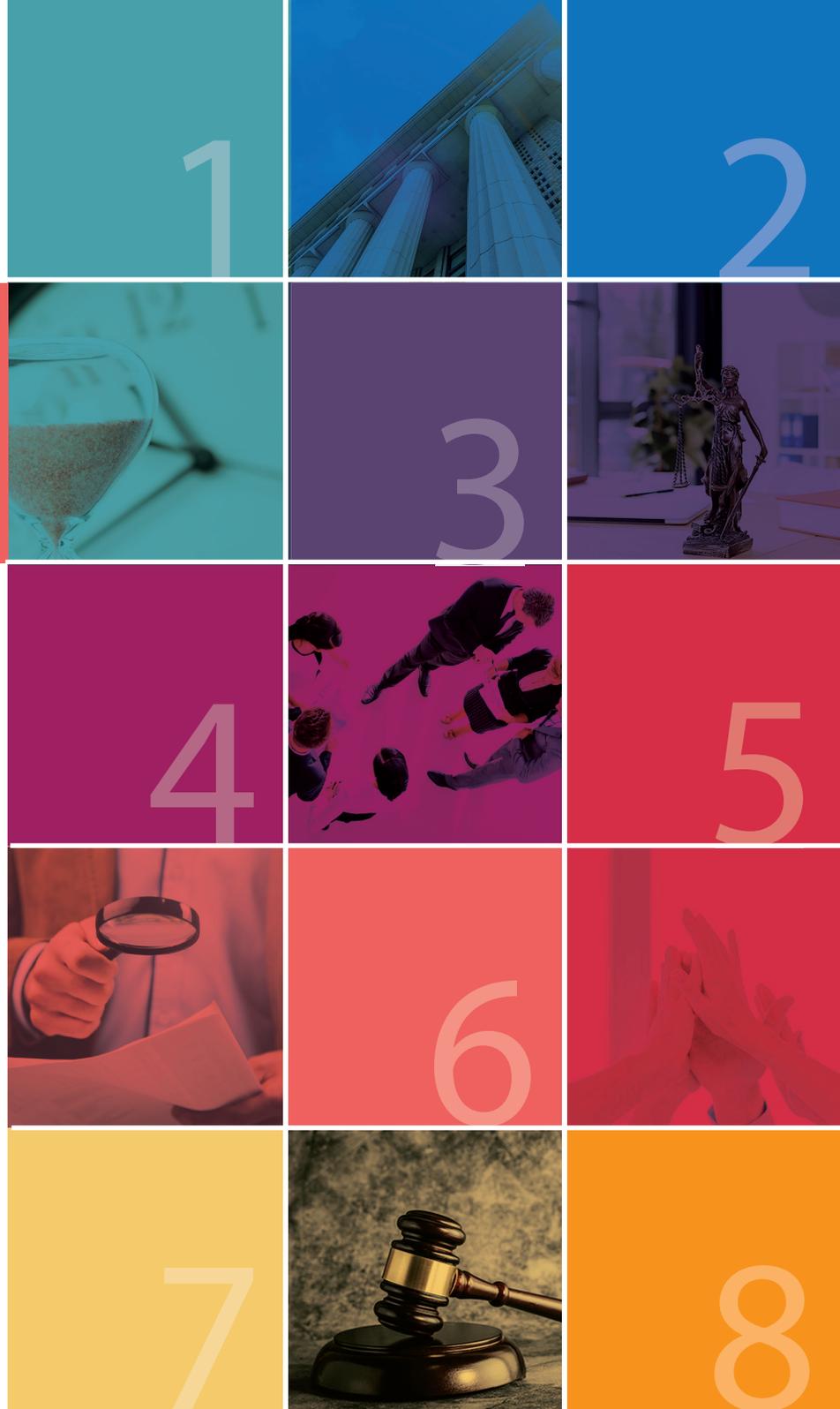


REPORT

2020 REPORT

ON THE RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017-2022 STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR

Skopje, September 2020



This project is funded by the European Union





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OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE 2017-2022 STRATEGY
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OF THE 2017-2022 STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR**

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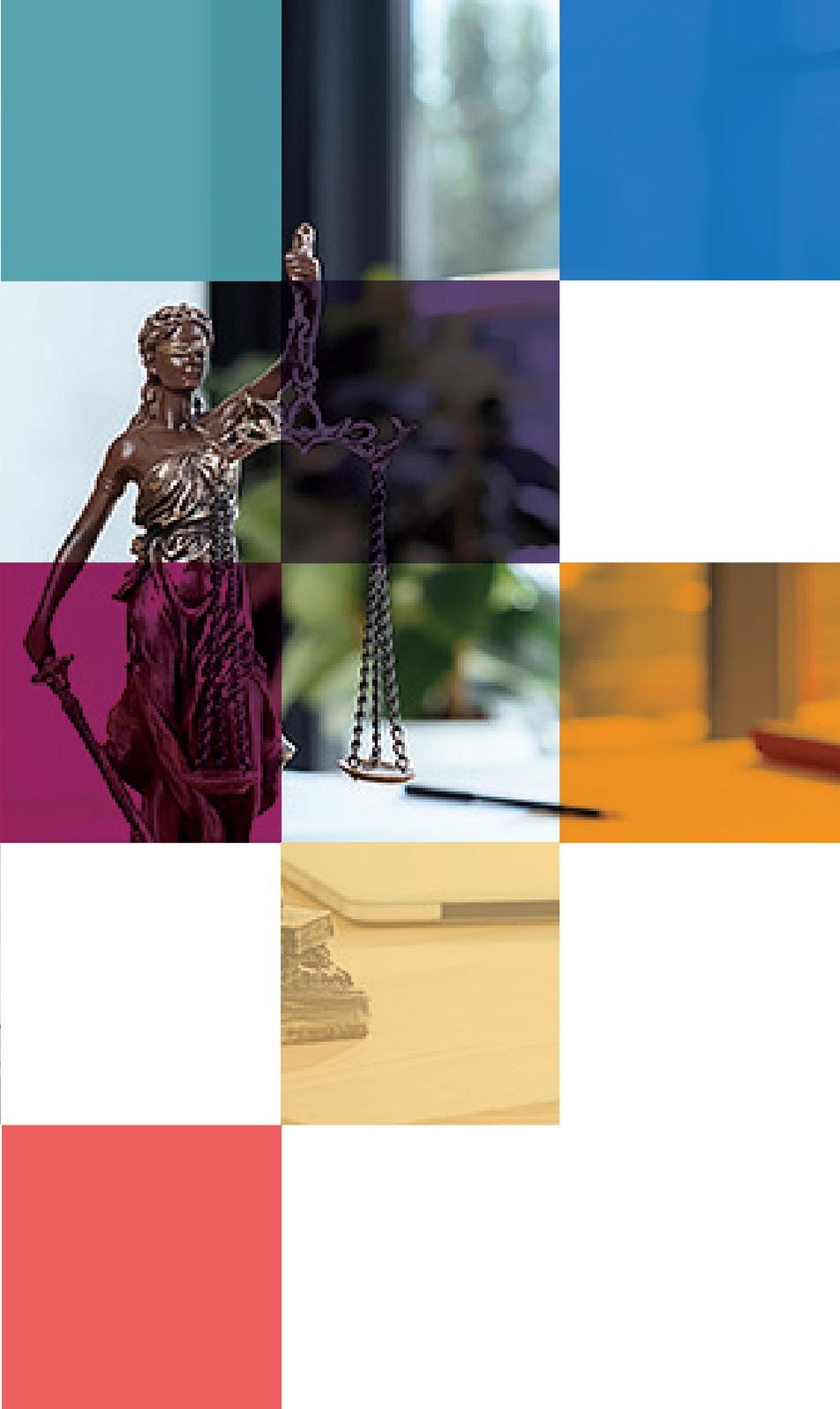
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
ACMIS	Automated Case Management System
AJPP	Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EU	European Union
PPs	Public Prosecutors
CPP	Council of Public Prosecutors
JC	Judicial Council



METHODOLOGY

The Action Plan for the implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector (the Strategy) has indicators, using which the success rate of the implementation of the measures set forth under the Strategy is assessed. However, these indicators are primarily focused on monitoring the output of envisaged activities, while dedicating little attention to the outcomes and the impact of the Strategy. Furthermore, the indicators are concentrated to a great extent on the work of justice system institutions, without taking due account of the influence the Strategy has on citizens.

This Report following the implementation of the Strategy is structured in line with the plan for monitoring the implementation and for assessment of the results of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector, using citizen-oriented indicators, i.e., indicators facilitating the assessment of the interaction of citizens with justice system institutions, as well as the degree of attainment of strategic goals, guidelines, measures, and activities envisaged under the Strategy. The Project Partnership *Justicia: Regaining the Citizens' Trust* introduced citizen-oriented indicators for monitoring and assessing the implementation of the Strategy with a view to promoting the rule of law principle and prompting a greater human rights approach and focus within justice system institutions. Such indicators help measure the results of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector from the human rights perspective and from the viewpoint of the Strategy's effects on citizens, against the background of the overall work of the justice system institutions.

This Report covers the following strategic goals set forth under the Strategy: quality, efficiency, transparency, strategic planning and policy-making, judicial institutions, criminal matters, misdemeanour matters and civil matters. The indicators **do not** cover the following strategic goals under the Strategy: independence and impartiality,¹ liability, access to justice (except for the Notaryship, enforcement and mediation), the Judicial Council, the Council of Public Prosecutors, and administrative matters.

¹ With the exception of the strategic guideline "Autonomous and sustainable court budget, consistent with the legal allocations from the gross national income".

Some of the indicators contained in the bellow table refer to a strategic goal or a strategic guideline, as set forth under the Strategy, while other indicators refer to measures or activities envisaged under the Strategy. The following reference approaches to measuring the results of the justice system have been taken into consideration when developing the draft-plan:

- EU Justice Sector Scoreboard 2019,
- The United Nations Rule of Law Indicators,
- CEPEJ Evaluation of judicial systems,
- The 2011 Judicial Statistics Methodology,
- Matrix for Monitoring the Performances of the Judiciary,
- Methodology of monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

The Report was developed based on:

- First Survey of 415 citizens involved in court cases, 41 judges and 73 court staff working in five first instance courts,² then 94 lawyers and 29 public prosecutors,³
- Second Survey of 333 citizens involved in court cases, 33 judges and 83 court staff working in five first instance courts,⁴ then 98 lawyers and 19 public prosecutors,⁵
- Survey of mediators, covering 22 mediators,⁶
- Survey of mediators, covering 21 mediators,⁷
- Requests for access to information of public character,
- Reports published by justice system institutions,
- Reports published by civil society organizations.

Information gathered for this Report relates to the 2020 situation, while in respect of some of the indicators a comparison is made with the situation in 2019, which was presented in the previous [2019 Report on the Results of the Implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector](#).

The Draft Report was presented at a policy dialogue event - Implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector- How Far Are We and What is Next? In addition, there were consultations with the Ministry of Justice regarding the monitoring approach.

2 The Skopje First Instance Criminal Court, the Skopje First Instance Civil Court, the Bitola First Instance Court, the Gostivar First Instance Court, and the Shtip First Instance Court.

3 The first survey was conducted in the period from December 2019 to February 2020.

4 The Basic Criminal Court in Skopje, the Basic Civil Court in Skopje, the Basic Court in Bitola, the Basic Court in Gostivar and the Basic Court in Stip.

5 The second survey was conducted in the period from December 2020 to April 2021.

6 The survey was conducted in February 2020.

7 The survey was conducted in April-May 2021.



***OVERVIEW
OF INDICATORS
FOR STRATEGIC
GOALS AND AREAS***

1. STRATEGIC GOAL: QUALITY

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
1.1 STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: HARMONIZATION OF CASE-LAW (GUIDELINE 2.2.1 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	1.1.1 Perception of the competence of judges	First Survey- 96% ⁸ of surveyed judges would assess the expertise and competence of their colleagues- judges as good or very good (4 and 5, on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark). Second Survey- 91% of surveyed judges would assess the expertise and competence of their colleagues- judges as good or very good (4 and 5, on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark).	First and second Survey of judges
	1.1.2 Perception of the competence of public prosecutors	First Survey- 91% of judges would assess the work of public prosecutors as good or very good (4 and 5, on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark). ⁹ Second Survey- 80% of judges would assess the work of public prosecutors as good or very good (4 and 5, on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark)	First and second Survey of judges
	1.1.3 Perception of the application of standards for the improvement of the quality of court judgements	First Survey (judges) – 4.1 (on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark). ¹⁰ First Survey (lawyers and public prosecutors) – 2.9 (on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark). ¹¹ Second Survey (judges) – 5 (on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark). ¹² Second Survey (lawyers and public prosecutors) – 3.75 (on a scale from 1 to 5, 5 being the highest mark). ¹³	First and second Survey of judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors ¹⁴

¹⁰ The assessment is related to the following six standards: following the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (the most frequent answer – 37% of respondents- is that it is partially implemented), existence of internal mechanisms within the judiciary for assessment of the general quality of judgements (most often answer – 53% of respondents is that it is partially applied), training of judges on the structure of judgements, on the style of the reasoning and on drafting judgements (37% answered with partially, while 46% answered that there is such training), conciseness of judgements (most often answer – 51% is that this standard is applied), application of already established elements that the reasoning or the structure of the judgment is to contain (most often answer- 76%- is that this is applied), use of clear and simple wording in judgements (most often answer – 66%- is that this is applied).

¹¹ The assessment is related to the following six standards: following the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (the most frequent answer – 33% of respondents- is that this is not implemented), existence of internal mechanisms within the judiciary for assessment of the general quality of judgements (most often answer – 31% of respondents is that it is partially applied), training of judges on the structure of judgements, on the style of the reasoning and on drafting judgements (the most often answer – 38% is that this is partially applied), conciseness of judgements (most often answer – 49% is that this standard is applied partially), application of already established elements that the reasoning or the structure of the judgment is to contain (most often answer- 57%- is that this is applied), use of clear and simple wording in judgements (most often answer – 68.8%- is that this is applied).

¹² The assessment is related to the following six standards: following the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (the most frequent answer – 50% of respondents- is that this is implemented), existence of internal mechanisms within the judiciary for assessment of the general quality of judgements (most often answer – 53.3% of respondents is that it is applied), training of judges on the structure of judgements, on the style of the reasoning and on drafting judgements (the most often answer – 59.4% is that this is applied), conciseness of judgements (most often answer – 71.9% is that this standard is applied), application of already established elements that the reasoning or the structure of the judgment is to contain (most often answer- 57%- is that this is applied), use of clear and simple wording in judgements (most often answer – 48%- is that this is applied).

¹³ With respect of each of the six standards respondents had the opportunity to answer that the standard is applied, that it is partially applied or that it is not applied. Out of the three possible answers, the most often given answer by judges, lawyers and public prosecutors was taken into consideration. In order to determine the collective mark, each standard for which the most often answer was that it is applied was given 1 point, each standard for which the most often answer was that it is applied partially was given half a point and if the most often answer was that the standard is not applied no points were given for that standard. The points for the standards were added, the sum was divided with 6 (the maximum collective mark if all standards are applied), and the result was multiplied with 5 in order to get a mark on a scale from 1 to 5.

¹⁴ The assessment is related to the following six standards: following the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (the most frequent answer – 46.6% of respondents- is that this is implemented partially), existence of internal mechanisms within the judiciary for assessment of the general quality of judgements (most often answer – 35.2% of respondents is that it is applied partially), training of judges on the structure of judgements, on the style of the reasoning and on drafting judgements (the most often answer – 43% is that this is applied), conciseness of judgements (most often answer – 49% is that this standard is applied partially), application of already established elements that the reasoning or the structure of the judgment is to contain (most often answer- 52%- is that this is applied), use of clear and simple wording in judgements (most often answer – 64%- is that this is applied).

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
1.1 STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: HARMONIZATION OF CASE-LAW (GUIDELINE 2.2.1 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
1.1.4 Number of opinions delivered by the Supreme Court regarding the case-law	<p>In 2019, the Supreme Court delivered and published on its website two legal principle opinions, four legal opinions and conclusions and nine sentences. In 2019, the Supreme Court did not issue or publish general positions.</p> <p>In 2020, the Supreme Court delivered and published on its website one legal principle opinion, four legal opinions and conclusions, and six sentences. In the course of 2020, the Supreme Court did not deliver or publish general positions.</p>	2019 Annual Report of the Supreme Court ¹⁵ and answer of the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia to a request for access to information of public character
1.1.5 Percentage of the total number of judges who participate in trainings on various skills	<p>In 2019, 117 judges or presidents of courts participated in trainings focused on court management and on ethics, which represents 23% of the average number of judges in 2019 (512 judges).</p> <p>In 2020, 158 judges participated in trainings focused on court management and on ethics, which represents 31% of the number of judges in December 2019, inclusive (506 judges).</p>	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character and the 2019 Annual Report of the Judicial Council ¹⁶
1.1.6 Share of trainings, which include the ECtHR case-law or decisions and recommendations of UN human rights bodies	<p>In 2019, 10% or 23 out a total number of 222 developed trainings were trainings focused on the ECtHR case-law.</p> <p>In 2020, 16% or 21 out of the total number of 120 implemented trainings were trainings on the ECtHR case-law.¹⁷</p>	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character
1.1.7 Percentage of attendants of continual training (judges, public prosecutors), who completed trainings on the ECtHR case-law	<p>In 2019, 46% of the total average number of 703 judges and public prosecutors for 2019 underwent training on the ECtHR case-law. 286 of the attendants were judges and 40 of them were public prosecutors.</p> <p>In 2020, the percentage remained the same, i.e., 46% of judges and public prosecutors attended training on the ECtHR case-law, of whom 241 were judges and 80 were public prosecutors.</p>	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character ¹⁸
1.1.8 Percentage of the total number of judges who participated in continual training on the EU Acquis	<p>In 2019, 45% of the total average number of judges (or 232 out of the total number of 512 judges) took part in continual training on the EU Acquis.</p> <p>In 2020, only 11% (or 58 judges of the total of 506 judges) participated in continual training on the EU Acquis. There were 6 trainings on the EU Acquis.</p>	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character and the 2019 Annual Report of the Judicial Council ¹⁹

15 The 2019 Annual Report is available at shorturl.at/guA23.

16 Data taken from the 2019 Annual Report of the Judicial Council are related to the average number of judges, which in 2019 was 512. According to the Report at the beginning of 2019 there were 518 judges, while on 31 December 2019 there were 506 judges. Data about the number of judges in 2020 were taken from the last published Report of the Judicial Council for 2019, and the number of judges at the end of the year was taken into consideration.

17 Only trainings that are directly focused on the European Convention on Human Rights have been taken into consideration. However, other trainings offered by the AJPP, which are not directly linked to the Convention and the ECtHR case-law have been regularly reviewed.

18 Data from the 2019 Report of the Judicial Council and from the 2018 Report of the Council of Public Prosecutors are related to the number of judges and public prosecutors.

19 Data about the average number of judges in 2019 were taken from the Report of the Judicial Council, while for 2020 the number of judges at the end of December 2019 was taken into consideration.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
1.1 STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: HARMONIZATION OF CASE-LAW (GUIDELINE 2.2.1 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
MEASURE/ACTIVITY INDICATORS	<p>1.1.9 Share of trainings, which include analysis of published court judgements, focused on human rights cases</p> <p>In 2019, 14% or 32 of the total number of 222 developed trainings were trainings, which include analysis of published court judgements, focusing on human rights cases.</p> <p>In 2020, 6% of the total number of 130 trainings were trainings covering analysis of published court judgements focused on human rights cases.²⁰</p> <p>However, part of the remaining trainings organized by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors often include analysis of the case-law and judgements of the ECtHR.²¹</p>	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character
	<p>1.1.10 Number of meetings between judges from various appellate circuits and judges of the Supreme Court (elaborating upon the case-law)</p> <p>In 2019, representatives of appellate courts and of the Supreme Court had three working meetings on the case-law harmonization.</p> <p>In 2020, there were no meetings between judges from different appellate courts and of the Supreme Court on the topic of case-law harmonization.</p>	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character
	<p>1.1.11 Number of sessions of the Supreme Court elaborating upon the case-law</p> <p>In 2019, the Supreme Court held seven sessions elaborating upon the case-law.</p> <p>In 2020, the Supreme Court held three sessions elaborating upon the case-law.</p>	Answer by the Supreme Court to a request for access to information of public character

20 According to the 2018 Annual Report of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, available at: https://jpacademy.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/godisen-izvestaj-za-2018_en-1.pdf#page=12&zoom=100,80,741.

21 According to the answer submitted by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
1.2. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: REVIEWING THE EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR JUDGES AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (GUIDELINE 2.2.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS 1.2.1 Objective and transparent merit-based criteria for election of judges, while taking into consideration qualifications, integrity, capacity, efficiency and by fully applying principles of gender equality and equitable representation	<p>As noted in the 2019 Report on the Results of the Implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector²² there was a substantive improvement with respect to the legislative criteria for election of judges, following the adoption of the Law amending and Supplementing the Law on Courts,²³ which was favourably assessed by the Venice Commission²⁴ and which is aimed at fulfilling the recommendations contained in the two reports of the Priebe led Senior Experts' Group,²⁵ that the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors be maintained as the sole point of entry for to the judiciary and the prosecutorial service.</p> <p>The principle of equitable representation is applied as early as the selection of candidates for admission for initial training at the Academy and is guaranteed under the Law on Courts.²⁶ Furthermore, in determining the optimal number of judges and lay – judges in the country, the Judicial Council is to apply the principle of equitable representation of persons belonging to non-majority communities.²⁷ Equitable representation in the election of judges and presidents of courts is guaranteed under Article 50 of the Law on the Judicial Council.²⁸</p> <p>Another guarantee for the quality of judges elected to first instance courts is the initial training candidates complete at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors.²⁹ The Draft Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, which the Government endorsed in July 2019, redefined the manner of sitting for the admission and final exams, on the basis of measurable indicators and objective criteria for assessment of the knowledge of candidates. However, this Law was not adopted by the previous composition of the Parliament. In 2020, a Commission, established at the Ministry of Justice, developed the new draft of this Law.³⁰</p>	Analysis of legal provisions against the background of the opinions of the Venice Commission and Reports of the Priebe led Senior Experts' Group, taken note of in great detail in the 2019 Report on the Results of the Implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector

22 For more details about considerations in this section, please see the previous Report available at: <https://epi.org.mk/post/15799>

23 Official Gazette No. 96/2019, Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Courts.

24 Richard Barrett and others, 'Opinion on the Law Amending the Law on the Judicial Council and on the Law Amending the Law on Courts, Adopted by the Venice Commission at Its 116th Plenary Session' (Venice Commission 2018) Opinion No. 927 / 2018 <[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2018\)022-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2018)022-e)>.

25 Senior Experts' Group, 'The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Recommendations of the Senior Experts' Group on Systemic Rule of Law Issues Relating to the Communications Interception Revealed in Spring 2015' (2015) <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/news_corner/news/news-files/20150619_recommendations_of_the_senior_experts_group.pdf>; Senior Experts' Group, 'The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Assessment and Recommendations of the Senior Experts' Group on Systemic Rule of Law Issues 2017' (2017) <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/2017.09.14_seg_report_on_systemic_rol_issues_for_publication.pdf>.

26 Article 43 of the Law on Courts.

27 According to Article 44 of the Law on Courts, Official Gazette Nos. 58/2006, 62/2006, 35/2008, 150/2010, 83/2018 and 198/2018 and Official Gazette No. 96/2019.

28 Official Gazette No. 102/2019, Law on the Judicial Council.

29 This was also noted in the previous Report, <https://epi.org.mk/post/15799>

30 The new Draft Law on the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors has been in Parliamentary procedure as of August 2021, <https://www.sobranie.mk/materialdetails.nspx?materialId=543628f3-2109-4bd5-8b99-22d543901888>.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
1.2. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: REVIEWING THE EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR JUDGES AND PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (GUIDELINE 2.2.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
<p>1.2.2 Objective and transparent merit-based criteria for promotion of judges (election to a higher instance court, election for president of a court) while taking into consideration the qualifications, integrity, capability, and efficiency and by fully applying the principles of gender equality and equitable representation</p>	<p>As also stated in the previous Report,³¹ the special (legal) requirements for election of judges and presidents of courts are set forth under Articles 46 and 47 of the amendments to the Law on Courts³² which were favourably assessed by the Venice Commission.</p> <p>In all cases of promotion of judges, it is necessary that the candidate has been favourably assessed in accordance with the Law on the Judicial Council, by which the right to selection has been left to the Judicial Council. According to the new Law on the Judicial Council,³³ judges and presidents of courts may be assessed regularly and extraordinary.³⁴</p> <p>Despite the fact that even in its draft version the Law on the Judicial Council was favourably assessed by the Venice Commission,³⁵ the Venice Commission opinion states that “the weight of various parameters accounted for in the performance evaluation should be kept under constant revision.” In this regard, the Judicial Council started drafting a methodology with indicators for the complexity of cases and a separate Rulebook on the evaluation, i.e., assessment of judges. However, the Judicial Council has still not adopted these documents. Performance evaluation of judges is one of the key parameters for their promotion. Despite the fact that the assessment criteria and procedure were favourably assessed by the Venice Commission even in the stage of drafting the new Law on the Judicial Council, other relevant stakeholders were also consulted. According to the results of the last conducted survey, there are distinct positions regarding the assessment criteria and procedures. Thus, the criteria and procedure for assessment of judges were considered as unchanged by 50% of judges, 41.2% of lawyers and by 42.2% of public prosecutors. 8.3% of judges consider that the criteria have deteriorated to a great extent.</p> <p>Of key importance in the context of regaining citizens’ trust in the election and promotion of judges is the reasoning of decisions adopted by the Judicial Council on the (non)election of judges. The European Policy Institute sent a request for access to information of public character to the Supreme Court with a view to establishing to what extent the constitutional complaint mechanism is applied, i.e., whether complaints are filed with the Complaints Chamber at the Supreme Court by candidates who have not been elected as judges, i.e., presidents of courts, in accordance with Article 49³⁶ and Article 51³⁷ of the Law on the Judicial Council.³⁸ Hence, in 2020³⁹ a total number of 10 judges were elected for the first time or were promoted to another court and 8 presidents of courts were elected, without taking into consideration in this context the ad interim presidents of courts appointed in 2020. According to the answer received following the request for access to information of public character, in 2020, the Complaints Chamber at the Supreme Court received three complaints, under Article 49 of the Law on the Judicial Council, filed by candidates who had not been elected as judges. The Complaints Chamber delivered rulings denying all complaints, upholding thus the decisions of the Judicial Council. In 2019, only one complaint was filed under this Article, in which the Complaints Chamber delivered a ruling rejecting the complaint and thus upholding the decision of the Judicial Council. In 2019 and in 2020, the Complaints Chamber at the Supreme Court did not receive a single complaint under Article 51 of the Law on the Judicial Council by judges who had not been elected as presidents of courts.</p>	<p>Analysis of legal provisions against the background of the opinions of the Venice Commission and Reports of the Priebe led Senior Experts’ Group, taken note of in great detail in the 2019 Report on the Results of the Implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector</p> <p>2020 Survey of judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors;</p> <p>Answer given by the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia upon requests for access to information of public character</p>

31 For more details about considerations in this section, please see the previous Report available at: <https://epi.org.mk/post/15799>

32 Official Gazette No. 96/2019; Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Courts (n 8).

33 Official Gazette No. 102/2019, Law on the Judicial Council.

34 This was also noted in the previous Report, <https://epi.org.mk/post/15799>

35 Mr Richard Barrett, Mr Philip Dimitrov and Ciril Ribičič, ‘Opinion on the Draft Law on the Judicial Council, Adopted by the Venice Commission at Its 118th Plenary Session’ (Venice Commission 2019) Opinion No. 947 / 2019 <[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2019\)008-e-](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2019)008-e-)>.

36 Article 49, paragraphs 4 and 5 envisage that “(4) The Council shall notify each candidate in writing about the decision on election of judges. (5) Candidates who have not been elected as judges shall have the right to appeal with the Complaints Chamber at the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia within eight days from the receipt of the notification, in a manner and in a procedure stipulated under this Law.”

37 Article 54, paragraphs 4 and 5 envisage that “(4) The Council shall notify each candidate in writing about the decision on election of presidents of courts. (5) Candidates who have not been elected as presidents of courts shall have the right to appeal with the Complaints Chamber at the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia within eight days from the receipt of the notification.

38 Official Gazette No. 102/2019, Law on the Judicial Council.

39 Data have been taken from the monitoring posted on the official website of the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia.

	Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
1.3. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM FOR PROBATION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE MEASURES (GUIDELINE 2.2.9 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
MEASURE/ACTIVITY INDICATORS	1.3.1 Change in the utilization of probation or of other alternative measures	<p>The Probation Service started operating functionally in 2019, working during the year on 165 probation cases. The largest number of cases are related to monitoring of inmates conditionally released from serving a sentence (111 cases), 43 cases are related to protective supervision of persons under a suspended sentence, then one case of supervision of a person under community service order, and ten cases were referred by courts requesting the application of the risk assessment tool and submission of a probation report, containing a proposal for the best fitted sentence to be presented during the court procedure.</p> <p>In 2020, the number of probation cases was raised, i.e., there were a total number of 276 cases. Most of these cases were related to the alternative measure of conditional release (178 cases), then there were 48 alternative measures of suspended sentence with protective supervision, 28 alternative measures of community service and 22 cases of risk assessment.</p>	Answer given by the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions following a request for access to information of public character
	Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
1.4. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: MONITOR THE RESULTS AND QUALITY OF THE NOTARYSHIP (GUIDELINE 2.6.4.3 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR) ⁴⁰			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	1.4.1 Number of proposals for institution of disciplinary proceedings against Notaries Public submitted to the Notary Chamber and number of adopted disciplinary measures	<p>In 2019, the Disciplinary Panel of the Notary Chamber received 15 proposals for institution of disciplinary proceedings against Notaries Public (12 proposals submitted by the Minister of Justice following supervision inspections and three proposals submitted by the President of the Notary Chamber). The Disciplinary Panel of the Notary Chamber considered 13 proposals in total for institution of disciplinary proceedings submitted in 2019 (ten submitted by the Minister of Justice and three by the President of the Notary Chamber) and adopted the following disciplinary measures- five fines and five public reprimands. In one case, statute of limitations was established, and in one case the concerned Notary Public was exonerated.</p> <p>In 2019, the Disciplinary Panel of the Notary Chamber considered five proposals for institution of disciplinary proceedings submitted in 2018 (four proposals submitted by the Minister of Justice and one by the President of the Notary Chamber) and adopted the following disciplinary measures- two public reprimands. In one case, statute of limitations was established, and in two cases the concerned Notaries Public were exonerated.</p> <p>In 2020, the Ministry of justice submitted 4 proposals for institution of disciplinary proceedings against 4 Notaries Public with the Disciplinary Panel of the Notary Chamber, in which the following decisions were delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three decisions ordering the disciplinary measure of paying a fine; - One decision ordering the disciplinary measure of public reprimand. 	2019 Information Paper on the application of the Law on the Notaryship, Ministry of Justice; Answer by the Ministry of Justice upon a request for access to information of public character

⁴⁰ This strategic guideline is part of the strategic goal of "Access to Justice" of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector and its Action Plan. Considering the links with the concept of quality, project implementors decided to also monitor this strategic guideline.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
1.5 STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF THE ENFORCEMENT EFFECTS AND THE QUALITY OF WORK OF ENFORCEMENT AGENTS (GUIDELINE 2.6.3.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR) ⁴¹		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE IMPLEMENTATION INDICATORS	1.5.1 Rate of enforcement of enforceable documents	44.55% in 2020, which is the same enforcement rate as in 2019.
	1.5.2 Number of proposals for institution of disciplinary proceedings against enforcement agents submitted by the Chamber of Enforcement Agents and number of adopted disciplinary measures	<p>In 2019, the Disciplinary Panel of the Chamber of Enforcement Agents instituted proceedings against three enforcement agents, who were found guilty and were ordered the disciplinary measures of public reprimand, fines, and permanent ban on the performance of the office of an enforcement agent (in one case).</p> <p>In 2020, the Ministry of Justice submitted 3 proposals with the Disciplinary Panel of the Chamber of Enforcement Agents for institution of disciplinary measures against three enforcement agents, upon which the following decisions were delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One decision ordering the disciplinary measure of paying a fine; -One decision dismissing the proposal and establishing that the concerned enforcement agent had not committed a disciplinary violation; -One case was transferred to be deliberated upon in 2021.
		<p>2019 Annual Report on the Work of Enforcement Agents Ministry of Justice, answer to a request for access to information of public character</p> <p>Disciplinary decisions published on the website of the Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Justice, answer to a request for access to information of public character</p>

41 This strategic guideline is part of the strategic goal of "Access to Justice" of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector and its Action Plan. Considering the links with the concept of quality, project implementors decided to also monitor this strategic guideline.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: FREQUENT USE OF MEDIATION BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES (GUIDELINE 2.6.5.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR) ⁴²		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	1.6.1 Number of cases referred for mediation by public authorities	According to answers of mediators, in 2020, there was an increase of the number of cases referred to them by public authorities (133 cases), compared with (89 cases in) 2019. 2019 and 2020 Surveys of mediators. The first Survey was conducted in an electronic format in February 2020. 22 mediators answered questions under the Survey. The Survey was conducted by the European Policy Institute. The second Survey was conducted in the period from April to May 2021 and covered 21 mediators.
	1.6.2 Number of cases settled by mediation, in which the parties were public authorities	In 2020, the number of cases settled by mediation was increased (128 cases), different from 2019 (58 cases settled by mediation). 2019 and 2020 Surveys of mediators. The first Survey was conducted in an electronic format in February 2020. 22 mediators answered questions under the Survey. The Survey was conducted by the European Policy Institute. The second Survey was conducted in the period from April to May 2021 and covered 21 mediators.

⁴² This strategic guideline is part of the strategic goal of "Access to Justice" of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector and its Action Plan. Considering the links with the concept of quality, project implementors decided to also monitor this strategic guideline.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
1.7. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: STIMULATE THE APPLICATION OF MEDIATION IN COURT PROCEEDINGS (GUIDELINE 2.6.5.3 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR) ⁴³			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	1.7.1 Number of cases referred for mediation in pursuance with the Law on Justice for Children	In 2019, there were no cases referred for mediation under the Law on Justice for Children. In 2020, there were 4 cases referred for mediation under this Law.	2019 and 2020 Surveys of mediators. The first Survey was conducted in an electronic format in February 2020. 22 mediators answered questions under the Survey. The Survey was conducted by the European Policy Institute. The second Survey was conducted in the period from April to May 2021 and covered 21 mediators.
	1.7.2 Number of cases settled by mediation in pursuance with the Law on Justice for Children	In 2019, there were no cases referred for mediation. Hence, no cases were settled by mediation.	2019 and 2020 Surveys of mediators. The first Survey was conducted in an electronic format in February 2020. 22 Mediators answered questions under the Survey. The Survey was conducted by the European Policy Institute. The second Survey was conducted in the period from April to May 2021 and covered 21 mediators.
	1.7.3 Number of cases referred for mediation in pursuance with the Law on Consumer Protection	According to answers by mediators, in 2020, the number of cases referred for mediation under the Law on Consumer Protection was reduced (4 cases), compared with (9 cases in) 2019.	2019 and 2020 Surveys of mediators. The first Survey was conducted in an electronic format in February 2020. 22 mediators answered questions under the Survey. The Survey was conducted by the European Policy Institute. The second Survey was conducted in the period from April to May 2021 and covered 21 mediators.
	1.7.4 Number of cases settled by mediation in pursuance with the Law on Consumer Protection	Mediators answered that the number of cases settled under the Law on Consumer Protection in 2019 (three cases) is the same in 2020 (three cases).	2019 and 2020 Surveys of mediators. The first Survey was conducted in an electronic format in February 2020. 22 mediators answered questions under the Survey. The Survey was conducted by the European Policy Institute. The second Survey was conducted in the period from April to May 2021 and covered 21 mediators.
	1.7.5 Success rate in commercial and labour disputes settled by mediation	In 2019, 87 commercial cases of mediation were entered in the Register kept by the Ministry of Justice, of which 16 cases were settled. In 2020, there was a significant increase in the number of commercial cases referred for mediation, i.e., 189 commercial cases of mediation, of which 37 were settled. Different from 2019, when there were no cases of mediation in labour disputes entered in the Register kept by the Ministry of Justice, in 2020, 126 cases of mediation in labour disputes were entered in the Register, of which 89 cases were settled.	Answer by the Ministry of Justice upon a request for access to information of public character

⁴³ This strategic guideline is part of the strategic goal of "Access to Justice" of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector and its Action Plan. Considering the links with the concept of quality, project implementors decided to also monitor this strategic guideline.

2. STRATEGIC GOAL: EFFICIENCY

	Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
2.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: MONITOR JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY USING THE INDICATORS DEFINED IN THE EU JUSTICE SCOREBOARD (RESULT LIST), CEPEJ AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS (GUIDELINE 2.4.1 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	2.1.1 Application of the Methodology of Judicial Statistics in following with the CEPEJ standards	<p>This activity requires needs analysis and upgrading the judicial statistics software, then implementation of the system and development of analyses and generating reports, in following with indicators under the Methodology of Judicial Statistics.</p> <p>The Methodology defines 11 indicators for analysis and monitoring of the results of the judiciary, under which courts are obliged to gather, process, and publish data. However, this is not implemented. Furthermore, the Methodology envisages that scientific and research institution should have direct access to processed statistics and analyses. This too has still not been implemented.</p>	Analysis of regular reports of courts and of the Judicial Council
	Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
2.2. STRATEGIC GOAL: CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR ADJUDICATING OLD CASES AND MONITORING OF THE SITUATION WITH UNDECIDED CASES (GUIDELINE 2.4.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	2.2.1 Number of pending cases	<p>The Action Plan accompanying the Strategy envisages the establishment of functional working bodies, which are to monitor the situation with the backlog of old and pending cases and are to develop and propose a plan for overcoming the backlog of cases, envisaging in this context as well the measure of submitting regular monthly reports to the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia by presidents of courts on the backlog of cases and on pending cases, which is to result in an annual 10% reduction of the number of old and pending cases, starting with 2019.</p> <p>At the end of 2019, there were 97,091 pending cases, which represents an increase by 5,483 cases, compared with the situation in 2018.</p> <p>At the end of 2020, there were 99,594 pending cases, which represents an increase of 2,503 cases, compared with the situation in 2019.</p>	2018,2019 and 2020 Reports of the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
2.2. STRATEGIC GOAL: CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR ADJUDICATING OLD CASES AND MONITORING OF THE SITUATION WITH UNDECIDED CASES (GUIDELINE 2.4.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	2.2.2 Success rate of first instance courts	According to the 2018 Report of the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia, the success rate in 2018 was 101.2%, in 2019 the success rate was 98.95%, while in 2020 the success rate was 99.44%, which is primarily owed to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite all undertaken measures and activities aimed at reducing the backlog of cases in courts. The success rate is calculated as the ratio of resolved/closed cases in a given period versus new cases in the given period *100.	2018, 2019 and 2020 Reports of the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia
	2.2.3 Period required for resolving the backlog of cases at first instance courts	The results under this indicator are established using the formula of 365/rate of caseload. (Number of resolved/closed cases versus the number of pending cases at the end of a given period, in accordance with the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) 2018. The indicators per year are as follows: 65.41 in 2018, 68.35 in 2019 and 80.57 in 2020.	
	2.2.4 Number of backlog cases	Number of backlog cases: 2,852 backlog cases at the end of 2019, which is a 27% reduction, compared with the situation in 2018, when the number of backlog cases was 3,921. At the end of 2020, there were 2,708 backlog cases, which a 5% reduction compared to their number in 2019.	2019 and 2020 Reports of the JCRNM
	2.2.5 Number of cases in which a violation of the principle of trial within	There is continual reduction of the number of cases filed with the Supreme Court requesting protection of the right to a trial within reasonable time, as well as of the number of cases in which a violation of the principle of trial within reasonable time was established, starting with 2018, going over to 2020. In 2020, violation of this principle was established in 144 cases, in 2019 in 165 cases, while in 2018 there were violations of this principle established in 191 cases.	2018, 2019 and 2020 Reports of the Supreme Court
Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
2.3. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: HARMONIZATION OF THE NUMBER OF JUDGES WITH THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE PER CAPITA (GUIDELINE 2.4.3. UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	2.3.1 Cost efficiency in resolving cases	The Action Plan accompanying the Strategy envisages optimization of the number of judges according to the number of cases in courts, in line with European standards by outflow of judges (retirement). Envisaged activities consist of preparing a situation analysis with a view to aligning with European standards, as well as adopting decisions on the required number of judges per court, according to the number of cases in each court and in pursuance with European criteria. In 2020, a Strategy for Human Resources in the Court Network ⁴⁴ was developed. This Strategy defines activities to be undertaken in the period from 2021 to 2026, with a view to strengthening and improving the already established legal, financial, and institutional framework and with a view to efficiently utilizing available human resources.	Strategy for Human Resources in the Court Network
	2.3.2 Productivity rate in resolving cases	The ranking of appellate courts according to productive rate – (average number of resolved cases per judge), based on data contained in the 2019 Report of the Judicial Council, shows that in 2019, 16 first instance courts increased their productivity rate, while 11 courts reduced their productivity rate.	2019 balance sheets; 2019 Report of the Judicial Council

44 Strategy for Human Resources in the Court Network, September 2020, <http://www.vsrn.mk/wps/portal/ssrm/sud/izvestai/ostanati-dokumenti>

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
2.4. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: ENHANCING THE JUDICIAL AND PROSECUTORIAL SERVICE CAPACITIES (GUIDELINE 2.4.4. UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS 2.4.1 Perception of the treatment, professionalism, and competence of the judicial service	The Action Plan accompanying the Strategy envisages the measure of Harmonization of the Law on Court Administrative Services and the Law on Public Prosecutorial Administrative Services with the Law on Public Sector Employees and with the Law on Administrative Servants, which would help establish a unified system of court and public prosecutorial administrative officers, aligned with the systems of employees in the public sector and of administrative servants. Under both Surveys, citizens most often assessed the expertise and competence of expert/professional associates and judges with the grade of very good (33.3%). Similar assessment was also most often given by lawyers and public prosecutors. 29% of surveyed citizens involved in court proceedings answered that court proceedings were never or very rarely delayed, as	2020 and 2021 Surveys of citizens involved in court proceedings, judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors
Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
2.5. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: FULL FUNCTIONALITY OF THE WEB PORTAL WWW.SUD.MK (GUIDELINE 2.4.5 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS 2.5.1 Percentage (share) of court judgments published on the portal	The Action Plan accompanying the Strategy envisages the measure of regular updating the judicial database, which is to result in an increase of the number of visitors of the portal. Courts either do not provide data about the number of published judgements or keep records of published judgments for several years collectively, and not per year. Searching and finding a specific decision is difficult since there is no possibility to apply the search function using key words. ⁴⁵ Courts do not publish all judgements delivered in a year, and some courts do not publish/post their judgements at all. In 2020, with the help of volunteers, the First Instance Criminal Court anonymized and published/posted 1,814 anonymized judgements on its website. ⁴⁶	Annual report on the work of The Basic Criminal Court Skopje during 2020, portal www.sud.mk
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS 2.5.2 Application of standards for online publishing of court judgments	Мнозинството од испитаниците (88% во 2020 и 89% во 2021 година) сметаат дека онлајн-објавувањето на судските одлуки е од висока важност. Во врска со задоволството од онлајн-објавувањето, 25% и во двете анкети не се многу задоволни, а 64% во 2020 г., односно 69% во 2021 година се делумно или најзадоволни од тоа.	First and second Survey of citizens involved in court proceedings, judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors

45 2020 Functional Analysis of the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia.

46 2020 Annual Report on the Work of the First Instance Skopje Criminal Court Skopje.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
2.5. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: FULL FUNCTIONALITY OF THE WEB PORTAL WWW.SUD.MK (GUIDELINE 2.4.5 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
2.5.3 Availability of online information for the public about the justice system	<p>The following types of targeted information are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) online forms for the public and for companies – forms-requests and payment forms for diverse types of documents issued by courts (certificates, confirmations and similar) are posted on the sud.mk portal; b) information intended for persons with hearing or visual impairments – the sud.mk portal does not provide for reasonable accommodation for these persons; however, information is posted about responsible authorized persons tasked with accompanying persons with disabilities and enabling useful access to information at courts; c) information intended for persons who do not speak the official language – the sud.mk portal is also available in a simple rudimentary English language version. <p>The following types of targeted information are not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) education about rights of citizens in the justice system provided with interactive tools; b) computer stations at courts with internet access available to citizens; c) an interactive online simulation facilitating the assessment whether a person is eligible for legal aid is not available; there is information posted on the website of the Ministry of Justice about the conditions the applicant for free legal aid is required to fulfil; however, the information is based on old parameters; d) information intended for children- websites of some courts only offer contact information about lawyers specialized for the Law on Justice for Children. 	Websites of courts, Survey of citizens
2.5.4 Number of visitors of the web portal		
2.5.5 Number of court judgements published on the web portal www.sud.mk	<p>In 2020 and in 2021, 18% and 16% of judges, respectively were dissatisfied, while in 2020 and in 2021 75% and 54% of respondents respectively were satisfied with the manner of online publishing of court judgments. The following remarks were given in answer to the question “What does the search functionality lack?”: the design of the portal should be improved, there are no search possibilities, not all court judgements have been posted/published, tools for searches on various grounds are missing – data about the case, number of the case, and finally the search by case number is difficult. In view of the character of the state of emergency and the mandatory security measures, in line with their competences, all courts in the country worked in camera, without hearings. Cases which were not urgent were processed only if conditions for protection of the health of judges, parties and other participants in the proceedings were fulfilled, while respecting the measures for distancing and wearing personal protective equipment. Due to the circumstances in such a situation, it is important to emphasize that in a Decision it delivered, the Judicial Council encouraged the use of electronic communication and delivery between courts and parties, as the most suitable modus operandi in the given circumstances (provided that there are technical conditions to this end), while envisaging the possibility that some of the tasks are performed remotely from the home.</p>	First and second Survey of citizens involved in court proceedings, judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors

3. STRATEGIC GOAL: TRANSPARENCY

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
3.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS OF STATISTICAL DATA ON THE WORK OF COURTS AND PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES BY THE JCRNM AND THE CPPRNM (GUIDELINE 2.5.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
3.1.1 Types of systems for monitoring and evaluation of court activities STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	There are the following types of systems: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Annual reports on the work of courts- The Supreme Court and appellate courts regularly publish such reports. Out of 27 first instance courts, only eleven published annual reports about their work, eleven courts published only annual statistics about cases, and five courts did not publish any reports about their work. This is an improvement compared with the situation in 2019, when only 8 first instance courts published annual reports, seven published only annual statistics about cases, and five first instance courts did not publish any reports about their work, while the rest published only monthly statistics. b) Outcome and quality indicators- There is a Methodology of Judicial Statistics, but reports of courts and of the Judicial Council do not contain data about the value of indicators set forth under the Methodology (with the exception of the indicator about the total number of backlog cases). The following parameters and indicators are contained in the reports: number of admitted cases, resolved cases, pending cases, backlog cases, and their categorization according to their overall duration, number of delayed hearings, human resource status, IT situation. Other important indicators, such as success rate, period required for dealing with the backlog of cases, the average "age" i.e., duration of resolved or pending cases are missing. Despite the declarative commitment set forth under the Methodology to facilitating generation of comparable information about the quality as well, the impression remains that quality is primarily viewed through the prism of the duration of the entire procedure, as well as through the prism of going beyond the legally prescribed deadlines for the duration of proceedings. c) IT system for court case management- The ACMIS system has been installed in all courts and this system registers, allocates and monitors the movement of court cases within the court system. d) IT system generating statistics about the work of courts- There is a software for judicial statistics, which has been installed at the Judicial Council, and the complete functioning of which requires full and correct feeding of the ACMIS system with data. Survey respondents answered that the IT court management system (ACMIS) has or partially has five types of data. However, the difference in the positions of respondents on this question may be attributed to the different level of knowledge/information of court staff about data that the system collects, then to the differences in the practice of staff with respect to the parameters they regularly enter in the system, and to the differences in the quality of entries by various court staff members. e) Court staff specialized for monitoring and evaluation. f) Surveys conducted among users of court services and legal professionals. 	Analysis of the portal sud.mk and of the Methodology of Judicial Statistics, 2020 and 2021 Surveys of court staff, 2019 and 2020 Reports on the work of courts

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS (GUIDELINE 2.5.3 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	3.2.1 Standards for providing information about cases to parties	About 43% of surveyed citizens are satisfied with the information provided by courts about the date, time, and number of the courtroom for proceedings in the specific case, while about 16% of them are dissatisfied, and 18% of them are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	Second Survey of citizens- involved in court proceedings
	3.2.2 Openness of procedures to the public and capacities of courtrooms to accommodate members of the public and media outlet representatives	It is encouraging that even when in accordance with relevant legal provisions courts deliver decisions to exclude the public from court hearings, they do allow the presence of members of professional circles, including monitors of court proceedings. However, in October 2020, there were cases of non-restrictive exclusion of the public and of members of expert circles, on the grounds of a Protocol for protection against COVID-19 in courts, with the reasoning that there is not enough room to ensure proper physical distancing between people. The Coalition All for Fair Trials reacted that the Association of Judges that developed the said Protocol, does not have the mandate to deliver binding documents for all courts in the country, while measures set forth in the Protocol leave ample room for judges to limit and to even completely exclude the public from hearings, in contravention of relevant legal, constitutional and international instruments provisions relating to the right to a fair trial.	Monitoring briefs- justice system: pending court proceedings, 2020, Coalition All for fair Trials; "Measures for protection against COVID -19 must not impede the right to a fair trial", reaction by the Collation All for fair Trials, October 2020
MEASURE/ACTIVITY INDICATORS	3.2.3 Availability of trainings for court staff for various types of communication	In 2019, 62% of the total number of presidents of courts (21 out of 34) attended specialized training on public relations (specialized training for presidents of courts), while 3% (14) of the remaining judges attended training on public relations. In 2020, members of the Judicial Council and its administrative staff strengthened the public relations capacities by attending trainings on effective communication with the public, organized under the programme for increasing the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of the Council, implemented by the Institute for Human Rights. In 2020, there were also other projects supporting the process of strengthening the public relations capacities of the Judicial Council.	Answer by the AJPP upon a request for access to information of public character (information about 2019) and the 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports of the Judicial Council
	3.2.4 Number of published periodical reports on categorized expenditures of courts	The following annual reports were published: 1) 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports of the Judicial Council, which each contain a chapter elaborating upon expenditures of the judiciary, categorized into salaries, remunerations, goods and services, transfers and capital expenditures: 2) Review of expenditures according to the above referred to categories is also contained in the 2019 and 2020 Reports on the Execution of the Judicial Budget, but these Reports also contain review of expenditures according to budget programmes, budget items and sub-items.	2019 and 2020 Reports of the Judicial Council; 2019 and 2020 Reports on the Execution of the Judicial Budget
Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: ALIGNING THE FORM OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF COURTS, PUBLIC PROSECUTORS' OFFICES, OF THE JC AND OF THE CPP (GUIDELINE 2.5.4 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
3.3.1 Progress in the process of revising the Methodology of Judicial Statistics	The revised Methodology of Judicial Statistics was not published; the review of published annual reports on the work of courts shows differences in the reports' structure; furthermore, the reports do not contain data about the value of indicators set forth under the Methodology (with the exception of the indicator about the total number of backlog cases), then about the duration of proceedings according to types of civil cases, i.e., grounds for criminal cases and about the period of resolving the court case, i.e. duration of specific stages of the proceedings, outcomes and measures ordered in criminal cases.	The website of the Ministry of Justice; 2020 annual reports on the work of courts	

4. STRATEGIC GOAL: STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY MAKING

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
4.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: COORDINATION OF THE REFORM IN THE JUDICIARY (GUIDELINE 3.1.1 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	4.1.1 Existence of a functional unit or staff at the Judicial Council and at the Ministry of Justice for strategic planning, monitoring and coordination of the reform	The Action Plan accompanying the Strategy envisages the measure of Establishing a separate unit at the Ministry of Justice with a view to coordinating, monitoring, and aligning all reform activities, which requires amendments to the Rulebook on the Systematization and Organization of Jobs at the Ministry of Justice. The indicator for the successful accomplishment of this goal would be an established and functional, i.e., operating organizational unit at the Ministry of Justice. The Rulebook on Systematization of Jobs at the Ministry of Justice (consolidated text) published on the website of the Ministry of Justice, i.e., the new systematization of jobs valid as of 24 February 2021 ⁴⁷ envisages the establishment of a unit for organization of justice system bodies and monitoring the reform of the justice system, while the establishment of such a unit was also envisaged under previous rulebooks on the internal organizational set-up of the Ministry of Justice.	Ministry of Justice, documents published/posted on its website and answer to a request for access to information of public character
	4.1.2 Existence of a functional analysis and research unit or staff at the Judicial Council and at the Ministry of Justice	The published Rulebook on the Systematization of Jobs at the Ministry of Justice (consolidated text) posted on the website of the Ministry of Justice, i.e., the new systematization of jobs valid as of 24 February 2021, envisages the establishment of a unit for organization of justice system bodies and for monitoring the reform of the justice system. This Unit for organization of justice system bodies and for monitoring the reform of the justice system, the mandate of which, inter alia, encompasses collecting statistics and developing analyses and statistical reports, collection, and processing of data about the work of courts and public prosecutors' offices was regulated under the Rulebook No. 01-5602/1, dated 31 December 2019, and to a certain degree also in the previous Rulebook.	Ministry of Justice, answer to a request for access to information of public character
	4.1.3 Frequency of consultations about legislative amendments having a direct impact on the justice system	Most of the judges, 42% in 2020 and 39% in 2021 and of the lawyers, 64% in 2020 and 35% in 2021, respectively answered that the Government consults them often or sometimes when it comes to initiatives for legislative amendments having a direct impact on the justice system. Different from them, public prosecutors most often replied that they are rarely consulted.	First and second Survey of judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors
	4.1.4 Capacity for efficient budgeting of courts and of public prosecutors' offices	As regards the capacity for efficient budgeting of courts, lawyers, and public prosecutors most often (30% in 2020), i.e., 25.6% in 2021 assessed it with the mark 4 on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best mark, while 26%, i.e., 25% of them gave a medium mark of 3 in 2021. 28% of respondents in 2020 and 19% of respondents in 2021 gave the lowest marks (1 and 2).	First and second Survey of judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors
	4.1.5 Change in the situation with strategic planning and policy-making in the sector	Lawyers and court staff most often answered that in the period from 2017 to 2020 there were no changes in the situation with strategic planning and policy-making in the justice sector (49% in 2020 and 52% in 2021, 37% in 2020 and 24% in 2021, respectively). Judges most often presented the assessment that the situation was improved.	First and second Survey of judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors

47 Rulebook on Systematization of Jobs- June 2015 (pravda.gov.mk)

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY (GUIDELINE 3.1.4 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	<p>4.2.1 Number of debates with stakeholders about the results of the implementation of the Strategy</p> <p>The Action Plan accompanying the Strategy envisages the measure of Establishing a body led by the Prime Minister, which based on regular coordination activities, then by monitoring data received from the Ministry of Justice and using indicators set forth under the Action Plan, is to contribute to the Government adopting relevant conclusions on the accomplishment of strategic goals and guidelines.</p> <p>The Council for monitoring the implementation of the 2017-2022 Strategy for Reform of the Judicial Sector was established in 2018. In 2019, the Council had five sessions on the implementation of the Strategy for reform of the judicial sector, at which representatives of stakeholders debated about achieved results and made recommendations for the future implementation of the Strategy. In 2020, due to the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, then due to the early general elections and the fact that there was a caretaker Government, the first session of the Council was held at the end of December 2020.</p>	Ministry of Justice, answer to a request for access to information of public character
	<p>4.2.2 Number of recommendations resulting from the debates for undertaking corrective measures</p> <p>Recommendations of the Council for reform of the judicial sector are related to the consistent application of adopted legal solutions, then to overcoming obstacles, which contributed to the delayed implementation of activities set forth under the Strategy and Action Plan, being also related to the adoption of secondary legislation by the Council of Public Prosecutors on the work of public prosecutors.</p>	Ministry of Justice, answer to a request for access to information of public character

5. STRATEGIC GOAL: JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
5.2. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: AUTONOMOUS AND SUSTAINABLE COURT BUDGET, CONSISTENT WITH THE LEGAL ALLOCATION FROM THE GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GUIDELINE 2.1.6 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	5.2.1 Allocations for courts	0.29% of the GDP in 2020, which is a reduction compared with the allocation of 0.31% of the GDP in 2019.	Ministry of Finance, macroeconomic indicators, and information from the 2019 and 2020 Reports on the execution of the judicial budget, consolidated balance sheets of the judiciary for 2019 and for 2020
	5.2.2 Criteria for setting the judicial budget	Even though there is an independent Judicial Budget Council, the judiciary fails in getting the required level of funding. This can be illustrated by the fact that in 2020 the finally approved budget for the judiciary is only 60% of the requested funds.	2020 Report on the Execution of the Judicial Budget
	5.2.3 Structure of the Judicial Budget	There is evident dominant share of salaries and remunerations: 81% in 2020, 72% in 2019 and 80% in 2018. Goods and services, have a share of 13% of the total budget, which according to the Judicial Budget Council is insufficient to cover all needs deriving from the regular work of courts. In 2020, there was a drastic reduction of the share of capital expenditures – from 7.3% in 2019 to 3.1% in 2020. The Judicial Budget Council assessed as insufficient the capital expenditures even at their level in 2019. There is also reduction of transfers from 7.8% in 2019 to 3.4% in 2020.	2018, 2019 and 2020 Reports on the Execution of the Judicial Budget
	5.2.4 Ratio of coverage of real expenditures for justice administration under annual judicial budgets	In 2020, the finally approved budget for the judiciary was only 60% of the requested funds, which were based on realistic needs of individual entities in the judiciary-budget beneficiaries. In 2019, this indicator was 66%, while in 2018 the ratio of coverage was 64%.	2018, 2019 and 2020 Reports on the Execution of the Judicial Budget
Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: INCREASING THE STAFF IN THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (GUIDELINE 4.1.3.6 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
5.3.1 Productivity rate	122 resolved criminal charges per public prosecutor in 2020, compared to 89 in 2019 and 104 in 2018.	2018, 2019 and 2020 Reports on the Work of Public Prosecutors' Offices	

6. STRATEGIC GOAL: CRIMINAL MATTERS

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
6.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: FAIR TREATMENT BY STRENGTHENING THE RIGHTS OF DEFENCE AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS (GUIDELINE 5.1.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
6.1.1 Satisfaction of the parties with the possibility provided by the court to each of the parties to present their evidence and challenge the evidence of the other party	<p>First Survey – As many as 98% of surveyed citizens (parties to criminal proceedings) consider that it is important that each party is given the opportunity to present their evidence in the case and challenge the evidence of the other party. 44% of the respondents are completely satisfied or satisfied (giving the marks of 5 or 4) with the possibility they have to present and challenge the evidence, while 34% are completely dissatisfied or dissatisfied (they gave the mark of 1- completely dissatisfied or 2).</p> <p>Second Survey– About 52% of the respondents are satisfied (giving the mark of 5 or 4) with the possibility they have to present their evidence before the court, while 20% are dissatisfied, and 25% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.</p>	First and second Survey of citizens ⁴⁸
6.1.2 Perception of parties as to the degree to which judges and prosecutors respect the rights of defendants and of victims	Second Survey – About half of surveyed citizens (49%) disagree or completely disagree that judges and public prosecutors respect rights of defendants or of damaged parties. More than half of surveyed citizens (51%) completely or partially agree that rights of defendants were respected.	First and second Survey of citizens
6.1.3 Perception of parties as to whether courts treat people equally regardless of their income, ethnic affiliation, social origin, gender, and religion	<p>First Survey – 58% of surveyed citizens completely or partially agree that judges treat equally all persons, regardless of their income, origin, gender, or religion, while 41% disagree with this statement. 60% of surveyed citizens agree that court staff treat people equally, regardless of their income, origin, gender, or religion, while 40% of them disagree with this statement.</p> <p>Second Survey – 59.8% of surveyed citizens consider that judges treat parties to court proceedings equally (giving the marks of 4 and 5). Citizens' assessments of court staff are similar. Hence, 62% of surveyed citizens stated that court staff treated parties to proceedings equally, regardless of their income, origin, gender, and religion.</p>	First and second Survey of citizens
6.1.4 Perception of parties as to whether women-victims of sexual or other gender-based violence receive a fair treatment by the court	<p>First Survey – In the context of rights of parties to court proceedings, it was examined whether their rights are respected in cases of sexual or other gender-based violence. As much as 53% of lawyers and public prosecutors worked on such cases. Respondents who worked on such cases were additionally asked whether they agree that women-victims of sexual or other gender-based violence have a fair treatment in the course of court proceedings. The majority of respondents or 62% completely agree that women had a fair treatment in the course of the proceedings, while 38% of them partially agree with this statement.</p> <p>Second Survey – 72% of surveyed lawyers and public prosecutors consider that women-victims of violence have a fair treatment in the course of court proceedings. 36% of them completely agree, while 36% agree only partially with this statement. 67% of surveyed lawyers did not reply to this question.</p>	First and second Survey of lawyers and public prosecutors

48 In the context of this indicator, answers of citizens who participate, i.e., are parties to criminal proceedings were separately taken into consideration.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
6.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: FAIR TREATMENT BY STRENGTHENING THE RIGHTS OF DEFENCE AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS (GUIDELINE 5.1.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	<p>6.1.5 Perception of parties of the respect for the presumption of innocence principle</p> <p>First Survey- 40% of surveyed citizens are completely or partially satisfied with the respect for the presumption of innocence principle by courts, while 36% of them are dissatisfied and 14% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. 30% of surveyed citizens are satisfied with the respect for the presumption of innocence principle by public prosecutors' offices, then 39% are dissatisfied and 8% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. 19% of surveyed citizens are satisfied with the respect for the presumption of innocence by media outlets, followed by 50% of them who are dissatisfied, while 10% of them are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.</p> <p>Second Survey- Surveyed citizens stated that they are almost equally satisfied with the respect for the presumption of innocence by courts, public prosecutors' offices and by media outlets. They were evaluating institutions using marks on a scale from 1 to 5, under which 1 is completely dissatisfied, while 5 marks completely satisfied. However, citizens are most satisfied with the respect for the presumption of innocence by courts, i.e., 50% of citizens (gave the marks of 4 and 5), slightly smaller number of citizens (42%) consider that media outlets respect the presumption of innocence, while the lowest number of citizens (39%) are satisfied with the manner in which public prosecutors' offices respect the presumption of innocence principle.</p>	First and second Survey of citizens
	<p>6.1.6 Perception of whether judges are free to adopt decision without direct or indirect interference by the Government or politicians</p> <p>First Survey - The largest part of lawyers and public prosecutors (47%) consider that the executive power often interferes with judges in their decisions, while 34% stated that there was often such interference also by Members of Parliament. The greatest number of judges stated that they did not face interference in adopting their decisions, starting with presidents of courts (93% of respondents answered that interference happens never or rarely), over to civil society organizations (83% of respondents answered that interference happens never or rarely), then representatives of other countries (80% of respondents answered that interference happens never or rarely) and representatives of international organizations (81% of respondents answered that interference happens never or rarely). As regards other actors who attempt to influence decisions, 86% of the respondents stated that indeed there were such actors.</p> <p>Second Survey- 73.2% of surveyed judges stated that other persons interfere in their decision making never or rarely. The same opinion is shared by 47.7% of public prosecutors and 44.4% of lawyers. Judges (9.6%) consider that there is interference in the decisions sometimes, and this opinion is shared by 12.3% of public prosecutors and 21.7% of lawyers. "I do not know" or "I have no answer to this question" was the answer given by 17.2% of judges, 38.5% of public prosecutors and 18% of lawyers. It is interesting that 1.5% of public prosecutors and as much as 15.9% of lawyers consider that frequently there is interference in decisions of judges.</p>	First and second Survey of lawyers, public prosecutors, and judges

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
6.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: FAIR TREATMENT BY STRENGTHENING THE RIGHTS OF DEFENCE AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS (GUIDELINE 5.1.2 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
MEASURE/ACTIVITY INDICATORS 6.1.7 Number of planned trainings for judges and public prosecutors focused on strengthening the rights of defence and protection of human rights in criminal proceedings	The number of planned trainings for judges and public prosecutors focused on strengthening the rights of defence and protection of human rights in criminal proceedings in 2020 was 9, the same as the number of planned trainings in 2019.	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character
6.1.8 Number of completed trainings for judges and public prosecutors focused on strengthening the rights of defence and protection of human rights in criminal proceedings	The number of completed trainings for judges and public prosecutors focused on strengthening the rights of defence and protection of human rights in criminal proceedings in 2020 was 8, the same as the number of completed trainings in 2019. However, these topics are also covered by and elaborated upon under other trainings organized by the AJPP.	Answer by the AJPP to a request for access to information of public character

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source	
6.2. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: IMPROVING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN (GUIDELINE 5.1.5 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)			
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	6.2.1 Вкупен број деца на возраст од 14 до 18 години кои издржуваат заводска мерка во воспитно-поправен дом подолго од една година	February 2020, inclusive three children aged 14 to 18 serve the measure of staying at an educational – correctional facility longer than a year. They are staying at the Tetovo Educational- Correctional Institute.	Answer to a request for access to information of public character given by the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions
	6.2.2 Вкупен број деца на возраст од 14 до 18 години кои издржуваат заводска мерка во воспитно-поправен дом подолго од три години	February 2020, inclusive there were no children aged 14 to 18 serving the measure of staying at an educational – correctional facility longer than three years, at the Tetovo Educational – Correctional Institute. In the period from February 2020 to February 2021, inclusive only one child aged 14 to 18 serves the measure of staying at an educational – correctional facility longer than three years.	Answers to a request for access to information of public character given by the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions
	6.2.3 Total number of young people aged 18 to 23 serving the measure of staying at an educational-correctional facility longer than three years	Following the request for access to information of public character sent to the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions, ⁴⁹ which was worded as follows: “Total number of young people aged 18 to 23 serving the measure of staying at an educational – correctional facility longer than three years” ⁵⁰ , an answer was given that until February 2020, inclusive a total number of three children aged 14 to 23 serve the measure of staying at the Tetovo Educational – Correctional Institute longer than a year. The answer to the second request for access to information of public character ⁵¹ was that a total number of two children aged 18 to 23 serve the measure of staying at an educational – correctional facility longer than three years.	Answers to a request for access to information of public character given by the Directorate for the Execution of Sanctions
	6.2.4 Total number of children-victims of crimes, who received free legal aid in the course of the year	According to paragraph 1 of Article 39 of the Law on Free Legal Aid ⁵² provisions of this Law on rules governing the procedure for approval of secondary legal aid shall not apply to providing legal aid to children, in accordance with provisions of the Law on Justice for Children”. Paragraph 2 of this same Article stipulates that “when legal aid is provided to children in procedures at Social Work Centres and at the Ministry of the Interior, in line with the provisions of the Law on Justice for Children, the Ministry of Justice shall be obliged to only make the payment upon submission of the cost schedule by the lawyer.” Hence, in line with these provisions, the Ministry of Justice received 44 cost schedules for 2020. A total number of 13 children were represented in proceedings. One child was represented in 31 proceedings, one child was represented in two proceedings and 11 children were represented in one procedure each.	Answer to a request for access to information of public character given by the Ministry of Justice

49 The request was sent in February 2020.

50 According to Article 46, paragraph 3 of the Law on Justice for Children “The child shall remain at the educational and correctional facility for at least one year, and no more than five years or until he/she turns 23 years of age. In imposing this measure, the Court shall not determine its duration, but decide thereon additionally.” Therefore, the aim was to see how many of the people serving the measure of staying at an educational – correctional facility belong to the category of young people.

51 The request was sent on 25 March 2021.

52 Official Gazette No. 101/2019, dated 22 May 2019.

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
6.2. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: IMPROVING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN (GUIDELINE 5.1.5 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS	<p>6.2.5 Number and profile of attendants of continual training at the AJPP, who completed training on treatment of children-victims</p> <p>In 2019, 8 judges, 12 public prosecutors, 2 expert associates from the courts and the public prosecutors' offices and 15 representatives of the Ministry of the Interior completed such training at the AJPP.</p> <p>In 2020, a total number of 449 persons attended trainings focused on victims, including children - victims, of whom 184 judges, 196 public prosecutors, 33 administrative staff, 7 lawyers, 4 representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, 22 attendants of initial training and three other participants.</p>	Answer to a request for access to information of public character given by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors
	<p>6.2.6 Number of trainings organized as part of the continual training at the AJPP relating to treatment of children-victims</p> <p>In 2019, there were two advisory events.</p> <p>In 2020, there were 17 trainings focused on victims, including children – victims.</p>	Answer to a request for access to information of public character given by the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors

7. STRATEGIC GOAL: MISDEMEANOUR MATTERS

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
7.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: PREVENTION VIS-À-VIS REPRESSION AS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF MISDEMEANOUR PROCEEDINGS (GUIDELINE 5.3.4 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
STRATEGIC GUIDELINE INDICATORS 7.1.1 Share of preventive measures (decision, education) compared with repressive measures (fine, settlement, misdemeanour charges) in the total number of measures ordered following inspection	The Inspection Council has changed the manner of keeping statistics. Therefore, the value of the indicator cannot be calculated.	
7.1.2 Percentage of cases in which settlement proceedings were instituted, as compared with the percentage of cases in which misdemeanour charges were filed	The Inspection Council has changed the manner of keeping statistics. Therefore, the value of the indicator cannot be calculated.	

8. STRATEGIC GOAL: CIVIL MATTERS

Indicator	2020 values compared with 2019 values, if data are available	Source
8.1. STRATEGIC GUIDELINE: ESTABLISHING A STABLE CIVIL LAW SYSTEM BY FILLING IN EXISTING LEGAL GAPS AND ALIGNING IT WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND MODERN SOCIAL TRENDS (GUIDELINE 5.4.1 UNDER THE STRATEGY FOR REFORM OF THE JUDICIAL SECTOR)		
8.1.1 Perception of parties as to whether courts treat people equally regardless of their income, national or social origin, gender, or religion	The majority of surveyed citizens completely or partially agree that judges and court staff treat people equally, regardless of their income, national or social origin, gender, or religion. In 2019, 63% of surveyed citizens held such an opinion about judges, and 64% about the court staff. In 2020, 46.5% held such an opinion about judges and 48% about the court staff.	First and second Survey of citizens involved in court proceedings
8.1.2 Satisfaction of parties with the possibility to present before the court their evidence and to challenge the evidence of the other party	58% of citizens surveyed in 2020 and 41% of citizens surveyed in 2021 were relatively satisfied with the possibility given to them to present evidence, while 15% were dissatisfied and 25% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	First and second Survey of citizens involved in court proceedings
8.1.3 Satisfaction of parties with the manner in which the judge heard witnesses	53% of citizens surveyed in 2020, who participated in civil law court proceedings, were relatively satisfied with the manner in which the judge heard the parties to the proceedings, while according to the results of the 2021 Survey the satisfaction level was slightly increased with 56% of surveyed citizens stating that they were relatively satisfied, while 4% stated that they were dissatisfied, and 25% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, according to the results of the 2021 Survey.	First and second Survey of citizens involved in court proceedings
8.1.4 Satisfaction of parties with the duration of proceedings	45% of citizens surveyed in 2020, i.e., 40% of citizens surveyed in 2021, involved in civil law court proceedings were dissatisfied with the duration of proceedings. The main reason for their dissatisfaction with the duration of proceedings stated by dissatisfied citizens are the lengthy periods between scheduled hearings and frequent delays of hearings- according to the results of both Surveys.	First and second Survey of citizens involved in court proceedings

