

The adoption and amendment of certain key pieces of legislation affecting the courts at the end of 2024 and in 2025

The Fourteenth Amendment to Hungary's Fundamental Law

Brief summary:

- **Amendment concerning the election of the Prosecutor General:** the Prosecutor General may be elected not only from among prosecutors.
- **Amendment to the requirements for becoming a judge:** raising the minimum age from 30 to 35 years, and amending the provisions on the retirement age of judges; i.e. a judge's service relationship may continue until the general statutory retirement age and, in cases specified in a cardinal act, until the judge reaches the age of 70.

Act LXXIV of 2024 on the Foundation of Hungary's Central Budget for 2025

Brief summary:

Among other matters, the Act amended:

- provisions in the Act on Judicial Employees (Iasz) on the classification and remuneration system of judicial staff;
- further requirements for judicial appointment in the Act on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges (Bjt), including the requirement of at least two years of legal practice outside the courts;
- the remuneration of judges of the Curia (a Curia judge's monthly remuneration is 60% of the monthly remuneration of the President of the Curia);

Act XCIII of 1990 on Duties (court fees) and Act CXXVIII of 2017 on the application of cost exemption and the right to defer the advance payment of costs in civil and administrative court proceedings: the amendment, first, proposes a restructuring of fees payable in first-instance civil litigation by applying a banded, combined regulatory approach; and second, introduces—in civil and administrative court proceedings for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises—the possibility to request the right to defer costs either in full or partially, extending beyond the deferral of duties to other costs.

Act XC of 2024 on Hungary's Central Budget for 2025

Brief summary (as regards judges and the National Judicial Council – OBT):

- Increase of the judicial salary base through an amending proposal, with the Government referring to the first phase of the increase set out in the four-party agreement.
- Adoption of the 2025 budgets of the OBT, the courts and the Curia.

Act XLIX of 2025 on the Amendment of Justice-Related Legislation

Brief summary:

The Act amended a number of statutes; the most important elements are summarised below.

A) Amendment of Act CXXX of 2016 on the Code of Civil Procedure

- Introduction of the institution of *pecuniary satisfaction* in cases where the court exceeds statutory time limits.
- Adoption of rules on simplified civil proceedings.
- Establishment, at statutory level, of rules on the online public access/publicity of court hearings.
- Adoption of rules on shortened reasoning.
- Amendment of the rules on judicial review, which would increase the number of decisions subject to review and expand the Curia's discretion in granting leave to appeal/review.

B) Amendment of Act CLXII of 2011 on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges

Following the constitutional amendment at the end of 2024, the next step was to amend the statutory provisions on judges' retirement in the Act on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges.

C) Amendment of Act XC of 2017 on the Code of Criminal Procedure

- Introduction of rules enabling the public to attend proceedings online.
- A person who previously participated in an earlier stage of the proceedings as a witness or as an assistant to another person may act as defence counsel for the accused.
- Introduction of procedural rules to address abusive practices whereby accused persons withdraw powers of attorney.
- Adoption of rules allowing private expert opinions to be obtained during the preparatory phase of retrial proceedings.
- Amendment aimed at strengthening the protection of journalistic sources in line with EU-level developments.
- Clarification regarding corruption offences: the use of covert investigative measures is decoupled from the level of the statutory penalty.
- Expansion of the applicability of criminal supervision measures, in particular in efforts to combat economic crime.

- Clarification of rules on the treatment of living beings (especially animals) as physical evidence, in line with animal welfare considerations.
- Differentiation of investigative time limits, especially for corruption and economic offences.
- Rationalisation of proceedings in absentia and proceedings against accused persons staying abroad.
- Amendments to encourage cooperation through confession.
- Rules to make the plea agreement procedure more flexible, etc.

D) Amendment of Act XXXVIII of 1996 on International Criminal Legal Assistance

An international arrest warrant issued through Interpol is to be regarded as a request for provisional arrest for extradition.

E) Amendment of Act LIV of 2002 on the International Cooperation of Law Enforcement Authorities

Establishment of a statutory basis for the use, as evidence, of data transmitted by Hungarian law enforcement authorities.

F) Amendment of Act CXXXV of 2005 on Victim Support and State Compensation

- Ensuring that victims—particularly in cases involving the theft of identity documents—can obtain replacement documents without financial burden.
- Ensuring that a legal representative involved in the offence cannot act on behalf of the child.
- Taking technical constraints into account, allowing the paper-based transmission of data handled under restricted access.

G) Amendment of Act CCXL of 2013 on the Enforcement of Punishments, Measures, Certain Coercive Measures and Misdemeanour Detention

- Expansion of prisoners' rights and strengthening of the complaints system.
- Amendment and supplementation of rules on disciplinary segregation and restrictions on contact.
- Amendment and supplementation of rules on visits (time limits).

Act LXIX of 2025 on Hungary's Central Budget for 2026

Brief summary (as regards judges and the National Judicial Council – OBT):

- Increase of the judicial salary base through an amending proposal, with the Government referring to the second phase of the increase set out in the four-party agreement.

- Adoption of the 2026 budgets of the OBT, the courts and the Curia.

Act LX of 2025 on Certain Court Proceedings Relating to Legal Persons and on Voluntary Liquidation

Brief summary:

The Act implements the separation of legality supervision and registration/record-keeping (administrative) tasks by transferring the unified register of legal persons to the competence of an administrative authority and establishing it as an official administrative register. At the same time, legality supervision proceedings, certain non-contentious proceedings linked to the register, and dissolution proceedings without a legal successor remain within the jurisdiction of the courts.

The Act lays down the rules for those court non-contentious and certain contentious proceedings that remain within the courts' competence and are connected to the registration of legal persons, ensuring effective cooperation between the authority maintaining the administrative register and the courts responsible for legality supervision and other related tasks.

Act LXXIX of 2025 on the Amendment of Legislation Related to Administrative Adjudication

Brief summary:

The Act contains amendments intended to simplify the current regulatory framework of administrative adjudication and to speed up proceedings, primarily through clarifications and supplementary provisions. According to the explanatory memorandum, the principal objectives are to increase the efficiency of administrative adjudication, to make access to the courts simpler for citizens, and, through these measures, to improve Hungary's legal competitiveness.

Consultation: The draft was submitted to the National Judicial Council (OBT) for an opinion; the OBT provided brief comments.

Minister of Justice Decree No. 15/2025 (XII. 10.) on Detailed Rules Concerning the Online Public Audience of Court Hearings

Brief summary:

Act XLIX of 2025 amending justice-related legislation introduces, as of 1 January 2026, provisions on the online publicity of hearings into (i) Act CXXX of 2016 on the Code of Civil Procedure and (ii) Act XC of 2017 on the Code of Criminal Procedure, thereby incorporating rules on online public access into civil and administrative litigation and criminal proceedings. The Decree sets out the implementing rules at decree level that supplement the statutory framework.

Accordingly, the regulation covers: the minimum technical requirements for accessing hearings online; key rules related to the operation of the IT system providing the online

connection (e.g. service interruptions and system malfunctions); rules on general access and on priority registration for study, educational or research purposes; rules on logging into the hearing; and the basic provisions governing the data processing relationship.