

European Rule of Law Mechanism: input from Slovenia

2025 Rule of Law Report

I. Justice System

Measures to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2024 Report regarding the justice system

In view of the first recommendation in the 2024 Rule of Law Report, there has been new development. Act amending the Parliamentary Inquiry Act (ZPPre-A),¹ adopted by the National Assembly in September 2024, was published in the Official Gazette in December and entered into force on 4 January 2025. Among other aspects, including additional protection of human rights, it has implemented three previously outstanding Decisions of the Constitutional Court that had called for statutory implementation, two of them concerning protection of independence of the judiciary and self-dependence of the state prosecution. Relevant judicial and state-prosecutorial bodies can submit requests to the Constitutional Court for constitutional review of acts establishing parliamentary inquiries if they opine that these acts encroach upon the independence of judiciary or the self-dependence of state prosecution. The Constitutional Court had already decided in November that, since ZPPre-A implemented its decisions, a proposed referendum was not permissible.² Development related to follow-up measures regarding the first recommendation from 2024 Rule of Law Report is also addressed in the contribution from the National Assembly (Appendix 1).

As part of preparations for the adoption of new judicial legislation, the Ministry of Justice held in-depth working meetings with representatives of the Supreme Court and the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office in April and May 2024. New drafts of the Courts Act, the Judges Act, as well as an amendment to the Judicial Council Act were prepared in the beginning of July and sent to the judicial stakeholders (Supreme and other courts, Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, Judicial Council). The Ministry of Justice received their comments and remarks at the end of August. In September and October, the Ministry of Justice held several working meetings with the President of the Supreme Court and his team. Three separate meetings were held with the presidents of the Local, the District, and Higher court of Ljubljana. In the middle of October, another meeting took place with all the presidents of district and higher courts, regarding potential risks and issues related to the reorganization of first-instance courts. In November, Supreme Court sent the final article proposals. In December, final inter-departmental coordination with the Government Office for Legislation and the Ministry of Finance was held, and final versions of draft acts were prepared. Before the draft acts are submitted to the Government, coalition coordination with members of the National Assembly needs to be carried out.

The third recommendation addressed the resources and remuneration within justice system. The Constitutional Court had already established the methodology for adjusting judges' salaries in accordance with the rate of inflation resulting in an 12,35% increase of salaries effective from January 2024. Additionally, in agreement with representatives of the judges, new, higher classifications of judicial functionaries in the salary grades have been established. The salary increase will be implemented gradually until 1 January 2028 for all public employees, including judges. Moreover, the values of salary grades will be subject to annual adjustments, with the methodology for such adjustments explicitly defined by law. The new salary system ensures a better relative comparability of salaries among legislative, executive and judicial functionaries and includes a mechanism for preventing real decline in salaries of public employees and functionaries.

¹ Official Gazette, No. [108/24](#).

² Decision of the Constitutional Court, No. [U-I-109/24](#), of 20 November 2024.

A. *Independence*

No developments

If there have been developments related to the independence of justice, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below:

- ***Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)***

On 9 May 2024, the State Prosecutorial Council has adopted amendments to the Criteria for the Quality of the Work of State Prosecutors for the Evaluation of the Prosecution Service.

- ***Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary***

Impact of the public's perception of the judiciary is reflected at various levels; from the willingness of parties to participate in court proceedings and respect for court decisions, to the acceptance of the court as a prospective employer. A large part of the public's distrust may stem from misconceptions about the functioning of the judiciary and its role in a democratic society, which is why the Supreme Court pays special attention to informing the public and familiarizing young people with the role, mission and functioning of the judiciary.

Throughout 2024, numerous activities were carried out to bring the judiciary closer to the public. Purpose of these efforts is to help raise the visibility and reputation of the Supreme Court and, indirectly, the entire judiciary, through various activities. Main areas of activity are strengthening relations with the media and proactive communication with various target groups. Despite legal provisions that provide for a longer response time when communicating with the media, the Supreme Court strives for the fastest possible response time, due to the nature of the media and the importance of their work.

Supreme Court has kept the public up to date with its important decisions through various communication channels. It has also ensured intensive communication of other important topics, such as caring for the interests of children in court proceedings. In May 2024, the Supreme Court organized a round table with criminal law experts on the topic of child sexual abuse, the content of which was shared with professional and general public on its website.

General information is provided to the public on a website managed by the Supreme Court.³ As legal terminology is often detailed and professional, sometimes difficult for lay public to understand, the content is prepared with an emphasis on accessibility to the widest possible circle of people. All brochures on court proceedings were updated with new information in 2024. Animations about the judiciary and court procedures are regularly used in communication with young people, including during visits to primary and secondary schools. The public can also follow the operation of the courts in an up-to-date and transparent manner on a second website.⁴ Moreover, the work of courts and the content of court decisions are also brought to the public via posts on various social networks: X, BlueSky, Youtube, as well as Facebook and Instagram.

In 2024, the Supreme Court organized an Open Day for the first time, at which it presented the work of judges and characteristics of the judicial profession, the role of court staff, international cooperation of the court, and the work and materials of the Central Judicial Library. On this occasion, representatives of the Parliamentary Committee for Justice also visited the Supreme Court and agreed that the visits should become a regular event. In addition, an exhibition of more than twenty judicial robes from European supreme courts and international courts was prepared. In bringing the judiciary closer to young people, the Supreme Court carried out visits to secondary schools and invited the students to visit the court palace. Students from both the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana, and the European Faculty of Law of the New University also visited the Supreme Court in 2024.

³ Accessible [here](#).

⁴ Accessible [here](#).

First-instance courts have also continued their activities to bring the judiciary closer to the public. This primarily involves holding open days, during which visitors (especially young people) are introduced to the functioning of the court. Visitors were particularly interested in the simulations of the main hearing (in criminal and civil proceedings), and were also introduced to various types of court proceedings and the roles of persons employed in the courts. In 2024, such activities were carried out by the district courts in Koper and Ptuj and the Higher Labour and Social Court. The courts were also presented in their employer role at several job fairs.

Representatives of the Office of the State Prosecutor General regularly participated in events aimed at bringing the work of the state prosecutor's offices and the judicial system closer to the public.

B. Quality of justice

No developments

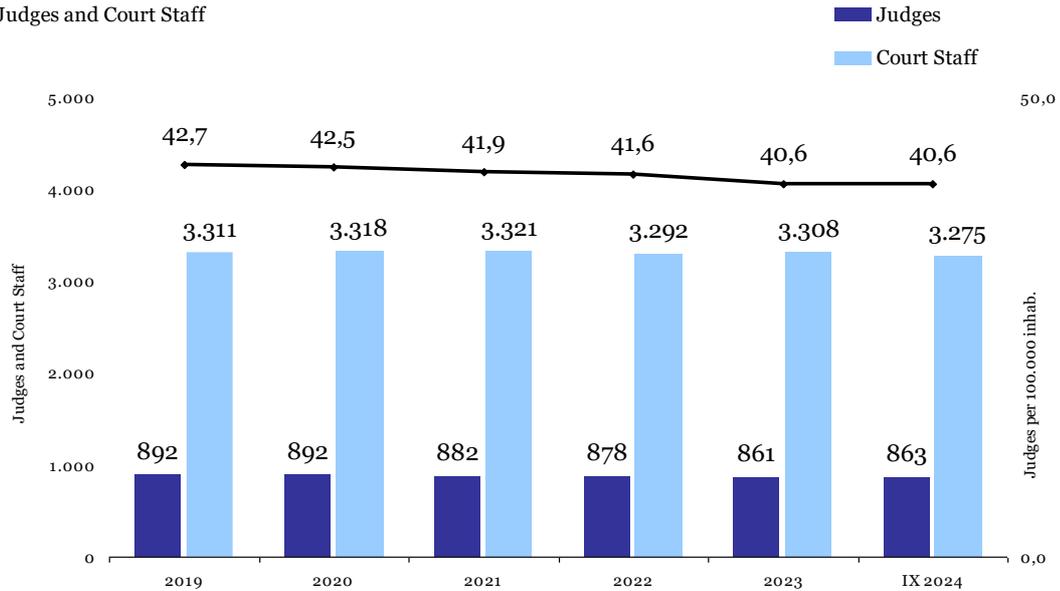
If there have been developments related to the quality of justice, please specify which, regarding in particular topics listed below:

- *Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material), remuneration/bonuses/rewards for judges and prosecutors, including observed changes (significant and targeted increase or decrease over the past year)*

Judges: total human resources on 30 September 2024:

	Secretaries general, Directors	Senior judicial advisors	Judicial assistants	Registrars	Typists	Other court staff
2012	21	481	502	557	1.080	677
2013	20	540	500	554	998	664
2014	20	534	494	550	976	671
2015	20	517	502	534	947	657
2016	19	543	538	504	948	650
2017	19	549	539	499	944	654
2018	19	576	573	495	934	669
2019	20	593	588	505	937	671
2020	18	597	593	499	930	683
2021	18	624	595	500	893	691
2022	16	611	591	500	885	690
2023	15	617	588	498	881	709
IX 2024	15	615	588	504	837	716

Judges and Court Staff



Adopted 2025 budget for all Slovenian courts amounts to 275,7 million euros (30,3 million more than the funds provided for 2024 and 35,7 million more than the estimated realization for 2024).

In 2024, the Ministry of Justice allocated funds for the rental of court and prosecution office premises, as well as for the maintenance of these buildings, including associated equipment, technical security measures, and the production of judicial robes, as follows:

- for the courts: 11.340.179,71 euros;
- for prosecution offices: 1.426.824,61 euros.

The largest growth in spending by the courts in 2024 is recorded in expenditures for salaries, goods and services. The rise in goods and services is mainly due to higher costs of free legal aid, legal proceedings, and logistic services.

Prosecutors:

As of 31 December 2024, 216 prosecutorial posts were occupied in the prosecutor's offices (out of the 268 posts foreseen in the overall staffing plan for 2024), including 40 district prosecutors, 110 district prosecutors, 49 senior prosecutors and 17 supreme prosecutors.

This represents an increase of 3,8% in the number of prosecutor posts compared to 2023, when 208 out of 268 prosecutor posts were occupied (31 December 2023).

As of 31 December 2024, 318 civil servants have been recruited to prosecutor's offices (out of the 401 authorised civil service posts in the 2024 establishment plan), including 2 directors, 73 assistants, 11 trainee prosecutors and 232 other staff.

The aforementioned represents a minimal increase in the number of civil servants recruited compared to 2023, when 315 of the 371 authorised civil service posts were occupied (31 December 2023).

Financial plan of state prosecutors' offices and the State Prosecutorial Council for 2024 was 29.030.381 euros, and the budget was implemented at 28.866.965 euros. With the budget thus adopted, the plans for 2024 have been implemented in term of salaries and the material costs of labour, as well as space and technical needs for the work of the state prosecutor's offices.

Regarding the regulation of judges' salaries, the Decision of the Constitutional Court, No. U-I-772/21, dated 1 June 2023,⁵ is of paramount importance. The Court established that the method of determining

⁵ Official Gazette, No. [72/23](#). Press release in English available [here](#).

basic salaries for judges, as well as the regulation of their salary adjustments, was inconsistent with the principle of judicial independence as stipulated in Article 125 of the Slovenian Constitution. This inconsistency stemmed from the erosion of the real value of judges' salaries in relation to the inflation rate during the comparative period (from 1 June 2012 until the end of May 2023). Furthermore, the Court identified a violation of the principle of separation of powers, as articulated in the second sentence of the second paragraph of Article 3 of the Constitution, concerning the salary relationships between members of parliament and judges.

In its Decision, No. U-I-8/24-23, issued on 30 May 2024,⁶ the Constitutional Court established the methodology for adjusting judges' salaries in accordance with the inflation rate between 1 June 2012 and 31 December 2023, resulting in an 12,35% increase of salaries effective from January 2024.

Subsequently, with the enactment of the new Law on Common Foundations of the Public Sector Salary System on 24 October 2024, Constitutional Court's Decision of 1 June 2023 has been fully addressed.

In agreement with representatives of the judges, new, higher classifications of judicial functionaries in the salary grades have been established. The salary increase will be implemented gradually by 1 January 2028 for all public employees, including judges. Moreover, the values of salary grades will be subject to annual adjustments, using the methodology for such adjustments explicitly defined by law. Should an agreement not be reached, the values will be adjusted by 80% of the increase in the cost of living.

The new salary system will ensure a more appropriate relative comparability of salaries among legislative, executive and judicial functionaries, and includes the mechanism for preventing real decline in salaries of public employees and functionaries.

- ***Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, clerks/trainees)***

In 2024, the Judicial Training Centre conducted 48 different training programs in the following areas: (1) civil law, (2) labour and social security law, (3) commercial law, (4) criminal law, (5) administrative law, (6) leadership and management in the judiciary, (7) functioning of the judiciary, (8) legal terminology, (9) training for judicial staff, and (10) training in cooperation with international institutions. The training sessions were attended by 3.396 court employees, 654 state prosecutors, and 522 other participants (lawyers, police officers, notaries, etc.).

Specific trainings have also been conducted within judiciary and state prosecutor's offices.

- ***Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, including electronic communication and AI tools, within the justice system and with court users, procedural rules, access to judgments online)***

In 2024, the Ministry of Justice fully implemented the EVIZ information system, digitizing business processes in the following areas:

- Register of court experts, appraisers, and interpreters
- Register of bankruptcy trustees
- Register of bailiffs, their deputies, and assistants
- Register under the Act on Compensation to Victims of Crime
- Register of official IDs for courts, state prosecutors, and state attorneys
- Register of document certifications
- Register under the Act on Compensation to Victims of War and Post-War Violence
- Central Register of Mediators
- Register of Conciliators
- Register of Refugee Advisors
- Record of penalty points in road traffic (hereinafter: EKT)

⁶ Available [here](#).

- Record of final judgements for minor offences (hereinafter: EPS)
- Register of Discharge of Obligations
- Central Register of Candidates for Judicial Internship

As part of the EKT and EPS registers, the Ministry of Justice developed a module for administrative units, where their administrators can independently check the data of candidates submitting applications. This has improved data acquisition time, as the process was previously dependent on paper-based operations and postal services. The EKT register is also connected to eUprava where Slovenian citizens can submit e-applications to obtain information on the number of their traffic-offense points.

All registers within the EVIZ information system are connected to external systems enabling acquisition of data necessary for verifying the accuracy of the entered data, while also allowing data sharing with other state organizations that require it for their operational processes, such as the Supreme Court.

In 2024, the Ministry of Justice, within the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, continued to implement measures for increased digitalization of the judiciary, as reflected in the following projects:

- Green conference room for the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office
- Purchase and implementation of videoconferencing and related AV equipment for courts
- Virtual assistant at the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office
An IT system driven by AI technology will support prosecutors in decision-making regarding alternative criminal procedures. The tool will enable drafting of decision templates, assess the likelihood of success of procedures, and evaluate the possibility of discontinuing prosecution, in line with the principle of proportionality. Additionally, it will develop an advanced search engine that will analyse extensive data collections and identify relevant connections for the preparation of indictments and evidence.
- Information solution to support the document authentication process at the Ministry of Justice
An eCertifications solution will be developed to support document authentication process at the Ministry of Justice. This will include a register of scanned signatures and seals of notaries, district judges, notary assistants, and court interpreters, access to records of qualified certificates for electronic signatures and seals, as well as enabling of electronic document verification with an Apostille stamp. It will also digitize registries, issue authentication certificates, collect statistical data, allow online certificate verification, and be connected to data from the Hague Conference for Private International Law regarding the Hague Convention on Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents.
- Modern e-learning system and a system for exam digitization within the Judicial Training
The system will enable digital execution of exams, transition to digital implementation of the Legal State Exam, and use of modern technical and andragogical teaching methods. It will support both traditional education (blended learning) and independent e-learning. The goals of the project are digitalization of exams and modernization of e-learning with advanced remote-teaching methods.

Within the framework of the European Cohesion Policy Program 2021-2027 in Slovenia, the Ministry of Justice has also started implementing projects (under the target policy CP1 – A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity) with the priority investment in an Innovative Knowledge-based Society.

Since 15 January 2024, applications and documents can be filed electronically via the e-Justice portal in following procedures:

- Probate/inheritance proceedings,
- Proceedings for obtaining full capacity to contract for a child that has become a parent,
- Proceedings for the permission of conclusion of a marriage,
- Matrimonial proceedings,
- Proceedings for establishing and challenging paternity and maternity
- Proceedings for the protection of the best interests of a child

- Proceedings relating to housing protection on divorce, and
- Proceedings under the law on the prevention of domestic violence.

Service to state authorities, attorneys, notaries, public, enforcement officers, receivers, and other persons so required by law, is always performed by secure electronic means. Like authorities, they must register their secure electronic mailbox or address for service by secure electronic means in the e-justice information system.

Since 17 June 2024, it is possible to file electronic applications for an admissible revision in civil court proceedings, including insolvency proceedings, and administrative court disputes via e-Justice portal.

Since 15 September 2024, filing of electronic applications and documents via the e-Justice portal, including electronic communication, is also possible in judicial redress procedures of former holders of qualifying liabilities of banks.

E-filing is available either through the web portal or secure electronic mailbox of the court (e-Odložišče). Submissions are transferred to electronic case management systems through validation applications for civil and criminal cases (eVA, Čakalnica). Electronic delivery is enabled according to procedural rules corresponding different types of cases (criminal, civil).

Required by law, certain types of documents must be submitted to court in electronic form only. In 2024, e-communication was enabled for all family and inheritance cases, as well as proceedings conducted under the Law on the Procedure for the Judicial Protection of Former Holders of Qualified Liabilities of Banks. Electronic filing of a motion for leave to review was enabled in proceedings where the law allows for leave to review under the rules of Civil Procedure Act.

Full transition to e-communication in administrative, civil and commercial cases for all courts and participants in court proceedings remains a priority task in 2025. For criminal cases, e-communication between courts, parties and lawyers will begin via a pilot between the local court and the district prosecutor's office in Kranj in early 2025.

In 2024, new functionalities of the application for validating and receiving incoming consignments to the registry (eVa), as well as the application allowing the production of electronic documents, electronic signatures and electronic service of these documents (iPUND) in civil proceedings were developed. The use of the eVa application (horizontal solution for uniform validation of incoming submissions) in all types of civil cases is planned in 2025 for first instance courts.

Functionalities for electronic delivery in criminal cases will be implemented in January 2025. In civil cases, serving court writings to state bodies in electronic safe inbox (SI-CeV) has been established.

The application for viewing and annotating electronic court cases (eSpis) is currently in use in district courts in insolvency cases, while its use in civil and criminal procedure is currently tested. Further development is planned in 2025.

Speech-to-text system (TIPKO) is implemented in all Slovenian courts. Text recognition is aided by AI and is used in combination with recording of court hearings, while it also enables dictation (e.g. drafts of court decisions), reducing time needed for transcription and thus helping reduce duration of court procedures and disburdening court staff. In 2025, the implementation of real-time subtitling of court hearings for hearing impaired users is planned.

The IT system for recording court hearings and publishing them online (ASOD) has been established.

In 2024, IT solution for recording and managing financial obligations in the judiciary (eObligations) was upgraded. It will be launched in 2025, first for criminal, and later for other judicial proceedings.

Supreme State Prosecutor's Office reports that testing of the transfer of documents between the information systems of the Police and the state prosecutor's offices had started. Duty desk began using a more secure end-to-end encryption for communication between police officers and prosecutors.

- *Specialisation (of judges/specific courts/chambers within courts) and training for the judiciary to deal with commercial cases.*

On first instance, commercial cases are dealt with by district courts of general jurisdiction. Nine district courts have specialised commercial departments, while two smaller courts have joint civil department (for civil litigious and commercial cases). All district courts also deal with insolvency cases and business registry. All four higher courts of general jurisdiction, as well as the Supreme Court, have commercial departments. Ljubljana Higher Court exercises exclusive competence for insolvency cases at the second instance.

Training events are organized yearly by the Judicial training Centre at the Ministry of Justice for judges and court staff, dealing with specific types of cases (i.e. commercial, insolvency, business registry).

In 2024, the Judicial Training Centre organized five different training programs in the field of commercial law, namely:

- Commercial Law School,
- Expert Meeting of Judges of First Instance – Commercial Law,
- Expert Meeting of Judges of First Instance – Insolvency,
- Registry School and
- Insolvency Law School.

A total of 423 participants attended the programs, including 323 court employees and 100 other participants (administrators, notaries, etc.).

- *Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms and mediation*

Mediation is offered as a rule in all disputes arising from commercial, labour, family and other civil relationships. The court may adopt and implement the programme as an activity organised directly in court (court-annexed programme) or on the basis of a contract with a suitable provider of ADR. All courts of first and second instance have adopted ADR programmes. Mediation in commercial disputes is always paid by the parties. Parties may be referred to mediation on the basis of parties' agreement or on the basis of an information session. If mediation starts, court proceedings are suspended for 3 months. The Financial Operations, Insolvency Proceedings and Compulsory Dissolution Act (ZFPPIPP) also contains special rules on the possibility of mediation. The court conducting insolvency proceedings shall refer the parties and the administrator to mediation where the court determines that, under the circumstances, this is appropriate for resolving a dispute or a conflict of interests arising from or directly associated with insolvency proceedings. Mediation proceedings shall commence with the issuing of a decision to refer to mediation and shall be deemed unsuccessful if no agreement to settle a dispute or a conflict of interests has been reached within 60 days. If a court settlement is reached, the court that issued the decision to refer to mediation shall be competent to conclude it.

In cases where ZFPPIPP provides that parties to the principal insolvency proceedings or the insolvency administrator are eligible to bring an action, parties to the proceedings and the administrator may agree on mediation before bringing an action. Mediation proceedings shall commence on the date when the parties enter into a written agreement to settle the dispute through mediation and shall be deemed unsuccessful if no agreement to settle a dispute or conflict of interests has been reached within 60 days of the commencement of the mediation proceedings. The parties to mediation proceedings may reach a court settlement before the court that would have jurisdiction to decide on the action.

In 2024, mediation was offered in a total of 12.750 cases in all courts and instances. In commercial cases, mediation was offered in 2.436 cases (49% of incoming commercial cases) in first instance – district courts, and in 188 cases (17% of incoming commercial cases) in second instance – higher courts). In 2024, 2.890 mediations started in all courts for all types of cases (incoming mediations), and 2.881 were concluded (mediation case resolved).

C. Efficiency of the justice system:

No developments

If there have been developments related to efforts to improve the efficiency of the justice system (*e.g. as regards length of proceedings*), please specify:

Length of proceedings

According to Supreme Court statistics, the duration of proceedings in 2024 remained at a similar level as in 2023, both for important and other cases (8,5 and 0,8 months respectively).

In 2024, courts received 4% more, and solved 3% more cases than in 2023. The number of pending cases increased by 3% in 2024.

In 2024, court management focused on implementing time-frames as one of the priority areas set at the Opening of the Judicial Year. While the working group at the Supreme Court formed a proposal for setting timeframes for additional types of cases, the courts continued their efforts to improve their results by implementing different court management measures. The Supreme Court's annual conference on best practices in judiciary (December 2024) was dedicated specifically to this topic.

Shortening of some of the inheritance procedures

When the existence of heirs is unknown, the court calls by announcement upon those who think they have a right to inheritance to report to the court. If no heir presents themselves within six months of the publication of the announcement, the estate is proclaimed state property and delivered to the competent authority, unless it is transferred to a bankruptcy estate in insolvency proceedings for an estate no heirs. Before the Inheritance Act was amended in 2024, heirs could report to the court within one year of the publication of the announcement. Shortening the time limit will expediate some inheritance procedures.⁷

Clearance rate in prosecution

The statistics for 2024 show that prosecutor's offices received a total of 27.875 criminal indictments and disposed of 26.807. Dynamics of the clearance rate in the reporting year show that prosecutor's offices disposed of 1.068 fewer indictments than they received, which represents a clearance rate of 96,1%.

Nevertheless, the clearance rate in 2024 is higher than in 2023 (a total of 27.489 denunciations received and 26.167 denunciations solved, representing a 95,2% clearance rate). Trends in number of indictments received for the last three reporting periods show a constant increase. In the context of prosecutor posts occupied, this represents a marked effort and optimisation of work processes, indicating efficient work of the state prosecutors. Number of prosecutions solved in 2024 was also higher than in the previous reporting years.

Direct indictments after acquired consent

Statistics of prosecution offices for 2024 (until 15 December 2024) show a comparable number of direct indictments filed compared to the previous year. Despite a slight decrease in direct indictments and motions for indictments, there was an increase in filing of direct indictments after obtaining consent of the investigating judge in 2024, which reflects the efforts of the state prosecutors to streamline and handle cases more efficiently.

⁷ Available [here](#).

Type of charges/ YEAR	2024	2023	2022
Direct indictment	821	850	661
Direct indictment after the acquired consent	174	81	84
Motion for indictment	6882	6985	7042
Total	7877	7916	7787

II. Anti-corruption framework

Measures to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2024 Report regarding the anti-corruption framework

New resolution on the prevention of corruption was approved by the Government on 16 January 2025 and submitted to the National Assembly for adoption. It presents the fundamental principles of corruption prevention in the Republic of Slovenia and assesses the state as perceived by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and certain international organizations. The resolution defines five types of goals in its substantive part: 1) goals or guidelines that apply to society as a whole (public sector, private sector, civil society, and the general public); 2) goals that apply to both the public and private sectors; 3) goals that apply solely to the public sector; 4) goals for particularly exposed areas; and 5) goals for specific areas of state and societal operations. A total of 77 goals have been defined.

In 2024, the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office intensified its cooperation with the General Police Directorate on corruption offences. Meetings with police officers responsible for corruption are more frequent, reminding them of the need for prosecutorial guidance and advice to investigators working on a specific case at the earliest stage (e.g. upon receipt of an anonymous report). Measures to be taken at systemic level in corruption investigations are also discussed. The prosecutors of the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office are also actively involved in training police officers on corruption issues.

A. *The institutional framework capacity to fight against corruption (prevention and investigation / prosecution)*

No developments

If there have been developments related to the institutional framework capacity to fight corruption, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below: ...

- ***List any changes as regards relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption and the resources allocated to each of these authorities (the human, financial, legal, and technical resources as relevant), including the cooperation among domestic and with foreign authorities. Indicate any relevant measures taken to effectively and timely cooperate with OLAF and EPPO.***

In 2024, due to staff fluctuation the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (hereinafter: CPC) had 47 persons actively employed (as well as 4 additional persons whose contract is on standstill) and will have 48 persons employed in the beginning of 2025. The CPC received sufficient funds for their salaries for 2025.

The Government approved the overall budget proposal for 2025, resulting in the CPC's 2025 budget amounting to 2.958.150 euros.

With regard to the costs of a new lease for renting the IT servers for the ERAR and Corruptio reported in 2024 (please see the CPC's replies for 2024 report), the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDT) has not yet formed its policy on the lease of its servers. Therefore, the cost of such lease for the Commission is also not yet known. Agreement on the lease of the servers between the CPC and the MDT is planned to be concluded in the first half of 2026, upon the adoption of the MDT lease policy.

The latest amendments of the public sector salary system in Slovenia positioned the salaries of the CPC's

senate in line with the salaries of the functionaries of other independent state bodies.

- ***Information on the implementation of measures foreseen in the strategic anti-corruption framework (if applicable). If available, please provide relevant objectives and indicators.***

As part of Ministry of the Interior's priority to align relevant legislation with EU law, further amendments to the Police Tasks and Powers Act are planned. Changes will focus on addressing potential high-level political influence in police decision-making and regulating measures to prevent any such influence. Amendments adjusting the Police Tasks and Powers Act to normative obligations under EU law are expected to be adopted by end of January 2025. Amendments to the Police Tasks and Powers Act to better regulate the supervision of police work and prevent any political influence in decision-making will be implemented with additional amendment legislative procedure.

B. Prevention

No developments

If there have been developments related to the prevention of corruption, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below:

- ***Measures to enhance integrity in the public sector (including as regards incompatibility rules, revolving doors, codes of conduct, ethics).***

The European Commission should also refer to information received in the previous years.

The CPC amended the existing Systemic Explanation on Limitation of Business Activity with clarifications on business limitations regarding joint public procurements and joint municipal administrations, reflecting the new approach of the CPC on these issues. This document joins the systemic explanations on other anti-corruption topics from previous years (conflict of interest, incompatibility of public office, asset declaration, anti-corruption clause, gifts in the public sector) which form a platform that describes and clarifies legal and practical aspects of these issues.

In terms of awareness raising and training as a form of enhancing integrity in public sector the CPC launched a publicly accessible 'virtual classroom' with visual presentations of the procedures of the CPC and various anti-corruption and integrity topics. It also conducted more than in-person, online or hybrid 70 trainings for public sector employees on various topics, such as lobbying, conflict of interest, integrity breaches, gifts etc.

Specifically for top executive office holders the Ministry for Public Administration in cooperation with the CPC prepared eight short scenarios on gifts, lobbying, business restrictions and conflict of interest regulation to be used for making educational videos. These videos will be used as an e-learning tool to raise awareness of top executive office holders. The videos will be made by the Administrative Academy of the Ministry of Public Administration in 2025.

Secretariat-General of the Government has created a special folder, the 'Integrity Corner', stored on the desktop of each member of the Government and containing documents related to the obligations of Ministers under Integrity and Prevention of Corruption Act (hereinafter: IPCA) and the Code of Ethics of Public Officials.

According to the IPCA, the CPC has the authority to initiate administrative investigations into breaches of integrity by public officials and publish its findings on the CPC's website. In 2024, the Administrative Court endorsed the CPC's findings in two cases.

- ***Measures to enhance general transparency of public decision-making (including rules on lobbying, asset and interest disclosure rules, gifts policy, transparency of political party financing).***

The European Commission should refer to the information received in the previous years.

In 2024, the CPC issued and amended Systemic Explanation on Lobbying with the aim of providing a

comprehensive interpretation of provisions of the IPCA that govern the regulation of lobbying. The explanation clearly defines the obligations of officials under IPCA to report lobbying contacts and illegal lobbying and acts as a go-to document for public officials, lobbyists and interest groups, to better understand the legal requirements regarding lobbying.

In 2024, the CPC engaged in a complex upgrade of its web portal ERAR, a publicly accessible portal depicting expenditure of public funds. The upgrade will modernize the presentation of data, to be accessible in a larger scope and in a more user-friendly way, while the system will also enable a more thorough data analysis.

In addition, the CPC also engaged in an upgrade of its system *Corruptio*, an internal database containing all the data on reporting of the designated persons. The modernized *Corruptio* will become a uniform channel for submission of all reports of designated persons under IPCA (currently there are several channels for the submission of reports), as well as enable CPC to perform a more efficient monitoring of the reporting obligations of the designated natural and legal persons in line with IPCA.

Upgrades of both portals will be launched in 2025.

- ***Measures to prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector. Please specify the features and scope of their application (e.g. categories of officials concerned, types of checks and corrective measures depending on the category of officials concerned).***

The European Commission should refer to the information received in the previous years, as there have not been any changes in the categories of officials concerned and the corrective measures applied.

As previously reported, public servants are excluded from the conflict of interest provisions of the IPCA due to the principle of subsidiarity, while there was a government initiative to unify the regulation on this topic for all officials and public servants. The CPC submitted comments on Article 100 of the Public Employees Act regarding conflicts of interest and its position in terms of resources. At this time, the CPC does not have any new information regarding this issue.

Statistical data on reports of breaches or wrongdoings and their resolution for the year 2024 will be visible in the CPC's annual report and can be provided later.

- ***Measures to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption, including their application (i.e. number of reports received, and the follow-up given).***

As reported in the previous year, the new Reporting Persons Protection Act⁸ introduced several measures to protect whistleblowers and encourage the reporting of violations, including corruption. The system of internal and external reporting channels was established in accordance with the law and the European Commission should refer to the information received in the previous year.

Besides offering protection based on the new law, the main activity of the Commission in the year 2024 was to provide recommendations and instructions to all stakeholders regarding efficiency of reporting channels and whistleblower protection, as well as generally raising the awareness that whistleblowers play a major role in detecting and curbing corruption and other wrongdoings. The Commission also conducted several trainings for persons of trust appointed within the entities obliged to establish an internal reporting channel, and other educational activities on whistleblower protection.

According to the law, the legal entities that are obliged to establish an internal reporting channel and the external reporting bodies have to submit their statistical data to CPC by March 1 for the previous year, so the process of gathering information has only just started. The CPC will issue a full report by 1 April 2025 and Slovenia will inform the European Commission according to the reporting process designed by the EU Whistleblower Directive.

The Specialised State Prosecutor's Office notes that it has not yet detected positive effects of the Reporting Persons Protection Act on reporting or denunciation of corruption criminal offences.

⁸ Available [here](#). A version in English is also [available](#).

- *Specific measures to enhance transparency, integrity and accountability in sectors with high risks of corruption, with a view to monitor and prevent corruption and conflict of interests, and where applicable measures to prevent and address corruption committed by organised crime groups.*
 - *Such high-risk sectors could include: public procurement, including construction, transport/infrastructure, defence, cohesion, agriculture, environment, healthcare, citizen/residence investor schemes, large-scale investments of national interest and the spending of EU funds, urban planning.*

As in previous years, the CPC continued to monitor high-risk areas especially prone to corruption and integrity violations in the public sector, and conducted several investigations of breaches that fall under its competence.

Major analyses and investigations in the year 2024 were as follows:

Regarding public procurement, the CPC conducted investigations of violations of due conduct in several large investment projects (e.g. purchase of real estate, acquisition of IT equipment, concessions for water sources), and issued recommendations to the government and respective ministries on handling corruption risks.

In the field of healthcare, the CPC made an extensive analysis of additional private work of physicians and healthcare staff in two major Slovenian hospitals (in Ljubljana and Maribor) and will provide recommendations based on the results in early 2025.

In its investigation procedures, the CPC was also active in the area of state-owned companies, as it closely monitored appointments of management and supervisory board members, as well as suspicions of breaches of integrity and other violations of due conduct. According to IPCA, state-owned companies are considered public sector entities, which means that their management- and supervisory-board members fall under the competence of the CPC. State-owned companies represent an area especially prone to undue (political) influence and conflict of interest situations, therefore these subjects are monitored closely.

The CPC also investigated potential breaches of asset declaration obligations of heads of state bodies operating directly under the ministries. The violations established will be handled in separate misdemeanour proceedings.

Additionally, the foreseen Action plan of the Resolution of the Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Slovenia (for more information, please see feedback provided under section 'A') is designed in a way to address corruption risks in various areas of operation of public and private sector, including all areas with high corruption risks.

Another feature of enhancing accountability through corruption-prevention in Slovenia is addressing the risks of corruption and integrity through integrity plans, which are obligatory risk-management tools stipulated by IPCA.

According to Article 47 paragraph 1 of IPCA, the entities obliged to draw up integrity plans are state bodies, self-governing local communities, public agencies, public institutes, public utility institutes and public funds, while paragraph 2 of the same article authorizes the CPC to issue a decision ordering any other public entity to draw up, implement and amend an integrity plan, if there is a considerable risk of corruption or other form of unlawful conduct in its performance of an activity in the public interest and disposal of public assets.

The sample integrity plan was designed in 2010. Over the years, the need arose to introduce several amendments to the system in place. In 2024, the CPC thus performed a modernization of the integrity plan guidelines, upgraded a web portal for annual reporting and adopted a more systemic approach to the monitoring of the implementation of the integrity plans. The CPC also assigned a new role to integrity plan guardians, now called integrity officers, who oversee all obligations of the public sector body that

are set out in IPCA rather than limit their activities only to the obligations arising from the integrity plan, as was previously the case.

In 2024, the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office did not handle cases of corruption committed by organised crime groups. Experience in the prosecution of corruption shows that the following areas have been identified as sectors with a high risk of corruption: (1) large public procurement in the energy and health sectors, (2) all other public procurement, including low value procurement, as these often involve long-established business relationships between the contracting authorities (e.g. municipalities, public companies, public institutions) and the bidder, and are not detected by supervisory authorities, the media or the public, (3) EU funds, (4) issuing of various administrative permits, among which permits related to the continuation of the profit-making activity (e.g. building permits, vehicle technical tests) stand out, (5) reconstruction after the 2023 floods (including public procurement, absorption of EU funds, licensing).

For several years, the Police have been monitoring large investment projects financed from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia or the European Union as part of their powers. This area was given increased focus through a special task outlined in the 2023 Plan of Implementation for the Mandatory Guidelines and Instructions of the Minister, aimed at prioritizing the detection of corruption. In 2025, this effort will be further enhanced with the introduction of criminological data collection and analysis.

Additionally, the Resolution on the National Program for Prevention and Suppression of Crime for the period 2024–2028 was adopted in 2024. One of the goals in the resolution is strengthening inter-institutional cooperation in the field of economic crime, corruption and the protection of the financial interests of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Union. The Police is the responsible body to implement this goal in cooperation with ministries, Prosecutor's office, CPC, financial administration and other relevant institutions.

In 2024, the revised Political Parties Act also foresaw amending the Rules on the content and method of submission of the annual report of political parties. The new Rules were published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 39/24⁹, and entered into force on 25 May 2024. Their amendment was mainly necessary to comply with the Act amending the Political Parties Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 78/23¹⁰).

Programme of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Strengthening Integrity and Transparency in the Public Sector 2023–2026 (hereinafter: the Programme) was adopted in 2023¹¹ and represents an action plan of measures and their holders, participants, and implementation deadlines. Recognising that this is a preventive action to address the risks of corruption and to strengthen integrity in the public sector, many of the measures are developmental and target-oriented, and will be built up gradually to make a decisive contribution to the desired objective. The Programme includes a training with the aim to raise awareness, implemented by the Administrative Academy of the Ministry of Public Administration (UA MJU) and the Judicial Training Centre operating within the Ministry of Justice, and a training implemented by the CPC. These measures are permanent. The new measures in the Programme are grouped according to the areas of activity of government departments (health, environment and space, education and sport, economic development and technology, and others), other public sector entities, and include recommendations addressed to local community administrations. Some of the measures further concern the conduct and behaviour of public officials and the procedures and actions of inspection bodies.

In 2024, the Government adopted the second¹² (from 1 September 2023 to 29 February 2024) and the third Interim Report (from 1 March to 31 August 2024) to the Programme. Activities supporting permanent measures included in the Programme are being actively and continuously carried out. Two

⁹ Available [here](#).

¹⁰ Available [here](#).

¹¹ Available [here](#).

¹² Available [here](#).

measures were completed in the second reporting period.

The actions included in the Programme as permanent shall be implemented on a regular basis. A total of 272 participants attended training at the UA MJU in the field of integrity and ethics. The Ministry of the Interior reported a total of 108 training participants. The Judicial Training Centre reported on 74 training participants. While no training on integrity in public procurement was carried out during the reporting period at the UA MJU, these were planned for November 2024. The Ministry of Public Administration prepared e-trainings for officials and civil servants as an interactive tool – learning based on experience. Trainings for officials were planned to be ready by the end of 2024, as the preparation of the content had already been underway, and for civil servants by June 2025.

Purpose of the second measure was to provide publicly available data on the issued environmental protection permits and on the results of monitoring specified in environmental protection permits on the central websites of the state administration, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act. The Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (ARSO) publishes data on the results of monitoring specified in environmental permits on its website. Extension of the content of training for civil servants and officials in state bodies, local government administrations and other bodies governed by public law, carried out by the UA MJU in cooperation with Transparency International Slovenia, has also been completed.

In the case of other actions from the Programme that have not yet been completed, activities have either started or continued in accordance with the set method of achieving envisaged objective. For some of them, the relevant ministries have proposed an extension of the implementation deadline. Next Interim Report will be prepared in March 2025.

- ***Measures for the prevention of corruption in relation to the issuing of official permits (e.g. related to environment, energy and various types of construction)***

The Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy addresses the prevention of corruption in relation to the permits relating to the environment, energy, or certain types of construction through the its integrity plan, prepared as required by Article 47 of the Integrity and Prevention of Corruption Act, as well as the Guidelines prepared by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption.

The plan identifies and acknowledges the general risks officials at the Ministry may face, including during the process of issuing permits. Corruption-prevention measures are outlined in the plan and implemented by the Ministry to address such risks.

- ***Reporting on the use of digital technologies to enhance transparency and oversight in public procurement***

In Slovenia, mainly all public procurement processes are digitalized. Public procurement procedures are conducted through three state-owned electronic platforms:

- **e-Narocanje** (public procurement portal)¹³
- **e-JN** (electronic public procurement)¹⁴
- **e-Revizija** (information portal on the review requests)¹⁵

The **public procurement portal, e-Narocanje** platform is owned by the Ministry of Public Administration and is under management of the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (established as a public enterprise). It is an online informational portal to which the contracting authorities (hereinafter: CAs) directly send notices and documentation related to procurement procedures, as well as other documentation and data as defined by the Public Procurement Act (PPA)¹⁶, Defence and Security

¹³ Available [here](#).

¹⁴ Available [here](#).

¹⁵ Available [here](#).

¹⁶ Available [here](#).

in the Public procurement Act (DSPPA)¹⁷ and Public Information Access Act (PIAA)¹⁸. Publication on national public procurement portal, which is open to public, free and without registration, is required for:

- All notices on public procurement, both under the EU eForms regulation and, concerning contract and award, under the national procurement procedure (Article 52 of PPA and Article 46 of DSPPA).
- Decisions by the CAs in procurement procedures, followed by the contracts and their potential amendments, as well as names of participating economic operators and the contract value (Article 90 of PPA, Article 10.a of PIAA).
- Yearly, the list of contractors under Article 21, Paragraph 2 of PPA¹⁹.
- Information on possible review procedures, including the final decision of the National Review Commission (Article 13.a of the Legal Protection in Public Procurement Act²⁰, hereinafter: LPPPA).
- Monthly payments made by the CAs under the procurement contract until the termination of the contract (Article 10.a of PIAA).

All information is available through the dossier form on each individual procurement and can be accessed free of charge and without registration. The national procurement portal also serves as an electronic site where economic operators can find opportunities in Slovenian public procurement market. All CAs need to register at the portal to publish notices and other documentation. All questions on ongoing procurement procedures must be sent through the portal. Questions are anonymous and CAs must answer them and publish the answers and the possible changes to the procurement documentation on this portal. The portal also offers the for preparation of ESPD forms.

The **e-JN** information system is owned and managed by the Ministry of Public Administration, and connected with the public procurement portal, e-Narocanje. Its basic function is to allow the economic operators to submit their bids in the public procurement procedures. It has several other modules, offering electronic verification, electronic auctions, dynamic purchasing system, online supplementation and clarification of bids, notification of procurement possibilities²¹, deposition of verification documents, electronic catalogues, etc. It enables full electronic management of procurement procedures.

The e-JN information system is available to all users upon registration free of charge. Its use is not mandatory, CAs may use other (commercial) systems that offer electronic submission and communication in accordance with Article 37 of PPA. However, under national statistics, 96% of all procurement procedures in Slovenia are conducted through the e-JN information system, as it is the only system offering complete management of procurement procedures and guiding CAs through the process.

Its public part, available without registration, is also a central information point for economic operators, CAs and others, containing sample documentation, recommendation and advice/information about

¹⁷ Available [here](#).

¹⁸ Available [here](#).

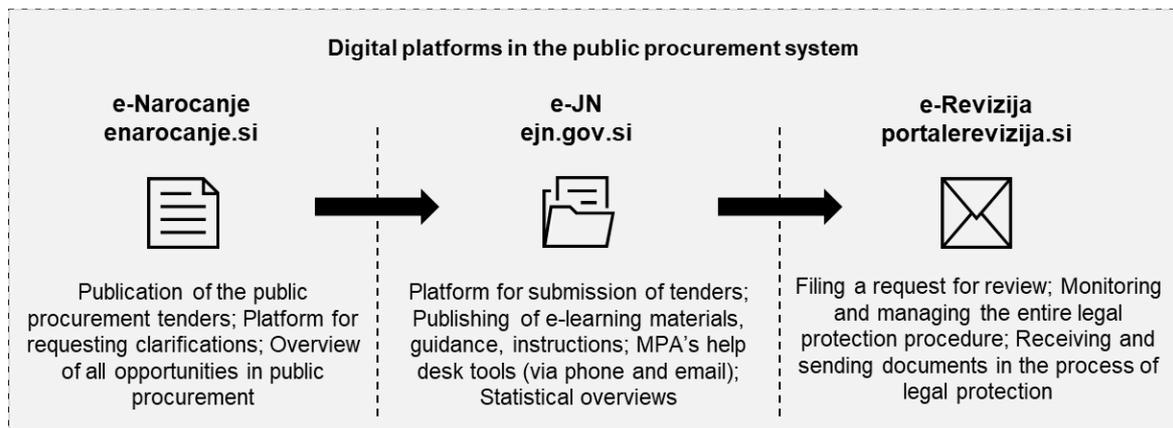
¹⁹ For public procurement with an estimated value lower than the national thresholds or awarded as individual lots to be excluded in accordance with Article 73, paragraph 5 of PPA, as well as for public contracts referred to in Article 27, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 15, 16, 17 and 18 of PPA, CAs are obliged to comply with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, and the principle of transparency. The CAs must also keep a record of the award of these contracts, including the subject-matter, the type of subject-matter and the value of the contract without VAT, and must communicate information on them in accordance with Article 106 of PPA. By the last day of February each year, CAs must publish on the public procurement portal a list of public contracts awarded during the preceding year, the value of which, without VAT, is below the national procurement thresholds and equal to or greater than EUR 10.000, without VAT, with a description of the subject-matter, its nature and the value of the contract awarded, without VAT, as well as the name of the economic operator to which the contract was awarded. For the contracts referred to in the preceding sentence, CAs must ensure that all tenderers who have submitted a tender are informed in writing of their selection within 30 days of the award of the contract.

²⁰ Available [here](#).

²¹ A notification feature that enables economic operators, participating as tenderers in public procurement procedures, to monitor published public procurement contracts in the e-JN information system and to prepare tenders more easily.

trainings. It functions as an e-learning platform and contains statistical data from the public procurement portal about current and past procurement procedures (see information below on the Statist application).

Operating since late 2019 and managed by the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, **e-Revizija** is an online information portal owned by the National Review Commission for Reviewing Public Procurement Award Procedures. It is used for electronic exchange of information and documents in pre-review, review and appeal procedures, and for providing information on the course of these procedures. To access information and take part in the procedures, economic operators and CAs must register first. [An overview of public procurement platforms in Slovenia:](#)



Thus, transparency of public procurement system in Slovenia strongly relies on a high level of digitalisation of public procurement processes, enabled by the platforms e-Narocanje, e-JN and e-Revizija. Their use, as described above, is mandatory. Access to all information from the beginning to the end (termination of the contract) is available to public free of charge and without registration. The information is used not only by reporters and economic operators but also by monitoring authorities such as the police, state prosecutors, inspections, National Review Commission, Court of Audit, CPC, Budget Supervision Office, etc., when gathering information on specific cases. Portals include search engines for easier access to information.

To further enable public scrutiny, the Ministry of Public Administration also developed the Statist IT tool²². Its purpose is to provide more transparency in public procurement. The application has been in use since January 2016, enabling a complete and thorough overview of public contracts awarded via public procurement. Statist contains all information on public contracts awarded since 1 January 2013 until 19 January 2024, when the eForms entered into use. The tool is designed to empower the media, civil society organisations and the wider public in their scrutiny of public procurement.

Data gathered through e-Narocanje and e-Revision portals is also used by the Ministry of Public Administration and the National Review Commission when preparing national yearly monitoring reports (Article 107 and 108 of PPA and Article 69 of LPPPA) and the triennial reports to the European Commission.

²² Available [here](#).

C. Repression

No developments regarding the repression of corruption

If there have been developments related to the repression of corruption, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below:

- *Official data on the number of investigations, prosecutions, final judgments, and the application of sanctions for corruption offences (differentiated by offence if possible). Please indicate whether the cases: involve legal persons; are related to the implementation of EU or national funds; involve high level corruption. Please indicate which data is publicly available and how policy-making is informed by the data.*

Data according to the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office:

year	Article of Criminal Code (KZ-1)*	REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION	INDICTMENTS	First instance judgments				Sanctions		Unresolved denunciations
				CONVICTION	ACQUITTAL	DISMISSAL	Adjudicated cases - (Conviction, acquittal and dismissals)	Sanctions in conviction cases -first instance courts - PRISON	Sanctions in conviction cases - first instance courts – CONDITIONAL SENTENCE	
January- November 2024	241	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	65
	242	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	11
	261	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	26
	262	5	3	8	1	1	10	2	6	56
	263	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	264	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
2024 sum		12	13	11	3	1	15	4	7	181

*Article 241 (Unlawful acceptance of gifts), Article 242 (Making unlawful gifts), Article 261 (Acceptance of bribes), Article 262 (Giving bribes), Article 263 (Accepting a benefit for unlawful intermediation), Article 264 (Giving gifts for unlawful intervention).

During the reporting period (January – November 2024)²³, Specialised State Prosecutor's Office only received denunciations against natural persons, for a total of 13 offences, including 1 offence under Article 241, 2 offences under Article 242, 2 offences under Article 261, 4 offences under Article 262, 1 offence under Article 263 and 3 offences under Article 264 of the Criminal Code.

For 15 offences, the indictment was dismissed, namely 8 offences under Article 241, 6 offences under Article 242 and 1 offence under Article 262 of the Criminal Code.

A request for an investigation was submitted in respect of seven offences (only against natural persons), namely 2 offences under Article 241, 1 offence under Article 262, 1 offence under Article 263 and 3 offences under Article 264 of the Criminal Code.

An indictment was brought for 8 offences (only against natural persons), namely 3 offences under Article

²³ For former years - please see statistics reports from last years

241, 1 offence under Article 242, 3 offences under Article 263 and 1 offence under Article 264 of the CC-1.

At first instance, convictions were handed down for 5 offences, namely 1 offence under Article 241, 3 offences under Article 261 and 1 offence under Article 262 of the Criminal Code. One natural person was the subject of a discontinuance of proceedings (for an offence under Article 242 of the Criminal Code). No first instance judgements were handed down against legal persons.

Sanctions imposed at first instance:

- For the offence under Article 261 of the Criminal Code, a suspended sentence of 1 year imprisonment and a side fine of 2.000 euros was imposed,
- for the two offences under Article 261 of the Criminal Code, a sentence of 2 years' imprisonment and a fine of 2.600 euros and a sentence of 1 year's imprisonment and a fine of 1.500 euros,
- for the offence under Article 262 of the Criminal Code, a sentence of 2 years' imprisonment and a fine of 4.000 euros,
- for the offence under Article 241, a suspended sentence of 1 year and 11 months and an ancillary fine of 30.000 euros.

At second instance, first instance convictions were handed down or confirmed for 9 offences (all against natural persons), namely 6 offences under Article 241, 1 offence under Article 242, 1 offence under Article 261 and 1 offence under Article 262 of the Criminal Code.

The following sanctions were finally imposed (confirmed or imposed at second instance) during the reporting period:

- for the continued offence of bribe-taking under Article 261 of the Criminal Code and 21 offences of forgery of an official document, a single sentence of 5 years' imprisonment and a secondary fine of 6.000 euros were imposed,
- for four offences under Article 241 of the Criminal Code, a single sentence of 2 years' imprisonment and a fine of 18.000 euros was imposed,
- for the offence under Article 241 of the Criminal Code, a suspended sentence of 8 months' imprisonment with a probationary period of 2 years and a fine of 12.000 euros,
- for the offence under Articles 241 and 242 of the Criminal Code, a single sentence of 8 months' imprisonment suspended for a probationary period of 2 years and a fine of 6.400 euros,
- for the offence under Article 261 of the Criminal Code, a suspended sentence of 1 year's imprisonment with a probationary period of 1 year and an ancillary fine of 1.000 euros.

At second instance, acquittal was granted for 3 offences, namely 1 offence under Article 241 (against a natural person) and 2 offences under Article 242 of the Criminal Code (against one natural person and one legal person).

None of the cases were related to the implementation or spending of the EU funds.

Regarding high-level corruption in the same reporting period, the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office dealt with two cases that met the criteria (where the suspects are top state officials, ministers, state secretaries, MPs, mayors, judges, prosecutors), in which a denunciation was received, a request for investigation or indictment was filed, or a first- and second-instance judgment was issued, namely:

- in the proceedings against the director of a public agency, on the allegation that he, in his capacity as director of the public agency, requested a gift totalling 4.800 euros from a service provider in order to conclude a contract, a non-final judgment of conviction at first instance for an offence under Article 261 of the Criminal Code was handed down, imposing a suspended sentence of one year's imprisonment, suspended for a probationary period of three years, and a fine of 2.000 euros,
- request for investigation against a former Minister for the offence of accepting a benefit for unlawful intermediation under Article 263 of the Criminal Code.

The Specialised State Prosecutor's Office also dealt with 5 cases during the reporting period where the suspects were more important but did not meet the criteria for high-level corruption, namely:

- in the proceedings against the Secretary General of the federation of associations, who was alleged to have solicited unauthorised gratuities and to have accepted promises of such gratuities and payments from various persons in exchange for obtaining business, a final acquittal was issued against 2 natural persons, for 1 offence under Article 241 and 1 offence under Article 242 of the Criminal Code. The Court of Second Instance quashed the first instance conviction of 1 natural person for the offence under Article 241 and 2 natural persons for the offence under Article 242 of the Criminal Code and remitted the case for a new trial;
- in the proceedings against a bankruptcy trustee, who was alleged to have demanded a promise of a reward for selling real estate from the bankruptcy estate to a company which did not participate in the non-binding bidding procedure, in contravention of the provisions of the Financial Operations, Insolvency Proceedings, and Compulsory Dissolution Act, a judgment of conviction against 1 natural person for 2 offences under Article 261 of the Criminal Code (sentence of 2 years' imprisonment and a fine of 2.600 euros and 1 year's imprisonment and a fine of 1.500 euros), and a judgment of conviction against 1 natural person for an offence under Article 262 (sentence of 2 years' imprisonment and a fine of 4.000 euros);
- a final judgment of conviction against one natural person for an offence under Article 241 of the Criminal Code, with a suspended sentence of 1 year and 11 months' imprisonment and a fine of 30.000 euros for alleged corrupt practices by doctors and other defendants in connection with the supply of various medical supplies to UKC Ljubljana, UKC Maribor, the Orthopaedic Hospital Valdoltra and other recipients;
- a judgment of conviction against one natural person for an offence under Article 241 of the Criminal Code, with a suspended sentence of 1 year and 11 months' imprisonment and a fine of 30.000 euros, for alleged corrupt practices by doctors and other defendants in connection with the supply of various medical supplies to UKC Ljubljana, UKC Maribor, Orthopaedic Hospital Valdoltra and other recipients;
- an indictment filed against three natural persons, including the Vice-Mayor, for an offence under Article 263 of the Criminal Code, who was alleged to have accepted an offer of an unauthorised gratuity in order to secure a deal;
- an indictment against a representative of a village community for two offences of unauthorised acceptance of gifts under Article 241 of the Criminal Code, alleging that he had requested an unauthorised gratuity in return for the selection of a tenderer in a public tender for the implementation of a project in the village community financed by the municipality.

Data on offences which are not considered as corruption offences for statistical purposes but which contained elements of corruption (offence of abuse of office or official rights under Article 240 of the Criminal Code, offence of abuse of official position or official rights under Article 257 of the Criminal Code and offence of damage to public funds under Article 257a of the Criminal Code, where officials and/or high-ranking officials and/or directors of state-owned enterprises were considered for the above offences):

During the reporting period, the following cases with corruption elements were also handled by district state prosecutors in pre-trial proceedings:

- an official was accused of attempting to commit the offence of abuse of official position under Article 257(3) and (5) of the Criminal Code in relation to Article 34 of the Criminal Code,
- the headmistress of the primary school was charged with the offence of abuse of official position or official rights under Article 257(1) of the Criminal Code,
- the Mayor was charged with the offence of misappropriation of public funds under Article 257a(1) of the Criminal Code,
- the former mayor was charged with the offence of abuse of official position or official rights pursuant to Article 257(1) of the Criminal Code and with the offence of damage to public funds pursuant to Article 257a of the Criminal Code.

During the reporting period, the following other cases with corruption elements were also dealt with in

criminal proceedings by the District State Prosecutor's Offices and the Specialised State Prosecutor's Office, namely:

- in a case where the defendant, as a headmaster of a primary school, was charged with the offence of abuse of official position or official rights under Article 257(1) of the Criminal Code, a plea bargain was concluded with an agreed suspended sentence, under which the defendant was sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment with a probationary period of 3 years and a fine of 2.915 euros with a payment period of 4 months,
 - an indictment has been brought before the competent court against a senior civil servant for the offence of abuse of official position or official rights under Article 257(1) of the Criminal Code, second paragraph, in conjunction with Article 257(1) of the Criminal Code,
 - at the stage when the main hearing was called, a case against a former State Secretary for, inter alia, two offences of abuse of official position or official rights under Article 257 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,
 - the case against the former Chairman of the Board of Directors and a member of the Board of Directors of a public limited liability company has been continued to the competent court for the main hearing in the proceedings for the offence of abuse of office or position of trust in an economic activity pursuant to Article 240 of the Criminal Code, and the case is pending a decision,
 - a non-final judgment of conviction was handed down against a director of a public undertaking, by which he was found guilty of four offences of abuse of position or trust in a business activity under Article 240(1) in conjunction with Article 240(3) of the Criminal Code and of the offence of embezzlement or misappropriation under Article 209(1) of the Criminal Code, and was given a suspended sentence of 2 years' imprisonment and a probationary period of 2 years.
- ***Information on effectiveness of criminal and non-criminal measures and of sanctions (e.g. recovery measures and administrative sanctions) on both public and private offenders.***

Criminal Code contains eight (8) corruption offences and two (2) offences with elements of corruption:

Articles:

- 151. Obstruction of the free choice of voters
- 157. Accepting a bribe in an election or vote
- 241. Unlawful acceptance of gifts
- 242. Making unlawful gifts
- 261. Acceptance of bribes
- 262. Giving bribes
- 263. Accepting a benefit for unlawful intermediation
- 264. Giving gifts for unlawful intervention
- 257 Abuse of office or Official Duties
- 240. Abuse of position or trust in economic activity (240)

The number of investigated corruption offences and offences with elements of corruption increased in 2024 compared to 2023. In 2024 criminal complaints were forwarded to the competent state prosecutor's offices for **695** criminal offences, compared to 212 in the same period last year (99 corruption criminal offences and 596 criminal offences with corruption elements).

The Police does not keep statistics on the profiles of offenders in criminal offences.

Other – please specify

To improve the results of investigations and prosecutions of corruption crimes, state prosecutors continued to receive training on these topics in 2024. In November 2024, a Forum on Financial and Economic Crime was held, organised by the Association of State Prosecutors of Slovenia and the Judicial

Training Centre, and attended by a number of distinguished national and international guests. The main themes were characteristics of trials in complex criminal cases, cooperation between prosecutors and the police, fair trial principles, the efficiency of criminal proceedings and procedural guarantees for the accused.

In December 2024, Prosecutors' Training Days were organised, presenting the issues of dealing with crimes against official duties, public authority and public funds.

The Police has included the area of detection and investigation of corruption in major strategic documents in the area of internal security.

The police work plan for 2025 includes the task of identifying the areas where the risks of corruption offences are the highest and prioritizing such corruption offences, the effectiveness of which will be measured by indicators of the achievement of the task.

In 2024, activities for drafting of the Resolution of the Long-term Police Development Programme 2026-2035 began, with aim to include sustainable approach in the planning and preservation of personnel investigating economic crime and corruption, as well as the provision of tools / support activities for the detection and investigation of economic crime and corruption.

Training of investigators is important to ensure continuous track record of investigations. Therefore, in 2024, the police carried out individual and group forms of training and upskilling for the detection and investigation of economic crime and corruption, co-financed by the Internal Security Fund [ISF]. In 2024 13 training sessions had taken place with more than 250 participants.

III. Media pluralism and media freedom

Measures to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2024 Report regarding the media pluralism and media freedom

The proposal of the new Media Act includes new functions for the independent regulatory authority (AKOS). As the main media authority, it will be empowered for the assessment and decisions on media concentration cases and state advertising. The proposal has been submitted in the parliamentary procedure, which is still ongoing.

As part of addressing the funding for public service media, there are ongoing issues rooted in outdated legislation. To resolve and address the challenges, a new Act on RTV Slovenia is being prepared, which will undergo public consultation soon. It aims to ensure stable financing for RTV, independent of political influences, with the current RTV contribution being a key element. A new 10% increase in the contribution applies from 1 January 2025. Further details on the financial reforms will be revealed once the draft law enters public discussion.

A. Media authorities and bodies

No developments

If there have been developments related to media authorities and bodies, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below: ...

Proposal of the new Media Act includes new functions for AKOS as the main media authority empowered for the assessment and decisions on media concentration cases and state advertising. The proposal has been submitted in the ongoing parliamentary procedure.

B. Safeguards against government or political interference and transparency and concentration of media ownership

No developments

If there have been developments related government or political interference or transparency and concentration of media ownership, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below: ...

In December 2024, the Ministry of Culture submitted the Media Act for government review. The Act aims to enhance the fairness and transparency of state media advertising. This builds on the Recommendations for advertising campaigns by ministries, ministry bodies, and government offices, which were prepared by the Government Communication Office and adopted in December 2023.

The proposed procedures for the assessment and decision on the cases regarding media concentration is based on the exclusive responsibility of AKOS, as mentioned above. The legislative proposal also defines substantial criteria that should be taken into consideration within these procedures, thus avoiding any possible arbitrary decision.

The new Media Act proposal also defines the elements and mandatory notification on state advertising, allocations and beneficiaries. In particular, it specifies concrete public bodies, authorities and communities required to disclose the amount of the allocations and the beneficiaries.

An entire chapter of the new Media Act proposal is dedicated to safeguarding editorial independence. It is based on the principle of the editorial independence and the autonomy of journalists. It includes the right of journalist to reject the assignment if it is in opposition with professional and ethical standards, and the protection of the journalist in such cases against unlawful notice or any other form of reducing his or her rights. The source of information is protected absolutely, unless required otherwise by a court decision. Another element of safeguarding editorial independence is the mandatory opinion of editorial office and journalists before the appointment of editor-in-chief by the owner or the manager structure.

Transparency of media ownership will be achieved with a publicly available data base on media providers, including among others the information on direct or indirect owners and beneficial owners, and the amount of allocations via state advertising.

C. Framework for journalists' protection, transparency and access to documents

No developments

If there have been developments related to the framework for journalists' protection or transparency/access to documents, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below: ...

- ***Lawsuits (incl. SLAPPs - strategic lawsuits against public participation) and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and measures taken to safeguard against manifestly unfounded and abusive lawsuits.***

The draft Act on Protective Measures Against Strategic Lawsuits to Undermine Public Participation – implementing Directive (EU) 2024/1069 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings (Strategic lawsuits against public participation) – was submitted for public consultation and expert coordination on 10 December 2024.

The situation regarding journalist protection and criminal law actions remains largely unchanged, with minor updates in case law. Criminal offences against honour and reputation and accompanying punishments by fine or even (minor) imprisonment are still constitutionally (and ECHR-) compliant (see Decisions of the Constitutional Court, No. Up-417/16, of 18 March 2021; published in Official Gazette, No. 65/21, and OdlUS XXVI, 41; No. Up-1307/22, of 20 June 2024).

In addition, it is well known that journalists in Slovenia have successfully used provisions on private action against politicians or director of the intelligence agency – concerning criminal offences against

honour and reputation – to efficiently protect themselves against defamations or insults.

The same applies for journalists' protection against politicians in the field of civil law – see the latest Decision of the Constitutional Court, No. Up-472/20, of 14 February 2024.²⁴

Criminal substantive and procedural provisions still regulate special protection of journalists and of the freedom of expression – see for example Article 260 of the Criminal Code (Disclosure of Secret Data), public interest exemptions in paras. 3 and 4, editorial immunity for real time comments (in Article 166, para. 4, Article 297, para. 3 and also Article 236, para. 1, subpara. 6 of the Criminal Procedure Act) with respect to protection of journalists' sources.

The Police cooperate with the Slovene Association of Journalists, mainly in terms of ensuring the safety of journalists and photojournalists. Joint meetings and trainings have been organised to raise awareness of police work at rallies and events, and of the role and protection of journalists at these events.

IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

A. *The process for preparing and enacting laws*

No developments

If there have been developments related to the process for preparing and enacting laws, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below:

- ***Framework, policy and use of impact assessments and evidence based policy-making, stakeholders'/public consultations (including rules and practices on the transparent participation of civil society to policy development and decision-making processes, and transparency and quality of the legislative process both in the preparatory and the parliamentary phase.***

The Ministry of Public Administration is responsible, inter alia, for better regulation and removal of administrative barriers. In the context of inter-ministerial coordination of regulations, the Ministry advocates strict compliance with the principles of the Resolution on normative activity, in particular the publication of draft regulations on the e-democracy portal for a sufficiently long period of time and the provision of an opportunity to comment, so that both the professional and the wider interested public have a genuine opportunity to participate in the drafting of regulations. The Ministry will continue and strengthen these activities.

In 2024, together with the Government Office for Legislation, the following activities have been undertaken:

- At the beginning of 2024, the MOPED application was launched, where regulations are drafted in one place, electronically and in a uniform way.
- In 2024, the methodology for assessing the impact of regulations on different sectors of society has been included in the MOPED application. However, the mandatory use of the methodology for all drafters is foreseen in 2025.
- Training for drafters on the use of the MOPED application (basic module, drafting module, EU transposition module, impact assessment module and nomotechnics module) started in 2024. Training sessions are held one to three times a month. If there is interest, separate training sessions are organised for participants from only one ministry.

²⁴ Available [here](#).

B. Independent authorities

No developments regarding independent authorities

If there have been developments related to independent authorities, please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below: ...

- ***Statistics/reports concerning the follow-up to recommendations by National Human Rights Institutions, ombudsman institutions, equality bodies, and supreme audit institutions in the past two years.***

The Government prepares the response report to the annual reports of the Human Rights Ombudsman every year, specifically, to the regular annual report of the Ombudsman and the report on the implementation of the duties of the National Preventive Mechanism.

In the response report, the Government addresses the Ombudsman's findings, primarily evaluating the implementation of the Ombudsman's new recommendations, as well as recommendations from previous years that remain unimplemented. There is a high degree of alignment between the Government and the Ombudsman regarding recommendations. For instance, the Government accepted 82 out of 84 new recommendations from the 2023 report, 65 out of 75 recommendations from the 2022 report, 77 out of 81 new recommendations from the 2021 report.

The Government consistently strives to strengthen the Ombudsman's position and reputation in society. In cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ministry of Justice is drafting an amendment to the Human Rights Ombudsman Act. Proposed amendment aims to extend the Ombudsman's oversight to certain private law organizations, specifically those exercising public powers, establish a special deputy for children's rights (a Child Rights Ombudsman) within the Ombudsman's office, and grant the Ombudsman a mandate to monitor human trafficking.

Efforts are also underway to organize monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the Ombudsman's office. The Ombudsman meets the requirements of Article 33(2) of the Convention, having been accredited with A-status since 25 January 2021. However, the proposal to assign monitoring of the Convention to the Ombudsman is opposed by some disability organizations.

As mentioned in Slovenia's contribution for the Commission's 2024 Report, funds allocated to the Advocate of the Principle of Equality in the 2024 budget were lower than initially foreseen. The Advocate thus reported that some of the tasks required of him under the Protection Against Discrimination Act could not be performed in their entirety. Nevertheless the data on the implementation of the 2024 budget indicates that the Advocate for Equality in fact did not fully make use of the funds allocated in its financial plan.

C. Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

No developments

If there have been developments related to the accessibility and judicial review of judicial decisions please specify which, in particular regarding topics listed below: ...

- ***Implementation of final judgments by the public administration and State institutions and follow-up given to supranational judgments, including decisions from the European Court of Human Rights, as well as available remedies in case of non-implementation***

By mid-January 2025, there were five (5) non-implemented judgments of the European court of Human Rights in respect of Slovenia (in 2024, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe had finished supervision in three cases (i.e. three judgments had been executed), however, two additional judgments were delivered in 2024 concerning Slovenia. Non-implemented judgments are being actively addressed for implementation by the relevant stakeholder.

In 2024, the Ministry of Public Administration, responsible for drafting electoral and referendum legislation, drafted amendments to three important systemic regulations:

In February 2024, amendments to the Act on Elections to the National Assembly (ZVDZ-E) came into force, according to which adults under guardianship due to mental or intellectual disabilities can no longer be deprived of their right to vote in a special court procedure. Since its entry into force, these persons have the right to vote as well as the right to be elected. According to the new regulation of Article 79 of the Law on Elections to the National Assembly, the circle of persons who can vote with an assistant has been extended. Thus, a voter who, due to a long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment, is unable to vote in the manner provided for in the Electoral Act, may bring a person of his/her choice to the polling station to assist him or her in voting (hereinafter: the assistant). The assistant must be of legal age and is obliged to respect the free will of the voter and ensure the secrecy of the vote. The adopted legal solution has restored the right to vote to all persons who had been deprived of it.

In the beginning of March 2024, the Ministry of the Interior regulated registration of all citizens with a total disenfranchisement or a deprivation of the passive voting right (i.e. the right to be elected). Early regulation of data allowed all individuals to exercise their right to vote in 2024 European Parliament elections. All adult citizens, regardless of their personal circumstances, could also submit support for their candidacy from the first day of the deadline. The ZVDZ-E also introduced necessary amendments to the Act governing the election of Members of the European Parliament from the Republic of Slovenia, the Act regulating the Register of Voting Rights, and the Act Governing the National Council.

At the end of March 2024, the Act on Amendments to the Law on Referendum and People's Initiative (ZRLI-F) was adopted. With this amendment, the ZRLI was aligned with the Constitutional Act and the 2018 decision of the Constitutional Court regarding the unconstitutionality of the regulation of judicial protection of the right to vote in a referendum. Another novelty brought by the ZRLI-F is the digitalisation of the procedures for submitting support to a request for a referendum and the submitting support for a people's initiative, thus eliminating physical forms of support. With the adoption of the ZRLI-F, the statutory provisions regarding eligible proponents of a legislative referendum have been harmonized with the Constitution, providing it can only be called at the request of the voters.

Regarding determining the result of the referendum, according to the ZRLI-F, the number of voters on the day of voting is determined on the eighth day after the vote. It is, in fact, a cross-section of the voting rights record on the day of the vote, which will be determined on the eighth day after the vote. Such a cut-off day allows all deaths in the country to be considered, as the deletion of the deceased is generally entered into the suffrage record within six days of death. The need to legally fix a day to determine the number of voters on the day of the vote arose due to the introduction of a quorum of rejection in the amended Article 90 of the Slovenian Constitution.

In its fifth chapter, which regulates the protection of the right to vote in a referendum, the ZRLI-F regulates, in a new and comprehensive way, procedures for reviewing the constitutionality and legality of the referendum procedure. The provisions also improve and re-regulate the procedure for supervising the legality of the holding of a referendum before the State Election Commission. Under ZRLI-F, a referendum judge is appointed by the Supreme Court for all cases of referendum disputes. Objection procedure is maintained before the State Election Commission, which has been given several important referendum scrutiny powers.

The amendment to the ZRLI-F also abolishes physical support forms in the process of collecting 40.000 signatures of support for the request for a referendum. Electronic submission of support at the administrative unit will take place in such a way that the voter (after verifying the identity of the voter and their right to vote, as well as the fact whether the voter has already submitted support, by an official of the administrative unit) will sign the support in person on a digital signature device through which his or her support will be recorded in the register of the right to vote. In addition to such submission of support at the administrative unit, it will still be possible to submit support electronically remotely, using an advanced electronic signature via the eGovernment state portal.

On 22 November 2024, after several months of public debate, the National Assembly adopted the text of the Act amending the Local Elections Act (ZLV-K). The amendment implements the decision of the Constitutional Court, No. U-I-7/20-7 of 4 June 2020, and brings a comprehensive regulation of electoral dispute in connection with local elections. The ZLV-K entered into force on 18 December 2024.²⁵

In addition to a comprehensive regulation of electoral disputes for local elections, the ZLV-K also amends the conditions for the appointment of presidents and deputies of municipal election commissions, provides higher remuneration for presidents and secretaries of municipal election commissions in municipalities with more than 25.000 eligible voters and simplifies elections to municipal councils.

With the adoption and enforcement of the ZRLI-F and the Local Elections Act, Slovenia also followed the recommendations of the Venice Commission and the OSCE.

D. The enabling framework for civil society

No developments

If there have been developments related to the enabling framework for civil society, please specify which, regarding topics listed below: ...

- ***Organisation of financial support for civil society organisations and human rights defenders (e.g. framework to ensure access to funding, and for financial viability, taxation/incentive/donation systems, measures to ensure a fair distribution of funding)***

As a rule, NGO projects and programmes are funded by the State, mostly through public tenders and public calls for proposals. NGOs based in Slovenia have access to different public funding mechanisms: (1) Calls for proposals by line ministries/agencies (respective budgets), (2) Calls for proposals by the Ministry of Public Administration (NGO development budgetary fund), (3) Calls for projects by the Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organizations, as well as Slovenian Foundation for Sport (taxation of the winnings of the conventional games of chance). To be eligible, NGOs must fulfil the criteria set by the legislation and the call for proposal.

The budgetary fund for the development of NGOs was established with the Non-Governmental Organizations Act (Official Gazette RS No. 21/18)²⁶.

New Strategy for developing non-governmental organisations until 2030 as well as the Strategy for developing volunteering until 2030 are currently in public discussion until 7 January 2025. They contain measures that will contribute to ensuring that NGOs and voluntary organisations, as one of the key building blocks of civil society, contribute to the realisation of the principles of pluralism and democracy in society.

The Ministry of Public Administration continued providing financial support for the horizontal NGO network, regional NGO focal points and NGO volunteer network, with a call published in 2023, amounting to almost 6,3 mio euros for the 4-year period. The purpose of the call for proposals is to provide a supportive environment for NGOs to strengthen their capacities in the areas of advocacy, organisational development and strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation, networking and partnership building to address societal challenges.

In 2024, two calls for co-financing were published:

a) Professionalization of NGOs and voluntary organisations by promotion of employment (i.e. wage subsidies for 180 workplaces amounting to 12,6 mio million euros for 2 years). This call was aimed at

²⁵ Available [here](#).

²⁶ Available [here](#).

NGOs and volunteering organisations that adequately identify and address needs in the environment by providing effective and quality services.

b) Match funding for EU projects with the co-financing of non-reimbursable costs for projects/organizations receiving EU or EFTA grants in the amount of 5,3 mio million euros.

Co-financed projects for paragraph a) above were selected at the end of 2024, whereas for para. b), they will be selected in early of 2025.

E. Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

No developments

If there have been developments related to initiatives to foster a rule of law culture, please specify which, (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, contributions from civil society, education initiatives, etc.):

Act on the Regulation of Certain Issues Relating to Certain Offences Committed during the Period of Validity of the Measures for the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Disease COVID-19 (so-called "COVID-19 Act") was effectively enacted in 2024. Act is a special, *sui generis* law, which established legal basis for returning fines regarding a limited number of minor offences committed between March 2020 until May 2022, and deletion of these minor offences from official records. The COVID-19 Act stems from the 2021 rulings by the Constitutional Court, which determined that the legal grounds in the Communicable Diseases Act, used by the Government to adopt anti-COVID-19 decrees, were unconstitutional. The Act follows the principle of reparation of injustices and has an amnesty effect for certain minor offences.

Until October 2024, roughly 2,3 million euros were paid to beneficiaries, meaning that the COVID-19 Act meets the new international criteria of 'people centred justice', as recognised by both the OECD and the Council of Europe. Beneficiaries did not need to submit individual requests to claim their rights, as the indicative calculations were prepared *ex officio* by the administrative authorities responsible for imposing the penalties.