJ is an observer.

Cooperation with EJTN (European Judicial Training Network)

The Board decided on a further project with the EJTN on developing a seminar on judicial governance. The ENCJ representatives Michael Walker and Jose Miguel Garcia Moreno attended meetings in Brussels and Florence to discuss the ENCJ contribution to a Conference for Court Leaders which took place in July 2016 in Barcelona.

Cooperation with ELI (European Law Institute)

A first meeting on this project took place in Brussels on 23rd May. The project deals with other dispute resolution methods. ENCJ's objective with this project is to study how far ADR methods, including arbitration, mediation and Online Dispute Resolution, can appropriately displace the rights of consumers and litigants to a fair hearing before an impartial judge. There is a massive movement in Europe towards voluntary (and sometimes compulsory) ADR in a vast range of subject areas. This is, of course, often a good thing, but it can work against the interests of justice if settlements are effectively imposed without the weaker party being properly advised. The ENCJ representatives are Geoffrey Vos, John Hedigan on behalf of the Executive Board, Stanislav Petroc Georgiev, a Court of Appeal judge from Bulgaria and Lourdes Arastey Sahún, a Judge in the Supreme Court of Spain.

Cooperation with CCBE (Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe)

The Board held a meeting with the CCBE. The CCBE suggested that the legal practitioners of Europe could have a stronger voice with DG Justice of the European Commission if CCBE and ENCJ worked

together. Lawyers and judges had a common interest in the development of justice. It was also suggested that the CCBE and the ENCJ might cooperate in organising a “client satisfaction” survey amongst the lawyers within the framework of the ENCJ project on Independence and Accountability.

European Justice Stakeholder Forum (EJSF)

The President addressed the newly established European Justice Stakeholder Forum (EJSF) in February. The chair of the JURI committee of the European Parliament, Pavel Svoboda, co-hosted, together with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) an event in Brussels on 'The Future of Justice in the EU: challenges and opportunities'. The main aim of this event was to launch a brand-new European Justice Stakeholder Forum (EJSF), bringing together prominent representatives of the EU justice sector (the Union institutions included), the Council of Europe, academia and the legal profession in order to discuss and agree on working solutions to some of the key challenges facing the justice sector.

Project 1 Independence, Accountability and Quality of the Judiciary

The project group was divided into two sub-groups as follows:

1. All activities with regard to the Judiciary, coordinated by the French and Spanish Councils.
2. All activities with regard to Prosecutors, coordinated by the Romanian CSM.

The project group had four plenary meetings. Four Dialogue group meetings were also held:

- 20 November - Madrid for Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania and Spain
- 11 January - London for Belgium, England and Wales, France and Sweden
- 19 February - Paris for Albania, Ireland, Lithuania and Poland
- 18 March - Rome for Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovakia

The report contains improved versions of the Indicators for the Independence and Accountability of the Judiciary and the scoring rules and a new version of the Survey among Judges.

The project team also started to work on the Quality of Justice.

The main conclusions were that a Council for the Judiciary or equivalent governance body should participate in the process of evaluating the quality of justice by:

- defining a quality framework which sets out indicators including criteria for the assessment and evaluation of the quality of justice;
- defining methods by which the quality of the judicial decision-making process can be evaluated, maintained and improved;
- identifying and implementing good practices which increase the confidence of citizens in the judicial system; and
- ensuring that these systems do not interfere with the independence of the judiciary, individually or collectively, or the judicial system.

Project 2 Standards VI on Civil Society Representatives in Judicial Governance Structures

The Project was coordinated by the Polish KRS and the Italian CSM. Four meetings were held in Paris in September, Brussels in January, Rome in December and in Ljubljana in March. An additional meeting of a small group was held in Warsaw in April to finalise the report.

The Project Team proceeded to analyse the materials obtained in response to two questionnaires and elaborated standards in the following areas:

- I. Composition of Judicial Councils and other relevant bodies with regard to non-judicial members
- II. Process of selection and appointment of non-judicial members
- III. Personal qualities, competences and political relationships of non-judicial members
- IV. Status of non-judicial members
- V. Conduct

The ENCJ concluded the following with respect to non-judicial members of Councils:

- the composition of Councils for the Judiciary and equivalent bodies should include non-judicial members, reflecting the diversity of society;
- non-judicial members should meet the same standards of integrity, independence and impartiality as judges, but non-judicial members should not be politicians or include the Minister of Justice;
- non-judicial members should have the same status and voting rights as judicial members.

Project 3 Funding of the Judiciary

The project was coordinated by the French CSM and the Irish Courts Service. The project team met three times; in Paris in September, Brussels in November/December and in February/March in Dublin.

The report contains principles and recommendations in the following areas:

1. Components of the Budget concerning the Judiciary
2. Budgetary Process
3. Management of the Allocated Budget or Administration of the Agreed Budget
4. Consequences of Budgetary Constraints

The main principles are that:

- the creation of the budget should be systemically and practically free from inappropriate political interference, so that courts are financed on the basis of objective and transparent criteria;
- the Council for the Judiciary or equivalent body should be closely involved at all stages in the budgetary process, and courts must be resourced to a level which provides an effective and efficient justice system;
- budgetary priorities must be defined in collaboration with the relevant judiciary according to transparent criteria, and must not themselves dictate the court procedures to be followed.

Project 4 Regional Timeliness Seminar

The third seminar in the series took place in Bucharest on 9-10 November 2015. Best practices from the various countries were presented and discussed. Each session started with each of the delegations setting out their particular challenges in the various fields. The seminar focused on : Case Load Reduction; Capacity Management; Case Management and Procedures.

The [full report](#) of the seminar is available on the ENCJ website.

Project 5 Staff seminar

On 30 June and 1 July ENCJ Office organised a seminar for staff members working for ENCJ Member Institutions in Brussels at the ENCJ Office. The objectives of the meeting were to get the participants acquainted with the history and functioning of ENCJ, to improve the understanding of the functioning of ENCJ in the EU (and ways to improve it), to strengthen mutual knowledge and the cooperation between Members and with the Office. 13 ENCJ Members sent a member of their staff to participate in the event. The European Commission presented the EU Justice Scoreboard on how national justice systems function and explained the contribution of ENCJ to it and also the procedures for the EU subventions.

In general, it was felt that the seminar contributed to the effective cooperation between the staff of the ENCJ Members who support their Members of the Council in the activities of ENCJ which will improve the functioning of the ENCJ as a whole. It was recommended to organise such a seminar every two years and if possible combined with a visit to the European Parliament.

REPORTS BY THE ENCJ MEMBERS

BELGIUM



CONSEIL SUPERIEUR DE LA JUSTICE (CSJ) HOGE RAAD VOOR DE JUSTITIE (HRJ)

HIGH COUNCIL OF JUSTICE

Reform and/or changes to the Council

The law of 23 November 2015 and the Royal Decree of 26 December 2015 have improved and modernised the election procedure of the judicial members of the HCJ. The law has also clarified the question of the number of possible mandates as member of the HCJ. Furthermore, a former judge or prosecutor can only be appointed as civil member of the HCJ five years after the end of his career as judge or prosecutor.

On 4 March 2016 the Belgian judges and prosecutors elected the 22 judicial members of the High Council. Subsequently, the Senate appointed the 22 civil members of the High Council. The mandate of the new members of the High Council began on 12 September 2016.

Judicial reform

In 2014 several important reforms have been approved by the legislator (for example: reduction of the number of judicial districts from 27 to 12, increased mobility for judges and prosecutors and the creation of a framework for autonomous management for the judiciary). Almost all these reforms have been implemented in the course of 2015 and 2016. The autonomous management has not yet been realised but will be put into practice in phases, starting with human resources. A bill containing a financing and allocation model has been announced by the minister of justice.

Since 1 March 2016 all crimes, even the most severe, can be brought before a “normal” criminal court and do not necessarily have to be brought before the “Court d’assises” (jury).

A national register for judicial experts has been created and will enter into force on 1 December 2016. In principle, judges will only be able to appoint registered experts.

The minister of justice plans several other ambitious reforms, e.g.:

- The rewriting of the criminal code and the code of criminal procedure;
- A thorough reform of civil procedures;
- The modification of the procedure for the review of criminal cases.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

The implementation of the autonomous management of the judiciary will have important implications on the role of the High Council in the human resources policy of the judiciary and in the external control on the functioning on the judiciary.

Other



The new members of the Bureau of the HCJ (from left to right): Joris Lagrou, lawyer, President of the Dutch-speaking Nomination and Appointment Commission; Vanessa de Francquen, lawyer, President of the French-speaking Nomination and Appointment Commission; Christian Denoyelle, judge, President of the Dutch-speaking Advisory and Investigation Commission; Magali Clavie, judge, President of the French-speaking Advisory and Investigation Commission.



Висш съдебен съвет SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL

РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ
ВИСШ СЪДЕБЕН СЪВЕТ

Reform and/or changes to the Council

At the end of 2015 in Bulgaria amendments to the Constitution were adopted, which came into force since 22 December 2015 and have as consequence the splitting of the Supreme Judicial Council into two colleges - College of Judges and College of Prosecutors, each one with a different number of members.

The Judges' College of the Supreme Judicial Council consists of 14 members and includes the chairmen of the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court, six members directly elected by the judges and six members elected by the National Assembly (Article 130 para 3 of the Constitution).

The Prosecutors' College of the Supreme Judicial Council consists of 11 members and includes the Prosecutor General, four members elected directly by the prosecutors, one member elected directly by the investigators, and five members elected by the National Assembly (Article 130 paragraph 4 of the Constitution).

The amendments to the Constitution affect also the powers of the Plenary of the Supreme Judicial Council and the powers of the Judges' College and the Prosecutors' College of the SJC and are referred to in Article 130a of the Constitution, as well as persons who shall chair the judges' and prosecutors' colleges of the SJC (Article 130 b of the Constitution), and also the powers of the Minister of Justice (Article 130 in the Constitution).

With the amendments to the Constitution, some powers of the SJC regarding integrity, conflict of interest checks, property declarations for judges, prosecutors and investigators, as well as determining the actions undermining the prestige of the judiciary and the violation of the

independence of judges, prosecutors and investigators, were assigned to the Inspectorate of the SJC (Article 132a paragraph 6 of the Constitution).

In early April 2016 the amendments to the Judicial System Act, adopted in accomplishment of the constitutional amendments, came into force and the SJC adapted its structure in accordance with the new dispositions. Thus, two colleges were created – Judges’ College and Prosecutors’ College – in the above described composition. The Plenary of the SJC shall decide on matters laid down in the Judiciary System act as matters of its competence. All decisions of the Plenary and the two colleges shall be taken by open roll-call vote, through the electronic system of the SJC which was aligned with the new rules.

Judicial reform

Reform of the judicial map – a tool for achieving an effective judicial system and access to quality justice

In July 2015 the SJC adopted a report on the importance of regional courts (first instance courts) in the structure of the judicial system and criteria for changes of the judicial map of the regional courts. In the context of the reform of the judicial map the Bulgarian judges are considering the role of the regional court in the local community and how to counteract the danger of instrumentalisation and bureaucratisation of Justice. The current reform is a first step that shall be extended to the other levels and structures of the courts.

The reform addresses a wide range of issues that affect current challenges faced by the judiciary in ENCJ member states; access to justice, in all its aspects; quality and efficiency of justice under the conditions of budget restrictions; the role of the judge and the judiciary in local communities and in respect of vulnerable society groups.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

The reporting period is decisive for finalizing the overall work of the SJC on one of the most important policies in its work - providing tools for the objective measurement of the workload of judges and courts and the prosecutors and prosecutors' offices.

At the end of 2014 the work on developing the rules to measure the workload of prosecutors, investigators and prosecutors' offices was finalised. They apply from 1 January 2015, and in this sense the first year is a year of monitoring of their application.

In 2015 the work continued on a methodology for determining and reporting the workload in courts. In April 2015 the gathering of data by means of surveys among judges finished and an interim analysis of the study on workload was prepared and the average values of the processed data and the results obtained for different stages and types of cases were defined. Focus-groups of judges on civil, commercial, criminal and administrative cases were created with the aim to validate the averages. In December 2015 the SJC adopted Rules for assessing the workload of the judge.

Together with the work on the study on workload the statistical reporting forms for the courts were analysed and updated in order to coordinate with the workload standards. At the same session of the SJC the updated statistical reporting forms for the appellate, district, regional, administrative, military and specialized courts were approved. It was agreed that the two new mechanisms would apply in courts as of 1 April 2016. Throughout 2016 both reporting mechanisms – the old and the new one – shall be maintained in order to monitor the new reporting mechanisms and eliminate any weaknesses.

The SJC believes that the three-year work on the development of new mechanisms for reporting the workload of magistrates and the new statistical reporting forms for the courts and the prosecutors' offices has produced a result which without being perfect, rises the accountability of the judiciary to a new, contemporary and qualitatively different level. The proper measurement of the workload of judicial bodies and individual judges, prosecutors and investigators, according to complexity and not according to the quantity of cases, allows for:

- further development of the work on redesigning of judicial regions; rethinking of the rules of procedural jurisdiction of cases;
- developing a medium-term strategy on human resources in the judicial bodies;
- reallocation of magistrates' and judicial administration positions from less loaded judicial bodies to those with higher workload;
- introduction of a corrective for the random allocation of cases and files in the event of a work overload of a judge, prosecutor or investigator;
- understanding the role of the criterion of workload in the evaluation of Magistrates and disciplinary proceedings against them.

Impact of the ENCJ reports and activities on national level

All the reports of the ENCJ are being presented to the attention of the members of the SJC and are being published in Bulgarian language on the official website of the Council.

DENMARK

DOMSTOLSSYRELSEN

COURT ADMINISTRATION



Judicial reform

In 2016 the case handling in civil matters will begin to become digitised as part of the Danish Courts' strategy for digitalisation. A pilot is currently being undertaken and the system will be launched gradually in the courts in the beginning of March 2017. New legislation has been adopted in order to support this digitisation.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

It has been decided that the Danish Courts will establish an online caselaw database accessible to the public. The project is ongoing. It is expected that the database will be ready in 2017 with civil caselaw. Other areas of law will follow.

In 2015 and 2016 the Danish Courts have worked on 5 projects/areas of special focus:

- Increasing the knowledge and use of court mediation and conciliation (finished medio 2016)
- Strengthening the IT organization and the IT competences at the courts (finished medio 2016)
- Strengthening the coherence, attention and anchoring of the concept of security across the organization by establishing a security organization, security measures in courthouses and training (ongoing)
- Digitalization of civil cases (ongoing)
- Digitalization of court meetings (ongoing)

Other news

As part of the ongoing reform of the European Court of Justice Mr. Jesper Svenningsen has been appointed to serve at the General Court.

Denmark hosted a high level conference in August 2016 focusing on how to maintain the high level of trust that the Danish citizen have in their Judiciary.



CONSEIL SUPERIEUR
DE LA MAGISTRATURE

CONSEIL SUPERIEUR DE LA MAGISTRATURE

Reform and/or changes to the Council

In 2013, a constitutional law reforming the CSM has been proposed in order to enhance its independence and authority. The main changes were as follows :

- the equal composition of the CSM between judges and external personalities;
- the alignment between the powers of the CSM on prosecutors and on judges, about their appointment and their discipline;
- the self-referral of the Council on matters relating to independence and ethics.

At this time, in the absence of favorable parliamentary majority, the project has been suspended.

In 2016, the constitutional law¹ was put to a final vote, but in a limited form, since only the alignment between the powers of the CSM on prosecutors and on judges about their appointment and their discipline was maintained. As constitutional law, the text has yet to be adopted either by referendum or by Parliament convened in Congress, with a qualified majority of three fifths. For the moment, no date has been scheduled.

Judicial reform

On 12 October 2016, the law for the modernization of Justice of the XXI century² was formally and definitively adopted.

It provides for :

- the establishment of a single reception facility in the courts for individuals;
- the extension of class actions ;
- the divorce by mutual consent without judge;
- the registration of the PACS (civil union) and the name change only in town hall;
- the end of correctional juvenile courts;
- the introduction of fixed fines for certain traffic offenses;
- the facilitation of civil status changes for transgender people;

¹ <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/ta/ta0720.asp>

² <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/ta/ta0824.asp>

- the removing of the judicial step in the excessive debt procedure;
- the merger of social security disputes in a single pole;
- the favoring of alternative dispute resolution, mainly for small claims.

All these measures are part of the commitment to a more accessible and especially more efficient justice.

Status of Judges

On 8 August 2016, the law reforming the status of judges and the CSM³ was formally and definitively adopted. Its key measures are :

○ **Deontology :**

- Creation of an ethics College, which can give opinions on any ethical question and is independent from the CSM;
- Prevention of conflicts of interest, by establishing an ethical interview of judges, a declaration of their interests, and also a declaration of assets for the members of the CSM.

○ **Appointment :**

- Creation of a new specialized function: the judge of freedoms and detention is now appointed by presidential decree on CSM proposal.
- The appointment of General prosecutors (courts of Appeal) will no longer be approved by the council of ministers
- Modification of the recruiting procedures, by facilitating direct integration of judges.

○ **Evaluation :**

- First presidents of courts of Appeal and general prosecutors have an obligation to define the goals of their action and establish an activity report every two years.
- Modernization of the evaluation methods for the appointment and advancement of judges.

○ **Confirmation of freedom of association of judges :**

The overall objective is to strengthen the independence and impartiality of judges.

Impact of ENCJ reports and activities on national level

The CSM has worked, and is still working, on the same themes as the ENCJ, especially the quality and the funding of the judiciary. Two internal work groups have been set up:

- One presided by the CSM on the quality of the judiciary;
- One presided by the Cour de cassation (French supreme court) on the funding of the judiciary.

³ [Loi organique n°2016-1090 du 8 août 2016 relative aux garanties statutaires, aux obligations déontologiques et au recrutement des magistrats ainsi qu'au Conseil supérieur de la magistrature](#)



ORSZÁGOS BÍRÓI TANÁCS

NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Reform and/or changes to the Council

The National Judicial Council has a periodically changing presidency. During the reported period the Council has two presidents: dr. Bicskei Ferenc and dr. Tamás Gerber. There were no changes in members of the Council.

Judicial reform

The codification of new procedure codes – Civil Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Administrative Procedure Code - are still in process. The changes of judicial procedure codes will be followed by organisational reform supposed to be prepared for next year.

Status of Judges

The project of “Career-model of judges” - started in 2015 – continued and is still ongoing. The result of the last year was the preparation of nine initiations of modification of acts regarding remuneration and status of judges and judicial staff.

Main challenges faced and main results achieved

The NJC established a committee for following the activity of the service courts. The aim of the committee is to analyse the practical experiences of the work of service courts and to give recommendations for the revealed problems. The committee submitted its report to the Council in November 2015.

In June 2015 started the nationwide program “For service provider courts”. The NJC follows with special attention the programme and takes part actively by presenting the code of judicial conduct (1 January 2015) and its application in practice. The rules of Code of judicial conduct is a part of the training of young judges and clerks. In March 2016 the project was closed with outstanding results: the number of pending cases was decreased nationwide with 26,88 %. Besides the timeliness of jurisdiction the other main objectives were the strengthening of client relationships and actions in

case of discreditable offences against judges. The relation between the courts and the media and the relation with the citizens were strengthened with extension of information of clients and public and the program of “open courts”. As a result of the survey about discreditable offences against courts and judges a new regulation was prepared for the protection of the judiciary in the frame of new “Regulation for integrity” and in the drafts of procedural codes.

As a continuation of the programme “For service provider courts” a new programme “For the sustainable development” was started in April 2016. The courts still make an effort for high quality and timeliness jurisdiction and for maintenance and development of the results of earlier programmes. The programme has 3 pillars: 1. High quality and timeliness; 2. Career-model; 3. client relationships and communication.

The working group for “Judicial Integrity” was very active in 2015-2016. The working group has created an anonymous integrity questionnaire for judges. The results of the survey were resumed and presented in a nationwide conference in January 2016. At the conference the work and results of the ENCJ Independence and Accountability project were also presented. The new “Regulation of judicial integrity” stepped into force on 1 July 2016. The working group will continue its work in the future and will examine the effectiveness of the new regulation and will deal with new challenges of integrity.

Impact ENCJ reports and activities on national level

The work and results of the ENCJ project teams are regularly reported to the National Judicial Council by the representatives at the sessions of the Council. The Council makes the necessary decisions in order to appropriate representation in the project teams.

The indicators and recommendations of the reports of the Independence and Accountability project were assimilated in the work of working group “Judicial Integrity” and during the program “For service provider courts” (see above).

The reports of the working groups were published on the website of the Hungarian Judiciary (www.birosag.hu) and on the central intranet of the courts. The Council has also sent the reports for further application to the network of the mentor judges on European Union Law.

Other news

In the reported period the National Judicial Council organized 10 sessions, and made 133 decisions. The president of the National Judicial Council participated in the XI. Conference and Plenary of the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary in Rome in June 2016.



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

THE COURTS SERVICE OF IRELAND

Reform and/or changes to the Council

In August 2010, the General Scheme of the Judicial Council Bill was published by the Department of Justice & Equality (formerly Justice, Equality & Law Reform). The General Scheme of the Judicial Council Bill provides for the first time in Ireland a detailed procedural framework for best practice for the education, support and training of judges; a code of conduct; and a complaint structure for the consideration and investigation of complaints regarding the conduct of individual judges and the taking of such action as may be considered necessary for the purpose of safeguarding the administration of justice. The Judicial Council Bill is currently on the Government's legislative programme and the drafting of the Bill is expected to be completed in the coming months.

Judicial reform

According to the Programme for Government published in May 2016, the Irish Government proposed the introduction of legislation to replace the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board with a new Judicial Appointments Commission. The new structure will include a reduction in its membership, an independent chairperson selected by the Public Appointments Service and approved by an Oireachtas Committee, and a lay majority including independent people with specialist qualifications. The objective is to ensure the judicial appointments process to ensure it is transparent, fair and credible. The number of suitable candidates proposed by the Judicial Appointments Commission for each vacancy will be reduced to the lowest number advised as constitutionally and legally permissible by the Attorney General, but in any event not more than three candidates to be shortlisted by the Judicial Appointments Commission for any vacancy.

Status of Judges

At present, there is an unsatisfactory situation whereby judges at the same level are on different salary scales as a result of urgent action taken during the financial crisis. The remuneration of judges was reduced following the enactment of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2011. The salaries of all judges appointed prior to 1st January 2012 have been significantly reduced. The

salaries of judges appointed on or after 1st January 2012 are lower still. Following discussion with the judiciary it has been decided that this disparity will be gradually ended over the next five years so the equality of salary will be achieved within all levels of the judiciary in Ireland in accordance with their jurisdiction.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

The establishment of a Judicial Council has been recognised as an important requirement for the Judiciary and the administration of justice in Ireland. The Government has pledged to pass the Judicial Council Bill by December 2016. In the interim it has proposed not to appoint any new judges until the passage of the legislation.

TIESLIETU PADOME

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Reform and/or changes to the Council

The Cabinet of Ministers has submitted Draft amendments to law «On Judicial Power» to the Parliament in 20.10.2015. The Draft amendments focus on strengthening the powers of the Judicial Council:

- selection procedure of new judges;
- extension of competence of the Judicial Council regarding taking decisions on the career of judges after their first appointment as a judge.

The Commission for Legal Environment Improvement (Commission) established by the President of Latvia has published a report «Possibilities of improvement of Judicial Council» (24.05.2016). On 14 June 2016 the President of Latvia has sent a letter to the Speaker of the Saeima, stressing the necessity to strengthen the powers, capacity and organisation of the Judicial Council.

Since January 2016 the Judicial Council has one full-time employee- adviser. A proposal for the establishment of a Secretariat of the Judicial Council (3 employees) in 2017 has been made.

The Judicial Council is working on its Strategy 2017-2019.

Judicial reform

Concept of court houses – gradual consolidation of courts of first instance.

In 2015, a reorganisation of Sigulda Court, City of Riga Central District Court, and Jūrmala City Court was carried out, while the reorganisation of the Latgale Regional Court has been completed on 1 February 2016. The aim is to reform court houses and to prevent uneven work load in courts and to reduce length of court proceedings, while ensuring a specialisation of judges and distribution of cases by principle of randomness, as well as to develop uniformity of judicial practice. Nevertheless, the further advancement of the reform and its real impact on effectiveness of judiciary is constantly discussed.

Transition to clear three-level judicial system, i.e., all cases are heard by a district court as the court of the first instance, by regional courts as the courts of appeal, and by the Supreme Court – as the court of cassation. Within the reform, the final stage of the liquidation of the appellate instance in the Supreme Court has to be realised: liquidation of the Chamber of Civil Cases on 31 December 2016.

Main challenges faced and main results achieved

Decrease of accumulation of cases in courts, faster circulation of cases. The Council for the Judiciary approved Guidelines on transfer of a case accepted for review to another court to ensure faster examination of the case.

Communication of the judicial system with society. The Council for the Judiciary approved two documents: 1) General guidelines on communication of the entire judicial system (for mutual cooperation among all institutions represented in the Council for the Judiciary and equal principles of communication with media and society); 2) Strategy of communication of courts (on communication of courts with the parties). Implementation of these guidelines into practical operation will be a challenge.

Extension of competence of the Council for the Judiciary. 1) Upon coordination with the Council for the Judiciary, amendments to the law “On Judicial Power” were introduced. They extend the competence of the Council for the Judiciary and its involvement in issues regarding reorganisation of courts; 2) Amendments are promoted, which envisage to reduce the role of the Minister of Justice in issues related to promotions of judicial careers, approval and dismissal of Chairs of district and regional courts.

Ensuring of security in courts. Because of the removal of iron fences and particular security incidents occurred in courts during examination of cases, ensuring of security in court buildings and court rooms is stipulated as one of the priorities set by the Court Administration. The Council for the Judiciary supported inclusion of implementation of security systems in courts in budget request of regional courts and district courts for 2016 as immediate measure.

Inequality of judicial wages with wages in system of public administration. Having included judges in a united remuneration system and having set a prohibition to pay extras and bonuses to judges, however, allowing to pay them to employees working in the public administration, the balance between wages of judges and lawyers employed in public administration is destroyed. The Council

for the Judiciary performed a comparative study on wages and initiated an update of this problem, addressing the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance.

Trainings for people belonging to the court system. The project “Strengthening of human resources capacity of employees of judiciary and law enforcement institutions 2015-2020” is prepared. It will be implemented with co-financing of the European Social Fund. The project will be implemented by the Court Administration in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Prosecutor’s General Office, the Supreme Court and the State Bureau of Forensic Expertise.

Other News

Communication of the judicial system with society. The Judicial Council is implementing Court Communication Strategy, which was approved by the Judicial Council on 18 May 2015. Development and improvement of communication was one of the fundamental issues at the judges’ conference held on 13 November 2015. Speeches and reports, and a practical part including recommendations of experts in communication and sharing of previous experience carried out by judges, were dedicated to this issue. On 13 April 2016 the Supreme Court of Latvia in cooperation with the Judicial Council organised the annual Media Day. Journalists had a possibility to discuss the mission of mass media to give comprehensive information to society about the work of the judiciary.

Judicial Ethics. The Judicial Council has initiated “Research on Ethics Regulation of Courts”, which was presented at the Conference Judges’ Conference on 13 May 2016. Conclusions of the Judicial Ethics’ Committee were summarised in a book, which was also presented at the Conference.

Trainings for people belonging to the court system. The project “Justice for development” with co-funding of the European Social Fund has started. The activities of the project will be implemented until 2022 and the costs of the project are € 11.028.343 . An overall evaluation of the Latvian justice system is planned to be a part of the project (CEPEJ experts). The project is implemented in accordance with the action plan “Strengthening of human resources capacity of employees of judiciary in law enforcement institutions 2015-2020”, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 9 March 2015.



TEISĖJŲ TARYBA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Judicial reform

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania together with the Judicial Council and with the National Courts Administration have prepared draft laws concerning reorganization of the courts of general jurisdiction and the administrative courts. Courts will be consolidated and instead of some courts separate divisions of courts will be established. The number of district courts will be reduced from 49 to 12 and the number of regional administrative courts will be reduced from 5 to 2. It is expected that workload of courts will be equalized, access to justice will be improved and cases will be heard more speedily, but access to justice for people will not be aggravated as instead of the courts, which are reorganised, will be court chambers, where the documents will be accepted and the hearings organized.

In 2015 the Seimas adopted the decision on initiating the procedure of reorganisation of the before mentioned courts. In 2016 the Seimas adopted the laws concerning reorganization of the courts of general jurisdiction and administrative courts, the laws will come into force on 1 January 2018.

At the time being, there is a preparatory work being done by the Judicial Council, National Courts Administration and courts, which participate in the reorganisation process.

Status of Judges

1. The special working group established by the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania prepared the Concept Paper on Lay Judges. This Concept Paper proposes to introduce the institution of lay judges in the Lithuanian court system in order to increase the trust of the society in the courts' system, to further promote the transparency of the courts' activities and to boost legal education.

According to the Concept Paper, lay judges would hear the cases together with regular judges in the courts of the first instance. Lay judges would participate only in oral hearing of a case. The Concept Paper proposes the concrete list of categories of civil, criminal and administrative cases where lay judges could be appointed to fulfil their public duty. It is foreseen that lay judges could be appointed

either on voluntary basis or on the basis of random selection. The Concept Paper contains provisions on the main requirements for lay judges, their selection procedure, compilation of the lay judges' list, the role of lay judges, their procedural rights and obligations, guarantees, liability etc.

This Concept Paper was approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 11 May 2016 and was submitted to Seimas for consideration. If the Parliament adopts this Concept Paper, the Constitution and related laws shall be amended in order to implement the provisions of the Concept Paper.

2. Initiative of a single examination for judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and notaries currently is in the process of Seimas consideration.

Impact of the ENCJ reports and activities on national level

The Judicial Council takes into consideration the provisions of ENCJ resolutions and declarations, other documents, while analyzing and preparing the draft law concerning the judiciary and justice system.





de Rechtspraak

Council for the Judiciary

RAAD VOOR DE RECHTSPRAAK

COUNCIL FOR THE JUDICIARY

Judicial reform

Agenda of the Judiciary 2015-2018

Quality is a priority in the Agenda of the Judiciary of 2015-2018. The quality of the Judiciary can mean several things. In addition to the core values independency, impartiality and integrity, quality means: a fast, accessible and professional judiciary. These three quality aspects are the spearheads of the Agenda of the Judiciary 2015-2018. The following objectives were set in the Agenda:

1. In 2018 court cases will take 40% less time than in 2013.
2. In 2018 at least 70% of all parties and professionals are satisfied with the comprehensibility of procedures and the (digital) accessibility of the judiciary.
3. In 2018 the judiciary will be more professional.

Multi-annual plan 2015 - 2020

The Netherlands Council for the Judiciary and the presidents of the courts have adopted a Multi-annual plan to execute the Agenda of the Judiciary for 2015-2020. One of the objectives is to make the Judiciary more efficient and cost effective (also in view of increasing Information Technology costs), while improving performances and quality aspects. The four main topics are:

- Implementation of the programme 'Quality and Innovation' (Programma Kwaliteit en Innovatie- abbreviation: KEI).
- Quality and Professional Standards.
- Strengthening leadership, cohesion, and good representation of judges within the organization (i.e. finding the right balance between the representation of groups of judges and the independence of the individual judge).
- To uniformize and reduce the operational management

Planned:

The Program Quality and Innovation (Programma Kwaliteit en Innovatie- abbreviation: KEI)

In 2012 the Judiciary started the Program Quality and Innovation to change procedures through innovation, simplification and digitalization. To accomplish this, different laws on civil procedure and administrative law had to be changed. The code of criminal procedure follows a separate track and will be changed during the coming years. Modern procedures and digitalization will also be part of this change. The Program has a broad impact and consequences for digital services provided by the Judiciary.

In 2014, the Judiciary continued its efforts to implement step by step the new approach in the courts. Within the project team of KEI, 60 judges and staff worked in close cooperation on portals for all employees of the Judiciary, professionals and litigants. Furthermore, the first organizational changes were made.

One of these changes is the setting up of digital criminal files for lawyers. In the first phase, judges and prosecutors started working with digital files. To assure equality between all parties involved, it is important that lawyers can also access the files of their case digitally. To this purpose, in 2014 a special lawyers portal was installed by the Judiciary, the Public Prosecution service, the Bar association and the ministry of Security and Justice. After a short pilot period, lawyers throughout the Netherlands can now use the lawyers' portal to access digitally the files.

In 2016 the first releases for administration and insolvency law have been realized.

'Knowledge-organisation' Project

In 2015 a large-scale project was started to develop a national digital knowledge infrastructure. The purpose is to develop so-called knowledge-networks that are accessible for anyone in need of specific information in their field of interest. This information has to be up to date, comprehensive and digitally available. This project is consistent with the developments within the Quality and Innovation Programme.

Netherlands Commercial Court

The Netherlands Commercial Court (NCC), is a new commercial court for settling international trade disputes in the Netherlands, and will be established in Amsterdam in 2017.

Finalized:

Judicial Service Centre

The main objectives of the Judicial Service Centre are to stay connected and accessible to the public and to stay in sync with the developments in society. The Judiciary can now be contacted through Twitter, Facebook and phone.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

Challenge: Finances

There is not enough recognition of the judicial power as one of the three independent powers of state, next to the executive power and the legislative power.

Although the legal basis of independence has a formal base in the Constitution, the independent position of the legislative power is currently not sufficiently recognized. This results in difficulties regarding the funding of the Judiciary.

Impact of the ENCJ reports and activities on national level

A code of conduct will be developed for all employees of the judiciary. The Netherlands Council for the Judiciary, the presidents of the courts and the Dutch Association for the Judiciary have formed a working group that researches how different codes and guidelines about ethical behavior can be combined. International codes of conduct, such as the ENCJ Principles, will be incorporated as well.

The results of the Independence & Accountability Project have been shared on a national level. The goal is to promote and facilitate a discussion about the outcomes of the report and to see where improvements can be made. For example: A regulation to disclose financial interests is currently being made. The biggest challenges have been discussed during the dialogue sessions, including the Dutch Association for the Judiciary.



KRAJOWA RADA SĄDOWNICTWA
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JUDICIARY

KRAJOWA RADA SĄDOWNICTWA

Reform and/or changes to the Council

The new Chairman of the Council has been designated – a Supreme Court judge Mr. Dariusz Zawistowski.

The Government and Parliament are planning to pass an amendment to the Act on the National Council for the Judiciary. The exact time and details of the legislation are not fully clear at the moment but the Council notes with concern the proposals to amend the Act on the National Council of the Judiciary of Poland, which is a constitutional body safeguarding the independence of courts and the independence of judges, in a way that leads to extinguishing mandates of the current judicial members of the Council. The Council is aware that the body needs reforms, and in particular it is necessary to change the rules of selecting its members. The current known proposals to amend the Act, however, lead to the weakening of both the position of the Council and the judicial power as well.

Judicial reform

Common courts (district courts, circuit courts and courts of appeal) are independent only in relation to their adjudicating function. The administrative supervision over courts, as well as budgetary authority, has been vested with the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice is at the same time the Prosecutor General. The Minister of Justice has delegated his powers to court managers (so-called “directors of courts”). Court managers are appointed, dismissed, and promoted by the Minister of Justice. Court presidents, although formally still superior to court managers, cannot effectively influence court managers accountable to the Minister of Justice.

The Government and Parliament are planning to regulate the organization of common courts in a different manner - the Council does not know the details of planned changes.

Status of Judges

1. The Government and Parliament are planning to regulate the status of retired judges in a different manner – the Council does not know the details of planned changes.
2. The judges of various courts and tribunals were the subject of drastic actions aimed at downgrading their authority.
3. The President of the Republic of Poland refused to nominate 10 judges presented to him by the National Council for the Judiciary without any justification (i.e. without giving reasons for his refusal). The Board of the Council met with the President to discuss the future cooperation in nomination procedure.
4. The Government and Parliament have prepared new regulations concerning disciplinary responsibility of judges (new kinds of punishments, new regulations concerning disciplinary procedures against judges).
5. A new department in the National Prosecution Office has been created – a special department for investigation against judges and prosecutors in the most dangerous crimes, particularly corruption. It should be strongly pointed out, that in Poland corruption among judges is not a problem at all (one case of corruption in several years while there are almost 10 000 judges in Poland).





CONSILIUL SUPERIOR AL MAGISTRATURII

SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF MAGISTRACY

Reform and/or changes to the Council

A new President and vice president were elected. Judge Mircea ARON is the President and prosecutor Lia PALADE the vice-President from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017

Judicial reform

A. The strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015-2020 has been approved by Government and will be implemented through an action Plan consisting of proposals for legislative or institutional administrative measures. By implementing a strategic system management, such measures aim to enhance the performance of the judiciary and its accessibility towards the citizens.

In order to achieve the objectives set out for the judicial reform, certain recommendations have been made as it follows:

- **Efficiency of Justice as a public service:** Having regard to the need of strengthening the relations between the judiciary and the citizens, it is mandatory to collect statistics so as to identify and evaluate the necessary resources for the sound administration of justice;
- **Institutional strengthening of the judiciary;**
- **Integrity of the judiciary:** strengthening integrity within the judiciary by promoting anticorruption measures, professional and ethical standards; upgrading the status of legal professions autonomously organized;
- **Transparency of the judicial decision-making:** making public the reasoned judgments, providing access to information and legal documents;
- **Enhancement of the judicial system:** reducing the duration of court proceedings, unifying case-law, interdisciplinarily training the persons involved in the judicial decision-making, improving judgments' enforcement;
- **Free access to justice:** enhancing legal assistance system, preventing crime offences and corruption.

B. Among the priorities of the new leadership for the mandate of this year, covered a number of objectives such as:

- Strengthening the judiciary through transparent exercise of the powers and maintain a constant and fluid institutional dialogue, both within the judiciary, but also with the representatives of the executive and legislative power and with European and international institutions,
- Improving the regulatory framework through the active involvement of the Superior Council of Magistracy in the process,
- To continue monitoring the impact of the entry into force of the new codes,
- Consolidation of the magistrate status by defending the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

The Superior Council of Magistracy supported the measures essential for strengthening, streamlining and increasing transparency of the Romanian judicial system, but also to increase the confidence of individuals and of the civil society in general in courts.

As well as in the previous year, in terms of ensuring independence against the vulnerabilities coming from inside the system, the Council continued the implementation of the Integrity Strategy in compliance with the Anticorruption Strategy (NACS) and continued to undertake the disciplinary measures taken against judges for misbehaviour or corruption. Equally, acting as a guarantor of the independence of justice, the Superior Council of Magistracy continued in 2016 to consider complaints expeditiously on defending the independence of the judiciary, as well as those regarding the defence of professional reputation, independence and impartiality.

C. Bilateral projects

The Superior Council of Magistracy continued the implementation of the two projects in conjunction with the corresponding institution in the Netherlands in the efficiency or integrity of the judiciary:

1. **Improving the efficiency and the quality of the judiciary, focusing on a balanced allocation of resources through an appropriate judicial management** is to be implemented between 2015-2016 and aims to improve both the efficiency and the quality of judiciary in cooperation with representatives of the judicial Council of the Netherlands and Dutch judges. Through exchanges between representatives of the two Councils and between judges from each of the

two judicial systems the project is attempting to identify common indicators on quality and efficiency.

2. **The integrity of the judicial system** which aims to develop indicators on the integrity of the judiciary and the establishment of a Council of integrity and a network of experts to ensure an uniform, consistent and predictable implementation of the indicators of integrity, to draw clear rules, notions, concepts agreement compared with the existing regulations in the field.

D. Other activities

On 23 September 2015 the Superior Council of Magistracy organized at the National Institute of Magistracy, the International Conference "Dialogue between interprofessional judges, prosecutors and lawyers - Justice necessity in strengthening democratic society in Romania". This conference was attended by representatives of the Consultative Council of European Judges, important stakeholders in the Romanian Judiciary as well as judges of the courts of appeal and courts in the country. The conference was finalized by signing the Charter between branches of judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

In the reference period the working meetings of members of the Superior Council of Magistracy with judges and prosecutors in the country continued. During the meetings held at the Superior Council of Magistracy there were addressed topics such as independence of the judiciary, measures on preventing and combating corruption in the judiciary, transparency and integrity, implement new codes, human resources, measures for unifying jurisprudence, the disciplinary responsibility of magistrates, measures to improve the efficiency of justice, publish judgments etc.

There were also held working group meetings within the Council. There were analysed European standards - SATURN (CEPEJ program) dashboards for justice in the EU, the European Commission report on 2014 in the context of the Mechanism for Cooperation and Verification Report ENCJ 2015 on the independence and accountability of the judiciary; Assessing the effectiveness of courts - approved by Resolution of the Plenum of the Superior Council of Magistracy, and data provided by STATIS, program developed by the Superior Council of Magistracy (how specific data extraction and analysis of ECRIS), assessing the impact of implementing the new codes etc.

As for the specific objective "Improving the effectiveness of the Superior Council of Magistracy own" there were taken a series of measures to improve its work. The fulfilment of that objective and other specific goals, such as strengthening the Judicial Inspection, strengthening National

Institute of Magistracy and the National School of Clerks, communication and relationship with the media is detailed in the following chapters.

Status of Judges

The institutional strengthening of the judiciary by strengthening the legal framework of the judicial system in compliance with the principles of timeliness and predictability of rules was one of the priorities of the Council. Decisions were on incompatibility of the office of judge or prosecutor with the position of partner or shareholder in civil society, companies, including banks or other credit institutions, insurance companies or financial, national companies, national companies, as well as when these positions were acquired by inheritance. Another decision relates to incompatibility of the position of the judge or prosecutor is not compatible with the chairman of the parents' committee of an education institution.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

From the perspective of its judicial powers in disciplinary matters, the Council recorded in 2015 an increase in the number of disciplinary actions. Thus, the role of judges in disciplinary matters Section there were 42 disciplinary actions, and the role of prosecutors in disciplinary matters Section there were 11 disciplinary actions. But beyond the sanctions, it is necessary to adopt wider measures to prevent such violations.

As a conclusion, during the referred period, the Council carried out an intense activity oriented to strengthen the necessary framework- in a measure of stability, legality and predictability - for deployment of efficient and measurable activity at both the judiciary and the institutional level itself. If some important projects were completed last year, others important ones, forwarded by the Council to responsible institutions, remain open such as the draft amendment and supplement of Justice Act, the draft amendment and supplement of codes of criminal law and criminal procedure. Others are being developed at Council level - for example, redrawing the judiciary administrative map for courts - challenges remain to be answered, depending on the degree of consistency of the Council and legislative decision.

SÚDNA RADA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Reform and/or changes to the Council

The Judicial Council of the Slovak republic moved to new premises in May 2016. The former premises were shared with the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice. That new premises are a symbol of the independent position of the Council in the Slovak judiciary. This was also declared by the Constitutional court of the Slovak republic which finally **specified the position of the Judicial Council of the Slovak republic in this definition:** “**The Judicial Council of the Slovak republic** is a special independent judicial constitutional body which guarantees an independent status of the judiciary and the judges’ legitimacy and which is responsible for the administering of the judiciary and the management of the judicial power and judiciary as well as the transparency of the judiciary so it should be a full partner for the legislative and the executive power”.

Planned changes and reforms: In 2016 the Council elaborated and approved the Conception of the changes in judiciary in which the Council proposes and aims several changes. As for the competences of the Council it is necessary **to adjust the criteria** of the council’s competence to comment the proposal of budget for judiciary (**to submit council’s statement to government**) and to apply the criteria which are stipulated in the Act on the state budget when submitting the council’s statement on the budget proposal. Two other competences that are recommended to be adopted by law are **establishing** the council’s competence for the **legislative initiation in judiciary** (the same competence is entrusted to the prosecution) and establishing the council’s competence **to control the activities of the disciplinary panels**. The conditions for constant control should be established in order to ensure the continuity of the disciplinary proceedings.

Judicial reform

Judicial reforms that were finalized in 2015-2016 were:

- adoption of two new codes for the Civil law and the Civil procedure (material and procedural law)
- the establishing of the new court since January 2017 that will deal only with the matters regarding the enforcement of the decision - execution (the scope of this court will be the whole territory of

the Slovak republic); the aim of such measure is to reduce the caseload at the district and regional courts in Slovakia.

Other reforms that are planned and proposed by the Council in the Conception (document mentioned above) are:

- **to optimise the number of judges;** this is necessary as part of the judges need to reduce the number of cases they deal with, because they are performing various other tasks such as the management of the courts, self-governing bodies, the review departments at courts, the disciplinary senates;
- **to establish a basic organizational structure of the judicial department by a law** (to establish an obligatory composition of the judicial department at the district court – it should be composed of one judge, one qualified higher court officer and one clerk) and to leave current provisions on the organization of other judicial departments; every judge at appellate courts and at the Supreme court should have one qualified higher court officer and one clerk for a tribunal of judges.

Status of Judges

Reforms that are planned and proposed by the Council in the Conception:

- **to establish retirement of the judge at the age of 67-70;**
- **to create an early retirement bonus after 25 years of service.** Experience shows that there is a „burnout“ syndrome among judges who have been performing their function for several years. Therefore, it should be possible to allow judges to go to early-retirement. This would comply with international standards such as the Recommendation CM/Rec (2010)12 adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on judges: independence, efficiency and responsibility, Article no.50. It would also enable the arrival of the new judges and it would have a financial as new judges have significantly lower salaries than judges who perform their duties for several years.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

Since the new Slovak government (April 2016) the President of the Judicial Council of the Slovak republic is invited by the MoJ to comment all the government proposals regarding the judiciary; the MoJ and the President of the Council meet regularly to discuss all topics and issues regarding the judiciary.

Impact ENCJ reports and activities on national level

In December 2015 the Judicial Council of the Slovak republic approved the Judicial code of conduct. The wording of the principles in the code stem from these international documents:

- Recommendation CM/Rec (2010) 12 Committee of Ministers to member states on judges: independence, efficiency and responsibilities adopted on 17 November 2010;
- **2010 London declaration of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary on the judicial ethics called „Judicial ethics – Principles, Values and Qualities“;**
- Magna Charta of Judges (Fundamental principles) adopted by the Consultative Council of European Judges on 17 November 2010;
- Opinion No.3 of the Consultative Council of European Judges on the principles and rules governing judges’ professional conduct, in particular ethics, incompatible behaviour and impartiality.

Impact ENCJ reports and activities on national level

The Judicial Council elaborated several strategic documents regarding the changes that are necessary to improve the functioning of the Slovak judiciary and that are strongly recommended to the current Slovak government. They are available on this webpage:

<http://www.sudnarada.gov.sk/home-page/>



The President of the ENCJ during the visit in Bratislava (April 2016)



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA, SODNI SVET

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Reform and/or changes to the Council

By the end of this year, we expect a separate act on the Judicial Council to be adopted in the parliament. So far the position of the Council has for 25 years been regulated in a special chapter of the Courts Act. The draft Judicial Council Act has been prepared by the Ministry of Justice, initially sent for comments to the Judicial Council and the Supreme Court, and then to a public debate. There are no “revolutionary” changes to the concept of the Council in the Slovene constitutional system, however, certain existing powers and areas of work of the Council are more precisely determined. What are considered to be the most important amendments to the existing regulation of the Council are a separate budget allocated to the Council and the carrying out of disciplinary proceedings by the Council.

Judicial reform

There is also a judicial reform envisaged to be implemented by the end of this year in Slovenia by adopting amendments to the Courts Act. The most important amendments to be adopted concern the position of first-instance courts, and concern the so-called reform of the judicial map. The basic idea is to unite the two-tier court systems of these courts into a one-tier system of first instance courts. The lowest level courts, the so-called local courts, are to be merged with the (more important) district courts. The physical locations of the present local courts are expected not to be shut down but the local courts are to become only special territorial units of the district courts. There will be curtailment of the overall number of judges. What is behind this reform is striving to get a more efficient and less-expensive judiciary in Slovenia.

Status of Judges

By reforming the judicial map, the different status of first-court judges is also going to be united since at the moment there is a distinction between the position of a local-court judge and district-court judge mainly in terms of what cases (less or more complex) they adjudicate and the salary they are entitled to.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

The state of Slovenia has to some extent managed to curb its previously bad figures concerning the length of court proceedings, the number of unresolved cases, a high number of judges per capita, quite high costs of court proceedings, etc. The trends in this respect are positive, however, there are still many challenges before us all. Besides the judicial map which is going to be amended to contribute to reducing costs of the court proceedings, another great challenge we are facing is to increase public confidence in courts and the judiciary. To that end a special strategy should be adopted within the entire judiciary and the Judicial Council in order to tackle this problem.

Impact of ENCJ reports and activities on national level

All of these reports, their findings and results more specifically, are included in the work of members of the Judicial Council. Moreover, all of the ENCJ reports are consistently published on the Council's website, although not in Slovene translation for the Council lacks sufficient funds to do that, however, Slovene judges are drawn attention to examine these reports and the language barrier is not that high in this country. The Council also draws attention of the judges and the general public to some of the most important activities (as well as statements/positions) of the ENCJ.



Consejo General
del Poder Judicial

CONSEJO GENERAL DEL PODER JUDICIAL

GENERAL COUNCIL FOR THE JUDICIARY

Reform and/or changes to the Council

On 1 October 2015 an Act (Organic Act 7/2015, of July 21st) amending the Law on the Judiciary came into force. This Act was adopted by the Spanish Parliament in July 2015 and has introduced some changes in the composition and powers of the Council for the Judiciary. Under the new piece of legislation the Standing Committee of the Council for the Judiciary will be composed by seven members (and not by five members as it was previously the case), who will be working full-time in their capacity of members of the Council and its Standing Committee (article 601.2 of the Law on the Judiciary).

Furthermore, the new piece of legislation envisages that the Council for the Judiciary has now powers as control authority for data protection regarding all personal data and files related to cases and lawsuits brought before the Spanish courts of justice in all branches of the jurisdiction (articles 236 *bis* to 236 *decies* of the Law on the Judiciary).

Judicial reform

Some measures in the field of judicial reform have been implemented in the current reporting period. These measures were envisaged in the already mentioned Organic Act 7/2015, of July 21st, amending the Law on the Judiciary, and came into force on 1 October 2015 or on 22 July 2016.

The following are the most important measures in the field of judicial reform already implemented:

- Changes in the system of appointment of justices of the Military Division of the Spanish Supreme Court and of all judges sitting in military courts.
- Some specific changes in the court organization (including a new definition of some judicial districts) and the system of allocation of cases.
- Increase of transparency by means of the publication in advance of court lists by the courts of justice.

- A more detailed regulation of the technical cabinet of the Supreme Court.
- New legal criteria in order to ascertain the jurisdiction of Spanish Courts in civil and commercial matters.
- A new specific regulation regarding the implementation of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights by Spanish Courts.
- A new regulation of the internal procedure applicable by Spanish Courts in order to apply for a preliminary ruling by the Court of the European Union. This new regulation underlines the binding nature of EU law and case-law of the Court of the European Union for Spanish Courts
- A new regulation of cassation appeals in the administrative branch of the jurisdiction (in force as of 22 July 2016).
- New rules concerning the destruction of old case files and judicial documents.

Status of Judges

Some measures pertaining to the status of judges have been implemented in the current reporting period. These measures were also envisaged in the already mentioned Organic Act 7/2015, of 21 July, amending the Law on the Judiciary, and came into force on 1 October 2015.

Those changes already implemented include:

- A new system of civil liability of Spanish judges, whereby judges will no longer be held directly liable in respect of court users who have suffered personal or material damages in the context of a court case. The State will be held liable in those cases of miscarriage of justice, judicial mistakes or malfunctioning of the judicial system if the requirements for its liability are met and it will be able to recover the amount paid for damages from the judge who acted with gross negligence or made a judicial mistake on purpose.
- A delay in the age of compulsory retirement of judges. Judges will retire at the age of 70, but will be able to apply on a voluntary basis for a delay in the age of retirement until 72.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

The adoption of a Code of Ethics for Spanish judges is one of the main challenges faced by the Spanish Council for the Judiciary.

On 25 February 2016, the plenary meeting of the CGPJ agreed to endorse the Ibero-American Code of Judicial Ethics, adopted in the Ibero-American Judicial Summit in 2006, as lastly amended in 2014. Moreover, the CGPJ has promoted the development of an ethical code for the Spanish judiciary, to be

drafted by a working group set up with the approval of its Permanent Committee on 9 April 2014. This working group is made up of three members of the Council, a judge of the Constitutional Court, the Presidents of the Provincial Courts of Palma and Barcelona, representatives of the four judicial associations existing in Spain, a University Professor of Sociology, a University Professor of Ethics and an advisor of the CGPJ. The objective of this initiative is to provide Spanish judges, for the first time, with a text similar to that which already exists in other countries as a guidance to the members of the judiciary when having to decide on their professional behavior, taking into consideration the international documents in this field (including the so-called “London Declaration” adopted by the ENCJ) and the demands of society from this collective and as a means to widen and strengthen public confidence in the administration of justice.

After several meetings, the working group is expected to present the final draft of the ethical code for the Spanish judiciary by the end of 2016.

Impact of ENCJ reports and activities on national level

The ENCJ reports adopted during the General Assembly held at Warsaw in June, 1-3, 2016 and the so-called “Warsaw Declaration on the Future of Justice in Europe” were presented, discussed and endorsed during the plenary meeting of the CGPJ held on 29 September 2016.

The complete English version of those documents, a Spanish translation of “The Warsaw Declaration on the Future of Justice in Europe” and a Spanish translation of a summary of the reports of the project teams adopted during that General Assembly were uploaded on the website of the CGPJ (<http://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpj/es/Temas/Relaciones-internacionales/Relaciones-internacionales-institucionales/Europa/Red-Europea-de-Consejos-del-Poder-Judicial/Informes-ENCJ/>) in September 2016.

All previous reports and declarations adopted by the ENCJ have also been translated into Spanish and uploaded (both in English and Spanish) on the website of the CGPJ.



Presentation of the Spanish Legal Dictionary at the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language. April 27, 2016.



Signing of an agreement between the CGPJ and the General Prosecutor of the Kingdom of Spain for the promotion of mediation. May 25, 2016.



JUDGES' COUNCIL
OF ENGLAND AND WALES

JUDGES' COUNCIL OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Reform and/or changes to the Council

Whilst there has been no change in the structure of the Council over the last year, some of the membership of the Council has changed. Lord Justice (Geoffrey) Vos is no longer the Council member leading on “Europe” following the end of his period of time as president of the ENCJ; District Judge Michael Walker has ceased to be a council member consequent upon his retirement. Those representing the Council at ENCJ meetings during 2016/17 are be a team of four comprising Mr Justice (Simon) Picken, Her Honour Judge Sally Cahill QC, Upper Tribunal Judge Judith Gleeson and District Judge Tim Jenkins.

Judicial reform

Work continues on the implementation of a four year, very radical, transformation of the operation of the justice system in England and Wales. The reforms have three major aspects, namely the closure of under-utilised courts, the considerable improvement in the IT available to the courts and tribunals and, thirdly, a major revision of judicial working practices. The aim is to abolish paper and to revolutionise the way in which justice is delivered. Only where absolutely necessary, for instance at a final trial, will the parties appear in court in front of a judge; interim and case management hearings will, by and large, be conducted either over the telephone or by means of virtual conferencing.

Status of Judges

As part of its response to the age of austerity, HM Government in April 2015 introduced a major reform to the scheme for judicial pensions which has had a very considerable adverse impact on the pensions of the youngest 25% of judges already in post and of those joining the judiciary since that date. Changes in taxation, introduced by the Government in April 2016, have made the position even worse. Furthermore, judicial pay has been restricted to a 1% per annum increase. And, fourthly, there is an ongoing concern about the lack of judicial security. Judicial morale in consequence of all these various factors has been very poor. In England and Wales judges are appointed after many

successful years in private practice; however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit judges of the highest caliber. Every effort continues to be made on behalf of the judiciary to resolve the difficulty relating to pay and pensions.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

Mention has already been made of poor judicial morale, difficulties in recruitment, the perceived inadequacies of judicial security, the Reform programme and the closure of courts. From a European perspective, the biggest challenge is deciding how best to implement the referendum vote to leave the European Union. Whilst this might be thought to involve Government much more than the judiciary, it is envisaged that the latter will be considerably involved, for several years, in the unravelling of all the European legislation now embedded within the general body of the law of England and Wales.

Impact of ENCJ reports and activities on national level

All of the reports presented to the General Assembly in Warsaw were discussed at a meeting of the Judges' Council held in July 2016. The report generating the most interest was that relating to non-judicial members of the Council. Pending a general review of judicial governance, it was decided not to increase the number of non-judicial members of Judges' Council. The Council did note, however, that members of civil society have a major part already to play in the Judicial Appointments Commission and the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office which respectively deal with the selection for appointment and the disciplining of judges. Judges' Council itself has a much more limited role, namely that of advising the Lord Chief Justice on relation to matters of concern to the judiciary generally.

Other news

London hosted a very successful Project 1 (Independence and Accountability) dialogue group on 11th January 2016. The countries taking part were Belgium, France, Sweden and England Wales



JUDGES' COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND

JUDGES' COUNCIL
OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Reform and/or changes to the Council

The Council is represented at ENCJ meetings by Mr Justice Horner and by Presiding District Judge Isobel Brownlie. Membership of the Council has changed slightly in that from February 2016 the Council was represented by Coroner Suzanne Anderson in place of Mr Kitson who retired in January 2016. Mr David Moore's appointment as Presiding Lay Magistrate lapsed during the reporting period, and consideration will be given to further representation on conclusion of a new competition.

Judicial reform

One of the key pieces of reform planned was the rationalization of the court estate, where it was intended, in the context of diminishing financial resources, falling business volumes and the underutilisation of many court buildings, to close a number of court locations. Outside of this reporting period, however, the new Justice Minister has reversed her predecessor's decision to close the court locations.

Further reform planned included a review of Civil and Family Justice to look fundamentally at current procedures for the administration of civil and family justice with a view to: improving access to justice; achieving better outcomes for court users; creating a more responsible and proportionate system; and making better use of available resources, including through the use of new technologies and greater opportunities for digital working. The Review Group produced one draft report, within this reporting period on family justice, to allow all interested organizations and individuals to submit their views before a final report is published.

Further reform planned is the introduction of Online Dispute Resolution in small value cases and disputes.

A Judicial Executive Group has been established to assess the merits of the creation of a Non-Ministerial Department to oversee the work of the courts.

Status of Judges

The Lord Chief Justice assumed presidency of the Coroners' Courts on 1 November 2015.

Major reforms to judicial pension schemes has had an adverse impact on the pensions of the youngest 25% judges as well as anyone becoming a judge for the first time. Taxation changes introduced in April has further impacted the position. These factors, combined with apprehensions surrounding a review of judicial security (Judges in Northern Ireland, because of the political unrest have Close Protection Cover) mean that judicial morale is extremely low. There is a growing concern that as a result of these factors, it may be difficult to recruit judges of the highest calibre, especially at the senior tiers.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

The main challenge faced during this period is the environment within which the courts and judiciary operate, including the political instability which has a particular impact on dealing with the past and legacy inquests (such as deaths in troubles, or some cases involving agencies of the state) as well as a difficult financial climate and a requirement to deliver significant savings. Reference has also been made regarding the challenges presented by major reforms in Judicial Pensions, judicial morale, judicial security concerns, and potential difficulties with recruitment. The referendum vote to leave the European Union has brought much uncertainty where there is already judicial involvement and is likely to continue for a few years.

The main results achieved was an improvement in the throughput of cases and a review of court sitting times which provided scope to save monthly sitting days. Other achievements included a draft Judicial policy on flexible working, where it is recognized that such a policy will make an important contribution to enhancing diversity and retaining expertise. Other results include an interim positive response from the Review of Judicial Conduct Complaints (final response anticipated by November 2016), participation in ENCJ Working Group and meetings, and the presentation of the final report to the General Assembly in Poland in 2016. Finally, the creation of a Judicial Executive Group, to consider the merits of a non-ministerial department in overseeing the work of the courts.

Impact of ENCJ reports and activities on national level

All ENCJ reports or developments during this period have been reported to the Judges' Council, and circulated to the Judiciary. ENJC matters are also a regular agenda item at Council meetings. Following the report relating to non-judicial members in judicial governance, the Judges' Council, which is non-statutory in Northern Ireland, decided not to increase non-judicial members, however; the Council noted that members of civil society are already involved in the Judicial Appointments Commission and Judicial Conduct investigations. The Judges' Council has a limited role, namely that of advising the Lord Chief Justice on relation to matters of concern to the judiciary generally.

Impact of ENCJ reports and activities on national level

The Judges' Council in Northern Ireland encourages continued co-operation and communication between our Judicial counterparts in England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

Reform and/or changes to the Council

The Rt Hon Lord President Gill retired and was succeeded in December 2015 as Chairman of the Judicial Council for Scotland by the incoming Lord President, The Rt Hon Lord Carloway. On Lord Carloway's appointment as Lord President, he was succeeded as Lord Justice Clerk by the Rt Hon Lady Dorrian, who thereby became a member of the Council.

Judicial reform

On 22 September 2015, the new Personal Injury Court and Sheriff Appeal Court came into operation.

On 19 October 2015, a new Scottish Sentencing Council was established. The Council is an independent body responsible for preparing guidelines to help ensure a consistent approach to criminal sentencing throughout Scotland. It is also responsible for raising public awareness and understanding of sentencing practice.

On 1 April 2016, Summary Sheriffs sat for the first time, as part of reforms to the Scottish court system. The post of Summary Sheriff was created to ensure that cases in Scotland's courts are heard at the appropriate level in the court structure, enabling Sheriffs to focus on more serious or complex criminal cases. Summary Sheriffs conduct trials and are able to impose sentences appropriate in summary proceedings. The maximum penalty, except where lower penalties are prescribed by a particular statute, is 12 months' imprisonment and a fine of £10,000. There are also wide discretionary sentences such as Community Payback Orders, drug treatment and restriction of liberty orders and the power to order compensation. In addition, a Summary Sheriff has competence over certain procedural matters in more serious criminal cases prior to the first diet. This includes the granting of warrants for arrest or production of documents, and custody hearings which include bail and bail review hearings.

Status of Judges

No change, other than as a consequence of the reforms described above.

Main challenges faced/main results achieved

The main challenge is continuing to provide a fair and efficient justice system with reduced resources.

Impact of ENCJ reports and activities on national level

Judicial office holders have been provided with links to ENCJ reports.

Scottish judicial office holders participated in the questionnaire on judicial independence. The participation level was relatively high. After the results were published on the ENCJ website an email was sent to all judicial office holders with a link to the relevant section of the project report.

LIST OF ENCJ MEMBERS on 1 June 2016

Members

COUNTRY	MEMBER INSTITUTION
Belgium	Conseil Supérieur de la Justice / Hoge Raad voor de Justitie
Bulgaria	Висш Съдебен Съвет / Supreme Judicial Council
Croatia	Državno sudbeno vijeće / State Judicial Council
Denmark	Domstolsstyrelsen
France	Conseil supérieur de la Magistrature
Greece	ΑΝΩΤΑΤΟ ΔΙΚΑΣΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ / Supreme Judicial Council of Civil and Criminal Justice
Greece	Ανώτατο Δικαστικό Συμβούλιο Διοικητικής Δικαιοσύνης / Supreme Judicial Council for Administrative Justice
Hungary	Országos Bírói Tanács / National Judicial Council
Ireland	An tSeirbhis Chúirteanna / Courts' Service
Italy	Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura
Italy	Consiglio di Presidenza della giustizia amministrativa
Latvia	Tieslietu padome
Lithuania	Teisėjų Taryba
Malta	Commission for the Administration of Justice
Netherlands	Raad voor de Rechtspraak
Poland	Krajowa Rada Sądownictwa
Portugal	Conselho Superior da Magistratura
Romania	Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii
Slovakia	Súdna rada Slovenskej republiky
Slovenia	Republika Slovenija Sodni Svet
Spain	Consejo General del Poder Judicial
United Kingdom	Judges' Council of England and Wales
United Kingdom	Judges' Council of Northern Ireland
United Kingdom	Judicial Council of Scotland

LIST OF ENCJ OBSERVERS on 1 June 2016

Observers

COUNTRY	OBSERVER INSTITUTION
European Union	Court of Justice of the European Union
Albania	Këshilli i Lartë i Drejtësisë / High Judicial Council
Austria	Ministry of Justice
Cyprus	Supreme Court
Czech Republic	Ministry of Justice
Estonia	Ministry of Justice
Finland	Ministry of Justice
FYROM	Sudski Sovetna Republika Makedonija / Judicial Council
Germany	Ministry of Justice
Luxembourg	Ministry of Justice
Montenegro	Sudski savjet Crne Gore/Judicial Council
Norway	Domstolsadministrasjonen / National Courts Administration
Serbia	Високи савет судства / High Judicial Council
Turkey	Hâkimler ve Savcılar Yüksek Kurulu / High Council for Judges and Prosecutors
Sweden	Domstolsverket / National Courts Administration

ENCJ meetings July-December 2015

6 July	Meeting Executive Board	ENCJ Office	Brussels
24-25 September	Joint meeting project teams	Paris	France
9-10 November	Regional Timeliness seminar	Bucharest	Romania
20 November	Meeting Project 1 Dialogue Group	Madrid	Spain
23 November	Meeting Executive Board	Brussels	Belgium
30 Nov – 1 Dec	Meeting Project 3 Judicial Finances	ENCJ Office	Brussels
3-4 December	Meeting Project 1 Independence	ENCJ Office	Brussels
10-11 December	Meeting Project 2 Standards VI	Rome	Italy

ENCJ meetings January-June 2016

11 January	Meeting Project 1 Dialogue group	London	UK
21-22 January	Meeting Project 2 Standards VI	ENCJ Office	Brussels
8 February	Meeting Executive Board	ENCJ Office	Brussels
19 February	Meeting Project 1 Dialogue Group	Paris	France
29 Feb – 1 March	Meeting Project 3 Judicial Finances	Dublin	Ireland
7-8 March	Meeting Project 1 Independence	ENCJ Office	Brussels
10-11 March	Meeting Project 2 Standards VI	Ljubljana	Slovenia
18 March	Meeting Project 1 Dialogue Group	Rome	Italy
7-8 April	Meeting coordinators Project 2 Standards VI	Rome	Italy
11-12 April	Meeting Project 1 Independence	Barcelona	Spain
9 May	Meeting Executive Board	ENCJ Office	Brussels
1-3 June	General Assembly	Warsaw	Poland
30 June-1 July	ENCJ Staff seminar	ENCJ Office	Brussels

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