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Part 3

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)

**Support for a better evaluation of the result of judicial reform efforts in the Eastern Partnership
"Justice Dashboard EaP" Project**

Data collection 2024

Part 3 - Condensed Version of Key findings and Analysis

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Methodology

This third part of the report has been prepared based on the replies to the CEPEJ Questionnaire for the "Justice Dashboard EaP" Project provided by the beneficiaries through their respective CEPEJ Dashboard correspondents within the 2024 data collection. The CEPEJ Secretariat collected quantitative and qualitative data, as well as comments under each question to provide additional information on the specificities of each judicial system and to contextualize the data.

The content and format of Part 3 was agreed with DG NEAR during the first cycle of data collection (2020). The classification of indicators and content of each theme has been established by DG ENEST. Based on this, the report covers the following key topics: Efficiency, Quality, Mandate of judges and prosecutors, and Accountability. It combines quantitative and qualitative data under each theme. The analysis under each topic is accompanied by a reference to the table number from Part 1 of the report (comparative tables and graphs) and the number of the question in the EaP Questionnaire. Where necessary for data visualisation, new graphs have been created for the purpose of this Part 3.

The comparisons of data between beneficiaries with various size, economic and legal situations is a delicate task and should be approached with great caution. Moreover, the data on Ukraine needs to consider the damage to courts' infrastructure, the effect of the martial law and the staff shortage to collect and analyse data (see Part 2 A Country Profile for more details). This analysis treats all beneficiaries equally and compares their data without any intention of ranking them or promoting any particular type of justice system. The focus of this report is placed on presenting data at the regional level. It should also be noted that the summary statistics (minimum, maximum, average and median values) are presented in this report as an orientation only. Indeed, the group of beneficiaries is too small for the summary to be statistically meaningful. These statistics are calculated by using quantitative data, hence excluding the "NA" or "NAP" answers. Furthermore, in case data are available only for one or two beneficiaries, the summary statistics would not be useful even as an orientation. Consequently, they are shown as "-".

The analysis covers all beneficiaries of the Action (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**).

For more information regarding the methodology, please refer to the methodological note in the Part 1 of the report.

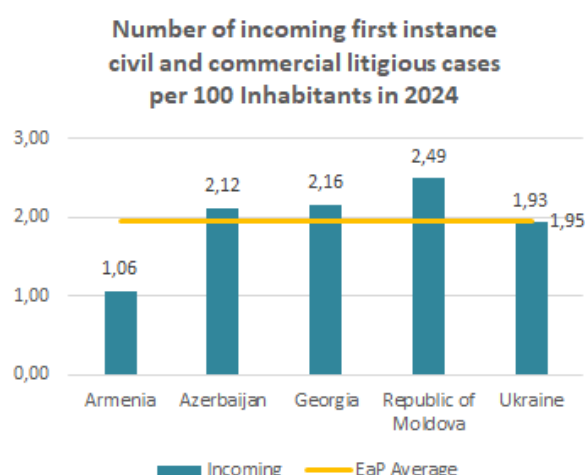
I. Efficiency (First instance cases)

This part focuses on first instance civil and commercial litigious cases and criminal cases. In 2024, as in previous data collection cycles, the case load in the EaP region was smaller for criminal cases than for civil and commercial litigious cases with less incoming cases. There was a considerable decrease in the inflow of civil and commercial litigious cases (from the EaP Average of 3,08 cases in 2023 to 1,95 cases per 100 inh in 2024), while in total criminal cases it shows a slight decrease (from 0,99 in 2023 to 0,97 in 2024). While up to 2023, based on CEPEJ indicators (Clearance Rate -CR- and Disposition Time -DT-), in average in the Region, the most efficient type of cases was civil and commercial litigious cases, the trend seems to slightly reverse in 2024, with CR higher in civil and commercial litigious cases (123%) and lower in criminal cases (100%); and higher DT in disposition time in civil and commercial litigious cases (193 days) and lower DT in criminal cases (144 days). In 2024, the number of pending cases at the end of the year increased for criminal cases in **Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine** and for civil and commercial litigious cases **Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine** (Clearance Rates below 100%). On a regional level, criminal cases appear to reach the 2022 levels (CR 100%), while it exceeded the 2022 levels in civil and commercial litigious cases (CR 123%).

Number of incoming civil and commercial litigious cases and criminal cases

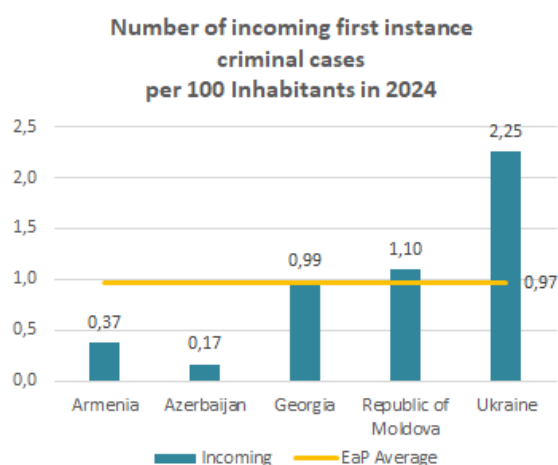
The incoming cases are all cases submitted to courts in the reference year for the first time.

CEPEJ 3.1.2 (Q35)



Compared to the EaP Average of 1,95, the highest number of incoming civil and commercial litigious cases per 100 inhabitants in 2024 is in **the Republic of Moldova** (2,49) and the lowest - in **Armenia** (1,06). As of 2024, **Armenia** shows a reverse, after three cycles of significant lead (down from 5,55 in 2023 and 5,54 in 2021), due to a procedural reform. Similarly, in the **Republic of Moldova** the inflow of cases decreased (from 4,08 in 2023), although it still surpasses the EaP average. **Azerbaijan** (2,12) and **Georgia** (2,16) have figures slightly above the EaP average, reflecting an increase from 2,05 each in 2023. **Ukraine** (1,93) shows an increase from 1,70 in 2023, continuing to remain slightly below the EaP average.

CEPEJ 3.2.2 (Q38)



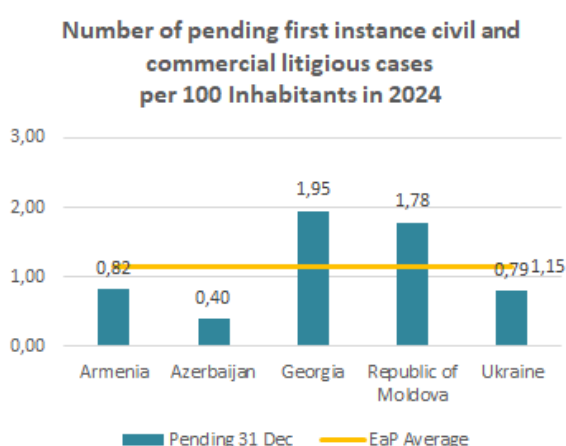
Compared to the EaP Average of 0,97, the highest number of incoming criminal cases per 100 inhabitants in 2024 is in **Ukraine** (2,25) and the lowest is in **Azerbaijan** (0,17). **Armenia** also shows a relatively low figure at 0,37. **Georgia** and the **Republic of Moldova** have figures slightly above the EaP average, with 0,99 and 1,10, respectively. **Ukraine** shows a slight increase from 2,17 in 2023. Similarly, **Armenia** shows an increase from 0,26 in 2023. However, **Azerbaijan** (0,19 in 2023), the **Republic of Moldova** (1,13 in 2023) and **Georgia** (1,18 in 2023) show a decrease in 2024.

It is noteworthy that while the tendency is to have more incoming civil and commercial litigious cases, it is not the case for **Ukraine**, which has a higher standardised number of incoming criminal cases, as it was the case in 2023. While **Azerbaijan** has the lowest number of incoming criminal cases per 100 inhabitants, their data shows a higher than EaP Average standardised number of incoming civil and commercial litigious cases.

Pending cases - civil and commercial litigious cases and criminal cases

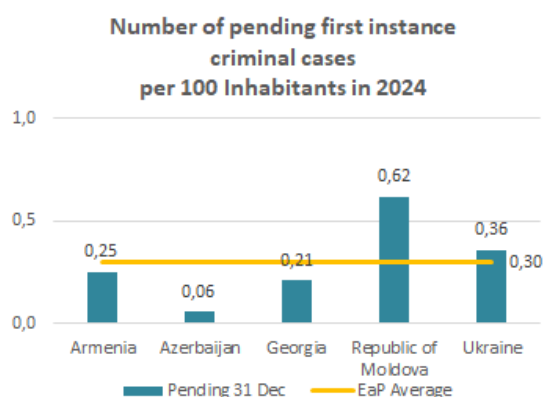
Pending cases on 31st December are the number of unresolved cases, which will be carried to the next year.

CEPEJ 3.1.2 (Q35)



Compared to the EaP Average of 1,15, in 2024, the highest number of civil and commercial litigious cases pending at the end of the year per 100 inhabitants is in **Georgia** (1,95) and the lowest is in **Azerbaijan** (0,40). **Georgia** and the **Republic of Moldova** have figures above the EaP average, with 1,95 and 1,78, respectively. **Armenia** (0,82) and **Ukraine** (0,79) show figures below the EaP average. **Armenia's** number of pending cases changed significantly (from 2,27 in 2023). **Azerbaijan** shows an increase from 0,36 in 2023, so does **Georgia** from 1,77 in 2023 and **Ukraine** from 0,7 in 2023, while **Moldova's** data has remained rather close to 2023 level (1,82) in this respect.

CEPEJ 3.2.2 (Q38)



Compared to the EaP Average of 0,30, in 2024, the highest number of first instance criminal cases pending at the end of the year per 100 inhabitants is in the **Republic of Moldova** (0,62) and the lowest number is in **Azerbaijan** (0,06). **Georgia's** figure is 0,21, which is below the EaP average. **Armenia** also shows a relatively low figure at 0,25. From 0,31 in 2023, **Ukraine** shows a slight increase to 0,36, just above the EaP average. Notably, the **Republic of Moldova** remains the highest, although it has seen a slight decrease from 0,67 in 2023. Same in **Azerbaijan** – a slight decrease from 0,07 in 2023. **Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine** showed an increase from 0,24, 0,19 and 0,31 in 2023, respectively.

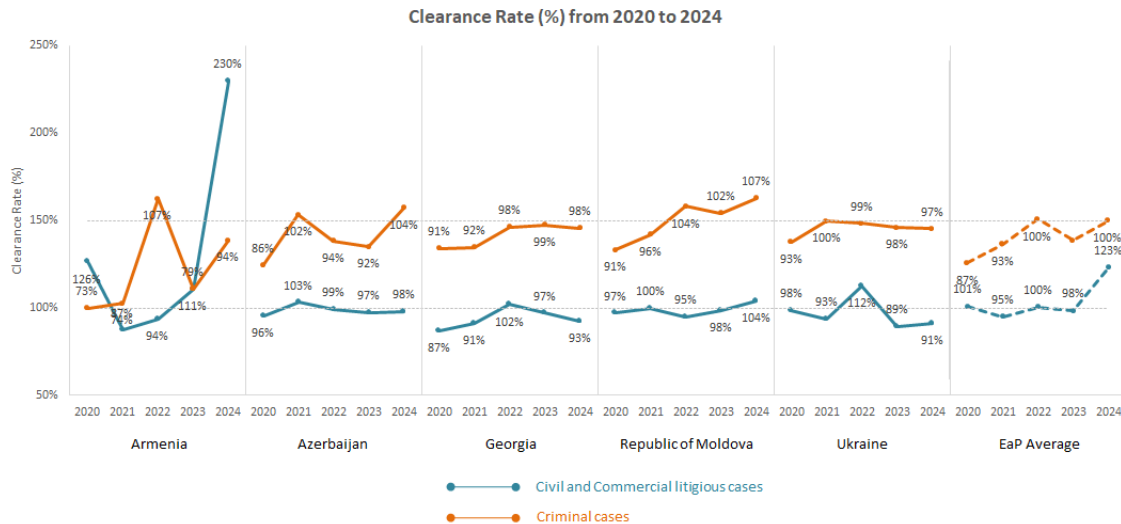
Some of the trends observed regarding the situation of incoming cases can also be observed for pending cases at the end of the year. Indeed, in 2024 and as it was the case in 2023, **Azerbaijan** has the lowest number of pending cases at the end of the year per 100 inhabitants for both civil and commercial litigious cases and criminal cases. In 2024, **Georgia** has a relatively low standardised number of pending criminal cases at the end of the year (below the EaP Average), and the highest standardised number regarding civil and litigious commercial pending cases.

Clearance rate

CEPEJ 3.1.4 and 3.2.4 (Q35, Q38)

The Clearance Rate (CR) is the ratio obtained by dividing the number of resolved cases by the number of incoming cases in a given period, expressed as a percentage. It demonstrates how the courts, or the judicial system is coping with the in-flow of cases and allows comparison between systems regardless of their differences and individual characteristics. Its key value is 100%.

- A value below 100% means that the courts were not able to solve all the cases they received and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases increases.
- A value above 100% means that the courts have resolved more cases than they received (they have resolved all the incoming cases and part of the pending cases) and, as a consequence, the number of pending cases decreases.



The graph shows that there are no stable Clearance Rates in the region over the analysed period. Between 2020 and 2021, the overall tendency (illustrated by the EaP Average) was an increase of the Clearance Rates in criminal cases and a decrease in civil and commercial litigious cases. Between 2022 and 2023, the overall tendency was a decrease of the Clearance Rates for civil and commercial litigious cases and criminal cases. In civil and commercial litigious cases, the decreasing tendency was seen more notably in **Azerbaijan, Georgia** and **Ukraine**. In criminal cases the decreasing tendency was seen in all except **Georgia**. Between 2023 and 2024, the overall tendency is an increase of the Clearance Rates for civil and commercial litigious cases and for criminal cases. In civil and commercial litigious cases, the increasing tendency is seen in all except **Georgia**. In criminal cases, the increasing tendency is seen more notably in **Armenia, Azerbaijan** and **the Republic of Moldova**. It must be noted that the Clearance Rate in the EaP averages for civil and commercial litigious cases in 2024 is potentially impacted by the significant increase of CR in **Armenia**, which is a result of procedural reforms in force as of 1 January 2024.

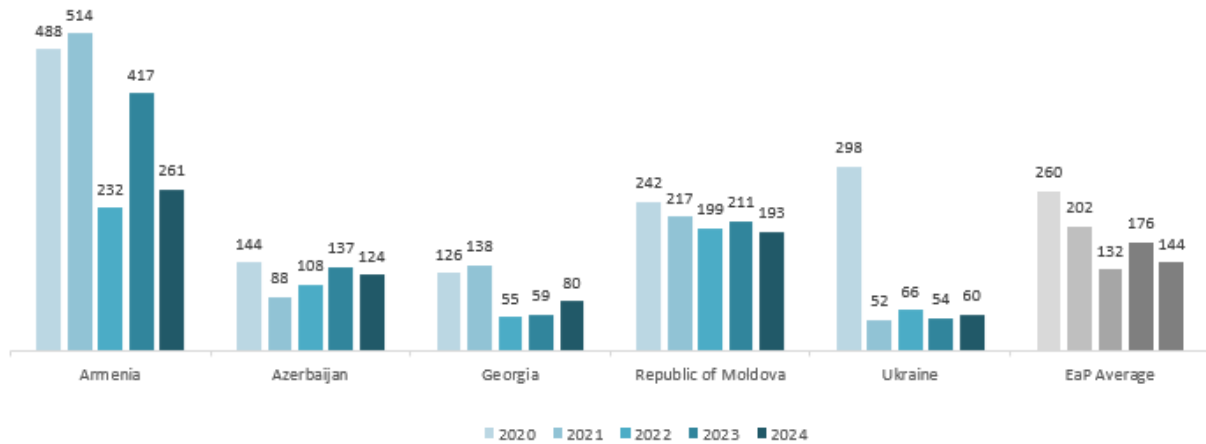
In 2024, the number of pending cases at the end of the year increased for criminal cases in **Armenia, Georgia** and **Ukraine** and for civil and commercial litigious cases **Azerbaijan, Georgia** and **Ukraine** (Clearance Rates below 100%).

Disposition time

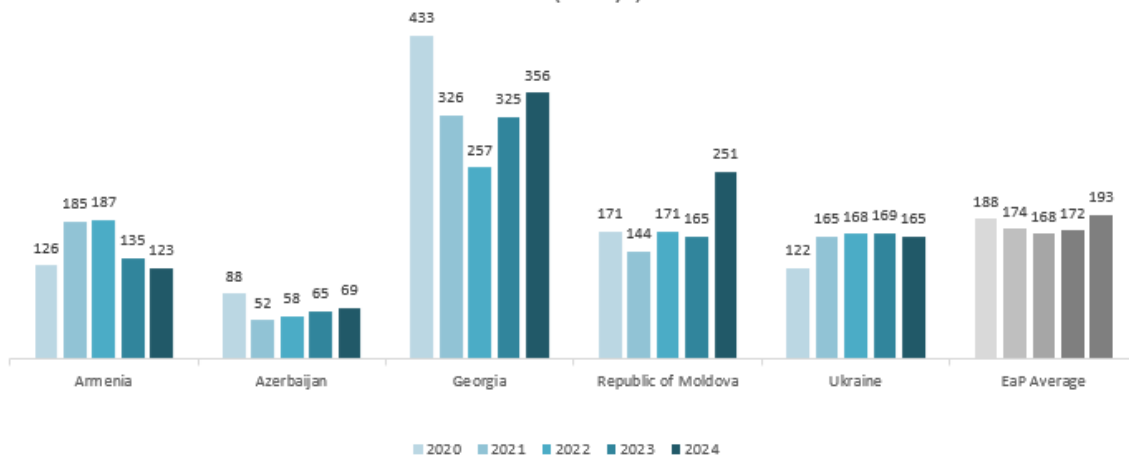
CEPEJ 3.1.4 and 3.2.4 (Q35, Q38)

The Disposition Time (DT) is the indicator that calculates time necessary for a pending case to be resolved and estimates the lengths of proceedings in days. It is a ratio between the pending cases at the end of the period and the resolved cases within the same period, multiplied by 365 days. More pending than resolved cases will lead to a DT higher than 365 days (one year) and vice versa.

Disposition time - Criminal cases in first instance from 2020 to 2024 (in days)



Disposition time - Civil and Commercial litigious cases in first instance from 2020 to 2024 (in days)



In 2024, like for the EaP Averages, civil and commercial litigious cases (193 days) have higher Disposition Times than criminal cases (144 days) in **Georgia**, the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine**, while it appears to be the opposite in **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan**.

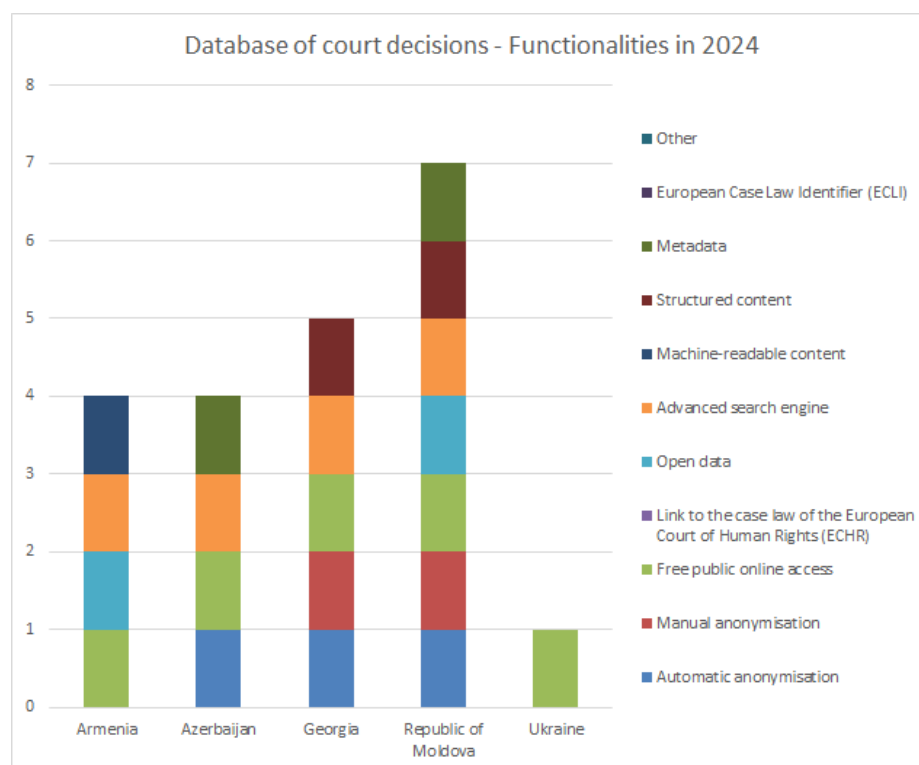
Regarding civil and commercial litigious cases, the Disposition Times increased compared to 2023 for **Azerbaijan**, **Georgia** and the **Republic of Moldova** and decreased for **Armenia** and **Ukraine**. Regarding criminal cases, Disposition Times increased for **Georgia** and **Ukraine**, but decreased for **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and the **Republic of Moldova**.

Compared to 2020, all countries show decreases in the Disposition Times in criminal cases. In civil and commercial litigious cases, a decrease is observed in **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia**. For civil and commercial litigious cases, the highest Disposition Time in the region in 2024 is in **Georgia** (356 days) and the lowest in **Azerbaijan** (69 days), which was also the case in the previous cycles. For criminal cases, the highest Disposition Time in the region in 2024 is in **Armenia** (261 days) and the lowest is in **Ukraine** (60 days), again similarly to the previous cycles.

II. Quality

Availability - online access to courts' decisions

CEPEJ 3.8.6 (Q 84-2)



In 2024, all countries report that a national database of court decisions exists in their respective judiciaries and that all three instances' decisions in civil and commercial, administrative, and criminal law cases are available therein. Compared to 2023, same functionalities have been reported as being in place, with an addition for Azerbaijan (advanced search engine).

Armenia's database includes the following 4 functionalities: machine-readable content, open data, an advanced search engine, and free public online access. **Azerbaijan's** database has the following 4 functionalities: metadata, advanced search engine, free public online access, automatic anonymisation. **Georgia's** database has the following 5 functionalities: structured content, an advanced search engine, free public online access, as well as manual and automatic anonymisation. The **Republic of Moldova** reported having 7 functionalities, such as metadata, structured content, an advanced search engine, open data, free public online access, and manual and automatic anonymisation. **Ukraine's** database has free public online access.

In all countries, the databases are available online for free. **Georgia** and the **Republic of Moldova** have the most comprehensive databases with structured content, enhancing the usability and accessibility of legal information. However, in none of the countries, links to the ECtHR case-law are implemented.

Availability of ICT for case management and court activity statistics

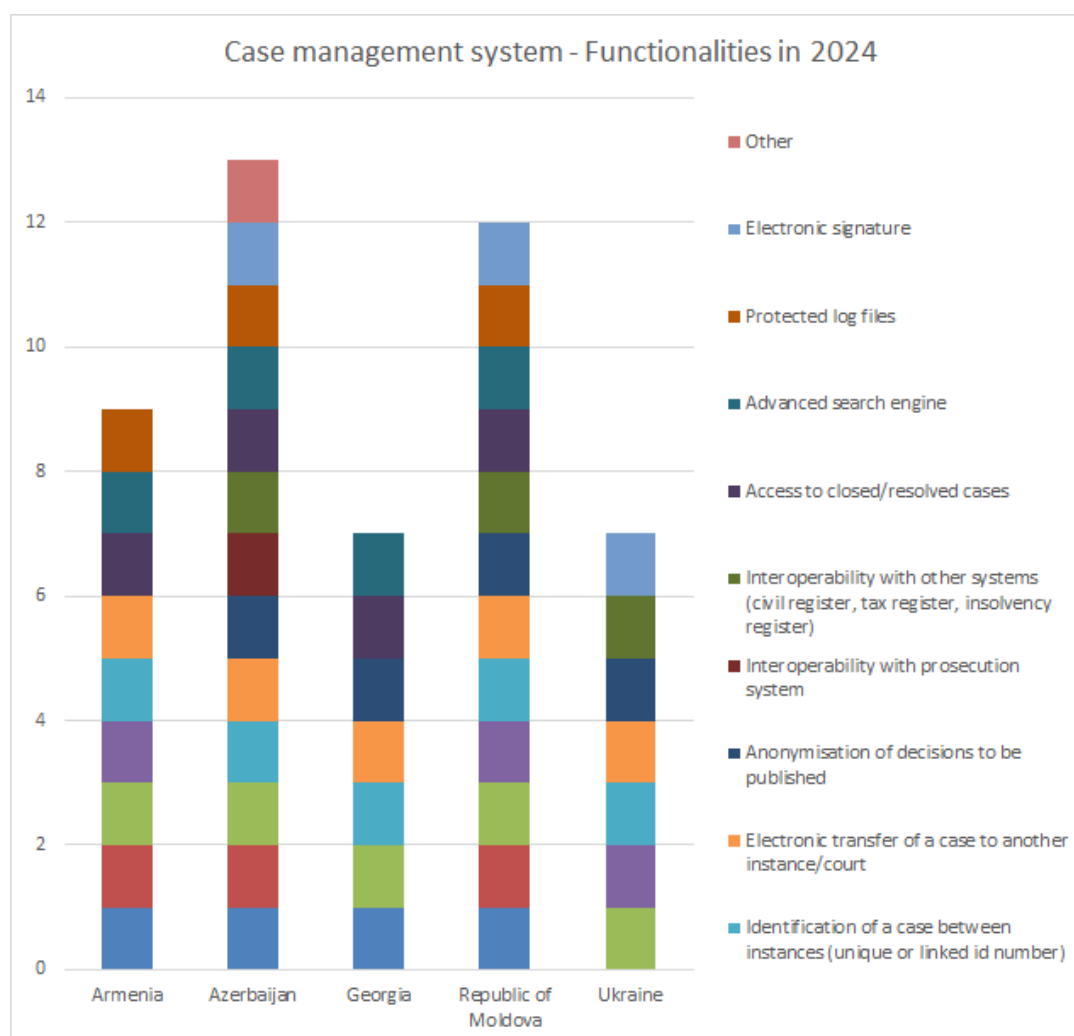
CEPEJ 3.8.1 (Q 82-0, Q82, Q 82-1 and Q 82-2)

In 2024, **Armenia**, the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine** reported as having an IT strategy for the judiciary. All beneficiaries have a Case Management System (CMS) in place and **Ukraine** reported as having 3 CMSs and Armenia - 6 CMSs. The latest developments of the running CMS have been reported

as follows: the **Republic of Moldova** (between 2 and 5 years); **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia** and **Ukraine** (more than 10 years ago). **Armenia, Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** reported on plans for a significant change in the IT system in the judiciary, including change of CMS or other major application.

Case management systems: deployment and status

CEPEJ 3.8.3 (Q83-1, Q83-2)

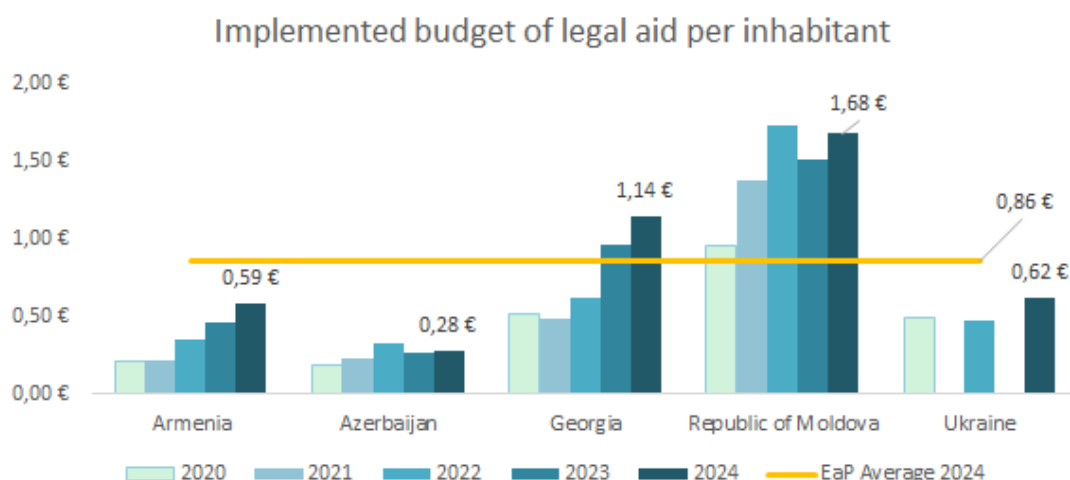


In 2024, **Azerbaijan** and the **Republic of Moldova** appear to have the most comprehensive Case Management Systems (CMS) with numerous functionalities, closely followed by **Armenia** in this respect, as it was the case in 2023.

The deployment rate of the CMSs remains high (see Part 2 of the Report for each country), with improvements and additions in terms of functionalities that can enhance the efficiency of judicial processes. Where implemented, these advancements indicate a commitment to a robust effort to modernise the judicial systems and integrate comprehensive digital solutions.

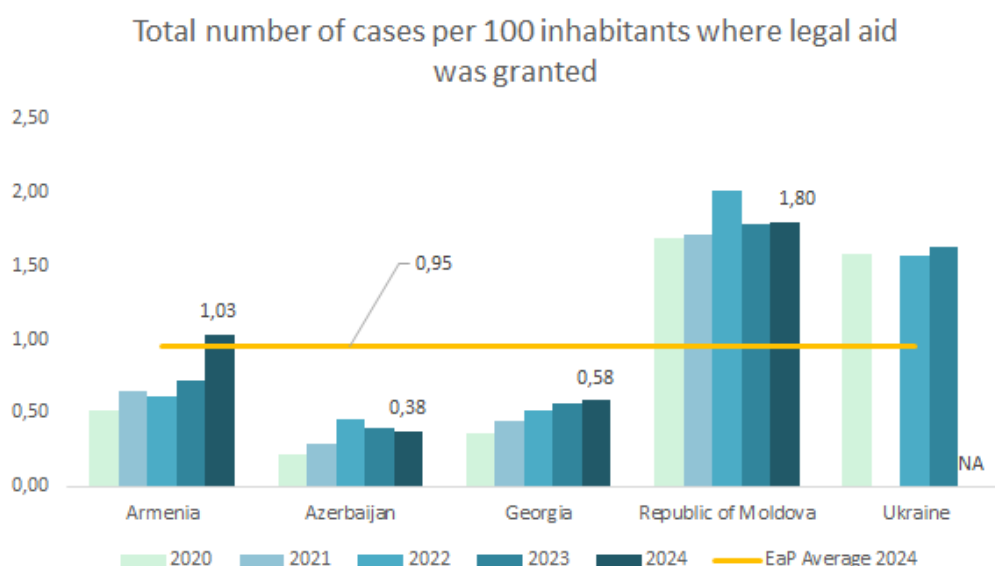
Legal Aid

CEPEJ 4.1.3 (Q1, Q13)



In general, the budgets for legal aid per inhabitant appear very modest in the region. The **Republic of Moldova** (1,68€) and **Georgia** (1,14€) have a higher budget of legal aid per inhabitant than the EaP average (0,86€), with also most notable increases compared to 2023 (1,5€ and 0,96€, respectively). The budgets per inhabitant continued to increase in 2024 to various degrees in all countries. Thus, **Armenia's** budget for legal aid reached 0,59€ in 2024 (up from 0,46€ in 2023) and in **Azerbaijan** it reached 0,28€ in 2024, compared to 0,26€ in 2023.

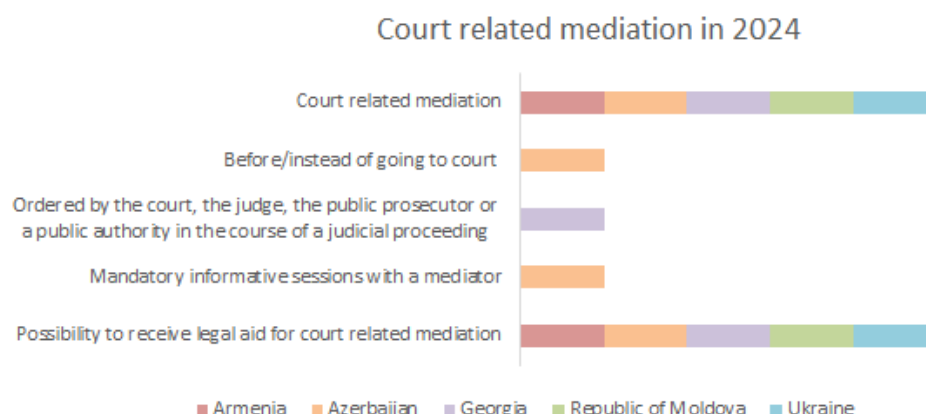
CEPEJ 4.3.2 (Q1, Q86)



The **Republic of Moldova** (1,8) is considerably above, and **Armenia** (1,03) are slightly above the EaP Average (0,95) of total number of cases per 100 inhabitants for which legal aid was granted in 2024. Conversely, **Azerbaijan** (0,38) and **Georgia** (0,58) are below the EaP Average.

The **Republic of Moldova** continues to have the highest number of cases for which legal aid was granted, reflecting a policy to expand the scope and reach of legal aid services. Same tendency is noticeable in **Armenia** in 2024. **Georgia** continues to show a rise in the number of legal aid cases per 100 inhabitants, although it still remains below the regional average in 2024. Compared to 2023, there was a slight decrease from 0,39 legal aid cases per 100 inhabitants in **Azerbaijan**.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
 CEPEJ 9.1.1 (Q252, Q253, Q254 and Q256)



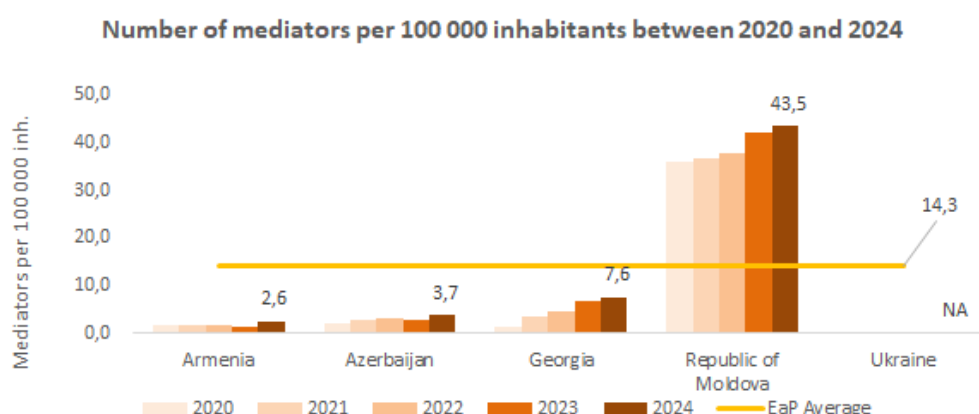
Court-related mediation is reported as existing in all countries. In **Georgia**, court-related mediation can be ordered by the court, the judge, the public prosecutor, or a public authority during a judicial proceeding. In the **Republic of Moldova**, the legal provisions on mandatory court-mediation were abolished in 2022, although a judge still can evaluate the circumstances and propose to parties to apply for mediation. In **Azerbaijan**, mandatory informative sessions with a mediator are part of the mediation process.

The possibility to receive legal aid for court-related mediation is a consistent feature across all five countries, supporting access to justice for court users.

CEPEJ 9.1.6 (Q258)

For the 2024 cycle, the availability of data on court-related mediation across the region continued to be limited, as in previous data collection cycles, preventing further insights into a regional analysis. Thus, **Georgia** reported numbers on court-related mediations in civil and commercial, family, labour and other cases. The **Republic of Moldova** reported data on court-related mediations in all inquired upon categories. The total nr of cases for which parties agreed to start mediation increased from 1 661 in 2023 to 2 477 in 2024, indicating a continuous and increasing parties' interest in mediation. **Azerbaijan** started reporting cases as of the 2024 cycle, in civil and commercial, family and labour cases.

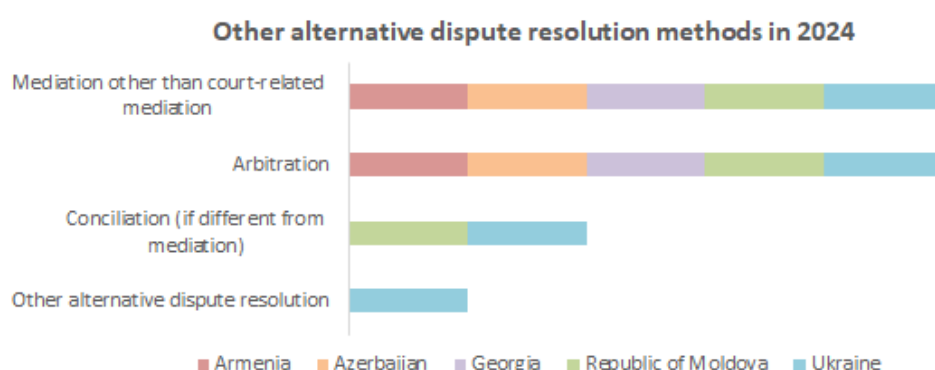
CEPEJ 9.1.4 (Q257 and Q1)



The EaP Average (14,3 mediators per 100,000 inhabitants) is impacted by a considerable number of accredited/registered mediators in the **Republic of Moldova** (43,5). This makes **Armenia** (2,6), **Azerbaijan** (3,7), and **Georgia** (7,6) appear considerably below the region's average.

Compared to 2023, the number of mediators increased in all countries in 2024, reflecting ongoing efforts to promote the mediation profession, as well as to respond to the increasing demand for mediation services. The **Republic of Moldova** continues to lead significantly, showing a steady rise in the number of accredited mediators over a five-year period. **Georgia** follows suit in this regard.

CEPEJ 9.1.8 (Q259)



In all beneficiaries, there are other alternative dispute resolution methods in 2024, including mediation other than court-related mediation and arbitration (**all countries**); and conciliation (**Republic of Moldova, Ukraine**).

Existence of quality standards of judicial systems at national level

CEPEJ 3.7.1 (Q42, Q43)

The existence of quality standards of judicial systems at national level were reported by **all countries**, **except Armenia**, in 2024. **These countries** reported having specialised personnel entitled to implement these standards within courts. In the **Republic of Moldova**, the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) approved the Regulation on the minimum quality standards concerning the organizational activity and administration for first instance courts and courts of appeal. In **Georgia**, the Department of Court Management of the HCJ ensures the efficiency and quality of the common courts system and the quality standards are implemented by court managers.

In respect of prosecution services, only **Georgia** and **Ukraine** reported having specialised personnel entrusted with the implementation of these standards.

Performance and evaluation of judges and prosecutors

CEPEJ 3.7.10, 3.7.11 (Q74, Q75, Q75-1, Q76, Q76-1 and Q77)

Quantitative performance targets for judges

There are quantitative performance targets defined for each judge reportedly only in **Azerbaijan**. In **Azerbaijan**, the Judicial Legal Council is responsible for setting the individual targets for judges; and, if judges do not meet the targets, this is reflected in their individual assessment.

Qualitative individual assessment of judges' work

All beneficiaries, except **Georgia**, reported on the existence of a system of qualitative individual assessment of the judges' work, although in **Georgia** it is done part of the annual evaluation of judges who are still on a 3-year probation period. In **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and the **Republic of Moldova** the judicial power is responsible for setting the criteria for qualitative assessment of the judges' work. **Armenia** and **Ukraine** also report on the role of the Parliament in this process, in view of having the framework for the assessment set in their respective laws. In **Ukraine**, the High Qualification Commission of Judges carries out this assessment. In **Azerbaijan**, recent legislative amendments provide for the establishment by the Judicial and Legal Council of a Judges' Evaluation Committee. In **Armenia** judges are subjected to the qualitative individual assessment of work less frequently than annually. In **Azerbaijan**, the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine**, different frequencies apply.

CEPEJ 3.7.12, 3.7.13 (Q78, Q79, Q79-1, Q80, Q80-1 and Q81)

Quantitative performance targets for prosecutors

No country in the region reported as having quantitative performance targets defined for each public prosecutor.

Qualitative individual assessment of public prosecutors' work

There are reportedly systems of qualitative individual assessment of the public prosecutors' work in all countries. In **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan**, **Georgia** and **Ukraine**, the respective Prosecutors General are responsible for setting the criteria for qualitative assessment of the public prosecutors' work. In **Armenia**, the Qualification Commission also plays respectively a role in the process. In the **Republic of Moldova**, this responsibility belongs to the Superior Council of Prosecutors. In **Azerbaijan** and **Ukraine**, the qualitative assessment is done on an annual basis, while in **Armenia** and **Georgia** it is less frequent. In the **Republic of Moldova**, different frequencies apply depending on the type of the assessment.

Judicial system budget

CEPEJ 1.1.4 (Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5, Q6 and Q13)

Beneficiaries	Annual implemented budget in 2024 (standardised values)	
	Judicial system per capita	Judicial system as % of GDP
Armenia	22,7 €	0,29%
Azerbaijan	15,1 €	0,22%
Georgia	18,6 €	0,20%
Republic of Moldova	25,0 €	0,40%
Ukraine	20,0 €	0,62%
Average	20,3 €	0,34%

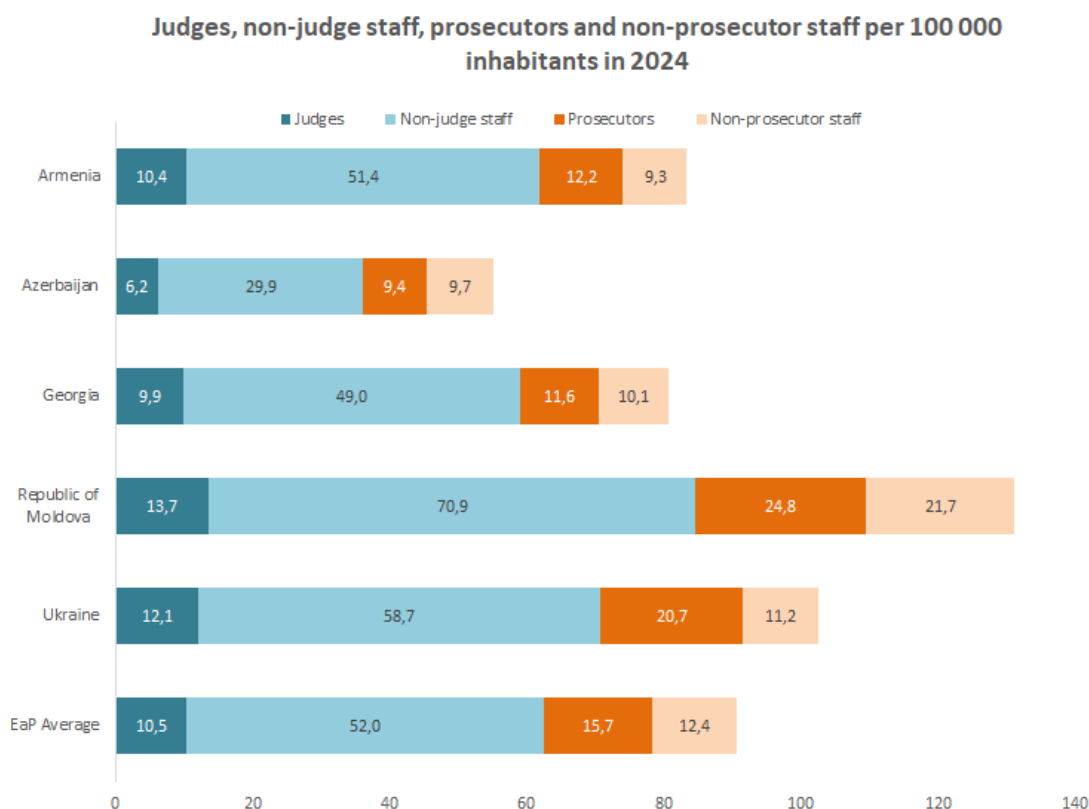
Compared with the EaP Average of 20,3 € in 2024, **Azerbaijan** (15,1 €) spent less in terms of the implemented judicial system budget per capita, while **Armenia** (22,7 €) and the **Republic of Moldova** (25 €) spent more. Ukraine's spending per capita (20 €) is on a par with the EaP Average.

As a % of GDP, compared to the EaP average of 0,34 %, **Georgia** (0,20%), **Azerbaijan** (0,22%) and **Armenia** (0,29%) spent less on the judicial system, while the judicial system spending in the **Republic of Moldova** is slightly higher (0,40% of GDP). **Ukraine's** implemented judicial system budget as a % of GDP (0,62€) is considerably above the EaP Average.

All countries report per capita increases in judicial system budgets implemented over the last 5 years (although to different degrees), which is indicative of continuous commitments to judicial systems' financing.

Number of legal professionals per capita

CEPEJ 2.1.1 (Q 19), 2.1.2 (Q26), 2.1.8 (Q27), 2.2.2 (Q28), 2.2.6 (Q32), 2.3.1 (Q33 - 34)



In 2024, **Azerbaijan** (6,2), **Georgia** (9,9), and **Armenia** (10,4) have a lower number of judges compared to the EaP Average of 10,5 judges per 100 000 inhabitants. **Ukraine** (12,1) and the **Republic of Moldova** (13,7) continue to have a higher number of judges per 100 000 inhabitants.

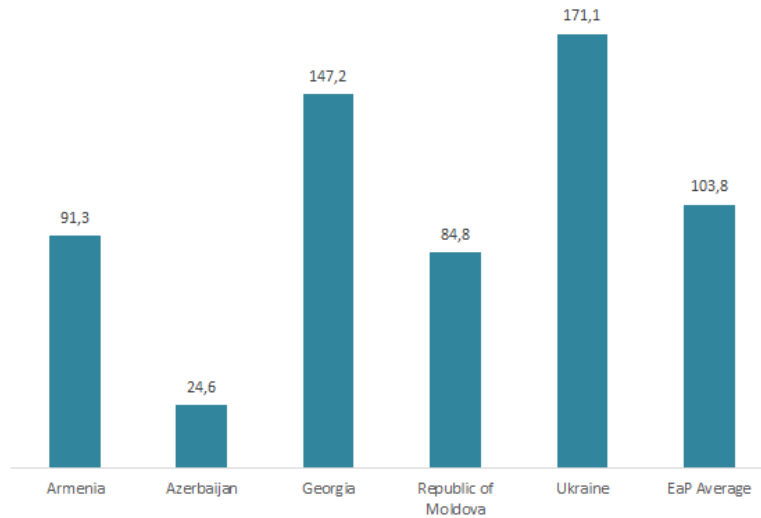
Compared to the EaP Average of 15,7 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants, **Azerbaijan** (9,4), **Georgia** (11,6) and **Armenia** (12,2) report a smaller number, while **Ukraine** (20,7) and the **Republic of Moldova** (24,8) report a higher number of prosecutors.

In 2024, **Azerbaijan** (29,9) reports a considerably smaller number of non-judge staff per 100 000 inhabitants compared to the EaP Average of 52. In **Georgia** (49) and **Armenia** (51,4), there are slightly fewer non-judge staff compared to the EaP Average. The number of non-judge staff per 100 000 inhabitants is higher than the EaP Average in **Ukraine** (58,7) and considerably so in the **Republic of Moldova** (70,9).

Only the **Republic of Moldova** (21,7) is above the EaP Average of 12,4 non-prosecutor staff per 100 000 inhabitants. **Armenia** (9,3), **Azerbaijan** (9,7), **Georgia** (10,1) and **Ukraine** (11,2) continue to have figures below the EaP Average.

The **Republic of Moldova** continues to lead in terms of the number of judges, non-judge staff, and non-prosecutor staff per 100 000 inhabitants, reflecting policy priorities in terms of resources allocated to their judicial system. **Ukraine** and **Armenia** also show significant numbers, while **Georgia** approaches the EaP averages across several categories.

Lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants in 2024



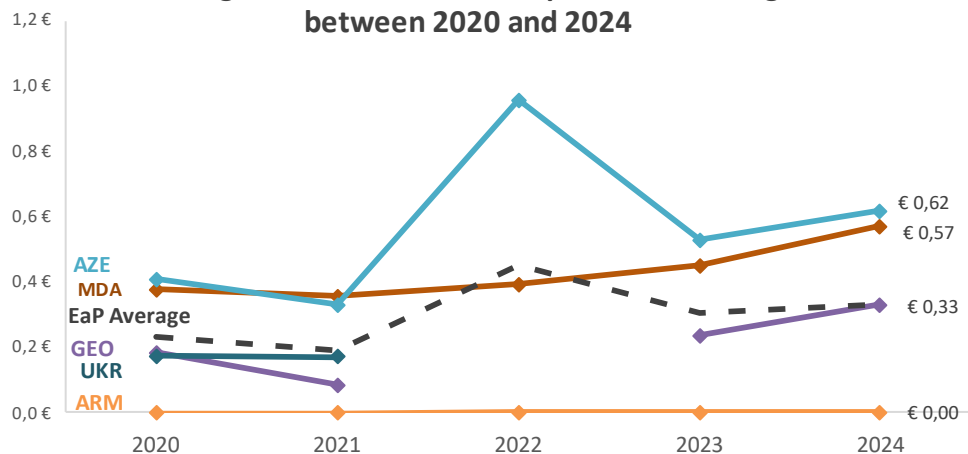
Compared to the EaP Average of 103,8 lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants in 2024, there is a considerably lower number of lawyers in **Azerbaijan** (24,6). The number of lawyers in the **Republic of Moldova** (84,8) and **Armenia** (91,3) are below the average. **Georgia** (147,2) and **Ukraine** (171,1) have a considerably higher number of lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants in 2024.

Overall, **Georgia** and **Ukraine** continue to lead in terms of the number of lawyers per capita in the region, followed by **Armenia** and the **Republic of Moldova**. **Azerbaijan** remains significantly below the regional average, although it showed increases over the last four years.

Trainings

CEPEJ 7.1.3 (Q4, Q6, Q142)

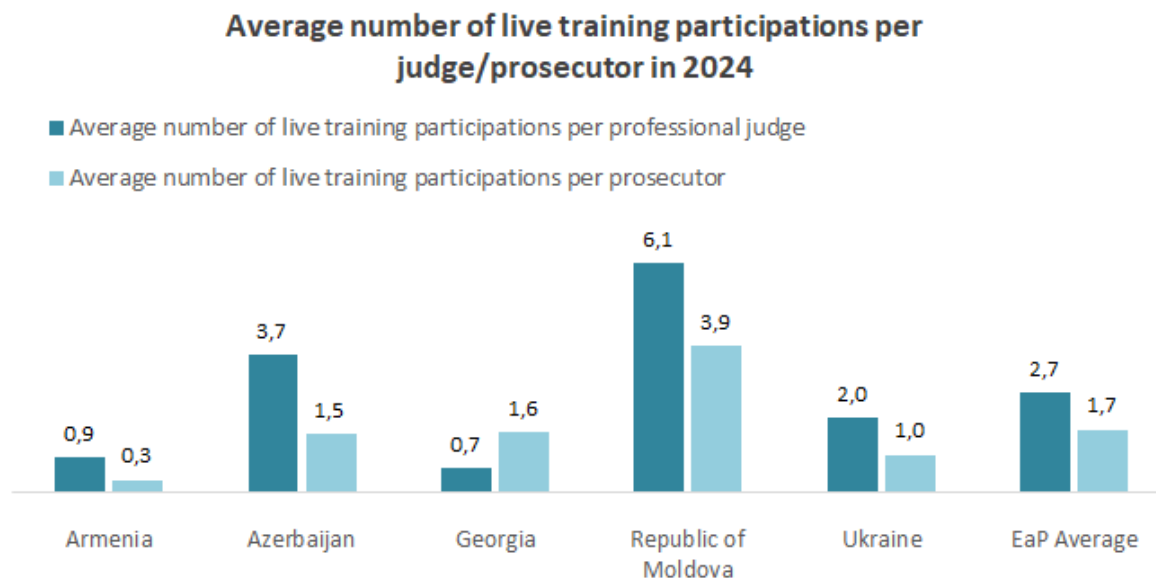
Total budget for training per inhabitant covered by training institutions, court and prosecution budget between 2020 and 2024



Compared to the EaP average of €0,33 per inhabitant in 2024, **Azerbaijan** (€0,62) and the **Republic of Moldova** (€0,57) spent more on judicial training per inhabitant. **Georgia** (€0,33) spent on a par with the EaP Average. In 2024, there was an increase in **Azerbaijan**, **Georgia** and the **Republic of Moldova** in the training budgets per inhabitant compared to 2023. In **Armenia**, the training institution still does not have a separate budget, remaining consistent with previous years.

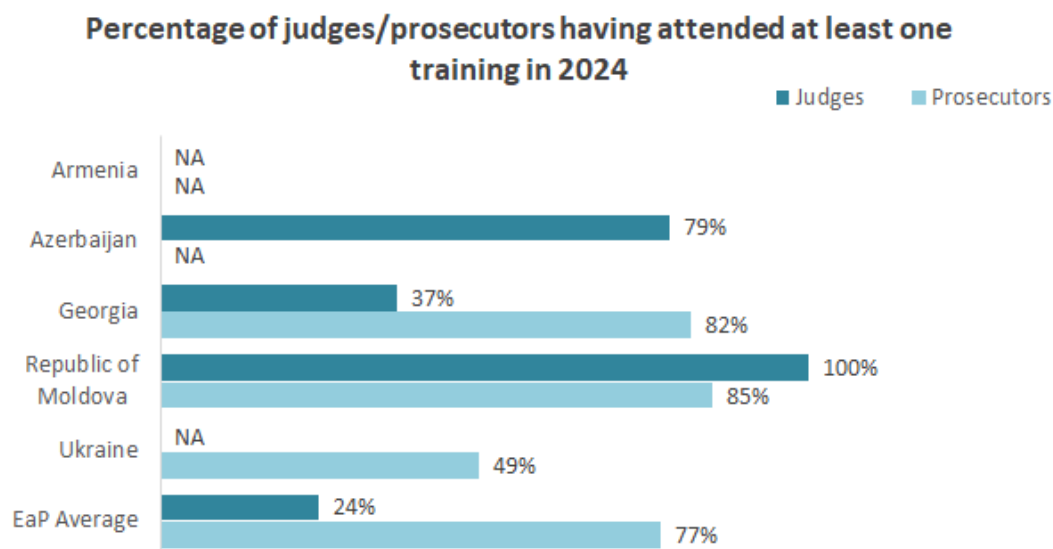
Overall, data appears to show a varied approach to investment in judicial training across the region, with some countries increasing their budgets in this respect, which in general remain modest.

CEPEJ 7.2.5 (Q147 and Q147-1)



Regionally, there are more participations per judge than per prosecutor in trainings (similar to 2023). Thus, in 2024, **judges** in the **Republic of Moldova** (6,1) and **Azerbaijan** (3,7) participated in more live trainings than the EaP Average (2,7), similar to 2023. For **prosecutors**, those in the **Republic of Moldova** (3,9) also participated in more live trainings than the EaP Average (1,7).

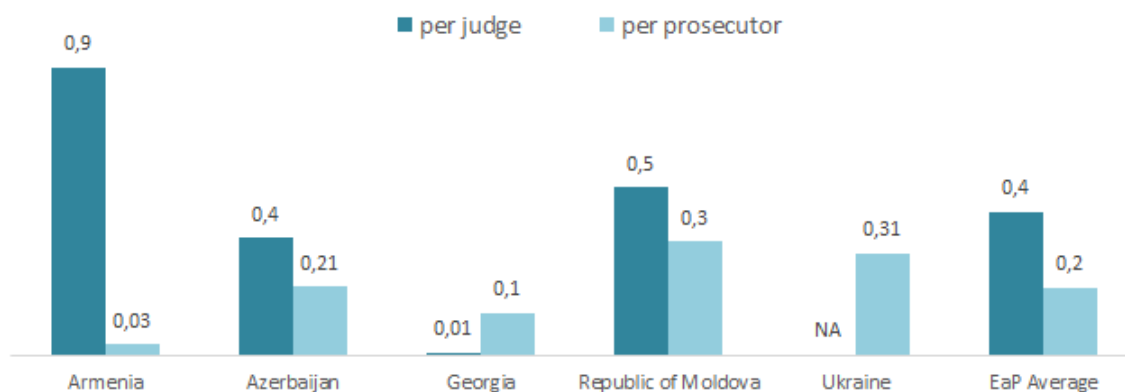
CEPEJ 7.2.8 (Q147-2)



From the data available in 2024, only in the **Republic of Moldova** more judges participated in trainings (100% of judges and 85% of prosecutors), which is above the EaP respective Averages. In **Azerbaijan**, 79% of judges have been reported as participating in at least one training (also above the EaP Average). In **Georgia** more prosecutors (82%) than judges (37%) participated in trainings. 49% of prosecutors in **Ukraine** have participated in at least one training in 2024.

CEPEJ 7.3.1. (Q154-1)

Average number of live training participations in live trainings in EU Law and EU Charter of Fundamental Rights/European Convention on Human Rights in 2024



In terms of participations in live trainings on EU Law and the ECHR in 2024, judges in **Armenia** (0,9) have a higher than EaP Average participation (0,4). Prosecutors' participations in these trainings are above the EaP Average (0,2) in **Ukraine** (0,31), the **Republic of Moldova** (0,3) and **Azerbaijan** (0,21). In 2024, regionally, a slightly lower level of participation per judge in these trainings was recorded (compared to 0,5 in 2023), while it remained the same for prosecutors.

CEPEJ 7.4.2 (Qs 155-2 and 155-3)

An annual **assessment of training needs** is reported as being done in **all beneficiaries** in 2024. The assessment of future training needs is reported as being done through courts/prosecutors' offices in all countries. Trainers, the target audience and previous participants in trainings are also among sources of the assessment of training needs in all countries. In addition to the above, the Ministries of Justice are also a source of identification of training needs in **Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova**. In the **Republic of Moldova**, other authorities (Bar Association, donors, civil society) also play a role in the judicial training needs assessment.

CEPEJ 7.4.3 (Qs 155-4, 155-5, 155-6, 155-7)

All beneficiaries reported in 2024 as having an **evaluation of the in-service judicial training**. It is reportedly done immediately after the training in all, **except Ukraine** (where it is done 3-6 months after the training is delivered). In **Georgia** it is also done 3-6 months after the training delivery. A combination of the Kirkpatrick and other training evaluation models is reported in **Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**. In **Armenia** a survey is used for this purpose and in **Azerbaijan** the evaluation is done based on questionnaires submitted at the end of the training. The feedback is mostly used to improve the training course and to introduce new courses (in all countries), to replace the training providers (all countries, except **Georgia**), to prepare a training evaluation report with recommendations (in **Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**) and to suppress a training course (in **Armenia and Azerbaijan**).

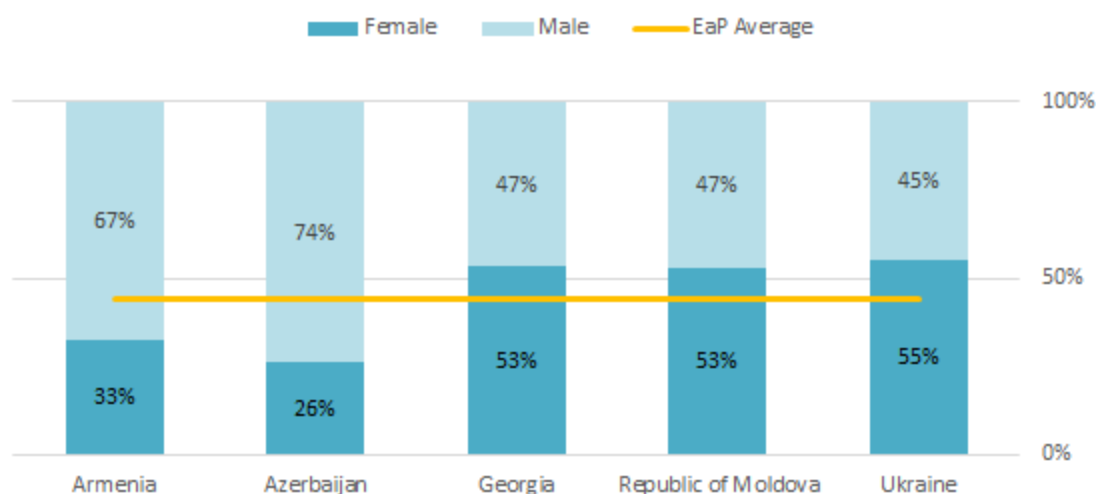
Gender profile of legal professions

In the following graphs concerning gender balance, the EaP Average represents the regional repartition between male and female.

Judges

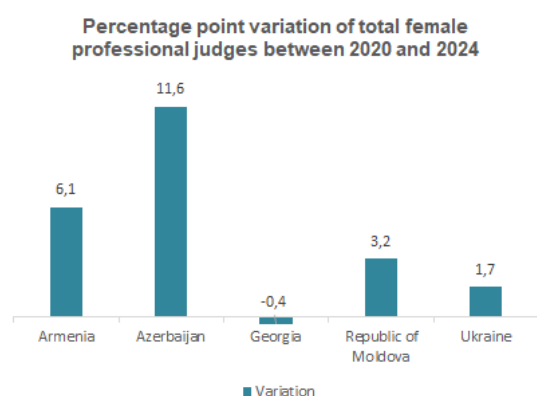
CEPEJ 12.1.1 (Q19)

Distribution of the total male and female judges in 2024



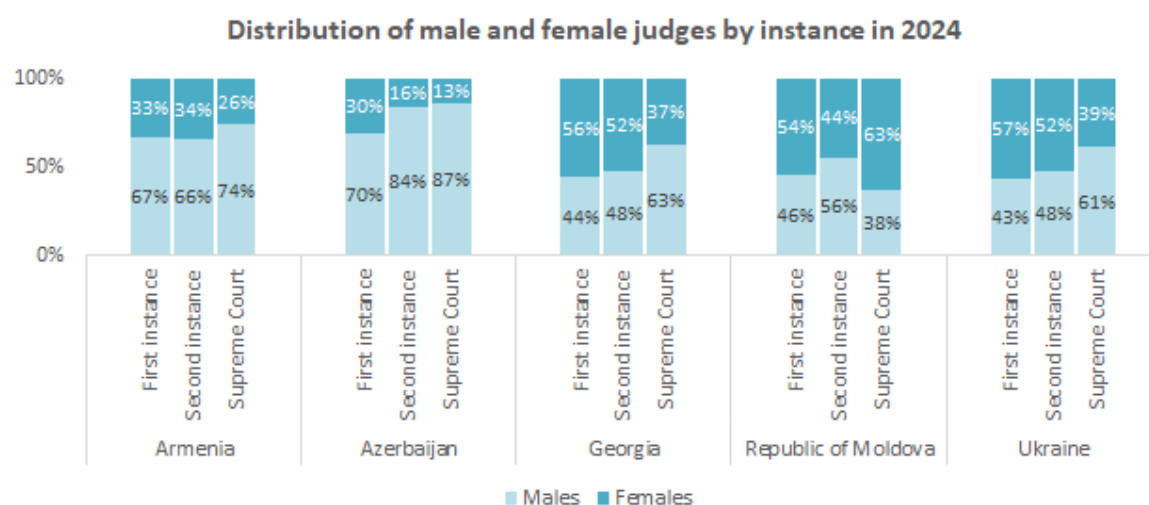
In 2024, the percentage of total female professional judges remains below the EaP average of 44,1% in **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan** (33% and 26% respectively). In **Georgia** (53%), the **Republic of Moldova** (53%) and **Ukraine** (55%), the percentage of female judges is above the EaP average. In these three countries, the representation of female judges has not only surpassed the EaP average but has also shows an increase since 2021. However, data in **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan**, although showing a slight increase compared to 2023, continues to indicate towards the underrepresentation of female judges, highlighting a continued challenge in achieving gender parity in these judiciaries.

CEPEJ 12.1.1 (Q19)



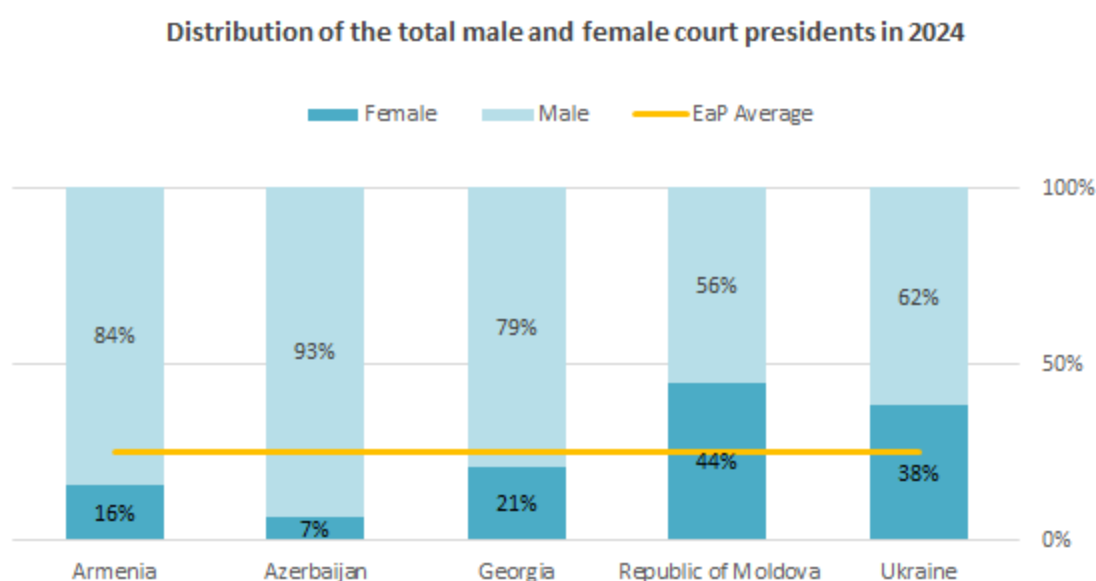
Compared to 2020, the presence of female professional judges in 2024 has shown notable increases in all beneficiary countries, except **Georgia** (which showed a -0,4 percentage points variation, to be seen in connection with data above). **Azerbaijan** saw the highest increase with a notable 11,6 percentage points variation, indicating a commitment to improvement in gender balance. **Armenia** experienced a significant rise of 6,1 percentage points. In the **Republic of Moldova**, there was an increase of 3,2 percentage points. **Ukraine** also showed a 1,7 percentage points increase.

CEPEJ 12.1.2 (Q19)



Indications of a glass ceiling continue to be evident in all countries in the 2024 data. There are fewer women judges in second instance courts compared to first instance courts in all countries, except Armenia (where there are 33% women judges in first instance and 34% in second instance). In **Azerbaijan**, the percentage of female judges is 30% in first instance courts, but only 16% in second instance and 13% in the Supreme Court. **Georgia** shows a higher representation of women with 56% in first instance courts, 52% in second instance courts, and 37% in the Supreme Court. In the **Republic of Moldova**, there is 54% female representation in first instance courts, 44% in second instance courts, and 63% in the Supreme Court. Finally, in **Ukraine**, female judges make up 57% of first instance courts, 52% of second instance courts, and 39% of the Supreme Court. The trend shows some improvement in gender balance at various levels, yet the underrepresentation of women in higher courts remains manifest in all counties, although to various degrees.

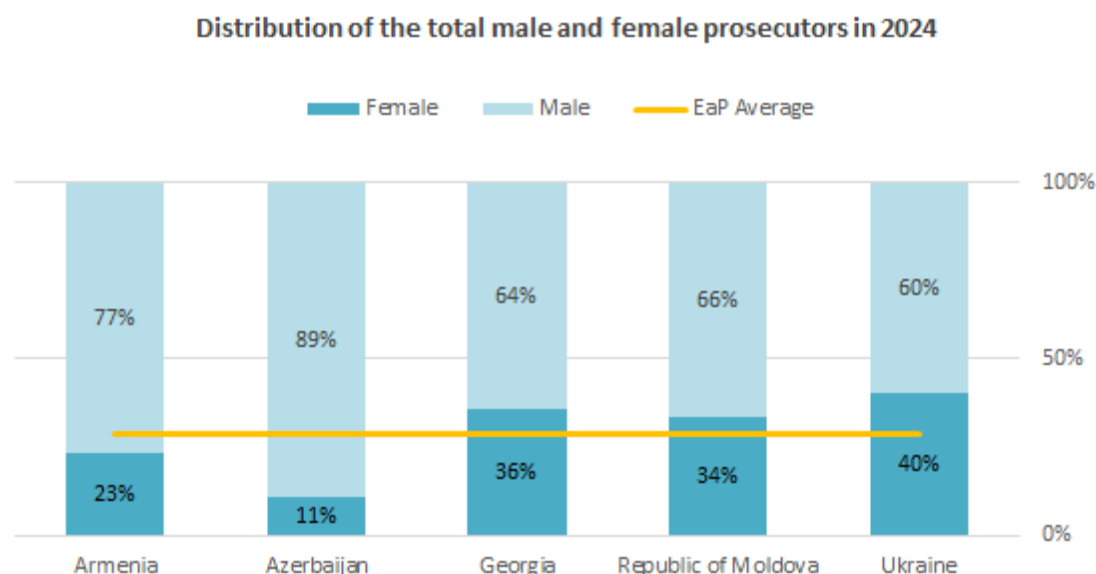
CEPEJ 12.1.3 (Q19-1)



The distribution of male and female court presidents in 2024 continues to indicate the presence of a glass ceiling in all countries, with some notable variations compared to 2023. The highest percentage of female court presidents is observed in **the Republic of Moldova** (44% vs 35% in 2023) and **Ukraine** (38% vs 37% in 2023). In **Azerbaijan**, the percentage of female court presidents stands at 7% (an increase from 2% in 2023), in **Armenia** at 16% (a decrease from 21% in 2023), while **Georgia** shows 21% (an increase from 17% in 2023) of female representation in this role.

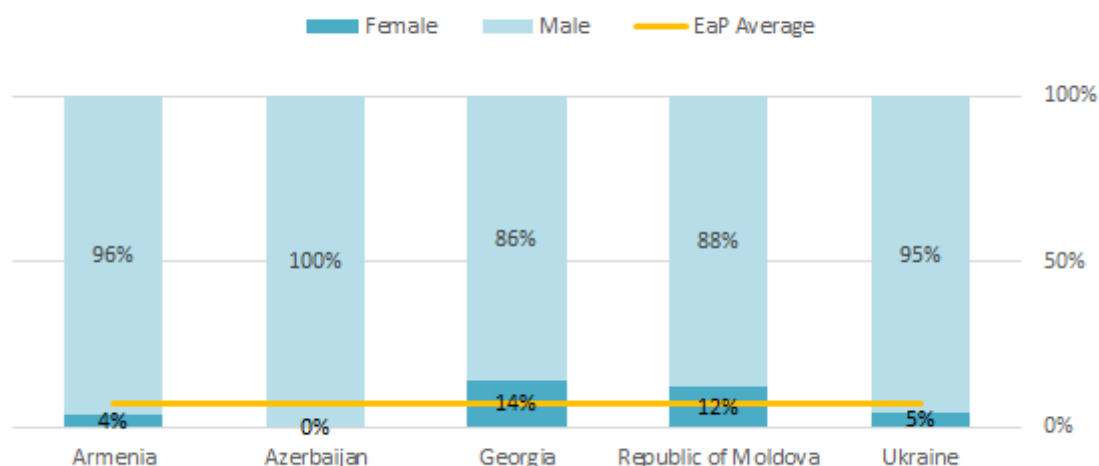
Prosecutors

CEPEJ 12.2.1 (Q28)



The presence of total female prosecutors in **Azerbaijan** (11%) and **Armenia** (23%) is below the EaP average. Although there is a greater presence of total female prosecutors in the **Republic of Moldova** (34%), **Georgia** (36%), and **Ukraine** (40%), the gender balance in the prosecutors' profession remains an aspiration in the region also in 2024.

Distribution of the total male and female heads of prosecution offices in 2024

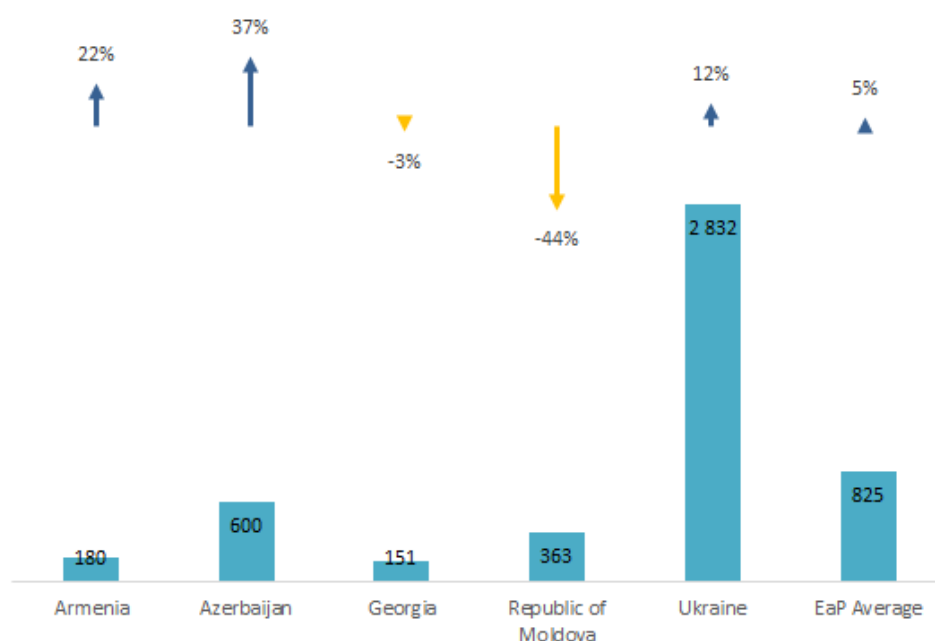


Regionally, there remains a very low presence of female heads of prosecution offices. In 2024, there was no female head of prosecution office in **Azerbaijan** and only one female head of prosecution office in **Armenia**. Although, there was some presence of female heads of prosecution offices in **Georgia** (14%), the **Republic of Moldova** (12%) and **Ukraine** (5%), the distribution of genders in these positions could be seen as indicative of a glass ceiling in the region (to be seen together with total male and female prosecutors, above).

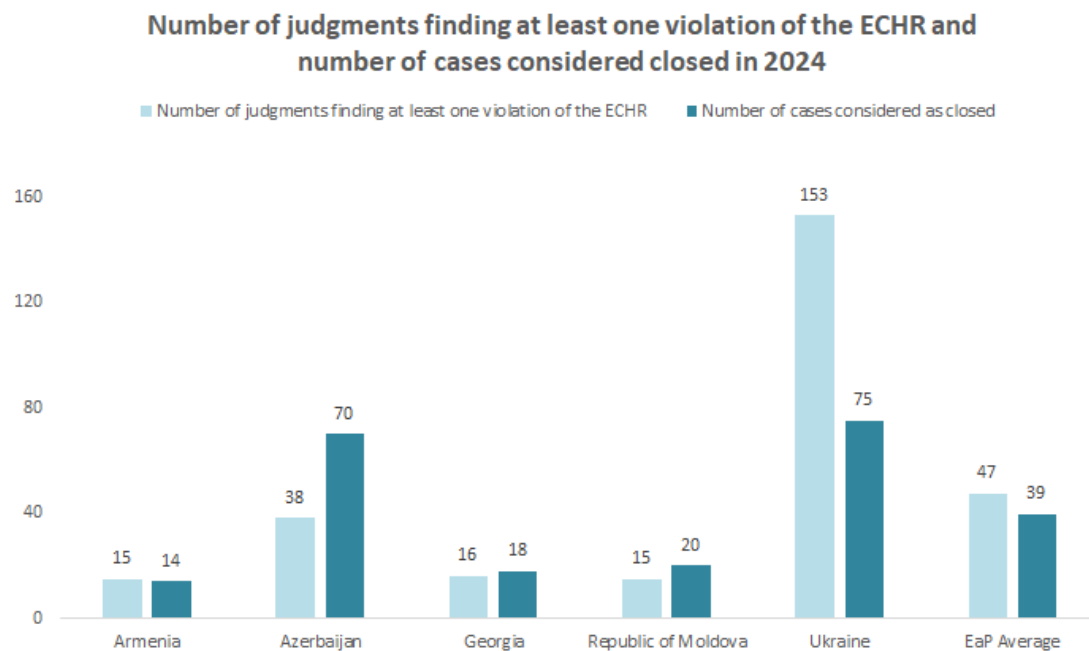
Number of judgements finding ECHR violations

CEPEJ 10.1.3 (Q262 and Q263)

Applications allocated to an ECHR judicial formation in 2024 and % variation between 2023 and 2024



In terms of the number of applications at the ECtHR, in 2024, the highest numbers were in respect of **Ukraine** (2 832), showing an increase by 12% compared to 2023 and **Azerbaijan** (600), showing a 37% increase. **Armenia** also saw an increase by 22%, with the number of applications rising to 180 in 2024. **Georgia** had a slight decrease of -3%, reaching 151 applications in 2024. The **Republic of Moldova** showed a significant decrease of 44%, with 363 applications in 2024. On average, the EaP region saw a 5% increase in applications (compared to a 17% increase in 2023), given a growing number of applications to the ECtHR in some of these countries.



In 2024, the ECtHR issued 153 judgments finding at least one violation of the ECHR in respect of **Ukraine** (above the EaP Average of 47) and 75 cases against Ukraine were considered as closed after a judgment of the ECtHR (vs EaP Average of 39). In respect of **Azerbaijan**, 38 judgments finding at least one violation of the ECHR have been issued, and 70 cases were considered as closed. The ECtHR issued 15 judgments finding at least one violation in respect of the **Republic of Moldova** and 20 cases in its respect were considered as closed. In respect of **Georgia**, the ECtHR issued 16 judgments finding at least one violation and 18 cases were considered as closed. There were 15 judgments finding at least one violation of the ECHR in the case of **Armenia** and 14 cases were considered as closed.

III. Mandates of judges and prosecutors

Entry criteria to become a judge or a prosecutor

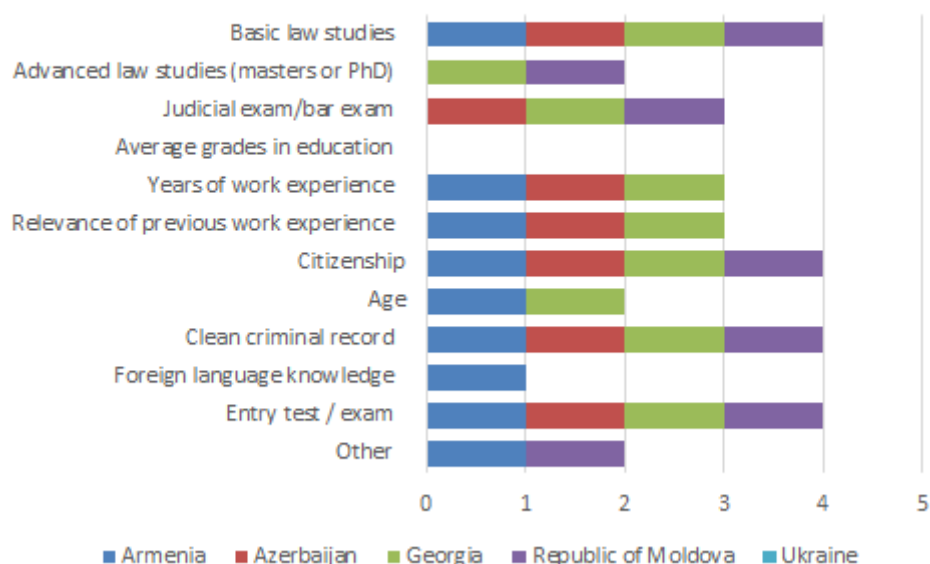
The entry criteria are general requirements that candidates need to fulfil to be shortlisted to participate in the exam to enter the judicial academy, or to be pre-selected for a procedure of recruitment to become a judge without judicial academy. Here, judicial academy should be understood as an institution responsible for training, but which also has a role in the appointment and recruitment procedure of future judges.

- **Entry criteria to become a judge**

CEPEJ 5.1.2 (Q90)

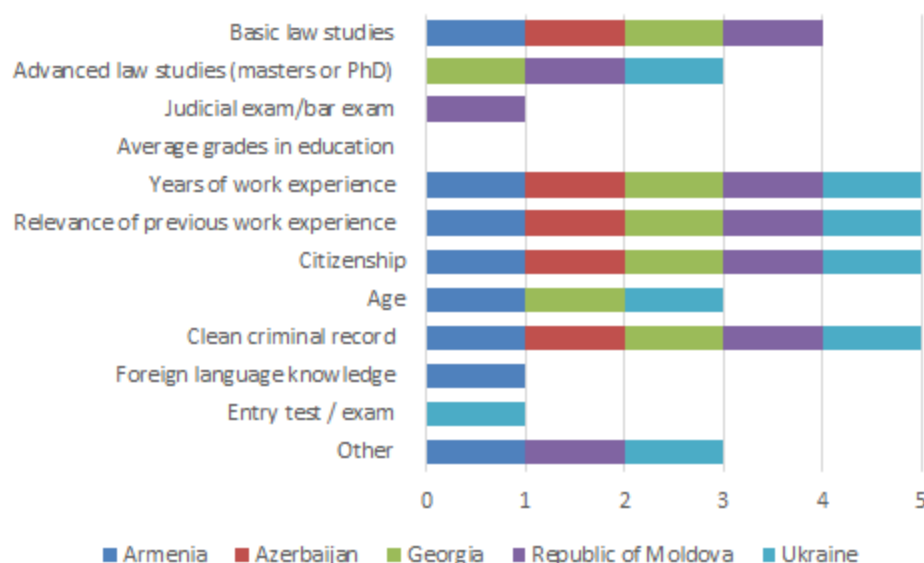
All countries, except **Ukraine**, reported that in 2024 it is possible to become a judge either via judicial academy, or outside of judicial academy. In **Ukraine** judges are only selected outside of a judicial academy.

Entry criteria via Judicial Academy to become a judge in 2024



Thus, in **all countries** for the entry into profession through a Judicial Academy, citizenship, a clean criminal record, basic law studies are among entry criteria. Also, all candidates in all these countries are required to take an entry test. **Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia** also require candidates to fulfil the requirements of years and relevance of previous work experience. Advanced law studies (masters or PhD) are required in **Georgia** and **the Republic of Moldova**. **Armenia** and **Georgia** require candidates to fulfil the age criteria between 25 and 60 in **Armenia**; and to be at least 30 years old in **Georgia**. **Armenia** also requires the candidates to know at least one language from among English, Russian, and French, at the required level which shall be prescribed by the Supreme Judicial Council and checked through standardised test systems. The knowledge of the official language, a specific medical certificate, and a declaration of assets and interests are among other criteria in the **Republic of Moldova**.

Entry criteria without Judicial Academy to become a judge in 2024

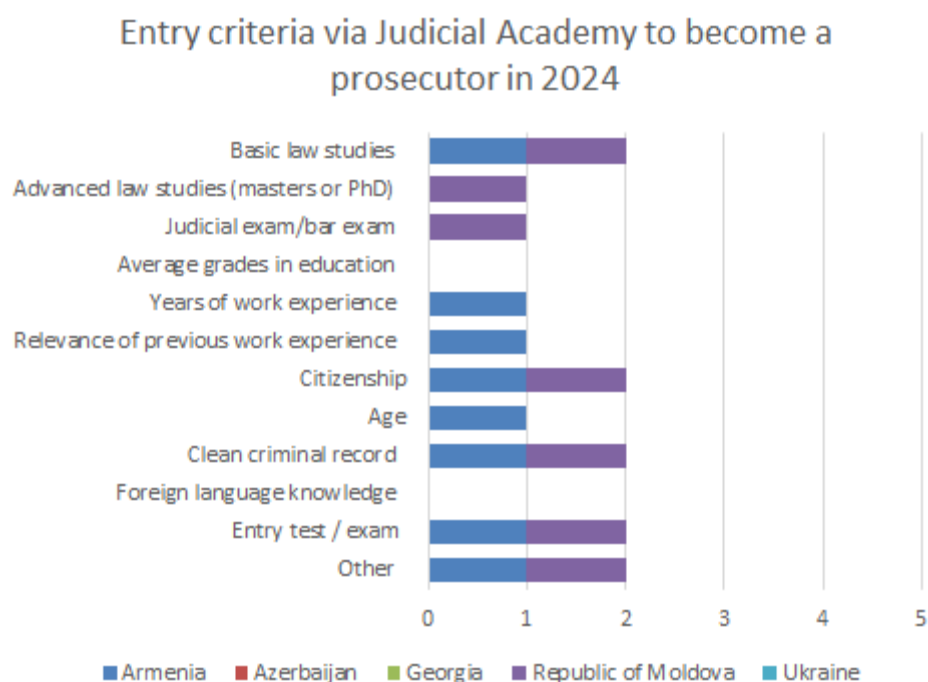


Certain commonalities are observed in all five countries. In terms of Professional Experience and Qualifications: **all countries** require significant professional experience in the legal field. For instance, **Armenia** requires at least 8 years in the last 10 years, **Azerbaijan** requires 20 years for high judicial positions, and the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine** require 5 years in the field of law. Candidates must fulfil the requirement of citizenship and have a clean criminal record in **all countries**.

In terms of exemptions from judicial academy training: **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan** allow experienced legal professionals to bypass training, while **Georgia** exempts former SC judges, former common courts judges with 18 months experience and current Constitutional Court judges. However, in the **Republic of Moldova**, even exempt candidates (except for certain judges) must pass a graduation exam at the National Institute of Justice.

Ukraine specifies an age range (30 to 65 years) for candidates, or language requirement (it requires candidates to command the official language at a specific level). Recent legislative amendments in Ukraine in force as of December 2023, provide for the approval by the High Council of Justice of Uniform Indicators for Assessing the Integrity and Professional Ethics of a Judge (Candidate for the Position of Judge), as well as an examination of the personal moral and psychological qualities of candidates for the position of judge.

- **Entry criteria to become a prosecutor**
CEPEJ 5.2.2 (Q112)



In 2024, in **Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine**, there is no judicial academy to become a prosecutor, while in **Armenia and the Republic of Moldova**, it is possible to become a prosecutor via studying in the judicial academy or without.

In Armenia, to enter the judicial academy, candidates must have basic law studies, relevant work experience, a clean criminal record (with an exception: an individual convicted of an intentional crime cannot be appointed as a prosecutor, regardless of whether the criminal record has been expunged or removed) and take an entry test. "Years of work experience" is a criterion only for the prosecutor of a unit performing functions aimed at the confiscation of property of illegal origin, where at least two years of professional experience as a lawyer is required for the appointment. Other criteria include being a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, between the ages of 22 and 65, with a command of the Armenian language.

In the Republic of Moldova, candidates must have Moldovan citizenship, advanced law studies, a clean criminal record, and pass an entry examination. Additional criteria include a medical certificate, knowledge of the official language of the Republic of Moldova, no records of negative outcomes in their professional integrity test in the past five years and the submission of a declaration of assets.

Entry criteria without Judicial Academy to become a prosecutor in 2024



In **all countries**, candidates must have a clean criminal record and their respective countries' citizenship. In **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia**, candidates must have basic law studies, while in **Armenia**, the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine** advanced law studies are required. A judicial exam is required in **Georgia** and the **Republic of Moldova**. In **Armenia**, the list of candidates exempted from studying at the Academy of Justice is established by Article 38 (10) of the "Law on the Prosecutor's Office". For example, this applies to candidates who are Doctors of Law with at least three years of experience in the field of law. In the **Republic of Moldova**, candidates can be exempted from studying at the National Institute of Justice based on relevant previous work experience (they, nevertheless, pass the judicial exam).

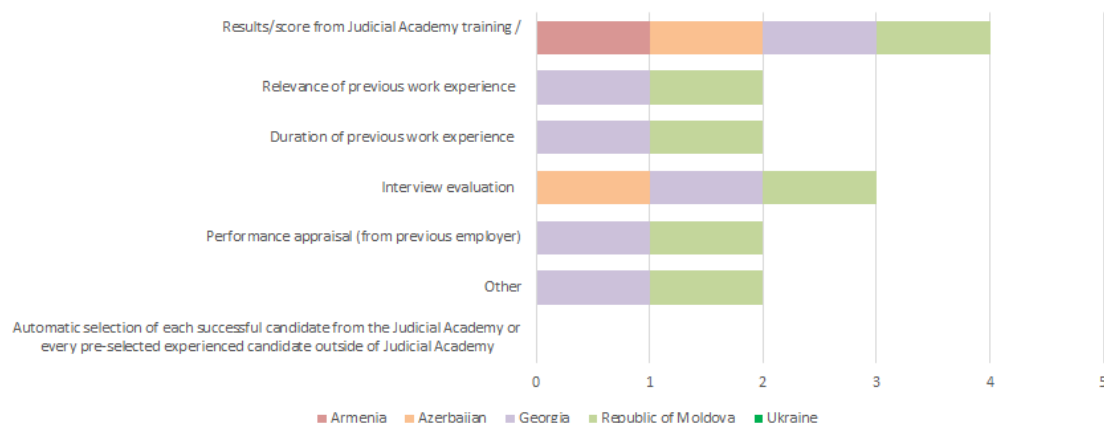
Criteria in selection procedure for judges and prosecutors

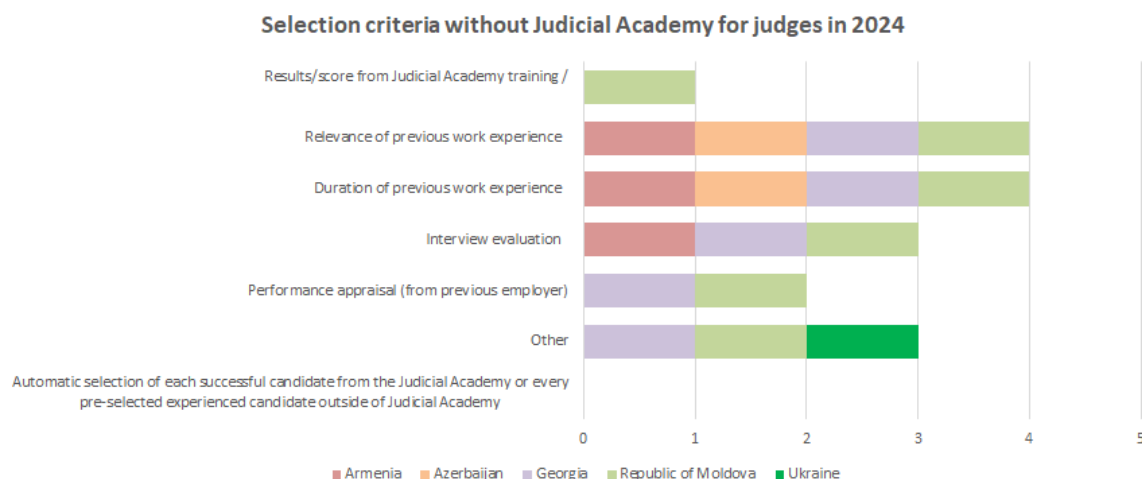
The criteria in selection procedure are the criteria which are used to decide which individuals from the pool of pre-selected candidates are best suited for becoming judges or prosecutors.

- **Selection criteria to become a judge**

CEPEJ 5.1.6 (Q97)

Selection criteria via Judicial Academy for judges in 2024





In **Armenia**, the selection of candidates is made based on their results from the Academy of Justice. For candidates who were exempted from studying at the academy, the selection is made on the results from an interview while considering the relevance and duration of previous work experience.

In **Azerbaijan**, the selection is made based on their results from the Academy of Justice and on a final interview with the members of the Committee of the Judicial Legal Council in charge of the selection of judges.

In **Georgia**, the selection is made based on the results from the High School of Justice for concerned candidates and on an interview, relevance, duration of the previous work experience and performance appraisals are also considered. Two criteria are used in this process: good faith (integrity) and competence. The characteristics of good faith are personal good faith and professional conscience; independence, impartiality, and fairness; personal and professional behaviour; personal and professional reputation. The characteristics of competence are knowledge of legal norms; ability of legal substantiation and competence; writing and verbal communication skills; professional qualities; academic achievements and professional training; professional activity.

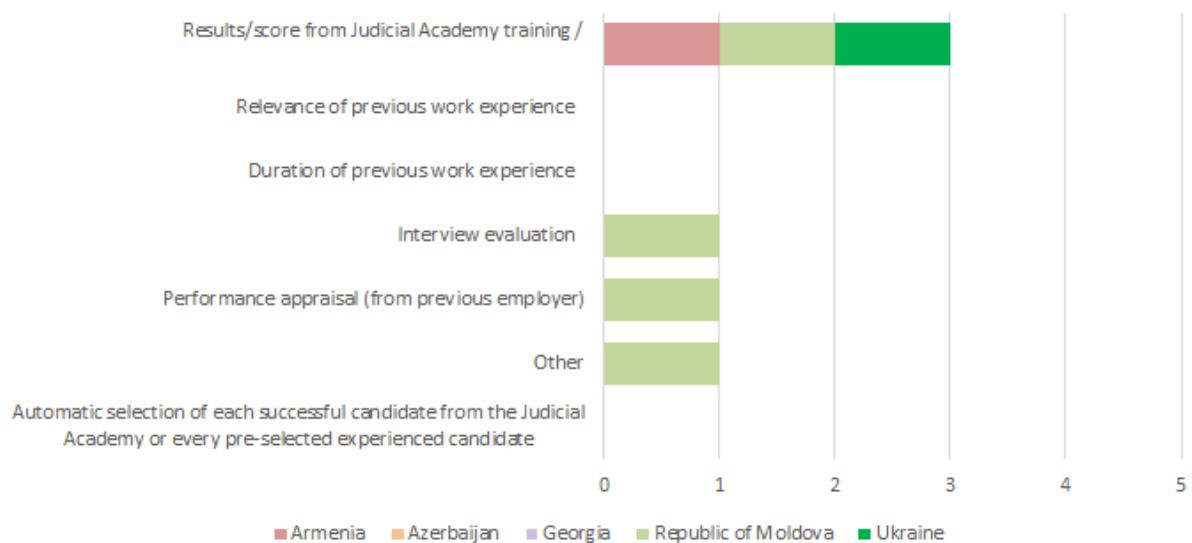
In the **Republic of Moldova**, the selection is made based on the results from the National Institute of Justice for concerned candidates, relevance and duration of previous work experience, integrity checks run through the National Integrity Authority, the National Anticorruption Center and the Intelligence and Security Service, as well as an interview. Recently, other criteria have been added, including *inter alia* participation in non-formal education activities, projects or initiatives and knowledge of one of the official languages of the Council of Europe.

In **Ukraine**, the selection is made based on the results of the selection examination managed by the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine, which allows persons who, based on the results of the examination, meet the requirements established by the Law for a candidate for judicial office at the time of application, to participate in selection and take the selection exam, followed by a special background check and special training.

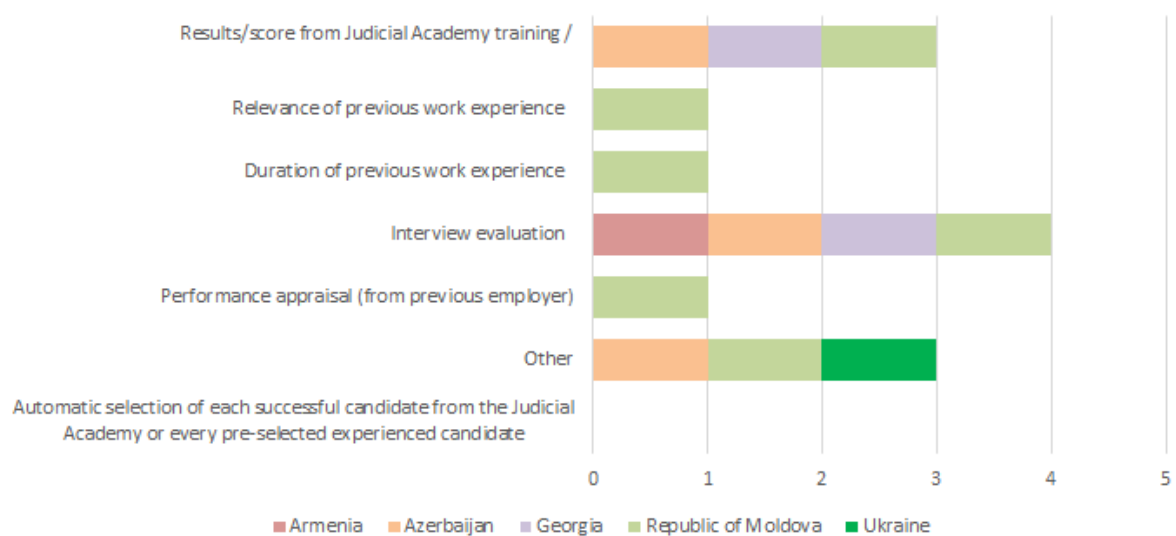
- **Selection criteria to become a prosecutor**

CEPEJ 5.2.6 (Q119)

Selection criteria via Judicial Academy for prosecutors in 2024



Selection criteria without Judicial Academy for prosecutors in 2024



In **Armenia** the selection of prosecutors is made based on the results from the Academy of Justice. For candidates who were exempted to study at the Academy, the selection is made based on the results from an interview.

In **Azerbaijan** the selection is made through an interview, after successfully passing the exam. Criteria used are efficiency, the level of professionalism, the results of work and moral qualities.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, an interview is conducted both for candidates who went through the judicial academy and those who were exempted. Candidates entering the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) must file declarations of assets and interests, which are subject to verification and control by the National Integrity Authority. Additionally, selection criteria include inter alia the NIJ graduation average, professional experience, ethics, teaching experience, knowledge of foreign languages.

In **Georgia**, an interview is also conducted. The candidates based on their working and moral qualities, as well as health status, must be able to perform the duties of a prosecutor or investigator of the Prosecution Service.

In **Ukraine**, the selection is made by the relevant body conducting disciplinary proceedings based on results of the qualification exam and the relevant work experience.

Authorities responsible for the appointment and promotion of judges and prosecutors

In this paragraph are presented the authorities, which are responsible for the selection, the formal appointment and the promotion of judges and prosecutors.

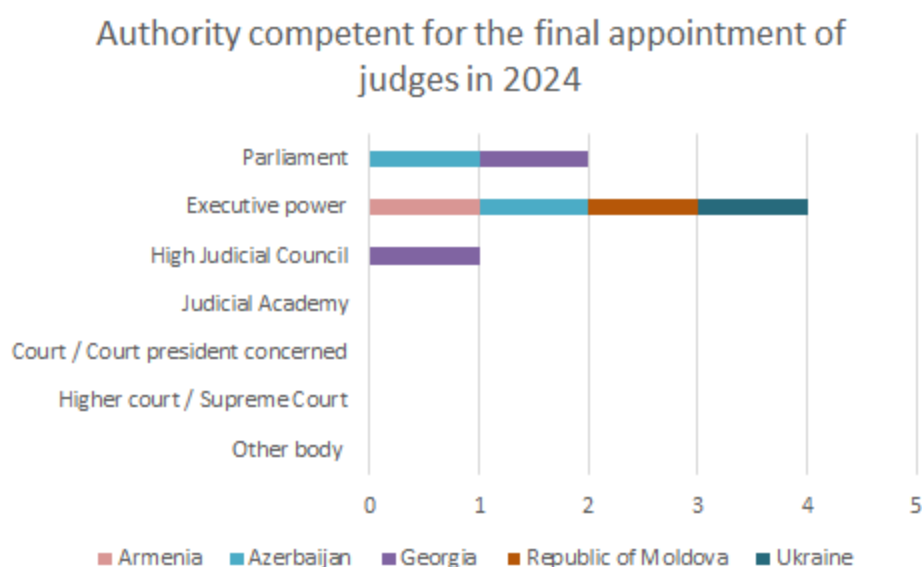
- **Authorities responsible for the selection of judges**

CEPEJ 5.1.8 (Q98)

In all countries, except **Ukraine**, the authority responsible for the selection of judges is the High Judicial Council. In **Ukraine**, the authority responsible is the High Qualification Commission of Judges. In **Georgia**, the Parliament, along with the High Judicial Council, plays a role in the selection of the Supreme Court judges.

- **Authorities responsible for the final appointment of judges**

CEPEJ 5.1.9 (Q99 and Q100)



In **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan**, the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine**, the respective Presidents are in charge of the final appointment of judges. In **the Republic of Moldova**, all judges at all instances are appointed by the President. In **Georgia**, first and second instance judges are appointed by the High Judicial Council, while Supreme Court judges are appointed by the Parliament. In **Azerbaijan**, when judges are appointed under a special procedure, their appointment to appellate and cassation instances is carried out by a decision of the Milli Majlis (Parliament).

In all countries, except **Ukraine**, the responsible authority has the right to appoint some and reject some among the selected (proposed) candidates. In **Ukraine**, the responsible authority only confirms all the selected (proposed) candidates.

- **Authorities responsible for the selection of prosecutors**

CEPEJ 5.2.8 (Q120)

In **Armenia**, the authority competent for the selection of prosecutors is the Qualification Commission. The Qualification Commission consists of one deputy of the Prosecutor General, four prosecutors, three law academics and the Rector of the Academy of Justice. In **Azerbaijan** the selection is made by Prosecutor General's Office. In **Georgia**, since December 2023, the Career Management, Ethics, and Incentives Council is responsible for the selection procedure of prosecutors, replacing the Internship Commission. The Council is composed of the First Deputy Prosecutor General, three Deputy General Prosecutors, eight members of the Prosecutorial Council, the Head of the PSG General Inspectorate, the Head of the PSG Human Resources Management and Development Department, and the Head of the PSG Department for Supervision over Prosecutorial Activities and Strategic Development. In the **Republic of Moldova**, the High Prosecutorial Council through its Selection and Evaluation Board is the responsible entity. In **Ukraine**, the authority responsible is the Qualification and Disciplinary Commission of Prosecutors.

- **Authorities responsible for the final appointment of prosecutors**

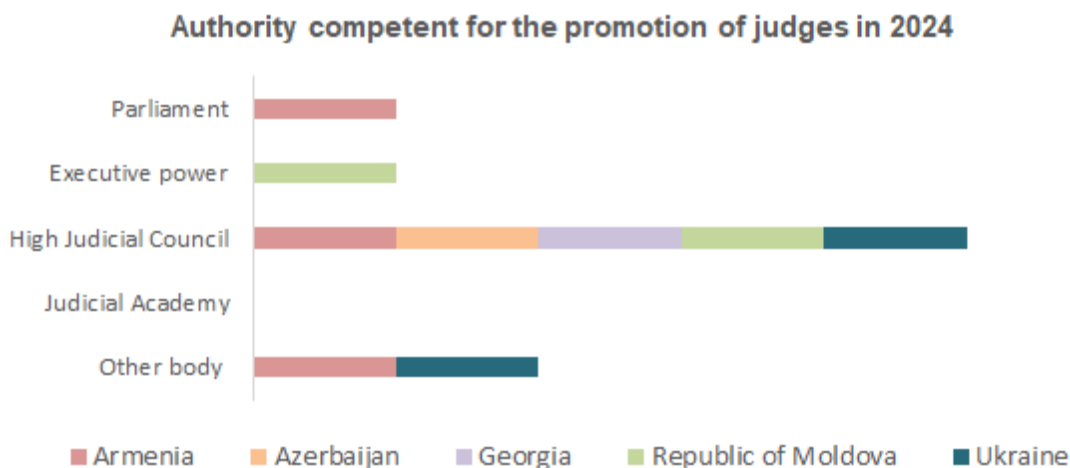
CEPEJ 5.2.9 (Q121 and Q121-1)

In all countries, except **Ukraine**, the final appointment is made by the Prosecutor General who has a right to appoint some and reject some among the selected (proposed) candidates.

In **Ukraine**, final appointments are made by the heads of public prosecutor's offices who only confirms all the selected (proposed) candidates.

- **Authorities responsible for the promotion of judges**

CEPEJ 6.1.1 (Q132)



In **all countries**, the High Judicial Councils have competencies in the promotion of judges.

In **Armenia**, the Supreme Judicial Council supplements the list of candidates to the President of the Republic. Regarding the Supreme Court, judges are also appointed by the President of the Republic but upon recommendation of the National Assembly.

In **Azerbaijan**, the Judicial Legal Council is the authority in charge of judges' promotion.

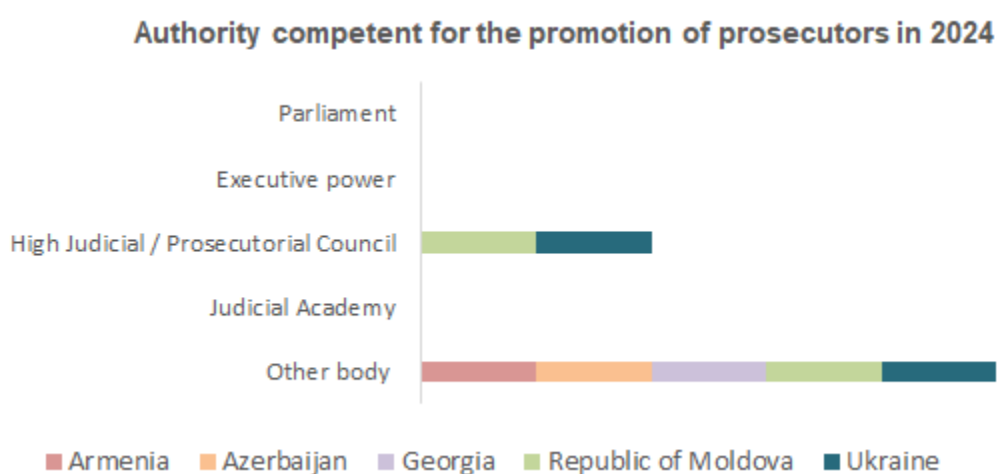
In **Georgia**, the promotion of district court judges to courts of appeals is conducted by the High Judicial Council. The election to the position of a Supreme Court judge is conducted by the Parliament, upon nomination of candidates by the High Judicial Council.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the Superior Council of Magistracy proposes the candidates as a result of the evaluation process to the President of the country. In 2024, the vetting process continued in the judiciary.

In **Ukraine** the promotion of judges is conducted by the High Judicial Council and the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine.

- **Authorities responsible for the promotion of prosecutors**

CEPEJ 6.1.4 (Q137)



In **Armenia**, the authority competent for the promotion of prosecutors is the Qualification Commission (see explanations on this Commission in the paragraph on selection of prosecutors).

In **Azerbaijan**, the authority competent for the promotion of prosecutors is the Prosecutor's General Office.

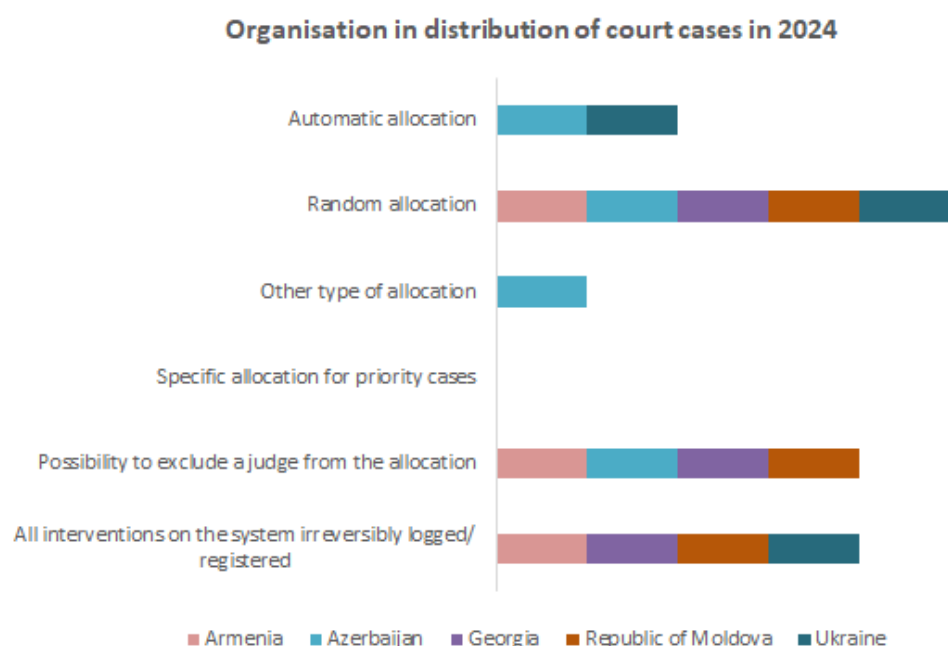
In **Georgia**, the authorities competent for the promotion of prosecutors are the Career Management, Ethics and Incentives Council (created on 22 April 2019) and the General Prosecutor. The General Prosecutor promotes the candidates recommended by the Career Management, Ethics, and Incentives Council. He/she may decline the recommended promotion but shall provide the reasons thereof.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the authority competent for the promotion of prosecutors is the Prosecutor General, who acts on the proposals for promotion made by the Superior Council of Prosecutors.

In **Ukraine**, the following are reported as being involved in the process of promotions together with the High Prosecutorial Council: Prosecutor General, heads of regional prosecutor's offices, Deputy Prosecutor General - Head of the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office.

Allocation of cases

CEPEJ 8.6.1 (Q183, Q184)



The random allocation of court cases (using random algorithm) is reported as being in place by all countries. No country reported having in place specific allocation procedures for priority cases.

In all countries except **Ukraine**, there is a possibility to exclude a judge from the distribution. In **Armenia**, a judge may, in case s/he is in charge of a case of particular complexity, apply to the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) proposing to be temporarily removed from the distribution list or to have a different percentage of cases to be distributed to him/her. In **Azerbaijan**, there is a possibility to exclude a judge due to the judge's illness, business trip or vacation, in case a higher court sends the case back to a lower court for reconsideration. In the **Republic of Moldova**, according to a Regulation approved by the SCM, if a judge goes on annual leave for a period exceeding half of the total duration of the annual leave for the current year, the president of the court shall, by a reasoned decision, order his/her blocking from the list of judges eligible for random allocation in 5 calendar days before going on a leave, and the judge will be included in the list with active judges for case distribution from the day of returning to work, with the exception of the Supreme Court of Justice.

All countries, except Azerbaijan, report all interventions as being irreversibly logged/registered in the system.

Organisation of reassignment of court cases

CEPEJ 8.6.2 (Q185, Q185-1, Q186, Q187 and Q188)

Beneficiaries	Reasons for reassigning a case			
	Conflict of interest declared by the judge or by the parties	Recusal of the judge or requested by the parties	Physical unavailability (illness, longer absence)	Other
Armenia				
Azerbaijan				
Georgia				
Republic of Moldova				
Ukraine				

In **all countries**, a case can be reassigned due to the recusal of the judge requested by the parties and due to the physical unavailability (illness, longer absence). In **all countries, except Armenia**, a case can be re-assigned due to a conflict of interest declared by the judge or by the parties. Other reasons for case reassignment in **Armenia** are specified in the Judicial Code and include among others, secondment or transfer of a judge to another court, participation in the examination of the case in question in the past or the suspension of judge's power. In the **Republic of Moldova**, the court president may order the random redistribution of the file to another judge or another panel of judges in other justified cases, with the issuance of a reasoned decision.

Beneficiaries	Does the reassignment of cases have to be reasoned?		
	Yes for all reassignments	Yes for some reassignments	No
Armenia			
Azerbaijan			
Georgia			
Republic of Moldova			
Ukraine			

In **all countries**, except Georgia, all re-assignments must be reasoned. In **Georgia** only some re-assignments must be reasoned, and they concern recusal issues, envisaged by criminal, civil and administrative procedure coded and as specified in the "Rule on Electronic Case Allocation System".

Beneficiaries	Reassignments of cases processed through the computerised distribution of cases	If yes, how are reassignments of cases processed:				
		Automatic allocation	Random allocation	By discretion of a president of a court	Other	All interventions on the system are irreversibly logged/ registered
Armenia						
Azerbaijan						
Georgia						
Republic of Moldova						
Ukraine						

In all countries, the re-assignment is processed through the computerised distribution of cases and by random algorithm. In **Armenia**, the redistribution of cases for judges absent due to long-term incapacity or childcare leave is decided by the court president upon a justified request to ensure timely case examination, while cases during short absences or regular vacations generally are not redistributed except for urgent matters. In appellate and cassation courts, case reassignment and judge replacement follow specific procedures involving software tools or court presidents, with detailed rules outlined in the Supreme Judicial Council's decision of 2021. In the **Republic of Moldova**, considering the judge's specialisation (insolvency, civil, criminal, adoption, administrative, investigative judges), the president of a court establishes at the beginning of the year by a general written act a limited number of judges or panels of the same specialisation who are active in the system if there is a need to reassign cases. The allocation in the CMS in these specific cases is random based on limitations established by the president's act. The act issued by the president of a court can be adjusted/modified during a year due to specific circumstances. In **Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**, all interventions are reportedly irreversibly registered in the system. Data on the number of processed re-assignments in the reference year was available only in **the Republic of Moldova** (totals: 23 712 in 2024, 18 166 in 2023 and 17 094 in 2021).

Specific instructions to prosecute or not, addressed to a public prosecutor

CEPEJ 8.3.2 (Q162, Q162-1, Q162-2, Q162-2-0, Q162-3, Q162-4, Q162-4-1 and Q162-5)

In **Armenia**, specific instructions to prosecute or not can be issued by the General Prosecutor or by a higher prosecutor or head of prosecution office. The frequency of such instructions were reported as occasional. They can be oral or written. They are reasoned and recorded in the case file. The instructions are mandatory except in cases when the subordinate prosecutor finds that they are illegal or unfounded. In that case he or she shall not follow the given instruction and must file a written objection to the superior prosecutor who gave the instruction, except in cases when it was given by the General Prosecutor. It is not possible to oppose or report an instruction to an independent body. 4 instructions have been reported as issued in 2024 (2 in 2023).

In **Azerbaijan**, such specific instructions can be issued by a higher prosecutor or head of prosecution office. The instructions can only be in writing. Such instructions are exceptional. They are reasoned and recorded in the case file. The instructions are mandatory but in case of disagreement the prosecutor can send a motivated objection to the higher prosecutor. It is not possible to oppose or report an instruction to an independent body. The data on the nr of instructions was reported as non-available for 2024 (same as in 2023).

Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine reported that specific instructions to prosecute or not, addressed to a prosecutor, are prohibited by law.

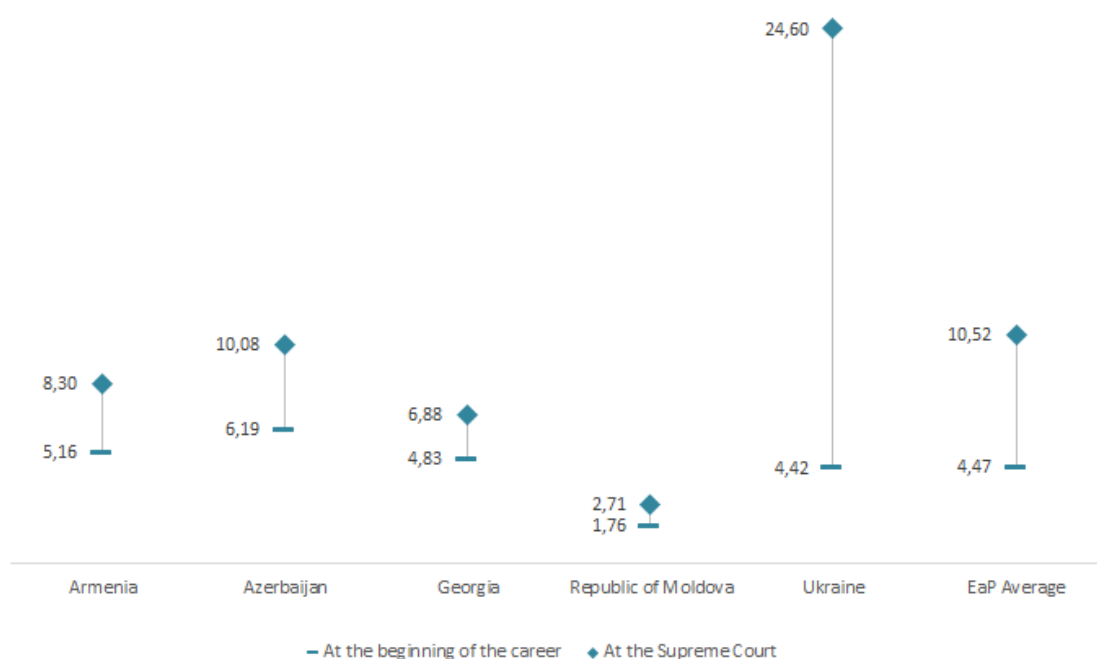
Salaries of judges and prosecutors vs national average

CEPEJ 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.4.6, 2.4.7 (Q14, Q15)

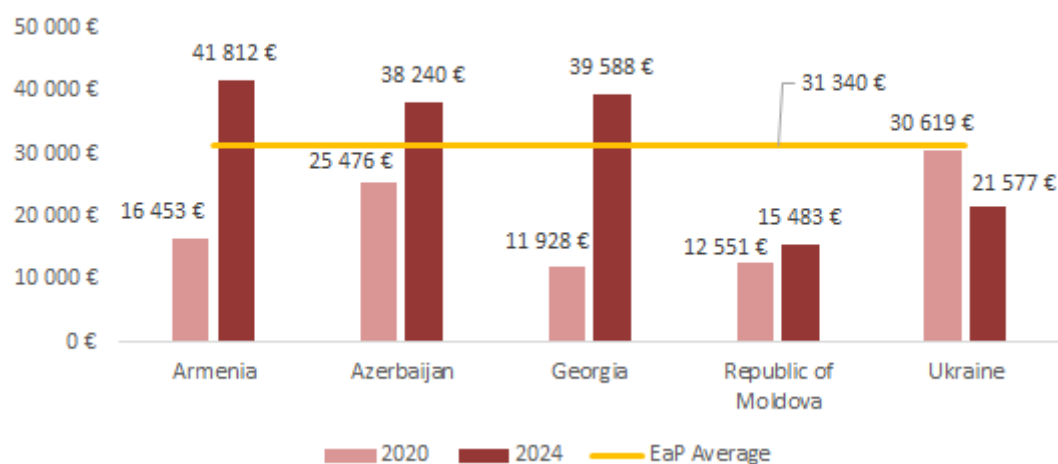
There is a regional trend, confirmed by the EaP averages, of higher salaries for judges than for public prosecutors both at the beginning of their careers and at the highest level. Differences in the average national salaries between these countries are also more pronounced in 2024 (compared to 2020).

- **Average salaries of judges**

Judges' salary - Ratio with average gross annual national salary in 2024

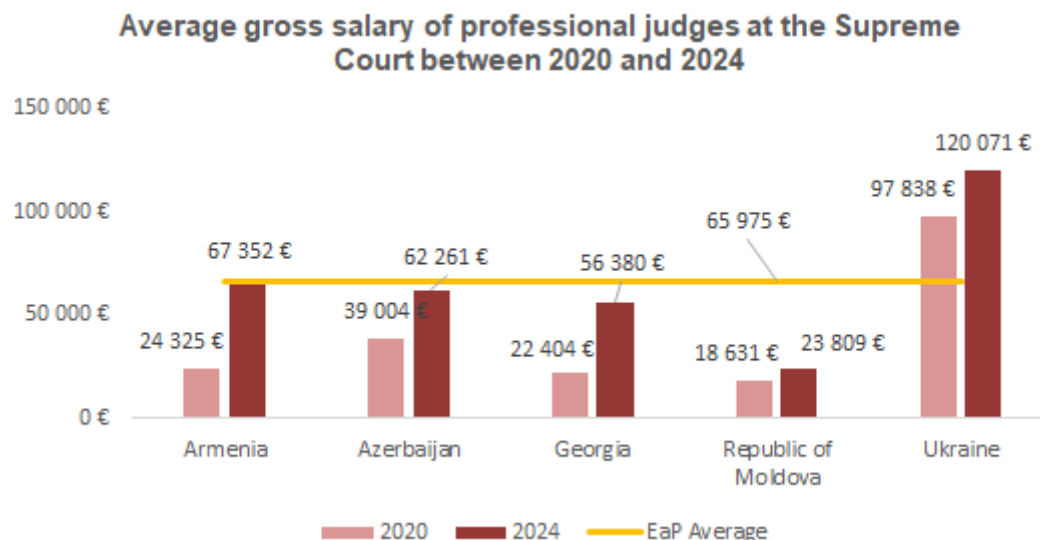


Average gross salary of professional judges at the beginning of career between 2020 and 2024



The average gross salary (in €) at the beginning of the career of judges has increased between 2020 and 2024, perhaps the most prominently in **Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia**, where it was above the EaP average of 31 340€ in 2024. Conversely, in **Ukraine**, the average gross salary (in €) at the beginning

of the career of judges shows a decrease compared to 2020. **Armenia** reported the highest average gross salary in the region at 41 812€, followed by **Georgia** with 39 588€. The salary in the **Republic of Moldova** (15 483€) continues to be considerably below the EaP Average.

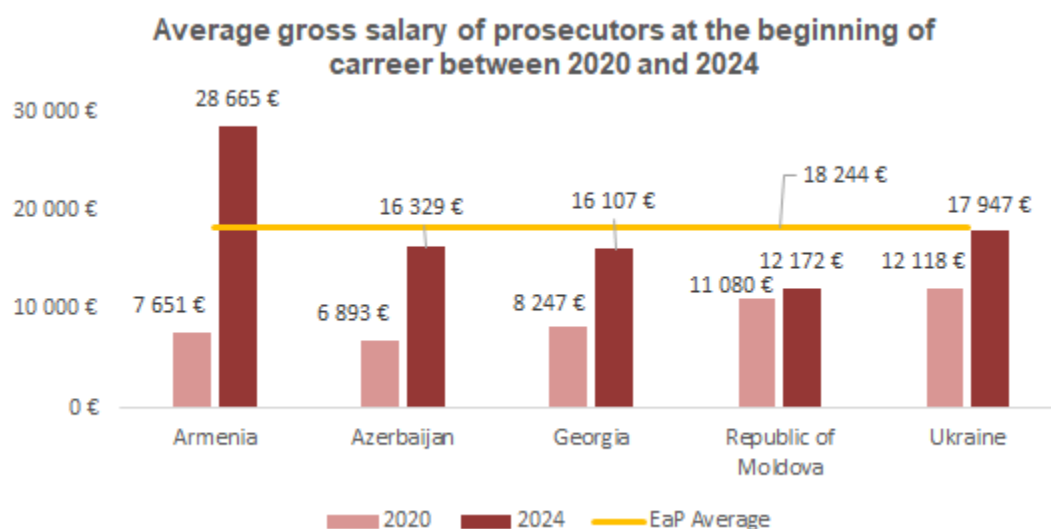


In all countries, the average gross salary of judges at the highest instance has increased between 2020 and 2024, again more prominently in **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia**. In 2024, this salary was higher than the EaP average of 65 975€ in **Armenia** and considerably higher in **Ukraine**. **Ukraine** reported the highest average gross salary at 120 071€, followed by **Armenia** with 67 352€, Azerbaijan with 62 261€, **Georgia** with 56 380€. In the **Republic of Moldova** the salary of a judge at the highest instance (23 809€) is considerably below the EaP Average. The average gross salary of judges in **Ukraine** at the end of the career impact the EaP average significantly.

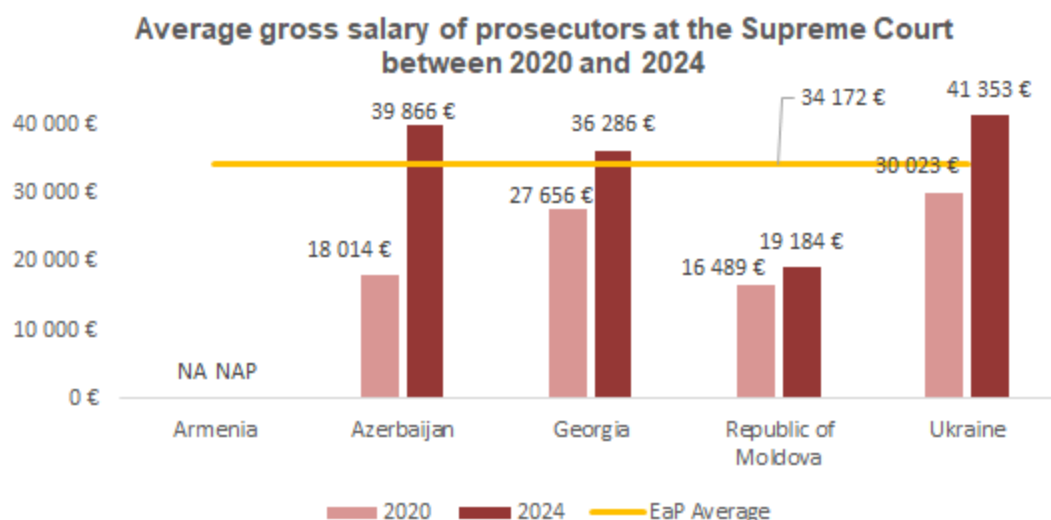
- Average salaries of prosecutors



- Average salaries of prosecutors



In all countries, the average gross salary of prosecutors at the beginning of their career has increased between 2020 and 2024, perhaps more prominently in **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** indicating a general trend of salary increases for prosecutors across the region. In 2024, this salary was higher than the EaP average of 18 244€ only in **Armenia**. **Armenia** reported the highest average gross salary at 28 665€, followed by **Ukraine** with 17 947€, **Azerbaijan** with 16 329€ and **Georgia** with 16 107€. The salaries of prosecutors at the beginning of the career in the **Republic of Moldova** (12 172€) are considerably below the EaP Average.

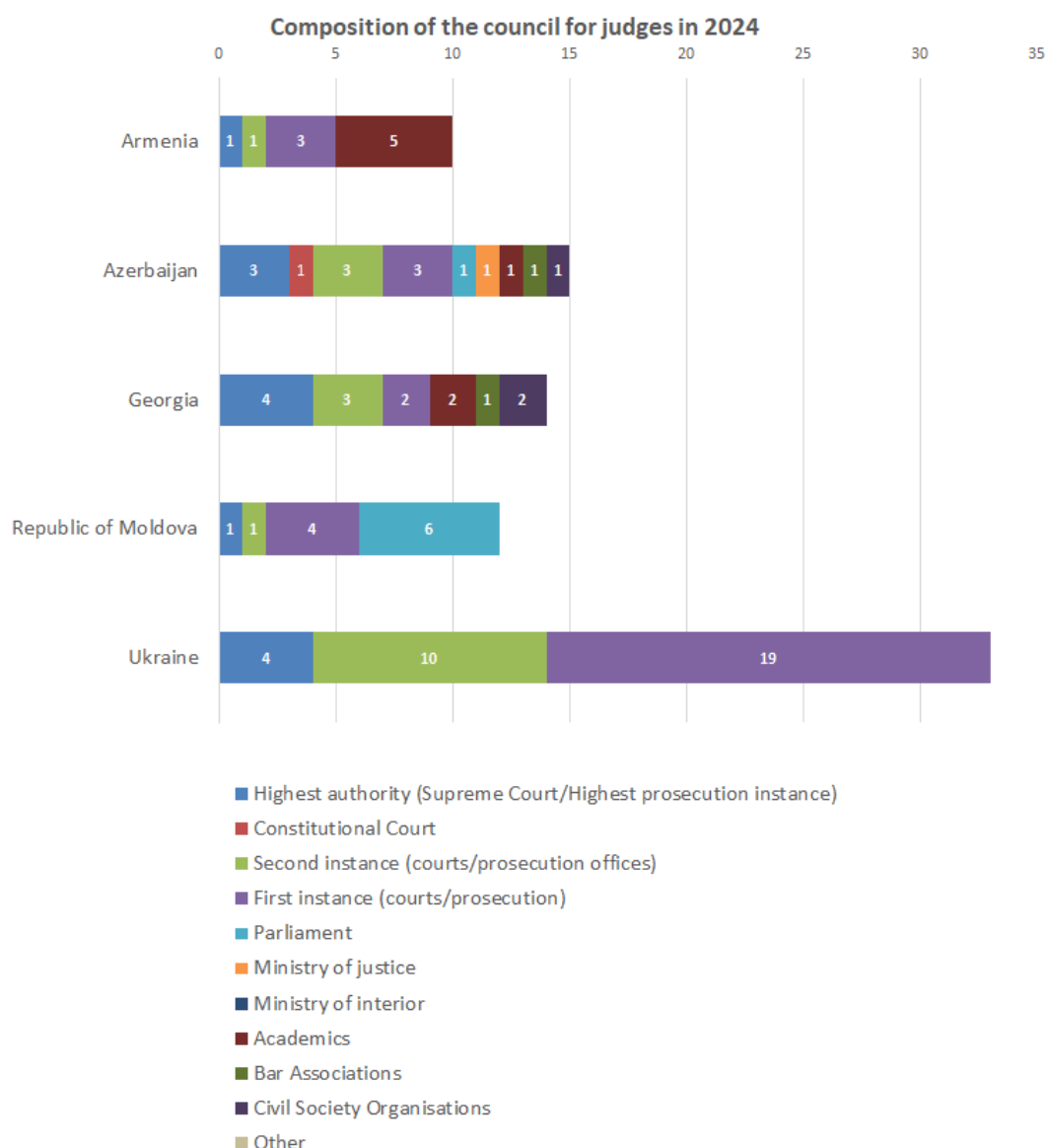


In **Azerbaijan**, there was a significant increase in the salary of prosecutors at the highest instance between 2020 and 2024. Similarly, the salaries increased between 2020 and 2024 in **Georgia** and **Ukraine**. In the **Republic of Moldova**, the salaries show some increase yet they continue to be considerably below the EaP Average. In 2024, the salary of prosecutors at the highest instance was higher than the EaP average of 34 172€ in **Azerbaijan** and in **Ukraine**. **Ukraine** reported the highest average gross salary with 41 353€, followed by **Azerbaijan** with 39 866€, **Georgia** with 36 286€, and the **Republic of Moldova** with 19 184€.

IV. Accountability

Councils for judges in 2024: appointments and composition

CEPEJ 11.1.1 and 11.1.2 (Q266, 267)



All countries have a Council for the Judiciary, their sizes vary from 10 members in **Armenia**, 12 in the Republic of Moldova, 15 in **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** to 33 in **Ukraine** (see particularity below).

The composition of councils for judges is as follow:

Armenia: the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) shall be composed of 10 members appointed for 5 years, non-renewable. The SJC includes five judges of all levels with at least 10 years of experience, elected by the General Assembly of Judges; as well as 5 members from among academic lawyers and other prominent lawyers holding only Armenian citizenship, having the right to vote, with high professional qualities and at least 15 years of professional work experience, elected by the National Assembly by at least three fifths of votes of the total number of Deputies. At the same time, a member elected by the General Assembly of Judges may not act as chairperson of a court or chairperson of a chamber of the Court of Cassation.

Azerbaijan: as of 2024, the Judicial Legal Council is composed of the following 15 members (including 10 judge members) appointed for 5 years: three judges of the court of cassation instance elected by the conference of judges; three judges of the courts of appeal instance elected by the conference of judges; three judges of the courts of first instance elected by the conference of judges; a judge appointed by the Constitutional Court; a person appointed by the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan; a person appointed by the relevant executive body of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Ministry of Justice); a lawyer appointed by the Bar Association; a legal scholar appointed by the National Academy of Sciences; a representative of the legal community elected by the conference of judges.

Georgia: the High Council of Justice (HCJ) consists of 15 members elected for 4 years, non-renewable, as follows: 8 judge-members - elected by the Conference of Judges; 5 non-judge members - by the Parliament and one non-judge member - appointed by the President of the country from among the Academics, lawyers or other Civil Society representatives with high professional experience and reputation. The chairperson of the Supreme Court is an ex officio member of the HCJ. In 2024, the HCJ consisted of: 4 members from the Supreme Court, 3 members from the second instance courts, 2 members from the first instance courts, 2 from academia, 1 from the Bar Association and 2 from civil society organisations, while one position was vacant.

The Republic of Moldova: The Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) is composed of 12 members (appointed for 6 years), as follows: 6 judge members – by the General Assembly of Judges, as follows: four from the first instance courts, 1 from the courts of appeal and 1 from the Supreme Court of Justice; and 6 non-judge members are appointed by the Parliament, with the vote of the 3/5 of the elected deputies, based on the proposals of the Commission on legal affairs, appointments and immunities of the Parliament. The latter provision was declared unconstitutional on 1.10.2024, pending legislative amendments. The pre-vetting of the candidates to SCM and its boards continued in 2024, as a result of which the SCM was composed of 11 members out of a total of 12 and became operational.

Ukraine: Authorities reported that in Ukraine there are the High Council of Justice (competent for judges and prosecutors) and the Council of Judges of Ukraine (competent only for judges). The *High Council of Justice* has 21 members who serve a four-year term non-renewable: ten of whom are elected by the Congress of Judges of Ukraine from among judges or retired judges, two are appointed by the President of Ukraine, two are elected by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, two are elected by the Congress of Advocates of Ukraine, two are elected by the All-Ukrainian Conference of Prosecutors, and two are elected by the Congress of Representatives of Law Schools and Research Institutions. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is an ex officio member of the High Council of Justice. The *Council of Judges* has 33 members and for 2024 they included: 19 judges from first instance courts, 10 judges from the courts of appeal; 4 judges from the Supreme Court. The Council of Judges is voted for by the Congress of Judges. Proposals for candidates to the Council of Judges may be submitted by judges participating in the Congress of Judges, which is convened every 2 years.

Councils for judges in 2024: responsibilities CEPEJ 11.1.6 (Q271, Q273 and Q274)

Armenia: The Supreme Judicial Council has a key role in the selection of judges and court chairpersons, in secondment of judges to another court, in giving consent for initiating criminal proceedings against a judge, in disciplinary proceedings and in the termination of judges' powers. It approves the estimated budget of the courts and submits it to the Government and it exercises other powers prescribed by the Judicial Code. It is also competent in case of evident breach of the independence or

the impartiality of a judge. The Supreme Judicial Council publishes activity reports, as well as its decisions, which must be reasoned.

Azerbaijan: The Judicial Legal Council ensures the organization of the court system, independence of judges and court system; arranges selection of candidates who are not judges to the vacant judicial posts; evaluates the activity of judges; decides on the issues of transfer of judges to different judicial posts, their promotion, calling judges to disciplinary liability, as well as, other issues related to courts and judges, and implements self-governance functions of the judiciary. In case it is evident there is a breach of the independence or the impartiality of a judge, a judge must apply to the Council. The Council reportedly publishes activity reports, as well as its decisions, which are required to be reasoned.

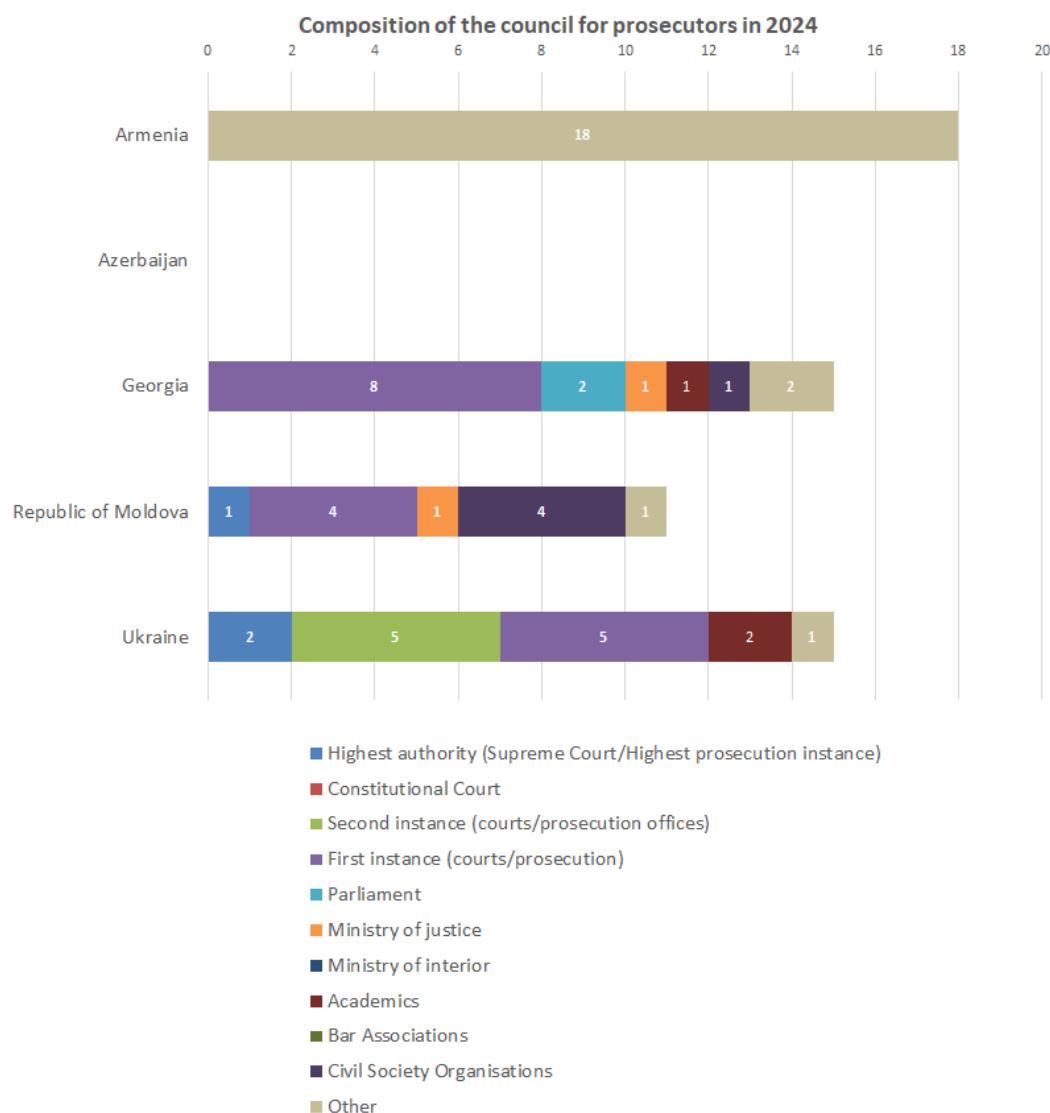
Georgia: The High Council of Justice is competent regarding appointments and dismissals of common court judges (other than the chairperson and judges of the Supreme Court); it determines the composition of the Qualification Examination Commission, and the specialisation of judges of appellate courts and district/city courts; it approves the staff list and structure of the personnel of the Office of the High Council of Justice, conducts disciplinary proceedings against common court judges in the prescribed manner and within the scope of its powers, and it formulates proposals for judicial reforms. The HCJ is competent when it is evident that there is a breach of the independence or impartiality of a judge. It publishes its activity reports and decisions, which must be reasoned; and it is accountable to the Conference of Judges of Georgia.

The Republic of Moldova: The Superior Council of Magistracy is competent regarding the selection, training, evaluation, ethics, and disciplinary liability of judges. It has certain tasks regarding the administration of courts, notably it examines, confirms and proposes the draft budgets of the courts. The Council is competent when it is evident that there is a breach of the independence or impartiality of a judge. It publishes its activity reports and decisions, which must be reasoned, on its official website.

Ukraine: The *High Council of Justice* decides whether a judge or prosecutor has violated the requirements of incompatibility; considers complaints against decisions of the relevant authorities to bring a judge or prosecutor to disciplinary responsibility; makes proposals to their respective appointing authorities. The High Council of Justice may engage judicial self-government bodies, institutions and organizations, judges, retired judges, lawyers, prosecutors and other specialists, and the Public Integrity Council to perform auxiliary and advisory functions with their consent on a voluntary basis. The information on the activities of the High Council of Justice, including approved decisions, are reportedly published on its official website.

The *Council of Judges* is competent in respect of measures to ensure the independence of courts and judges, improvement of the organisational support for courts operation; the legal protection of judges, social security of judges and their families; it oversees the organization of operation of courts; exercises supervision over compliance with legislation on conflict of interests in the activity of the judges and other matters determined by law. Its reports and decisions (which need to be reasoned) are published on its official website.

Councils for prosecutors in 2024: appointments and composition
CEPEJ 11.1.1 and 11.1.2 (Q266, 267)



Georgia, the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine** have councils for prosecutors. In **Ukraine**, there are the High Council of Justice (competent for judges and prosecutors – see above) and the Council of Prosecutors of Ukraine. **Armenia** has a Board (see explanation below). There was no council for prosecutors in **Azerbaijan**.

Armenia: the prosecution service does not have a Council. Instead, it has a Board composed of 18 prosecutors, as follows: the Prosecutor General, who acts as a chairperson, the Deputy Prosecutors General, the heads of the structural subdivisions of the Prosecutor General's Office and of the Prosecutor of the city of Yerevan. Members are not elected but are members *ex officio* for the duration of their respective mandates as prosecutors.

Georgia: the Prosecutorial Council has 15 members, of which 7 are non-prosecutors. The procedure for the selection of members of the Prosecutorial Council is as follows: the Conference of Prosecutors - 8 members from among prosecutors; the Parliament - 2 members (MPs): one from the parliamentary majority and another from the MPs not belonging to the parliamentary majority; the High Council of Justice - 2 members (judges). The Parliament also elects one member, nominated by the Minister of

Justice and two members representatives of civil society and academia. The Council is competent when it is evident that there is a breach of the independence or impartiality of a prosecutor.

The Republic of Moldova: the Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP) was composed of 11 members in 2024 (down from 13 in 2023), including: 1 member – elected from among Prosecution General Office, 4 members elected from among prosecutors from territorial and specialised offices, the Minister of Justice, 4 civil society representatives and the President of the Superior Council of Magistracy. Starting with 1 January 2024 the Ombudsman and the Prosecutor General ceased their activity as ex-officio members. The Minister of Justice will cease its activity as an ex officio member as of 1 January 2026, bringing the composition to 10 members as of 2026, per recent legislative amendments. The pre-vetting of the candidates to SCP and its boards continued in 2024 and thus the SCP became operational.

Ukraine: For the High Council of Justice (competent both for judges and prosecutors) – see above. According to amendments of December 2023, the Council of Prosecutors of Ukraine consists of 15 members, including: 2 representatives (prosecutors) from the Office of the Prosecutor General, 1 representative (prosecutor) from the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, 5 representatives (prosecutors) from regional prosecutor's offices, 5 representatives (prosecutors) from district prosecutor's offices appointed as members of the Council of Prosecutors of Ukraine by the All-Ukrainian Conference of Prosecutors, 2 representatives (academics) appointed by the Congress of Representatives of Law Schools and Research Institutions.

[Councils for prosecutors in 2024: responsibilities](#)

CEPEJ 11.1.5 and 11.1.6 (Q271, Q273 and Q274)

Armenia: The Board discusses only fundamental issues related to the organisation of the activities of the Prosecutor's Office. The public is informed of the Board's decisions, which are reasoned. There was no specific provision in the law with regard to Board's competence in case of pressure on prosecutors reported for 2023.

Georgia: The Prosecutorial Council is competent, inter alia, to select a candidate for the post of Prosecutor General, to conduct disciplinary proceedings against the First Deputy Prosecutor General and Deputies of the Prosecutor General, to decide on the issue of applying a disciplinary sanction or prematurely revoking it in relation to a member of the Prosecutorial Council elected by the Conference of Prosecutors, to hear a report of the Prosecutor General, First Deputy Prosecutor General or Deputy Prosecutor General on the activities of the Prosecution Service (except for individual criminal cases), to issue recommendations to the attention of the Prosecutor General and decide on matters of early termination of its membership. The Council publishes its decisions, which must be reasoned. The Prosecutorial Council is competent in case of pressure on a prosecutor.

The Republic of Moldova: the competences of the Superior Council of Prosecutors (SCP) include the selection, promotion, training, evaluation, ethics, developing a draft Code of Ethics for prosecutors, approving its own budget and submitting it to the Ministry of Finance, participating in the development of the budget and strategic development plans for the prosecution service, establishing disciplinary liability of prosecutors, appointing prosecutors to the Council of the National Institute of Justice and other related competences. SCP publishes its activity reports and decisions, which shall be reasoned. The SCP is competent in case of a pressure on a prosecutor.

Ukraine: The Council of Prosecutors of Ukraine is the highest body of prosecutorial self-governance. It organizes the implementation of measures to ensure the independence of prosecutors, improve the organizational support of the prosecution offices; it considers issues of legal protection of prosecutors, social protection of prosecutors and their family members and makes appropriate decisions on these issues; examines appeals of prosecutors and other reports on threats to the independence of prosecutors; makes recommendations on the appointment and dismissal of prosecutors from administrative positions; resolves issues of internal activity of the prosecutor's office and exercises other powers prescribed by Law. The information on the activities of the Council of Prosecutors of Ukraine, as well as its decisions (which should be reasoned), are published on its official website. The Council is competent in case of a pressure on a prosecutor.

Codes of ethics for judges and prosecutors

CEPEJ 8.5.1 (Q172, Q 173-1)

There are codes of ethics applicable to all **judges** in:

Beneficiary	Hyperlinks to texts of ethics codes for judges
Armenia	Code of Ethics in Armenian
Azerbaijan	NA
Georgia	Code of ethics in Georgian
Republic of Moldova	Code of ethics in Romanian
Ukraine	Code of ethics in Ukrainian

The following principles are reported as being included in the Codes of ethics for judges of the **countries** concerned (with exceptions noted below): adherence to judicial values (independence, integrity, impartiality); relationship with institutions, citizens and users; competence and continuity education (except **Armenia**); extrajudicial activities; conflict of interest; information disclosure and relationship with press agencies; political activity; association membership and institutional positions; and gift rules (except **Ukraine**).

CEPEJ 8.5.2 (Q174, Q 175-1)

There are codes of ethics applicable to **prosecutors** in:

Beneficiary	Hyperlinks to texts of ethics codes for prosecutors
Armenia	Code of ethics in Armenian
Azerbaijan	NA
Georgia	Code of ethics in Georgian
Republic of Moldova	Code of ethics in Romanian
Ukraine	Code of Ethics in Ukrainian

All of the following principles are reported as being part of the codes of ethics applicable to prosecutors in **the countries** concerned (with noted exceptions): adherence to judicial values of independence, integrity, impartiality (except **Ukraine**); relationship with institutions, citizens and users; competences and continuing education; extrajudicial activities (except **Ukraine**); conflict of interest information disclosure; relationship with press agencies; political activity, association membership, institutional positions and gift rules.

Assets declarations

- **Judges**

CEPEJ 8.7.1 (Q190 and Q192)

In **Armenia**, the assets declaration by judges is a requirement of the Judicial Code and the Law on Public Service; in **Azerbaijan**, this is applicable based on the Law “On Approval of Procedures for Submission of Financial Information by Public Officials”, Law “On combating corruption” (it was still not implemented in 2024 though, as the assets declaration form was not approved). Judges in **Georgia** are required to submit a declaration based on the Law “on Fight against corruption”. Judges in the **Republic of Moldova** are required to submit a declaration of assets based on the Law on “the Status of judges”, Law on “Declaration of assets and personal interests” and the Law on “the National Integrity Authority.” In **Ukraine** this is provided for in the Law "on the Judicial System and Status of Judges" and the Law "On Prevention of Corruption".

CEPEJ 8.7.2 (Q193, Q194, Q195 and Q196)

The legislation in **all these countries** require judges to declare assets, financial interests, sources of income, liabilities, and gifts. In addition to these, judges in **Armenia** shall also declare their expenditures and interests and judges in the **Republic of Moldova** shall declare personal interests.

All countries require judges to make the declaration at the beginning of the term of office and all of them, except **Azerbaijan**, have this requirement in place also at the end of the term of office. By Law, judges in **Azerbaijan** are required to submit the declaration from 1 to 30 of January each year. An annual submission of declarations is reported also by **Ukraine**. In **Armenia** and **Ukraine**, judges shall submit declarations as well as when there is a significant change in the items to be declared.

The spouse, children, and other family members shall make declarations in all five countries. The partners of judges are concerned by the declaration only in the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine**. Adult children are concerned by the declaration only in **Azerbaijan** and **Ukraine**. Other family members are concerned by the declaration in all countries, as follows: in **Armenia** - people under the declarant official’s guardianship or curatorship, any adult person jointly residing with the declarant official 183 and more days in the declared year; in **Azerbaijan** – parents living with the judge; in **Georgia** - stepchildren, or a person permanently residing with the judge; in the **Republic of Moldova** - persons who are financially supported by the judge; in **Ukraine** - any persons who lived together with the declarant as of the last day of the reporting period (provided that they lived together with the declarant for 30 calendar days preceding the last day of the reporting period) or in total for at least 183 days during the year preceding the year of filing the declaration: lived together; were connected by a common household; had mutual rights and obligations with the declarant (except for persons whose mutual rights and obligations are not of a family nature).

In all countries, **except Armenia**, the members of the family of a judge submit the same declaration as the judge.

- **Prosecutors**

CEPEJ 8.7.5 (Q203 and Q205)

In **Armenia**, prosecutors are required to submit the declaration of assets by the Law “On Public Service”. In **Azerbaijan**, the provisions of Law “On Approval of Procedures for Submission of Financial Information by Public Officials”, the Law “On Combating Corruption” and the "Rules of Work Organisation at the Prosecutor General's Office" require the prosecutors to submit assets declarations. In **Georgia**, the Law “On Fight against corruption” is applicable to prosecutors. The provisions of the Law “On the Declaration of Assets and Personal Interests”, the Law on “the National Integrity Authority”, the Law “On the Prosecution Office” require prosecutors in the **Republic of**

Moldova to submit declarations. In **Ukraine** this is to be done based on the Law “On the Prosecutor’s Office” and the Law “On Prevention of Corruption”.

CEPEJ 8.7.6 (Q206, Q207, Q208 and Q209)

In respect of items to be declared, prosecutors in **all five countries** are required to declare assets, financial interests, sources of income and liabilities and gifts. Other items are required to be declared in **Armenia** and **Ukraine** (expenses and interests), **Azerbaijan** and the **Republic of Moldova** (personal interests).

In all five countries the prosecutors are required to make the declarations at the beginning of the term of office and at the end of the term of office. In addition to the above, **Armenia** and **Ukraine** require a declaration when there is a significant change in the items. Each country has supplementary requirements as to the moment of declarations. Thus, prosecutors in **Georgia** submit it annually, during the term in office, and depending on the date of submission of the last declaration, twice or once after leaving the office, until the end of the next year. In **Armenia**, in case of doubts about any significant changes in the property (increase in property, reduction in liabilities or expenses) within 2 years after termination of official duties. Prosecutors in **Azerbaijan** and the **Republic of Moldova** are required to submit declarations also annually.

The declarations concern spouses, children and other family members of prosecutors in **all five countries**. In the **Republic of Moldova** and **Ukraine** this obligation extends to partners. In the **Republic of Moldova**, it also extends to all family members who are financially or otherwise supported by the declarant.

In **all countries**, except **Armenia**, the same declaration of assets applies to prosecutors’ family members.

Number of criminal cases against judges/prosecutors

CEPEJ 8.4.2 (Q171)

Beneficiaries	Number of criminal cases against judges or prosecutors in 2024					
	Judges			Prosecutors		
	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced
Armenia	15	3	1	7	3	0
Azerbaijan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Moldova	3	3	1	4	0	1
Ukraine	5	4	1	12	13	3

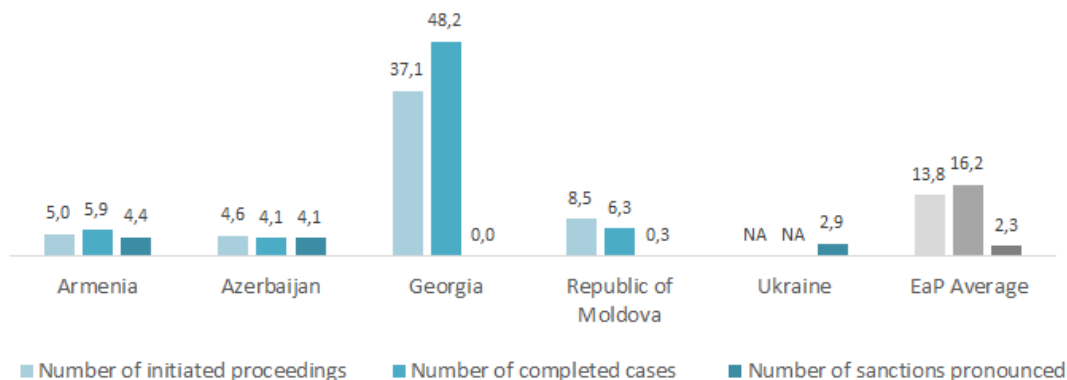
In 2024, regarding judges, **Armenia** reported 15 initiated criminal cases (vs 1 in 2023), 3 completed cases (vs 0 in 2023), and 1 sanction pronounced (vs 0 in 2023). **Georgia** reported no criminal cases against judges (same as in 2023). **The Republic of Moldova** reported 3 initiated cases (vs 4 in 2023), 3 completed cases (vs 0 in 2023) and 1 sanction pronounced (vs 0 in 2023). **Ukraine** reported 5 initiated cases, 4 completed cases and 1 sanction pronounced (vs 6 sanctions in 2023).

In respect of prosecutors, **Armenia** reported 7 initiated cases (vs 5 in 2023), 3 completed cases (same as in 2023), and no sanction pronounced (same as in 2023). **Georgia** reported no such cases (same as in 2023). **The Republic of Moldova** reported 4 initiated cases, 0 completed cases and 1 sanction (data was not available for 2023). **Ukraine** reported 12 initiated cases (vs 6 in 2023), 13 completed cases (vs 4 in 2023), and 3 sanctions pronounced (vs 6 in 2023).

Number of disciplinary cases against judges/prosecutors

CEPEJ 8.9.5 and 8.9.10 (Q237, Q238, Q239, Q246, Q247 and Q248)

Total number of initiated disciplinary proceedings, completed cases and sanctions pronounced against judges in 2024 (per 100 judges)



The highest number of **initiated disciplinary proceedings** in 2024 per 100 judges among the beneficiaries was in **Georgia** (37,1 vs 24,1 in 2023). **Armenia** had 5 such proceedings (vs 4,8 in 2023), and **Azerbaijan** had 4,6 (vs 5 in 2023). **The Republic of Moldova** reported 8,5 initiated proceedings per 100 judges (vs 7,2 in 2023).

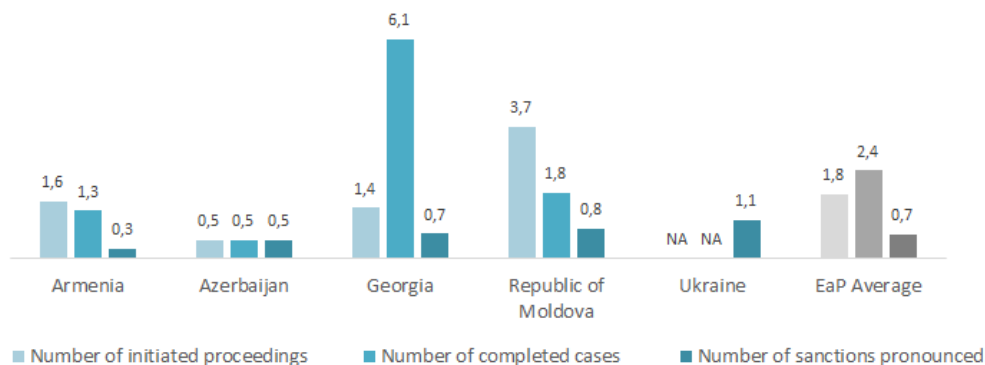
The highest number of **completed proceedings** per 100 judges was in **Georgia** – 48,2 (vs 24,1 in 2023). In the **Republic of Moldova**, there were 6,3 completed proceedings (vs 5,5 in 2023), in **Armenia** – 5,9 (vs 3,8 in 2023), and in **Azerbaijan** – 4,1 (vs 5 in 2023).

The total number of initiated and completed proceedings were not available for Ukraine while data was available by some sub-categories– see Table 8.9.5 Deliverable 1).

In terms of the number of **sanctions against judges**, there were 4,4 such sanctions per 100 judges in **Armenia** (vs 4,5 in 2023), 4,1 in **Azerbaijan** (vs 3,9 in 2023), 0,3 in the **Republic of Moldova** (vs 1,2 in 2023), and 2,9 sanctions in **Ukraine** (vs 0,1 in 2023). 0 sanctions against judges were reported for **Georgia** in both 2023 and 2024.

On average in the region, the number of these proceedings per 100 judges increased compared to 2023 (initiated proceedings – 10,3; completed – 9,6, sanctions - 1,9).

Total number of initiated disciplinary proceedings, completed cases and sanctions pronounced against prosecutors in 2024 (per 100 prosecutors)



The highest number of **initiated disciplinary proceedings** in 2024 per 100 prosecutors among the beneficiaries was in the **Republic of Moldova** 3,7 (vs 30,6 in 2023), followed by **Armenia** – 1,6 (vs 7,2 in 2023) and **Georgia** – 1,4 (vs 6,4 in 2023).

The highest number of **completed proceedings** per 100 prosecutors was in **Georgia** – 6,1 (vs 5,0 in 2023), followed by the **Republic of Moldova** – 1,8 (vs 22 in 2023) and **Armenia** – 1,3 (vs 7,2 in 2023). For **Ukraine**, the total nr of initiated and completed proceedings was not available (while data was available by some sub-categories of cases – see Table 8.9.10 Deliverable 1). In terms of the number of **sanctions** against prosecutors, there were 0,8 sanctions per 100 prosecutors in the **Republic of Moldova** (vs 1.3 in 2023), 0,3 in **Armenia** (vs 4,8 in 2023), 0,7 in **Georgia** (vs 2,1 in 2023), 0,5 in **Azerbaijan** (vs 2,5 in 2023).

On average in the region, the number of these proceedings per 100 prosecutors decreased compared to 2023 (initiated proceedings – 11,7, completed – 9,2, sanctions – 2,7).

Number of procedures for breaches of rules on conflict of interest against judges/prosecutors

CEPEJ 8.8.7 (Q224 and Q233)

Beneficiaries	Number of procedures for breaches of rules on conflict of interest against judges and prosecutors in 2024					
	Against judges			Against prosecutors		
	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced
Armenia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Azerbaijan	1	1	1	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Republic of Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Regarding procedures for breaches of rules on conflict of interest in respect of **judges**, there was 1 case reported as initiated and completed in **Azerbaijan** (1 sanction pronounced). **Armenia**, **Georgia**, and the **Republic of Moldova** reported no such cases. In respect of **prosecutors**, all countries, except Ukraine, reported 0 such cases.

Number of proceedings against judges and prosecutors due to violations/discrepancies in their declaration of assets

CEPEJ 8.7.9 (Q202 and 215)

Beneficiaries	Declaration of assets for judges and prosecutors in 2024: number of proceedings against judges and prosecutors due to violations/discrepancies in their declaration					
	Proceedings against judges			Proceedings against prosecutors		
	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced	Number of initiated cases	Number of completed cases	Number of sanctions pronounced
Armenia	4	0	0	1	0	0
Azerbaijan	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP	NAP
Georgia	43	29	0	38	31	0
Republic of Moldova	5	5	2	8	5	4
Ukraine	1	0	0	1	0	0

Overall and compared to previous years, the data availability and reporting improved slightly in respect of proceedings related to assets declarations. Regarding the proceedings against judges and prosecutors due to violations/discrepancies in their declarations of assets, data was reported by **all countries**, except Azerbaijan. In respect of **judges**, **Armenia** reported 4 initiated cases and 0 completed cases. In **Georgia**, there were 43 initiated cases, 29 completed cases and no sanctions were pronounced. **The Republic of Moldova** reported 5 initiated cases, 5 completed cases, and 2 sanctions pronounced. For **prosecutors**, **Armenia** reported 1 initiated case and no completed case. **Georgia**

reported 38 initiated cases, 31 completed cases, and no sanction pronounced. The **Republic of Moldova** reported 8 initiated cases, 5 completed cases, and 4 sanctions pronounced. In **Ukraine**, the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Determining the Procedure for Submitting Declarations of Persons Authorized to Perform State or Local Government Functions under Martial Law” came into force on 12th October 2023 and restored the e-declarations. In 2024, thus, Ukraine was able to report data (1 initiated cases for judges and 1 for prosecutors and no sanctions pronounced in respect of both). In **Azerbaijan**, the assets declaration form was reported as not approved also for 2024.