

Ministry of interior (checks and balances)

(also by e-mail) The 2025 Report found “Significant progress on further improving the follow-up to recommendations and ensuring a more systematic response to information requests of the Ombudsperson.” Could you provide information on how many times and how in whole 2025 and until now the Ministry of the Interior responded to the Ombudsperson’s requests for information in the Ministry’s information system on the treatment of irregular migrants, including regarding related data and documents?

During 2025, the Ombudsman visited police stations seven times, mostly in border areas. Each time she requested information, including data from the Ministry of Interior Information System, which she immediately received in writing.

Ministry of Justice, Administration and Digital Transformation (SLAPP)

2025 Rule of Law Report reiterated the recommendation to Croatia to “continue efforts to address the issue of **strategic lawsuits against public participation targeted at journalists**, including by reviewing the legal provisions on defamation and encouraging wider use of procedural rules that allow dismissing groundless lawsuits, taking into account the European standards on the protection of journalists”. We take note of the information in the written contribution on the ongoing legislative work on the transposition of the Anti-SLAPP Directive. Nevertheless, in view of the recommendation of the Rule of Law Report, could you please:

- Provide us with the statistics on SLAPPs cases affecting journalists since the publication of the 2025 Rule of Law Report? [by email]

An analysis of the civil and criminal court cases in the eSpis system in which the defendants are journalists and media companies was carried out in late February 2026 with the purpose of identifying possible SLAPP cases in 2025. The basis of such analysis are the criteria from Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/758 of 27 April 2022 on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (“Strategic lawsuits against public participation”).

An analysis of civil cases for 2025 showed that out of the total number of cases closed in 2025, the SLAPP actions could be subject to 20 cases of which 9 were finally completed while others were non-final.

An analysis of the court decisions in criminal proceedings for criminal offenses against honor and reputation (criminal offense of insult under Article 147 of the Criminal Code and criminal offense of defamation under Article 149 of the Criminal Code) rendered in 2025 identified two final resolved cases and three non-final resolved cases that were marked as possible SLAPPs.

Ministry of Justice and Public Administration and Digital Transformation (anti-corruption)

Prevention of corruption

[Min of Finance competence – will reply in writing] Could you briefly elaborate to what extent the **Foreign Investment Screening Act**, which entered into force on 13 November 2025, addresses concerns over corruption and weak oversight in high-risk sectors?

Croatian Foreign Investment Screening Act establishes a transparent and effective system for screening foreign investments in the Republic of Croatia for the purpose of protecting the national security and public order of the Republic of Croatia, as well as the security and public order of the

European Union and its Member States, while ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market in areas of particular importance and significance to the Republic of Croatia, the Union, and the Member States.

Such a legal framework is intended to ensure that foreign investments are prevented only in cases involving foreign investors who are under the direct or indirect control of the governments of third countries, including state bodies or armed forces of a third country, who have already been involved in activities affecting security or public order in a Member State, or where there is a risk of links to unlawful activities. Likewise, the person of the foreign investor is defined very broadly, and in addition to them other responsible persons of a foreign investor will also be screened. Through a risk assessment of foreign investment, preventive action would be taken ex ante to avert the potential occurrence of any negative consequences that could affect national and European security and public order.

It also ensures that a foreign investor invests capital in good faith for the purpose of conducting economic activity in the Republic of Croatia, in a manner that benefits both the foreign investor and the Republic of Croatia, and consequently the Union; that the source of such capital, including its ultimate beneficial owner, can be identified and verified as easily and straightforwardly as possible; and that any suspicion of hidden intentions behind such foreign investment is eliminated.

That said, the screening of foreign investments will be conducted through an administrative procedure in which Foreign Investment Screening Commission (that will be established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia) issues an opinion on the basis of which the Ministry of Finance decides (decision - whether it approves or rejects the applicant's request) in the foreign investment screening process.

Areas of application of the Act include many different scopes by sectors, within which the obliged entities of the Act will be identified. Those scopes by sectors are: energy, energy storage, economic activities; transport, postal services and rail services markets; health, water intended for human consumption, manufacture and distribution of chemicals, manufacture of medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices; water management, waste management, waste water, regulating and protective water structures for flood protection; trust service providers and managed service providers; food production, processing and distribution; research: universe, artificial intelligence, robotics, semiconductors, quantum and nuclear technology, nanotechnology and biotechnology, including special narrower fields of research, and a registry of top national internet domain names; dual-use goods; defense and the realization of the defense function; media; digital infrastructure and ICT; electoral system; banking, financial market infrastructure; etc.

The provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly to: all types of concessions, public-private partnership contracts, free zones and concentrations (all of which are in particular already regulated by the relevant acts), in which a foreign investor appears either as: the concessionaire, or the private partner, or the holder of approval for the establishment of free zones, the zone manager or a separate part thereof, and/or the zone user, or the merger (the participant in the concentration).

Regarding the implementation of the ~~2025-2027 Anti-Corruption Action Plan~~, which included 62 actions for 2025, could you elaborate briefly on the ~~main legislative initiatives in 2025~~ and their level of implementation? [By email, once published] Could you provide us with the implementation report scheduled for Q1/2026, once published? ~~Apart from this monitoring, is a mid-term and final evaluation planned to inform policymaking and future strategies and action plans? What are the main legislative initiatives planned for 2026 under the current Action Plan?~~

Implementation report will be available upon adoption.

Government Legislation Office

[preliminary data by email- final data end March] Since the new Law on Better Regulation set additional standards for the public consultation process, which must last for 30 days in case of draft laws what are the data for 2025 regarding the number of consultations, their average length, and number of comments (submitted, replied to unanswered)?

According to data generated by the e-Consultations portal on January 27, 2026, during 2025, a total of 809 consultations were conducted through the e-portal, in which a total of 6,905 individuals and legal entities participated. A total of 25,584 comments were received, of which, according to current data, 2,429 comments were accepted, 1,516 were partially accepted, and 8,570 were not accepted while 5,920 were taken consideration. Average length of consultations was 24 days.

7,149 comments were not answered (however, at this moment not all Reports on the consultations conducted in 2025 have been completed so this number can change). In the first quarter of 2026, the Government Legislation Office will prepare the Annual Report on the implementation of public consultations, which, in accordance with Article 30 paragraph 1 of the Act on Policy Instruments for Better Regulations ("Official Gazette" No. 155/23), will be adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Office for Human Rights and Minority Rights

[also by e-mail by Feb] Could you provide the analysis of the state of implementation in 2025 of Ombudsperson's Recommendations, following the collection of results of the questionnaire? How would you assess the progress in implementation of these recommendations in 2025?

The Ombudsman's report for 2024 contains 158 recommendations, out of which 46 are recurring (29%).

Responses on the implementation of 158 recommendations were requested from 60 addressees via a Questionnaire. So far, 49 addressees (81%) have responded. The addressees with the largest number of recommendations have not yet submitted response on implementation status.

For 59.49% of the recommendations for which self-assessment of implementation was received:

- 47% are labelled "implemented, in implementation or planned for implementation";
- 2% are untagged with a self-assessment status;
- 11% are labelled with "not implemented, not in implementation nor planned for implementation".

The new report on the implementation of the recommendations is planned by the end of February 2026. It will be followed by further improvements in accordance with the agreements reached with the Office of the Ombudswoman as well as addressees. Giving that information on implementation is missing for 40.5% of the recommendations and that in depth analysis can start only upon receiving all the responses, it is too early to make an assessment of the progress.