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This News Digest issue was prepared within the research project [The Dynamics of the Judiciary in Ukraine in the Context of the Rule of Law and the EU Accession Aspirations](#) and covers the period from March 15, 2025, to April 15, 2025.

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HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND THE JUDICIAL CAREER

On March 19, 2025, the HCJ Secretariat [announced](#) the commencement of document submission from candidates for the election of two HCJ members during the XX regular Congress of Judges of Ukraine, which will be held from May 27 to 29, 2025.

According to the decision of the Council of Judges of Ukraine of March 18, 2025, [No. 13](#), received by the High Council of Justice on March 19, 2025, [May 27 – 29, 2025](#), was set as a date of continuation of work of the XX Regular Congress of Judges of Ukraine after the break.

Reference: According to Articles 8, 9, and 10 of the Law of Ukraine “On the High Council of Justice”, the HCJ Secretariat shall announce the start of accepting documents from candidates to participate in a new competition for the election of members of the HCJ by the Congress of Judges of Ukraine.

On April 9, 2025, the HQCJ [shared the progress](#) on competition/selection for the position of judge of the appellate courts, the High Anti-Corruption Court, and local courts.

Appellate courts.

Based on the results of the qualification exam, 67 candidates for the position of judge of the appellate administrative court and 83 candidates for the position of judge of the appellate commercial court have been admitted to the second stage of the qualification evaluation, “Dossier Study and Interview.”

A special background check has been initiated for these candidates.

High Anti-Corruption Court.

The candidate ranking has been approved and the winners of the competition for vacant judicial positions at the High Anti-Corruption Court have been determined.

Interviews were conducted with two winners of the competition, and the High Council of Justice was recommended to appoint Tetiana Lytvynko and Olena Chernova as judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court.

Local courts.

The main application period for participation in the selection and transfer to a local court for 1,800 vacant positions was completed on March 31, 2025.

The number of persons who submitted applications is 9,143 (as of March 30, 2025).

For those who are serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations, who are actively serving at the time of submitting documents, and who intend to become judges, the application deadline has been postponed to May 01, 2025.

CHALLENGES FOR THE JUDICIARY DURING WARTIME

As of April 14, 2025, Ukraine’s domestic legal system has been overwhelmed by the scale and the gravity of the war crimes allegations against Russia. Since the onset of the full-scale invasion in 2022, [163,770 investigations](#) into potential war crimes have been opened.

[As of March 2025](#), only around 150 verdicts had been reached, mostly in absentia.

On April 9, 2025 Results of Efforts to Counter Crimes Committed in the Context of Armed Conflict were shared by the Prosecutor General's office of Ukraine – [Q1 2025](#)

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND THE UKRAINIAN JUDICIARY

On March 31, 2025, priority areas of cooperation [were discussed](#) during a meeting between the Chairman and the members of the High Council of Justice and the Head and her deputy and chief expert on judicial reform of the EU Project “Pravo-Justice.”

The Chairman of the High Council of Justice, Hryhorii Usyk, noted the significant assistance provided by the EU Pravo-Justice Project, particularly the expert and technical support to the activities of the Selection Commission for the selection of candidates for vacant positions in the service of disciplinary inspectors of the High Council of Justice, the activities of the Ethics Council, as well as in the functioning of various working groups of the HJC, such as the generalisation of disciplinary practice, development of the Unified Indicators for Assessing Integrity and Professional Ethics, and others.

The Chairman of the HJC noted that the support provided by the EU Project was instrumental in preparing for bilateral meetings with the European Commission under the negotiating chapter 23 "Judiciary", as well as in consultations with the European Commission experts regarding the development of a draft Rule of Law Roadmap.

On April 3, 2025, the President of the Supreme Court took part in the joint meeting of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union and the EU Court of Justice.

The first session of the meeting was devoted to discussing the independence of the judiciary in the European Union. Presentations were made by Donal O'Donnell, Chief Justice of Ireland,

and Irmantas Jarukaitis, President of the Fourth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The control over judicial processing of personal data under the General Data Protection Regulation was discussed during the second session of the meeting, which was attended by President of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands Dineke de Groot, President of the Court of Justice of the EU Koen Lenaerts, General Court Judge Tamara Perishin and Deputy Registrar of the Court Marc-André Gaudissart.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND UKRAINE

On March 19, 2025, the [Register of Damage for Ukraine \(RD4U\)](#) announced the opening of new claims categories for individuals who have suffered grave violations as a result of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine.

The announcement was made at a high-level meeting between the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal, the Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Iryna Mudra, and Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Liudmyla Suhak, and the Board and the Executive Director of the Register of Damage for Ukraine. During the discussions, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that victims of the war receive international recognition and access to future compensation.

The newly introduced claims categories encompass some of the most severe and traumatic violations endured during the war:

- A1.1 Involuntary Internal Displacement
- A2.3 Serious Personal Injury
- A2.4 Sexual Violence
- A2.5 Torture or Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- A2.6 Deprivation of Liberty
- A2.7 Forced Labour or Service

On March 19-21, 2025 [Members of the Core Group gathered in Strasbourg](#) for the group’s 14th and final meeting.

The Core Group finalised the technical work on the three draft documents necessary for the establishment of the Special Tribunal: the draft bilateral agreement between Ukraine and the Council of Europe on the establishment of the Special Tribunal, the Special Tribunal’s draft statute and a draft enlarged partial agreement on the management of the Special Tribunal.

These three documents will now be submitted for political consideration.

Reference: Created in 2023, the Core Group on the Establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine is a group of senior legal experts from around 38 states

who have been working with the Ukrainian authorities, the EU Commission, the European External Action Service and the Council of Europe to seek justice for Ukraine in the face of Russia's aggression.

ANTICORRUPTION MEASURES

In March 2025, the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP) completed 73 full audits of declarations selected under [the new risk-based approach](#).

Among all completed full audits of declarations, violations were found in declarations submitted by representatives of:

- local self-government bodies - in 55 cases (including 34 local council deputies, 14 regional council deputies; one deputy head of the regional council, two heads of city councils and one head of a village council, one deputy mayor and two employees of city councils' staff);
- representatives of regional and district state administrations - four (one head of district state administration, one deputy head of regional state administration and two employees of the military administration);
- National Police officers - nine;
- **representatives of the judiciary - three (one of them is a judge);**
- State-owned enterprises - five (including three heads, one acting head and one deputy head);
- pre-trial investigation bodies - two;
- legislative bodies - two MPs;
- military-medical commissions - one;
- territorial recruitment and social support centres - five;
- medical and social expert commission - four;
- Customs and Tax Service - six (three customs officers and three tax officers).

In addition, the facts of declaring false information were confirmed:

- in 10 out of 12 completed audits - officials of Kyiv region (83.3%);
- in 20 out of 26 completed audits - officials of Dnipropetrovsk oblast (76.9 %);
- in 7 out of 10 completed inspections - of officials in Rivne region (70 %);
- in 6 out of 9 completed inspections - of officials in the Zakarpattia region (66.6 %);
- in 5 out of 8 completed inspections - officials from the Poltava region (62.5 %);
- in 5 out of 8 completed inspections - officials from Khmelnytskyi region (62.5 %);
- in 10 out of 17 completed inspections - officials from Odesa region (58.8 %);
- in 8 out of 16 completed inspections - officials from Kharkiv region (50 %);
- in 6 out of 13 completed inspections - officials of Vinnytsia region (46 %);
- 17 out of 66 completed verifications of declarations of Kyiv city officials (25.7%).

Reference: the start of a full verification does not mean that the declarant has committed a corruption or corruption-related offense. If the results of the inspection reveal violations, the NACP takes measures to bring the person to justice in accordance with the law.

If there are grounds, the materials are transferred to the pre-trial investigation authorities, as well as to the SAPO for consideration of civil forfeiture of unjustified assets.

ONLINE JUSTICE AND ELECTRONIC COURTS

On April 14, 2025, the updated version of the Supreme Court's Legal Positions Database has been presented.

The update includes a number of important changes, in particular:

- improved search capabilities, including enhanced filters and more detailed search criteria, making it significantly easier to find relevant Supreme Court case law;
 - the introduction of generative artificial intelligence features that allow users to extract key conclusions from a court decision with a single click;
 - implementation of indicators showing deviations from legal positions, which helps users better assess their relevance;
 - a modernized website interface, which has become much more user-friendly and intuitive, along with improvements to its mobile version.

These innovations are aimed at effectively utilizing modern information technologies and meeting the needs of all those working with case law. Their implementation became possible thanks to the cooperation between the Supreme Court and the EU “Pravo-Justice” Project.

The updated version of the Supreme Court's Legal Positions Database is available to users from April 15, 2025.

More details about the new functionality can be found in the presentation video in Ukrainian [here](#).