

2026 Rule of Law Report - targeted stakeholder consultation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The annual Rule of Law Report lies at the centre of the Annual Rule of Law Cycle, which acts as a preventive tool, deepening multilateral dialogue and joint awareness of rule of law issues. So far, six editions of the Rule of Law Report have been published since 2020.

As every year, the Commission would like to invite the stakeholders to provide contributions to the 2026 Rule of Law Report. On the basis of these contributions and on-going developments, further targeted questions may be shared at a later stage of preparation of the 2026 Rule of Law Report, in particular in the context of country visits, or bilateral contacts.

The Commission invites stakeholders to provide contributions which include:

(1) developments and measures taken in relation to the recommendations in the 2025 report,
(2) developments related to topics covered in the 2025 country chapters, as well as any other new developments related to the rule of law.

The input should consist of a short summary, if possible in English, covering the areas referred to below. Legislation or other documents may be referenced with a link. Contributions should focus on significant developments since the last Rule of Law Report both as regards the legal framework and its implementation in practice.

This questionnaire also integrates the separate questionnaire on the single market from last year. In addition to these specific questions, respondents to the questionnaire are invited to consider the Single Market dimension, including any relevant cross-border issues, in all their answers.

Where questions of particular relevance under the single market dimension, this is indicated before the relevant question.

[1] Unless the information was already submitted in the input for the previous Rule of Law Reports.

Type of information to be included:

Under each of the four pillars, the replies should include references to the following types of information:

A) Legislative developments

- Newly adopted legislation
- legislative drafts currently discussed in Parliament
- legislative plans envisaged by the Government

B) Policy developments

- Implementation and enforcement of legislation
- evaluations, impact assessment, surveys
- white papers/strategies/actions plans/consultation processes
- follow-up to reports/recommendations of Council of Europe bodies or other international organisations
- important administrative measures
- generalised practices

C) Developments related to the judiciary / independent authorities

- important case law by national courts
- important decision/opinions from independent bodies/authorities
- state of play on terms, nominations and expired mandates for high-level positions (e.g. Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Council for the Judiciary, Prosecutor General, heads of independent authorities included in the scope of the request for input[2])

D) Any other relevant developments

- National authorities are free to add any further information, which they deem relevant; however, this should be short and to the point.

Where relevant, please also indicate whether the developments reported are linked to the implementation of reforms and investments under the national Recovery Resilience Plan. To simplify your answers to the questionnaire, if there are no developments, it is sufficient to indicate this and the information covered in the contributions for the previous Rule of Law Reports does not need not be repeated.

[2] Such as: media regulatory authorities and bodies, national human rights institutions, equality bodies, ombudsman institutions, supreme audit institutions and, where they exist, transparency authorities.

* I am giving my contribution as

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☐ Business association
- ☐ Civil society organisation/NGO
- ☐ International organisation
- ☐ Judicial association or network
- ☐ Media organisation or association
- ☒ Public authority or network of public authorities
- ☐ Other

* Organisation name

250 character(s) maximum

Italian Hight School for the Judiciary

Main Areas of Work

- ☒ Justice System
- ☐ Anti-corruption
- ☐ Media Pluralism and Freedom
- ☐ Checks and Balances
- ☐ Other

Please insert an URL towards your organisation's main online presence or describe your organisation briefly:

500 character(s) maximum

The Italian School for the Judiciary (Scuola Superiore della Magistratura – SSM) is the national institution responsible for the initial and continuous training of ordinary and honorary magistrates. Its main institutional website, containing programmes, materials and official documents, is: <https://www.scuolamagistratura.it>.

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is in the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making

* Country of origin

Please indicate the country of origin of your organisation

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czechia
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Ireland
- ☒ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovak Republic
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ Other - please specify

First name

roberto giovanni

Surname

conti

Email Address of the organisation

robertogiovanni.conti@scuolamagistratura.it

* Publication of your contribution and privacy settings

You can choose whether you wish for your contribution to be published and whether you wish your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

- ☐ Anonymous - Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. Organisation name, URL, transparency register number, first name and surname given above will not be published. **To maintain anonymity, please refrain from mentioning the name of your organisation and any details from which your organisation can be identified in the rest of your contribution as we will not be able to guarantee anonymisation of these elements.**
- ☒ Public - Your personal details (name, organisation name, transparency register number, country of origin will be published with your contribution).
- ☐ No publication - Your contribution will not be published. Elements of your contribution may be referred to anonymously in documents produced by the Commission based on this consultation.

☒ I agree with the personal data protection provisions.

[Specific privacy statement targeted stakeholder consultation 2026 rule of law report.pdf](#)

Questions on horizontal developments

In this section, you are invited to provide information on general horizontal developments or trends, both positive and negative, covering all or several Member States. In particular, you could mention issues that are common to several Member States, as well as best practices identified in one Member State that could be replicated. Moreover, you could refer to your activities in the area of the four pillars and sub-topics (an overview of all sub-topics can be found below), and, if you represent a Network of national organisations, to the support you might have provided to one of your national members.

Overview topics for contribution

[List of topics for contribution.docx](#)

Please provide any relevant information on horizontal developments here

5000 character(s) maximum

Questions for contribution

Under each pillar, you are invited to provide information on measures taken to implement the recommendations addressed to the Member State in the 2025 Rule of Law report, as well as developments with regard to the points raised in the respective country chapter of the 2025 Rule of Law Report and any other significant developments since January 2025 and up to the date of submission[3]. Please always include a link to and reference relevant legislation/documents (in the national language and/or where available, in English). **Significant developments** can include challenges, positive developments and best practices, covering both legislative developments or implementation and practices.

Information provided in reply to the first question under each pillar, related to the follow-up to the recommendations, does not need to be repeated in subsequent parts of the questionnaire, but can be cross-referenced in the subsequent questions, where relevant. All other questions are not limited to the recommendations, but as in previous years, cover the entire scope of the Report.

[3] Unless already covered in the input for the previous Rule of Law Reports.

Member State/enlargement country covered in contribution [only one choice possible]

If you wish to submit information concerning several Member States/enlargement countries, please fill in the questionnaire separately for each country. There is no limit to the number of contributions submitted by a single participant.

- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czechia
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland

- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Ireland
- ☒ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Montenegro
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ North Macedonia
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Serbia
- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden

I. Justice System

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding the justice system (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

The School for the Judiciary, in defining its training offer for 2025 and 2026, has oriented its choices in light of the observations set out in the 2025 Rule of Law Report, devoting particular attention to the areas in which the European document identified structural vulnerabilities or urgent training needs. A first sector in which the School has undertaken significant action concerns the digitalisation of criminal proceedings, an area in which the Report highlights substantial difficulties in the implementation of the Criminal Procedure Application (APP) and the need to support judicial offices in the transition toward full digitalisation. In response, the School promptly organised dedicated training initiatives, including the webinar of 3 February 2025 on the new digital criminal procedure, which enabled thousands of magistrates to be reached and provided immediate support in adapting operational practices. These activities contribute to strengthening judicial capacity to operate the digital case-management system for criminal courts and prosecution services, supporting national efforts to meet the recommendation issued in the Rule of Law Report.

The annual Report - in [https://www.scuolamagistratura.it/web/portalessm/avvisi?](https://www.scuolamagistratura.it/web/portalessm/avvisi?p_p_id=P_AVVISI&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_P_AVVISI_javax.portlet.action=actionMethodByJavaApi&_P_AVVISI_idAvviso=1604&p_auth=K8DodyT6&p_p_lifecycle=0)

[p_p_id=P_AVVISI&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_P_AVVISI_javax.portlet.](https://www.scuolamagistratura.it/web/portalessm/avvisi?p_p_id=P_AVVISI&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_P_AVVISI_javax.portlet.action=actionMethodByJavaApi&_P_AVVISI_idAvviso=1604&p_auth=K8DodyT6&p_p_lifecycle=0)

[action=actionMethodByJavaApi&_P_AVVISI_idAvviso=1604&p_auth=K8DodyT6&p_p_lifecycle=0-](https://www.scuolamagistratura.it/web/portalessm/avvisi?p_p_id=P_AVVISI&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_P_AVVISI_javax.portlet.action=actionMethodByJavaApi&_P_AVVISI_idAvviso=1604&p_auth=K8DodyT6&p_p_lifecycle=0) also emphasises the relevance of artificial intelligence, underscoring the need to train magistrates on both the risks and opportunities related to new technologies, in line with the AI Act. In 2025, the School launched a structured training cycle specifically devoted to AI and its impact on judicial activity, with modules covering algorithmic functioning, the implications for judicial independence, and new forms of document automation. This programme will continue in 2026, contributing to the development of a conscious legal culture oriented towards safeguarding fundamental rights.

A particularly significant chapter concerns gender-based violence, an area in which the EU Report calls for greater specialisation and more effective tools to protect victims. The School made substantial investments in this field, designing a broad and capillary training offer that involved both the central structure and the decentralised training units. At the central level, webinars and in-person courses were organised to expand as much as possible the number of magistrates reached and to ensure accessible training throughout the national territory. In parallel, the contribution of decentralised training proved decisive. In numerous districts, training workshops were activated focusing on case analysis, the sharing of operational protocols, and multidisciplinary discussion. The synergy between central and local levels produced significant results, further strengthened by the entry into force, in December 2025, of Law No. 132/2025, which made training on gender-based violence compulsory for all magistrates and expressly allowed such training to be carried out both centrally and locally. All the activities implemented have been collected in a dedicated report, which will be attached to the present document and which details the evolution and impact of this training pathway.

The School has also intensified training on the relationship between the judiciary and the media, taking into account the legislative changes introduced in recent years and referenced in the EU Report. The courses addressed the protection of the presumption of innocence, the use of language in judicial decisions, judicial communication, and the balance between freedom of the press and the proper conduct of proceedings. Significant attention has also been devoted to the multi-level protection of rights, an area in which the Report highlights Italy's delays in executing the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. In 2025, the School organised a particularly high number of meetings, both at central and decentralised levels, dedicated to the ECHR and to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including on the occasion of the anniversaries of both instruments. These initiatives reaffirmed the central role of supranational law in judicial activity and promoted widespread reflection on the obligations arising from the European system of rights protection. Although the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution does not fall within the School's competences, the wide range of activities carried out on the ECHR and the EU Charter contributes to strengthening a rights-based judicial culture consistent with the broader institutional framework promoted at EU level.

A. Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents (incl. judicial review)

(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)

5000 character(s) maximum

Following the approval by Parliament of the constitutional reform introducing the separation of careers between judges and prosecutors—now subject to an oppositional referendum likely to be held in March 2026—the considerations already expressed remain fully relevant. The issue continues to lie at the heart of the concerns expressed by the judiciary, which had already demonstrated its position through the strike of 27 February, joined by approximately 80% of Italian magistrates.

Regardless of the legitimate diversity of views on the reform, it is important to underline that the Italian School for the Judiciary has built its identity on disseminating a unified culture of jurisdiction across the entire magistracy, considered—within all its components—an essential vehicle for realising constitutional guarantees. This training model is grounded in the idea that judges and public prosecutors are both active and indispensable protagonists in all educational programmes, and that a shared professional culture is a structural safeguard of judicial independence.

This approach is particularly evident in initial training, where it is inconceivable to imagine separate educational tracks depending on the future functions to be exercised. At a time when the School is managing the entry of an exceptionally large cohort—over 1,500 new magistrates expected by 2026—training is naturally oriented towards providing a unified perspective on all stages of judicial proceedings, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the constitutional values that guide both future judges and future prosecutors.

Irremovability of judges, including transfers, (incl. as part of judicial map reform), dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

Allocation of cases in courts

5000 character(s) maximum

Independence (including composition and nomination and dismissal of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e. g. Council for the Judiciary)

5000 character(s) maximum

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal/civil (where applicable) liability of judges (incl. judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

5000 character(s) maximum

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

B. Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined in the introduction)

[single market relevance] Accessibility of courts (e.g. court/legal fees, legal aid, language)

5000 character(s) maximum

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)

(Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities. Financial resources include salaries of staff in courts and prosecution offices.)

[single market relevance] Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, clerks/trainees)

5000 character(s) maximum

Overall training activity in 2025

The year 2025 was one of major growth for the Italian School for the Judiciary. A total of 165 permanent-training courses were offered, with 19,217 participants (14,743 professional judges and 4,474 honorary judges). In addition, decentralized training provided 716 local initiatives with about 20,936 participants- not only magistrates, but also lawyers and courtstaff-. Altogether, more than 57,000 training attendances were recorded, confirming the School's central role in supporting the professional development of the judiciary.

Digital transformation was one of the main priorities. At least 5,338 judges took part in courses dedicated to new technologies—three times more than in 2024. A structured cycle of lessons on “The challenges of artificial intelligence for the law” started in September 2025 and will continue in 2026. These courses addressed the impact of AI on judicial work, legal interpretation, drafting of judicial decisions and the protection of fundamental rights. Other courses focused on telematic procedures, cybercrime, electronic evidence and data protection, strengthening the digital skills now essential for judicial activity.

Fundamental rights, ethics and judicial responsibility

The 2025 training programme confirmed the School's role as a guardian of constitutional and European values. Courses addressed multilevel protection of rights, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, ethical duties of judges, professional responsibility and communication with the public. A particularly important area concerned violence against women and domestic violence: four major events attracted 1,749 participants. The School also prepared a specific report for GREVIO, highlighting the need for specialised and updated training in this sensitive field. It's important to emphasize

that the 27 district training structures played a decisive part in spreading training across the country. Their programmes responded to local needs, from specialised matters to digital applications in court offices, and complemented the central offer. The continuous dialogue between district structures and the central School strengthened the coherence of the national training system.

A remarkable commitment to young magistrates

No area grew as much as initial training. In 2025, 75 courses and workshops were organised for trainee judges—an increase of 525% compared to 2024. A total of 1,281 new magistrates were trained, an exceptionally high number. This required extraordinary organisational effort. The teaching approach was highly practical, with simulations, case studies, sessions on EU and international law, ethical reflection and digital competence. An important cultural initiative was the cycle “The Lincei speak to young magistrates”, offering direct dialogue with leading scholars.

Training as a key public service

The 2025 programme shows a School that understands training as an essential public service and a guarantee for the quality of justice. The strong focus on digitalisation, fundamental rights, ethics and the substantial investment in young magistrates demonstrates the central place of the School in shaping the future of the Italian judiciary.

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)

It should be significantly strengthened strategic commitment dedicated by Italian School for the Judiciary to digitalisation and artificial intelligence, recognising both as essential components of the contemporary transformation of justice. According to the 2025 Report, the School's action has developed along two parallel and interconnected lines: supporting the rapid digital transition of judicial offices and building a solid, informed culture around the opportunities and risks of AI for the protection of fundamental rights.

In full coherence with the Rule of Law Recommendations issued by the European Commission, the School formally endorsed this strategic direction in September 2025, when it approved a dedicated package of courses on digitalisation, AI, transparency, cybersecurity and rights-compliant technological innovation. This training package is not static: it is designed to expand further throughout 2026, becoming one of the School's main instruments for aligning national judicial training with European standards.

A decisive turning point was the introduction of the new digital criminal procedure through the Criminal Procedure Application (APP). Report 2026 just indicated highlights judicial offices experienced substantial operational challenges during the launch phase. To address these needs, the School rapidly activated targeted training, including the large-scale webinar of 3 February 2025, which provided immediate technical guidance and reached thousands of magistrates. By the end of 2025, more than 5,338 magistrates had participated in courses on digital tools—nearly three times the previous year—confirming the centrality of continuous digital training.

Digitalisation has also reshaped the School's internal infrastructure. The extensive use of Microsoft Teams, combined with systematic video-recording and on-demand access to materials, has made remote participation a structural component of the School's model. In 2025 alone, remote activities reached 19,326 participants, demonstrating the scalability and inclusiveness of online training and its growing integration with traditional in-presence formats. The multimedia archive, expanded and reorganised, now offers thousands of searchable contributions, enhanced through automated classification technologies.

Artificial intelligence constitutes the second pillar of the School's strategy. Following the orientations of the AI Act (Reg. EU 1689/2024) and European judicial training networks, the School launched in 2025 a comprehensive cycle titled "The Challenges of Artificial Intelligence for the Law," which will continue throughout 2026. The programme covers algorithmic logic, machine learning, transparency, accountability and the impact of AI on judicial reasoning. Particular attention is given to prohibited forms of automated decision-making, as well as to new practices such as automated summarisation, assisted legal research and AI-supported drafting tools.

AI also permeates the 2026 training offer across all legal domains, with specialised courses in civil law, criminal law, labour law, corporate law and taxation. This transversal presence reflects the School's view that AI is not a standalone topic but a dimension reshaping legal categories and procedural techniques.

The international dimension further consolidates this commitment. As noted in the Report, the School participates in EU projects such as TRUST-AI, focused on establishing shared standards for trustworthy and rights-compliant AI in justice, and SPLIT-AI, aimed at strengthening digital and AI-related judicial skills across Member States. These projects position the School as a key Italian node in the European ecosystem of digital judicial training.

Overall, the School's work demonstrates a systematic, forward-looking strategy in digitalisation and AI, combining technical training, legal analysis and international cooperation to ensure that technological innovation evolves in harmony with judicial independence, accountability and the protection of fundamental rights.

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems, including AI-based systems, for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals)

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialisation, in particular specific courts or chambers within courts to deal with fraud and corruption cases.

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Specialisation (of judges/specific courts/chambers within courts) and training for the judiciary to deal with commercial cases, as well as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and mediation as regards commercial cases.

5000 character(s) maximum

The training system of the Italian School offered a structured and coherent set of initiatives aimed at strengthening the specialisation of judges dealing with commercial matters. The School's permanent training programme included numerous courses dedicated to civil-economic issues, business law and sectors closely connected with commercial litigation. These initiatives covered matters such as contracts, corporate law, market regulation, financial activities and themes concerning the public prosecutor in civil-economic proceedings. Through the "P.M. Civile Economia" cycle, for example, the School provided targeted training on the role of the public prosecutor in commercial disputes, on the use of specific procedural tools and on the economic profiles underlying litigation in company and market matters.

A particularly strong component of commercial-law specialisation concerned insolvency and business-crisis procedures. It should highlight that Italian legislation requires continuous training for judges delegated to insolvency proceedings, and the School responded with a structured programme, both within the ordinary training calendar and within the "formazione continua" initiative. The courses examined restructuring instruments, judicial liquidation, crisis-management procedures and the interaction between civil, commercial and insolvency jurisdictions. These training activities ensured that judges assigned to specialised chambers could handle technically complex cases with updated knowledge of the new Code of business crisis and insolvency.

The training offer also supported the broader economic-law ecosystem through collaborations with specialised institutions. The partnership with the Bank of Italy, repeatedly mentioned in the Report, allowed the School to deliver advanced courses in banking law, financial regulation and market-related disputes. These programmes strengthened the judicial ability to address commercial cases involving financial products, corporate governance and compliance issues, which increasingly require a multidisciplinary approach combining law, economics and risk-analysis.

As regards alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and mediation in commercial cases, the School provided continuous training aligned with the evolving legislative framework. The school offered to Italian judges regular training on mediation, especially following the reforms introduced by Legislative Decree 149/2022. The School therefore offered courses on mediation techniques, the judge's role in encouraging negotiated settlements, the organisation of mediation procedures and the interplay between ADR and ordinary civil or commercial litigation. These courses helped judges to understand the strategic value of ADR tools in reducing caseloads, improving procedural efficiency and promoting consensual solutions in business disputes.

The School also integrated commercial-law and ADR competences within its broader methodological approach. The emphasis on practical exercises, case analyses and interdisciplinary perspectives created learning environments that simulate real judicial challenges, particularly in areas such as commercial negotiation, company restructuring and disputes involving technical-economic assessments. By linking commercial-law teaching with organisational and procedural topics, the School ensured that specialisation was not limited to legal content but extended to professional practices relevant for commercial chambers.

Overall, the 2025 data show a coherent and well-structured investment in the specialisation of judges dealing with commercial matters. The combination of commercial-law courses, insolvency training, economic-sector collaboration with institutions such as the Bank of Italy, and systematic programmes on mediation and ADR demonstrates that the Italian School for the Judiciary has provided comprehensive support to the judiciary in managing commercial disputes, both adjudicative and negotiated

C. Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined in the introduction)

[single market relevance] Developments related to efforts to improve the efficiency of the justice system (e.g. as regards length of proceedings, to address backlogs)

5000 character(s) maximum

Any other developments related to the justice system - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

II. Anti-Corruption Framework

Where previous specific reports, published in the framework of the review under the UN Convention against Corruption, of GRECO, and of the OECD address the issues below, please make a reference to the points you wish to bring to the Commission's attention in these documents, indicating any relevant updates, changes or measures introduced that have occurred since these documents were published.

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding the anti-corruption framework (if applicable):

5000 character(s) maximum

During 2025, the Italian School for the Judiciary carried out several training activities that relate to areas commonly examined in UNCAC, GRECO and OECD reviews, and these can therefore be communicated as concrete measures undertaken after the publication of earlier monitoring reports.

The Italian School delivered a wide set of courses centred on professional ethics, deontology, responsibility, and correct institutional behaviour, integrated into both permanent training and initial training for newly appointed magistrates. These activities addressed the exercise of judicial functions, relationships with lawyers and other professional groups, the proper use of communication channels, and the duties arising from disciplinary frameworks.

The School also invested significantly in organisational and managerial training, aimed at judges holding or preparing to hold directive or semi-directive positions. This included courses on the internal organisation of judicial offices, coordination methods, managerial responsibilities and the functioning of administrative structures. The programmes were designed to strengthen the operational capacity and organisational awareness of judicial leaders.

A further line of activity was the substantial expansion of initial training for new magistrates, which in 2025 reached unprecedented levels. Newly appointed judges took part in structured training modules covering the exercise of judicial powers, professional duties, methods of interaction with institutional actors, and the acquisition of behaviours consistent with the standards expected of the judiciary.

In addition, the School strengthened its cooperation with institutions possessing high technical expertise, including regulatory and scientific bodies. Through these collaborations, magistrates received specialised training in areas such as financial markets, economic regulation and public oversight mechanisms—sectors that require advanced technical capacity and that international monitoring bodies often associate with high governance sensitivity.

Finally, several training initiatives adopted a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating contributions from fields such as scientific analysis, organisational studies and behavioural sciences. These programmes aimed at improving the quality of judicial reasoning and the ability to address complex matters that require technical awareness beyond strictly legal knowledge.

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

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/specialised 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

5000 character(s) maximum

During these years the Italian School for the Judiciary developed a structured, long-term training programme aimed at strengthening judicial capacity to prevent and combat corruption. More than 3,500 magistrates took part directly, with a wider “cascade effect” across judicial offices through the dissemination of methods, practices and investigative tools.

The School organised a wide range of thematic courses covering different dimensions of corruption. Seven courses focused on international corruption, including a 2023 programme examining the OECD Convention of 1997 and the 2009 Recommendation, with attention to the specific features of foreign bribery and the differences from domestic corruption. Additional training included five courses on accounting and financial reporting and six on indirect evidence, documentary analysis and evidentiary reasoning—skills particularly relevant in economic-crime investigations.

Eight further courses addressed corporate criminal liability and market abuses, with specific focus on prevention models and on mechanisms facilitating the emergence of corruption offences, such as whistleblower protection. Six courses were dedicated to international judicial cooperation, eight to money-laundering and financial investigations, and seven to the intersections between organised crime, corruption and terrorism. Each of these strands supported the development of technical competence for dealing with complex corruption schemes.

The training model relied on interactive and practice-oriented methodologies, combining case studies, group work, plenary discussions, analysis of judicial decisions and the use of innovative tools for examining financial and evidentiary material. This approach promoted active engagement among judges, prosecutors, academics and civil-society representatives and fostered a shared professional culture of legality.

The School also strengthened its international dimension. It responded to requests for cooperation from foreign institutions, including the Ministry of Justice of Nigeria, and took part in the activities of the European Judicial Training Network. Its contribution to the inter-institutional coordination table with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—especially during the Italian Presidency of the G7—helped align national training with the strategic framework developed by the G7 Anti-Corruption Working Group. The School’s programmes reflect the four pillars identified at G7 level: capacity building, institutional strengthening, regulatory update and consensus-building.

Finally, throughout these years, the School ensured continuous training on judicial ethics and professional conduct, starting from the entry into the judiciary. These activities aimed to strengthen independence, impartiality and institutional credibility, translating ethical principles into concrete professional behaviour. Overall, the training delivered between 2015 and 2024 provides a multidimensional, internationally aligned model that reinforces legality, transparency and accountability within the judiciary and constitutes a solid update in the areas typically assessed by UNCAC, GRECO and OECD review processes.

Safeguards for the functional independence of the authorities tasked with the prevention and detection of corruption

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

B. Prevention

Measures to enhance integrity in the public sector in particular as regards high-level officials (including as regards incompatibility rules, revolving doors, codes of conduct, ethics)

5000 character(s) maximum

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)

5000 character(s) maximum

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)

5000 character(s) maximum

--> For the three previous points, **please also provide information and figures on their application /enforcement if available to you**, such as number of detected breaches/irregularities of the various rules in place and the follow-up given (investigations, sanctions, etc.)

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

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] 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, investor residence schemes, large-scale investments of national interest and the spending of EU funds, urban planning.*
- *In particular, measures to mitigate high risks of corruption in the area of public procurement, such as enhancing transparency and oversight (for example through digital technologies) and promoting fair competition and accountability in public procurement (e.g. targeted actions to address the high share of single bids) and measures to guarantee the effective and independent functioning of the public procurement review bodies.*

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Measures for the prevention of corruption in relation to the issuing of official permits (e.g. related to environment, energy, service provision and various types of construction)

5000 character(s) maximum

C. Repression

The legal framework on the criminalisation and sanctions for corruption and related offences, including foreign bribery

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Potential obstacles identified in law or in practice to the investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases (e.g. political immunity regulation, procedural rules, statute of limitations, cross-border cooperation, pardoning)

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Any other developments related to the anti-corruption framework - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

III. Media pluralism and media freedom

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding media pluralism and media freedom (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

Within the 2025 training programme, the Italian School for the Judiciary devoted specific attention to issues concerning freedom of expression and the protection of journalistic activity, with particular regard to the relationship between the judiciary, the media and journalists. The programme reflected the priorities indicated by the High Council for the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice, which highlighted the need to examine the

interaction between magistrates, mass media and social networks, as well as the implications of institutional communication and the presumption of innocence in the public representation of judicial proceedings. Against this background, the 2025 activities developed training modules on the distinction between procedural truth and media truth, the ethical responsibilities of journalists, and the role of information in shaping public perceptions of justice, also addressing the risks associated with SLAPPs, identified as an emerging area of interest in the institutional guidelines. The focus on freedom of information and on the protection of journalistic work was further consolidated in the 2026 programme, where the School strengthened training initiatives dedicated to the proper relationship between the judiciary and the media, recognising it as a necessary condition for safeguarding fundamental rights and for maintaining a balanced dialogue between institutions and society.

A. Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Measures taken to ensure the independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources (financial, human and technical) of media regulatory authorities and bodies

5000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies

5000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies

5000 character(s) maximum

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

[single market relevance] Measures taken to ensure the fair and transparent allocation of state advertising

5000 character(s) maximum

Safeguards against state / political interference, in particular:

- safeguards to ensure editorial independence of media (private and public)

- specific safeguards for the independence of heads of management and members of the governing boards of public service media (e.g. related to appointment, dismissal), safeguards for their financial and operational independence (e.g. related to reporting obligations and the allocation of resources) and safeguards for plurality of information and opinions
- **[single market relevance]** information on specific legal provisions and procedures applying to media service providers, including as regards granting /renewal/termination of licenses, company operation, capital entry requirements, concentration and corporate governance

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information, including on direct, indirect and beneficial owners

5000 character(s) maximum

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

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalists' independence and safety, including as regards protection of journalistic sources and communications, referring also, if applicable, to follow-up given to alerts lodged with the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists

5000 character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity, including during protests and demonstrations, to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists

5000 character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents by public at large and journalists (incl. transparency authorities where they exist, procedures, costs/fees, timeframes, administrative/judicial review of decisions, execution of decisions by public authorities, possible obstacles related to the classification of information)

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Any other developments related to media pluralism and freedom - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding the system of checks and balances (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

A. The process for preparing, enacting and implementing laws

[single market relevance] 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 in the preparatory, the parliamentary and implementation phase (including guidance on how to implement legislation)

** This includes also the consultation of social partners*

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Rules and use of fast-track procedures and emergency procedures (for example, the percentage of decisions adopted through emergency /urgent procedure compared to the total number of adopted decisions)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Safeguards to ensure legal certainty, the stability of the legal framework and non-discrimination.

5000 character(s) maximum

Rules and application of states of emergency (or analogous regimes), including judicial review and parliamentary oversight

5000 character(s) maximum

Regime for constitutional review of laws

5000 character(s) maximum

B. Independent authorities

Independence, resources, capacity and powers (including effective access to relevant data) of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

(Cf. the website of the European Court of Auditors: <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/SupremeAuditInstitutions.aspx#>)

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Safeguards to ensure the effective independence of supervisory and regulatory authorities with a direct impact on economic operators such as national economic oversight, enforcement and competition authorities

C. Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

[single market relevance] Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and respect of the good administration principle (including the obligation of the administration to give reasons for decisions)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Judicial review of administrative decisions: short description of the general regime (in particular competent court, scope, suspensive effect, interim measures, and any applicable specific rules or derogations from the general regime of judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Safeguards (other than judicial review) regarding decisions or inaction of administrative authorities, including remedies (e.g. administrative review)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Rules and practices related to the application by all courts, including constitutional jurisdictions, of the preliminary ruling procedure (Art. 267 TFEU)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] 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

5000 character(s) maximum

Oversight, including by courts, of the use of intrusive surveillance software by national authorities

5000 character(s) maximum

D. The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations and human rights defenders (e.g. legal framework and its application in practice incl. registration, transparency and dissolution rules)

5000 character(s) maximum

Rules and practices having an impact on the effective operation and safety of civil society organisations and human rights defenders. This includes measures to protect them from attacks – verbal, physical or on-line –, intimidation, legal threats incl. SLAPPs, negative narratives or smear campaigns, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc. It also includes measures to monitor threats or attacks and dedicated support services, as well as available remedies

5000 character(s) maximum

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)

5000 character(s) maximum

E. Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

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.)

5000 character(s) maximum

Several developments in 2025–2026 contributed to fostering a rule-of-law culture. The School strengthened training initiatives centred on judicial independence, fundamental rights and the multi-level system of guarantees, also through events linked to the anniversaries of the ECHR and the EU Charter, aimed at reinforcing awareness of European constitutional principles.

International cooperation further supported this objective, with participation in programmes of the European Judicial Training Network and Council of Europe HELP courses on AI, rule of law and quality of justice, promoting shared standards and cross-border judicial dialogue.

The training offer also included themes connected to rule-of-law safeguards—such as freedom of expression, the judiciary–media relationship and SLAPP-related risks—alongside modules on ethics, deontology and institutional communication, all contributing to transparency and public trust.

Methodological innovations (webinars, blended learning, wider dissemination of materials and selective openness to external professionals) broadened participation and supported a wider understanding of justice and its guarantees.

Any other developments related to the system of checks and balances - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

Cross-pillar elements: cross-border rule of law issues related to the Single Market

If there are any significant challenges concerning the Single Market you have been facing in a cross-border context relating to any of the four pillars of the report,

including for example issues with market access and the conditions for economic activities, that you would like to highlight, please do so here.

Given the cross-cutting nature of this question, it is included as a separate section in the questionnaire. Information collected under this question will however be integrated under the relevant existing pillar(s) of the Report.

5000 character(s) maximum

Supporting document upload

If you would like to submit any supporting document(s) to your contribution, please upload your file(s) here

Contact

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