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HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND THE JUDICIAL CAREER

On February 27, 2025, the Secretariat of the High Council of Justice (HJC) [shared](#) a presentation on the results of the work of the HJC in 2024:

In 2024, the President of Ukraine issued 97 decrees appointing 460 judges. A total of 385 judges were sworn in and received their powers.

The HCJ states that addressing the significant personnel shortage poses a major challenge in the judicial system. To balance the level of judicial workload, judicial governance bodies utilize the procedure of secondment of judges, as court workloads vary not only by region but also within the same region due to changes in the territorial jurisdiction of court cases

During 2024, the HCJ adopted 285 decisions on the dismissal of judges and 107 decisions on the secondment of judges.

According to the information of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine, 4968 active judges were registered in the Ukrainian judicial system as of March 4, 2025. At the same time, 2132 positions of judges remained vacant.

The HCJ's [information](#) on the results of work in 2024 indicates that the Disciplinary Inspectors Service (DIS) began working on December 23. It includes 20 disciplinary inspectors and the Head of the Service to exercise the High Council of Justice's powers to conduct disciplinary proceedings against judges. The information states that on the day of its start, the SDI received 10896 previously unconsidered disciplinary complaints against judges' actions. From December 23 to December 31 alone, the SDI received 195 new complaints.

In 2024, the HCJ made a decision based on the results of consideration of disciplinary complaints:

- 575 rulings on leaving without consideration and returning disciplinary complaints;
- 314 rulings on the opening of a disciplinary case;
- 576 rulings on refusal to open a disciplinary case;
- 80 decisions on refusal to bring a judge to disciplinary responsibility;
- 19 rulings on the closure of disciplinary proceedings;
- 134 decisions on bringing to disciplinary responsibility 145 judges;
- 2265 rulings on leaving disciplinary complaints without consideration (issued by members of the HCJ alone and since December 23 by disciplinary inspectors).

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

The HCJ notes that the principle of transparency in its activities is ensured, in particular, by the following factors:

- HCJ meetings are held openly;
[online broadcasting](#) of HCJ meetings;
- online broadcasting of [meetings of the Disciplinary Chambers on the consideration of disciplinary cases](#) is carried out;
- voting of HCJ members takes place by name;
- acts of the HCJ and the Disciplinary Chambers are [published on the official website of the HCJ](#);
- important information is regularly updated on the [Open Data Portal](#).

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The HCJ uploads and regularly updates open data sets under the following list:

- information about the organisational structure;
- reports, including on satisfying requests for information (the set contains an information and analytical report on the activities of the HCJ);
- information about the accounting system, types of such information stored in the HCJ;
- draft agendas of HCJ meetings (and its disciplinary chambers);
- information on the regulatory and legal principles of activity;
- suspension from the administration of justice;
- register of judges' notices of interference in activities;
- information on bringing judges to disciplinary responsibility;
- information on property (equipment, software) received within the framework of international technical assistance;
- information on the automated distribution of disciplinary complaints among HCJ members.

CHALLENGES FOR THE JUDICIARY DURING WARTIME

The HCJ's [information](#) on the results of work in 2024 notes that in 2024, the HCJ adopted 12 decisions on changes in the territorial jurisdiction of court cases, particularly court cases of courts in Donetsk, Sumy, and Kherson regions.

In 2024, the HCJ agreed to redistribute budget expenditures between courts during the full-scale war. In particular, the HCJ considered 50 appeals of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine with proposals for this.

Such decisions, in particular, concerned the following:
expenses for the organisation of a special security room in the Mykolaiv Court of Appeal and the Lutsk City District Court of the Volyn region;
arrangement of the simplest shelter in the building of the Kharkiv Court of Appeal;
To ensure the appropriate number of courtrooms, audio and video recording of court sessions and videoconferencing equipment needs to be replaced.

According to the State Judicial Administration, during the war in Ukraine, there was a further increase in cases and materials considered by courts:

2022 – 2 898 032 cases and materials;

2023 – 4 193 526 cases and materials;

2024 – 4 295 648 cases and materials.

These statistics prove that in 2023, the courts recovered the number of cases considered after falling in the first year of the full-scale war. And in 2024, the courts considered even more cases than in the last year before the war, 2021.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

On February 23, 2025, the Supreme Court published a consolidated digest of the case law of [the Grand Chamber](#) of the Supreme Court (33 pages) and reviews of the judicial practice of the courts of cassation within the Supreme Court during 2024. [Available in Ukrainian.](#)

On March 14, 2024, the Supreme Court launched a [new communication project](#) – the Supreme Court Podcast.

This is an open platform for professional discussions on current issues in judicial practice and for exchanging opinions in search of answers to the most pressing questions of legal professionals.

The first episode of the podcast is dedicated to the cassation appeal, the key document from which the participant in the proceedings begins to interact with the Supreme Court.

The first podcast speakers were judges of the Supreme Court Oleksandr Banasko, Yan Bernaziuk, Ihor Huleykov, and Oleksandra Yanovska. They shared practical advice on the cassation appeal's design and content, explaining what should be paid special attention to and what should be avoided when drafting it.

The project was implemented in cooperation with the OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND THE UKRAINIAN JUDICIARY

On February 28, 2025, the Ukrainian-language version of the ECHR Knowledge Sharing Platform [was presented](#). The European Court of Human Rights and the Supreme Court have implemented a joint project to promote the accessibility of knowledge about the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in Ukraine. On February 27, 2025, a conference was held in Strasbourg to launch the unofficial language versions of the ECHR Knowledge Sharing Platform (ECHR-KS) within the framework of the project “Strengthening the principle of subsidiarity: supporting knowledge sharing on the ECHR and dialogue between the higher courts”.

The launch of the Ukrainian-language version of the Platform was made possible by the joint efforts of the Supreme Court, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice, and Legal Cooperation Standards of the Council of Europe. The Supreme Court, in cooperation with the ECHR, will provide further support for the resources in the Ukrainian language. [Link to the Platform.](#)

On March 14, 2025, the Supreme Court hosted [the presentation](#) of Opinion No.27 (2024) of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) On the Disciplinary Liability of Judges and the Recommendations on Judicial Independence and Accountability (Warsaw Recommendations) of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The goal of this event is to conduct an in-depth study of the provisions of the Opinion and Recommendations, ensure their further implementation, and develop corresponding approaches in national court practice that align with the highest European standards.

The purpose of the Opinion is to summarize all changes that have occurred since the adoption of Opinion No. 3 (2002), assess, analyze, and develop standards for judicial disciplinary liability, and examine their impact on judicial independence. It presents a set of key principles and recommendations applicable to all member states and is intended to address situations where

judicial independence and impartiality may be at risk. The Opinion does not cover the civil or criminal liability of judges.

Additionally, the CCJE noted that while the Opinion does not directly address lustration, this issue cannot be overlooked. Lustration should not serve as a substitute for disciplinary measures or be used as an anti-corruption tool. However, such a vetting process may be permissible as an exceptional, one-time procedure during a transition from authoritarian to democratic governance, provided it adheres to the rule of law.

ANTICORRUPTION MEASURES

On February 20, 2025, the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of Ukraine (NACP) [shared](#) the [GRECO Report: Fourth Evaluation Round, Corruption Prevention in Respect of Members of Parliament, Judges, and Prosecutors \(Addendum To The Second Compliance Report Ukraine\)](#). GRECO found that Ukraine has satisfactorily implemented or partially implemented 18 out of 31 recommendations of the fourth round of assessment. There were 11 partially implemented and two unimplemented recommendations.

Four recommendations were identified by GRECO as partially implemented:

- Recommendation XVII: Judges' evaluation criteria. A draft of the Unified Indicators has been developed and is under consideration by the HCJ.

- Recommendation XIX: definition of disciplinary offenses of judges. The HCJ Working Group has prepared a Generalization of the Practice of Consideration of Disciplinary Cases Against Judges by the HCJ and its Disciplinary Bodies.

- Recommendation XXIII: increase the number of prosecutors in the Qualification and Disciplinary Commission of Prosecutors. The Prosecutor General's Office has prepared a draft law that provides for the revision of the quota of prosecutors among the members of the HQCJ.

- Recommendation XXX: Increase the limitation period for initiating disciplinary proceedings against prosecutors and appealing against such decisions. The Office of the Prosecutor General has prepared a draft law that provides for an increase in the limitation period.

In addition, Recommendation IX, according to which Ukraine had to adopt rules that would regulate the relations of MPs with lobbyists and other third parties wishing to influence the legislative process, which was previously assessed as not implemented, has been satisfactorily implemented. The recommendation was considered implemented due to the adoption by the Parliament of Ukraine of the [Law of Ukraine "On Lobbying"](#) and the [Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Code of Administrative Offenses on Establishing Liability for Violation of Legislation in the Field of Lobbying"](#), in the development of which the NACP was involved.

Two more recommendations were identified by GRECO as implemented:

- Recommendation II: proper control over the existing asset declaration requirements - restoration of the NACP's authority to perform financial control functions; development and

implementation of a new risk-based approach to the selection and verification of declarations; launch of automated verification of declarations.

- Recommendation XV: Reduce the number of bodies involved in the appointment of judges and clarify the powers of the Public Integrity Council - complete the process of appointing members of the High Council of Justice and the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine, and strengthen and appoint the full composition of the PIC.

ONLINE JUSTICE AND ELECTRONIC COURTS

On March 6, 2025, at the meeting of the Council of Judges of Ukraine, the Acting Head of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine [informed](#) the members of the Council on the personnel, financial, material, and technical support of the Ukrainian judicial system. He spoke about the functioning of the Unified Judicial Information and Telecommunication System (UJITS) and its components ("Electronic Cabinet," "Electronic Court," "videoconferencing subsystem), which provides remote access to judicial proceedings through online services, etc.

The number of users of the “Electronic Cabinet” subsystem was:

In 2022 – 41 264 users.

In 2023 – 133 220 users.

In 2024 – 157 054 users.

In total, in 2022-2024 – 331 535 users.

The number of documents submitted through the “Electronic Court” subsystem was:

In 2022 – 548 813 documents.

In 2023 – 1 430 893 documents.

In 2024 – 3 186 546 documents.

In total, in 2022-2024 – 5 166 252 documents.

Number of court hearings held in the videoconferencing system:

In 2022 – 404 606 hearings.

In 2023 – 904 752 hearings.

In 2024 – 1 194 987 hearings.

