

Annual report of the President of the National Office for the Judiciary

2017



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Being the judges of Hungary, it is our mission to ensure that Hungarian judicature has an eminent position in the international competition. (Andor Juhász)

Dear Reader,

As of 2012, it has been a key task of the National Office for the Judiciary (NOJ) to facilitate the transition of the judiciary into the digital age, while preserving the values upheld in its traditions. The possibilities for online administration are continuously expanding, and recently we have witnessed a dramatic upsurge: by the end of 2017, almost one million electronic submissions had been submitted to the courts. Our strategic goal is to simplify access to justice. We are continuously launching new projects promoting the implementation of a court system that is independent of time and space, i.e. that can be accessed from anywhere and at any time.

Of course, hundreds of thousands of clients visit the courts in person each year too, in order to settle their cases. We deem it important to ensure that they can do so in an environment that is appropriate considering the seriousness of their case, and that they can deal with appropriately qualified employees. For this purpose, we have started to establish judicial client centres intended to represent a new culture of personal administration. In the client centres, clients can manage matters of their cases in progress, including submitting documents, obtaining information and viewing documents, before any court of the country among 21st century conditions, in a simpler and quicker manner. In the years to come, client centres will be opened in more and more locations; first at the Eger Regional Court and the Szigetszentmiklós District Court.

In 2017, it was a huge challenge for court employees to prepare for the application of the new procedural codes. The smooth introduction of the three procedural law codes entering into force in 2018 (the new Civil Procedural Code, the now-separate Public Administration Procedural Code and the new Criminal Procedural Code) was ensured by the NOJ. We gave our opinions on the codes and the related legislation with the involvement of the courts. We prepared up-to-date educational materials and organised training sessions. In addition, we also performed the necessary administrative-organisational and technological tasks and improvements. We trust that this preparedness can ensure that we can continue to produce outstanding results with regard to the promptness and quality of adjudication, as we have done in recent years.

In addition to supporting judicial practice, we continued our national programmes representing the social commitment of the judiciary that have proven to be successful in recent years. We remain committed to Open Courts, Child-centered Justice programme, Witness care and victim protection and Court mediation. In order to strengthen public trust towards courts, we organised the year 2017 around the principle of 'comprehensible court'. We strove to make justice as comprehensible and transparent as possible for the employees working in the system, the clients turning to court and the general public. We undertook several tasks in the fields of court administration, adjudication and media communications too.

After 12 years, with the support of the government and the parliament, the salary of judges was finally raised, and after 20 years, in 2017 the salary of the judicial staff could be settled realistically. We hope that in the years to come, we will be able to further expand our budgetary sources that can be used for personnel-related expenses, so that we can appropriately recognise our judges, who do an outstanding job even in international comparison. The main strategic goal is to ensure that the courts perform their obligation set out in the Fundamental Law, i.e. that independent judges settle cases promptly and in a high quality.

With these in mind, I invite you to peruse the report on the operation of the NOJ and the judiciary organisation, which provides an overview of the most important events of 2017 in a new structure adjusted to the strategic goals of the judiciary organisation.

*Tünde Handó, Dr
President of the NOJ*

PART I – EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The main achievements of the NOJ in 2017 in relation to the aim of the President of the NOJ that courts should fulfil their constitutional obligation and the independent judges should settle cases promptly and in a high quality:

- 87,5% – i.e. the vast majority – of all litigation cases were settled within 1 year after their receipt at the relevant level of the justice system.
- By the end of 2017, the number of litigation cases pending after two years decreased by 37% as compared to the number registered in the year of establishment of the NOJ.
- The NOJ started the development of a new IT application helping the work of court leaders ('Leadership IT System', or by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'VEIR').
- In 2017, the NOJ updated both the structure and the substance of the annual and semi-annual analyses displaying the case traffic of courts and the workload of individual judges.
- Effective preparations for the application of the new procedural laws (Civil Procedural Code, Public Administration Procedural Code, Criminal Procedural Code).
- Based on the indicators of the EU Justice Scoreboard published by the European Commission relating to the efficiency of jurisdiction, Hungary continues to hold a position among the top third of the Member States.
- Effective 1 January 2018, the base salary of judges was raised again by 5%, to HUF 453 330.

1. Caseload

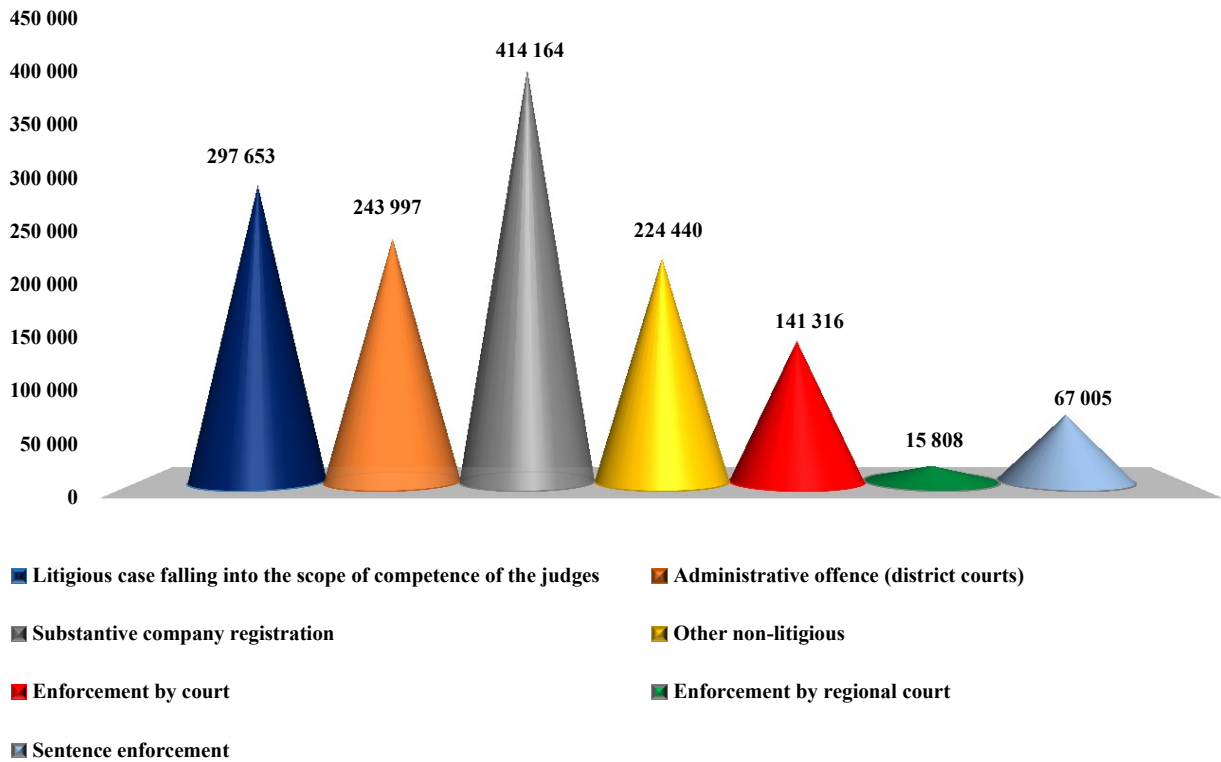
In 2016, the NOJ reviewed several of its data collections in order to be able to provide an even more complete overview of the caseload of courts. In this scope, the development of a sentence enforcement template enabling more accurate and detailed recording of sentence enforcement caseload data was developed, and introduced as of 1 January 2017. In order to ensure the comparability of data, this report presents the caseload data for 2016 together with these case types.

Simultaneously with the IT developments, we also improved data reporting for regional court enforcement cases in order to improve accuracy.

1.1. Receipt of cases

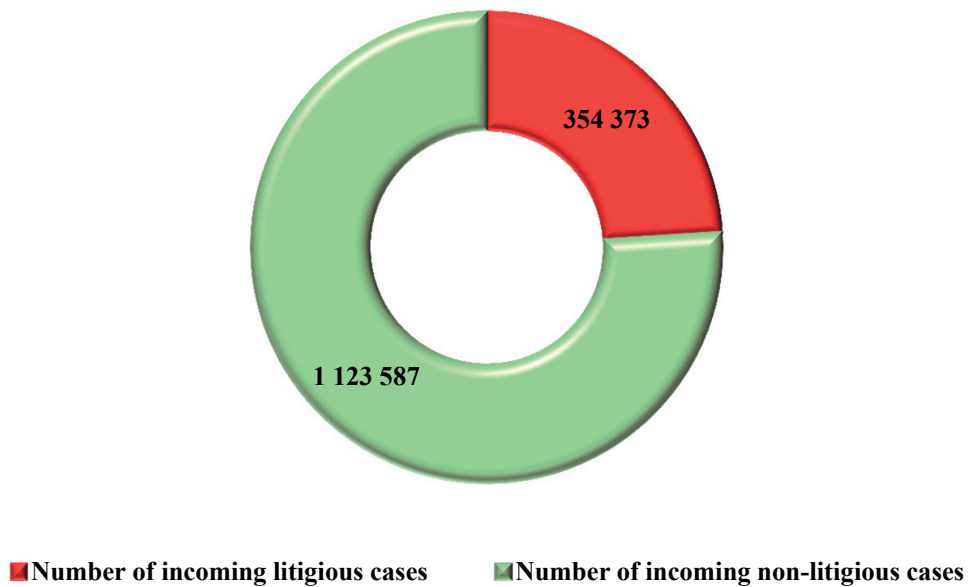
In 2017, the courts received 1 404 383 cases in total. It is important to emphasise that in the month prior to the entry into force of the new Civil Procedural Code in January 2018 (i.e. in December 2017), the number of civil litigation cases increased significantly as compared to the same period of the previous year (by 31,8%), which, being a sudden surge, made daily work significantly more difficult.

Number of cases received by the courts in 2017

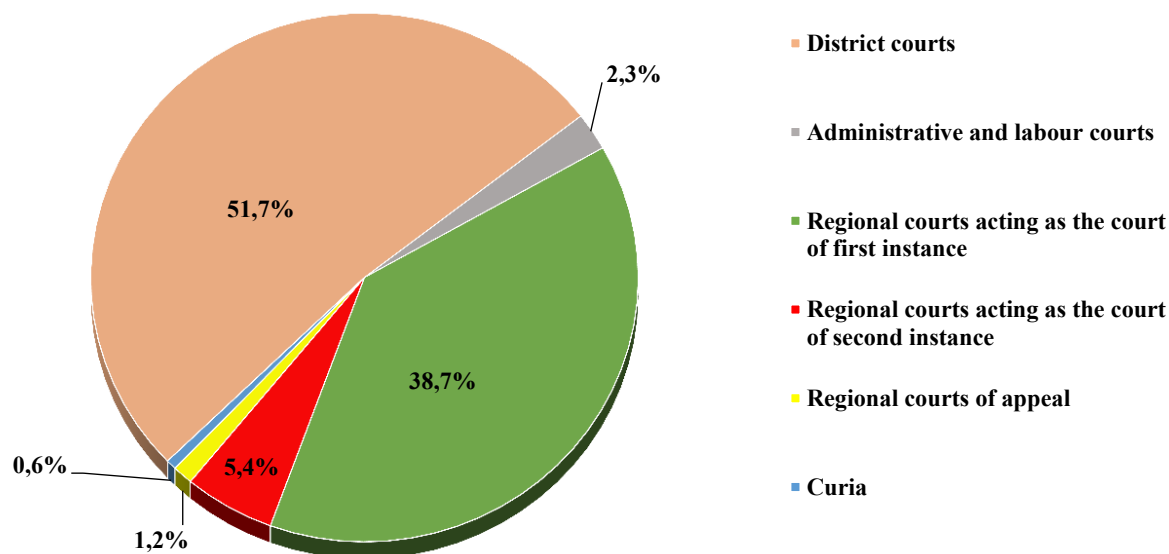


A quarter of all cases received by the courts continue to be labour-intensive litigious cases.

Number of incoming litigious and non-litigious cases in 2017



Distribution of all incoming cases between the court levels in 2017



1.2. Completion of cases

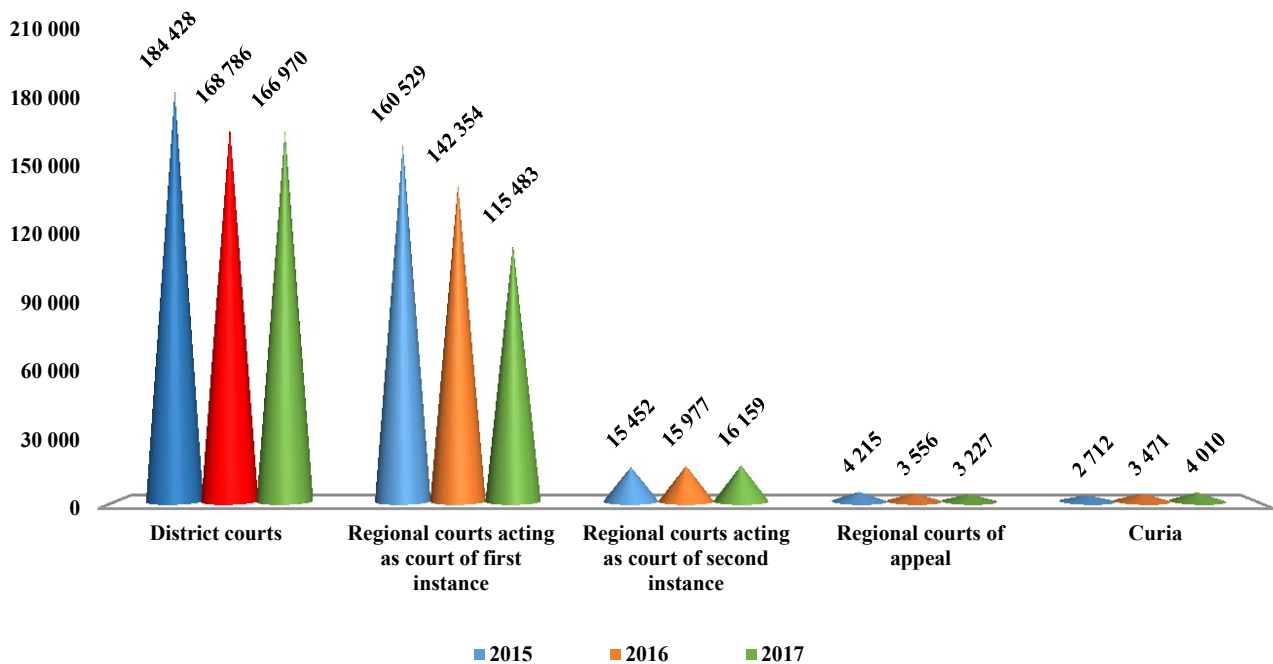
In 2017, the courts completed a total of 1 397 268 cases. The number of cases completed was lower than the number of cases received only at the regional courts acting as court of first instance. The reason of this is twofold: on the one hand, as of 1 January 2017, this level of courts is proceeding in sentence enforcement indemnification cases, and the completion of cases takes several months (typically due to the need to supply missing information), and on the other hand, company registration cases are also handled at this level, and even though the difference between receipt and completion is less than 2% in this field, the large number of cases (more than 400 000 in 2017) results in a numerical difference somewhat exceeding 7000.

The rate of litigation cases completed as compared to the total number of cases completed was 24% in the entire country, therefore we can conclude that a quarter of all cases completed at the courts are litigation cases.

1.3. Case backlog

On 31 December 2017, there were 305 849 pending cases in the country. This number is more than 28 000 (i.e. 8,5%) lower than the data recorded for 2016 (334 144 cases). This significant reduction was mainly caused by the decrease of the number of cases at administrative and labour courts by 5%, at regional courts acting as the court of first instance by 19%, and the regional courts of appeal by 9%. We should emphasise that at the level of regional courts acting as court of first instance, the decrease is 28% compared to the data of 2015 (115 483 instead of 160 529 cases).

Case backlog by court level in 2017



1.4. Central region

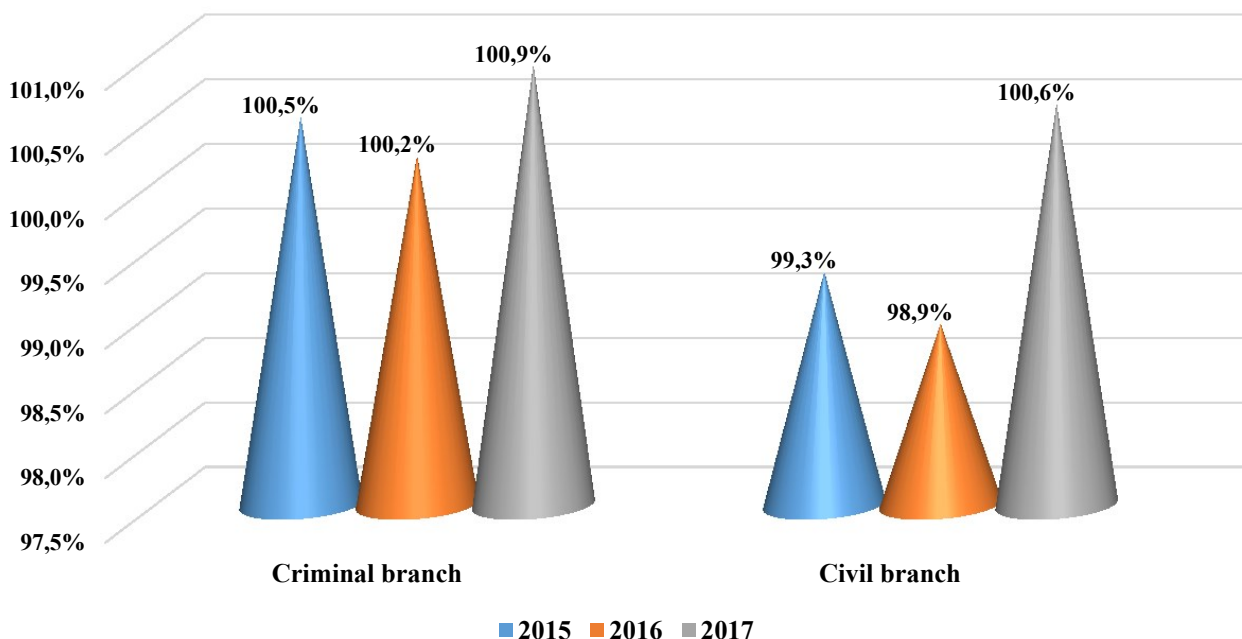
Courts of the central region: Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal, Budapest-Capital Regional Court and Budapest Environs Regional Court and the courts in its area of competence. More than 40% of all cases are received by these courts. Due to the socio- and economic geographical characteristics of the country, the central public administration and controlling authorities are concentrated in this area, and this is where the registered offices of the stock exchange and the majority of banks, insurance companies and companies operating nationwide are located. The centralised arrangement of trade and public administration results in a large number of cases received. The rate of criminal offences and the number and type of criminal cases is influenced by circumstances related to the foregoing. In addition, there are cases in which only these courts have the power to proceed.

1.4.1. Budapest-Capital Regional Court

Not considering enforcement cases at the regional court, in 2017, the Budapest-Capital Regional Court and its courts received 388 585 cases (389 696 if also including enforcement cases at the regional court level), while 386 296 cases (387 422 if also including enforcement cases at the regional court level) were completed, and 81 010 cases remained pending. The share of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of all cases received in the country was 28,26%, 1,06% less than in 2016.

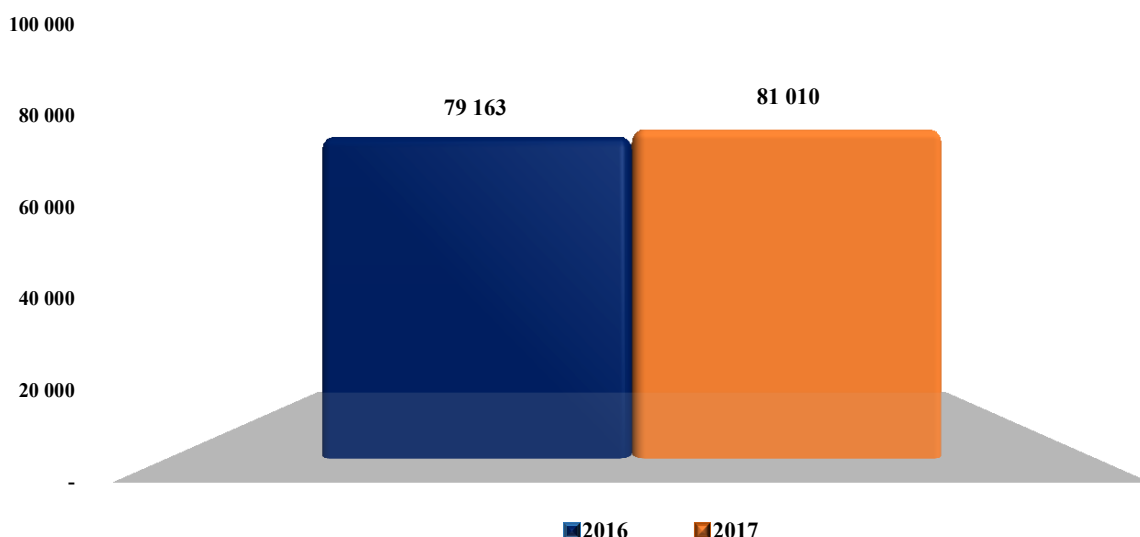
In 2017, as also shown by the diagram below, the number of cases completed was higher than the number of cases received both with regard to criminal and to civil cases.

Ratio of finished and incoming cases and their distribution at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court between 2015 and 2017, as a percentage



The number of pending – including enforcement cases at the regional court level – decreased at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court by more than 28 000 cases (i.e. by 26,3%). If we disregard enforcement cases at the regional court level, the number of pending cases increased in total by 2% as compared to 2016, as also shown by the diagram below:

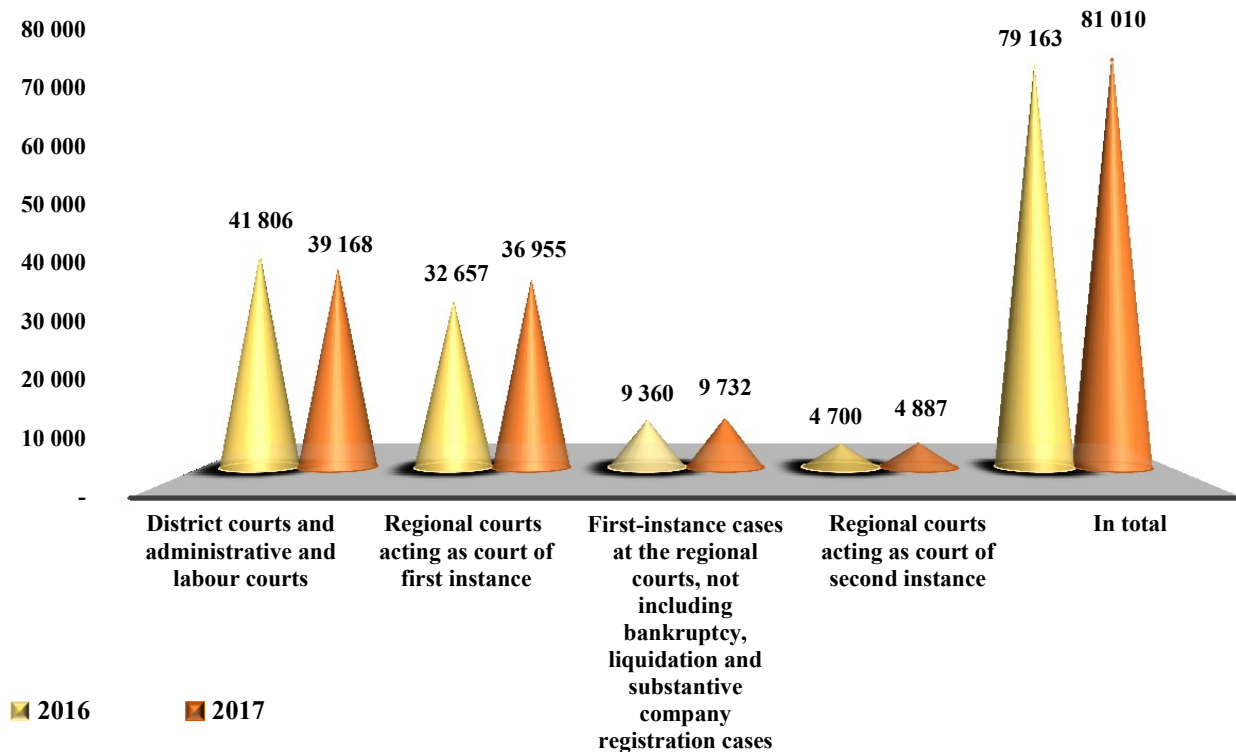
Number of pending cases at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court (not including enforcement cases at the regional court level)



With regard to the case backlog, we can say that the number of pending cases at the district court level decreased by 6,3% as compared to the previous year, however at the other levels of the justice system, we could see an increase (albeit minimal). At the level of the regional court acting as the court of first instance, this increase was due to the significant increase of

company registration cases in the last third of 2017. In this period, the number of cases completed was lower by almost 8 500 than the number of cases received.

**Number of pending cases at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court
(not including enforcement cases at the regional court level)**

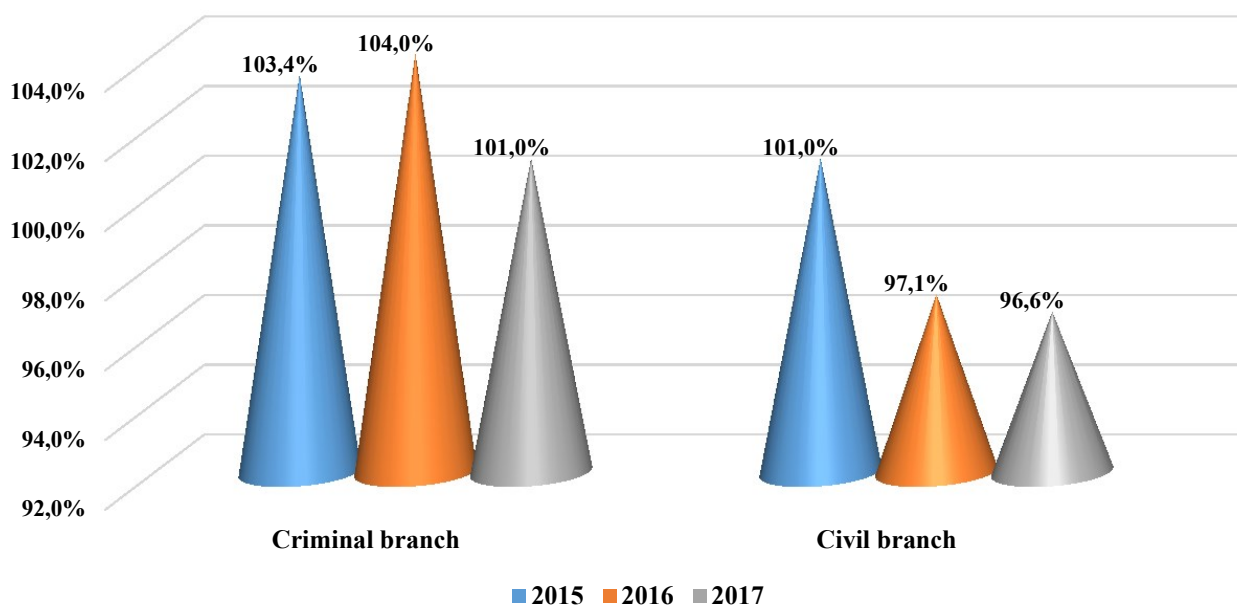


1.4.2. Budapest Environs Regional Court

In 2017, the Budapest Environs Regional Court and its courts received a total of 172 540 cases, which represents a 2,1% decrease as compared to 2016. The largest decrease of almost 12% was recorded for cases at the level of regional courts acting as court of first instance. We can still say, however, that this is the regional court with the second highest caseload in the country, proceeding in 12,5% of all cases in the entire country.

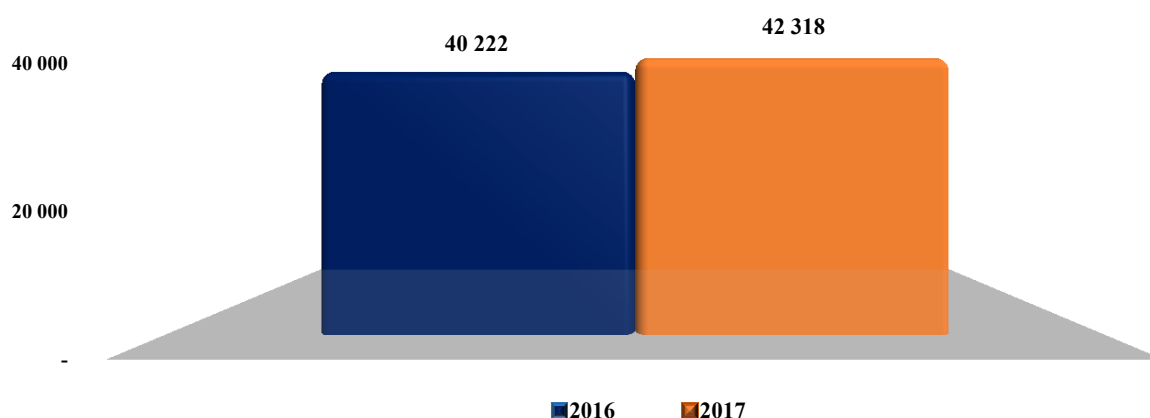
Unfortunately, the number of cases completed decreased by 11,3% as compared to 2016. The most significant decrease was recorded with regard to the completion of cases at the regional court acting as court of first instance, the reason of which is the decrease of the number of company registration cases completed. (At the end of 2016, 12 541 cases were pending, while on 31 December 2017, this number was 14 738). Similarly to the previous years, the judges finished more criminal cases than the courts received.

Ratio of finished and incoming cases and their distribution at the Budapest Environs Regional Court between 2015 and 2017, as a percentage



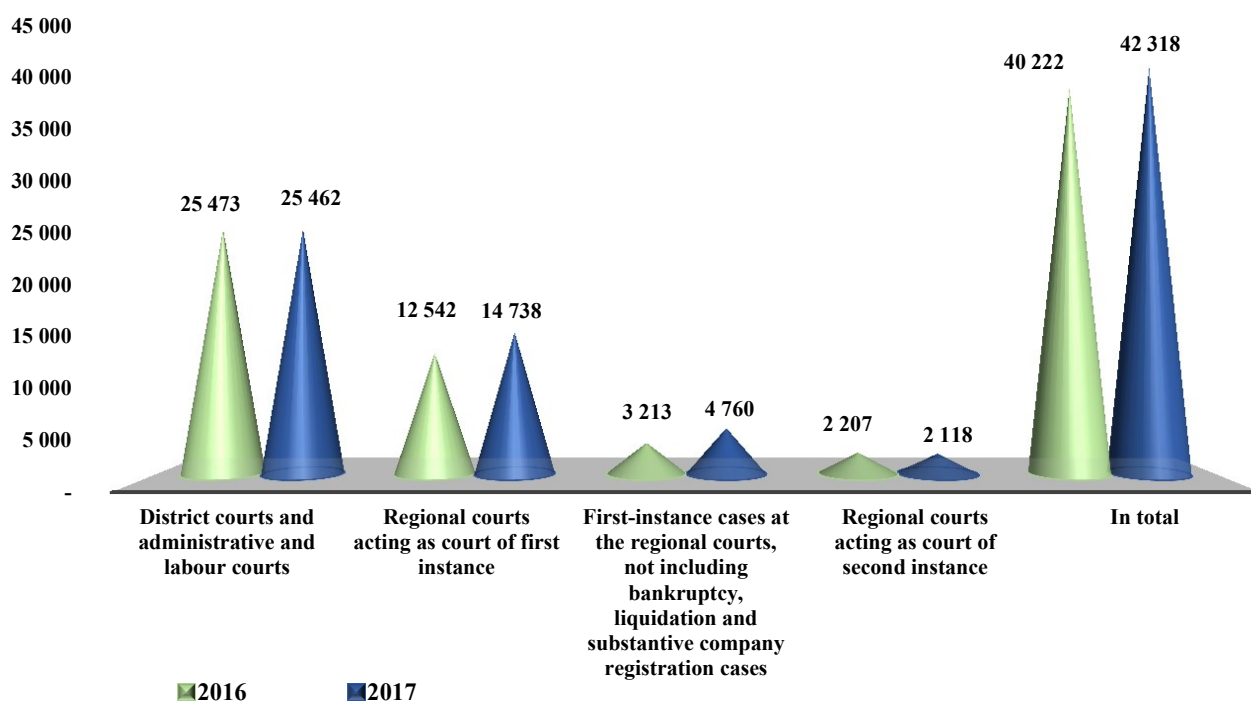
As a result of the lower number of cases both received and finished, the case backlog increased by 5,2% as compared to 2016, however, the case backlog decreased by almost 4% with regard to cases where an appeal was lodged.

Number of pending cases at the Budapest Environs Regional Court (not including enforcement cases at the regional court level)



With regard to the case backlog, the number of pending cases increased on all levels of the justice system except for the district court level, and the largest increase took place at the level of regional courts acting as court of first instance.

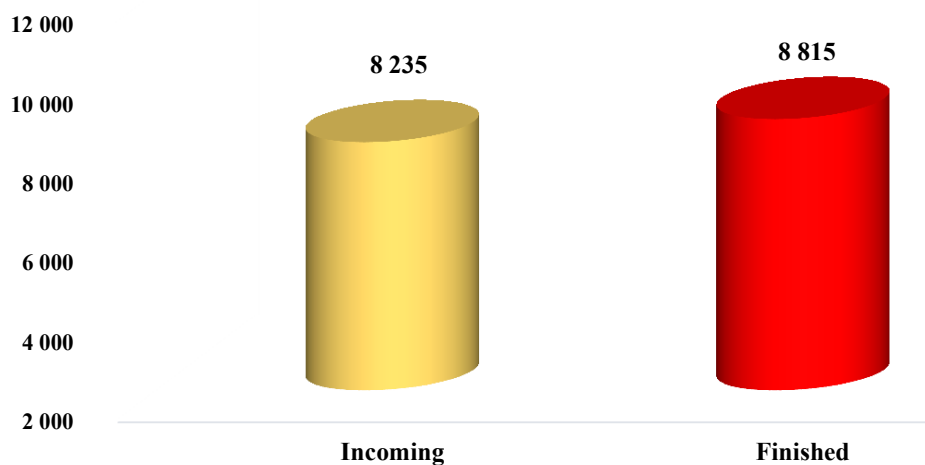
**Number of pending cases at the Budapest Environs Regional Court
(not including enforcement cases at the regional court level)**



1.4.3. Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal

In 2017, the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal received 8 235 cases, which is 17,5% lower than the number registered in 2016. This significant decrease was the highest for non-litigious cases, where the decrease was 22,9%.

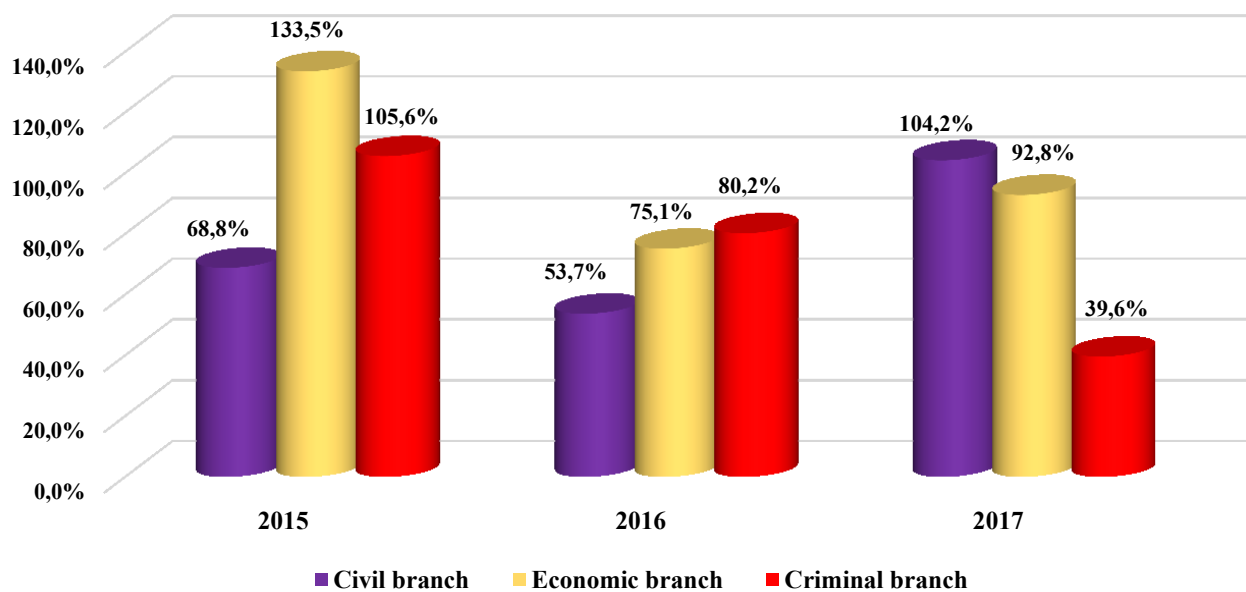
**Number of incoming and finished cases at the
Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal in 2017**



The number of pending cases was 1 694 in 2017, which represents a 25,5% improvement over the year 2016. The decrease of the number of incoming non-litigious cases in 2017 also affected the backlog of non-litigious cases: the number of such pending cases was 31,8% lower than the number of pending cases at the end of 2016.

The number of pending litigious cases decreased by half in the course of two years (2015–2017). This decrease was achieved via serious effort, administrative measures and the assistance of other regional courts of appeal with regard to both the civil (civil and economic law) and the criminal branch.

Pending litigious cases of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal by branch, as a percentage of the previous year



2. Timeliness

The high-quality and timely administration of justice is the primary aim of the President of the NOJ. In order to enhance timeliness and to reduce the number of lagging cases pending after two years, in April 2016, the NOJ announced the Sustainable Development Programme (SDP).

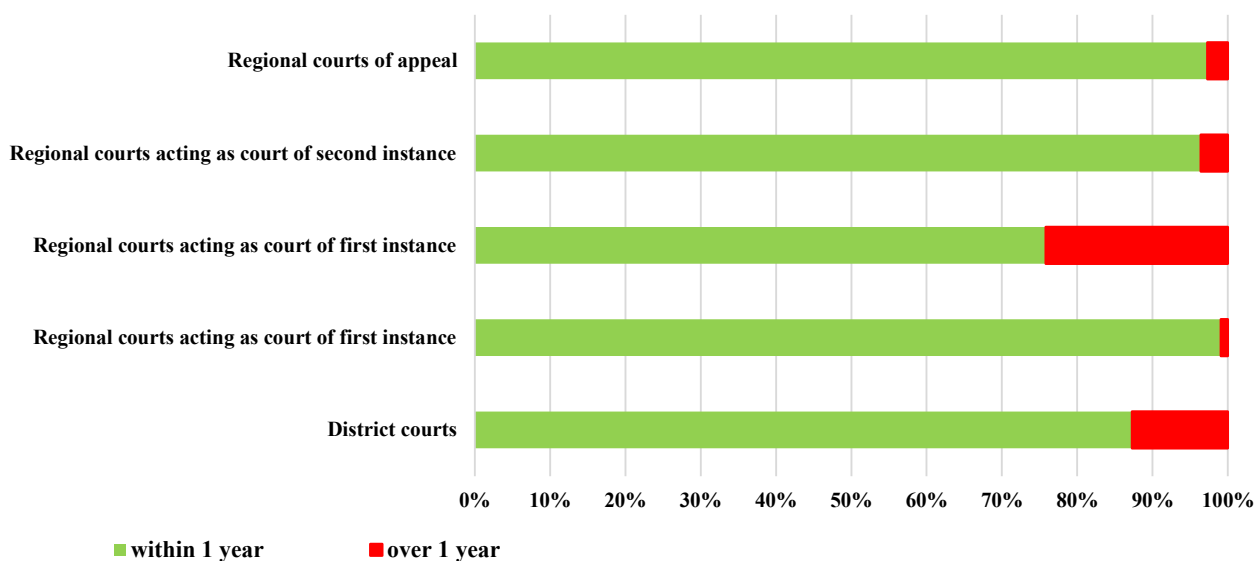
The SDP continued in 2017 in a narrower and better clarified scope in order to maintain the results achieved with regard to caseload. The goal of the new SDP 2 announced in June 2017 was to maintain the results already achieved and to promote further development without incurring additional burdens for the judges and court employees.

Thanks to the programme, timeliness improved further both with regard to litigious and non-litigious cases, the rate of finished litigations increased and the rate of cases pending for a longer time decreased.

2.1. Litigious cases finished

87,5% – i.e. the vast majority – of all litigation cases were settled within 1 year after their receipt at the relevant level of the justice system. With this, we were able to maintain the outstanding results achieved in 2016 with regard to the completion indicators.

**Distribution of time of completion of cases at the courts
(not including the Curia)**



At the district court level, with regard to civil cases, the rate of cases finished within 1 year after their receipt by the court was 88% as compared to all finished cases, which is an excellent result.

Rate of civil litigation cases finished within one year as compared to all cases finished at the district courts (2017)

Rank	Regional Courts	Rate
1.	Gyula Regional Court	95,5%
2.	Miskolc Regional Court	92,7%
2.	Balassagyarmat Regional Court	92,7%
3.	Debrecen Regional Court	92,0%
4.	Szombathely Regional Court	91,9%
5.	Kaposvár Regional Court	91,8%
6.	Szeged Regional Court	91,2%
7.	Szolnok Regional Court	90,8%
8.	Veszprém Regional Court	90,1%
9.	Szekszárd Regional Court	89,9%

Rate of civil litigation cases finished within one year as compared to all cases finished at the district courts (2017)		
Rank	Regional Courts	Rate
10.	Zalaegerszeg Regional Court	89,6%
10.	Eger Regional Court	89,6%
11.	Pécs Regional Court	89,2%
12.	Nyíregyháza Regional Court	88,6%
13.	Kecskemét Regional Court	88,5%
14.	Székesfehérvár Regional Court	87,2%
14.	Győr Regional Court	87,2%
15.	Budapest-Capital Regional Court	85,7%
16.	Tatabánya Regional Court	85,1%
17.	Budapest Environs Regional Court	82,5%
National average:		88,10%

At the level of regional courts acting as court of second instance, this index – the rate of cases finished within 1 years as compared to all cases finished – was also the highest in the civil branch (97,4%).

2.2. Pending cases

At the regional courts (together with the district courts and the administrative and labour courts), the number of pending cases improved by 8,7% as compared to 2016, i.e. it decreased from 327 117 cases to 298 612 cases, 47% of which are litigious cases. There were positive changes at the regional courts of appeal too: the number of pending cases decreased by 9,3% as compared to the number registered in 2016. (from 3 556 to 3 227)

The number of cases pending for a longer time – cases pending after 2 years at the district courts and the regional courts acting as court of first instance, after 1 year the regional courts acting as court of second instance and after 6 months at the regional courts of appeal – represents 6% of the entire case backlog. This is 0,3% lower than in 2016.

The average completion time of litigations also decreased in the following levels and branches:

- at the district courts
 - o by 12 days (from 226 to 214) with regard to civil litigations;
 - o by 4 days (from 311 to 307) with regard to economic litigations;
 - o by 6 days (from 310 to 304) with regard to criminal lawsuits;
 - o by 16 days (from 101 to 85) with regard to lawsuits for administrative offences;

- at the regional courts acting as court of first instance
 - o by 34 days (from 382 to 349) with regard to economic litigations;
- at the regional courts acting as court of second instance (calculated from the time of receipt by the court of second instance)
 - o by 9 days (from 125 to 116) with regard to lawsuits for labour litigations;
 - o by 16 days (from 143 to 127) with regard to criminal lawsuits;
 - o by 4 days (from 49 to 45) with regard to lawsuits for administrative offences;
- at the regional courts of appeal (calculated from the time of receipt by the court of second instance)
 - o by 11 days (from 112 to 101) with regard to civil litigations;
 - o by 14 days (from 151 to 137) with regard to economic litigations;
 - o by 27 days (from 141 to 114) with regard to criminal lawsuits (including military lawsuits).

3. Soundness of the administration of justice

3.1. Soundness of the administration of justice at the courts

One of the measures of the operation of courts is the rate of acceptance of the first-instance decisions by the parties. This means that none of the parties entitled to lodge an appeal against the first-instance decision does so, i.e. the case (dispute) is resolved in a final and binding manner at this level of the justice system. The acceptance of a sentence by the parties may of course also be influenced – among others – by sociological processes and economic factors, and consequently, the rate of appeals is typically higher at the district courts of the Central Region.

One of the factors indicating the social acceptance of the administration of justice by the courts is that appeals are lodged in a low number of cases, i.e. a high number of cases becomes final and binding. In 2017, 77,6% of all criminal sentences became final and binding at the first instance at the district court level, while this index was 50,8% at the level of regional courts acting as court of first instance. With regard to the civil branch, at the district court level, no appeal was lodged against 90,8% of all sentences made in litigation cases finished in 2017, while at the level of regional courts acting as court of first instance, the parties did not lodge an appeal in 82,7% of all cases in the civil branch.

The diagram below shows the rate of decisions that became final and binding in 2017 in the civil branch at the district courts, and at the administrative and labour courts:

Rate of final and binding decisions at the civil branch of district courts and at the administrative and labour courts (2017)		
Rank	Regional Courts	Appeal rate
1.	Szombathely Regional Court	94,55%
2.	Nyíregyháza Regional Court	93,51%
3.	Kecskemét Regional Court	92,62%
4.	Szekszárd Regional Court	92,31%
5.	Szolnok Regional Court	92,26%

Rate of final and binding decisions at the civil branch of district courts and at the administrative and labour courts (2017)		
Rank	Regional Courts	Appeal rate
6.	Eger Regional Court	92,19%
7.	Miskolc Regional Court	92,16%
8.	Szeged Regional Court	92,01%
9.	Gyula Regional Court	91,48%
10.	Győr Regional Court	91,37%
11.	Zalaegerszeg Regional Court	91,34%
12.	Tatabánya Regional Court	91,27%
13.	Budapest Environs Regional Court	91,06%
14.	Debrecen Regional Court	91,02%
15.	Balassagyarmat Regional Court	90,62%
16.	Székesfehérvár Regional Court	90,28%
17.	Veszprém Regional Court	89,72%
18.	Pécs Regional Court	89,47%
19.	Kaposvár Regional Court	89,42%
20.	Budapest-Capital Regional Court	88,85%
National average:		90,78%

We can see that in 2017, at the national level, in these branches, the rate of cases becoming final and binding was, similarly to the previous year, higher than 90%. The rate of decisions becoming final and binding was the highest at the Nyíregyháza Regional Court (93,51%) and the Szombathely Regional Court (94,55%).

3.2. Decisions regarding uniformisation of the law and the quality of the administration of justice

3.2.1. Monitoring the decisions of the Constitutional Court

One of the characteristics of the judiciary organisation is that while the law assigns the central administration tasks to the president of the NOJ, the Curia is responsible for ensuring that the administration of justice takes place in a uniform manner and in the highest quality possible.

In addition, there are also national and international judiciary forums that provide feedback on the quality of the work of the courts that should be considered.

The Constitutional Court of Hungary is one such forum, the website of which is continuously monitored by the NOJ, and the Constitutional Court also sends its weekly newsletter to the NOJ.

Between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017, the Constitutional Court received 48 requests for individual normative control from judges (see Section 25 of Act CLI of 2011 on the Constitutional Court; hereinafter: 'Constitutional Court Act'), which is significantly lower than the number registered in 2016 (64). There were 40 court cases where those entitled thereto submitted a constitutional objection on the grounds of unconstitutional application of law (Section 26(1) of the Constitutional Court Act), and the judicial decision was contested on the grounds of being in conflict with the Constitution in 330 cases (Section 27 of the Constitutional Court Act). In 2017, court/authority decisions were nullified on 14 occasions.

The information database operated by the President of the NOJ at the intranet website of the courts, which also has a search function, contains the decision associated with the judicial initiative and also the decision of the Constitutional Court.

3.2.2. Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)

Article 267 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) makes it possible for national judges to seek a preliminary ruling. This is possible where the national judge is uncertain regarding the validity or interpretation of the applicable EU legislation with regard to the case in which he/she is proceeding, and the legislation had not been interpreted previously. It is the intention of the President of the NOJ that preliminary rulings be sought only in the cases fitting Article 267 of the TFEU, in a high professional quality.

In order for the achievement of these goals, the President of the NOJ maintains the European Law Advisors Network, which was expanded by a secretary network in all branches of law in 2017. The secretary advisors network started its operation pursuant to NOJ Directive No. 8/2017 (VII. 13.) of the President of the NOJ. The secretary advisors assist in the work of the advisor judges and provide information in response to the EU law-related inquiries of secretary judges. With the establishment of the secretary network, in 2017, the headcount of the advisors network changed too: while the network consisted of 61 judges at the end of 2016, on 31 December 2017, it consisted of 50 judges and 23 secretaries.

In order to prevent the repeated submission of inquiries and to raise awareness regarding the legal matters already interpreted, it is essential that the judiciary be informed of any preliminary rulings sought, as well as the decisions of the CJEU. The information database operated by the President of the NOJ at the intranet website of the courts, which also has a search function, and the best practices, order templates and samples shared therein assist the judges with respect to this. The database contains the decision associated with the judicial initiative and also the response of the EU.

At the trainings, the NOJ continues to put an emphasis on preliminary rulings, as a preliminary ruling initiated in a specific case may affect more than the litigation concerned, and may even concern the entire judiciary organisation. Accordingly, the commencement or completion of preliminary rulings may affect not only the substantive jurisprudence but also the current workload and organisation of work.

3.2.3. European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

In 2017, the ECHR passed 24 judgments concerning Hungary, 20 of which were adverse. With this, Hungary is the 16th of the 48 countries listed.

2 of the 20 adverse judgments (i.e. 10%) concerned the Hungarian court system, which represents 1/8 of the adverse sentences of 2016 (16 cases).

In total 2 judgments and 11 other adverse decisions were made before the ECHR in cases relating to breaches of the requirement of 'reasonable time' set out in Article 6(1) of the Convention. All proceedings in progress at a Hungarian court concerned by these decisions commenced before 2012.

Consequently, the improvement that took place as a result of the administrative measures of the NOJ, i.e. that the number of pending litigation cases after two years decreased by 37% in 2017 as compared to 2012, could not fully be seen in the proceedings conducted by the ECHR.

We should also emphasise that the number of applications submitted to the ECHR reduced by more than half in 2017. This shows that the Hungarian courts do all they can to finish cases within a reasonable time, and these efforts are proving to be successful.

The NOJ facilitates the earliest possible completion of proceedings, the provision of feedback to the courts in the form of the case-law displayed in the ECHR judgments concerning the court proceeding and the utilisation of the experiences via the administrative tools available.

In order for this, consultations commenced with the Ministry of Justice – representing the State of Hungary towards the ECHR – regarding closer cooperation in ECHR cases and the sharing of usable experiences, which consultations continued in 2017.

The new procedural laws – including the new civil procedural code and the new criminal procedural code – are also intended to facilitate the timely completion of proceedings. The degree to which the new procedural law rules will be appropriate for achieving this goal in the application of law will only be measurable in the course of the judicial practice.

4. Performance of the judges

4.1. Measurement and analysis of the adjudicatory activity of the judiciary organisation

In 2017, the National Office for the Judiciary – in cooperation with a group of experts consisting of administrative leaders from all levels and branches of the justice system – started the development of an IT application assisting in the work of the court leaders ('Leadership IT System', or by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'VEIR'). Building on the central registry database, the first module of the system supports the process of the preparation, enforcement and control of decisions via real-time, up-to-date aggregate caseload and timeliness data. Its simple, user-friendly interface that is also optimised for mobile IT devices allows for the display of tables and diagrams. The first module will be introduced gradually in the spring of 2018. According to the plans, the second module will be usable for the creation of indicators relating to the average caseload per judge.

In 2017, the National Office for the Judiciary updated both the structure and the substance of the annual and semi-annual analyses displaying the caseload of courts and the workload of individual judges. The new types of analyses present the main trends for longer periods, and an even higher number of figures assist in gaining both an overview and details regarding the specific phenomena.

The concept of workload can be defined using various approaches. From the aspect of strategic goals, the applicable definition of workload is the one that allows for making comparisons and taking measures facilitating the realisation of the principle of 'good courts', i.e. the timely and high-quality administration of justice by independent judges.

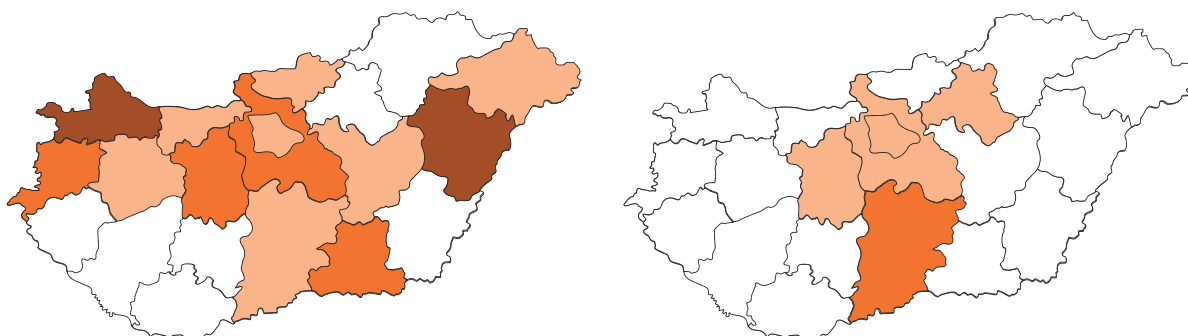
The substance of the concept of workload is also affected by whether we are looking at it from the aspect of the entire organisation, smaller or larger bodies or the national level. This is because what we need to consider at the level of the individual may be of no consequence at the national level, and it is not always necessary to examine all judges of all levels and branches – instead, we should focus on those whose indicators have a material effect on the aspect concerned.

In accordance with the foregoing, the NOJ examines – among others – the number of litigation cases received and completed by, and pending at the end of the period concerned (case backlog) at each judge.

Case backlog per proceeding judge in the criminal litigation branch at district courts

On 31 December 2012

On 31 December 2017



National average: 101 cases

70 cases

Budapest-Capital Regional Court: 113 cases

85 cases

Workload levels and the associated colours:

	140-
	115-140
	85-115
	-85

4.2. Assignments

Assignment means that a judge has to conduct judicial activity (also) at a service location that is not his/her regular service location. Judges may be assigned in order to ensure that the case workload is evenly distributed between the courts or to facilitate the professional development of the judge. Assignment is provided for in Sections 31–33 of Act CLXII of 2011 on the Remuneration and Legal Status of Judges (hereinafter: ‘Legal Status Act’).

The equitable interests of the judge must be taken into consideration with regard to the assignment. A judge may only be assigned with his/her consent if he/she also keeps his/her regular judicial practice and/or, where the family and personal circumstances set out in law apply, if he/she would be assigned to a service location located in a city other than his/her place of dwelling/residence or service location.

Without his/her consent, a judge may only be assigned once every three years and for a maximum of one year for the purpose of ensuring the even distribution of case workload between courts. The so-called ‘mobile judges’ who won a tender announced in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Legal Status Act may be assigned to the courts specified in the tender within the pe-

riod set out in the tender (which may not be longer than 3 years), in which case the submission of the tender can be deemed as consent to the assignment.

A judge may be assigned to a regional court, regional court of appeal or the Curia in order for facilitating his/her professional development upon the initiative of the president of the regional court, regional court of appeal or the Curia.

The presidents of the regional courts assigned 407 judges with regard to the year 2017. The option of assignment is mainly exercised by the Presidents of regional courts that are in an unfavourable situation with regard to caseload.

With regard to the year 2017, upon the requests of presidents of the courts and with the consent of the judges, the President of the NOJ decided on the assignment of 188 judges:

- 32 judges were assigned to the Curia from various courts,
- 16 judges were assigned from the area of territorial competence of a regional court to another regional court,
- 55 judges were assigned from one regional court of appeal to another regional court of appeal,
- 73 judges were assigned from a regional court to a regional court of appeal,
- 10 judges were assigned from a regional court of appeal to a regional court,
- 1 judge was assigned from the Curia to a regional court of appeal,
- 1 judge was assigned from the Curia to a regional court.

The President of the NOJ may also assign a judge to the Ministry of Justice with the judge's consent and in agreement with the Minister for Justice. In 2017, 7 judges and 1 secretary judge worked under assignment in the Ministry, the assignment of 3 of whom was terminated over the course of the year.

4.3. Evaluation of judges

It is an essential requirement that the independence of the judicial work of the judges be accompanied by an appropriate level of individual responsibility and control mechanisms. This strategic goal is facilitated by the regular – and when necessary, impromptu – audit of judges that provides a realistic and comparable overview on their professional work regardless of at which court or level and in which branch they conduct their activity. Another purpose of the evaluation of judges – in addition to furthering the interests of the clients – is to support judicial work and identify systemic potentials for error in order to prevent their occurrence in the future and, when necessary, to sanction omissions that have already taken place.

Pursuant to Act CLXII of 2011 on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges (Legal Status Act), judges are audited and evaluated first three years after their appointment, and after that every eight years, up until the sixth year before retirement age. The main rules of the auditing and evaluation of judges are also set out in the Legal Status Act.

Prior to each evaluation, a thorough professional audit is conducted regarding all circumstances related to the judicial activity of the judge. The substantive and factual findings of the inspection must be recorded in a thorough, accurate and traceable manner, ensuring that the information set out in the report can be supported objectively, via evidence.

The audit may be ordered by the president of the regional court, the regional court of appeal or the Curia. The audit may be conducted by the competent head of court division or the judge designated by him/her, within a period of 60 days. During the audit, the application of substan-

tive, procedural and administrative legislation by the judge and his/her conduct of trials must be inspected. In the scope of these definitive areas, the quantitative (data relating to case-load, trial activity and timeliness), qualitative (preparation for trials, conduct of trials, proving, drafting and writing of decisions) and ability-related (ability to identify material facts and make decisions, thoroughness, organisation of work, work capacity, etc.) indicators fundamentally determine the criteria integrally related to the professional work of the judge to be inspected.

During the audit, the designated auditor selects a minimum of 50 cases finished in a final and binding manner, and attends two full trial days of the judge under audit. In addition, the auditor obtains the opinion of the competent president of court and head of court division, the records of the president of the judicial chamber, the summarising opinions and the data relating to the judge's attendance of mandatory and other trainings.

The evaluation is prepared within 15 days of the completion of the audit, based on the summary of the materials, documents and opinions collected during the audit. The judge under audit may make oral or written comments to the written evaluation. The judge may be given the following qualifications as a result of the evaluation: 'excellent, suitable for a higher judicial position', 'excellently suitable', 'suitable' or 'unsuitable'. If the judge wishes to contest the result of the evaluation or those set out in the written justification, he/she may turn to the service court for legal remedy.

NOJ Directive No. 8/2015. (XII. 12.) of the President of the NOJ on the order of evaluation of the work of judges and the detailed criteria of the audit entered into force on 1 January 2016. The National Judicial Council also gave its opinion regarding the final text of this regulatory act initiated by the President of the NOJ and intended for reforming the order of evaluation, which was a result of wide-scale consultations. The purpose of the new rules was not only to provide more uniform guidance for the users during the evaluation, but also – in line with the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ – to induce a change of approach and way of thinking with regard to supporting the reform of the organisational culture. The new regulation is more complex and more adequate given the complexity of judicial activity. It focuses solely on the evaluation of judicial work, and it exactifies and clarifies the rules of the audits that form the basis thereof.

In order to promote the uniformity and comparability of the audits that form the basis of evaluation of judicial work, the new regulation sets out a qualification requirement for designation as an auditor (central auditor training and registration in the registry of auditors). A methodological guide was also prepared for the regulation, which guide provides practical help for the performance of the audit and preparation of the audit report.

In 2017, a total of 334 judges were audited at the Curia, the regional courts of appeal, the regional courts and the district courts. In the scope of these audits, the judges performing the audits reviewed at least 16,700 cases and attended 668 full trial days. According to the aggregated data, 40% of the judges were given 'excellent, suitable for a higher judicial position', 28% 'excellently suitable' and 32% 'suitable' qualification. In 2017, only one judge was qualified as 'unsuitable' in the scope of an impromptu audit. The judge turned to the service court to contest the decision. The proceeding is expected to end in 2018.

In 2017, a further 3 proceedings initiated by judges exercising their right to remedy in order to change their qualification were in progress before the service courts. As a result of the proceedings, the qualification of two judges were changed to 'excellent, suitable for a higher judicial position', while of one judge to 'excellently suitable'.

We will deal with the service court in more detail in the Chapter 'Integrity of the court system'.

5. New challenges

5.1. New procedural laws

The new procedural codes entering into force in 2018 (civil procedural code, public administration procedural code and criminal procedural code) will affect the daily work of all judges and judicial employees in all branches. Effective preparation for the application of the new procedural codes takes place in the scope of individual projects. The benefit of the application of this proven structure is that long tasks involving multiple persons can be completed with the involvement of various disciplines and utilising the huge internal professional knowledge available.

5.1.1. The E-codex Civil Procedural Code and E-codex Public Administration Procedural Code Projects

By the end of 2017, modern training materials helping practical work and usable on several digital platforms (e.g. e-learning, podcasts, videos, presentations) supporting the uniformity of the jurisprudence with regard to the Civil Procedural Code and the Public Administration Procedural Code were created in the projects established for the implementation of the procedural laws mentioned.

Meanwhile, the development of the national court IT systems related to civil procedures started in order so that they align to the provisions of the new civil procedural code and the separate public administration procedural code.

New central regulatory acts – or amendments thereof – relating to the courts, civil procedure and public administration procedure were prepared.

The judges and judicial employees concerned attended a training, and their preparedness was tested via reporting.

We contributed to giving opinions on the creation of the new laws and decrees related to the entry into force of the Civil Procedural Code and the Public Administration Procedural Code in order to establish an appropriate and reasonable legal environment.

We established professional protocols in relation to the work organisation questions concerning the organisation in connection with the Public Administration Code, as well as in order to settle the human resources and related administrative issues.

This topic is further elaborated on in the Chapter 'Activity of the NOJ in relation to providing opinions on the legislation', in the Sub-Chapter 'Providing opinions in relation to the Codes'.

5.1.2. E-codex Criminal Procedural Code Project

We contributed to giving opinions on the creation of laws and decrees in relation to the entry into force of the Criminal Procedural Code. Similarly to the training materials for the Civil Procedural Code and the Public Administration Procedural Code, the electronic training materials helping judges, secretary judges and judicial employees proceeding in criminal cases were also prepared by the end of 2017, and the Curia started their professional review. Concurrently, with this, the topics of the central and local trainings were also developed. The new criminal procedural code will enter into force on 1 July 2018, and consequently the majority of the tasks related to the preparation therefor will arise in 2018.

5.2. Electronic procedures

In order to reduce the length of procedures, the legislator has started to make electronic liaising optional or mandatory for specific parties and their representatives in certain court procedures continuously, starting from 2008. This means that the parties may or must liaise with the courts by electronic means, without using paper-based submissions, within the framework of the legislation.

The **company registration procedure** has been exclusively electronic in the first-instance procedure since 1 July 2008, and also in the second-instance procedure since 1 January 2012. As of 1 July 2014, it is also possible – and in certain cases, mandatory – to submit applications for review of the legality of procedures to the court of registration electronically. In 2017, the courts received 708 716 electronic submissions in company registration procedures, 373 760 of which were procedure-starting submissions.

Electronic liaising in **civil litigations** in cases of the regional courts acting as court of first instance has been set out as an option in the legislation since 1 January 2013. As of 1 July 2015, this option is available at all courts, including district courts and regional courts both in first-instance and second-instance cases. As of 1 July 2016, electronic liaising with the court is mandatory for parties acting via a legal representative, business entities and administrative bodies in civil litigations and, pursuant to the legislation, also in other civil procedures, as well as public administration and labour litigations. In 2017, the courts received 490 508 electronic submissions in civil litigations, 91 080 of which were procedure-starting submissions.

In **insolvency and liquidation proceedings**, the parties were able to opt for electronic liaising from 1 January 2015, and it has been mandatory since 1 July 2016. In 2017, the courts received 57 728 electronic submissions in insolvency and liquidation proceedings, 11 832 of which were procedure-starting submissions.

Civil registration proceedings can be initiated by electronic means since 1 January 2015. Electronic liaising is mandatory for certain organisations, applicants who have a legal representative, applicants submitting an application for simplified registration proceedings or proceedings for the amendment of registration or an application for the establishment of ‘public benefit’ status, as well as public benefit organisations. In 2017, the courts received 29 983 electronic submissions in proceedings relating to the registration of NGOs, 17 069 of which were procedure-starting submissions.

In **criminal proceedings**, applications for cumulative sentences and ex-post cumulative sentences can be submitted and revoked electronically since 1 July 2015. In 2017, 33 electronic submissions were made in criminal proceedings.

Full-scale electronic administration will be introduced with regard to court proceedings from 1 January 2018. The NOJ and the courts – as bodies providing for electronic administration – will be obliged to allow for the electronic administration of all cases within their scope of responsibilities and authority for the clients.

From 1 January 2018, the bodies and persons specified in Section 9(1) of Act CCXXII of 2015 on the General Rules of Electronic Administration and Trust Services (hereinafter referred to as: ‘E-administration Act’) will be obliged to liaise with the court by electronic means in all cases, i.e. in addition to the cases concerned by electronic liaising detailed above, also in

- non-litigious enforcement proceedings,
- non-litigious civil, economic, public administration and labour proceedings,
- criminal proceedings,
- proceedings for administrative offences, and
- presidential administrative cases.

Electronic liaising will remain optional for natural persons acting in person in litigious and non-litigious court cases and presidential administrative cases after 1 January 2018.

Having regard to the introduction of full-scale electronic administration from 1 January 2018, we can foresee a continuous increase in the number of electronic submissions submitted in non-litigious civil proceedings, as well as criminal proceedings, proceedings for administrative offences and presidential administrative cases.

In the scope of preparation for full-scale electronic administration, the following measures will be taken:

- **collaboration in establishing the legal and IT conditions:**
 - participation in the preparation of the proposals regarding amendment of the legislation relating to electronic procedures, proactive collaboration in processes for giving opinions on legislation,
 - close cooperation with the governmental bodies providing the IT background infrastructure in order to optimise the IT system providing for electronic liaising,
 - development of the electronic forms providing for electronic liaising with the court,
 - procurement of IT assets, increase of bandwidth;
- **continuous training of judges and judicial employees** in order to deepen the knowledge concerning electronic liaising and to train them with regard to the new procedural legislation, administrative processes and system use: 467 persons were trained in the scope of central training, and 3 490 persons in the scope of local trainings,
- **operation of a civil and criminal E-litigation liaising network:**
 - the operation of the networks is of key importance, as their members can effectively and locally contribute to responding to questions, channelling proposals and observations, handing over information, performing development tasks and the provision of opinions on legislation, as well as the performance of training tasks related to electronic liaising,
- **client information:** establishment and continuous updating of the E-litigation 2018 menu item on the central website of courts,
- **client management:** continuous operation and improvement of the efficiency of the Helpdesk system providing for the investigation of inquiries and complaints received from the courts and the clients (e-ugyintezes@birosag.hu).

5.2.1. VIA VIDEO Project

The recording of video and audio materials at trials could, on the one hand, replace traditional minute-keeping, reducing the time required for preparing decisions by a large degree, and on the other hand, it could guarantee the accurate documentation of trials at any time when necessary.

The connection of court courtrooms with domestic partner institutions and other courts allowing for remote hearing can guarantee the safety of the persons participating in the litigation and the saving of the time and costs involved in appearing before the court, further enhancing the 'service provider' nature of the courts.

In the scope of the preparatory project completed earlier, in addition to the planning of the technical conditions, the legal possibilities of remote hearings and the recording of video and audio in the courtrooms were also examined. Based on that, a proposal was prepared regarding the amendments and changes to be taken into consideration during the codification of the new procedural laws.

The implementation of the project and the utilisation of the results of the preparatory works already commenced in the scope of the project of Nemzeti Infokommunikációs Szolgáltató Zrt.

titled 'Electronic solution for the improvement of the organisation of work and communication for public administration proceedings conducted at different geographic locations' (VIKI). In the scope of the programme, 215 remote hearing end-points will be established in courts, district and government offices, government customer services and prison facilities across the country. A significant portion of the end-points (72) will be installed in courtrooms.

The public procurement procedures related to the project ended in 2017. After that, close cooperation between the NOJ and NISZ Zrt. could begin, and in the scope of this cooperation, the specification of requirements relating to the needs of the court and the preparation of the courtrooms were developed in order so that a system fully serving the needs of the courts could be established.

In addition to joining the 'VIKI' project, remote hearing end-points will be created from own funds in a further 112 courtrooms, making all court buildings accessible via videoconference. The NOJ also plans to install video and audio recording systems in all courtrooms in the near future.

5.2.2. Expanding electronic administration at courts – Digital Court Project

The next step of the IT developments was the commencement of the project titled 'Expanding electronic administration at courts (Digital Court)' under code no. KÖFOP-1.0.0-VE-KOP-15-2017-00052, implemented with support from the EU. The project is implemented in the framework of the Széchenyi 2020 programme between 2 May 2017 and 30 June 2019.

The overarching goal of the project is the reduction of bureaucracy. As a result of the developments, clients will be able to proceed in their matters more rapidly and incurring lower costs. Administrative burdens of the courts will decrease, ensuring more efficient work.

The developments implemented in the scope of the Digital Court Project concern three main areas:

- The first area is the improvement of the publication and anonymisation of court decisions, which entails further development of the search engine of the Archive of Court Decisions and the program used for anonymising court decisions. The system used for publishing court decisions will be reformed, and the decisions will be available in an integrated, easily-searchable decision archive.
- The second is rendering the documents of court proceedings into electronic format (E file) and providing for the electronic viewing of the documentation of court cases, which developments will result in the electronic recording of all documents of all court files, the possibility of viewing the documentation of court cases electronically for the judges, as well as the possibility of viewing documents online from anywhere and at any time for the clients.
- The third area of development is the establishment of the connection between the specialised court systems and the Central Governmental Service Bus (by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'KKSZB'), which means that the public registers available electronically will be linked to the specialised court systems via online connection.

5.2.3. Speech recognition and transcription software

The use of speech recognition and transcription software at the courts could facilitate compliance with the deadlines relating to the obligation of putting decisions and minutes into writing, and would also result in more efficient use of the working time by reducing the time required for transcription.

Speech transcription programs instantly transform the speech of the person speaking into editable text. The programs are capable of transcribing the text simultaneously with the speech or from audio recordings, and can also recognise acronyms, abbreviations, symbols, Arabic and Roman numerals, fraction numerals and references to legislation. The text transcribed by these software can be imported to a text editor program.

Starting in 2016, several courts tested two speech recognition and transcription programs – Globalspeech and Spechtex – simultaneously, and the testing period ended at the end of 2017. During the testing, the pilot courts continuously compared the ease of operation of the software, the time required for learning them, their rate of correct recognition of speech and the time saved.

Starting from 1 June 2017, the President of the NOJ mandated the President of the Zalaegerszeg Regional Court to test, procure and communicate speech recognition and transcription programs at the courts. During the testing, the users at the Zalaegerszeg Regional Court acquire new experiences and continuously compare the ease of operation of the software, the time required for learning them, their rate of correct recognition of speech and the time saved. The users forward the development and advancement possibilities and practical solutions to the developers. The test results were presented at the courts in the scope of a roadshow, after which the courts indicated whether they intended to procure speech recognition and transcription programs.

In 2018, 726 speech recognition and transcription software were purchased from the courts' own budgetary sources.

6. Efficiency of the administration of justice based on the EU scoreboard

The access to an efficient justice system is a fundamental right, constituting a central pillar of European democracies and is a part of the common constitutional traditions of the Member States. The significance of the right to efficient legal remedy at court is also emphasised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The European Commission published the scoreboard presenting the efficiency, quality and independence of the justice system of the Member States this year too. The scoreboard helps Member States improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their justice systems.

The scoreboard examines the administration of justice in the Member States with regard to civil, commercial and public administration cases based in part on data supplied by the Member States and in part on assessments made by various NGOs. With regard to most of the indicators relating to the efficiency of the administration of justice, Hungary was already ranked among the top third of the Member States in the past years. In the currently analysed year of 2016, the judiciary organisation was not only able to maintain these results relating to caseload but also to improve them in certain areas.

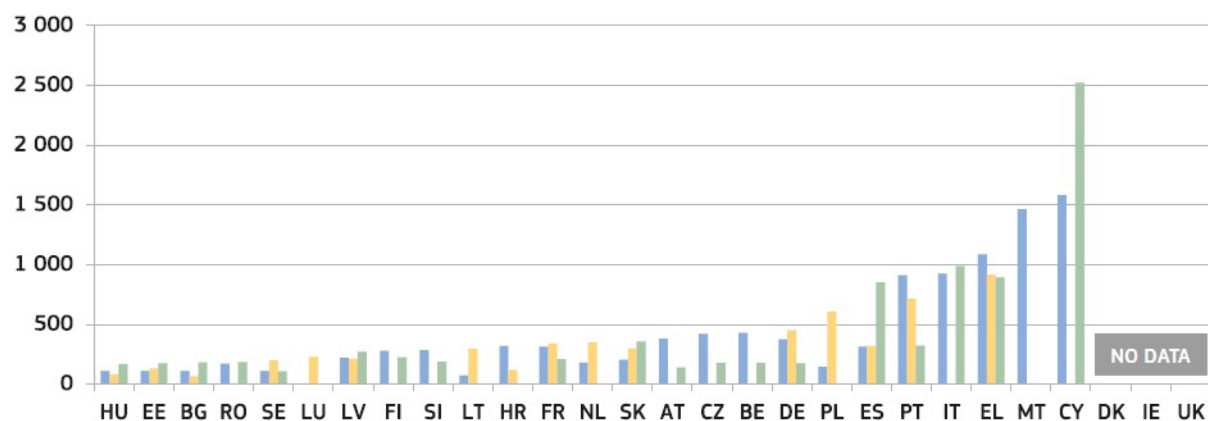
The courts of Hungary are the fastest in the EU with regard to complete public administration cases at all levels of the judicial system, as also shown by the graph below:

Figure 11

Time needed to resolve administrative cases (*) at all court instances in 2016 (1st and, where applicable, 2nd and 3rd instance/in days)

■ First Instance (2016)
 ■ Second Instance (2016)
 ■ Third Instance (2016)

Source: CEPEJ study



The time required for finishing civil cases at the first instance also improved further in Hungary: Hungarian courts are the 5th fastest in the EU.

The number of pending civil, commercial and public administration cases shows a decreasing trend, and Hungarian courts have the 4th lowest case backlog. The performance of administrative and labour courts is also eminent in this regard: the number of pending first-instance public administration cases per citizen was the 2nd lowest in Hungary.

The data also show that the judicial review of consumer protection cases is the 2nd fastest in Hungary among all EU Member States, while we are ranked at the first place with regard to the facilitation of mediation proceedings. The rate of judges attending further training is the 4th highest in Hungary, and Hungarian courts are also among the highest-ranked countries with regard to the transition to electronic administration.

7. Activities promoting the efficiency of the administration of justice

7.1. National Programmes

The aim of the national programmes enhancing the service-provider nature of courts via central administration is to direct more attention to such priority areas of the day-to-day law enforcement work as the treatment by the enforcement bodies of minors and victims involved in the proceedings, the extension of the application of alternative dispute resolution procedures and the introduction to the work of the court system, as well as to help clients participate in the proceedings with appropriate legal awareness, significantly helping – both directly and indirectly – the administration of justice at the same time.

NOJ Directive No. 6/2015. (XI.30.) – adopted in 2015 –, i.e. the regulation on administration at courts (Administration Rules) deals with the national programmes announced by the President of the NOJ in a separate section, setting out the related tasks of the court leaders. With regard to the national programmes, the task of the president of the court is to appoint a designated person and court correspondent in order for the programmes to be successful, to regularly report to the President of the NOJ regarding the programmes implemented at the court concerned, to provide for the establishment of the local and central network, to perform the quantitative and qualitative measurements and training tasks related to these national programmes, as well as to ensure communication and the sharing of knowledge with regard to these programmes.

In addition to the continuously operating national programmes, the President of the NOJ focuses the administrative activities of the courts to strengthening specific key areas by announcing periodic programmes.

7.1.1. Permanent programmes

7.1.1.1. Court mediation

Alternative dispute resolution procedure, i.e. court mediation, has been available in Hungarian courts since the second semester of 2012, and is an effective tool of enhancing customer satisfaction and timeliness in civil litigious and non-litigious cases. Its benefit is that the time and date of the hearings and the substance of the agreements reached with the participation of the mediator can be adjusted to the needs of the parties. In the court mediation procedure, the parties are not bound by the content of the application, however, if the parties so request, the part of the agreement that is in line with the application is approved by the court as court settlement, and therefore its effect will be identical to that of a judgment passed in a litigation.

A further benefit of the procedure is that it is duty-free, and no hourly rates need to be paid or costs reimbursed for its performance. Depending on in which stage of the procedure the litigation is closed based on the agreement reached, the parties may also request a duty benefit.

In 2017, the courts received 1 787 court mediation cases, 1 758 of which were finished by the end of the year. The court mediation proceedings were completed in more than 55% of the cases finished, i.e. in 975 proceedings. This number is 6% higher than the number of proceedings conducted in 2016. The parties reached an agreement in 540 of the almost 1 000 proceedings conducted, which represents an agreement rate of 55,34% nationwide. This represents an 8% increase compared to the 500 agreements of 2016.

In 2017, the courts received 65% more applications for mediation proceedings as compared to 2014 (representing an increase from 1 068 to 1 758), and the number of proceedings conducted increased by almost 33% (from 656 to 975), from which we can conclude that awareness and utilisation of this legal institution increased significantly at the courts.

From the increase of the obligating decisions issued by judges, we can also conclude that acceptance of the legal institution by the judges also improved. In 2016, 310 proceedings were conducted as a result of obligating decisions issued by judges, which number increased by 12%, to 347 in 2017.

	Court mediations started upon the parties' voluntary initiative		Court mediations started upon obligating decisions of judges	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Mediation cases completed	1171	1214	493	544
Court mediation proceedings conducted	609	628	310	347
Closed with an agreement	3336 (55,2%)	372 (59,3%)	164 (52,9%)	168 (48,4%)
Closed without an agreement	273 (44,8%)	256 (40,7%)	146 (47,1%)	179 (51,6%)
Administrative completion	562	586	183	242

The President of the NOJ designated 27 secretary judges and 7 judges as court mediators in the reporting period, and accordingly, also considering the appointments terminated, on 31 December 2017, a total of 70 judges and 94 secretary judges acted as mediators.

The administrative tasks related to this legal institution are performed by one coordinating judge at each regional court, while the Court Mediation Working Group of the NOJ also provides professional assistance to court mediators. In the first semester of 2017, the uniform customer satisfaction survey was prepared with the effective assistance of the Working Group, based on which in 2018 the regional courts can start to monitor the observations made by the customers in relation to the proceedings.

The national meeting of court mediation coordinators was held in May 2017, and one of its key topics was the extension of court mediation to public administration cases based on the separate public administration procedural code entering into force on 1 January 2018, as well as the prediction of the effects of the change of the new civil procedural code with respect to court mediation.

In the scope of the mandatory regional training held for family law judges in the territory of all regional courts of appeal, a family law case simulation was conducted in order to present court mediation in practice, which made it possible for the participants to become familiar with the methodology of mediation.

The NOJ was co-organiser of the alternative dispute resolution conference organised by the Financial Arbitration Committee of the Central Bank of Hungary, held with the title 'Alternative dispute resolution in the economy' on 28 September 2017 and 'The role of higher education in forming the culture of alternative dispute resolution' on 29 September 2017 at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. During the conference, among other things, a case simulation was presented with the participation of court mediators.

As a continuation of the international conference held in May 2016, a highly successful conference was held for court mediators and coordinators on 4-5 December 2017 at the HAJ with the title 'Experiences regarding court mediation and possibilities for its further development', with the involvement of four foreign and six Hungarian presenters and 130 participants.

7.1.1.2. Witness care and victim protection

One of the strategic goals set by the President of the NOJ is to simplify access to the courts, in connection to which the NOJ has been engaged in witness care in the scope of a separate national programme since 2013. It is common that the witness care representatives are the first persons whom the clients meet at the court, and consequently they are one of the key elements of enhancing trust in the courts. The national witness care programme was complemented with victim protection in 2015 due to the fact that in almost all cases the victims of crimes are interviewed as witnesses in the proceedings.

In 2015, witness care was not only present among the programmes and strategic goals of the NOJ but also appeared as one of the services to be provided by the state to the victim after the assessment of and adjusted to his/her needs set out in Act CXXXV of 2005 on Helping the Victims of Crimes and the Mitigation of Damages by the State (hereinafter referred to as: 'Victim Care Act').

Pursuant to Section 4(5) of the Victim Care Act, a witness summoned to a court hearing may turn to a court victim care representative in order to request appropriate information. The court victim care representative is an administrator of the court who provides information in the manner set out in a separate legal act in order to facilitate the giving of testimony and the appearance at the court necessary to this end. This act raised the institution of witness care to the level of laws and named it as one of the services to be provided by the state, however the courts had - supporting the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ - already made significant efforts prior to that in order to effectively ensure the enforcement of the rights of witnesses and victims and to facilitate the performance without fear of the obligation to bear witness. The facilitation of the obligation to bear witness also promotes the timeliness of the administration of justice.

Lack of information, the unknown generates fear in clients, consequently the national programme focuses on

- providing wide-range easily comprehensible information to witnesses regarding their procedural rights and options,
- facilitating the enforcement of their rights, including their rights as victims, without prejudice to impartiality, and
- facilitating that the witnesses can give testimony without fear.

One element of the sensitive treatment of witnesses is that whenever possible, the courts ensure that the witness can wait and be interviewed at a location separated from the defendant

and other participants of the proceeding. The judiciary organisation assists in the fulfilment of the obligation to bear witness also by striving to provide easily comprehensible and accurate information in the widest scope possible, such as in the summons, websites, customer orientation materials and any posters, media representations and social networks. In most cases, this wide-range information covers not only the presentation of rights and obligations but also provides practical information to the witnesses.

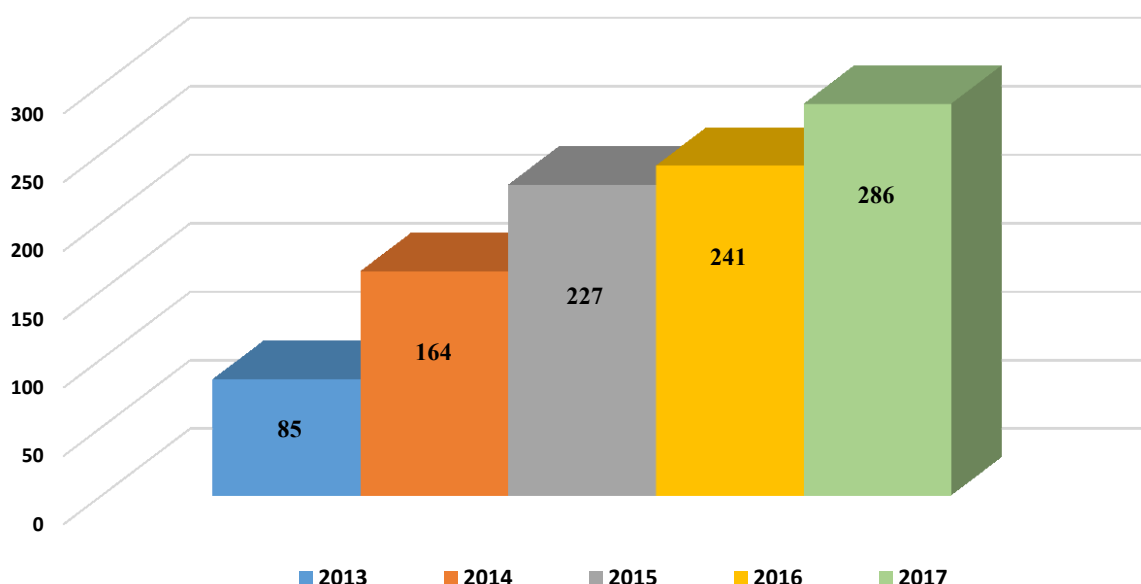
The training of judicial employees in order for them to be able to recognise victims during their work regardless of their position in the procedure is a key task of the NOJ and the courts both at the national and the regional level.

In addition, it is also our aim to ensure that victims receive professional help that is appropriate to their situation, which requires an information network via which the court employees can refer the victim to the appropriate body. It is not only the regional courts that are committed to the establishment of the victim protection network but also the NOJ, and therefore the NOJ is striving to establish close cooperation with the National Police Headquarters and the partner organisations of the child protection network.

High-quality dialogue with the partner authorities is essential for the success of the victim protection segment of the programme and for efficient work. In 2017, the NOJ participated in the BBA -funded project titled 'Victim protection training in the field of human trafficking' as a collaborating partner of the National Police Headquarters. In the scope of the series of trainings, conferences were held in the area of competence of all regional courts. In these conferences, the role of the court in victim protection was presented to professionals whose work involves the identification of the victims of human trafficking, further strengthening the relationship network.

The number of witness care representatives has been increasing in a well-visible manner year by year: the headcount of 85 persons recorded in 2013 increased to 241 by 2016, and reached 286 in 2017, as shown by the diagram below:

Headcount of the witness care network between 2013 and 2017

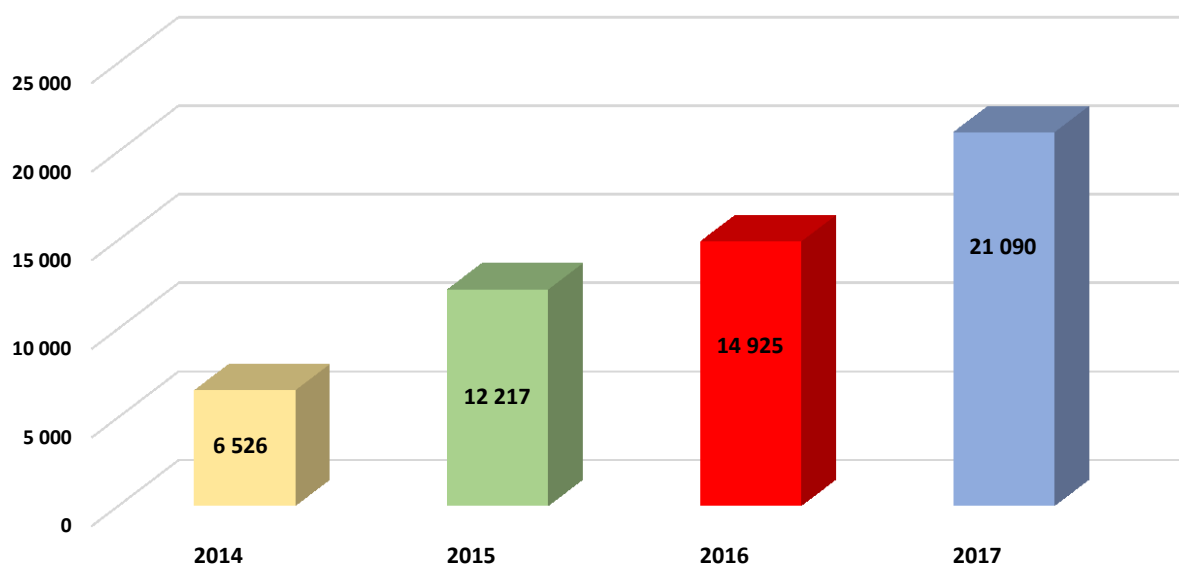


The judiciary organisation continuously creates new witness rooms and waiting rooms for witnesses to the extent possible, however there are cases when the rooms created for court mediation and the hearing of children are also used for this purpose. As a result of treating the issue

as a priority, in 2016, the possibility of waiting at a separated place was available for witnesses in 51 courts in the area of 18 regional courts, and this number - also taking into account the rooms for combined-usage in addition to the witness rooms - increased to 67 in 2017.

The effectiveness and value of the programme is shown by the fact that since its start, the number of requests received by witness care representatives via phone, personally or via email has been increasing dynamically.

Number of registered requests received by the witness care representatives between 2014 and 2017



In 2017, in the field of witness care, the NOJ continued to aim at strengthening practical knowledge and developing competences both at the local and the regional trainings. In April 2017 the regular national conference in the topic was held with the involvement of the representatives of the partner authorities and Hungarian experts of the area. The regional work meetings held at the regional courts, the primary aim of which was the sharing of experience and the professional materials developed, continued to contribute to the high-quality activity of the witness care representatives.

In 2018, the most important task of the national programme was, both at the central and the local level, to develop the competences of the witness care representatives and to have them acquire and deepen their knowledge related to the new procedural codes. Of course, we will organise our regular national conference in 2018 too. The goal of this conference will be to enhance practical knowledge, and we will also invite victim protection professionals. In the field of victim protection, it remains an important task to raise awareness among professionals and to widen the scope of collaboration with the partner authorities, however we also have to prepare for the application of the new procedural rules.

7.1.1.3. Child-centred Justice

The key goals of the national programme of the National Office for the Judiciary titled 'Child-centred Justice' are to protect the interests of children in court procedures and to continuously educate the judges hearing cases involving minors.

In 2017, the National Office for the Judiciary continued to treat the high-level protection of the interests and rights of children in court proceedings as a priority, and put a strong emphasis on the training of family law judges and judges hearing the criminal cases of young persons.

In 2017, mandatory training was held for family law judges in Hungary based on the experiences of the family law pilot training conducted at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court in 2015. At the training, all judges hearing family law cases (520 persons) received the same 4-day training. The training took place at the regional level, and the team of presenters consisted of experienced judges, psychologist experts and children's rights experts in all locations.

In 2017, the mandatory pilot training of judges hearing the criminal cases of young persons commenced in the area of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court. The National Office for the Judiciary will organise the mandatory training of judges hearing the criminal cases of young persons in Hungary based on the experiences accumulated during this training.

On 11 October 2017, we organised the first meeting of the coordinators of Child-centred Justice at the Hungarian Academy of Justice. The main goal of this meeting was to activate the network.

The Child-centred Justice national conference was also held at the Hungarian Academy of Justice on 6 November 2017. The conference focused on the rights of children in family law litigations and online crimes committed by and against children. More than 100 judges and invitees attended the conference.

Similarly to the previous years, the Child-centred Justice Working Group worked actively this year too. Among others, its members prepared an informational material for children and parents regarding the interviewing of children in criminal cases, which has been uploaded to the court websites.

In 2017, the children's interview rooms were used on 109 occasions in civil cases and on 823 occasions in criminal cases. It remains one of the objectives of the National Office for the Judiciary to ensure that children are interviewed by the judges in a calming and safe atmosphere in children's interview rooms at the courts.

At the Regional Courts of Szolnok, Kecskemét, Kaposvár, Debrecen and Győr, the fulfilment of the goals of the national Child-centred Justice programme is facilitated by Child-centred Justice Working Groups.

The regional courts organised conferences and professional meetings in the topic of Child-centred Justice on multiple occasions. At the Pécs Regional Court, a presentation was held for disabled children regarding access to courts, and the local coordinator of the programme made a presentation to witness care representatives on Child-centred Justice. The coordinator of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court encouraged the district courts to use children's interview rooms and organised a panel discussion with the involvement of the leaders of the guardianship offices. At the Szeged Regional Court, a Child-centred Day was held, and a summary was prepared on how the rights of children appear in civil and criminal judgments. The Debrecen Regional Court entered into a cooperation agreement with the Debrecen Correctional Facility, as a result of which, two simulated litigations are held in the correctional facility each year.

7.1.1.4. Best practices

In the course of their operation, the courts develop many solutions, practices, methods and applications that ensure the more efficient, timely and accurate performance of work and solution of certain tasks. The NOJ regards the collection, analysis and countrywide sharing of these best practices as a priority task. For this purpose, there is a separate menu item on the central intranet site of the courts, which allows for making the best practices developed by the courts and the NOJ available for all stakeholders quickly and in a simple manner.

The importance of the area is well-evidenced by the fact that the Administration Rules made the catalogue of best practices a national programme. The foundations for this were laid down by the results of the so-called 'ÁROP' (State Reform Operative Programme) tenders.

The NOJ has been organising best practice fairs since 2015. At these events, the courts can share their knowledge and exchange experiences regarding the best practices and methods they apply in any specific area of their work (administration, professional, economic, etc.).

In 2017, the now-customary fairs were organised in a thematic manner, i.e. the courts presented their best practices with regard to certain broader topics, and then they discussed their questions relating to the topic in the scope of a workshop.

On 3 and 4 July 2017, the NOJ organised a best practice fair in Kecskemét, focusing on the measurement of workload. After the presentation of the solutions developed by the regional courts, the participants discussed the concept of workload, the purpose and utility of measuring workload, the essence of the workload of judges and secretary judges, the issues relating to the measurement of workload and the questions related to the weighing number in the scope of discussions coordinated by administration leaders.

The NOJ will make use of the contributions discussed at the event and the results achieved there in the course of its further work related to the measurement of workload.

On 8 and 9 November 2017, the representatives of the courts gathered in Budapest at the 5th best practice fair, which focused on client relations. At the event, the courts presented the best practices facilitating more efficient work developed in the area of client centres and client relations, after which they developed the fundamentals of the court client charter and the client satisfaction survey in the scope of a workshop, via interactive work.

Building on the results of the joint work, at the end of the year, the NOJ started to establish client relations in line with the uniform criteria, as well as to work on a central regulation ensuring the comparable measurement of client satisfaction.

7.1.2. Periodic programmes

7.1.2.1. Sustainable Development Programme 2

In order to develop the court organisation and to further enhance work efficiency, in 2016, the President of the NOJ announced the Sustainable Development Programme, the goal of which was to maintain the results already achieved and to shed light on the responsible initiatives, work organisation solutions and leadership measures introduced at the regional courts of appeal and the regional courts.

The programme aimed at further improving the working conditions of the employees, as well as developing reasonable management, national programmes and the communication of courts even further.

The operative goals set in line with the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ were related to the high-quality and timely administration of justice, career and, last but not least, the topic of client relations and communication.

All regional courts of appeal and regional courts participated in the tender announced in the scope of the programme. In the tenders, the courts had the opportunity to present the measures taken and solutions implemented in order to achieve the goals, as well as the successes they achieved.

Thanks to the programme, timeliness improved further both with regard to litigious and non-litigious cases, the rate of litigations finished within a relatively short period of time increased and the rate of cases pending for a longer time decreased within the entire backlog of litigious cases. The improvement of a wide scope of timeliness indicators was achieved while the rate of annulments at the district courts both in civil and in criminal cases also improved.

The Sustainable Development Programme was closed in 2016, and in 2017, the National Office for the Judiciary prepared a summary regarding the results achieved by the courts and the best practices implemented, which summary was also shared with the courts.

Of course, the objectives set have been pursued further, and the programme has continued in a narrower and more clarified scope in order to maintain the results achieved with regard to caseload, also having regard to the fact that the biggest challenge in 2017 is preparing for the new procedural codes.

The goals of the new Sustainable Development Programme 2 announced in 2017 were to maintain the results already achieved and to promote further development without increasing the workload of the judges and court employees, as similarly to the earlier programme, the Sustainable Development Programme 2 contains general caseload indicators that the court leaders already monitor in order to be able to present the results of the courts.

The Sustainable Development Programme 2 covers a longer-term statistical period between 1 November 2016 and 31 October 2018, within which ensuring the sustained nature of development is enabled via checkpoints. All regional courts and regional courts of appeal participate in the programme.

7.2. Audits

Audits allow for the deep analysis of a specific area of administration. The audit – through the methodology used therefor – must be appropriate for drawing the attention of the leader to ensuring the efficient and timely administration of justice and the deficiency concerning the area under examination. The thorough analysis of the audit allows for determining administrative measures in order to avoid similar occurrences, as well as ensuring the accountability of the fulfilment of such measures and having administration leaders prepare periodic reports as necessary.

The Administration Rules differentiate between two types of audits in the administration of courts: leader and administrative audits.

The goal of the audit of the work of leaders is to obtain a comprehensive overview on the activity of the leader, identify his/her strengths and weaknesses, develop his/her professional and managerial skills, identify the areas of operation where there is room for improvement, and to assess leadership activity. The NOJ prepared for the transformation of the system of criteria of leader audits in 2016 within the framework set by the Administration Rules, based on which the audit of the specific leaders started in 2017.

Administrative audits may be regular, extraordinary, ad-hoc, target or impact audits. In the administrative practice of the NOJ, regular general audits and target audits can be considered to be typical.

Audits may be ordered based on:

- official detection, most of the time based on caseload data,
- conditions indicated in a complaint that proved to be justified in the scope of investigation,
- indications made by partner authorities,

- legislative changes or the introduction of a new legal institution affecting the entire judiciary organisation, or
- the examination of other obligations.

7.2.1. General audits

General audits have to be conducted regularly, usually on an annual basis. In 2017, 4 such audits took place:

- audit of criminal cases pending at courts beyond the limitation period,
- audit of cases pending for more than two years,
- monitoring of annulments, and
- reporting of the activities and costs concerning on-call and stand-by employees.

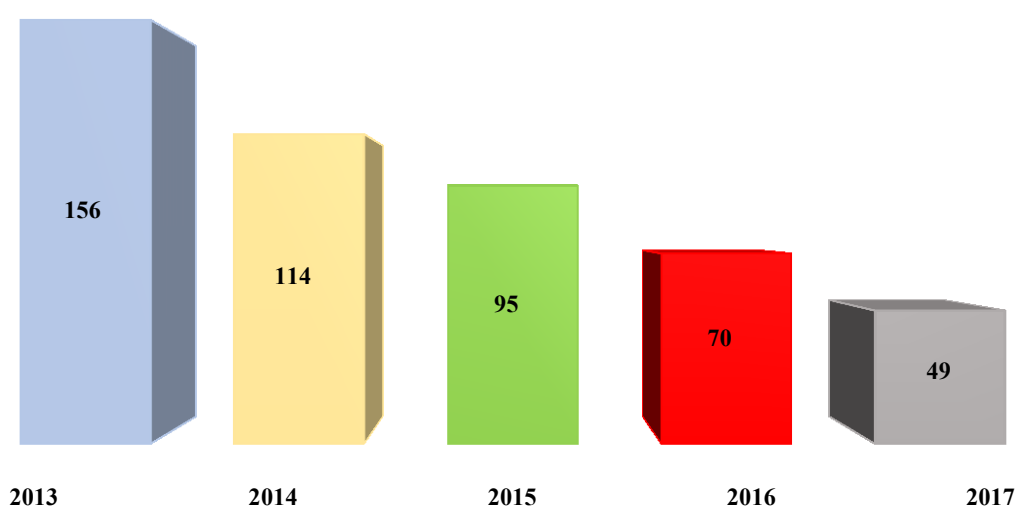
7.2.1.1. Audit of criminal cases pending at courts beyond the limitation period

In 2012, the Prosecutor-General's Office published a report on cases that were pending at courts beyond the limitation period. To follow up on this, the NOJ conducted regular annual audits regarding cases pending beyond the limitation period.

NOJ Directive No. 6/2015. (XI. 30.) on the administration of courts made reporting on criminal cases pending at courts beyond the limitation period mandatory, with effect from 1 January 2016.

From the material prepared in the scope of the audit, we should emphasise the fact that the number of criminal cases pending at courts beyond the limitation period decreased continuously and significantly in the past four years, as also shown by the diagram below:

Number of criminal cases pending at courts beyond the limitation period between 2013 and 2017



There have been no cases pending beyond the limitation period since 2015 in the area of competence of three regional courts:

- Balassagyarmat Regional Court,
- Debrecen Regional Court, and
- Győr Regional Court.

Similarly to the previous years, almost two thirds of the criminal cases that were pending beyond the limitation period concerned the district courts operating in the area of competence of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court – which has an extraordinarily high caseload –, and in particular the Pest Central District Court.

We should emphasise, however, that at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court, both the number of the courts concerned and of the criminal cases pending beyond the limitation period has been decreasing continuously: as compared to the data of 2015, there were 57.3% fewer cases that were pending beyond the limitation period in 2017.

The audit material also reports on the number of cases pending beyond the limitation period due to reasons outside the control of the court, as well as of those resulting from an error of a judge or a judicial employee. A high percentage of the cases that were pending beyond the limitation period due to reasons outside the control of the court between 2014 and 2017 resulted from the defendant's location being unknown. In 2014 63 of 114 cases (55%), in 2015 59 of 95 cases (62%) , in 2016 48 of 70 cases (68,5%), and in 2017 26 of 49 cases (53%) were pending beyond the limitation period due to the above reason.

Another positive aspect is that since 2014, the number of criminal cases pending at courts beyond the limitation period due to the judge's error was either decreasing continuously or remained at the previous year's level. While there were 24 such cases in 2014, this number decreased to 5 in 2017.

The NOJ will continue to assist by all available means the local administrative efforts aimed at maintaining the results and minimising the number of cases pending beyond the limitation period due to the error of the court, and in addition, from 2017, it also prepares the smooth implementation of the new criminal code in a coordinated manner.

7.2.1.2. Audit of cases pending for more than two years

The courts continue to treat the audit of cases pending for more than two or five years as a priority. The leadership tools related to this were set out by the national programme integrally connected to the 'For Service-providing Courts' programme since 2016 and aimed at the reduction of cases pending for a long term. In the scope of the national programme, the leaders of the courts implemented effective leadership measures for ensuring timely and efficient administration, for example with regard to the administration of cases pending for a long term and priority cases, as well as for the proportionate distribution of cases. This programme was followed by the Sustainable Development Programme, which continued in 2017 under the title 'Sustainable Development Programme 2' in order to maintain the good results. Section 7.1.2 contains further information regarding the programmes.

In addition to the foregoing, in the case of the regional courts where the rate of decrease in the number of cases pending beyond the limitation period was lower than in the previous years, the NOJ instructed the courts concerned to identify the reasons behind this and to communicate the measures taken. The NOJ processed the information submitted, and will conduct further follow-up audits in the 2nd half of 2018 in order to monitor the impact of the results achieved via the measures.

7.2.1.3. Monitoring of annulments

The President of the NOJ ordered the continuous, enhanced monitoring of annulling decisions in the criminal branch at second- and third-instance courts by professional and administrative leaders starting from 1 September 2015. The aim of this monitoring is to allow for obtaining a more effective overview of the real reasons behind the annulment of decisions made in criminal cases. On the one hand, this provides more detailed data for the codification

of the new criminal procedural code, and on the other hand, it is an important requirement for the timely and high-quality administration of justice and for enhancing the service-provider nature of courts. In order to facilitate monitoring and to ensure its uniformity, the NOJ provided a datasheet and a completion guide for the data reports to the regional courts and the regional courts of appeal, and a reporting system has also been created for leaders in connection with this. The leaders reported the results of the audit to the NOJ for the first time in January 2016. Based on the reports, the professional material titled 'Summary of the results of the local monitoring of the practice of annulling decisions in the criminal branch' was prepared, which established that there was a positive trend with regard to the indicators relating to the soundness of decisions. After 2016, the Presidents of the regional courts and regional courts of appeal fulfil this reporting obligation in their presidential reports.

7.2.1.4. Reporting of the activities and costs concerning on-call and stand-by employees

Pursuant to Annex 9 to NOJ Directive No. 5/2013. (VI.25.) on the management of courts and the NOJ (hereinafter referred to as: 'Regulation') detailing the rules of on-call and stand-by duty, judges and judicial employees may be obligated to undertake on-call or stand-by duty for specific tasks. The presidents of the courts inform the NOJ in writing regarding the material data relating to on-call and stand-by duty set out in the Regulation with regard to the courts within their scope of responsibility and with respect to the period between 1 October of the previous year and 30 September of the year concerned. If the term of on-call or stand-by duty diverges from the time limit set out in Section 11 of the Annex in the period concerned by the report, the report must also cover the extent and reason of the divergence.

In addition, since 2014 the NOJ has been monitoring experiences regarding the recognition of the validity of judgments passed by foreign courts and legal assistance provided to other countries in the criminal branch. The NOJ set it as a goal to assess the potential difficulties arising in relation to international mutual legal assistance, the application of foreign law and proceedings involving foreign participants in order to simplify, reduce the timeframe and improve the efficiency of the court procedures concerned and the application of law by the courts.

7.2.2. Target audits

Pursuant to Section 76(6)(b) of Act CLXI of 2011 on the Organisation and Administration of Courts (hereinafter referred to as: 'Court Organisation Act'), in the scope of his/her responsibility relating to the administration of courts, the President of the NOJ controls and monitors the administrative activity of the court presidents (with the exception of the presidents of district courts and administrative and labour courts), in the scope of which he/she: monitors the enforcement of the rules relating to the administration of courts and compliance with the procedural deadlines and rules of the management of cases, and may order audits to this end.

The target audit is a detailed review of a specific activity or topic aimed at conducting an accurate situational analysis and task-setting in the partial area examined. The target audit ordered by the central administration may be conducted simultaneously at several or even all courts depending on its reason.

The courts concerned conduct the target audit locally, and in its scope, they also deal with the topic under examination themselves, and facilitate effective judicial work through local administrative measures. The NOJ is only informed of the conduct and results of the investigation. The NOJ summarises the experiences and results of the audit, draws conclusions regarding the subject of the audit, uses them in the course of its future work, and in the case of a system-level defect, it provides assistance via a central measure, while if it identifies a good practice, it shares that with the other courts.

The significance of target audits is, therefore, that they make it possible to analyse specific areas of the application of law at the local and central level, and to support such areas via administrative measures.

In 2017, the President of the NOJ ordered several nationwide, comprehensive target audits, as well as target audits relating to specific regional courts.

7.2.2.1. National target audits

The NOJ receives many inquiries both from within the country and abroad in relation to statistics relating to the criminal cases finished by the courts and the proceedings of the law enforcement bodies, to which the NOJ replies in each case. The NOJ responds to the inquiries based on the 'BIIR' system (Integrated Court IT System) and the 'C-D' and 'Fk' templates (sheets) issued in the criminal cases. In the course of responding to these inquiries, the NOJ identified delays with regard to the issuing of the 'C-D' and 'Fk' statistical sheets on several occasions.

Having regard to the foregoing, the NOJ ordered a nationwide target audit in order to ensure the timeliness of the issuing of the 'C-D' and 'Fk' statistical sheets to be used in criminal cases finished in a final and binding manner and to identify the reasons behind the failures to comply with the deadline.

As a result of the audit, it was found that 96% of the courts audited were late with the statistical data reporting, which resulted from subjective and objective reasons. The NOJ will also take the results of the audit into account, and will consider it for the purposes of the creation of the statistical regulations and the development of the BIIR.

As a result of the findings, in 2018, the President of the NOJ requested the leaders of the courts to order a follow-up audit in their own area of responsibility, in the scope of which, the leaders will have to report on the results of the professional and administrative measures taken locally in relation to the audit.

In 2016, the NOJ assessed in the scope of a nationwide target audit the rate at which the courts exercised the option of referral to mandatory mediation proceedings as set out in Section 4:172 of Act V of 2013 on the Civil Code (hereinafter referred to as: 'Civil Code'), as well as the outcome of such proceedings. Based on the reports submitted by the regional courts, it was found that the number of referrals to mediation proceedings was low both in number and in proportion nationwide with respect to the case types examined. Having regard to the results, it was necessary to follow up on the topic, based on which the President of the NOJ ordered another nationwide target audit in 2017.

Based on the follow-up audit, it is clear that the rate of referrals to mediation proceedings and the success of such proceedings is improving throughout the country. The results of the audit are processed by the Court Mediation Working Group of the NOJ.

The NOJ receives many inquiries from abroad in relation to statistics relating to money laundering and the proceedings of the law enforcement bodies, to which the NOJ replies in each case. At the same time, there were several reports recently saying that the duration of court proceedings related to money laundering is the highest in Hungary. Having regard to this and following up on the so-called fifth-round country assessment conducted by the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (Moneyval) of the European Council between 2015 and 2016, the President of the NOJ ordered a nationwide target audit in order to identify the objective and subjective reasons of the duration and potential delays of money laundering cases. The goal of the audit was to assess the duration of criminal proceedings for money laundering, covering each particular factor affecting it.

The audit reports revealed that there are no system-level defects specifically related to proceedings for money laundering, and the factors affecting the duration of longer criminal proceedings were the same as in any other criminal proceeding.

7.2.2.2. Target audits ordered with respect to certain regional courts

The analysis of the statistical data revealed that the number of administrative offence cases finished within 3 months was low at the administrative offence branch of the Budapest Environs Regional Court and the Szolnok Regional Court as compared to the national average. In order to identify the reasons behind this trend, the President of the NOJ ordered a target audit at the regional courts concerned at the end of 2016. The audit summaries were processed in 2017: the results of the target audit confirmed that the audit was justified, and it showed that the timeliness data of both regional courts were lower than the national average. In order to improve the timeliness indicators, the Szolnok Regional Court and the Budapest Environs Regional Court implemented several measures. By the end of the period examined, the timeliness indicators showed a slight improving tendency.

An audit was initiated at the criminal branch of the Buda Environs District Court based on a complaint, which audit related to the timeliness of the measures set out in Section 263(1) of Act XIX of 1998 on Criminal Procedure. The President of the NOJ ordered a target audit in order to identify the reasons of the violations and to determine the measures necessary for improving the efficiency and timeliness of the administration of justice. The audit material prepared revealed that in the cases examined the charges had been issued or the necessary measures had been taken and the date of the hearing had been set in a timely manner. The measures taken in order to ensure timeliness were also presented in the summary of the audit.

The NOJ received feedback in the form of complaints that there were violations regarding timeliness at the Székesfehérvár Regional Court and the Székesfehérvár District Court. Having regard to this, the President of the NOJ ordered a target audit in order to improve the efficiency and timeliness of the administration of justice at the civil and economic branches of the Székesfehérvár Regional Court with regard to first-instance and second-instance cases, as well as at the civil and economic branches of the Székesfehérvár District Court.

The target audit revealed problems with regard to the timeliness of putting judgments into writing at the civil and economic branches of the Székesfehérvár Regional Court with regard to first-instance and second-instance cases, as well as at the civil and economic branches of the Székesfehérvár District Court. The professional and administrative leaders proposed measures with regard to the problems.

In order to improve the efficiency and timeliness of the management of complaints, the President of the NOJ ordered a target audit with regard to the Budapest Environs Regional Court, which audit covered the activity of the regional court with regard to the management of complaints in the first semester of 2017. In the report submitted in the course of the audit, the president of the regional court reported on the management of complaints in the period concerned and provided information on the measures taken in relation to justified or partially justified complaints.

8. Legislative environment of the operation of the judiciary organisation

8.1. Changes of legislation concerning the judiciary organisation

Act CLXI of 2011 on the Organisation and Administration of Courts and Act CLXII of 2011 on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges continued to provide a definitive framework for the operation of the courts in 2017. The central administrative tasks of courts were performed by the President of the NOJ, while the professional governance of courts is the Curia's responsibility.

8.1.1. Changes of legislation relating to legal status

- **Act CIV of 2016 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Relating to the Review of Central Offices and the Strengthening of District (and Capital District) Offices and the Transfer of the Tasks of Certain Budgetary Bodies**, effective as of 1 January 2017, amended:
 - Act LIII of 1994 on Judicial Enforcement, having regard to the fact that as of 1 January 2017, the Justice Office was assimilated into the Ministry of Justice, and consequently its tasks related to the auditing and professional supervision of enforcement officers was taken over by the Hungarian Chamber of Court Enforcement Officers;
 - Act LXVIII of 1997 on the Service Relationship of Judicial Employees, as a result of which the Judicial Expert and Research Institutes were merged with the Forensic Expert and Research Institute (hereinafter referred to by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'BSZKI') controlled by the Ministry of Interior. Pursuant to the amendment, the current employees of the BSZKI also qualify as judicial employees.
- **Act LXVII of 2016 Laying Down the Fundamentals of the Central Budget of Hungary for the Year 2017**, effective as of 1 January 2017:
 - changed the area of competence of the Ráckeve District Court, having regard to the establishment of the new Szigetszentmiklós District Court;
 - transferred Fejér County from the area of competence of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal to the area of competence of the Győr Regional Court of Appeal upon the proposal of the President of the NOJ, in order to equalise the caseload of the regional courts of appeal.
- **Act CLVIII of 2016 on the Amendment of Act LXXX of 2003 on Legal Assistance and of Certain Acts with Respect to Procedural Law Matters**, effective as of 1 January 2017 and 2 January 2017, respectively, amended Act CLXXXIV of 2010 on the Naming, Headquarters and Determination of Area of Competence of Courts. The act postponed the deadline for the establishment of the Érd District Court by 1 year, and provided that the deadline for the commencement of its operation be 1 January 2019, in relation to which it also changed the area of competence of the Budaörs, Buda Environs and Szentendre District Courts.
- **Government Decree No. 62/2017. (III. 20.) on the amendment of Government Decree No. 56/2008. (III. 26.) on the tasks that may be performed by court administrators** entered into force on 4 April 2017, and upon the proposal of the President of the NOJ, it expanded the powers of court administrators with several new tasks. Section 42(5a) of Act II of 2012 on Administrative Offences, Administrative Offence Proceedings and the Registry System for Administrative Offences, effective as of 1 January 2017, makes it possible for court administrators to proceed in administrative offence cases too.
- **Act LXXXVII of 2017 on the Amendment of Act LXVIII of 1997 on the Service Relationship of Judicial Employees and Act CLXIV of 2011 on the Legal Status of the Prosecutor General, Prosecutors and other Employees of the Prosecutor's Office and the Career of Prosecutors** entered into force on 1 September 2017. The amendment was mostly based on the rules pertaining to government officials in order to ensure that the regulations relating to the legal status of the employees of public institutions be in accordance with each other. As a result of the amendment, the salary of judicial employees increased by 30% on the average.
- **IM (Ministry of Justice) Decree No. 14/2017. (X.31.) on the detailed rules of evaluating applications for the position of judge and the scores that may be awarded during the establishment of the ranking of applications** entered into force on 1 November 2017. The earlier decree was reformed in relation to the administrative judicial activity, having regard to the criteria that the renewed administrative judicial activity should be conducted by experts having significant experience in the field of adminis-

trative law and that applicants should be able to apply both from within and outside the judicial organisation with equal recognition of their professional history.

8.1.2. Change of the procedural rules significantly affecting the courts

- **Act CXXVII of 2016 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Relating to the Reduction of Bureaucracy in Public Administration** introduced a new non-litigious judicial procedure, effective as of 1 January 2017. The amendment referred the settlement of legal disputes relating to the termination of unlawful consumption and emergencies threatening the environment, as well as the enforcement of entry to the place of utilisation. The detailed rules of the new non-litigious procedure were prepared upon the proposal of the President of the NOJ.
- **Act LXVI of 2016 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Related to Taxation and other Associated Acts, and of Act CXXII of 2010 on the National Tax and Customs Administration** amended Act XXII of 2014 on Advertisement Tax, effective as of 1 January 2017. The amendment also introduced a new judicial review procedure.
- **Act XLVIII of 2017 on the Amendment of Act V of 2006 on Company Publicity, Judicial Company Registration Procedure and Winding-up and Act CXL of 2007 on the Cross-Border Merger of Capital Companies in Connection with the System for Linking European Company Registers** entered into force on 8 June 2017. On the one hand, the act transposes European Parliament and Council Directive (EU) 2012/17, and on the other hand, it simplifies the tasks of the courts of registration with respect to the transfer of registered offices.
- **Act XLIX of 2017 on the Amendment of Act XLIX of 1991 on Bankruptcy and Liquidation Proceedings and Certain Acts Related Thereto** entered into force on 1 July 2017. The purpose of the act is to clarify certain provisions posing problems during their application and to simplify the procedure. The act, among other things, expands the individual powers of secretary judges in bankruptcy and liquidation cases, as proposed by the President of the NOJ.
- **Act LXIX of 2017 on the Amendment of the Acts Regulating the Operation of Financial Markets and the Trade of Financial Instruments Aimed at the Harmonisation of Law** entered into force on 1 July 2017. The act clarifies the text of Act CXXXIX of 2013 on the Central Bank of Hungary at two points, also affecting the courts.

8.1.3. Main legislative changes related to electronic procedures

- **Act CLVIII of 2016 on the Amendment of Act LXXX of 2003 on Legal Assistance and Certain Acts in Relation to Procedural Law Matters**, effective as of 2 January 2017, defined the conditions in the case of fulfilment of which the signed or stamped data of archived electronic instruments must be considered as not forged until proven otherwise.
- **Act CLXXXI of 2011 on the Court Registration of NGOs and the Related Procedural Rules** was amended on 1 March 2017 with the purpose of simplifying and speeding up registration procedures. The amendment expanded the scope of organisations obliged to use electronic procedure.
- **IM (Ministry of Justice) Decree No. 4/2017. (IV. 3.) on the document templates to be used in the simplified registration procedures and simplified procedures for the registration of changes of NGOs and sport associations** entered into force on 4 April 2017. The decree introduced new document templates - effective as of 1 September 2017 - for the simplified registration procedures and simplified procedures for the registration of changes of NGOs and sport associations that may only be initiated electronically.

- **IM (Ministry of Justice) Decree No. 5/2017. (IV. 20.) on the Rules of Delivery via Public Notice Applicable in Criminal Proceedings**, effective as of 21 April 2017, provides that public notices must be published on the central internet website of the courts, as proposed by the President of the NOJ.
- **Act XXXIII of 2017 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Pertaining to Domestic Affairs** amended - with law harmonisation as the primary purpose - the Electronic Administration Act and entered into force on 5 May 2017. Pursuant to the amendment, the electronic information systems falling under the scope of Act L of 2013 on the Electronic Information Security of Governmental and Municipal Bodies must be classified into a security class on a scale of 1 to 5 based on their confidentiality, integrity and availability. The amendment also defines the order and deadline of fulfilling the archiving and backup obligation.
- **Act CC of 2017 Amending the Electronic Administration Act** introduced the term 'non-imputable obstruction', effective as of 21 December 2017. Based on the authorisation in the act, the Government may set out in a decree the bodies providing the option of electronic administration that are unable to meet the criteria set out in the Electronic Administration Act due to reasons not imputable to them. Pursuant to the provision, it is not possible to communicate with these bodies by electronic means, except in the matters regarding which the body concerned can provide for this. Based on the authorisation, **Government Decree No. 521/2017.(XII.29.)** set out the list of bodies that are deemed to be obstructed.

8.1.4. Changes of the substantive legislation applied by the courts

- **Act CXLII of 2016 on the Amendment of Act CXCV of 2011 on the National Budget and Certain Related Acts** amended Act CXXIX of 2013 on the National Bank of Hungary, effective as of 1 January 2017. The amendment – proposed by the President of the NOJ – provides for the legal remedy procedure against obligatory decisions of the Financial Arbitration Board (hereinafter referred to as: 'FAB'). The decision of the FAB is mandatory for financial institutions even without subjection up to an amount of HUF 1 million, and consequently the act defines the rules of the court procedure taking place after the procedure of the FAB along the lines of the litigious procedure taking place after the issue of payment orders. The litigation falls into the jurisdiction and competence of the district court having territorial competence over the domestic place of residence of the consumer.
- **Act CXVI of 2016 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Relating to Domestic Affairs** amended Act II of 2012 integrating the suggestions of the President of the NOJ, effective as of 1 January 2017. The amendment expanded the rules of mediation and broadened the rules of compensation for damages and repealed the provision relating to the bearing of the fees of the interpreter by the state. In addition, new offences were defined, and the administrative offence 'non-compliance with lawful measures' was renamed as 'administrative offence relating to the securing of location'.
- **Act CLXXIX of 2016 on the Amendment and Acceleration of Procedures Related to the Registry of NGOs and Companies**, effective as of 1 March 2017, amended Act CLXXV of 2011 on the Right of Association, Public-Benefit Status and the Operation and Support of NGOs and Act CLXXXI of 2011 on the Judicial Registration of NGOs and the Related Procedural Rules. Pursuant to the amendment, the legal control over NGOs (e.g. associations and foundations) by the prosecutor ceased universally.
- **Act II of 2017 on the Abolishment of Certain Duties and Fees Related to Public Administration**, effective as of 16 March 2017, amended Act LXXXV of 1996 on the Amendment of Act XCIII of 1990 on Duties and the Administrative Service Fee for Certified Title Deed Copies. Pursuant to the amendment, as proposed by the President of the NOJ, requests for non-certified title deed copies provided in the form of electronic documents became free of charge, given their subject-matter, when they are request-

ed by the proceeding body (including the court) in a litigation for placement under custody or by the court enforcement officer in a proceeding for enforcement of an enforceable amount for the State of Hungary. The proceeding for the registration of the fact of placement under custody also became free of charge.

- **Act CLXXVII of 2017 on the Increased Criminal Law Protection Against Sexual Violence Committed Against Children Under the Age of Twelve**, promulgated on 11 December 2017, amended Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code, effective as of 1 January 2018. The amendment was based on the proposal of the President of the NOJ, having regard to the decision of the Constitutional Court of 11 July 2017 in case no. III/232/2017, which decision declared that unifying criminal ruling no. 2/2016 on the interpretation of sexual violence against children under the age of twelve was in conflict with the Fundamental Law, and was therefore abrogated, with effect from 31 October 2017.

8.2. Activity of the NOJ in relation to providing opinions on legislation

8.2.1. Legislation on which the NOJ provided its opinion; results

In 2017, the NOJ received 290 requests for providing its opinion on legislation. The distribution of drafts and proposals submitted to the NOJ in order for it to give its opinion is shown in the table below (by sending body).

Sending body	Number of cases received	Type of cases
Ministry of Interior	75	draft legislation
Ministry of Human Resources	24	draft legislation
Ministry of Agriculture	2	draft legislation
Ministry of Defence	6	draft legislation
Ministry of Justice	61	draft legislation
Prime Minister's Office	5	draft legislation
Ministry of National Economy	18	draft legislation
Ministry of National Development	16	draft legislation
From the website of the Parliament	11	proposal for an act
Courts	12	legislative proposal, experiences of law enforcement bodies
Curia	14	legislative proposal, experiences of law enforcement bodies
Organisational units of the NOJ	12	legislative proposal, requests for comments and proposals
External bodies outside the judiciary organisation and the ministries	3	requests for information
Other, non-codification-related matters	31	Miscellaneous tasks related to the cases of other departments and general departments

Compared to the number of cases received in 2016 (255), the number of cases increased in 2017. There was an almost 13% increase, the reason for which is that while in 2016, the Min-

istries preparing the legislation focused on the codification works of the three big procedural codes, in 2017, they focused on creating the numerous lower-level legislative acts necessary for the entry into force of the codes.

8.2.1.1. Opinion-provision activity in relation to the codes

8.2.1.1.1. Codification of the rules of civil litigations

The Parliament adopted Act CXXX of 2016 on the Civil Procedural Code (hereinafter referred to as: 'New Civil Procedural Code') on 22 November 2016. The act enters into force on 1 January 2018. In order to make it possible for the judiciary organisation to effectively prepare for performing the (law enforcement and administrative) tasks related to the entry into force of the new procedural code, the President of the NOJ established the E-code Civil Procedural Code Project (hereinafter referred to as: 'Project') on 24 January 2017.

A separate Working Group for Giving Opinions on Legislation, as well as a Training Working Group and an Administrative Working Group was formed within the Project's organisation (having regard to the differing nature of the tasks), consisting of a total of 24 members. Each working group was made up and controlled by judges and court leaders who had already participated in the process of codification of procedural rules previously for years.

In the framework of the Project, an almost 1800-page-long learning material providing a commentary of the new Civil Procedural Code was prepared in the spring of 2017 with the involvement of 68 judges. The learning material was made available to all civil law judges and judicial employees working in the civil branch on the new electronic platform created for this purpose by the start of the judicial vacation. The learning material was reviewed by 22 judges of the Curia and the head of a division of a regional court, and matters disputed in relation to the interpretation of law were discussed by the National Meeting of the Heads of Civil Divisions, who gave their opinion prior to the publication of the material with the aim of providing for the uniform application of the rules.

The training of new trainers in the field of the New Civil Procedural Code was also conducted as part of the Project at the Hungarian Academy of Justice between 6-9 and 21-23 June 2017, with the participation of 130 judges. In its scope, the judges who would hold the local trainings in autumn were trained in a high-quality manner. Around 2 457 civil judges and judicial employees were trained between September and December 2017. At these 8-day local trainings, a total of 412 judges gave presentations to their colleagues based on a professionally-approved list of topics and presentation that was uniform across the country. At the end of the trainings, all attendants (including the presenters) had to make an electronic report, certifying that they were prepared to apply the new Civil Procedural Code.

In 2017, the NOJ actively participated in the creation of the new acts and other pieces of legislation associated with the entry into force of the new procedural code, as well as of their necessary amendments. In 2017, the NOJ provided its opinion regarding almost 100 new legislative acts and proposals for amendments of legislation (1300 pages of content) after obtaining and synthesising the preliminary opinion of the courts. In the scope of this, the Parliament adopted Act XLIII of 2017 on the Public Registry of General Authorisations for Litigious and Non-Litigious Court Proceedings along the principles developed by the NOJ. In the scope of this opinion-provision activity, we should emphasise the opinions given in relation to:

- the Act on Arbitration,
- the Act on Private International Law,
- the Act on the Application of Exemption from Costs and the Right to the Recording of Expenses in Court Proceedings,

- the draft of the Act on the Amendment of the Acts Related to the Entry Into Force of the Act on Certain Non-Litigious Court Proceedings and of the Act on the Civil Procedural Code,
- the Act on the Rules Pertaining to Bills of Exchange and the Protection of Business Secrets, and
- Act CXIX of 2017 on the Amendment of the Act on Notaries Public and Certain Acts Relating to Justice.

The NOJ prepared informatory materials with uniform topics and format regarding all amendments of legislation that particularly affect the courts for the judges and the judicial employees, highlighting the innovations and changes that have a material effect on their practical work.

8.2.1.1.2. Codification of the rules of criminal litigations

The judicial organisation participated actively in the entire process of codification of the new criminal procedural code. The text of the act was adopted by the Parliament on 13 June 2017, and promulgated in Act XC of 2017. The new code allows for a simpler, quicker, more reasonable criminal procedure from several aspects, that sensitively adjusts also to practical needs. After the completion of the codification, the judicial organisation has the important task of preparing for the smooth application of the new act by the time it enters into force.

The tasks include training of the entire criminal branch, preparation of a manual facilitating the practical law application activity, a comprehensive modification of the court registry program, as well as the development of work organisation methods adjusted to the new circumstances.

In order to be able to tackle this complex challenge, the NOJ performs these tasks in the framework of a project organisation (E-Codex Criminal Procedural Code Project) similarly to the project supporting the codification of civil procedural rules. The project organisation started its operation on 1 June 2017. The project organisation allows for the coordination and efficient organisation of the work of all fields of specialisation and the concentration of the necessary expertise.

The professional work takes place in 3 separate working group areas: provision of opinions on the legislation, training and administration. The members of the New Criminal Procedural Code Working Group – who had also participated in the codification tasks – continued their work as members of the project organisation jointly with new court leaders.

In the scope of the preparatory works:

- the tasks and their exact schedule were defined,
- the courts made their commitments facilitating the completion of each task,
- numerous judges applied for training tasks, and the list of the authors of the manual to help practical work was established,
- the NOJ set the dates of the trainings to be held in 2018,
- the discussion of the most important new rules was given particular emphasis at the National Meeting of the Heads of Criminal Divisions,
- local working groups were formed at the regional courts of appeal and regional courts in order to perform further codification, local administration and training tasks, the representatives of which working groups had a joint discussion in May 2017,
- each internal working group of the NOJ concerned defined its tasks,
- the NOJ prepared the detailed proposal relating to the budgetary needs of the judicial organisation.

In the 2nd semester of 2017, it was a priority task to prepare the learning material for judges, secretary judges and judicial employees. The almost 1500-page-long learning material was completed.

ed by the end of October 2017, and 29 judges working at various levels of the judicial organisation participated in its creation. The learning material contains the rules of the new criminal procedural code effective as from 1 July 2018, and makes references to the provisions of the Criminal Procedural Code of 1998. The preparation for the application of the new Criminal Procedural Code is facilitated by explanations linked to the provisions of the act, which concentrate on the changes and practical issues. The individual decisions published, the related legislation compiled and the flowcharts help daily work, while the reinforcing questions help in learning the material. After its completion, the learning material was handed over to the Curia for professional review.

The working groups of the project organisation held meetings in order to schedule the tasks, in the scope of which they designated the persons responsible for the completion of each task.

In addition, the following also commenced:

- preparation for the introduction of electronic administration,
- preparation of the developments necessary for application of the new act,
- organisation of the classroom trainings, as well as of the training of the trainers,
- preparation of the forms necessary for the application of the new act,
- process of the election of the non-professional judges having special expertise,
- handling of the administrative problems related to the new legal institutions.

In November 2017, the National Meeting of the Heads of Criminal Divisions discussed professional matters related to the new Criminal Procedural Code.

8.2.1.1.3. Codification of the rules of Administrative law litigations

On 21 February 2017, the Parliament adopted Act I of 2017 on the Public Administration Procedural Code. The Public Administration Procedural Code enters into force on 1 January 2018. In order to make it possible for the judiciary organisation to effectively prepare for performing the tasks related to the entry into force of the new procedural code, the President of the NOJ established the E-code Public Administration Procedural Code Project on 10 March 2017. The project aimed at contributing to the continuing codification process of the Public Administration Procedural Code, managing the effects of the new, expanded powers of the administrative court on the court system and organising the multi-layered training of the staff.

Having regard to the differing nature of the tasks and the identical structure of the other two code projects, a separate Working Group for Giving Opinions on Legislation, as well as a Training Working Group and an Administrative Working Group was formed within the project organisation. The members and controllers of the working groups were judges and court leaders who had participated in the process of the codification of the procedural rules (i.e. they had been members of the working groups) and who were the addressees of the new tasks as professional or administrative leaders.

In the framework of the project, an almost 900- page-long learning material providing a commentary of the Public Administration Procedural Code and facilitating its joint application with the underlying new Civil Procedural Code was prepared by the summer of 2017. This process was supported by the Training Working Group. The learning material was uploaded electronically continuously during the judicial vacation in order for it to become available for all judges and judicial employees working in the civil, public administration and labour branch on the platform created for this purpose by September 2017. The learning material was reviewed by the judges of the Curia. The matters related to the interpretation of the law were discussed in the scope of two consultation days, with the participation of the authors and reviewers, the heads of regional public administration and labour divisions and the members of the Training

Working Group of the E-Codex Public Administration Procedural Code Project. The position statements adopted are expected to be integrated into the learning material by early 2018.

The NOJ – also involving, among others, the Working Group for Giving Opinions on Legislation of the project – actively contributed to the provision of opinions on the new sectoral laws related to the entry into force of the new procedural code and on acts in force in the scope of an administrative consultation, by formulating 163 pages of comments and proposals.

The main legislative acts to the codification of which the NOJ contributed:

- Act L of 2017 on the Amendment of the General Rules of Public Administrative Procedures and Certain Acts Related to the Entry Into Force of the Public Administration Procedural Code,
- Act CXLIII of 2017 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Relating to Migration,
- Act CLI of 2017 on the Tax Administration Procedure, Act CL of 2017 on the Order of Taxation and Act CLIII of 2017 on the Enforcement Proceedings to be Conducted by the Tax Authority,
- Act CXXIX of 2017 on the Amendment of Act LVII of 1996 on the Prohibition of Unfair Market Conduct and the Restriction of Competition and Certain Statutory Provisions Related Thereto,
- Act CXXVIII of 2017 on the Application of Exemption from Costs and the Right to the Recording of Expenses in Civil and Administrative Court Proceedings,
- Act CXXX of 2017 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Related to the Entry Into Force of Act CXXX of 2016 on the Civil Procedural Code, and
- IM (Ministry of Justice) Decree No. 21/2017.(XII.22.) on the forms to be used in civil litigations and administrative court proceedings.

In the course of its activity, the Administrative Working Group of the E-Codex Public Administration Procedural Code Project:

- made a proposal regarding the improvement of the electronic registry system necessary due to the Public Administration Procedural Code,
- developed a method appropriate for estimating the number of incoming cases and calculating the human resources necessary for the increase of the headcount of judges and judicial employees which is to take place upon the entry into force of the Public Administration Procedural Code,
- performed analyses in relation to the operation of court chambers, making professional proposals for example in relation to the order of the allocation of cases,
- developed an action plan template for the regional courts concerned by regional competence with regard to the handling of issues related to placement,
- prepared templates for summons.

Making use of the professional materials of the Administrative Working Group, the NOJ prepared the detailed proposal relating to the budgetary needs of the judicial organisation, which it reviewed upon each amendment of sectoral legislation, making indications towards the competent ministries. It continuously dealt with the staff-related measures related to the increase of the headcount. In order to ensure continuous information for the members of the judicial organisation, it provided information in all important areas under a separate menu item in the court intranet.

8.2.1.2. Network of Experts for Giving Opinions on Legislation

In addition to the provision of opinions on legislation through the presidents of the courts, the performance of the task of the President of the NOJ related to providing opinions on legislation

was supported by a small judicial expert team of judges and heads of court divisions coordinated by the Professional General Department of the NOJ in 2017 too. With the help of this team organised by professional fields, the President of the NOJ was able to formulate substantive comments with regard to the draft legislations concerning courts even within the often extremely short time available. In 2017, the Working Groups for Giving Opinions on Legislation operating under the projects associated with the procedural codes provided key assistance in this work.

8.2.2. Initiatives

8.2.2.1. Proposals for amendments of legislation adopted or entered into force in 2017

In the scope of its legislative-act-preparing activity, the NOJ compiled and published its proposals relating to several topics in a structured format. The proposals were formulated, in this period too, based on the processing of the opinions of the courts. The earlier initiatives for the amendment or adoption of legislation also brought numerous results in the period concerned.

Some of these were already presented in Section 8.1. In addition to those, the following proposals of the NOJ deserve to be mentioned.

Proposals concerning the civil branch:

- Act I of 2017 on the Public Administration Procedural Code was promulgated on 1 March 2017. In the course of the administrative consultations relating to the act, several proposals of the President of the NOJ were taken into consideration.
- Act XX of 2017 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Related to Making the Procedure Conducted at Border Control Areas Stricter was promulgated on 20 March 2017. The act amended, among others, Act LXXX of 2007 on Asylum. Upon the proposal of the President of the NOJ, in the judicial review proceedings mentioned in Section 80/K(1) of the Act on Asylum secretary judges may proceed, also in relation to the adoption of substantive decisions.
- Our comments made with regard to IM (Ministry of Justice) Decree No. 3/2017. (IV. 3.) on the amendment of certain ministerial decrees relating to the registry of NGOs and IM Decree No. 4/2017. (IV. 3.) on the document templates to be used in the simplified registration procedures and simplified procedures for the registration of changes of NGOs and sport associations promulgated on 3 April 2017 concerning the person submitting the application and the entry into force of the decree were integrated into the decrees.
- Act XLIII of 2017 on the Public Registry of General Authorisations Provided for Litigious and Non-Litigious Court Proceedings was promulgated on 25 May 2017. The detailed rules of the act were developed based on the proposals of the President of the NOJ.
- Act CXXVI of 2017 on the Amendment of Act XLIX of 1991 on Bankruptcy Proceedings and Liquidation Proceedings for the Purpose of the Harmonisation of Law was promulgated on 25 October 2017. This act sets out the internal complementary rules of the Member State in relation to cross-border insolvency proceedings. Several proposals of the President of the NOJ were integrated into the act.
- Act CXXVIII of 2017 on the Application of Exemption from Costs and the Right to the Recording of Expenses in Civil and Administrative Court Proceedings was promulgated on 26 October 2017. Several proposals of the President of the NOJ were integrated into the act.
- Act CXXXVI of 2017 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Related to the Entry Into Force of Act LXXVIII of 2017 on the Activity of Attorneys and on the Amendment of Other Acts in the Subject-Matter of Justice, amending – among others – Act CXXX of 2016 on the Civil Procedural Code, was promulgated on 11 November 2017. From among the proposals

of the President of the NOJ integrated into the act, we should emphasise that secretary judges were given the right of legal representation in accordance with the Court Organisation Act, and the transitional rules regulating the entry into force of the Civil Procedural Code were complemented.

- Act CLXXXVI of 2017 on the Amendment of Certain Acts Related to the Reduction of Bureaucracy in Public Administration and the Simplification of Certain Authority Procedures, promulgated on 18 December 2017, amended Act V of 2006 on Company Publicity, Judicial Company Registration Procedure and Winding-up. Several proposals of the President of the NOJ related to the registration of companies, the contents of the company registry and the tasks that may be performed by court administrators were integrated into the act.

Proposals concerning the criminal branch:

- Act XXXIX of 2017 on the Amendment of Acts Regulating EU and International Cooperation in Criminal Cases and Other Related Acts with the Purpose of the Harmonisation of Law was promulgated on 15 May 2017. Several proposals of the President of the NOJ were integrated into the act (such as the terminology of the recognition of foreign judgments, the set-off of the time spent in home custody, the suspension of the procedure and the initiation of recognition, and the establishment of the competence of the district court to enforce European Investigation Orders).
- Act XC of 2017 on the Criminal Procedure was promulgated on 26 June 2017 and enters into force on 1 July 2018. Several proposals of the President of the NOJ were supported during the preparation of the act.

Proposals relating to legal status:

- Act LXXXVII of 2017 on the Amendment of Act LXVIII of 1997 on the Service Relationship of Judicial Employees and Act CLXIV of 2011 on the Legal Status of the Prosecutor General, Prosecutors and other Employees of the Prosecutor's Office and the Career of Prosecutors was promulgated on 26 June 2017. The act, among other things, established the new foundations of the remuneration of judicial employees.
- Act C of 2017 on the Central Budget of Hungary for the Year 2018 was promulgated on 27 June 2017. The act increases the basic salary of judges by further 5%, which means that its amount increases to HUF 453 330 from 1 January 2018.
- IM (Ministry of Justice) Decree No. 20/2017. (XII. 21.) on the amendment of IM Decree No. 11/1999. (X.6.) on the legal practice and training of trainee judges was promulgated on 21 December 2017. The proposals of the President of the NOJ made in relation to the selection procedure of trainee judges were integrated into the decree. The amendments - supporting the new generation - facilitated the establishment of a nationwide uniform practice for the training of trainee judges.
- IM Decree No. 20/2017. (XII. 21.) amended IM Decree No. 14/2002. (VIII.1.) on the rules of the administration of cases at courts. The proposals of the President of the NOJ related to electronic administration were integrated into the decree, among others in relation to electronic correspondence with the court, the electronic handling of documents by the courts, requests presented outside hearings, the provision of information and the determination of case groups.

8.2.2.2. Proposals for the amendment of legislation initiated in 2017 but not adopted yet

Proposals for the amendment of legislation relating to the economic branch:

- The President of the NOJ initiated the amendment of several provisions of the Bankruptcy Act also in 2017, proposing – once again – that court decisions be delivered to creditors by way of public notice in liquidation proceedings where the number of credi-

tors exceeds 50. According to the amendment proposal, if a party fails to communicate its email address, the liquidator would deliver the documents by way of publication on his/her website, while courts would perform delivery via public notice through publication in the Companies' Gazette two times.

Proposals for the amendment of legislation relating to the criminal branch:

- The President of the NOJ initiated the amendment of Act CCXL of 2013 on the Execution of Penalties, Measures, Certain Coercive Measures and Administrative Detention Proceedings, with regard to detainees, introducing a simplified procedure aimed at the acceleration of indemnification proceedings for placement conditions violating fundamental rights.
- The President of the NOJ initiated the amendment of Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code in agreement with the Prosecutor-General's Office, in the form of proposals for the amendment of legislation formulated with the aim of protecting the bodies of the justice system.

Proposals for the amendment of legislation relating to the organisation of courts:

- The President of the NOJ initiated the amendment of Act CLXXXIV of 2010 on the Naming, Headquarters and Determination of Area of Competence of Courts in order to adjust the Monor and Nagykáta District Courts to the districts.
- The President of the NOJ initiated the amendment of the Court Organisation Act and the Judges Act in order to adjust them to Section 8(1) of the Public Administration Procedural Code. According to the amendment, it is necessary to revise the provisions regulating organisation and legal status relating to the operation of chambers, the appointment of heads of the chambers and the remuneration of the heads of chambers at administrative and labour courts.
- The President of the NOJ initiated the amendment of Act XC of 2010 on the Creation and Amendment of Certain Acts in the Subject-Matter of Economy and Finance. According to the amendment, when a judge resigns or is dismissed from his/her office due to medical reasons, he/she would have to pay taxes and contributions in accordance with the rules applicable to general personal income tax after the 9th or 13th month salary due to him/her.
- The President of the NOJ initiated the amendment of Act CLXII of 2011 on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges on multiple occasions in order to establish a nationally uniform practice for the set-off of service time.

Future goals and tasks:

- Maintaining and further improving the timeliness indicators.
- Gradual introduction of the Leadership IT System (or by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'VEIR').
- All courtrooms should be furnished with a video and audio recording system in the near future.
- Examination of the entry into force of the new procedural laws (Civil Procedural Code, Public Administration Procedural Code, Criminal Procedural Code).
- Continuing the provision of opinions regarding legislative acts concerning the courts and justice in a high-quality and substantive manner, as well as supporting the professional and administrative consultations.

PART II – HUMAN CAPACITIES OF THE JUDICIAL ORGANISATION

Main results of the NOJ in 2017 in relation to the optimal allocation and utilisation of human capacities:

- The salary of 97% of the 8 287 judicial employees was raised. The average rate of salary increase was 30%, which was also granted to manual workers.
- The increase of the base salary of judges continued further, increasing by 5% three times between 1 October 2016 and 1 January 2018, by a total of 15,8%, from HUF 391 600 to HUF 453 330.
- The 'Retention Programme' aimed at the retention and supply of the workforce of the entire judicial organisation and the recognition of respectable performance continued.
- Professional aids were compiled in order to make the process of application for the position of judge easier for all parties involved and, at the same time, to unify the process of evaluation of applications for the position of judge, thereby facilitating the efficiency of the application procedures.
- The number of persons actually employed by the judicial organisation increased by a total of 394 persons in 2017.

1. Leaders of the judicial organisation

1.1. Number of court leaders

On 31 December 2017, based on the authorised headcount, the judicial organisation consisted of 447 court leaders appointed for a definite term and 306 court leaders appointed for an indefinite term, i.e. a total of 753 court leaders.

The President of the Curia appoints 38 leaders:

- the Secretary-General of the Curia,
- the Vice Secretary-General of the Curia,
- the heads of the divisions of the Curia,
- the deputies of the heads of the divisions of the Curia,
- the presidents of the chambers of the Curia.

The presidents of the regional courts of appeal appoint 48 leaders:

- the deputies of the heads of the divisions of the regional court of appeal,
- the presidents of the chambers of the regional court of appeal.

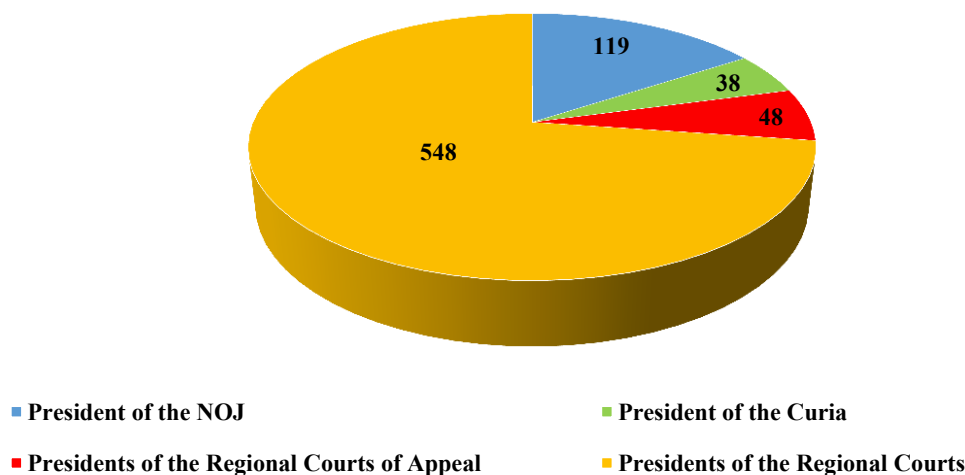
The presidents of the regional courts appoint 548 leaders:

- the deputies of the heads of the divisions of the regional court,
- the presidents of the chambers of the regional court,
- the presidents and vice presidents of the administrative and labour courts,
- the presidents and vice presidents of the district courts,
- the group leaders and the vice group leaders.

The President of the NOJ appoints 119 leaders:

- the presidents, vice presidents and heads of colleges of the regional courts of appeal,
- the presidents, vice presidents and heads of colleges of the regional courts,
- the heads of the regional administrative and labour divisions and their deputies.

Distribution of court leaders in 2017 by the person practising the right of appointment

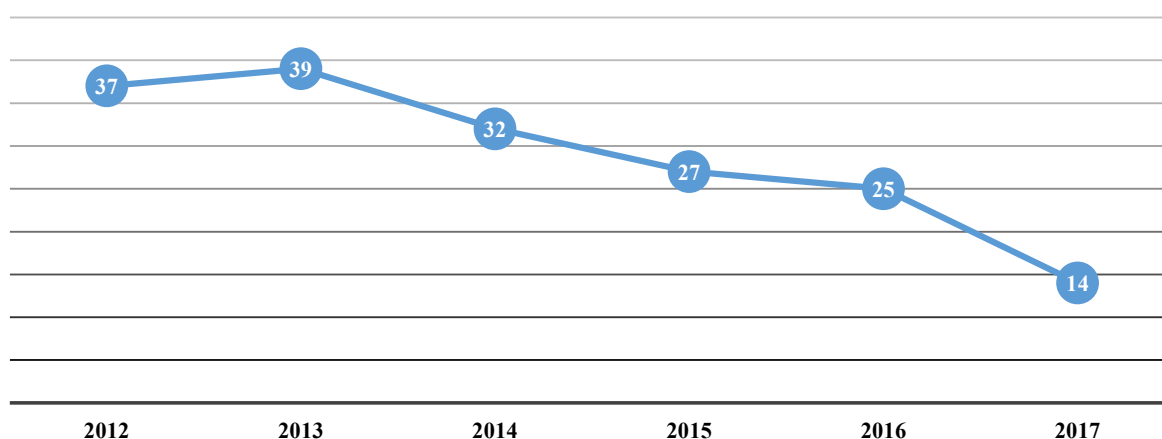


1.2. Changes in the leadership

In 2017, there was in total 14 vacancies for court leader positions falling under the appointment powers of the President of the NOJ. 9 of these positions became vacant prior to 2017, while in 2017, 3 positions became vacant due to the expiry of the appointment (mandate), 1 due to the dismissal of a leader due to retirement and 1 due to the transfer of the leader to the Curia.

In order to fill the vacancies, application procedures were announced and evaluated continuously. From the 16 application procedures evaluated in 2017, 8 ended with appointment, while the application procedures ended unsuccessfully in 5 cases due to a lack of applications, in 2 cases due to the lack of majority support from the opinion-giving bodies, while in one case due to another reason. The appointments took place in accordance with the suggestions of the opinion-giving judicial bodies in all cases.

Number of vacant court leader positions falling under the appointment powers of the President of the NOJ between 2012 and 2017



1.3. Fundamentals of the system of appointment and application of court leaders

The appointment of court leaders is for 6 years, except in the case of appointment as president of a chamber for an indefinite term. Court leader offices can only be held by judges appointed for an indefinite term.

Court leader positions are filled via application procedures. The opinion-giving body (full meeting, general judicial meeting, division, regional division, judiciary or group) gives its opinion on the applicants via secret ballot. The person with appointment power assesses the applications based on the application documents, the personal interviewing of the applicant and the suggestion of the opinion-giving body. Pursuant to Section 132(4) of Act CLXI of 2011 (hereinafter referred to as: 'Court Organisation Act'), the person with power to appoint is not bound by the suggestion of the opinion-giving body, but he/she must justify in writing if he/she makes a different decision. With regard to leaders falling under the appointment powers of the President of the NOJ, the order of the giving of opinions is regulated by NOJ Directive No. 6/2015 (XI.30.).

The Court Organisation Act sets out stricter rules for the President of the NOJ and the Curia in the above case. When providing opinions on more than one applicant, the opinion-giving bodies also establish a ranking via their votes, and any decision in divergence from the suggestion must be justified in writing towards the National Judicial Council, and the reasons must be presented also at the next meeting of the body. If the President of the NOJ or the Curia wishes to appoint an applicant who did not receive the majority support of the opinion-giving body, he/she must obtain the preliminary opinion of the National Judicial Council (NJC) regarding the applicant. The applicant may only be appointed if the NJC agrees to the appointment. The legislation does not set out such additional rules with regard to the other persons having appointment powers. Another difference is that the minutes of the application interviews of persons falling under the appointment powers of the President of the NOJ are public. According to the established practice, in addition to the minutes of the interviews, the applications are also published on the central website of the courts.

The person with appointment power evaluates the application by appointing the applicant or declaring the application as unsuccessful. He/she makes this decision aware of the proposal of the opinion-giving body, but it does not bind him/her.

The purpose of the application procedure is to ensure that the best and most competent persons be granted court leadership positions. The person having the power to appoint is responsible for this selection, and his/her decision (whether he/she appoints the applicant or declares the application to be unsuccessful) affects the operation of the entire court organisation concerned. If the person with the power to appoint finds the professional quality of the application and/or the competence of the applicant lacking, he/she has the statutory right to declare the application unsuccessful, which right cannot be taken from him/her. An application procedure has to be declared unsuccessful also if no applications were submitted or if the applications submitted do not meet the requirements set out in the law. If the application is declared unsuccessful, a new application procedure must be announced. If this new application procedure also proves to be unsuccessful, the person having the power to appoint (President of the NOJ, President of the Curia, president of the regional court of appeal, president of the regional court) may fill a court leader position via mandate for a maximum term of one year.

2. Persons employed in the judicial organisation

At present, more than 11 000 persons work in the judicial organisation. On 31 December 2017, the headcount was divided as follows:

Headcount data of the courts

	On 31.12.2015		On 31.12.2016		On 31.12.2017	
	Authorised	Actual	Authorised	Actual	Authorised	Actual
Judge	2 932	2 840	2 937	2 846	3 023	2 862
Secretary Judge	861	833	887	851	937	886
Trainee Judge	283	237	254	218	253	224
Other judicial employee	7 298	7 141	7 326	7 189	7 422	7 526
In total:	11 374	11 051	11 404	11 104	11 635	11 498

The authorised headcount of courts increased by 846 since 31 December 2011. Up to 2016, this can be explained in a smaller part with the increase of judge positions and in a larger part with the number of judicial employee positions (including in particular secretary judge and court administrator positions) made possible by the budget.

In 2017, the authorised headcount increased by 74 judges and 124 judicial employees as a result of the headcount increases implemented in connection with Act I of 2017 on the Public Administration Procedural Code.

In addition to the foregoing, we should emphasise that compared to the data recorded at the end of 2016, in 2017, the authorised headcount of judges increased by 12, the authorised headcount of secretary judges by 24, while the headcount of officers having higher education and court administrators by 38.

In order for the optimal allocation and utilisation of human capacities, the President of the NOJ, acting in her power set out in Section 76(4)(a) of the Court Organisation Act, set out the authorised headcount of judges and judicial employees – in the latter case by job function – in Resolution No. 283/2014. (VII. 2.) of the President of the NOJ. After that, the changes that took place in the headcount of each court could be tracked continuously via amendments of the resolution.

In 2015, we established new foundations for the determination of the authorised headcount, and the authorised headcount of regional courts and regional courts of appeal was not set out in a single resolution but instead in separate resolutions. In each resolution, the number of judicial employee positions was set out in proportion to the number of judge positions aligned to the caseload data, and the number of the various court leader positions was also set out.

Having regard to the fact that according to Section 76(4) of the Court Organisation Act, the determination of the authorised headcount of each court falls into the scope of powers of the President of the NOJ, and the Management Rules were also amended in line with this, ensuring that the headcount of each group of judicial employees is adjusted to the actual headcount. Upon the request of the presidents of the courts, the President of the NOJ may authorise the reallocation of job positions between the separate groups of judicial employees within the authorised headcount.

The courts were classified into three categories (small, medium, large) based on the headcount of judges, and the proportion of judges and judicial employees was aligned to each other in each category.

In the judicial organisation, the head of the individual budgetary body, i.e. the president of the court is responsible for setting out the headcount of the courts and departments under his/her control. In order to establish the uniform practice related to this, in 2017 the presidents of the regional courts set out the authorised headcount of judges and judicial employees at each district court and other department in a structure fitting the resolutions of the President of the NOJ relating to the authorised headcount of courts in the form of a measure. The changes are followed by the amendment of the measures, which will make headcount management more transparent and traceable both at the local and the national level.

The number of persons actually employed in the judicial organisation did not reach the authorised headcount in 2017 either, however while the authorised headcount increased by 231 persons in total, the actual headcount increased by 394 persons. The actual number of judges increased by 16, the number of secretary judges by 35, the number of trainee judges by 6, the number of court administrators and officers with higher education qualifications by 55, the number of officers with higher education qualifications and reporters by 246, and the number of manual employees by 36.

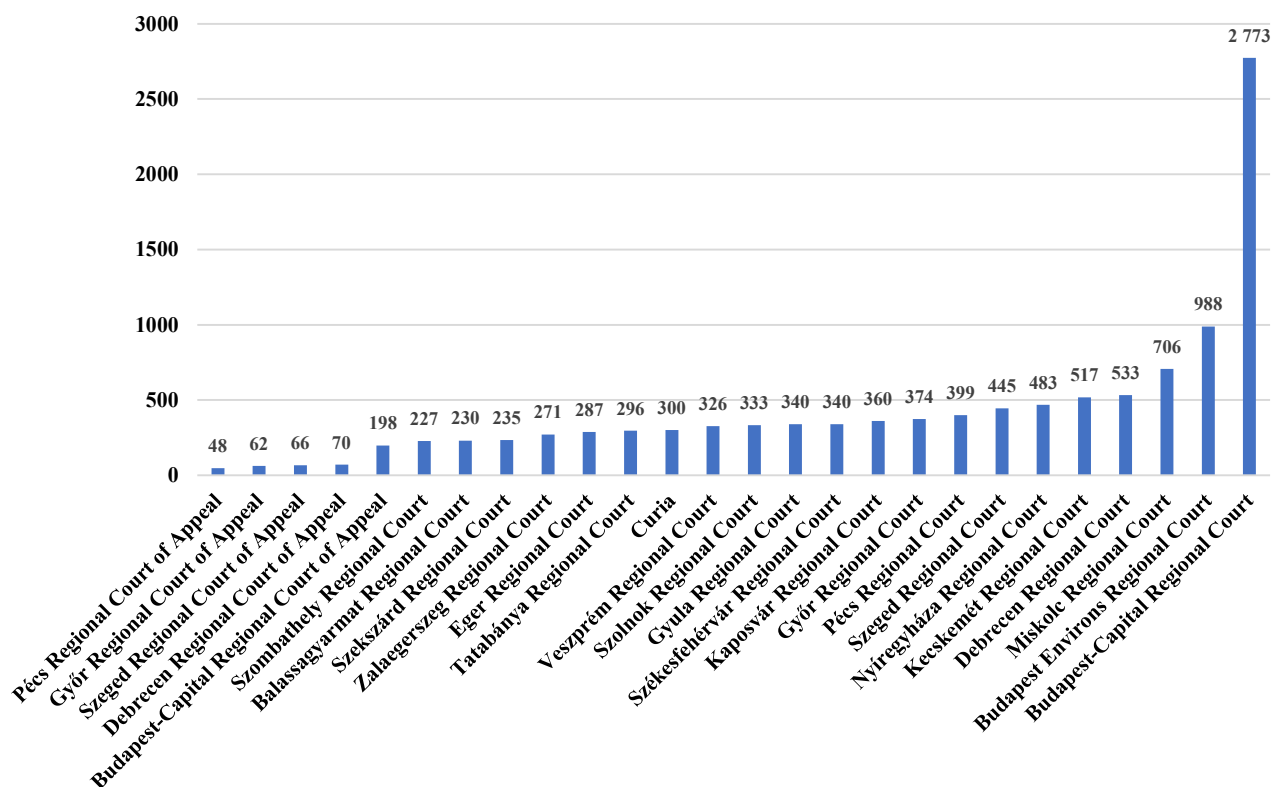
The authorised headcount was increased due to the additional tasks resulting from the change of the legislative environment (new public administration procedural code, increase of the sentence enforcement tasks, etc.).

With regard to the judges, the actual headcount only increased to a minor extent as compared to the increase of authorised headcount. The reason of this is that the headcount increases introduced in connection with Act I of 2017 on the Public Administration Procedural Code took place in the second half of 2017, which means that the majority of these positions will be filled in 2018.

The primary reason of the significant increase of the actual headcount of judicial employees is the transformation of the salary system that took place in 2017, as a result of which the salaries increased by a large degree, and consequently vacancies can be filled more easily, and the rate of fluctuation also slowed down. Accordingly, the number of judicial employee positions that become and remain vacant for a longer term is lower. Another reason is that in divergence from the practice applied in the previous years, when the number of judicial employees employed in part time was counted in an aggregated manner, since January 2017, one employee counts as one person for the purposes of the calculations even if he/she works part time, similarly to the calculation method of the Central Statistical Office.

The following diagram shows the actual headcount of each court:

Actual headcount of the courts as at 31 December 2017



The Zirc District Court remains the smallest court of Hungary, the actual number of employees of which did not change as compared to the data recorded for 31 December 2016. (1 judge and 5 judicial employees). The headcount of the largest district court, the Pest Central District Court is more than 120 times of the headcount of the Zirc District Court, and its actual headcount decreased by 16 as compared to the previous year. At present, it has 739 employees: 204 judges and 535 judicial employees. From among the regional courts, the Budapest-Capital Court had an extraordinarily high number of incoming cases, as well as headcount. On the last day of 2017, the actual headcount of employees of this court was 2 773: 734 judges and 2 039 judicial employees. At the same time, only 227 persons worked at the regional court with the lowest headcount, the Szombathely Regional Court (48 judges and 179 judicial employees). The Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal is the regional court of appeal that has the highest headcount in the country. On 31 December 2017, it had 198 employees: 83 judges and 115 judicial employees. The Pécs Regional Court of Appeal remains the smallest regional court of appeal in the country with a headcount of 48 persons: 16 judges and 32 judicial employees. The authorised and actual headcount of employees of the Curia, the regional courts of appeal and the regional courts in each employment group as at 31 December 2017 are set out in detail in Annexes II.1 and II.2.

3. Changes in the judiciary

3.1. Applications, appointments

As a general rule, the position of judge can only be filled via a public application procedure, except in the cases set out in Section 8 of CLXII of 2011 on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges (hereinafter referred to as: 'Legal Status Act'). Such exceptions include for example the return of a judge assigned to the NOJ or a ministry after the termination of the assignment, the case where the authority or area of competence of the courts is changed in a manner that the judge cannot be employed further at his/her original service location, or the appointment of a judge returned to his/her office as judge based on a labour dispute. If, however, a judge wishes to work as a judge at another

court later (for example due to family-related reasons), he/she has to submit an application, i.e. the President of the NOJ can only transfer him/her to another court upon a successful application.

In 2015, a new method of evaluation was developed for applications for the position of judge, according to which, prior to the announcement of judge application procedures, the proportionality of the authorised headcount and the workload has to be examined as a fundamental consideration. According to the method developed, prior to posting the vacancy, it must be inspected whether an appropriate share of the headcount is allocated to the level/branch of the regional court concerned considering the number of incoming cases. When these ratios are drawn up in a table, it becomes visible whether it is justified to announce an application procedure for the vacant judge position, as well as which courts require the addition of new judge positions. Simultaneously with the preparation of the ratio table and its sending to the presidents of the regional courts, new forms were also put into use. These allow for the initiation of judge application procedures and proposals to the President of the NOJ in a uniform format and in a timely manner, accelerating and simplifying the process.

Applications are evaluated in multiple steps. The applicant is interviewed by the judicial council of the court concerned by the application, after which it creates a ranking of the applicants. The ranking is regulated in detail by the Legal Status Act and KIM Decree No. 7/2011. (III. 4.) on the detailed rules of evaluating applications for the position of judge and the scores that may be awarded during the establishment of the ranking of applications. The president of the regional court or the regional court of appeal may agree with the ranking of the judicial council or may propose – along with written justification – that the applicant ranked at the 2nd or 3rd place be awarded the job position. If the President of the NOJ wishes to award the job position to the applicant ranked at the first place by the judicial council and this applicant is not a judge, the President of the NOJ makes a proposal to the President of Hungary to appoint the applicant. If the applicant is a judge, the President of the NOJ decides regarding his/her transfer. If the President of the NOJ wishes to award the job position to the applicant ranked at the second or third place by the judicial council, she must obtain the consent of the NJC.

In 2017, the President of the NOJ evaluated 274 application procedures for judge positions, in the scope of which a total of 1 919 applications were submitted. As a result of the applications evaluated, the President of the NOJ made proposals for the appointment of 132 judges (all of which were accepted by the President of Hungary) and decided on a transfer in 127 cases. 15 of the applications procedures were unsuccessful. 4 of these were declared unsuccessful due to a lack of applications, 6 due to violation of the rules, and 5 due to changes concerning the organisation of work and workload. 131 of the 132 newly appointed judges worked as a secretary judge prior to submitting the application. 97 of the 127 judges transferred will continue their judicial activity at a higher court level.

The number of applicants increased significantly in 2017: while in 2016, 559 applicants applied for the judge positions posted, in 2017, this number increased to 1 919. This increase mainly resulted from the application procedures for judge positions announced in the first phase of the extension of public administration courts. A total of 1 088 applications were submitted for the 45 vacant job positions posted at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court (administrative and labour branch) and the 8 regional administrative and labour courts. 21 judges were appointed and 24 judges were transferred to fill the 45 vacancies.

The President of the NOJ decided in accordance with the ranking of the judicial councils in 248 of the 274 application procedures evaluated by her. The President of the NOJ proposed divergence from the ranking established by the judicial councils in the case of 11 application procedures – including 10 cases where this was based on the proposal of the president of the court –, to which the NJC agreed in every case.

3.2. Service relationships terminated

In 2017, the service relationship of a total of 82 judges was terminated. Within this, the number of judges who

- reached the upper age limit: 7
- requested to be granted retired status due to having reached a service time of 40 years and the general retirement age: 45
- resigned: 27
- were dismissed due to disciplinary action: 1
- retired due to incompetence for medical reasons: 2

The ratio of judges dismissed as compared to the total authorised number of judges is 2,7%. The number of judges who requested to be retired increased as compared to the previous year. The proportion of judges who resigned from their office as compared to the authorised headcount was 0,8% this year, which represents an improvement over the previous year. The number of resigning judges is distributed evenly among the courts.

3.3. Designations

Judges may be designated having regard to the special nature of a given branch, for the management of such cases within a given branch that require special knowledge or qualifications, or when only a designated judge may proceed in a given case based on the provisions of the law. Section 30 of the Legal Status Act provides for designations by the President of the NOJ and the President of the Curia, while pursuant to Section 207(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the investigating magistrate, and pursuant to Section 47 of the Act on the Enforcement of Sentences, the judge proceeding in sentence execution cases are designated by the president of the regional court.

Pursuant to Section 27(3) of the Fundamental Law, secretary judges may also proceed holding the powers of a single judge in the cases specified by law. Pursuant to Section 41/A(1) of the Act on the Service Relationship of Judicial Employees ('Service Relationship Act'), the secretary judges entitled to proceed holding the powers of a single judge in the cases specified by law are designated by the president of the regional court. With respect to the secretary judges working at district courts, the president of the regional court decides regarding the designation based on the proposal of the president of the district court. The scope of cases to which the designation relates must be specified in the designation. In 2017, secretary judges were designated to proceed with the powers of a single judge in administrative offence, criminal, civil (economic) and sentence enforcement cases, as well as cases related to the medical treatment of psychiatric patients in institutes.

Based on the proposals of the presidents of regional courts, in 2017, the President of the NOJ designated

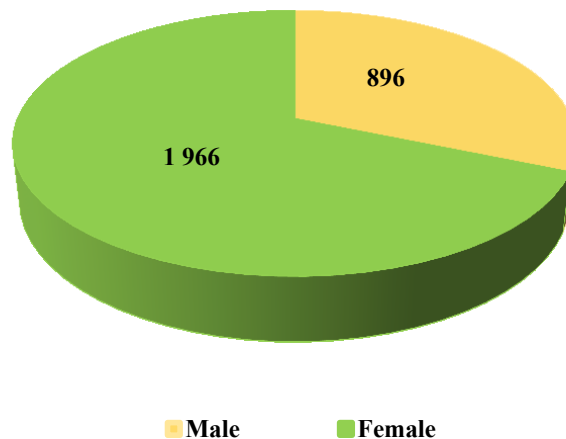
- 43 judges as judges proceeding in the criminal cases of young persons,
- 69 judges as judges proceeding in the cases set out in Section 17(5)-(6) of Act XIX of 1998 on the Criminal Procedure,
- 48 judges as judges proceeding in administrative and labour cases,
- 4 judges as judges proceeding in the cases set out in Section 542/D of Act XIX of 1998 on the Criminal Procedure, and
- 7 judges and 27 secretary judges as court mediators.

4. Composition of the judiciary

4.1. Breakdown by gender

In 2017, the number of female judges in the entire organisation was 1 966 (69%), while the number of male judges was 896 (31%). This means that the male-female ratio of judges did not change in a significant manner as compared to the same period of the previous year. On 31 December 2017, the two courts with the highest proportion of male judges were the Szombathely Regional Court (54%) and the Debrecen Regional Court of Appeal (61%).

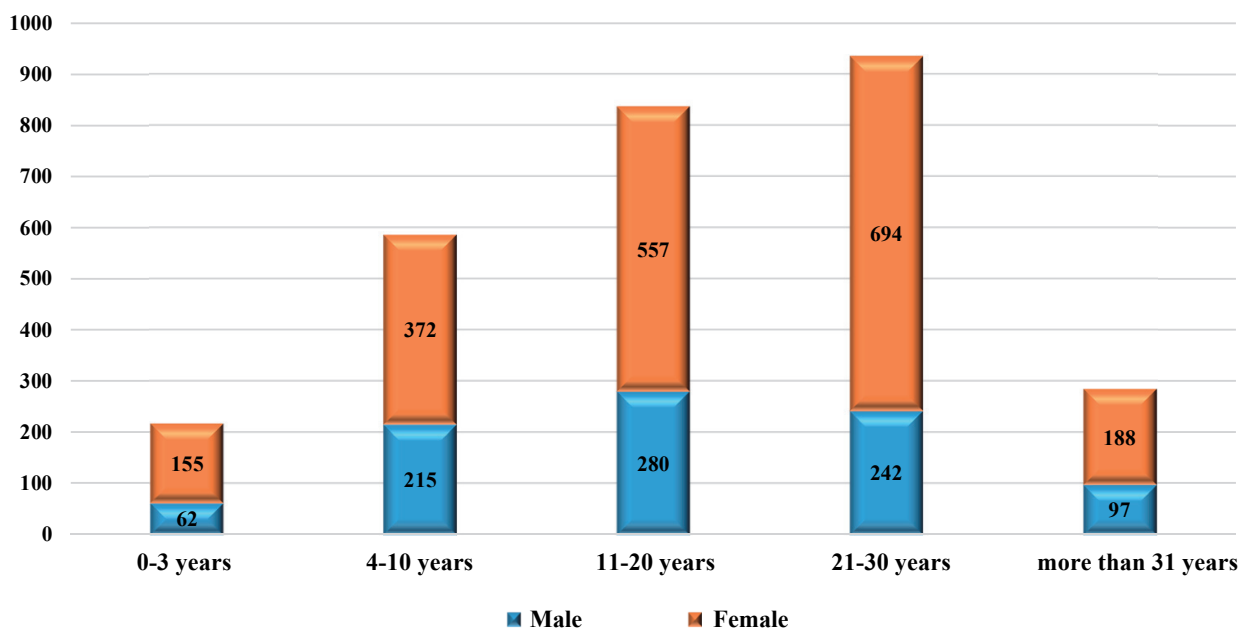
Ratio of judges by gender in the entire organisation



4.2. Experience of the judges

Of the judges appointed as at 31 December 2017, almost one third (936) had between 21 and 30 years of experience, while there were only 217 judges who only had between 0 and 3 years of experience. The number of judges who had more than 31 years of experience was 285. 50% of the judges have between 4 and 20 years of experience. The breakdown of Hungarian judges by experience and gender is shown in the following diagram.

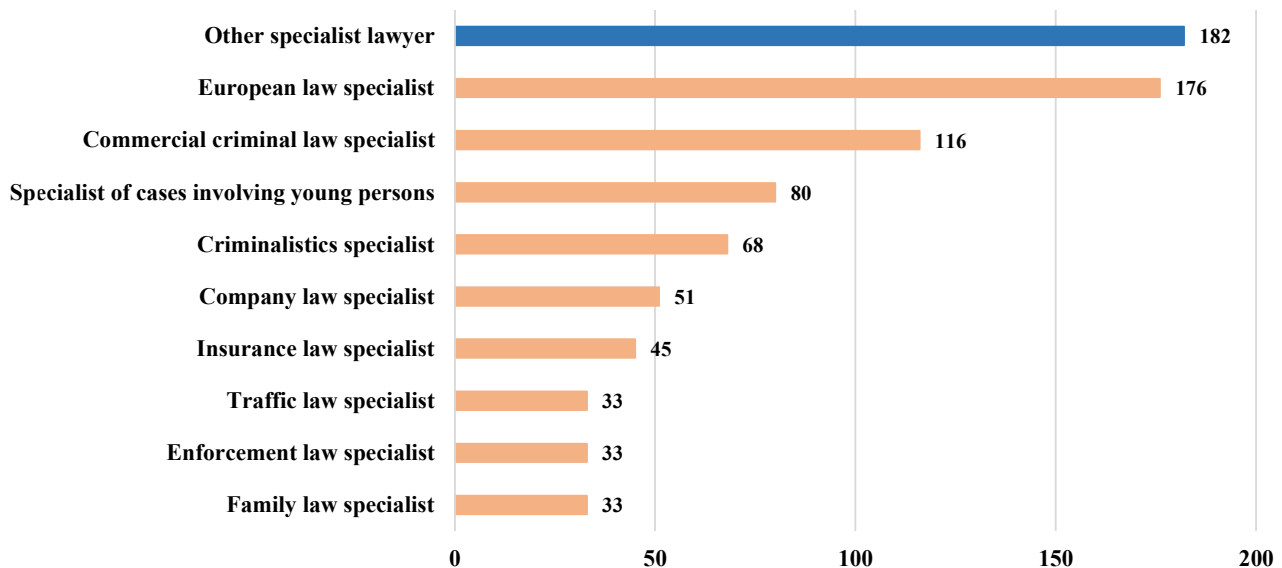
Distribution by experience and gender



4.3. Additional qualifications

Of the 2,862 judges appointed at the end of 2017, 167 judges had a second degree, 19 had a PhD and 817 judges had specialist lawyer (LL.M.) qualifications. The number of judges having other specialist lawyer qualifications also increased by 7% as compared to the end of 2016. The distribution of the different specialist lawyer qualifications is shown in the diagram below:

Number of judges having specialist lawyer (LL.M.) qualifications on 31.12.2017



4.4. Language exam

On 31 December 2017, 1 377 judges had a language exam in the entire judiciary. This number is lower by 8 than the number recorded on 31 December 2016 (1 385). With regard to the most widespread languages, 880 judges had an exam in English, 600 judges in German and 137 judges in French. In total, there were 534 judges who had language exams in 2 or more languages.

5. Allocation of human capacities

5.1. Changes of headcount, principles relating to headcount

As presented in detail above, the authorised number of judges increased by 86 in 2017. 74 of these job positions were introduced in connection with the headcount increases related to Act I of 2017 on the Public Administration Procedural Code. The necessary job positions were distributed between the central regional administrative and labour courts and the Budapest-Capital Regional Court in proportion to the expected workload, in four stages, in a planned manner. In 2017, two stages of the increase of the headcount of judges were completed. Most of these job positions were already filled in 2017 upon their creation and the associated application procedures.

The headcount of the regional courts was increased in the scope of the E-Codex Public Administration Procedural Code Project as follows:

- Budapest-Capital Regional Court 19 regional court judge and 15 administrative and labour judge positions
- Budapest Environs Regional Court 6 administrative and labour judge positions
- Debrecen Regional Court 5 administrative and labour judge positions

- Győr Regional Court 5 administrative and labour judge positions
- Miskolc Regional Court 4 administrative and labour judge positions
- Pécs Regional Court 5 administrative and labour judge positions
- Szeged Regional Court 9 administrative and labour judge positions
- Veszprém Regional Court 6 administrative and labour judge positions

A similar – albeit smaller-scale – headcount increase took place in order to provide for the performance of the increased judicial tasks in the field of the enforcement of sentences at the following regional courts:

- Budapest Environs Regional Court creation and application procedure for 1 judge position
- Nyíregyháza Regional Court creation and application procedure for 2 judge positions
- Szolnok Regional Court creation and application procedure for 1 judge position
- Szeged Regional Court creation and application procedure for 1 judge position
- Szombathely Regional Court creation and application procedure for 1 judge position
- Tatabánya Regional Court creation and application procedure for 1 judge position

It has been a priority goal of the President of the NOJ for years to ensure that the conclusions that can be drawn from the caseload situation can be fully put into effect and application procedures for vacant judge positions can be announced at the organisational units needing them the most so that the caseload can be balanced out. This is also facilitated by the analyses prepared in relation to the announcement of application procedures for judge positions, reformed based on the professional needs. These examine the authorised headcount and caseload situation of the court that intends to initiate an application procedure, as well as the workload of the judges working there. Based on the foregoing, a well-founded decision can be made with regard to whether the job position concerned should be posted at the requesting court or another court that is in a significantly less favourable situation as compared to the national average.

In 2017, 6 judge positions were terminated:

- at the Balassagyarmat Regional Court 1 judge position
- at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court 3 judge positions
- at the Gyula Regional Court 1 judge position
- at the Kaposvár Regional Court 1 judge position

In addition to the foregoing, in 2017, 9 judge positions were created at the following courts:

- Győr Regional Court of Appeal 2 judge positions
- Budapest-Capital Regional Court 4 judge positions
- Budapest Environs Regional Court 2 judge positions
- Győr Regional Court 1 judge position

In addition, a further two judge positions were created in the NOJ.

For balancing out the workload of judges, at certain regional courts, the judge positions were also transformed (most of the time upon the initiative of the presidents of the regional courts). These transformations typically mean that judge positions at district courts were transformed into judge positions at regional courts.

In this manner, in 2017, 15 judge positions were transformed:

- at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court 1 judge position
- at the Eger Regional Court 2 judge positions

- at the Győr Regional Court 1 judge position
- at the Kaposvár Regional Court 2 judge positions
- at the Kecskemét Regional Court 1 judge position
- at the Miskolc Regional Court 2 judge positions
- at the Nyíregyháza Regional Court 1 judge position
- at the Pécs Regional Court 1 judge position
- at the Székesfehérvár Regional Court 2 judge positions
- at the Zalaegerszeg Regional Court 2 judge positions

The President of the NOJ may also assign a judge to the Ministry of Justice with the judge's consent and in agreement with the Minister for Justice. In 2017, 7 judges and 1 secretary judge worked under assignment in the Ministry, the assignment of 3 of whom was terminated over the course of the year.

5.2. Process of evaluation of the applications for judge positions

It is a priority task of the President of the NOJ – in accordance also with her strategic goals – to ensure that the requirements of publicity, transparency, equality of opportunity, uniformity, predictability, consequentiality and objectivity are met during the process of evaluation of applications for judge positions. In this manner, it is possible to ensure the fulfilment of the statutory requirements of awarding judge positions to the most suitable applicant.

As a part of the Start II package, we continued to conduct consultations with the Ministry of Justice with regard to the amendment of the Legal Status Act and the KIM Decree.

In 2017, the so-called 'Scoring Decree' setting out the fundamental legislative background of the evaluation of application procedures for judge positions was amended. The amended provisions have to be applied to application procedures for judge positions announced after 1 November 2017. Serious professional works commenced at the NOJ in order so that those participating in the application procedure can prepare for the changes appropriately.

On 27 November 2017, we organised a professional forum with the involvement of the presidents of judicial councils and the employees of the courts participating in the preparation of the application procedures.

The following professional aids were compiled:

- general information regarding the application procedures for judge positions (Judicial Gazette)
- comprehensible information regarding the application procedure – FAQ (birosag.hu)
- aid forms for application (general, public administration branch)
- guides for completing the aid forms for application (general, public administration branch)
- score summary tables (general, public administration branch)
- proposal forms (general, public administration branch)
- statistical datasheets
- statement on the jurisprudence
- aid for the evaluation criteria of the 'Scoring Decree' providing guidance with regard to practical information and the manner of certification
- aid regarding the order of the application procedure, providing instructions with regard to the supply of missing data and rejection, as well as a summary assisting the giving of opinion by the division.

The 'applications' page on the birosag.hu website was updated, and the application aid forms – as well as the related completion guides –, the information materials and the flowcharts displaying the process of appointment of judges were uploaded.

The purpose of all this was to make the process of application easier for all parties involved and, at the same time, to unify the process of evaluation of applications for the position of judge, thereby facilitating the efficiency of the application procedures.

6. Holding and awarding of titles

Pursuant to Section 174(1) of the Legal Status Act, the NOJ may award the title 'honorary judge' to judges who were qualified as 'excellent, suitable for a higher judicial position', or 'excellently suitable' and have spent at least 6 years in actual judicial practice at the given court level (also counting any time spent in service relationship at a higher court level) in recognition of the work of judges. The NOJ makes its decision based on the proposal of the president of the regional court, the regional court of appeal or the Curia and upon the initiative of the President of the NOJ.

While the title awarded by the NOJ pursuant to Section 174(1) of the Legal Status Act is optional, Section 174(2) of the Legal Status Act sets out that the President of the NOJ shall award the title 'honorary judge' to judges who have spent at least 20 years in actual judicial practice at the given court level (also counting any time spent in service relationship at a higher court level) in recognition of the time of service of the judge.

Pursuant to Section 22(1)(a) of Act CCII of 2011 on the Use of the Coat of Arms and Flag of Hungary and State Awards, in its Resolution No. 2/2012. (III.24.), the NOJ maintained the Juhász Andor Prize founded for recognising outstanding performance in the field of justice in memory of Andor Juhász, the President of the Hungarian Royal Curia, and in NOJ Resolution No. 3/2012. (III.24.), the Diploma for Court Service.

The golden Juhász Andor Prize may be awarded to a publicly honoured judge who is worthy of it based on his/her exemplary career or long, outstanding activity in the administration of justice or the administration of the courts. In 2017, 5 judges were awarded this prize.

Pursuant to the resolution, the silver Juhász Andor Prize may be awarded to a judge in recognition of his/her outstanding professional or administrative activity conducted in service of the court, or to a judicial employee in recognition of his/her exemplary career. In 2017, 12 silver Juhász Andor Prizes were awarded.

The bronze Juhász Andor prize may be awarded to a judicial employee in recognition of his/her exemplary professional activity performed over a long time of service at the court. In 2017, 17 judicial employees were awarded this prize.

In 2017, 103 judges were awarded the title of 'honorary judge', 58 of them ex officio, after 20 years of actual service as a judge, while 45 as recognition of their performance.

7. Judicial career

In addition to the salary system and the benefits that may be granted in addition to the regular salary of judges and judicial employees, the judicial career also includes certain advancement and the development of knowledge, social (medical) care for the judges and judicial employees, and the establishment of harmony between work and family, ensuring that the courts are family-friendly workplaces.

The Judicial Career Expert Body (hereinafter: 'JCEB'), founded on 2 April 2015 in the scope of the collaboration agreement between the National Office for the Judiciary, the National Judicial Council, the Hungarian Judicial Association and the Trade Union of Judicial Employees, is responsible for ensuring that the judicial career model is established having regard to the proposals and opinions of the judges and judicial employees working in the judicial organisation and the results of the measurements of the satisfaction of employees.

As of 2016, the JCEB's focus was transferred to the preparation of detailed proposals relating to specific areas of the career with which it can best further the interests of the judges and judicial employees.

The provisions of the Act on Public Officials ('Public Officials Act') that entered into force on 1 January 2017 had a strong influence on the determination of the salary of judicial employees, for which reason

in order to reestablish the harmony between the remuneration system of public officials and judicial employees and, consequently, to protect the salary of judicial employees, the President of the NOJ initiated amendment of the Service Relationship Act in September 2016.

During the consultations conducted in order for the amendment of the Service Relationship Act, the President of the NOJ – as also expressed in her proposal approved by the JCEB – promoted that the harmonisation of the Service Relationship Act and the Public Officials Act should, in addition to the equality of the obligations of judicial employees and public officials, also result in the increase of salary of judicial employees.

On 13 June 2017, the Parliament adopted Act LXXXVII of 2017 on the Amendment of Act LXXXVII of 2017 on the Amendment of Act LXVIII of 1997 on the Service Relationship of Judicial Employees and Act CLXIV of 2011 on the Legal Status of the prosecutor General, prosecutors and other Employees of the Prosecutor's Office and the Career of Prosecutors, which act entered into force on 1 September 2017.

The provisions of the Service Relationship Act were amended in a significant manner as set out below:

- the exerciser of the employer's rights was granted the power to decide regarding the base salary within the lower and upper limits set out within each paygrade,
- the designated court secretary is entitled to the upper limit of the salary of the pay-grade associated with his/her classification,
- all bonuses were abrogated with the exception of the bonus for the assignment and title bonus,
- the entitlement of judicial employees to cafeteria benefits was abrogated as of 1 January 2018,
- a new pay class was created for leaders,
- the exerciser of the employer's rights may classify a given job role as a priority job role,
- the system of performance assessment was introduced,
- the base salary of judicial employees can be amended based on performance evaluation and evaluation,
- the maximum term of the probationary period, fixed-term appointment and fixed-term leadership mandate that may be set out concurrently with the establishment of the service relationship was extended,
- the cases of termination of the service relationship and entitlement to severance payment were expanded,
- the method of calculation of vacations was changed.

Pursuant to the Service Relationship Act, as of 1 January 2017, judicial employees – with the exception of manual workers – had to be classified and their salary and vacations had to be determined. The Ministry of National Economy provided 6 billion forints for the purpose of determination of the salary of judicial employees on 1 September 2017 and the retroactive payment of the salary difference for the period between 1 January 2017 and 31 August 2017, from which the salary of 8 287 judicial employees (97% of all judicial employees) was increased. The average rate of salary increase was 30%, which was also granted to manual workers.

As a result of the proposal of the NOJ aimed at the implementation of the judicial career, the consultations with the Government and the public exposure, the base salary of judges increased by 5% 3 times between 1 October 2016 and 1 January 2018, by a total of 15,8%, from HUF 391 600 to HUF 453 330.

Since the last significant increase of the salary of judges implemented in 2004, the salary of judges has increased by 36,58%. The increase of the salary of judges did not follow inflation either, which means that the real salary of judges decreased by 73,66% in this period.

The increase of the base salary of judges, by itself, is not capable of stopping the negative trend represented by the continuous and ever more drastic decrease of the real value of the salary of judges. In addition, it is also not suitable for the issues present in the current salary system listed below:

- the starting salary of judges is low, which, also having regard to the salary of designated secretary judges, results in tensions within the judicial organisation in relation to salary,
- due to the multipliers associated with each paygrade, service time is not recognised to a sufficient degree,
- the slight difference between the amounts of the assignment bonus based on the court level do not reflect the increased professional responsibility associated with the work performed at the higher court levels,
- the amount of the leadership bonus of court leaders does not reflect the responsibility associated with leadership tasks sufficiently.

In order to deal with these issues, in autumn 2017, after the amendment of legislation transforming the salary system of judicial employees, the NOJ started the development of the proposal relating to transformation of the salary system of judges.

The proposal is developed using the 'slide rule' method, which means that the components of the current salary system are converted to scores, which makes it possible to examine the salary of judges based on the time of experience of the judge, the court level and any leadership assignments, as well as their relationship to each other. The goal of the examination is to identify anomalies in the salary system, and to thereby formulate an amendment proposal that would give priority to increasing the starting salary of judges (i.e. the multipliers associated with the paygrade), as well as to recognising the higher responsibility associated with working at higher court levels (increase of assignment bonus) and the higher responsibility associated with leadership tasks (increase of leadership bonus).

Such a transformation of the salary system of judges could, in addition to facilitating the retention of employees, also make the judicial career attractive, end salary-related tensions within the organisation, and ensure internal proportionality and the horizontal and vertical career of judges.

Until the time of the full reform of the salary system, the Retention Programme developed by the President of the NOJ in cooperation with the JCEB and started in 2016 embodies the intention to retain and provide for the supply of workforce and realise certain elements of the career both with respect to judges and judicial employees.

Of the elements of the Retention Program, in 2017, similarly to the previous year, *the following facilitated the recognition of outstanding performance and additional qualifications:*

- ensuring that sufficient funds were available for the priority increase of classification of judges and judicial employees,
- the establishment of a foreign language bonus for court leaders falling under the appointment powers of the President of the NOJ agreeing to use a foreign language, and
- provision of the differentiated general bonus at the end of the year and the target bonus adjusted to the successful achievements of the commitments made in the Sustainable Development 2 Programme to the courts, where the criteria of distribution within the institution were developed by the presidents of the regional courts of appeal and the regional courts.

The recognition of additional qualifications was also facilitated by the following:

- amendment of NOJ Directive No. 6/2012. (IV.13.) on the recognition of the activity of judges and judicial employees, effective as of 25 January 2017, pursuant to which the number of titles that may be awarded to judges and judicial employees was increased, and
- a qualification bonus was awarded to judges and secretary judges working at the regional courts and regional courts of appeal having a PhD or a doctorate for the first time from February 2017.

In recognition of their commitment to the judicial organisation, as well as their staying and fair performance, judges and judicial employees were provided a benefit in connection with the Day of Courts also in 2017.

The low-value gift voucher provided mid-year and the clothing expense reimbursement provided at the end of the year served for the financial support of judges and judicial employees. In addition, similarly to the previous years, judicial employees with a lower income were granted a HUF 20 000 school-starting support per children, while for the first time in autumn 2017, judges were granted a self-training support in order to facilitate the updating of their professional knowledge and their keeping up with the significantly changing legislative environment.

The Retention Programme was, in addition to the available budgetary surplus, based on the budgetary savings generated thanks to the efficient management also in 2017.

It is the goal of the President of the NOJ to propose an amendment of the act and decree related to legal status and procedural rules aimed at the implementation of the judicial career model in 2018.

Future goals and tasks:

- Development of a proposal for the transformation of the salary system of judges ('slide rule'), which can make the judicial career attractive again and end salary-related tensions in the organisation.
- Submitting the proposals for amendment of the act and decree related to legal status and procedural rules aimed at the implementation of the judicial career model.
- Continuing the Retention Programme.

PART III – ASSETS

Main results of the NOJ in 2017 in relation to the strategic goal 'provision, optimal allocation and utilisation of assets:

- The building of the newly-established Szigetszentmiklós District Court was handed over as a part of the new Public Administration Centre in Szigetszentmiklós.
- The building of the Jászberény District Court was renovated both on the outside and the inside.
- The compilation of the development programme concerning the Balatonszemes leisure complex commenced.
- In the scope of the Jablonszky Ferenc Tender – started for the sixth time –, the 56 winning tenderers can implement developments for a total amount of HUF 521 million in the field of the modernisation of heating, the replacement of external doors and windows, the modernisation of the electricity network, the improvement of the working environment and security technology developments.
- The development of the IT equipment of the court continued: in 2017, a total of 4 950 workstations, 1 880 monitors and 194 multifunctional printers were procured.
- A separate application designated for the inspection of the registration cases of civil organisations and easier access to the data of bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings was created.
- All institutions of the 'Courts' chapter were successfully connected to the central payroll system of the Hungarian State Treasury.
- The salary system of judicial employees was reformed. The application of the new, grade-based salary system results in a larger degree of responsibility on the employer's side, while it also provides a larger degree of discretion with regard to the determination of performance-proportionate salary and salary management.

1. Buildings serving for the operation of the judicial organisation

1.1. Real property of the courts

1.1.1. Buildings

At the end of December 2017,

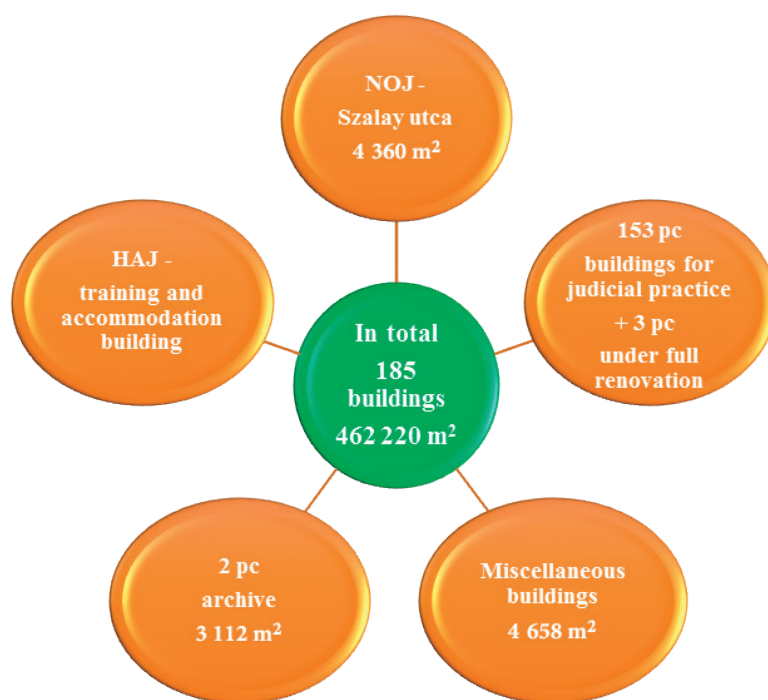
- a total of 185 real estate
- with a total net floor area of 462 220 m². Actually, 153 of these buildings serve the purpose of judicial activities.

The monitoring of the technical status of 185 buildings located in 113 cities, the facility management, maintenance and refurbishment with due care, the provision of 21st century working conditions for the employees of the judicial organisation in order to enhance the quality of the administration of justice, the construction of buildings open for the millions of clients of the justice system in line with the principle of client-friendly courts and the provisions of material conditions of access to the courts is a priority task of the NOJ that requiring extraordinary resources.

In line with the short and medium-term plans, the available resources are allocated by NOJ in each year within Wagner Gyula Programme and Jablonszky Ferenc tender. According to the investment plan with preliminary approval, basic works are realized by judicial organizations, while complex projects spanning over several years are realized by NOJ within the Wagner Gyula Programme. These projects are planned based on the evaluation of court demands. NOJ provides funding for centrally determined purposes and facility developments in the Jablonszky Ferenc tender system.

1.1.2. Distribution of the real property of the courts by purpose

In 2017, 185 real property were managed or leased by the court bodies in the entire country. The judicial organisation moved from three buildings to another building providing temporary accommodation for the time of the full renovation of these three buildings (Eger, Gödöllő, Szarvas). The distribution of the real property managed by the courts is shown in the figure below:



1.1.3. Property used jointly with the Prosecutor-General's Office

By the end of 2017, the prosecutor's office moved out of the buildings of the Hódmezővásárhely, Jászberény and Nagykáta District Court, with which the number of buildings used jointly with the prosecutors' organisation reduced by 3 (to 55) as compared to the end of 2016.

The prosecutor's office started to prepare for the project aimed at the provision of a separate building, as a result of which the area of the Mohács, Siklós, Tiszafüred, Esztergom, Komárom, Encs, Monor, Vác and Sárvár District Courts and the Kaposvár Regional Court used by the prosecutor's office will be freed up for use by the courts.

In 2017, the full-scale renovation of 2 jointly used buildings was in progress. The building of the Eger Regional Court is expected to be handed over in early 2018, while the development of the Gödöllő District Court is expected to be completed early 2019.

In 2016, we prepared a Viability Study jointly with the prosecutor's office as engineering preparation works for the Érd District Court to be built, in order to preliminarily identify the building size and funding needs. The planning of the joint project started in 2017.

With the creation of the planning programmes, in the second half of 2016, the preparation for the full-scale renovation of the Dunakeszi, Kisvárdá and Tapolca District Courts – also planned to be implemented with the costs borne jointly – started.

In connection with the renovation of the Tapolca District Court, the National Office for the Judiciary announced a public tender for architectural works. The profession displayed a great deal of interest towards the planning tender, and high-quality, elegant concepts meeting the scale requirements were submitted. Planning will start in 2018 based on the winning tenderer selected by the Evaluation Committee. The building is expected to be completed in late 2020.

After the completion of the projects for the buildings concerned to be implemented with shared costs, the two organisations will be placed in separable building parts, and the area-proportionate division of the assets of the renovated buildings between the two organisations will also be performed.

An agreement was made regarding the sharing of the costs of the full-scale renovation of the jointly-used buildings and the sharing of the funds of the developments relating to the jointly-used buildings to be implemented in the scope of the NOJ's Wagner Gyula Programme and Jablonszky Ferenc Tender, as well as the manner of handover of the development funds concerning the Prosecutor-General's Office.

The two organisations are the joint beneficiary of the 'KEHOP-5.2.2 – Priority building energetics developments of public buildings and the utilisation of renewable energy sources' tender. In the scope of this, it will be possible to use tender funds amounting to HUF 1,4 billion. A Consortium Cooperation Agreement was concluded with Nemzeti Fejlesztési és Stratégiai Intézet Non-profit Kft. – mandated to conduct the project –, pursuant to which the tender funds granted will, in the first round, used for the full energy refurbishment of the Komló and Baja District Courts.

1.2. Priority projects and developments

1.2.1. Curia project – Kossuth Square Judiciary Palace

As a result of the Steindl Imre Programme launched by the Government in 2016, District V of Budapest and the Kossuth Lajos Square and its environment may be fully restored in a historically authentic manner, including the renovation of all surrounding buildings and connected public areas in a fitting manner.

The purpose of this project is moving back the Curia to the Judiciary Palace in the Kossuth Square (currently used by the Museum of Ethnography and the Institute of Political History) in connection with the Programme, in cooperation with Steindl Imre Program Nonprofit Zrt. contracted for its implementation.

In the scope of the preparation works, a concept will be drawn up for the preservation of artistic assets and protected historical sites and the plans of the visitor centre to be created in the new building of the Curia will also be prepared. In the scope of the preparation works, the needs will be assessed with regard to the Curia, the Prosecutor-General's Office and the visitor centre with regard to IT infrastructure and security technology. Based on this, the groups and connections of rooms and the furniture will also be planned.

1.2.2. Development project for the central building of the Budapest-Environs Regional Court

With Gov. Decree No. 1785/2015. (X.30.) the Government provided for the placement of the Budapest Environs Regional Court (hereinafter referred to as: 'BERC') in the 'M3 Business Center' office building located at the address Budapest District XIV, Hungária körút 179-187. After the purchase of the property for the state and its occupation in March 2016, the NOJ created its project planning programme in cooperation with the organisations and professionals of the BERC.

In early 2017, after the finalisation of the programme providing placement also for the organisational units of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court, MNV Zrt. started the preparations for the planning of the building. The implementation drawings are expected to be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2018.

In 2017, the NOJ established an internal project organisation to coordinate the task.

1.2.3. Regional administrative and labour courts

It is a task of priority to settle the location needs of regional administrative and labour courts (hereinafter referred to as: 'ALC') that are planned to be set up between November 2017 and November 2018 in four stages. The headcount of 790 persons requires a floor space of ca. 25-30 000 m².

The Government provided HUF 205,2 million for 2017 and HUF 3,266 billion for 2018 for establishing the material conditions. Due to the amount available and the short timeframe, it was not viable to construct new buildings, consequently the new court organisations will be placed in leased premises in six locations (Győr, Veszprém, Pécs, Miskolc, Debrecen, Szeged). The placement of the courts falling into the area of competence of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court and the Budapest-Environs Regional Court will be provided for via rationalisation of the existing building capacity.

The first phase of the transfer of the development costs arising in connection with the provision of the material conditions will take place in December 2017 based on the needs communicated by the regional courts.

1.2.4. Eger Regional Court

- Address: H-3300 Eger, Barkóczy u. 1.
- Number of employees concerned: 116
- Floor area before renovation: 5 198 m²
- Planned floor area: 7 080 m²
- Cost: HUF 3,3 billion; the costs are shared with the prosecutor's office
- Completion: First quarter of 2018
- The court operates in the Dobó István barracks temporarily.

The building of the regional court will be fully renovated and expanded in the scope of the project. The outdated building of the Eger Regional Court was previously used jointly by the court and the prosecutor's office. The alteration works of the building started in November 2015. During the construction, several building parts that had become forgotten were found, of which the first to be reconstructed will be the marble painting of the decorated stairwell and its decorative sculptural details. This renovated building will be the first among the institutions undergoing full reconstruction where a modern client centre will be created in accordance with the 'Image Manual' prepared in the scope of the NOJ-MOME cooperation in line with the priority principle of open, client-friendly courts.

The full renovation and expansion of the building will result in an establishment meeting the

requirements of the modern age and fulfilling all needs. The project will be completed in the first quarter of 2018.

1.2.5. Szeged Regional Court, Szeged District Court

- Address: H-6720 Szeged, Széchenyi tér 4.
- Number of employees concerned: 293
- Current floor area: 9 200 m²
- Planned floor area: 13 000 m²
- Estimated cost: HUF 5,9 billion
- Planned time of completion: First half of 2020
- The temporary placement of the court in the leased building is in progress.

The buildings of the courts will be fully renovated and expanded in the scope of the project.

The Széchenyi Square property managed by the Szeged Regional Court has deteriorated and the space available is very limited. The building currently houses the Szeged Regional Court, the Szeged District Court and the Szeged District Prosecutor's Office. After the end of the tender procedure, the NOJ concluded a contract with the winning architect company preparing the authorisation and implementation plans at the end of the 2nd quarter of 2016.

An agreement was made with the managing authority regarding the timely performance of the necessary archaeological excavations. The implementation plans of the building – of historical significance – will be prepared in 2018. The project is expected to be completed in 2020.

The project will result in a building that provides excellent working conditions and access that meets the requirements of the modern age and principle of 'service provider courts'.

MNV Zrt. did not have a property in the city that could have provided temporary placement for the time of the renovation for the institutions using the building. Consequently, we had to find an appropriate solution to this problem at the end of 2016, after examining several possibilities in this regard together with the Szeged Regional Court. After the preparation of the lease contract and the approval of MVN Zrt., the property – requiring minimal alterations – has been available since the end of 2017.

1.2.6. 'KEHOP-5.2.2. – Priority building energetics developments of public buildings and the utilisation of renewable energy sources' EU tender

In the scope of the Environmental and Energy Efficiency Operative Programme (or by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'KEHOP') funded by the EU, several court buildings can be modernised for a total amount of HUF 1,7 billion. The NOJ signed a consortium agreement with the company designated as leader of the consortium, Nemzeti Fejlesztési és Stratégiai Intézet Nonprofit Kft.

The NOJ will spend HUF 300 million on the modernisation of the energetic systems of the Pécs Regional Court and the Pécs Regional Court of Appeal, and a further HUF 1,4 billion will be used for the full-scale development of the energetics systems of the buildings of the Komlói and Baja District Courts in the first phase. The subsidy contract relating to the development of the Pécs building was signed in April 2017, while the one relating to the development of the Baja and Komlói buildings in July 2017.

Further buildings will be examined with regard to whether they are suitable in view of the criteria of the KEHOP Notice in order for the full utilisation of the HUF 1,4 billion framework amount. The performance of the substantive works will start in the 2nd half of 2018 at the earliest.

1.3. Renovations, constructions, projects

1.3.1. Projects completed in 2017

1.3.1.1. Szigetszentmiklós District Court

- Address: H-2310 Szigetszentmiklós, Apor Vilmos u. 1.
- Number of employees concerned: 52, including 17 judges
- Floor area: 2 423m² exclusive-use floor area and 262m² jointly-used floor area
- This was implemented as part of the new Public Administration Centre of Szigetszentmiklós.
- The technical handover took place in January 2017, while the handover ceremony took place in 2017.

Gov. Decree No. 1431/2013. (VII.10.) provided for the establishment of the new Public Administration Centre in Szigetszentmiklós, for which it provided funds in an amount of HUF 4 400 million. The newly-established Szigetszentmiklós District Court, the Szigetszentmiklós District Office, the Szigetszentmiklós Police Headquarters and the Szigetszentmiklós District Prosecutor's Office was placed in the new centre built in the former industrial area as a result of the project conducted with the coordination of the Pest County Government Office and the collaboration of the Pest County Government Office, the NOJ, the Prosecutor-General's Office and the Pest County Police Headquarters. During the development providing for a place for the Szigetszentmiklós District Court – starting its operation on 1 January 2017 –, a modern institution providing client-friendly access to the court and appropriate working conditions was constructed.

1.3.1.2. Jászberény District Court

- Address: H-5100 Jászberény, Lehel vezér tér 15.
- Number of employees concerned: 30, including 8 judges
- Cost of the project: HUF 208 million
- Technical handover of the project: July 2017

In May 2015, the Municipality of Jászberény contacted the NOJ with respect to the renovation of the outer surface of the Jászberény District Court facing the main square. The municipality intended to have the outer surface facing the square painted. After the consultations, the Parties agreed on the full renovation of the outer surface and roof of the building (House of Jász) under protection due to its historical significance. After the preparation of the related authorisation and implementation plans, the public procurement for selecting the constructor was conducted and the actual construction work commenced in the 2nd half of 2016. By renovating the exterior of the building and removing the water damage, we created a property that is worthy of the historical prestige of the institution. In addition, in 2015–2016, the court was granted a subsidy for modernisation of the heating and the electricity network and replacement of the furniture in the scope of the Jablonszky Ferenc Tender, for a total amount of HUF 73,5 million. The gradually developed and renovated building provides working conditions meeting all needs and modernised access to the court for the clients.

1.3.2. Projects started in 2016 and still in progress in 2017

1.3.2.1. Gödöllő District Court

- Address: H-2100 Gödöllő, Tessedik Sámuel u. 6.
- Number of employees concerned: 65, including 17 judges
- Current floor area: 1 592 m²
- Planned floor area: 2 755 m²

- Estimated cost: HUF 1,25 billion; the costs are shared with the prosecutor's office
- Start of construction: First half of 2017
- Planned time of completion: First quarter of 2019
- The court operates in the building of the Szent István University temporarily.

The Gödöllő District Court uses the building jointly with the prosecutor's office. The authorisation and implementation plans relating to the alterations of the building were prepared in the summer of 2016, after which a public procurement was started for selecting the constructors. The procedure was closed and the contract was concluded in June 2017. The renovated building provides modern working conditions for the judicial employees and enables the provision of appropriate service to clients. The NOJ provides the funds necessary for the project in stages.

1.3.2.2. Érd District Court

- The new district court organisation will start its operation on 1 January 2019.
- Planned floor area: 2 990 m²
- Estimated cost: HUF 1,5 billion; the costs are shared with the prosecutor's office
- Deadline for preparation of the authorisation and implementation plans: Third quarter of 2018
- The NOJ established an internal project organisation to coordinate this complex project.
- Planned date of handover: First quarter of 2020

The Government ordered the establishment of the Érd District Court by amending Act CXXXIV of 2010 on the Naming, Headquarters and Determination of Area of Competence of Courts in 2015. There was no property of a size sufficient for the new court and the prosecutor's office to be established concurrently therewith, and consequently the only option was to construct a new building. In June 2016, the President of the NOJ made a request to the Government regarding the reservation of the funds preliminarily estimated at HUF 950 million encumbering the court in relation to the construction of the new property, contained in the remaining part of the Court Chapter not concerned by the commitment of 2015. By reserving the amount requested, the funding required to start the project was provided for. In 2016, by purchasing four apartment blocks and offering it to the state free of charge, the Municipality of Érd provided the area necessary for the construction. In 2016, the NOJ had a Viability Study prepared jointly with the Prosecutor-General's Office with regard to the plot offered, in relation to whether the planned building could be constructed on the property. The planning process started in May 2017 based on the Study Plan. 65 judicial employees will work in the new institution. For the term of the construction works, the district court will operate in a leased property from 1 January 2019, regarding which the consultations have already commenced. Expected time of completion of the project: first quarter of 2020.

1.3.2.3. Ráckeve District Court

- Address: H-2300 Ráckeve, Kossuth Lajos u. 25.
- Number of employees concerned: 16, including 4 judges.
- Planned floor area: 490 m²
- Estimated cost: HUF 300 million
- Based on the Cooperation Agreement between the NOJ and the Municipality of Ráckeve, the city provided a plot for the new building free of charge.
- The Government provided a HUF 169 million designated funding to the Municipality of Ráckeve for implementing the project. The project is conducted by the Municipality from the designated funds.
- Planned date of handover: End of 2019

In May 2016, in the amendment of Act CXXXIV of 2010 on the Naming, Headquarters and Determination of Area of Competence of Courts, the Government decided to maintain the Ráckeve District Court, but narrowed its area of competence down, having regard to the establishment of the Szigetszentmiklós District Court. The President of the NOJ and the mayor of Ráckeve made an agreement in September 2016 regarding that they would provide for the placement of the district court – having a reduced headcount – in a new building. The Municipality provided a plot of sufficient size free of charge for the construction of the new building estimated to have a floor area of 490 m²-re based on the planning programme compiled by the Technical Department of the BERC. The Municipality started to prepare for the planning jointly with the NOJ, using the funds provided by the Government. Based on the implementation plans expected to be completed by June 2018, we plan to finish the project and hand over the building in late 2019.

1.3.2.4. Szarvas District Court

- Address: H-5540 Szarvas, Deák Ferenc u. 1.
- Number of employees concerned: 20, including 4 judges
- Current floor area: 1 158 m²
- Planned floor area: 1 530 m²
- Estimated cost: HUF 960 million
- Planned time of completion: End of 2020
- The court operates in the building of the Szent István University temporarily.

After the preparation of the building authorisation and implementation plans, the public procurement for selecting the constructor was posted in 2016. This procedure, however, dragged on and it was not possible to start the renovation works according to the planned schedule. The Szarvas District Court was provided with a temporary place of operation in the form of university premises, which the employees occupied in the summer of 2016. The NOJ creates modern working conditions for the judicial employees and higher-quality client service through the renovation.

1.3.3. Multi-year projects started in 2017

1.3.3.1. Tapolca District Court

- Address: H-8300 Tapolca, Köztársaság tér 4.
- Number of employees concerned: 22, including 4 judges
- Current floor area: 767 m²
- Building used jointly with the prosecutor's office.
- Planned floor area: 1 100 m²
- Estimated cost: HUF 700 million; the costs are shared with the prosecutor's office
- Planned date of handover: First half of 2020

The court uses the deteriorated building of the Tapolca District Court jointly with the prosecutor's office. The planning programme necessary for the project relating to the full-scale renovation of the building was prepared in 2015 jointly with the prosecutor's office and the regional court. There are plans for the creation of 21st-century courts in the scope of a pilot project in three locations in the country based on the decision of the President of the NOJ. The three locations are the Tapolca, Kiszárda and Dunakeszi District Courts. In order for achieving the best possible results and creating a building operated via sustainable, green energy and furnished with state-of-the-art technical equipment, after a long period of engineering preparations, we initiated the posting of a nationwide open planning tender in the 2nd half of 2016. The outcome of the planning tender was announced and the tender works were presented in November 2017. The public procurement procedure – without prior publication – for concluding the planning contract with the winning tenderer is currently in progress. The NOJ will provide the funds necessary for the project from 2018, in a scheduled manner.

1.3.3.2. Balatonszemes Education Centre

- The current buildings will be demolished in the first quarter of 2018.
- The planned total floor area of the buildings planned to be constructed on the two plots is: 2 600 m²
- Estimated cost of the entire project: appr. HUF 1,5 billion
- Completion of the authorisation and implementation plans: July 2018
- Planned date of handover: End of 2019

In 2016, the NOJ took over the asset management of three pieces of property in Balatonszemes based on a trilateral agreement between the NOJ, the Curia and MNV Zrt. After that, the preparation for the creation of the training centre providing further locations for judicial trainings and the programme of the development based on the online needs survey performed by the NOJ and the workshop conducted in the subject. According to our aims, after demolishing the holiday houses located in the property that are in bad technical condition, two buildings – one intended primarily for trainings and the other for accommodation – will be constructed. The project is expected to end in late 2019.

1.3.3.3. Budapest District II and III Court

- Address: H-1035 Budapest, Miklós u. 2.
- Number of employees concerned: 126, including 36 judges
- Current floor area: 2 600 m²
- Floor area planned in the leased premises: appr. 4 700 m²

By early 2016, the court grew out the currently used Miklós Street property. In the absence of a property allowing for permanent placement, the court was temporarily placed in the building located at the address Budapest District III, Lajos utca 48-60. as a result of the efforts of the NOJ. The building is expected to be in a condition appropriate for occupation after the conclusion of the lease contract and the performance of the necessary alteration and development works, in the 4th quarter of 2018. The possibility of the permanent placement of the court is currently being examined.

1.4. Jablonszky Ferenc tender system

The aim of the internal tender system introduced in 2014 is to improve the experience of the clients of the courts and the working conditions of the employees, utilising the amounts that can be won through the tenders started in relation to the renovation subsidies. Based on the positive experiences, we can conclude that the tender system is very successful and it has become one of the most effective tools for location of the funds available in relation to the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ.

The tender system helps to appropriately identify basic development needs that are necessary but are frequently neglected compared to the larger-scale developments, and to remedy the deficiencies only observed locally by the users of the buildings. The tender system provides for equal opportunities between the courts, and rewards proactivity, preparedness and soundness. The manner of access to the funds improves the investment culture of the judicial organisation and increases the number of projects that are important to the participants and result in higher satisfaction through close cooperation. Based on the foregoing, the NOJ continued the tender system and expanded the scope of developments available via the tender amounts.

1.4.1. Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.

A HUF 600 million framework amount was offered in the scope of the 4th tender announced in the first half of 2016. There was a great deal of interest towards the funds provided for the

developments available in five topics. 183 tenders were submitted with a value of HUF 2 133 billion. We assessed the needs submitted based on the amount available, and in the end we announced 98 winning tenders for a total amount of HUF 630 million in the topics of the modernisation of heating, the replacement of external doors and windows, the modernisation of the electricity and fire alarm network and security technology development. The developments progressed as planned, and their final settlement and closing took place in June 2017.

1.4.2. Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.

Fulfilling the requirement of 'open, client-friendly, service-providing courts', in the 2nd half of 2016, we provided funds for the creation of client centres with a unified design that could be won via tendering. The new functions introduced in the courts will, according to our plans and following the example of the separation of the locations available for the clients and the working areas (having regard to security considerations) and of governmental customer service offices, result in modern accessibility to the courts and streamlined administration. The physical design of the client centres will be based on the Image Manual developed as the first joint project of the NOJ-MOME Strategic Partnership Agreement. A total of 16 winning tenders were submitted in the scope of the two-round tender, the estimated cost of implementation of which would amount to approximately HUF 250 million. In order for achieving the best possible outcome during the implementation of all projects and to identify and solve the various tasks arising (handling of case files, behavioural culture, etc.), the NOJ established a Working Group between the two rounds. The first client centres will be established at the Eger Regional Court and the Szigetszentmiklós District Court, and will be handed over in the first half of 2018. The survey and implementation of the projects of the other 25 locations will commence concurrently with this.

1.4.3. Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 6.

This two-round tender was announced in March 2017 in the topics of the modernisation of heating, the replacement of external doors and windows, the modernisation of the electricity network, improvement of the working environment and security technology development. 223 tenders were submitted in the scope of the tender with a total value of HUF 2,7 billion. The 56 winning tenderers may implement developments for a total amount of HUF 521 million. Most of the developments included in the tenders were completed by December 2017. The larger-scale works will be completed in the first half of 2018.

You can read more of the projects completed in the scope of the 4th, 5th and 6th Jablonszky Ferenc Tender in Annex III.1. broken down by court.

2. IT

It is impossible to overestimate the significance of IT development. The court of '21st-century' is all about continuous modernization. The future is 'digital court'. Our goal is to make courts accessible at any time from anywhere. This means that several services that used to be available only in person will become accessible from home. The courts are on the top within the state concerning online administration: the number of types of online cases increases year to year in line with statutory obligations. Of course, the transitional period presents a challenge to both the clients and the judicial employees. The clients are continuously informed, we help them if they encounter any difficulty and we continuously train our employees. The network of key case managers spans the entire country. The concept of the 'digital court' will, on the long term, mean more efficient and quicker administration and the streamlining of procedures.

2.1. Infrastructure

2.1.1. New assets

The expansion of online administration options requires the continuous development of the infrastructure. In this regard, the main priority is to seek out state-of-the-art IT solutions and to spread easily and simply accessible services. We continuously update the IT equipment of the courts in order to reduce the proportion of obsolete assets. In 2017, a total of 4 950 workstations, 1 880 monitors and 194 multifunctional printers were procured. Consequently, in the court IT system, at present, a total of 631 physical servers, 15 296 workstations (notebooks, desktop computers and thin clients) and 1 090 network assets provide the IT background regarding the entire country.

2.1.2. Development of the court IT network

400 new network devices were allocated to the courts and the server centre of NOJ in the reporting period. This sped up the connection among PCs in the network. Furthermore, the network has been assessed and this way any errors can be identified and remedied easily.

2.1.3. Operation of countrywide systems

In 2017, we continued to provide for the operation of the court network at the national level. The registry program keeping records of the cases, mailing, the storage space on the network, printing and malware protection are all services that are used by the users daily.

The procurements related to the updating of the equipment providing for the operation of the national systems and supporting the users and the rate of obsolete assets among the different types of equipment are shown in the table below:

Year of procurement	Number of workstations	Number of PCs	Number of notebooks	Proportion of assets to be replaced	Number of servers	Proportion of assets to be replaced
2011 or earlier	13 284	13 057	227	100,00%	626	100,00%
2012	509	509	0	96,17%	94	84,98%
2013	2 755	1 465	1 290	75,43%	230	48,24%
2014	2 522	1 615	907	56,44%	14	46,01%
2015	2 530	1 643	887	37,40%	41	39,46%
2016	4 465	3 652	813	27,2%	34	26,32%
2017	4 950	4 950	0	5,0%	0	53,00%
In total (2012-2017):	17 731	13 824	3 897	-	413	-

Preparation for the application of the new Criminal Procedural Code has started as a part of which the lines of the NOJ network were upgraded to 10fbps/10Gb bandwidth due to the expected increase of data traffic

2.1.4. Remote working

More and more judicial employees can use remote access that enables home office. Remote access also facilitates a swift intervention in case of system failures.

And more judicial employees have the option to access the network remotely, which makes working from home easier. Remote access also allows for rapid intervention in the case of a system malfunction.

2.2. Licences and software developments

2.2.1. Licences

In 2017, the following licences were purchased, renewed and kept in operation:

Anti-malware and firewall licences:

- Renewal of 12 700 Symantec anti-malware licences (SYMC PROTECTION SUITE ENTERPRISE EDITION 5.0 PER USER RENEWAL BASIC 12 MONTHS)
- Procurement of 800 new Symantec anti-malware licences (PROTECTION SUITE ENTERPRISE EDITION 5.0 PER USER BNDL MULTI LIC BASIC 12 MONTHS)
- 5 001 email filters (McAfee WESECE-AA-IA MFE Web&Email Protection Suite 1:1 BZ)
- Procurement of 7 Checkpoint firewall software licences for the NOJ
- 1 Protection Engine for NAS, Licence, 1-24 Terabytes + Software Maintenance, Tier 2, Medium Content

System support licences:

- 25 Licences for WinSvrCal 2012 SNGL,
- 25 Licences for WinSvrCal 2012 SNGL,
- Development and modification of forms for the General Form Completion Program (or by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'ÁNYK'),
- renewal of the contract relating to the software updates, patches and requested modifications of the national Integrated Economic Management System (or by its Hungarian abbreviation: 'GIIR'),
- renewal, upgrading and preparation of the NexonHR HR system for connection to the KIRA system,
- product support for the developments implemented in the scope of the EKOP Project.
- 50 VMware vSphere 6 Enterprise Plus for 1 processor - Virtualisation layer
- 50 Basic Support/Subscription VMware vSphere 6 Enterprise
- 5 Microsoft® Server Operating System Win Svr Std 2016 x 64 Hungarian
- 3 Microsoft® Server Operating System SQL Server Standard Edition 2016
- 2 Fortigate 3 Year cotermin UTM Bundle (8x5 FortiCare plus Application Control, IPS, AV, Botnet IP/Domain, Web Filtering and Antispam Services)
- 1 Fortigate support 3 year cotermin 8x5 FortiCare Contract

User licences:

- 1 Dexter iCorso
- 2 Creative Cloud Apps
- 1 Tenable Nessus Professional

2.2.2. Online administration

We started the preparation for the further expansion of online administration from 1 January 2018. The judicial systems are connected to the central electronic administration service that provides flexible, transparent and reliable data connection. The so-called ‘Company Gate’ service for business associations obligated to proceed by electronic means will be put into operation and replace the ‘Litigation Gate’ service used until now. We will also start the so-called ‘E-paper’ service shortly, which will significantly simplify the process of making submissions in certain groups of cases.

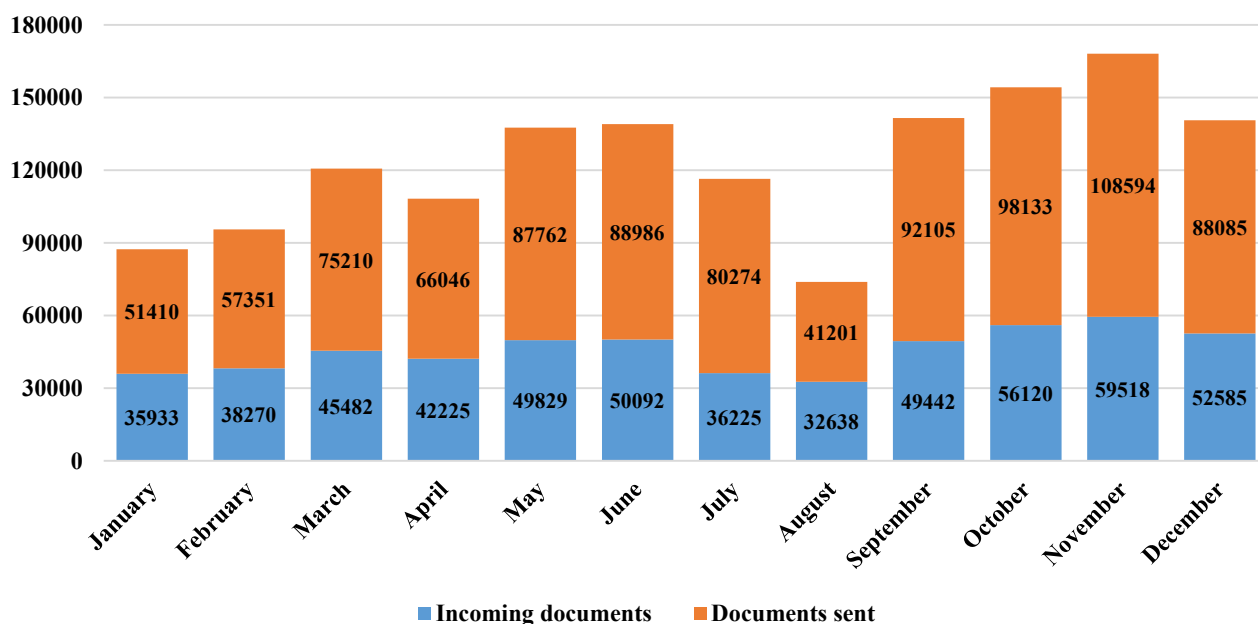
2.2.3. Online communication with the partner organisations

We created an application for accessing the registration cases of NGOs. Thanks to this application, prosecutors can exercise their powers regarding supervising the legality of operation of NGOs more easily. A separate application has been created for the inspection of the cases of registration of NGOs. Thanks to this prosecutors can exercise their right of statutory supervision more easily. We also developed an electronic viewing system in order to provide easier access to the data of bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings that have not been ordered in a final and binding decision yet. This makes it much easier for the authorised partner organisations to access the data concerned.

2.2.4. Expansion of electronic document traffic

The electronic data traffic of the courts takes place through the system of the NOJ. The speed of the pre-processing and forwarding of submissions depends on the performance of this system. The expansion of the scope of electronic procedures resulted in a significant increase of the number of online submissions sent to the courts. The following diagram shows the electronic document traffic of the courts that took place through the NOJ in 2017:

Electronic document traffic of courts in 2017



In 2017, after the update of the system, its performance and reliability improved by orders of magnitude. The submissions that accumulated due to the earlier shortage of capacity were processed by the new system in the span of a few days, which significantly contributed to the satisfaction of the clients and the increase of confidence in electronic proceedings.

2.2.5. Voice recognition software

Voice recognition software convert speech into editable text, which assists the preparation of rulings and minutes; if lesser time is spent with typewriting, working time can be utilized more efficiently. The President of the NOJ assigned the task of procuring and testing the voice recognition software to the President of the Zalaegerszeg Regional Court. In the 2nd half of 2017, the Zalaegerszeg Regional Court presented the Voice recognition software tested by it to all regional courts and regional courts of appeal, and it gathered the orders made by the regional courts and regional courts of appeal in order to assist them in the procurement.

2.2.6. Uniformisation of the Presidential Registration System

The Presidential Registration System is a web-based registration system keeping record of the presidential documents of the courts, which system was developed by the NOJ. During 2015 and 2016, it was introduced in the entire judicial organisation, including the Curia and the NOJ. The documents are easy to find and their movements are easy to track in the system. Data traffic is visible and can be examined in the entire country. The new accreditation of the system took place in the 2nd half of 2017. As a result of the update, the new framework system fully supports electronic correspondence with the public administration offices and partner organisations. The document handling regulations of the courts also expanded the scope of users of the system, and as a result, in 2017, the Economic Offices also started to use it.

2.2.7. Local IT developments, IT applications

Several IT developments took place at the local level of the courts, which developments facilitate the administration of justice, everyday administration, management and personal administration. These IT applications (so-called 'minor applications') are used to complement the centrally-developed applications (e.g. travel cost calculation program, program keeping record of entitlements, program for the registration of complaints, etc.) and can often be made appropriate for use across the country with some updates.

The NOJ keeps up-to-date records of the locally-developed applications based on the reports of the courts. One of the tasks of the Digital Starmap Working Group established in November 2017 will be to provide opinions and prepare usability studies regarding the minor applications contained in the NOJ's database.

2.3. The IT organisation

2.3.1. Headcount

In 2017, the number of persons responsible for IT tasks in the judicial organisation was 234, while the IT Department of the NOJ had 22 employees. The coordination of the development and other tasks arising as a result of the continuous increase of the number of electronic procedures is a continuous challenge for the central IT organisation of the NOJ. It is still necessary to involve IT professionals from regions other than the capital and external employees working under a service contract. It is difficult to replace developers and IT professionals leaving the organisation due to the higher salaries typical of the competitive sector and the increasing shortage of IT professionals in the country.

2.3.2. Training

The further professional training of employees is a priority task. In 2017, 162 employees attended trainings in the following topics: configuration and operation of network assets, backup system training and malware protection training.

3. Management of the judicial organisation

3.1. Chapter-level management

The NOJ fulfils two roles with regard to management. On the one hand, it deals with the management tasks of the NOJ as an institution, and on the other hand, it is responsible for the central control of the management of the entire judicial institution system. The NOJ plans the budget of the chapter and ensures that the funds are distributed among the institutions in a proportionate manner. The NOJ managed to maintain balanced liquidity conditions in the chapter throughout the year. The management of the institutions is continuously monitored and tracked in order to ensure that the financial situation of the institutions remain balanced, which is an essential requirement for smooth daily operation.

In order to facilitate efficient management, the NOJ requires the independently-managed bodies to use uniform accounting methods and a regulatory system founded on uniform principles, and it ensures that the data reports set out in the legislation be available with appropriate professional content.

In 2017, the following were given priority in the chapter-level management: appropriate provision of the costs increasing as a result of the entry into force of the new Civil Procedural Code, the separate Public Administration Procedural Code, the new Criminal Procedural Code and the new Statistics Act, maintenance of the level and repairs of the IT equipment, and renovation of the obsolete buildings, implementing a modern infrastructure.

3.2. Budget of the Courts Chapter in 2017

The funds necessary for the operation of the justice system are set out in the budget act for the year and are provided on the one hand by the Parliament in the form of the budgetary support, and on the other hand, the Courts Chapter also has a small own income. The Parliament provided the following appropriations for the Courts Chapter in Act XC of 2016 Central Budget of Hungary for the Year 2017:

Appropriations for 2017 (million HUF)	
Support	96 845,2
Income	2 258,0
Expense	99 103,2

The amount of the support appropriation for 2017 was HUF 6 316,2 million higher than the amount of the support provided in 2016. We will examine in more detail the tasks for which the budgetary surplus provides funds later.

The support appropriation for 2017 was as follows, also having regard to the additional funds provided mid-year by government decrees:

Change of the support appropriation for 2017 by item (million HUF)	
Original support appropriation for 2017	96 845,2
Additional mid-year funds in 2017	9 255,1
including:	
Additional funds provided for increase of the minimum wage and minimum guaranteed wage	619,6

Change of the support appropriation for 2017 by item (million HUF)	
Additional appropriation provided for compensation in 2017	229,6
Creation of jobs in relation to the execution of sentences, measures, certain coercive measures and detention for administrative offences pursuant to Gov. Decree No. 1601/2017. (VIII.31.)	161,0
Appropriation provided for the implementation of the provisions of Act LXXXVII of 2017 on the Amendment of Act LXVIII of 1997 on the Service Relationship of Judicial Employees and Act CLXIV of 2011 on the Legal Status of the Prosecutor General, Prosecutors and other Employees of the Prosecutor's Office and the Career of Prosecutors	7 945,9
The additional support provided in relation to the establishment of Administrative and Labour Courts pursuant to Gov. Decree No. 1766/2017 (XI.7)	297,0
The additional support necessary for the performance of defence administration tasks in 2017 pursuant to Gov. Decree No. 1464/2017 (VII.25)	2,0
Modified budgetary support in 2017	106 100,3

From among the additional funds detailed in the table,

- the additional funds provided for increase of the minimum wage and minimum guaranteed wage
- and the additional funds provided for compensation in 2017
- and the reform of the salary system of judicial employees were transferred to the budget of the chapter under an accounting and repayment obligation, which obligations the National Office for the Judiciary fulfilled.

3.3. Own incomes

The amount of the original appropriation has not changed since 2012 and it was set at HUF 2 258 million in 2017, too. The following table shows the payment of the institutional income in the years 2016 and 2017.

Incomes and funds carried over from the previous appropriation (million HUF)		
Incomes	2016	2017
Operating income	1 198,1	1 457,2
Public authority income	2 668,7	2 717,3
Accumulation income	2 234,2	2 817,8
Use of funds carried over from the previous year's appropriation	6 442,7	6 365,9
from this, the amount subject to obligations	6 438,8	6 254,5
from this, the amount not subject to obligations	3,9	111,4
In total	12 543,7	13 358,2

In 2017, the payment of **public authority incomes** was in line with those realised in the previous year. Significant changes were experienced with regard to operating and accumulation incomes. The payment of **operating incomes** increased by 21,6% and the payment of accumulation incomes by 26,1% as compared to the previous year.

The increase of the accumulation incomes may be justified with the sum provided to the chapter for the financing of the costs arising in relation to **mass immigration** based on the support contract concluded with the Ministry of Interior, the amount of which was HUF 811,9 million in 2017.

3.4. Expenditure appropriations

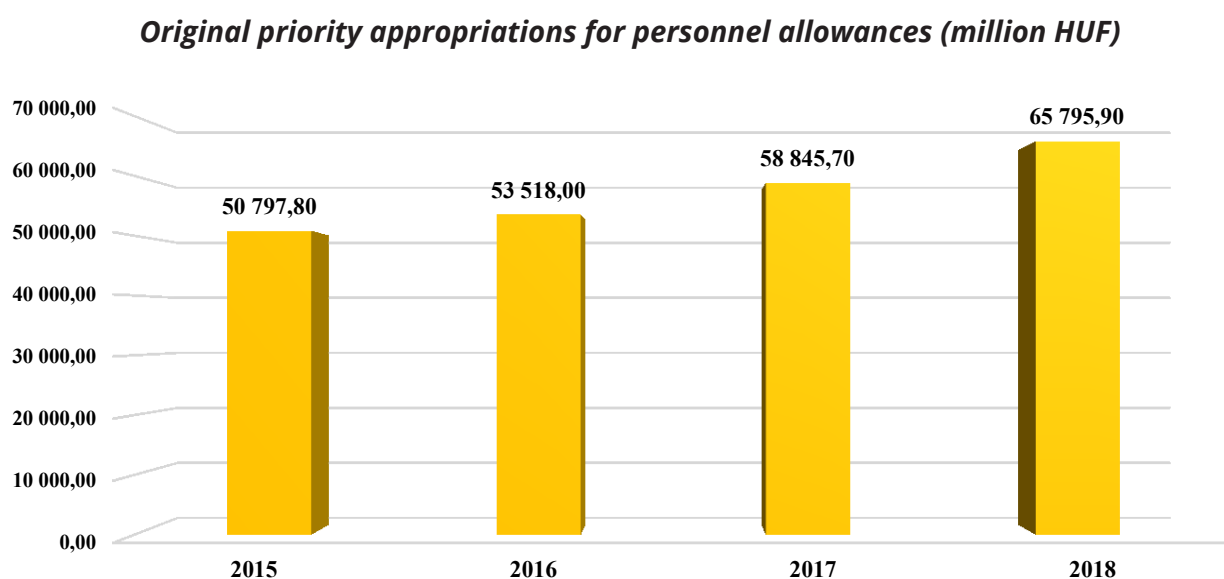
The following table shows the expenditure appropriations of the Courts and the Curia broken down by priority appropriation.

Original expenditure appropriations (million HUF)	
Description of priority appropriation	Original appropriation for 2017
Personnel allowances	58 845,70
Contributions and social contribution tax encumbering the employers	15 013,70
Material expenditure	16 583,40
Financial allowances to persons under care	15,00
Projects	3 734,50
Renovations	266,00
In total	94 458,30

The table clearly shows that the item with the highest amount within the expenditure appropriation was 'personnel allowances', which constituted 62% of the appropriations.

3.4.1. Personnel allowances

In the Courts Chapter, the amount of personnel allowances has been increasing from year to year, as shown in the diagram below presenting its changes between 2015 and 2018.



The personnel allowances provided to the employees are planned and paid within the priority appropriation row 'personnel allowances', which includes the liabilities that are due to the em-

ployees as set out in the Judges Act and the Service Relationship Act, and the payments falling within the scope of external personnel allowances are also planned here.

Priority appropriation of personnel allowances (million HUF)			
Description	2016	2017	Change compared to 2016
Original appropriation	53 518,0	58 845,7	+10,0%
Modified appropriation	57 506,0	69 631,0	+21,1%
Financial settlement	56 430,6	68 259,9	+21,0%

The original appropriation for 2017 is HUF 58 845,7 which is HUF 5 327,7 higher as compared to the previous year. The budgetary surplus of 2017 provides coverage for the additional payments necessary due to the salary increase resulting from the 2×5% increase of the base salary of judges implemented on 1 October 2016 and 1 January 2017 as part of the introduction of the judicial career, as well as the bonus increases arising simultaneously with the increase of the base salary, the difference in cafeteria benefits and jubilee bonuses.

The increase of the modified appropriation for 2017 (18,3% as compared to the original appropriation and 21,7% as compared to the previous year) is justified by the additional amounts provided by the Ministry of National Economy in 2017 and the appropriation provided by the Government for

- covering the additional costs arising from the increase of the minimum wage and guaranteed minimum wage in 2017,
- the change of the salary system of the employees of the prosecutor's office and judicial employees in 2017,
- the creation of jobs related to the execution of measures, certain coercive measures and detention for administrative offences
- the 2017 stage of the establishment of the administrative and labour courts.

The appropriations transferred from the statutory row 'Operation of the Justice System' also increased the modified appropriation for 2017.

In addition to the modified appropriation, the change of the salary system is also evidenced by the 21,0% increase of payment. The realised salary expenditure set out in law payable to the employees based on the Judges Act and the Service Relationship Act was HUF 54 941,9 within the personnel allowances.

Under the title 'personnel allowances for employees in service relationship', a further HUF 12 052,1 payment was made, which was used, among others, for stand-by and substitution bonuses, overtime, jubilee bonuses, daily fees, and transportation cost reimbursement, and within the framework of the cafeteria system, for the reimbursement of costs associated with the person.

The amount paid for external personnel allowances was HUF 1 265,9 million, which mainly consists of the service charges of the non-professional judges, experts and witnesses participating in the administration of justice, court proceedings and trainings.

3.4.2. Contributions and social contribution tax encumbering the employers

The **original appropriation** for the year 2017 contains an additional HUF 1 448 million as compared to the original appropriation for the previous year, which amount provides the coverage

for the contributions associated with the salary increase resulting from the 2×5% increase of the base salary of judges related to personnel allowances, as already touched upon.

Priority appropriation of contributions encumbering the employers (million HUF)			
Description	2016	2017	Change compared to 2016
Original appropriation	13 565,7	15 013,7	+10,7%
Modified appropriation	16 769,5	17 070,9	+1,8%
Financial settlement	15 783,9	15 975,0	+1,2%

The difference between the modified appropriation and the original appropriation is justified on the one hand

- by the contributions associated with the appropriations granted (under the authority of the Ministry of National Economy and the Government) during the year as coverage for the additional personnel expenses as detailed in the Section 'Personnel Allowances', and on the other hand
- the reduction of the rate of the social contribution tax.

Pursuant to Act CLVI of 2011 on the Amendment of Certain Taxation Laws and Other Laws Related Thereto, the rate of the social contribution tax was reduced from 27% to 22% as of 1 January 2017. The annual budget of the chapter for the year 2017 adopted by the Parliament in April 2016 was calculated for a 27% social contribution tax. The management of the savings resulting from the reduction of the contribution is regulated by Gov. Decree No. 467/2016. (XII.23), which provides for a payment obligation identical to the amount of the saving for the budgetary bodies.

The amount of the annual payment obligation is HUF 2 562,6 which must be paid to the Hungarian State Treasury from priority appropriation 'Other operating expenses'. The appropriation necessary for making the payment was transferred from the priority appropriation 'Contributions encumbering the employers' to the priority appropriation 'Other operating expenses'.

3.4.3. Material expenditure

The **original appropriation** for material expenditure is HUF 16 583,4 million, which represents a HUF 1 113,1 million increase as compared to the appropriation for the year 2016.

Priority appropriation of material expenditure (million HUF)			
Description	2016	2017	Change compared to 2016
Original appropriation	15 470,3	16 583,4	+7,2%
Modified appropriation	15 685,5	16 816,5	+7,2%
Financial settlement	14 789,4	15 504,2	+4,8%

The 7,2% budgetary surplus provides coverage for the **following costs falling into the scope of local administration of the courts:**

- costs related to the current and future security guarding tasks of the court buildings due to the mandatory minimal hourly rate set out in the government decree specified in the Asset Protection Act;
- payment of the experts' and interpreters' fees falling into the scope of material expenditure for contributors to the justice system and persons providing professional

- assistance due to the different market situations and the unforeseen costs,
- additional costs arising in relation to the new Act on Court Experts.

In addition, it provides coverage for the **training tasks** related to the entry into force of the new Civil Procedural Code, Public Administration Procedural Code, new Criminal Procedural Code and new Statistics Act **falling into the scope of the administrative tasks** of the National Office for the Judiciary.

In 2017, the amount **paid** was HUF 15 504,2 million, which was 4,8% higher than the amount realised in 2016. The expenses related to court procedures were paid in full by saving up funds as the situation allowed.

3.4.4. Accumulation expenditure

The accumulation expenditure of 2017 is shown in the below table in comparison to the 2016 amounts.

Appropriations for accumulation expenditure (million HUF)						
Description	Projects			Renovations		
	2016	2017	Change compared to 2016	2016	2017	Change compared to 2016
Original appropriation	317,0	3 734,5	1 078,1%	266,0	266,0	0,0%
Modified appropriation	6 096,8	8 012,8	31,4%	4 245,2	3 213,9	-24,3%
Financial settlement	4 587,2	4 439,0	-3,2%	2 357,1	2 543,3	+7,9%

In 2017, the **original appropriation** for Projects increased by HUF 3 417,5 million compared to 2016. The budgetary surplus appearing in the priority appropriation line provides the funding of the full-scale transition to electronic administration. The original appropriation for 'Renovations' in 2017 is identical to that of the previous years.

The change of the **modified appropriation** compared to the original appropriation is justified by the transfer made to the institutions at the expense of the row of the law titled 'Justice Projects' in the scope of the Jablonszky Ferenc Tender and the Wágner Gyula Programme initiated by the NOJ. The utilisation of the amounts carried over from 2016 increase the modified appropriation of 2017.

In the accumulation expenditure appropriation, we can see an appropriation that was not fulfilled by the end of the year temporarily due to the multi-year projects in progress. One of the reasons of this is that in many cases, during the planning (mainly due to the historical significance of the buildings) and the construction, it becomes necessary to perform works and surveys extending the preliminarily forecast time of implementation, and consequently the financial settlement of the remuneration for the construction takes place later. The appropriation whose financial settlement did not take place is fully encumbered by a commitment in the case of the priority appropriation 'Projects', while a HUF 3,23 million freely usable amount was carried over within the priority appropriation 'Renovations' under the budgetary heading of 'Courts'.

3.4.5. Other operating expenses

In the row 'Other operating expenses', the payment obligations for the supports falling under 'International Obligations and Supports within the State Budget' and the savings arising from the decrease of the social contribution tax – as set out in Section 3.4.2 – are realised, which justifies the significant increase of the modified appropriation for the year 2017 as compared to the previous year.

Priority appropriation of other operating expenses (million HUF)		
Description	2016	2017
Original appropriation	-	-
Modified appropriation	15,8	2 779,1
Financial settlement	15,7	2 777,8

3.5. Appropriations managed by chapter

The size and changes of the chapter-managed appropriations specified in the budget acts for 2016 and 2017 are presented in the below table.

Chapter-managed appropriations (million HUF)				
Name of appropriation	Original appropriation for 2016	Original appropriation for 2017	Modified appropriation for 2016	Modified appropriation for 2017
Reconstruction of the building of the Budapest-Environs Regional Court	1 005,1	0,0	11 744,6	991,0
Projects of the justice system	7 083,0	3 083,0	7 898,8	7 094,8
Operation of the justice system	1 561,9	1 561,9	216,3	15,0
In total	9 650,0	4 644,9	19 859,7	8 100,8

3.5.1. Reconstruction of the building of the Budapest-Environs Regional Court

The chapter-managed appropriation related to the funding of the building reconstruction tasks of the Budapest-Environs Regional Court did not have an original appropriation, however, due to the amount carried over from the previous year, the modified appropriation changed to HUF 991 million, of which amount HUF 55,3 million was paid in 2017.

3.5.2. Projects of the justice system

We can see a significant change with regard to the appropriation 'Projects of the justice system', given that the amount available this year was HUF 4 000 million lower, which represents a 56,47% decrease compared to the previous year. The chapter-managed appropriation 'Projects of the justice system' serves for coverage for the projects and renovations falling within the Chapter. The following table compares the appropriation transfers related to projects provided to the institutions until 31 December in the year 2016 and 2017.

Changes of the chapter-managed appropriation row 'Projects of the justice system' (million HUF)		
Subject of funding	2016	2017
Appropriation provided for funding the expenses of institutional projects and renovation tasks	3 024,8	5 718,3
In total	3 024,8	5 718,3

The comparison tables show that in this year, the appropriation provided to institutions for funding their expenses relating to projects and renovations was HUF 2 693,5 million than in the previous year. The higher amount of appropriation provided in 2017 resulted from the high amount carried over from the year 2016.

4. Procurements, projects

The procurements and projects of the chapter were implemented with regard to the tasks of the judiciary organisation set out in the law and the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ. In order to maintain the conditions of electronic correspondence, a large scope and quantity of IT assets was procured in the scope of priority procurements at the courts with the assistance of the NOJ in 2017.

In the scope of the Wagner Gyula Programme announced by the President of the NOJ, the institutions could modernise their technically obsolete institutional infrastructure and facilitate the more economical maintenance of the court buildings by implementing the procurements.

In 2017, among others, the following institutions were granted appropriations for funding the expenses incurred in connection to the tasks related to the modernisation of heating, replacement of external doors and windows, internal renovations, replacement of doors and windows, ex-post insulation and building reconstruction works implemented in the scope of the Wagner Gyula Programme:

- Budapest-Capital Regional Court: HUF 180 million
- Debrecen Regional Court: HUF 118 million
- Kecskemét Regional Court: HUF 340 million
- Zalaegerszeg Regional Court: HUF 50,2 million
- Gyula Regional Court: HUF 30,5 million
- Szeged Regional Court: HUF 148,8 million
- Eger Regional Court: HUF 81,5 million

In 2017, in the scope of the Jablonszky Ferenc Tender announced by the President of the NOJ, 21 institutions were granted in total HUF 490 million funding for the expenses of the modernisation of building energetics, security technology and working environment development and the establishment of client centres with a unified design.

4.1. Operation of the justice system

This appropriation serves as coverage, on the one hand, for the statutory salaries, contributions and allowances under central management related to vacant job positions, and on the other hand, the unforeseen personnel, material and other expenditures within the chapter. The following table shows the more significant transfers provided to the institutions broken down by subject-matter of the funding.

Changes of the chapter-managed appropriation row 'Operation of the justice system' (million HUF)		
Subject-matter of the provision of the appropriation	2016	2017
Appropriation based on legislation or regulation (e.g. vacant job position salary, unfitness due to medical reasons, service court)	659,6	1 313,0
Provision of appropriations in relation to central administrative tasks (e.g. allowances of IT professionals responsible for central administrative tasks)	35,9	73,3
Provision of appropriations in relation to the 'Retention Programme' (e.g. support of self-training for judges, recognition of service time, cost reimbursement for clothing)	7 132,3	7 786,4
Provision and transfer of appropriations in relation to tenders (e.g. Court Mediation tender, Use Your Language Skills tender)	8,8	14,3

4.2. Results of efficient management in 2017

After a long period of preparations, in January 2017, all institutions of the Courts Chapter successfully connected to the **central payroll system** of the Hungarian State Treasury.

The salary system of judicial employees was reformed in 2017. The application of the new, grade-based salary system results in a larger degree of responsibility on the employer's side, while it also provides a larger degree of discretion with regard to the determination of performance-proportionate salary and salary management. The amendment of Act LXVIII of 1997 on the Service Relationship of Judicial Employees was preceded by a long period of preparations with the assistance of the National Office for the Judiciary. In 2017, the Ministry of National Economy provided the framework amount requested by the chapter from provisions, which allowed for the establishment of competitive salaries that are more in line with the market conditions.

Thanks to the monitoring activity of the Control Department of the NOJ and the KIR Control system, the **institutional management became significantly more efficient**, as a result of which liquidity problems could be prevented. Thanks to this, a significant portion of the institutions ended 2017 with savings, contributing to the provision of end-of-the-year bonuses and clothing cost reimbursements to the employees in the framework of the Retention Programme.

4.3. Measures supporting management

Within the chapter, the establishment of a process aimed at making management more reasonable with regard to the use of public funds can be deemed successful if it results in the efficient use of the regulators influencing management, if possible in all regards. In 2017, such achievements include the following:

- The task set out as a future goal in the 2016 summary – further development of the Control System used by all institutions of the chapter by creating the Assets Module and integrating the Ledger and Financial Module – was extended to the institutions in the 2nd half of the year.
- The Management Department of the NOJ prepared the management analysis of the institutions for the 1st to 4th and 1st to 9th months of 2017 this year too, in order to assess the financial situation of the institutions so that the court leaders can get an overview on the management of the organisation system during the year.
- Separate transaction codes were introduced for the priority cases (mass immigration, so-called 'mega-litigations' with a large number of defendants) based on central instructions in order for the priority monitoring of the costs incurred in such cases.

4.4. Preparation of the 2018 budget

In line with the practice of the previous years, consultations regarding the budgetary needs for the year 2018 commenced with the representatives of the Ministry of National Economy in April.

The following additional budgetary needs were submitted with respect to the year 2018:

- additional costs resulting from the increase of the base salary of judges as part of the judicial career,
- additional costs related to mandatory paygrades and mandatory minimum wages,
- the additional costs resulting from the new criminal procedural code and the entry into force of the act on the new civil procedural code and the separate public administration procedural code, and
- the costs of operation of the remote hearing equipment necessary for establishing the material conditions of mandatory minute-keeping via video and audio recording were also submitted,
- the additional costs resulting from the need for an increased IT professional headcount due to the increasing number of electronic procedures.

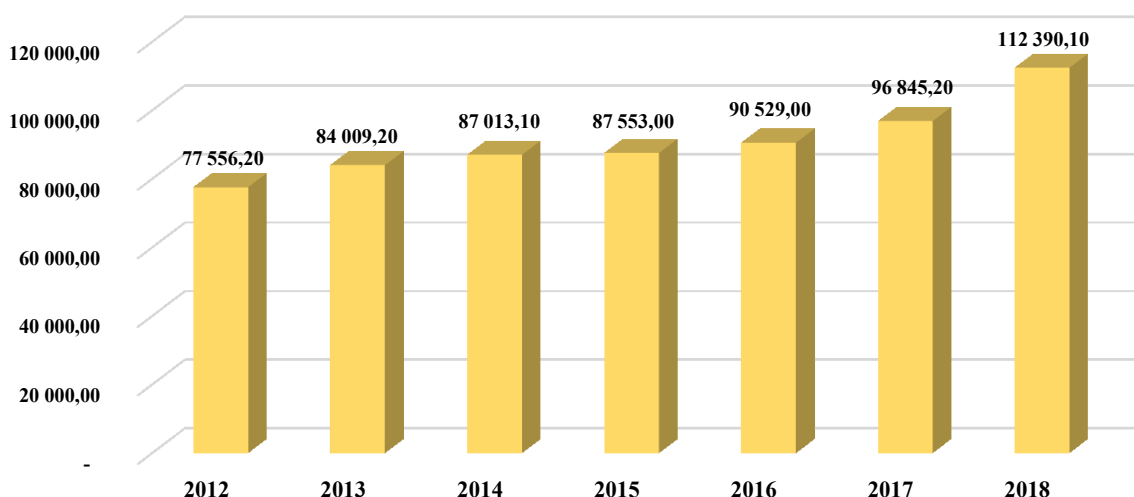
The NOJ successfully presented the foregoing to the Government, as a result of which, the base salary of judges will increase by a further 5% from 1 January 2018 pursuant to the already-adopted budget act for 2018.

While the budget of the chapter increased by HUF 6 316,2 million from 2016 to 2017, the budget of the chapter for the year 2018 is HUF 15 544,9 million higher as compared to 2017, which surplus also covers the funding provided for the additional needs presented.

The NOJ conducted negotiations with regard to the budget with all institutions and with the involvement of the presidents and economic managers in 2017 too. The negotiations progressed along a structured system, and all professional areas of the NOJ having a responsibility in the chapter participated. Upon the closing of the negotiations, the 2018 budget of the institutions was determined having regard to their needs, in accordance with the practice of the previous years.

The following diagram shows the changes of the budgetary support of the Courts Chapter, which has increased by more than HUF 34 833,9 since 2012.

Budgetary support of the Courts Chapter (million HUF) between 2012-2018



Future goals and tasks:

- Continuation of the priority projects – BERC, Eger Regional Court, Szeged Regional Court and District Court – and provision of the funding necessary therefor.
- Seeking out further court buildings meeting the criteria of the KEHOP notice.
- Starting the Balatonszemes Training Centre project by demolishing the current buildings.
- Coordination and development of the minor applications of the courts.
- Procurement of IT assets meeting the requirements of the modern age and facilitating effective working for the judges.
- Maintaining the solvency of the institutions.
- More effective support regarding the problems of the institutions arising with respect to accounting.

PART IV – INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The main results of the NOJ in 2017 concerning the integrity of the judicial organization, the transparency of the administration of justice and of the administrative work and in the field of the consistency and control of the administrative work:

- In cooperation with the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, the NOJ elaborated procedural protocols and technical supporting materials concerning the opportunities for removing illegal contents from the Internet that could harm the personality rights of the judges.
- The IT Security Control System Working Group started its operation.
- Compared to the previous years, in 2017, owing to the new improvements, the security of the working judges and other judicial employees and also of the clients significantly improved in the judicial facilities.
- Two new professional networks started their operation:
 - The secretary judge division of the European Law Advisors Network
 - The national coach network of the judicial organization
- The President of the NOJ issued 4 new regulations (normative instructions) and 7 new guidelines in 2017 and due to the intensive changes of the judicial legislation, 19 policies and 2 guidelines have been amended.
- The trainings on ethics and anti-corruption were performed continuously and according to the plans for the whole staff.
- The NOJ assessed the possible integrity risks arising in connection with the utilization of the judicial properties, buildings and rooms and set out the aspects that need to be taken into consideration to eliminate these risks.

1. Measures for the improvement of the integrity of the courts

The President of the NOJ, just like in the previous years, introduced several new measures in 2017 for the improvement of the integrity of the judicial organization. The framework and the details of this work were ensured by the Integrity Policy (NOJ instruction no. 6/2016 (V.31.)) and the risk evaluation prepared by all courts at the end of 2016, beyond the generally applicable legal requirements. Also the analyses of the annual integrity assessments of the Hungarian State Audit Office provided important aspects.

One of the most important objectives of 2017 was to act to ensure the independence of the judges, to ensure the administration of justice free of any external or internal influence, with all available legal opportunity against verbal or physical attacks aimed at the judges concerning their professional work and against contents on the Internet. For this purpose the NOJ, in cooperation with the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, elaborated procedural protocols and regularly updated technical supporting materials concerning the opportunities of removing illegal contents from websites that harm the personality rights of the judges. The information also contained practical guides that have been regularly published in the intranet. The court presidents reviewed and if it proved to be necessary, improved the security of the judicial buildings and the internal policies for ensuring the rules of conduct in the courtrooms.

The appointed responsible persons receive, analyse and evaluate the integrity-related reports continuously, participate in the investigation and, if necessary, make suggestions for the appropriate measures. If contacted by the judicial leaders or by their colleagues, the responsible persons provide a standpoint concerning the arisen integrity-related matters and possible risks. If the enquiry concerns the whole organization, then the opinion of the Judicial Integrity Working group shall be obtained in advance.

STEPS TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE COURTS INTEGRITY in 2017	
January 2017	The Judicial Integrity Working group continued the analysing, evaluating and summarizing work to create unified and transparent case allocation procedures that was started in 2016. The final objective of this work is to create a case allocation protocol that can be applied throughout the country.
	The trainings on ethics and anti-corruption take place continuously and according to the plan for the whole staff at the courts. The organizing and coordinating tasks of these trainings are performed by the appointed persons responsible for integrity-related matters but also the colleagues from the Agency for the Protection of the Constitution participate as lecturers.
February 2017	The NOJ assessed the possible integrity risks arising in connection with the utilization of judicial properties, buildings and rooms and set out the aspects that need to be taken into consideration to eliminate these risks. The attention of the judicial leaders has been brought to these risks and preventive measures.
	With a view to the elevated risk, the NOJ elaborated the detailed rules of the Integrity Policy for the hosting of external contact persons and the complete implementation of these rules were in the focus.
March 2017	The amendment of the internal norms and policies has started (and still underway) that were concerned by the changes in the Governmental decree no. 370/2011 (XII.31.) on the internal control system of the budgetary organizations and on the internal control.
May 2017	For the further strengthening of the integrity of the judicial organization and for mapping the new tendencies of the recent period, the NOJ requested the judges to fill in another questionnaire that was supplemented with some new aspects.
	The colleagues of the Agency for the Protection of the Constitution performed an internal integrity training for the colleagues of the NOJ.
June and July 2017	The NOJ and the courts participated, just like in the previous years, in the integrity survey of the Hungarian National Audit Office for public institutions in 2017.
August 2017	The information material of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority under the title "Integrity" at the central intranet site of the NOJ concerning the opportunities for the removal of illegal contents harming the personality rights of judges and judiciary employees and concerning the related practical guidance.
September 2017	The colleague of the NOJ responsible for integrity matters and several judges participated in the judge symposium held on 27 September 2017 at the headquarters of Counter Terrorism Centre.

**STEPS TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE INTEGRITY
OF THE COURTS INTEGRITY in 2017**

November 2017	On 27 November 2017 a security awareness training was held by the colleagues of the Agency for the Protection of the Constitution for the NOJ employees.
December 2017	The Constitutional Court rendered its decision on the constitutional complaint filed concerning NOJ instruction no. 6/2016 (V. 31.) on the Integrity Policy.
	A public conference was held on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the signing of the common Declaration with the title "Cooperation of the state organizations against corruption". The NOJ organized the conference and the signing parties participated at this occasion.

2. Tools of the judicial administration

All the administrative tools of the judicial organization are aimed at ensuring that all decisions are rendered after an inclusive and detailed preparation, aimed at ensuring that the efficiency of the previous measure and its effects can be monitored and at ensuring efficient, timely and high quality administration of justice and the fulfilment of the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ and the operative objectives of the judicial system. The realization of this goal is facilitated by e.g. the regulations and guidance created by the President of the NOJ but also by other tools, such as pilot programs, networks, workshops, meetings and working groups.

2.1. The regulations (instructions) and recommendations of the President of the National Office for the Judiciary

The President of the NOJ issued 4 new regulations (normative instructions) and 7 new guidelines in 2017 and due to the intensive changes of the judicial legislation, 19 policies and 2 guidelines have been amended.

Regulations:

- NOJ Instruction no. 3/2017. (II. 21.) on the utilization order of the appropriation in Chapter no. VI. - Courts
- NOJ Instruction no. 8/2017. (VII. 13.) on the Legal consultation Network in European law of secretary judges
- NOJ Instruction no. 12/2017. (IX. 29.) on the forms in judicial procedures and for the judicial administration
- NOJ Instruction no. 13/2017. (IX. 29.) on the operation of the working groups

Amendments of regulations:

- NOJ Instruction no. 1/2017. (I. 24.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 6/2012. (IV. 13.) on the recognition of the professional activities of the judges and judicial employees
- NOJ Instruction no. 2/2017. (II. 8.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 11/2013. (XII. 31.) on the By-laws of the National Office for the Judiciary
- NOJ Instruction no. 4/2017. (IV. 11.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 9/2016. (X. 17.) on the Legal consultation Network in European law
- NOJ Instruction no. 5/2017. (IV. 28.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 14/2012. (X. 18.) on the national defence and civil and emergency recovery organization of the courts and of the National Office for the Judiciary, on their main tasks and on the control of these tasks

- NOJ Instruction no. 6/2017. (V. 31.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 10/2014. (VII. 11.) on the registry of persons with limited legal capacity and of preliminary statements
- NOJ Instruction no. 7/2017. (VII. 13.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 3/2016. (II. 29.) on the regulation of hiring trainee judges
- NOJ Instruction no. 9/2017. (VII. 24.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 15/2012. (X. 18.) on the regulation of the national defence, civil and emergency recovery planning tasks of the courts and of the National Office for the Judiciary
- NOJ Instruction no. 10/2017. (IX. 11.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 12/2012. (X. 1.) on the registry of deliveries on court bulletins
- NOJ Instruction no. 11/2017. (IX. 11.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 17/2012. (X. 18.) on the rules of information provision concerning extraordinary and other events
- NOJ Instruction no. 14/2017. (X. 20.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 13/2016. (XII. 22.) on the execution of the courts' tasks concerning the publication of the Collection of Judicial Decisions
- NOJ Instruction no. 15/2017. (XI. 24.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 6/2015. (XI. 30.) on the court administration
- NOJ Instruction no. 16/2017. (XI. 30.) on the amendment of certain NOJ Instructions due to the changes in Act LXVIII of 1997 on the service relationship of judicial employees
- NOJ Instruction no. 17/2017. (XI. 30.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 5/2013. (VI. 25.) on economic management of the courts and of the National Office for the Judiciary
- NOJ Instruction no. 18/2017. (XII. 20.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 8/2012. (IV. 25.) on the activities of the courts and of the National Office for the Judiciary concerning the information provision to the media and on the media section of the central website of the judicial organization
- NOJ Instruction no. 19/2017. (XII. 28.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 12/2012. (X. 1.) on the registry of the deliveries by public announcements
- NOJ Instruction no. 20/2017. (XII. 29.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 6/2015. (XI. 30.) on the court administration
- NOJ Instruction no. 21/2017. (XII. 29.) on the amendment of certain NOJ Instructions due to new procedural codes
- NOJ Instruction no. 22/2017. (XII. 29.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 17/2014. (XII. 23.) on the uniform document handling of the courts
- NOJ Instruction no. 23/2017. (XII. 29.) on the amendment of NOJ Instruction no. 5/2013. (VI. 25.) on the management of the courts and of the National Office for the Judiciary

Recommendations:

- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 1/2017. (I. 17.) on the handling of vacation days of judicial leaders, judges and judicial employees
- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 2/2017. (II. 21.) on the structure and content of the information sheet to be prepared by the court chairperson for the national plenary meeting of the judges
- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 3/2017. (VII. 21.) on the regulation for the procurements of the Curia, the regional courts of appeal and the regional courts
- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 4/2017. (IX. 21.) on the security regulation for the protection of qualified information for the Curia, the regional courts of appeal and the regional courts
- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 5/2017. (X. 20.) on the structure and content of the report to be prepared by the leaders of the criminal law divisions and of the civil-economic-labour law divisions

- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 6/2017. (X. 20.) on the structure and content of the report to be prepared by the chairperson of the district courts
- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 8/2017. (XII. 20.) on the structure and content of the report to be prepared by the regional leaders of the public administration law divisions and of the labour law divisions

Amendments of Recommendations:

- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 7/2017. (XII. 20.) on the amendment of certain NOJ Presidential Recommendations due to the changes in Act LXVIII of 1997 on the service relationship of judicial employees
- NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 9/2017. (XII. 20.) on the amendment of certain NOJ Presidential Recommendations due to the new procedural codes

In 2017 two new regulations and 4 new recommendations constituted a significant move towards the realization of strategic goals.

NOJ Instruction no. 8/2017. (VII. 13.) on the secretary Judge Division of the European Law Advisors Network facilitates the continuous supply of specialized consultant judges familiar with the EU law and with the cases of the EU General Court and of the European Court of Human Rights.

NOJ Instruction no. 12/2017. (IX. 29.) on the forms in judicial procedures and for the judicial administration regulates the preparation of the unified structure and content of the forms used by the courts and the availability of such forms, thus facilitating the drafting of judicial documents in line with the new procedural codes.

NOJ Presidential Recommendation no. 2/2017. (II. 21.) on the structure and content of the information sheet to be prepared by the court chairperson for the national plenary meeting of the judges and the NOJ Presidential Recommendations 5/2017. (X. 20.), 6/2017. (X. 20.) and 8/2017. (XII. 20.) for certain reports to be prepared by judicial leaders facilitate that the reports of judicial chairperson, department heads and regional department heads at the regional courts of appeal, regional courts and district courts can prepare annual comprehensive reports with similar structure and comparable data charts, for the purposes of including these figures in the information sheet to be prepared for the national plenary meeting of the judges.

The new procedural codes in the fields of civil law, public administration law and of criminal law and their executive decrees and the amendment of the Act on the legal status of the judicial employees all required the adjustment to the new legal environment and the review of the whole legislation issued by the President of the NOJ. At the beginning of 2017 there were 39 NOJ instructions in force and the review and the legislative program of 2017 made necessary the amendment of 19 NOJ instructions and the repealing of 4 NOJ instructions.

The obligation for applying the former and the current civil procedural codes simultaneously and the entry into force of the Criminal Procedure Code in mid-year represented a great challenge for the creation of the NOJ instruction no. 22/2017. (XII. 29.) concerning the comprehensive amendment of NOJ instruction no. 17/2014. (XII. 23.) on the uniform document handling of the courts as the rules for the administration, document handling and the capabilities for the filing, document handling, electronic administration and for the support of statistical tasks are given for the year, also at the same time they need to be flexibly comply with the simultaneously applicable or changing legal requirements.

The examination of the implementation of the NOJ instruction no. 6/2015. (XI. 30.) concerning the court administration was a task in focus in 2017, including the collection of the experience in connection with the implementation of this legal instrument, the systematization of the com-

prehensive amendment proposals, with special focus on the formation of the procedural case allocation rules that are of basic importance concerning the right of access to the lawful judge.

The review of the NOJ instruction no. 6/2016. (V. 31.) on the Integrity Regulation by the Constitutional Court was a test for the compliance of the courts administration regulation with the constitutional regulations. The Constitutional Court in its decision no. 33/2017. (XII. 6.) dismissed the primary request of the applicant and rejected the claim for the total cancellation of the Integrity regulation and most of the secondary claims were rejected as well and only three short paragraphs were annulled but the Integrity regulation still remained a coherent whole.

In 2017 one National Judicial Council regulation was repealed and NOJ instruction drafts were prepared for the replacement of 5 other National Judicial Council regulations still in force. The finalization and publication of these depends on the creation of the systems necessary for their execution. The NOJ plans to continue in 2018 the intensive legislation work started in 2017.

Also the courts make use of their right to create regulations. In some cases it is obligatory for the courts to create regulations, e.g. concerning their by-laws, management issues and concerning the maintenance of the order of the judicial buildings. The preparation for the new public administration procedural code required the adjustment of the judicial internal regulations in line with the amended organizational, competence and geographical jurisdiction rules, furthermore required the review of the internal rules pertaining to placement, trainings and work conditions.

2.2. Meetings, consultations and workshops

The meetings, consultations and workshops are targeted management tools as problems of the given fields can be detected efficiently with the help of direct communication and they also facilitate the joint preparation of the solutions.

The President of the NOJ arranges several times a year for the plenary meeting of the chairpersons of the regional courts and regional courts of appeal where the judicial leaders discuss current topics and problems that concern all courts throughout the country.

The annual kick-off Presidential plenary meeting held on 7 February 2017 was about the Report of the President of the NOJ on the 1st semester of 2016, on the simplification of the reports at the national plenary meetings of the judges, on the training and appraisal of leaders, on the bonuses in 2016 and on the results of the Sustainable Development Program (SDP) and on the results of the Ráth György Judicial History and Tradition Competition.

The extraordinary presidential meeting held on 3 May 2017 with the participation of the chairpersons of the regional courts of appeal was about the attacks against judges and judicial buildings and the prevention of same.

The plenary meetings on 14 June 2017, 5 July 2017, 14 July 2017 and 23 August 2017 were focusing on the current and future tasks resulting from the amendment of the Act on the legal status of judicial employees (Service Relationship Act), the financial implications, the principle for the wage difference payable retrospectively, the principles for the determination of the future basic wage and the steps taken and to be taken concerning the classification of the judicial employees. The new method for the examination of the chairpersons at the regional court level was also discussed, the issues of the calculation of the case load of judges, the protection of the judges and of the courts, the tasks concerning the announcement of the tenders for public administration judge positions, the Retention Program and the administrative tasks resulting from the new procedural codes.

The plenary meeting held on 11 September 2017 was focusing on the report of the President of the NOJ for year 2016, on the communication of SROP projects, the NOJ projects concerning the new procedural codes, the Digital Court Project, on the forms, the client centres and the individual workloads of the respective judges.

The agenda of the plenary meeting held on 9 October 2017: the organizational and administrative tasks concerning the procedures at second and third instances that were concerned by the entry into force of the new Criminal Procedure Code, the realized and scheduled tasks of the administrative working group concerning the E-Code of the Criminal Procedure Code project, the foreseeable effects of the new Civil Procedure Code pertaining to the Budapest-Capital Regional Court, the communication of the 2nd Sustainable Development Program (SDP II), the children-centred judiciary concerning the courts of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County, the new media strategy of Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal, the effects of the amendment of the Service Relationship Act (SRA), the competence-based appraisal of the judicial employees.

At the plenary meeting held on 10 November 2017 the concept of the court history exhibition and conference road show was presented, furthermore, the following issues were discussed: Scientific Workshop in Gyula, report on the international experience of the Kaposvár Regional Court, the status of the electronic communication concerning the Criminal Procedure Code, the amendment of the administrative rules concerning the case allocation scheme, the tenders for judicial positions based on the new rules and also the results were presented for the design tender of the Tapolca District Court among festive circumstances.

The respective courts, beyond the annual national meeting of the judges, hold meetings for their administrative leaders based on their work schedule several times a year to discuss the administrative and economic issues concerning the court.

In 2017, the President of the NOJ participated in all plenary meetings at all regional courts of appeal and regional courts organized for all of their judges, furthermore, at the leaders' meeting of the Budapest-Environs Regional Court, the Budapest-Capital Regional Court and of the Székesfehérvár Regional Court or she has sent there her representative.

Workshops are interactive consultations aiming at the exchange of experiences and of information that constitute a forum for the participants for intense exchange of their opinions. Due to their extreme efficiency the NOJ organizes more and more central trainings in this form or at least enables the organization of workshops as a part of the training.

Some of the workshops held in 2017:

- Workshop of the exam committee members (24 February 2017)
- Workshop for the setting up of the client centres (23-24 May 2017)
- Setting up uniform client centres (6-7 July 2017)
- Workshop for the exam committee of the trainee judge entrance examination (19-20 June 2017 and 8 November 2017)
- Workshop for the persons responsible for trainings (28 September 2017)

2.3. Working groups

For performing the tasks set out in the Act on the structure and administration of the courts (Courts Act) the President of the NOJ is entitled to create working groups. The working groups are professional bodies that make proposals, analyse situations and provide their opinions on certain issues and assist the President of the NOJ in forming her decisions or standpoints and support the preparation of the decisions by preparing professional materials.

The main task of the working groups is channelling the knowledge and experience of the courts towards the central administration and this way the working group can help the judges and judicial employees with their professional knowledge concerning the administration of justice and the timely, effective and transparent performance of the administrative tasks.

The President of the NOJ took the following steps in 2017 concerning the 11 working groups that operated in the previous reporting period:

- the operation deadline of 6 working groups was extended (Judicial mediation Working group, Judicial integrity Working group, New enforcement Working group, Document filing Working group, Economic, staffing and salary management Working group, Children-centred judiciary Working group),
- 2 working groups finished their activities during the year and then due to the tasks concerning the new procedural codes continued their works within certain projects (New Criminal Procedure Code Working group and New Civil Procedure Code Working group),
- 2 working groups finished their activities (the Working group facilitating the developments of EU funding and the Press Working group) and were assigned to new tasks with new members (Digital mapping Working group and the Comprehensible information about the judiciary Working group).

In 2017 the IT Security Control System Working group started its operation. Their most important task is to draft the IR Security Regulation. This year the District court administration Working group finished its operation and their proposals were introduced by the NOJ in the training system for the court leaders.

Among the results of the working groups the following should be highlighted:

- the Judicial Mediation Working group organized a successful international conference in December 2017 again in order to promote the popularity of this method,
- the Judicial integrity Working group contributed to the creation of a uniform procedure within the court organization by reviewing the case allocations schemes and by providing its opinion thereon,
- the New Execution Working group took a leading role in the codification and legal drafts reviews,
- the Document filing Working group continuously monitored the changes of the laws concerning the handling of court documents and elaborated amendments concerning the new procedural codes,
- the Economic, staffing and salary management Working group contributed significantly to the updating of the Economic management Regulation, while
- the Child-centered Justice Working group developed certain tools suitable for children and developed widely comprehensible information, beyond its regular educational and awareness-raising tasks.

2.4. Pilot programmes

The significance of the pilot programs is that they enable the trying out and testing of certain work methods or applications, even in practice with the inclusion of a narrow group of participants, with small time and cost requirements. The objective is the preparation of the national introduction and the detection of incidental errors, deficiencies and the need for further development.

The pilot training of judges dealing with juvenile criminal cases consisting of 4 modules started on 4 December 2017 at the Budapest-Capital Regional Court with the coordination of NOJ, in-

cluding professional and awareness-raising elements. During the training the juvenile criminal law judges could expand their knowledge monthly in one training day. The participants listened to presentations concerning the fundamental rights of children and concerning the topic of juvenile crime in the first module.

The series of trainings are led by the Child-centered Justice Working group of the NOJ and the objective is to improve the professional knowledge of the juvenile criminal law judges and the preparation of the country-wide training based on the experience of the pilot training. The lecturers were judges and other professionals familiar with juvenile cases who deal with practical matters in their presentations, beyond the professional theory.

The pilot training will continue in 2018 for three more training days. After the evaluation of the experience, the regional trainings foreseeably may start throughout the country in 2019.

2.5. Networks

The NOJ pay special attention to strengthen the knowledge sharing concerning the detailed professional knowledge and experience concentrated within the judicial organization. Useful tools for this are professional networks. With the help of the networks, the judicial professionals with detailed knowledge being in direct contact with each other can perform coordinated, rapid and successful cooperation. The professional networks set up in recent years continue their operation in 2017:

- European Law Advisors Network,
- Spokesman and Press secretary Network,
- Child-centered Judiciary Professional and Coordination Network,
- Network of the Contact persons of Open Court National Program,
- Network of the Contact persons for Projects,
- Network for the National Judicial Library Coordinators,
- National Network of the Coordinators of the Judicial Mediation and the
- Network for the E-litigation Contact persons.

Furthermore 2 new networks were founded in 2017:

The secretary judge division of the European Law Advisors Network, the work of which is managed by an assigned deputy coordinator in cooperation with the deputy coordinators of the specialized fields. The division started its operation on 15 November 2017. You may read more details about the Network and the Secretary judge division in Section 5.4 of Chapter VI. of this Report.

In 2017 the setting up of the national coach network of the judicial organization was started. The objective is, among others, to improve the competence of the presenting judges. The founding group consisted of 9 members who contributed to the improvement of the presentation competences of the lecturers holding presentation concerning the new Civil Procedure Code with an own presentation methodology training in 2017.

You can obtain further information about the 2 newly founded networks in the Training chapter.

In certain professional fields the NOJ operates an internal contact person network. The objective is the exchange of information. Such fields are:

- offences,
- judicial tasks concerning the medical treatment of psychiatric patients.

2.6. Cooperation agreements

The courts continued to expand their networking activities in 2017. New cooperation agreements were concluded with other organizations and with educational and scientific institutions.

The judicial organization places great emphasis on introducing the judicial procedures and the judicial career to pupils and students. For this purpose several agreements were concluded between:

- the Debrecen Regional Court of Appeal and the Vocational Centre of the Bethlen Gábor Economics Specialized High School in Debrecen,
- the Kecskemét Regional Court and the Pallas Athene University,
- the Miskolc Regional Court and the University of Miskolc,
- the Eger Regional Court and the Educational District Centre of Eger,
- the Zalaegerszeg Regional Court and the Educational District Centre of Zalaegerszeg,
- the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal and the Faculty of Law of ELTE.

For the development of the judicial and administrative cooperation the courts concluded the following agreements with domestic and foreign institutions:

- The Gyula Regional Court the Békés County Government Office, together with the Prosecutor's Office of Békés County and the Police Headquarters of Békés County set up the Children Protection Partnership Protocol of Békés County.
- The Nyíregyháza Regional Court and the National Correctional Facility of Tiszalök expanded their original agreement concluded in 2009.
- The Debrecen Regional Court and the Faculty of Law of the University of Debrecen concluded research agreements for the further improvement of the judicial administration and for the examination of the administrative and motivational system introduced at the Regional Court (the so-called "Debreceni model") from a legal sociology aspect. The research includes the detection of the results of the model, the detection of the directions of the further improvement and the examination of the quality and timeliness.
- The Szekszárd Regional Court concluded an agreement with the Emergency Recovery Directorate of Tolna County. The Directorate provides assistance for the colleagues at the Regional Court for their preparation for catastrophe, fire and civil protection events and for the procurement of tools and their use.
- The Szolnok Regional Court concluded an agreement with the Regional Court of Wrocław for the development of the international judicial relations.

The National Office for the Judiciary and the Hungarian National Chamber of Notary Publics (HNCNP) concluded a cooperation agreement on 20 September 2017 to settle the situation of the notarial documents stored in judicial files. The purpose of the agreement is that the NOJ and the HNCNP with close cooperation can create the opportunity for settling the status of notarial deeds from the period 1992-2008 with and that the courts can hand over same to the Registry of HNCNP.

A framework agreement has been set up between the NOJ and the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Scientific Academy concerning the participation in the Electronic Information Provision National Program EIPNP based on which electronic scientific contents and databases become accessible.

Within the strategic partnership between the NOJ and the Moholy-Nagy Arts University (MOME) the following events took place in 2017:

- The design tender for judicial robes announced for MOME students was finished. The four best designs received prizes and certificates. The objective of the tender was to design robes for the judges that show dignity but are modern at the same time.

- The preparation of the common projects started for the determination of the furniture standards of the courtrooms and judges' work rooms and concerning the informative short animated movies for the information of the clients of the courts and concerning the written information materials.

3. The judicial organization and the control above the leaders

3.1. Judicial bodies

The judicial bodies participating in the court administration are the meetings of the regional courts of appeal and of the regional courts organized for all of their judges (hereinafter: judicial general meeting). The participants of the judicial plenary meetings are the judges appointed to the regional courts of appeal, to the regional courts and to the district courts within the geographical area of the regional courts or to the public administration and labour courts. The presidents of the regional courts of appeal and of the regional courts hold at least annually judicial plenary meeting. In the judicial plenary meeting tenders for leaders' positions are evaluated, initiate the examination of leaders and the meetings have other investigative entitlements, as well. In line with the legal obligations, the presidents of the regional courts and of the regional courts of appeal informed the President of the NOJ and the judicial plenary meeting also in 2017 about the operation of their court, about the case load figures and about the execution of other statutory tasks. The President of the NOJ participated in all judicial plenary meetings in person, except for some occasions when she was represented by her deputy. The President of the NOJ accepted the reports. The full body of the Curia also participates in the judicial administration. Their tasks are detailed in § 144 of the Courts Act just like in the case of the judicial plenary meetings of the other courts.

The divisions of the Curia, regional courts of appeal and of the regional courts also participate in the court administration (hereinafter: division). Each division consists of judges appointed to the given field of law. The division provides its opinion on tenders for judicial and leader positions as set out in the laws and may initiate the examination of judicial leaders or the revocation of a leader and also performs other tasks prescribed by the laws.

The regional public administration and labour division is a special professional body of the judges working in the public administration and labour fields of the regional courts as set out in a specific act and of the judges of the public administration and labour courts as set out in a specific act. The regional division provides its opinion on the tenders for division leader and deputy division leader positions in the field of public administration and labour law and may initiate the examination of the judicial leaders or their revocation and also performs other tasks prescribed by the laws.

The membership and rights of the divisions and of the public administration and labour law regional divisions are regulated in § 154-156 of the Courts Act.

The judicial chambers of the Curia, of the regional courts of appeal and of the regional courts also have to be noted here (hereinafter jointly: judicial chamber), the members (5-15 members) and substitute members (3-13 members) of which are elected by the judicial general meeting for 6 years. The operation, rights and election of its members are regulated in § 147-153 of the Courts Act. The judicial councils at the Curia, at the regional courts of appeal and at the regional courts are entitled to provide their opinions and initiate reviews as detailed in the laws. The most important right of the judicial councils is the hearing of the applicants for judicial positions and the setting up of their ranking. This ranking is the basis of the recommendation/transfer decision of the president of the regional courts and of the President of the NOJ. The judicial chamber, among others, provides its opinion the annual budgetary plan of the court, the exe-

cution of the approved budget, the by-laws, the case allocation scheme, etc., furthermore may initiate examinations of the chairperson, deputy chairperson, department heads and deputy department heads of the district courts, public administration and labour courts or their revocation. The judicial chambers report annually to the judicial plenary meeting about their work.

3.2. The National Judicial Council

The National Judicial Council (NJC) is the supervising body of the central court administration that performs its tasks (proposals and control tasks) as detailed in § 103 of the Courts Act and renders its decisions. This ensures the control over the administrative tasks of the President of the NOJ. The technical preconditions of the operation of the NJC were ensured by the NOJ in 2017. The administrative tasks of the NJC, the work of the NJC members are facilitated by the NJC Office, furthermore the NJC Office handles the documents and documents of the operation of the NJC. The NJC Office performs the administrative, coordination, organizational and event organizing tasks concerning the operation of the NJC and informs the press.

The budget of the NJC is a separate sum within the budget of the NOJ so that the independence of the NJC is guaranteed. In line with the Courts Act the NOJ ensured the technical preconditions in 2017 necessary for the operation of the NJC, financed the expenditures and provided the procedural rules for the use of the budgeted amount and stipulated this in an agreement.

The President of the NOJ, in line with the previous practice, continuously informed also in 2017 the NJC about the substantial matters concerning the judicial organization (e.g. proposals for the amendment of laws, etc.) and reported several decisions on the basis of her own sphere of authority (e.g. recommendations for appointment of applicants for positions, etc.).

3.3. The President of the National Office for the Judiciary

The presidents of the regional courts of appeal and of the regional courts are administratively controlled by the President of the NOJ. The President of the NOJ manages and controls the administrative activities of the judicial chairpersons, with the exception of the chairpersons of the district courts and public administration and labour courts. This includes that the President of the NOJ monitors the compliance with the court administration rules, the compliance with the procedural deadlines and the compliance with the procedural rules and orders examinations for their protection. Depending on the outcome of these examinations, she takes the necessary and available steps and monitors their execution and may suggest disciplinary proceedings. The President of the NOJ also exercises the competences detailed in the Court chapter of the Act on the State budget.

The regulations issued by the President of the NOJ for the whole court organization qualify as normative instructions according to the Act on legislation and are subject to the review of the Constitutional court. Section 77/A(1) of the Courts Act explicitly contains this control rights. The President of the NOJ, if necessary, is obliged to provide proper reasoning for her decisions rendered concerning administrative tasks. Appeal against certain decisions, concerning the individual judges and their status and against other employer's decisions may be filed in accordance with Judges Act (Bjt.). The President of the NOJ's staff-related decisions that concern the service relationship of the judge, may be challenged at the public administration and labour courts in line with § 77/A(2) of the Courts Act, except for the cases when the adjudication of the legal dispute belongs to the exclusive competence of the court entitled to hear service-related matters.

The President of the NOJ informs the NJC about her activities every six months, while the chairpersons of the Curia, the regional courts of appeal and the regional courts are informed at the regularly convened presidential meeting. For the purposes of the judicial plenary meetings held

during the first half of 2018, the President of the NOJ sent to all judges the report on the first half of 2017, also in hard copy.

The President of the NOJ is obliged to report to the Hungarian Parliament about the general status of the courts and the judicial administration in line with § 76(8) Item c) of the Courts Act annually and between the reports to the Justice committee of the Parliament. The President of the NOJ made her latest report on 21 November 2017 to the Parliament regarding the year 2016, which was accepted by the Parliament. The President of the NOJ's report for the first half of 2017 was accepted by the Justice Committee of the Parliament on 10 July 2018.

Beside that the President of the NOJ is subject to the general control of the state bodies (e.g. examination by the Hungarian State Audit Office), the President of the NOJ also ensures the public accessibility and transparency of her administrative work by publishing the regulations, recommendations and decisions, reports and tenders for leading positions and minutes on interviews in line with the statutory rules. The President of the NOJ's instructions (regulations) are published on one hand in the Official Gazette and on the other hand at the central website of the judiciary (together with recommendations and decisions) and also in the Judicial Gazette. The annual and semi-annual reports of the President of the NOJ are available at the central website of the judiciary.

3.4. Professional organizations

It continues to be extremely important for the President of the NOJ to cooperate with professional associations and other organizations protecting its members' rights that are in connection with the judicial organization and to support these organizations. In 2017 the NOJ had direct relations with the following judicial professional and interest protecting organizations: Hungarian Association of the International Organization of Female Judges, Specialized Organization of Judicial Employees, Association of Judicial Mediators, National Association of Judges dealing with Corporate and Business Matters, Association for Judges Specialized in European law, National Association of Secretary judges and Trainee judges, Hungarian Association of Judges, Hungarian Association of Judges dealing with Public Administration Matters, Hungarian Association of Judges dealing with Labour Matters, National Association of Court Enforcers.

The NOJ supported some of these organizations in 2017 by way of tenders. Seven organizations won monetary contribution (Specialized Organization of Judicial Employees, Association of Judicial Mediators, National Association of Judges dealing with Corporate and Business Matters, Association for Judges Specialized in European law, Hungarian Association of Judges, Hungarian Association of Judges dealing with Public Administration Matters, Hungarian Association of Judges dealing with Labour Matters) with a cumulated amount of HUF 2 931 954.

The NOJ granted a support of HUF 12 024 900 for the 7th National Judicial Sports Days organized by the Hungarian Association of Judges.

4. Organizational integrity

4.1. Examinations by external bodies

In 2017 the Courts budgetary chapter was examined by 11 bodies and the regional bodies of these conducted altogether 74 external examinations. After some examinations there were no remarks of the public authorities or the detected deficiencies were corrected before the end of the examinations. The external examinations resulted in 64 remarks and recommendations that required action plans.

The bodies conducting the external examinations and the subject-matter of the examinations are as follows:

- The Hungarian State Audit Office (HSAO) examines the Courts budgetary chapter, the related institutions and appropriations every year, within the scope of the so-called discharge procedure within the general examination of the execution of the state budget of Hungary.
- The Health Insurance / Social Insurance General Departments of the Government offices conduct examinations at the employers and examine whether the security rules are complied with when using the TakarNet system.
- The Emergency Recovery Directorates check the compliance with the fire protection rules.
- The county directorates of the Hungarian Tax and Customs Administration (HTCA) review the legality of the handling of the procedural duties.
- The Hungarian National Archives check the legality of the handling of the documents.

4.2. Litigation against the courts

Pursuant to § 86(3) Item b) of Act no. CLXI of 2011 on the judicial organization and administration (hereinafter: Courts Act) the NOJ represents the courts in judicial proceedings. The Legal Representation Department (hereinafter: LRD) represents the NOJ as the department appointed for this task in the By-laws of the NOJ.

The above rules of the Courts Act were subjected to an individual norm control proceeding. The applicant requested the establishment that this rule infringed the constitution and requested the repeal of this item. The Constitutional Court rejected this application in its decision no. III/1047/2016.

Pursuant to the NOJ Instruction no. 6/2014. (IV.30) in force since 1 May 2014 on the litigation representation of the courts (hereinafter: Regulation) the representation of the court is carried out in cooperation between the NOJ and the concerned respondent court that requires continuous cooperation between the NOJ and the represented respondent court and continuous consultation concerning the substantial procedural steps.

The Regulation places great emphasis on the summarization of the litigation experience as in the lawsuits initiated against the courts such general material and procedural law and administrative errors come to surface that may lead to the courts losing the litigation cases. The President of the NOJ can exercise her rights detailed in the Courts Act efficiently based on the experience gained this way, when she makes a proposal for legislation or any amendment of existing laws, organizes central trainings or signals the necessity of proceeding for the uniform administration of justice in a certain matter.

The collection of the experience of the litigation cases and the knowledge resulting therefrom and the dissemination of this knowledge may improve the integrity of the judicial organization and the uniform administration of justice. The detection of the defects within the judiciary can ensure the high quality and timely administration of justice and the effectiveness of the central administration.

4.2.1. Subject-matter of the litigation against the courts

The majority of the litigation cases against the courts are the cases where the plaintiff was a participant of a previous case and challenges some outcome of previous judicial litigation or non-litigation cases. The litigation may pertain to any other previous judicial proceeding as well and may concern any field of law (civil, criminal, labour, public administration, enforcement, liquidation of business entities, etc.). The plaintiff's statement of claim is usually based on alleged breaches of material or procedural law committed by the courts in the original proceeding.

In these cases the clients usually initiate lawsuits based on the following grounds:

1. compensation of damages caused by judicial actions, compensation of damages caused by the exercise of public power,
2. establishment of the breach of personality rights and for the compensation of damages/ payment of general damages,
3. establishment of the breach of the right for a fair trial or of the right to a timely administration of justice and for the compensation of damages/ payment of general damages.

It happens often that in a statement of claim more or all of the above grounds are cited or the plaintiff amends the statement of claim and refers to additional legal grounds from the above list.

The new Civil Code (CC) entered into force on 15 March 2014 and this resulted in substantial changes in the rules for the litigation against the courts and most of the compensation for damages and personality right litigation is subject to the new CC. The general damages introduced by the new CC as a special sanction for the breach of personality rights made it necessary to amend § 2 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) concerning the administration of justice within a reasonable period of time and concerning the right to a fair trial. Based on the case-law of the higher courts, now the administration of justice is uniform in that regard that the breach of the right to a fair trial does not also mean a breach of personality rights because it is a pre-condition of the establishment of the breach of personality rights that such a characteristic must be breached that constitutes a material part of the personality of the concerned person. Therefore, a lawsuit based on the erroneous interpretation of laws does not give rise to the establishment of the breach of personality rights.

In the lawsuits initiated based on Act no. CXII of 2011 on the Right to Informational Self-Determination (Data Protection Act) in most cases the subject-matter of the litigation is whether certain information can be considered as being of public interest or not. No personal data or information may be handed out as public interest data that pertains only to the participant of a certain litigation case.

There are also some litigation cases pending concerning service relationships that were initiated by judges or by judicial employees concerning the employer's measures regarding their status or remuneration.

4.2.2. Litigation figures

In 2017 646 litigation cases were initiated against the courts.

In 359 litigation cases (56%) the individual courts represented themselves. These are typically cases of lesser interest, such as cases completed by the rejection of a statement of claim without hearing or litigation cases where it is obligatory for the courts to participate as litigating party (such as litigation for the termination of joint ownership on a real property where the court has a right of registered enforcement).

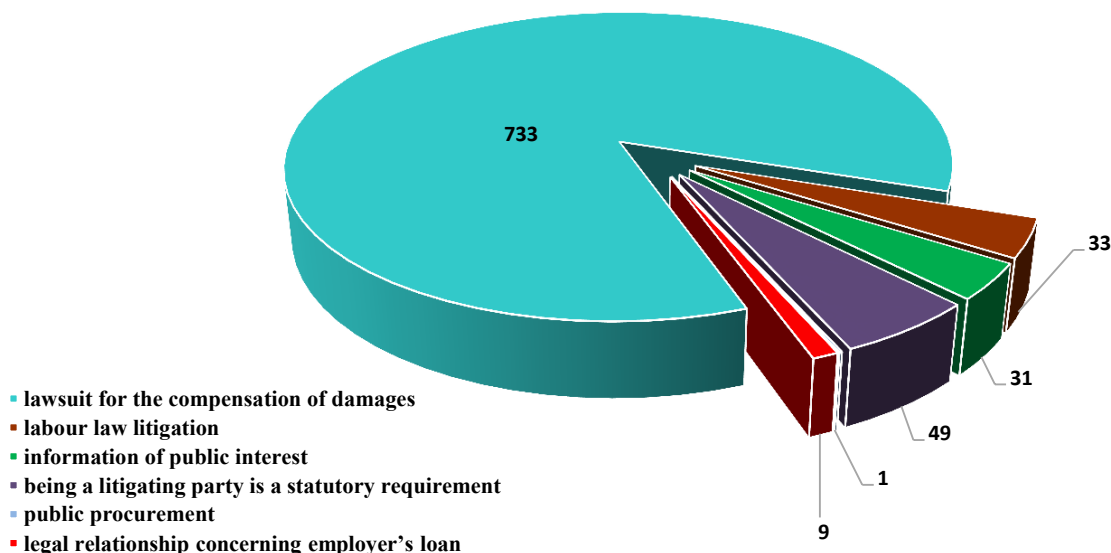
In 287 cases (44%) the NOJ acted as a representative. Most of these cases were initiated due to the compensation of damages caused by judicial actions, breach of personality rights and lawsuits due to the delay of the administration of justice. There were also some lawsuits initiated by judges or judicial employees concerning their service relationship. There were some lawsuits aiming at that the courts should hand over certain information of public interest.

At the end of the reporting period there were 856 cases pending against the courts. This figure contains cases where the courts were represented by themselves or by the NOJ, combined. In 328 cases the courts represented themselves, without the cooperation of the NOJ.

Including the new litigation cases, on 31 December 2017 there were 528 litigation cases where the courts were represented by the NOJ.

The share of the different types of cases among the pending cases can be seen in the following diagram:

Litigation cases against courts ins 2017, broken down to the type of the litigation



Out of the 555 cases that were finished in a final and binding way, there were only 9 cases where the plaintiff prevailed against the courts, i.e. 98% of the cases were unfounded.

In the reporting period the respondent courts were ordered to pay altogether HUF 55 424 528 in these cases. HUF 45 162 944 was ordered in such cases where the case concerned the unlawful conduct of a notary public operating at a district court. This stipulation was included in Act IV of 1972 and was repealed on 1 January 1992. Only HUF 10 261 584 had to be paid concerning the actual activities of the courts that is a very small amount compared to the amounts claimed in the proceedings initiated in 2017 (a total of HUF 12 965 887 508), it is not even 1% of the total amount.

4.3. Internal audit

The rules for internal audits are laid down in Government decree no. 370/2011. (XII.31.) on the internal control system and internal audits of budgetary organizations. The persons carrying out the internal audit perform their work in line with the international audit standards and with the audit standards and guidance published by the Minister responsible for public finances, furthermore in line with the internal audit manual drafted and approved by the leader of the budgetary organization. The internal auditor performs the work directly submitted to the leader of the budgetary organization so that the organizational and functional independence necessary for the task is provided and the reports are directly sent to the leader of the budgetary organization.

The internal audit system set up for the courts functioned as part of the monitoring system in 2017. Its structure and operation were in compliance with the applicable laws and with the domestic and international standards. In the NOJ the Audit Department (EF) performed its work in line with the procedures set out in the Internal Audit Manual approved by the President of the NOJ. The internal auditors of the regional courts performed their work in line with the procedures set out in their own Internal Audit Manual approved by the President of the NOJ.

The objectives of the Strategic audit plan of the EF, in line with the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ for the 2015-2018 period are as follows: highest possible standards for the examination of the utilization of public financial assets and aids and the recommendations as the outputs of the audit should facilitate the transparent and reliable management free of any corruption, also with a view to the principles of economy, efficiency, saving, reasonability and targeted utilization and also the audit shall facilitate the full-scope setting up of the internal audit system.

Two pillars of the audit strategy:

- the internal auditors of the courts should use uniform audit methodology to examine the fields of management and the results of the audit should be used at the budgetary chapter level with continuous feedback,
- the auditors should also act as advisors and support the decisions of the judicial leaders.

The NOJ continued to ensure the opportunity for professional trainings for the internal auditors also in 2017. The conferences broken down to the budgetary chapters were held on 4-5 April and 9-10 October at the Hungarian Academy of Justice (HAJ).

In 2017 altogether 34 internal auditors worked in the Courts budgetary chapter (one of them in part-time). All of the auditors had the qualifications, experience and the obligatory registration in the registry of internal auditors of the Ministry of Economy required by the laws. 6 auditors worked at the Audit Department of the NOJ, 2 auditors at the Regional Court of Budapest-Capital, 2 auditors at the Miskolc Regional Court, while one auditor each at the remaining regional courts, regional courts of appeal and at the Curia.

The EF conducted six audits in 2017 (furthermore the summarized report on the audit of the payment of the fees of the court-appointed experts in 2016 was completed at the beginning of 2017.). There were three audits for the whole budgetary chapter and one audit for all regional courts. The audits were carried out by the internal auditors of the institutions based on the uniform audit methodology elaborated by the EF, and then EF performed the control for the whole budgetary chapter and the summarization.

Audits concerning the whole budgetary chapter and all of the regional courts:

- The authenticity of the report, including the support of the balance sheet report with an inventory, operation of the booking system (comparison of the analytic registries and of the main ledger), investment, system checking.
- Compliance audit concerning the handling of IT devices (issue/use/storage) and the detection of damages and shortages in the inventory.
- Due diligence concerning the deposits handled by the courts, examination of the registry and the rules for the deposits at the judges, at the presidents and the asset deposits – system checking (audit planned for the 2nd half of the year).

Audits concerning the NOJ:

- Compliance audit concerning the rules for the protection of IT devices and concerning the compliance with these rules. At the end of the audit 2 recommendations were concluded.
- Operation of the HAJ Kitchen – system checking. (audit performed in the 2nd half of the year) The audit resulted in 6 recommendations. Follow-up audit concerning the action plan prepared in connection with the audit of the NOJ regulations in 2015 (audit performed in the 2nd half of the year). The audit resulted in 4 recommendations.

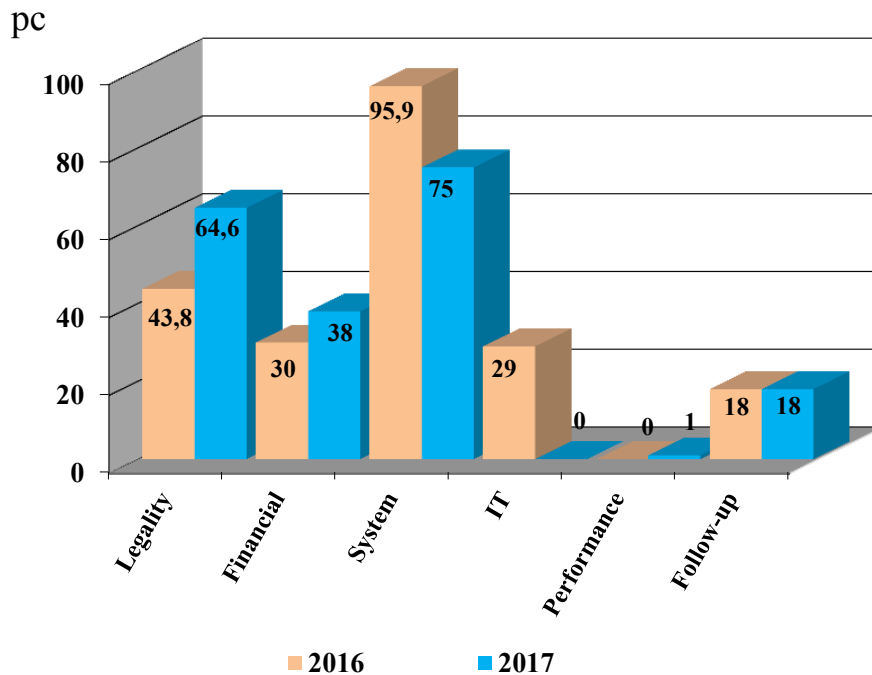
The EF contributed to the improvement of the transparency of the processes and to the budgetary discipline and to the strengthening of the central control by summarizing its experiences in the audit reports, by preparing analyses and conclusions and detecting errors.

During the EF audits in 2017:

- there were no circumstances revealed giving rise to criminal or offence proceedings,
- there was one case giving rise to obligation for the compensation of damages and for disciplinary action during a consultancy audit.

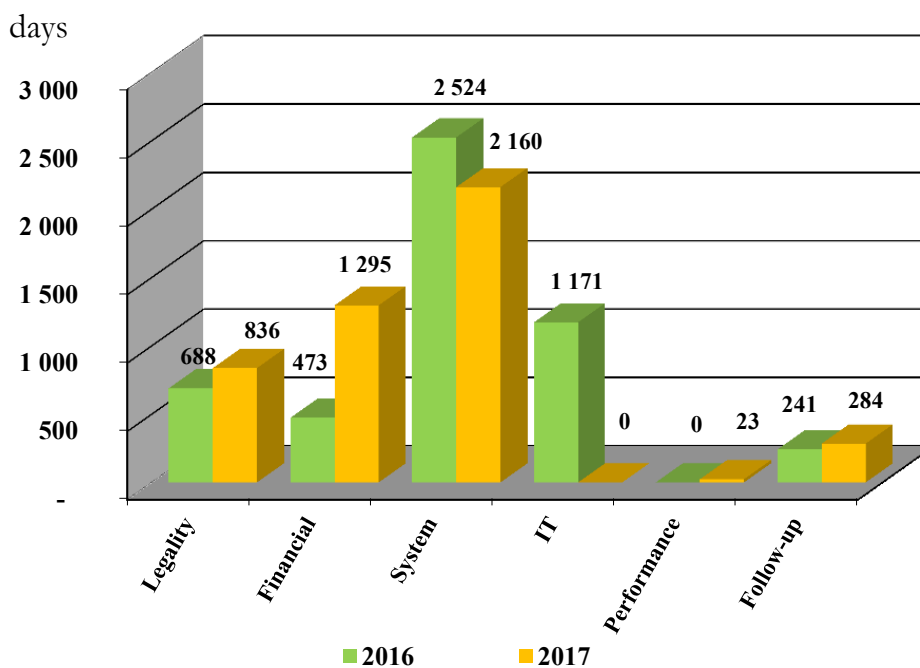
In the Courts budgetary chapter in 2017, the number of audits was 196,6 that was 27,6 audits more than planned.

The number of actual audits in the Courts budgetary chapter in years 2016-2017



Number of audits days spend on audits in 2017: 4598.

Number of auditor days spent on audits in the Courts budgetary chapter in years 2016-2017



Due to the above the capacity distribution of the auditors also change, in 2017 the number of days spent on audits was 69% of all auditor days and this number decreased by 2% compared to the previous year. At the same time the number of days (and ratio of same) spent on consultancy increased.

4.4. Physical security

In 2017 the courts informed the NOJ about 132 extraordinary events, this is more than 153% of the figure of the previous year. 65 of them were reported by the Budapest-Capital Regional Court.

It was popular throughout the country to organize demonstrations around courts or in the court buildings and these demonstrations could be suitable for distracting the due administration of justice or suitable for intimidation of judges or judicial employees. In 2016 only 7 such cases were reported, while in 2017 this number grew to 24 that is more than triple of the number of the previous year. At the same time the number of demonstrations concerning a wide scope of people has also increased.

It was a novelty in 2017 to use drones for spying on judicial work and cases happened again where “white powder” was sent in envelopes. This is a high risk event and it required the evacuation of the building and the notification of the emergency recovery units.

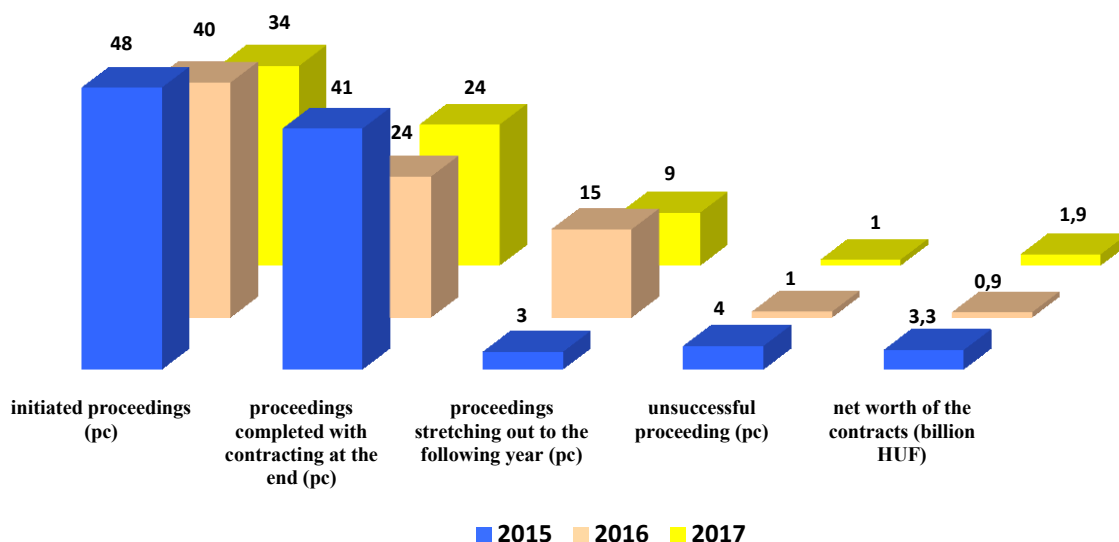
Despite the above, it can be established that in 2017, in comparison to the previous years, owing to the installed technical developments the security of working judges, judicial employees and also of the clients significantly increased in the judicial buildings. There were no high risk events either at the courts or at the NOJ.

4.5. Public procurements

The NOJ as a classic contracting party in line with § 5(1) Item c) of the Act on Public procurements initiated altogether 35 public procurement proceedings in 2017 with an assessed total value of HUF 7 530 123 065.

The status of the public procurement proceedings is shown by the following diagram:

Development of the public procurement proceedings in years 2015-2017



The number of public procurement proceedings launched in 2017 (34) represented a nearly 15% decrease compared to 2016 (40). In 2017 there were 24 contracts concluded with a total value of HUF net 1 509 302 008,00 and only 1 proceeding was unsuccessful while in 9 cases the contracting is expected to take place in 2018 with an assessed net total value of HUF 2 568 662 679.

The Public Procurement and Contractual Relations Department of the NOJ conducted the public procurement proceedings in line with the applicable laws and regulations. In these proceedings the transparency, fairness and publicity of the competition were all ensured. This is supported by the fact that there was no remedial action initiated in 2017 concerning the public procurement proceedings at the Public Procurement Arbitration Board.

There were no errors or deficiencies revealed by the auditing bodies concerning the follow-up audits of public procurement proceedings with EU funding and no procedural irregularity proceeding was launched.

With a view to the practical experience and the amendment of the related laws the NOJ internal regulation no. 9/2017. (VI. 12.) on public procurement and procurement was modified and the new version entered into force on 13 June 2017.

The NOJ ensures the up-to-date information to the public and the transparency of the public procurement proceedings, beyond the statutory obligations, also on the website of the NOJ and the public procurement plan for 2017 and its amendments were published on the website and also monthly accruals are published concerning the contracts concluded based on public procurement proceedings.

5. Integrity of judges and of the judicial employees

5.1. Handling of complaints and whistleblowing reports

The handling of the complaints and whistleblowing reports has an effect on the administration of the judicial organization. The feedback from the clients help the President of the NOJ, and the chairpersons of the courts to take the necessary administrative measures in order to ensure a timely and high-quality administration of justice.

In order to simplify the access to courts the NOJ enables the clients of the courts for a faster and higher level service that the complaints can be submitted without being present in person, through the citizen gateway 24/7 on an electronic form.

There were 477 new complaint filed with the NOJ. Based on the following data the decreasing tendency in the number of complaints of the recent years turned around in 2017 and the number increased by almost 10% compared to 2016.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of complaints	569	478	557	416	401	477

Some clients repeatedly filed identical complaints even if the previous complaint has already been adjudicated. Some of their complaints are not even subject to the complaint proceeding of the courts and they have been informed accordingly. In 2017 a total of 1 228 submissions were sent to the NOJ. The number of complaints filed with the regional courts of appeal, with the regional courts and with the courts belonging to their geographical jurisdiction in 2017 is stagnating.

It has to be noted that also in 2017 there were several courts, concerning which no complaints were filed with the NOJ:

- Békés District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Gyula Regional Court),
- Bicske District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Székesfehérvár Regional Court),
- Dombóvár District Court and the Tamási District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Szekszárd Regional Court),
- Esztergom District Court and the Tata District court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Tatabánya Regional Court),
- Füzesabony District Court, Gyöngyös District Court and the Heves District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Eger Regional Court),
- Hajdúböszörmény District Court and the Püspökladány District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Debrecen Regional Court),
- Jászberény District Court, the Karcag District Court and the Kunszentmárton District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Szolnok Regional Court),
- Kunszentmiklós District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Kecskemét Regional Court),
- Marcali District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Kaposvár Regional Court),
- Mohács District Court, the Siklós District Court and the Szigetvár District Court (within the geographical jurisdiction of the Pécs Regional Court).

The following complaints are made most frequently to the courts:

- the merits of the case,
- the delay of the proceeding,
- omission of the judges,
- delay with certain procedural acts and
- administrative deficiencies.

In several cases the complainants request information concerning their pending judicial cases, concerning the options in the proceeding or about the content of certain laws or request the appointment of another judge or court. It is also usual that the "review" by a judicial leader of a criminal or civil litigation case is requested that was already completed with a final and binding decision and this is impossible in an administrative way due to the principle of the independence of the judges and only the ordinary and extraordinary remedies may be used for these purposes.

The President of the NOJ pays particular attention to the adequate handling of the complaints and whistleblowing reports, taking into consideration that the feedback from the clients may reveal problems that concern the whole organization. Accordingly, a complaint of a client may result in an audit.

For this purpose the NOJ follows up several cases or request feedbacks concerning cases that are filed with the NOJ but that are adjudicated by a court based on which, if necessary, an audit or a targeted audit may be ordered.

In 2017 the NOJ requested information on the proceeding nearly in 5,3% of the complaints forwarded to the competent court, while in 6,4% of the cases the response letter sent to the complainant was reviewed and the NOJ monitored the proceeding this way. These ratios have dropped in comparison to 2016 (15 and 8%) that shows the submissions contain less and less

topics that anticipate errors or deficiencies that can be remedied in an administrative way. Most of the monitored complaints dealt with the delay of the proceeding or a delay in the proceeding or in the administrative tasks. From the feedback provided by the concerned courts it could be established that the measures available and necessary in an administrative proceeding were taken in all cases.

Based on the judicial feedback concerning the complaints, in 25 cases steps were taken, partly for necessary measures and partly for remedying the cause of the revealed deficiency.

In the 1st half of 2017 the NOJ brought the attention of certain courts to taking steps necessary for ensuring the efficiency of complaint handling and for ensuring the timeliness of the proceedings in 9 cases while in 2 cases in the 2nd half of 2017.

In 2017 three targeted audits were initiated based on complaints. The targeted audits were focused on the complaint handling of the Budapest-Environs Regional Court, on the criminal judges of the Buda-Environs District Court and the civil and economic law judges of the Székesfehérvár Regional Court and the Székesfehérvár District Court. (For detailed information on the targeted audits, please consult Section 7.2.2 of Chapter II.)

As a part of the legislative schedule of 2017 the NOJ instruction no. 10/2012. (VI. 15.) on the proceedings concerning complaints and whistleblowing reports was reviewed. The changes recommended as a result of the review will be reviewed by the courts in 2018. The modified regulation will be published once the review took place.

5.2. Disciplinary situation of the judges

In 2017 13 judges (one chairperson of a regional court, one department head at a regional court, 2 judges at regional courts, one chairperson of a district court, one deputy chairperson of a district court and 7 district court judges) received 14 written warnings. A district court judge received 2 written warnings from the chairperson of a regional court competent for the disciplinary proceeding. The person entitled to exercise employer's rights initiated 25 disciplinary actions against 16 judges.

The president of Hungary suspended the immunity of 3 judges in 2017. In one case a criminal proceeding launched in 2016 was approved while in the other two cases the criminal proceedings were launched in 2017.

The written warnings were necessary in all cases due to breaches of the service agreement of the judges (decisions were put into writing with delay, administrative delays, failing to carry out control activities by leaders, breach of obligations concerning administrative powers). A judge warned in writing requested the disciplinary proceeding. The proceeding started in 2018 at the service court of first instance.

The person entitled to exercise the employer's rights initiated disciplinary actions against 4 judicial leaders (one chairperson of a regional court, two chairpersons of district courts, one department heads at a district court), 3 judges at regional court level and 9 judges at district court level. 3 disciplinary actions were initiated against a judge at regional court level and against a judge at district court level, 2 disciplinary actions were initiated against a group leader at district court level and against a district court judge and 4 disciplinary actions against a district court judge.

In one case the disciplinary action was made necessary by the conduct of a judge that harmed the prestige of the profession (criminal offence of negligent causing of a public road accident), in 22 cases the attributable breach of obligations deriving from the service relationship (failing

to comply with administrative or procedural deadlines, delay with putting decisions into writing or delay with forwarding the case to a higher court, delay with the start of a hearing, action that contradicted to the approved action plan, a criminal case was launched against a judge due to the suspicion of forgery of public document committed by a public official). In 2 cases the reason for the disciplinary action was a conduct that harmed the prestige of the profession and that also breached the obligations deriving from the service relationship (the judge failed to pay back a loan based on a loan contract that was concluded in writing in front of attorneys, secured by bills of exchange; the judge did not comply with the instructions of the group leading judge, did not accept any instructions, the group leader filed a criminal report against the judge due to the offence of physical defamation and due to the crime of physical violence against a public official).

The service court of first instance operating next to the Budapest Regional Court of Appeal heard 32 disciplinary actions in 2017. Beside the 25 proceedings initiated in 2017, in one case a new proceeding was launched after the repeal of a decision, in 4 cases the disciplinary proceeding was continued after the termination of the suspension of the disciplinary proceeding that was originally launched before 2017 and in 2 cases the disciplinary proceedings were continued after a suspension period that were originally launched in 2017. The service court of second instance operating next to the Curia heard 9 disciplinary cases in 2017.

Out of the 25 disciplinary actions initiated in 2017 12 cases were completed with final and binding decisions at the service court of first instance before 31 December 2017 while 3 cases at the service court of second instance.

Among the disciplinary actions finished with a final and binding decision, the service court of first instance terminated the disciplinary action in one case, in one case the disciplinary actions terminated and a warning was issued, in 2 cases the sentence was reprimand, in 5 cases the disciplinary actions were joined, while in 3 cases the disciplinary actions were suspended for the time a final and binding decision is passed in the pending criminal case.

The service court of second instance in one case approved of the decision of the service court of first instance that rejected the disciplinary action, while in 2 cases changed the decision of the court of first instance: in one case the judge was acquitted, while in the other case the judge was reclassified two salary categories lower as before, as a disciplinary punishment.

The service court of first instance exonerated three judges from the detrimental consequences of the disciplinary punishments in 2017. Two of the requests for the exoneration were filed in 2016, while one was filed in 2017.

The service courts passed final and binding decisions in 12 cases in 2017 (8 at the first instance and 5 at the second instance) where the disciplinary actions were started prior to 2017.

As a result of the proceeding completed with a final and binding decision, the service court of first instance terminated the disciplinary action in 4 cases, in one case the judge was acquitted and in 1 case reprehension, in one case reprimand was ordered and in one case the judge was reclassified one salary category lower as before as a disciplinary punishment.

The service court of second instance upheld the decision of the service court of first instance in 3 cases (in one case the service court of second instance upheld the part of the terminating decision of the service court of first instance that was appealed, in one case the judge was acquitted and in one case the judge was dismissed from his/her position as a disciplinary punishment), in one case the decision of the service court of first instance was repealed (the proceeding was terminated and warning was issued) and in one case the decision of the service court of first instance was amended (the written warning was upheld).

In 2017 criminal proceedings were initiated against a district court judge due to the criminal offence of negligent causing of a public road accident and against another district court judge due to the criminal offence of causing minor bodily injuries (due to the report of the injured person). In these criminal proceedings the immunity of the judges was suspended and the proceedings are still pending.

Based on the police report of the accuser, criminal proceedings were initiated against a regional court judge due to illegal detention and against a district court judge due to profanation. One criminal proceeding against a district court judge and another criminal proceeding against 7 district court judges due to defamation. One criminal proceeding was initiated against 4 district court judges due to defamation and slander. One criminal proceeding was initiated against 4 district court judges due to other offences concerning their public office in 2017. Due to slander 21 criminal proceedings were initiated against two regional court judges and against 77 district court judges and in another case the accuser filed a police report due to slander against all of the judges of all district courts and of the regional court within the geographical area of the regional court.

In 2017 18 of the slander cases were terminated, in one case due to the lack of criminal offence, in one case due to the lack of unlawfulness and in one case due to the unlawful indictment, in 8 cases due to the restricted criminality and in 7 cases due to other reasons. The proceeding initiated due to the illegal detention was terminated based on the request of the accuser, while one of the defamation cases due to the restricted criminality and the proceeding due to slander and defamation was terminated due to other reasons in 2017.

In 2017 misdemeanour cases were initiated in the following cases: against one chairperson of a chamber of a regional court of appeal due to traffic offences (violations of the rules of right of way and of the overtaking) and against one regional court judge and 3 trial judges due to the minor violations of traffic rules, while against one district court judge due to a misdemeanour against property. Four of the misdemeanour cases are pending and in two cases the judges were sentenced to monetary fines.

Five of the criminal cases and 4 of the misdemeanour cases initiated prior to 2017 were finished in 2017. In one case the criminal proceeding was terminated due to the death of the judge, in one case after a mediation procedure and the compensation of the injured party, due to a restricted criminality and in 1 case because the injured party failed to make a police report. In one case the investigation was terminated and the judge was warned by the state attorney and in one case monetary fine was imposed. Three misdemeanour cases were terminated due to statute of limitation rules and in 1 case the misdemeanour authority imposed monetary fine on the judge.

Compared to the number of judges as of 31 December 2017 (2 862) we can see that the number of written warnings and other disciplinary and criminal proceeding against judges is marginal, just like in the previous years.

The strategic goals of the President of the NOJ are the high standard and timely administration of justice, the integrity of the judicial organization, the transparency of the judicial work and of the judicial administration, the consistency and control of the latter one. The fulfilment of these strategic goals is supported by NOJ Instruction no. 6/2016. (V.31.) entered into force on 1 July 2016 on the Integrity Regulation. According to the regulation it is harmful to the integrity, if in the case of a judge or of a judicial employee, the person learning about the conduct that may serve as a basis of a disciplinary action (and provided that this person is also entitled to take administrative steps) fails to initiate the disciplinary action, fails to order the commencement of same.

Beside the intensified administrative control, it is also necessary to increase the guiding role of the service court and this way strengthen the consistency and predictability of the initiation of the disciplinary actions.

5.3. Disciplinary status of judicial employees

In 2017 31 judicial employees received written warnings (4 secretary judges, 17 officials, 5 administrators and 5 blue-collar workers).

The written warnings were issued due to the following reasons, among others: violation of procedural or administrative rules, non-compliance with deadlines, deficient or delayed fulfilment of instructions issued by judges, violation of document handling rules, unacceptable behaviour towards a colleague, absence from work without approval, failure to register late arrivals to the workplace, engaging in conduct outside of the workplace that was harmful to the reputation of the judicial institution and to his/her job, printing for own private purposes and the perpetration of misdemeanour.

The person entitled to exercise the employer's rights ordered disciplinary actions concerning 16 judicial employees (1 secretary judge, 10 officials, 1 administrator and 4 blue-collar workers) in 17 cases.

Disciplinary actions were initiated due to the following reasons, among others: showing up to the workplace under the influence of alcohol and not being in a state suitable for work performance; hindrance of an enforcement procedure; criminal proceeding due to theft; using phrases that are harmful to the reputation of judicial employees in front of colleagues concerning the work of the group leader; undue correction of the instruction of a judge; wilful and unlawful deletion of official documents and reports from the IT storage prior to the handover-takeover of a job; delay with presenting a complaint to the chairperson of a court and failure to deal with the request for the termination of the proceeding; forgery of the minutes of a court hearing (concerning the presence of a plaintiff); violation of the document handling rules.

Compared to 2016, the number of written warnings concerning judicial employees in 2017 increased from 27 to 31 and the number of disciplinary actions increased from 11 to 17.

In the disciplinary actions initiated in 2017 the disciplinary council issued warnings and terminated the proceedings in 5 cases, in 2 cases reprimands were issued, in one case the employee was dismissed as a disciplinary punishment, in 5 cases the disciplinary action was suspended until a final and binding decision is rendered in the criminal proceeding. The disciplinary action was terminated due to the death of the judicial employee and in another case due to the termination of the employment relationship with mutual consent.

In 2017 in one disciplinary action was completed (that was started before 2017) and in this case the disciplinary council issued a reprimand as a disciplinary punishment.

5.4. Asset declarations

The judges and appointed secretary judges are obliged to make asset declarations every third year in line with Chapter XIII of the Judges Act (on the status and remuneration of judges) and in line with the NOJ instruction no. 22/2012. (XI. 23.) on the handover, handling and control of the judges' asset declarations and on the protection of its content. In 2017 469 judges and 409 appointed secretary judges made asset declarations. No investigation of the declarations was initiated.

5.5. Attacks (verbal or physical) against judges and judicial employees

Compared to the previous year, the number of verbal, written or electronic attacks against the judicial organization, the courts and the judges or judicial employees and the verbal aggression shows an increasing tendency that serve the discrediting of the court, the judges and the judicial employees.

Pursuant to the reports sent by the regional courts in 2017 the following figures could be established concerning **crimes committed to the detriment of judges concerning their service:**

- criminal proceedings were initiated in 4 cases where final and binding decision was made,
- there are 7 pending cases,
- 2 cases were carried over from 2016 but have been completed in a final and binding way, while
- 2 cases carried over are still pending.

In cases initiated due to the harm of personality rights or due to compensation of damages initiated by a judge concerning his/her service:

- criminal proceeding was initiated in one case where final and binding decision was made,
- there is one pending case,
- one case was carried over from 2016 but has been completed in a final and binding way, while
- one case carried over is still pending.

We have received no data from any regional court concerning any proceeding (initiation, pending or terminated) regarding **secretary judges**.

Future goals and tasks:

- Carrying out further audits in the budgetary chapter, elaborating unified audit methodology, better organization of the internal audit systems of the respective courts, continuous development of same.
- Formation of an integrated risk management system and procedures for the handling of the events concerning the organizational integrity at the budgetary chapter level.
- Supervision of the entry into force of the administrative regulations and the preparations of certain amendments.
- New edition of the integrity questionnaire of the judges.
- Drafting the IT Security Regulation.
- Elaborating a procedure for the suspension of the immunity of the judges.

PART V – ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Main results of the NOJ in 2017 concerning the strategic goal “simplification of the access to justice”:

- The Government announced the following project of the NOJ as a priority project: “Further digitalization of the judicial administration (Digital Court)”.
- The number of submissions in litigation and non-litigation electronic proceedings exceeded in 2017 640 000 (a total of 641 097).
- Efficient preparation for the extension of the electronic communication in 2018.
- The preparation of the client information publications started with the aim to provide useful information to the citizens and the clients concerning the organization and the proceedings.
- The menu structure and designs have been prepared for the upgrading of the judicial website.
- The menu item “What you need to know about the new procedural codes” was created at the central judicial website that summarizes the most important information concerning the new procedural laws with the help of leaflets.
- The NOJ concluded a design contract for the designing of the client centres at the courts and other locations with the winner of the tender.
- The basis was laid down for the uniform judicial client charta and the for client satisfaction questionnaire that will be applicable in the future throughout the country.

1. Client relations

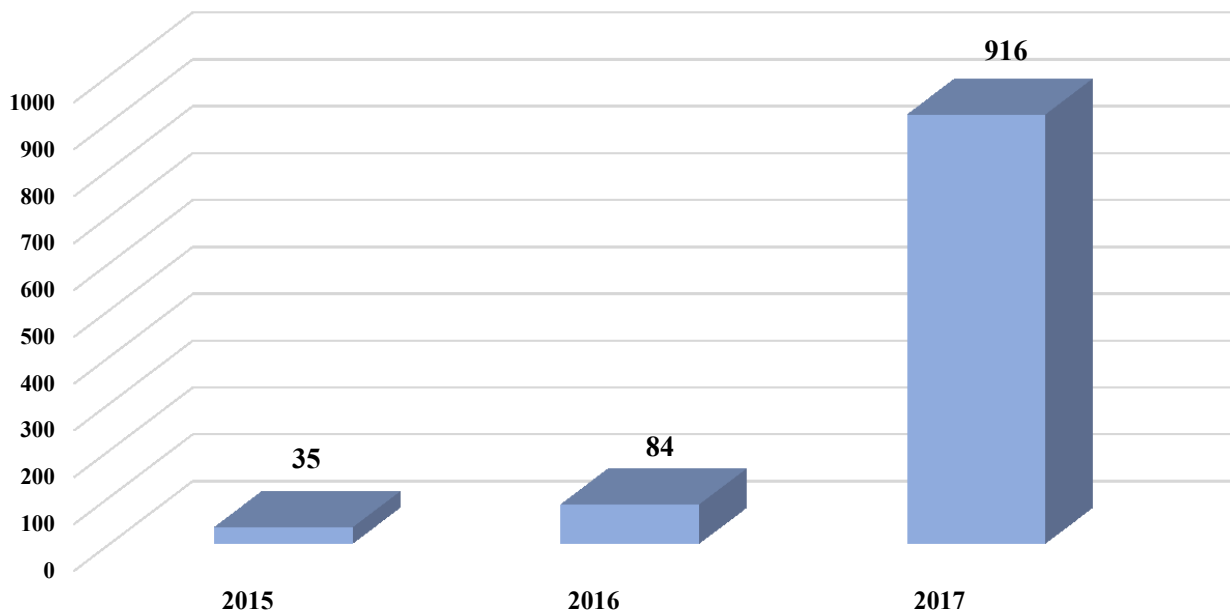
The simplification of the access to justice as a strategic goal means on one hand the facilitation of the information provision to the citizens and on the other hand, metaphorically, the simplification of the process to start a court proceeding. The Client centres, the judicial informational material for the clients, the electronic administrative services and the client satisfaction survey all serve these purposes.

1.1. Electronic administrative services

The electronic administrative services introduced in 2015, such as the E-complaint administration, the court proceeding duration calculator or the Judicial Electronic Information and Warning System operated without any interruption in 2017.

- E-complaint administration:
 - o The clients can file their administration-related complaints 24/7 electronically.
 - o In the reporting period the clients filed 916 complaints.
 - o 122 of the E-complaints were received by the NOJ and 794 by the courts.

Number of E-complaints



- Court proceeding duration calculator application:
 - An online service that assists the citizens in obtaining information on the average duration of certain types of proceedings at the given court.
 - In the reporting period 1 397 calculations were made in the application.
- Judicial Electronic Information and Warning System (BETFR):
 - The registered clients, legal representatives can inspect the basic data of the case and may receive notifications in SMS and e-mail about the significant procedural acts. In 2017:
 - number of the registered users: 975,
 - number of cases with a registration: 495,
 - users subscribed for SMS and e-mail messages: 311,
 - number of SMS and e-mail messages sent to the users: 1 038.
- Registry of persons with limited legal capacity and of preliminary statements:
 - The registry operated by the NOJ and the related developments are detailed in Part VII (*The operation of the NOJ*).

1.2. Digital Court Project

It is a future goal to ensure that the documentation of the legal proceedings can be checked online that will enable the clients entitled to such inspection of the file to inspect the file anywhere, anytime.

When the Government modified the annual development pool of the KÖFOP, the related project of the NOJ [“Further digitalization of the judicial administration (Digital Court)”] was indicated as a priority project. The preparatory works have started and the feasibility study was prepared, the request for funding was submitted and the documents of the public procurement were prepared by the judicial and external professionals participating in the project.

The overall purpose of the project is the reduction of bureaucracy. As a result of the planned developments, the clients can deal with their cases faster and cheaper. The administrative burden of the courts will decrease too and this leads to a more efficient work performance.

The developments to be realized during the project:

Development of the publication and anonymization of judicial decisions

- further improvement of the search engine of the Collection of Judicial Decisions for the optimization of the browsing of the anonym judicial decisions and of the search process,
- further improvement of the software performing the anonymization of the judicial decisions, automation of the anonymization.

Digitalization of the documentation of the judicial proceedings (E-folder) and ensuring the electronic inspection of the judicial files

- digitalization of all documents of the judicial files,
- electronic availability of the documentation for the judges,
- ensuring online inspection of the files for the clients anywhere, anytime.

Creating the connection between the specialized judicial systems and the Central Governmental Service Bus

- Online connection of the electronically available authentic public registries with the specialized judicial systems.

1.3. Client centres

Hundreds of thousands of Clients visit the courts annually to deal with their cases. Therefore it is extremely important to ensure that properly prepared colleagues welcome them in a prestigious environment. In the 21st century this shall be natural not only in the private sector but also in the public sector.

Just like the faces of the “good government” are the offices of government issued documents, the faces of the open, service-providing courts are the Client centres. Similarly to the offices of the government issued documents or to the customer services of the companies (e.g. banks, telecommunication companies), the Client centres are meant to ensure a new culture in the judicial administration. The objective is to enable that the clients of the courts can deal with their cases faster, in a simpler way and among modern and comfortable circumstances.

The NOJ handled the matter of the Client centres as a complex matter from the start. The Client centres require interior design work, the unification of the administrative processes and the adequate training of the colleagues and the preparation of comprehensible information material.

In order to ensure that the Client centres fulfil as much as possible the requirements and needs of the clients and of the judicial employees, the NOJ invited its strategic partner, the MOME (that also participated in the formation of the outfit of the offices of government issued documents) to carry out a survey. The result of the 6-month survey prepared with the method of “service design” was the Image handbook completed in January 2016 that was vetted by judicial leaders. The Image handbook contains recommendations for the arrangement of the spaces and the furnishing and for the application of infocommunication tools and the appearance and clothing of the colleagues at the Client centres.

The NOJ set up a working group for the development of the Client centres with uniform interior design after the first round of the two-round tender announced in October 2016 with the inclusion of the managers of the 16 competitors that were selected for the work. The working group examined the management matters, the case-load data, the relations in the customer offices of the courts and the communicational and visual aspects of the new judicial function to be introduced.

Based on the results of the workshops the NOJ concluded a design contract for the designing of the Client centres at the tender locations and other locations.

On 8-9 November 2017 the representatives of the courts convened in Budapest at the 5th Good Practice Meeting that focused on client relations. The good practices ensuring the more efficient work performance in field of client relations and in the client centres were presented by the courts, then in a workshop the basis of the judicial client charta and of the client satisfaction questionnaire were created with interactive methods.

The first Client centres will be set up at the Regional Court of Eger and at the District court of Szigetszentmiklós that will be opened for the public in the first half of 2018. Simultaneously, the assessment, design and refurbishment of the other 25 locations will commence.

1.4. Client satisfaction survey

In line with the requirements of the 21st century, the extension of the client relations opportunities receive a greater emphasis within the judicial organization and the service-providing nature of the courts, including the enhancement of the client satisfaction and the performance of the client satisfaction survey.

For the continuous development of the service-providing nature of the courts and for the enhancement of the clients' satisfaction, it is very important for the courts to receive all the feedback, either positive or negative, that the clients can give concerning the services of the courts, the work of the judicial employees and concerning the courts as a whole.

By using the client satisfaction questionnaires the courts can obtain such substantial feedback from the clients that can serve as the basis for further developments. The objective is to make the judiciary as client-friendly as possible with the help of the recent feedbacks that were mostly positive. At the same time the questionnaire should not contain any questions concerning the quality of the judicial work.

In order to reach the above goal as efficiently as possible, the NOJ decided to have the client satisfaction survey in one of the focuses of the good practice meeting held on 8-9 November 2017. All court levels were represented at the event. The court representatives considered all types of questionnaires used in the country and determined the basic questions that seemed necessary for the client satisfaction survey and made proposals for the regularity, periods and duration of the monitoring, for the evaluating persons, the communication to the clients, the structure of the questionnaire and the categories of the responses, as well.

Based on the good practices collected in the interactive event and based on the consensus of the participants, the NOJ started a regulatory work in 2017 to summarize the common results in a NOJ regulation issued by the President.

The results of the uniform client satisfaction survey may help the directions of the central development of the judicial services in the future.

2. Developments assisting the administrative work

2.1. E-lawsuit

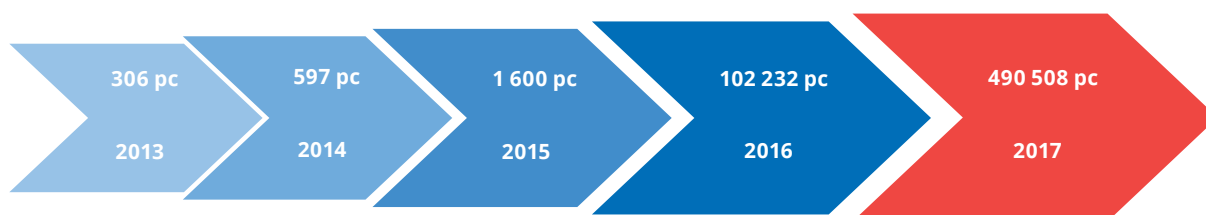
The number of submissions in litigation and non-litigation electronic proceedings exceeded in 2017 640 000 (a total of 641 097).

2.1.1. Civil law proceedings

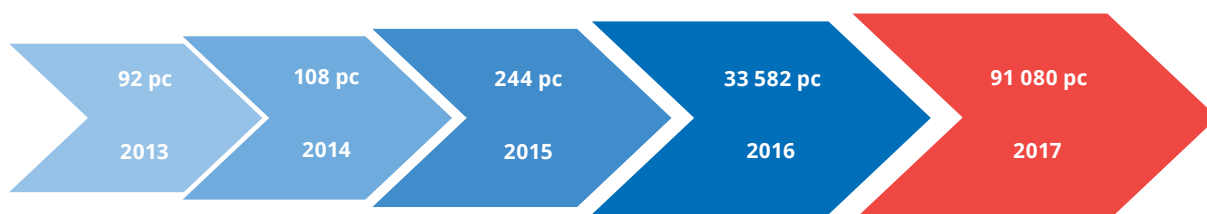
The applicable act contained that in civil lawsuits the electronic communication has been optional since 1 January 2013 in the cases where the regional courts act as courts of first instance. Since 1 July 2015 the electronic communication has become optional at all courts, i.e. both at the district courts and the regional courts, in proceedings at the first and second instance, as well. Since 1 July 2016 in civil lawsuits and in other civil proceedings based on the specific stipulations of the laws and in public administration and labour lawsuits the electronic communication with the courts has become mandatory for parties with legal representative, for business entities and for the authorities of the public administration.

As a result of the extension of the e-communication on 1 July 2016 the number of the e-submissions was rapidly growing in the reporting period in civil lawsuits. The judicial experience showed that the parties not obliged to the e-communication opted for it several times as it is faster and more cost-efficient than the hard copy correspondence.

The number of **submissions (initial document – follow-up documents)** in civil lawsuits in the period 2013-2017:



The number of **electronic initial documents** in civil lawsuits in the period 2013-2017:



In civil, business, public administration and labour non-litigation cases and in enforcement non-litigation proceedings the electronic communication will be introduced in 2018. For the preparation to the electronic communication the NOJ created electronic forms in 2017, the registry programme was further improved and performed educational and client informing tasks.

The NOJ set up in 2016 the civil e-lawsuit network. The members of the network are judges in the civil law field with deep knowledge in the field of electronic communication. The members of the civil e-lawsuit network participated in centrally organized professional events 4 times in

2017. The objective of the events was the thorough training concerning the procedural, administrative and IT system usage concerning the electronic communication and sharing of knowledge and local good practices. In 2018 the members of the civil e-lawsuit network will have meetings every other month.

For making the communication and knowledge sharing more efficient among the members of the civil e-lawsuit network, the platforms of the members of the criminal law and civil law working groups were set up at the Vibe application.

The operation of the network is of key importance because the members actively answer any arising questions locally and channel the suggestions and remarks into the system, participate in the information dissemination, participate in the development tasks and provide their opinion concerning drafts of the laws and participate in the trainings concerning the electronic communications. The main task of the e-lawsuit contact persons is to assist the judges and judicial employees professionally and with the technology in their everyday work.

The goal is to set up internal civil e-lawsuit networks at every regional court in 2018 so that a judge with deep knowledge in electronic communication is available at every organizational unit at the geographical area of each regional court who can assist others, contribute to answering questions, arrange local trainings and channels suggestions and remarks into the system.

As a part of the preparation of the full-scope electronic administration from 1 January 2018 trainings were held in 2017 at central, regional and local level. The courts and the NOJ organized several trainings for judges and judicial employees for the improvement of their knowledge in theoretical matters concerning the e-communication and in the actual knowledge of the use of the system.

The following ones have to be noted among the central trainings:

- National Civil E-LAWSUIT Day,
- Key user training for office employees of the civil non-litigation cases.

In 2017 167 colleagues from the field of civil law participated in central trainings, while 1 402 colleagues from the field of civil law in local trainings.

The e-lawsuit contact person judges perform the local training tasks in cooperation with the participants of the key user trainings organized by the NOJ and this way ensure the preparedness, up-to-date knowledge of the judicial organization concerning the electronic communication. The NOJ provided access for the courts for the local trainings to the education environment of the BIIR registry software. The judges and judicial employees passing the test after the local trainings received certificates on the successful completion of the training.

2.1.2. Bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings

In bankruptcy proceedings the electronic communication has been obligatory for the debtor since 1 January 2015. In liquidation proceedings it has been optional since 1 January 2015, then from 1 July 2016 it has been mandatory that is also applicable to the objections and to the proceedings concerning the adjudication of disputed claims of creditors. The experience showed that the majority of the parties (creditors with legal representative, liquidation companies) used the optional period to learn the rules and techniques of the electronic communication in these proceedings that was only used in a narrow scope previously. As a result of this the period after

1 July 2016 lapsed without any major disruptions concerning bankruptcy and liquidation cases as the filing of the documents caused no problem for the parties and court offices were able to process the significantly increased quantity of electronic submissions.

This tendency continued in 2017; for the parties proceeding with legal representatives in most of these kinds of proceedings the handling of the electronic forms (downloading, filling in, e-signature, AVDH-authentication) and the electronic delivery became a routine. For the courts it became a routine that the information provision obligation detailed in § 29(1) (on the ordering of the liquidation proceeding of the debtor) and § 60(3) (on the completion of the liquidation proceeding) of the Act on Bankruptcy is fulfilled towards the public authorities and other public bodies electronically (once the official gateways of these authorities were opened) and this further reduces the mailing expenses of the courts.

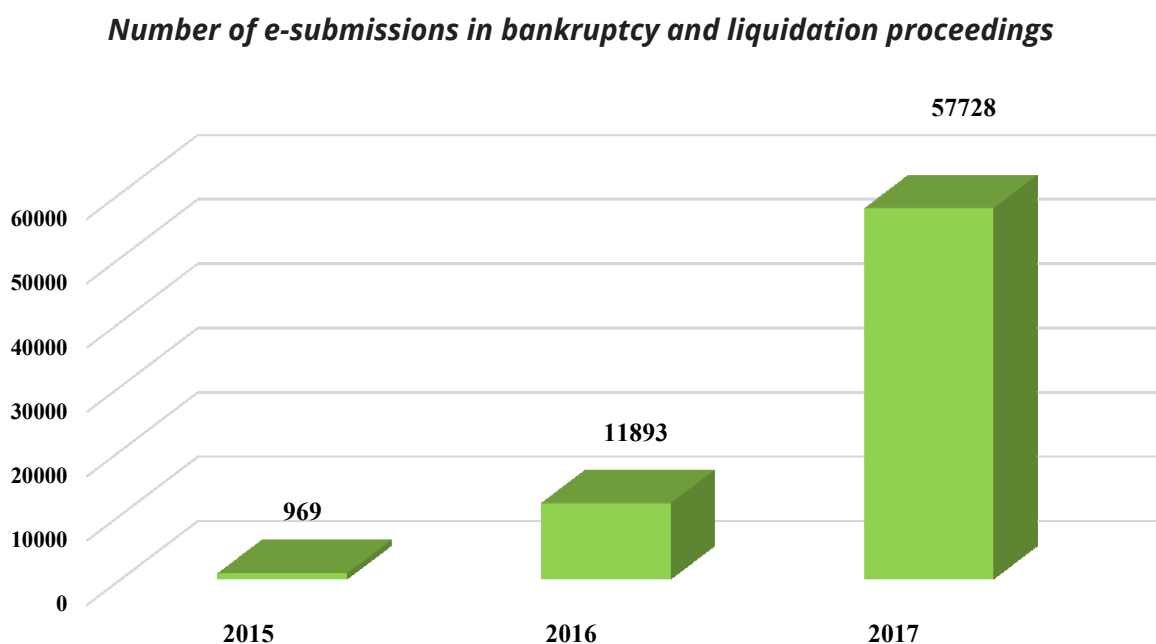
The Act on Bankruptcy was amended three times significantly in 2017 but these amendments barely concerned the electronic communication and the courts' tasks concerning the electronic proceedings in bankruptcy and liquidation cases. The available BÍRO applications and the ÁNYK forms were sufficient for the handling of these modifications.

As a result of the amendment of § 1(1) Ministry of Justice decree no. 36/2010. (V.13.) the Ministry of National Development (MND) took over from 15 November 2015 the operation of the software appointing the liquidators for each liquidation case and the NISZ National Infocommunications Services Company Limited by Shares was put in charge of the IT developments of the system from the same day.

The NOJ considers as a priority the integrity of the system appointing the liquidators and the unconditional trust in the fairness of the draw both by the clients and the liquidators. For the realization of this goal the regional courts semi-annually inform the NOJ about the enquiries for data changes initiated by them at the MND that cannot be carried out by the users and about the cases where the liquidator drawn by the system was later replaced by another liquidator due to any reason whatsoever (e.g. § 27/A. § (5), (6), (7), (8) Act on Bankruptcy, etc.).

Based on the information provided by the regional courts the NOJ prepared a summary in both the 1st and 2nd half of 2017. Based on the data in the 2nd semester report very positive tendencies could be experienced. The number of enquiries for data changes initiated by the courts at the MND that cannot be carried out by the users and the number of cases where the liquidator drawn by the system was later replaced by another liquidator decreased compared to the previous period and the ratio is very low throughout the country. The enquiries for data changes dropped to one-third: while in the 1st half of 2017 this number was nine, and concerned 30% of the regional courts, in the 2nd half there were only three such enquiries. The number of the cases where the person of the liquidator changed dropped by nearly 77% (to just 6 cases), while the number of concerned regional courts decreased by 60% (four regional courts were concerned in total). It can be established based on the above data that the cooperation between the courts and the MND is free of any conflicts and the judges acting in bankruptcy and liquidation cases use the software properly.

Number of e-submissions in bankruptcy and liquidation proceedings in the period 2015- 2017:



2.1.3. Criminal proceedings, misdemeanour proceedings

The operation of the IT system providing for the electronic delivery of the indictments that was developed jointly by the NOJ and the Supreme Prosecutor's Office operated without interruption in 2017. In 2017 43 997 indictments were sent to the courts.

In criminal proceedings from 1 July 2015 the filing of the motions for (and the revocation of the motions for) proceedings for aggregation of punishments and the subsequent aggregation of punishments can take place electronically.

From 1 January 2018 the investigative authority, the state attorney, the court, the law enforcement bodies and other state authorities use electronic communication mandatorily in criminal and misdemeanour proceedings. Electronic communication is also mandatory for the defence attorneys and for all attorneys acting as the representatives of any participant of any proceeding, while for natural persons the electronic communication will be optional.

In 2017 the electronic forms for the purposes of the electronic communication in criminal and misdemeanour cases were created and the judicial employees received trainings both centrally and locally and the NOJ provided information for the clients on the central website of the judiciary. It has to be noted that there were regular discussions with the fellow authorities (Ministry of Intern, Supreme Prosecutor's Office, National Command of the Law Enforcement, and with the National Police Headquarters) in 2017 to ensure the successful preparation for the transition to electronic communication.

Due to the extension of the electronic communication the NOJ created at the end of 2016 the **criminal e-lawsuit network**. The members of the network are judges in the criminal law field with deep knowledge in the field of electronic communication. The members of the criminal e-lawsuit network participated in centrally organized professional events monthly in 2017. The objective of the events was the thorough training concerning the procedural, administrative and

IT system usage concerning the electronic communication and sharing of knowledge and local good practices. In 2018 the members of the criminal e-lawsuit network will have meetings every other month. For making the communication and knowledge sharing more efficient among the members of the network, a platform was set up at the Vibe application.

The operation of the network is of key importance because the members actively answer any arising questions locally and channel the suggestions and remarks into the system, participate in the information dissemination, participate in the development tasks and provide their opinion concerning drafts of the laws and participate in the trainings concerning the electronic communications. The main task of the e-lawsuit contact persons is to assist the judges and judicial employees professionally and with the technology in their everyday work.

The goal is to set up internal criminal e-lawsuit networks at every regional court in 2018 so that a judge with deep knowledge in electronic communication is available at every organizational unit at the geographical area of each regional court who can assist others, contribute to answering questions, arrange local trainings and channels suggestions and remarks into the system.

The NOJ organized several central trainings in 2017 concerning the electronic communication in criminal and misdemeanour cases to provide a thorough knowledge for the participants. The following trainings have to be noted:

- Key user training for judicial employees in the field of criminal law,
- Key user training for office employees of the criminal cases,
- National Criminal E-LAWSUIT Day.

In 2017 300 colleagues from the field of criminal law participated in central trainings, while 2,088 colleagues from the field of criminal law in local trainings. The e-lawsuit contact person judges perform the local training tasks in cooperation with the participants of the key user trainings organized by the NOJ and this way ensure the preparedness, up-to-date knowledge of the judicial organization concerning the electronic communication. The NOJ provided access for the courts for the local trainings to the education environment of the BIIR registry software. The judges and judicial employees passing the test after the local trainings received certificates on the successful completion of the training.

2.1.4. E-LAWSUIT 2018 menu item

With a view to the introduction of the comprehensible electronic administration in 2018, the **E-LAWSUIT 2018** page was set up in December 2017. It is available from the central website of the judiciary (www.birosag.hu).

The page contains a complex knowledge-base that includes structured information, guideline and process descriptions regarding the electronic communication with the courts. Both the electronic forms created by the President of the NOJ and the FAQ section are accessible from this menu item. The page is updated from time to time.

2.1.5. E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk

The NOJ has been operating the **E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk** since the extension of the electronic communication (1 July 2016). This platform Provides competent reply to all inquiries concerning electronic communication in a timely manner.

The E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk received 1 311 enquiries in the second half of 2016 and 2014 in 2017.

The enquiries covered the following topics concerning electronic communication:

- general information on the legislative framework and IT requirements,
- procedural duty payment,
- electronic signature,
- filling in and delivery of the e-form,
- troubleshooting,
- lost submission,
- notifications,
- IT-related questions,
- other.

Enquiries are handled timely, within 2 working days on average.

Number of E-submissions and E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk enquiries and their correlation			
	Number of E-submissions (pc)	E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk enquiries (pc)	E- submissions with E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk enquiries (%)
2nd half of 2016	120 846	1 311	1,08%
2017	578 129	2 014	0,34%

The clients turned to the E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk concerning:

- 1,08% of the electronic submissions in the 1st half of 2016,
- less than 1% (0,34%) of the electronic submissions in 2017.

The NOJ regularly analyses and assesses the enquiries received by the E-LAWSUIT Helpdesk . From June 2017, the client satisfaction is measured concerning the replies sent. Based on the evaluation of the questionnaires filled in by the clients, it can be established that the clients

- rated the usefulness of the reply 4,19 on a scale of 5,
- would recommend the Helpdesk to their colleagues or acquaintances in 87% of the cases,
- found the E-LAWSUIT page useful and informative in 81% of the cases.

Based on the feedback, the NOJ ensures an even more efficient operation of the Helpdesk and even more comprehensive information and guides will be published on the client site of the E-LAWSUIT page.

2.2. Electronic payments

In 2017, clients performed their duty payment obligations associated with electronic judicial proceedings primarily through the EFER (Electronic Payment and Clearing System) or through wire transfers to the accounts kept by the Hungarian Treasury (HT).

In the reporting period

- **22 656** payments were effected through the EFER in the total amount of HUF **1 289 899 117**,
- **11 254** transfers were made in the total amount of HUF **1 875 256 754** through HT.

2.3. Digitalization of the registry of non-governmental organizations (E-registry of NGOs)

2.3.1. E-communication in the registration proceedings of NGOs

On 1 January 2015, the Civil Integrated Information System (CIIR) was introduced that enabled electronic communication between the courts and the clients or the prosecutors in civil organization registration proceedings. Based on the experience of the recent years, it can be stated that even clients non-obligated to communicate electronically increasingly file electronic requests to the courts. Further development of the new IT system has been ongoing since 1 January 2015 the directions of which are determined by the changes in the legal framework and the demands of colleagues.

In the 1st half of 2017, a new application called "Access portal for prosecutors" was introduced that provides remote access to the electronic files of NGOs to the authorized prosecutors without any limitation. The introduction of this new application is revolutionary regarding the access to judicial files considering that the CIIR is now one step away from enabling citizens to access the documents in a client-friendly and comfortable way. In the 2nd half of 2017, the transition to the new Transaction Module took place in order to enhance the safety and the speeding up of the data traffic.

Regarding the incoming enquiries, no substantial changes can be detected concerning the last two full calendar years. In 2017, the total number of hard copy and electronic requests exceeded 120 400 (120 408 to be exact) which number was slightly lower than that of the previous year. At the same time the number of the electronically filed requests showed a small increase. In 2016, 25% while in 2017 25,6% of the requests were filed electronically that means nearly 800 (747) more electronic requests.

At a national level, a decrease of the number of registered organizations can be observed: in 2016 81 086 organizations were registered, by 2017 this number dropped by 6% to 76 324.

2.3.2. New datasets and developments

The new Civil Code generated new data recording tasks regarding the registration of NGOs that resulted in IT development requirements. The address for electronic communication was integrated into the registration data. As a new entry, the short name of the organization can be recorded among the case data that can also be found in the public Name Check function; as a result, the organization can comply easier with the statutory obligation of specification.

In the 2nd semester of 2017, a top priority was the integration of the new templates for simplified proceedings introduced by the Ministry of Justice into the ÁNYK framework software and the enabling of the automated processing of these templates in the system which task was completed by the end of the rather tight deadline of 1 September 2018.

The publication of the balance sheet reports of NGOs remains under the responsibility of the NOJ pursuant to Act CLXXV of 2011 on the Freedom of Association, on Public-Benefit Status, and on the Activities of and Support for Civil Society Organizations. You can read more about this and the related development in Part VII (*The operation of the NOJ*).

2.4. Corporate law proceedings

The amendment of Act CLXXVII of 2013 on the transitory and authorising provisions related to the entry into force of the New Civil Code in 2016 changed the final deadline laid down for limited liability companies for making the decision on the increase of their share capital (the original date was 15 March 2016 which was modified to 15 March 2017). Consequently, requests concerning the capital increase had to be filed with the courts of registry on 14 April 2017 at the latest. Therefore the courts of registry received much more requests for registration of amendment in March and April compared to the same period in 2015 (when the limited liability companies did not have an obligation to change their share capital).

The increase in the number of requests for amendment concerning limited liability companies is shown in the following chart:

Period	Requests received	Ratio of the cases received compared to March 2015
March 2015	8 680	100%
March 2016	30 676	353%
March 2017	27 679	318%
April 2015	8 326	100%
April 2016	18 012	216%
April 2017	18 148	217%

By making “automated” decisions on the requests for amendment, the courts of registry treated all requests received in 2017 **without any delay**. There were no disruptions during the filing of requests, the employees of the office of the courts of registry worked overtime to file the submissions and the IT system operated flawlessly.

In order to ensure the authenticity of the Company Registry, the courts performed its data cleaning during the 1st half of 2017, based on the signalling of the Ministry of Justice

The IT service provider improved the software at the initiation of the NOJ as follows:

- statistics concerning **non-contentious proceedings** regarding the deletion of entries of rights or circumstances concerning companies terminated without succession can be now downloaded electronically;
- decisions made concerning involuntary de-registration now constitute part of the editor’s statistics;
- the software is now capable of performing simplified editing actions;
- new decision templates have been included in the software.

In the reporting period, a set of proposals for the amendment of laws has been compiled that focuses primarily on the reduction of the administrative burden of the courts of registry.

The number of legality supervision cases rose in the 2nd half of 2017. The reason for this is that the courts of registry started ex officio proceedings against those limited liability companies that failed to comply with their obligation to increase their share capital.

Having regard to the entry into force of the new Civil Procedure Code, all decision templates needed to be modified concerning corporate law proceedings. The NOJ prepared the new templates in 2017.

3. Communication

3.1. Communication strategy: clarity at courts

One of the main goals of the NOJ and of the judicial organization in the field of communications is to improve clarity of courts. The NOJ announced 2017 as the year of clarity at courts. The aim was to provide clarity at courts both in written and verbal communication as much as possible. The focus was structured around three main areas: judicial administration, adjudication and clarity in press communication.

Just like for regular people, it is very important for the public authorities including courts that others understand their communications, activities and operation. By enhancing clarity, both the organization and its clients can save money, time and energy. Making comprehensible what happens and why in the courtrooms may seriously contribute to the enhancement of trust in the courts. Therefore it is important to make the administration of justice accessible and understandable for the judicial employees, the clients of the courts and for the general public.

The judicial organization took its first steps towards the above purpose already in 2016. A communications questionnaire was issued and several communication platforms were remodelled. In 2017, in the year of clarity at courts, all available resources were utilized to ensure that the communication of the NOJ and the courts comply with the above requirements.

In order to improve comprehensibility, the NOJ strived to enhance knowledge sharing and the dissemination of good practices. On 26 January 2017, a conference with the title "Comprehensibility of public institutions" was organized at the Hungarian Academy of the Judiciary (HAJ) for leaders responsible for the communication of public authorities. At the professional event, the following topics were discussed: clarity of communication, comprehensible legislation and the significance of certain tools aimed at the information of clients.

It is crucial for the operation of the judiciary and for raising awareness of the judicial organization to place greater emphasis on providing information to clients. In 2017, the elaboration and preparation of the content of client information materials started in order to provide that the clients of the courts and citizens with legal problems can gather useful information concerning the organization and the proceedings. The publications provide information about the operation of the courts, the date of visiting hours for citizens with legal problems, on the conduct of hearing information for witnesses and about the filing of a statement of claim.

Besides these leaflets informative animated films also provide information to the clients. The preparation of an animated short movie with the title "On my way to a court hearing" started in 2017 in cooperation with MOME.

The NOJ aims at updating the website of the judiciary under the slogan of clarity, a new design and an up-to-date, transparent structure should be created for the sake of the visitors. The makeover of the central website started in 2016 with the identification of the main target groups, the most visited pages and the fields requiring remodelling parallel to revision of the whole content. In 2017, the work continued, the menu structure, and the designs of the new website were created and we continued to work on the amendment of the content.

We launched a research projekt in cooperation with the National University of Public Service. An important objective of this is to analyse the press releases from the aspects of comprehensibility and capability of media appearance. Based on the results, we will prepare a practical guide or manual that spokespersons and press secretaries can use for their daily work.

In 2017, the media regulation was modified. The National Judicial Council (NJC) regulated the information-provision to the press by the courts in 1999, then in 2010 while in 2012 one of the first regulations of the NOJ was the judicial media regulation. The modification of NOJ instruction no. 8/2012. (IV. 25.) was made necessary by the practical experience of the recent years. One of the main goals of these changes was to make information provision to the press more efficient under the slogan of the uniform and comprehensible communication of the judicial organization.

3.1.1. Network of spokespersons and press secretaries

The courts communicate their messages through this Network to the press and the general public. There are spokespersons and press secretaries at the Curia, at the regional courts of appeal and at the regional courts; their contact details can be found on the central website of the judiciary.

The members of the Network have a defining role in both the internal and external communication. Their tasks include, among others, the communication with the press, replying to enquiries of journalists, providing reliable information to the public and the facilitation of the information flow within the judicial organization.

It is important to ensure that the members of the Network have continuous training; in 2017 a 2-day training was organized for the members of the Network at the HAJ. At these trainings, both groups could expand their practical knowledge. The training for the spokespersons targeted the development of verbal communication, while press secretaries could improve their written communication

3.1.2. Spokespersons' Working group and the "About the courts - in a comprehensible manner" Working group

The members of the Spokespersons and Press secretary Network formed in 2014 the Spokespersons' Working group with the main task of facilitating the uniform communication of the courts. In November 2017, the Working group was transformed, its scope of duties and headcount increased and now it operates under the name "About the courts - in a comprehensible manner" Working group. The purpose of the Working group is to develop external and internal communication, to facilitate comprehensible information provision and to improve the efficiency of the Network.

3.2. Online platforms

3.2.1. Central website

3.2.1.1. Renewal of the central website of the courts

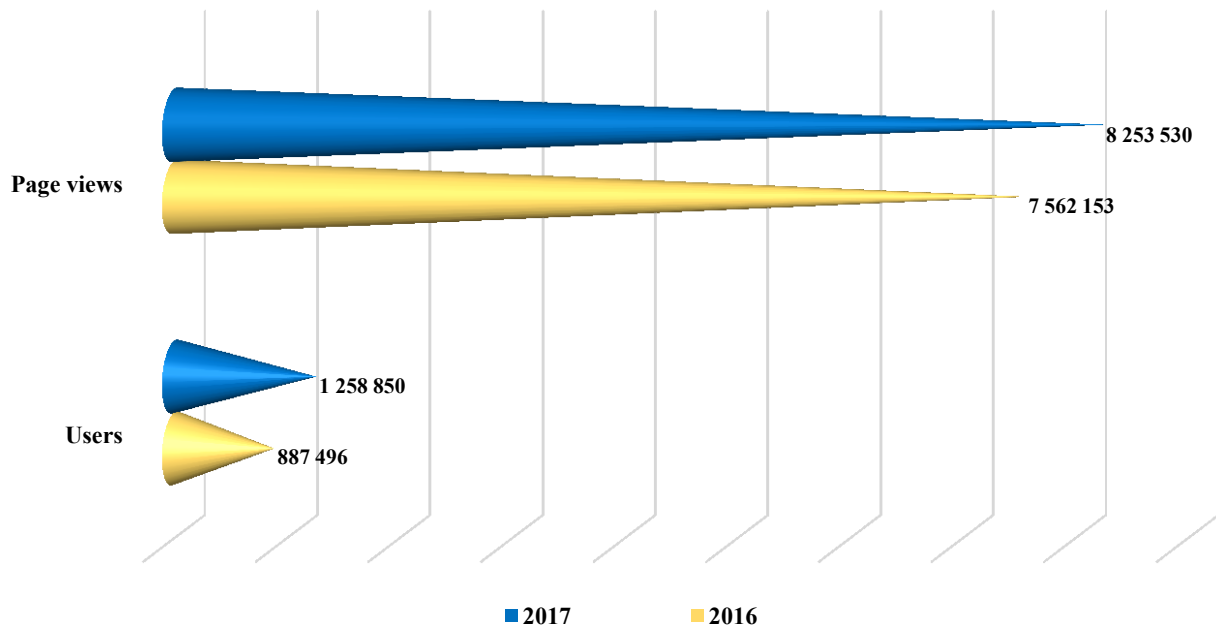
The main information channel is the central website of the NOJ and the judicial organization. This site contains useful information for the citizens with legal problems and also serves as a daily news platform and provides information about the work of the NOJ and the courts. On this site the clients are informed, among others, about the most important changes and the FAQ menu item helps their orientation, as well.

On 1 January 2018, the Civil Procedure Code and the Public Administration Procedure Code entered into force. The judicial organization prepared well for the application of these new codes in 2017. It was a priority goal to inform the clients, therefore a menu item was created on the central website that contains information on the new procedural codes.

The NOJ created the E-LAWSUIT 2018 menu item for the purposes of successful preparation for the electronic communication in 2018; it contains full-scope information for the parties and other participants of the proceedings who are obliged to use electronic communication.

The birosag.hu central website was popular in 2017 as well, based on the surveys; many visitors were attracted to the site.

Visitors of the [www. birosag.hu](http://www.birosag.hu) central website



3.2.1.2. News and press releases

The courts and the NOJ strive for the credible, accurate and speedy information provision concerning both administrative matters and court cases. The main forum for the publications is the central website of the courts (birosag.hu), but the pieces of information provided by the courts can be read, seen or heard in several media outlets. Beside the central website, the regional courts of appeal and the regional courts keep on operating their own websites.

In 2017, 323 pieces of news were published, while the number of press releases grew by nearly 200, to a total of 1 641 compared to the previous year.

The judicial spokespersons and the press secretaries prepare detailed monthly reports including, among others, the internal and external media coverages concerning the courts. The regional courts of appeal and the regional courts had intensive communication in the reporting period. They generated 6 015 internal media coverages published internally and 7 327 external media coverages at their own initiative.

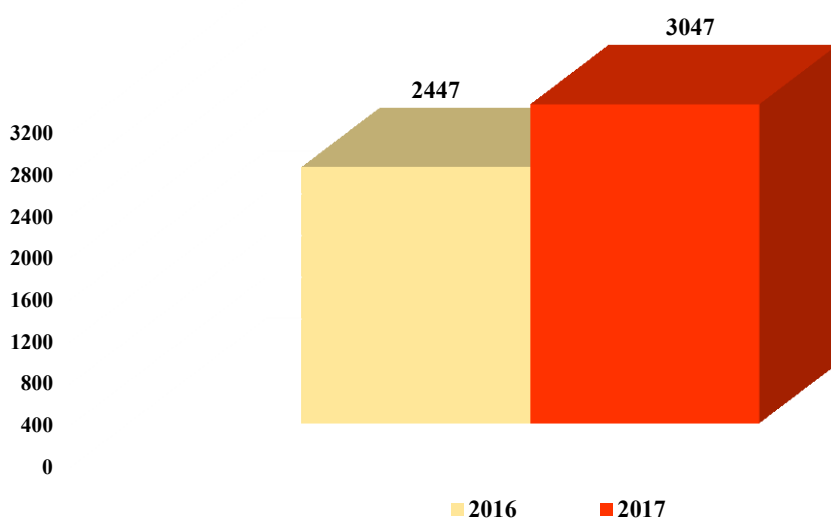
3.2.1.3. Central newsletter

The NOJ summarizes the most important news and press releases published on the central website every Thursday in a newsletter and sends it out to the press.

3.2.2. Social media, Facebook

The NOJ started its Facebook page in 2014 that is regularly updated and pays special attention to the visual content. In 2016 the NOJ Facebook page had 2 400 followers that rose to 3 047 in 2017. This page offers great opportunities to provide the broadest possible distribution of our news of public interest. A post usually reaches 1 000-1 500 people while we can reach nearly 5 000 users with the Facebook content within a calendar week. The Facebook site is suitable for providing up-to-date information and news to the target group actively using the platform.

The number of followers of the NOJ Facebook page



3.2.3. Central intranet

This internal communication platform is first of all a tool for providing information to the judicial employees. The intranet enables the distribution of news and information concerning the organization. The online platform plays an important role in the internal communication and the flow of information: those interested can read about forum topics and professional materials.

The publicity within the judicial organization is of extreme importance. The execution of the central decisions can be efficient if they are based on wide-scope surveys and consultations, the people proposing changes can receive feedback and the administrative processes are transparent and reliable.

In 2017 the renewal of the site started. The purpose was the review and restructuring of the menu structure. New menu items were created that help the information provision to the judges and judicial employees.

In 2017 the following items were added to the menu list of the central intranet:

- Menu item on the client centres with uniform design,
- Menu item for the judicial career,
- Sub menu items for the “New procedural codes (Civil / Public administration / Criminal codification)”.

3.2.4. Central intranet newsletter

Judicial employees receive a newsletter weekly on Thursdays about the events of the previous week, opening tenders and trainings. The newsletter was changed in 2017 and now the most important news of the week is structured into different topics.

3.3. Press relations

The external communication channels ensure the connection to citizens, other authorities, external organizations and foreign organizations. The press has a crucial role in the reputation of the judicial organization and in dissemination of messages to target groups.

The news published by media outlets may contribute to the more efficient information provision for the clients and to the presentation of the results and goals of the judiciary. The strategic goals of the President of the NOJ are the integrity of the judicial organization, the transparency of the administrative work and that of the administration of justice, the reliability and control of the earlier. One of the tools for realizing these goals is to ensure the publicity of the decision-making and of the operation. The President of the NOJ ensures the transparency of the administrative activities and the publication of the instructions (regulations), recommendations and decisions, reports and tenders for positions and tender minutes by complying with the applicable statutory rules. The instructions (regulations) of the President of the NOJ are published in the Official Gazette and on the central website along with the recommendations and the decisions and in the Judicial Gazette. The reports, tenders for positions and tender minutes are published on the central website.

The Spokespersons and Press secretary Network has an important role in to informing the press. The courts inform the public in advance in press releases and in hearing schedules about cases that may be of public interest. The press releases and the cumulated hearing schedules are available on the central website where the news concerning the central administration are also published.

Beside press releases, the courts provide news in the form of interviews as well and it is important that the journalists are met in person from time to time. The regional courts of appeal and the regional courts organized 59 press conferences and 21 press breakfasts in 2017 and replied to 1 432 enquiries from the press.

The NOJ informs the press on a daily basis about the topics concerning the central administration. In 2017, the preparation for the new civil procedure code and public administration courts was in the focus of the press. The entry into force of the civil procedure code and of the public administration procedure code on 1 January 2018 required not only the preparation of the judges: citizens and other authorities of law had to be informed about the changes. The NOJ paid special attention to make clients and other authorities of law familiar with the new rules. On the central website of the courts the menu item "What you need to know about the new procedural codes" summarizes the most important information concerning the new procedural codes with the help of leaflets.

For the purposes of awareness-raising in the field of law the NOJ published numerous news, organized press conferences and organized interviews with the experts participating in the codification of the new codes and in the coordination of the training of the judges.

3.4. Publications

It is the goal of the NOJ to inform the clients and the judicial employees in a comprehensible and wide-ranging way about the important professional matters concerning the courts and to provide useful information for the citizens with legal problems. The NOJ paid special attention to the preparation of client information publications in 2017. The principles for the drafting and

compilation of these publications are the concise and clear wording and the easily comprehensible and expressive graphic elements. The printing of the information publications started in 2017 and their distribution is due in 2018.

Publications issued in 2017:

- Report of the President of the NOJ for the 1st half of 2016
- Report of the President of the NOJ for the 1st half of 2016 in English
- English translation of the Strategy chapter of the Report of the President of the NOJ for 2016
- Uniform client information publications (Organizational manual, On my way to a court hearing, Complaint day, Summoned as a witness, Statement of claims)
- THEMIS competition publication
- Communications questionnaire
- "Being safe at the courts" – Publication in Hungarian and English concerning the Safety Increasing Project
- Operation of the public administration and labour regional chambers 2016
- Digital Court publication
- This is also us
- Portraits
- Become a trainee judge!
- Publication for the 5th Court and Communication international conference

3.5. Events

3.5.1. Events open to the press

The courts and the NOJ organized several events in 2017 that were open to the press.

The following has to be highlighted:

- "Clarity of the public institutions" Conference (26 January),
- General meetings for judges, press conferences at every regional courts of appeal and regional courts (February-March),
- Press conference concerning the new chairman of the NJC (14 March),
- Closing event of the Safety Increasing Project (26 May),
- Court Day (15 July),
- V5th Court and Communication international conference (12 October),
- Press conference on the new civil procedure code and the public administration procedural code in connection with the European Day of Justice (24 October),
- Award ceremony for the photo competition of the courts (4 December),
- Consilium Peritorum (8 December).

3.5.2. General meetings for judges

The meetings for judges organized in the February to May period weekly at the courts all around the country enjoyed priority among the events of the first half of 2017. In all instances the meetings were preceded by an intense communication week. In the framework of this event an exhibition of the awarded photos of the judicial photo competition took place at the given court and the chairpersons of the respective regional courts of appeal and regional courts gave interviews to the local media on the results of 2016 and on the current matters. There were press conferences

held prior to the meetings every time. Specifically for these events an information booklet was prepared for the press with a uniform design all around the country but filled in with local content. This booklet contained the most important results and success stories of the year. In towns with universities the President of the NOJ or her deputy and a representative of the local court held a presentation for the law students about the judicial career prior to the day of the meeting.

3.5.3. 5th Court and Communication international conference

The NOJ organized the Court and Communication international conference for the fifth time in 2017. The main topic of the conference was comprehensibility. The events attracted a strong crowd: almost a 100 people from 20 countries visited Budapest. The professionals discussed the possible directions of the development of comprehensibility of the judicial administration, of the administration of justice and of the press communication in workshops on the second day of the two-day event.

3.6. "Courts in focus" photo contest

After the success of the contests of the previous years, the President of the NOJ announced in 2017 for the fourth time the photo contest with the title "Courts in focus". The contest was open to everyone and 41 contestants submitted 300 photos.

The purpose of the contest is that photographers present judicial buildings and day-to-day work from a new aspect. In the reporting year the categories were: Portrait, humans; Historic buildings and arts; Utility objects and Digital Court. As a new element of the contest, the contestants could submit series of photos as well. The NOJ organizes an exhibition of the photos every December. The award-winning photos are circulated in the country and exhibited at the regional courts of appeal and at the regional courts at the time of the general meetings for judges .

The contest is successful each year, more than 230 contestants participated in the recent years with 1 200 photos, which means 300 photos per year altogether. The purpose of NOJ is to publish the outstanding photos in a summarizing exclusive publication that will be published in 2018.

3.7. Open Court Programme

The Open Court Programme, initiated by the NOJ in 2012 for social responsibility purposes in order to facilitate the judicial career orientation and law-awareness of the new generations, completed its fifth successful year.

This programme with colourful content and methodology that is realized with the wide-scope, active and create contribution of the courts attracts tens of thousands of people every year.

In 2017, the number of events and participants kept on increasing: 58 710 pupils participated in 2 326 events and 1 677 judges, secretary judges, trainee judges and judicial employees contributed.

Year	Number of Programmes	Number of Participants
2013	1 189	32 182
2014	1 198	37 706
2015	1 571	39 136
2016	1 547	54 711
2017	2 326	58 710

The vast majority of the programmes was organized by the Regional Court of Appeal Szeged and the Regional Courts of respectively Pécs, Miskolc, Kaposvár, Kecskemét and Szombathely while the most pupils were reached by the Regional Courts of respectively Pécs, Miskolc, Veszprém, Nyíregyháza and Kecskemét.

The main target group of the programme has been continuously expanding, beside the high schoolers gradually involving the students of the tertiary education, with special view to law or justice students and the upper classes of the elementary schools. The programme is also present outside of public education as vulnerable groups are involved, too, such as handicapped people, pensioners, minors in juvenile facilities and people working in neighbouring fields such as social and health care sector, child protection and education.

Certain programmes, such as the "Night of the Courts" are promoted to an even broader public, while in other cases the programme was connected with other initiatives that also broadened its target group (e.g. at festivals).

In the scope of this programme the participants can listen to presentations on legal matters of concern, there are opportunities to be present at court hearings that may be supplemented by a preparatory or discussing lecture for the better understanding of the justice system. When court buildings are visited, the administration of justice is in focus. Moot courts more and more frequently included in the programmes very much liked by the youngsters. A moot court means the simulation of a fictive case, of a tale or of a work of literature in court surroundings with the interactive participation of the students.

By using the ideas of the contributors, the scope of the programme is continuously expanded by other events, such as "Night of the researchers", "European Day of Justice", "Authentic court hearing based on archived documents", "Performance of a theatre play concerning legal history", "Children rights ROADSHOW". The career orientation, beside the internship programmes, is supported by other initiatives, such as an essay competition for high schoolers or moot court competitions.

The courts pay extra attention to the needs of target groups when realizing the programmes. The programmes concern almost all fields of law but the following topics interest the audience the most: liability and rights of minors, matters concerning them, such as internet, social sites, narcotic drugs. The programme includes some law-related topics of the high school-leaving exam, such as conclusion of an employment contract, employment or the state structure.

While the NOJ has an initiative and supporting role, the regional courts and the regional courts of appeal independently determine the method of implementation, hence the colourful range of events. The organization of the programmes are assisted by coordinators and contact persons and internal communication is supported by meetings and working groups. The NOJ organizes meetings and workshops at a country level and this way enables the sharing of the results and experiences.

The courts carry out the programme-related tasks bearing in mind the priority of their professional work. In 2017, the courts cooperated with 963 institutions, groups and organizations. The courts intend to facilitate the successful reaching of the target groups by concluding cooperation agreements. Cooperation also takes places concerning the realization of the events, as in lots of cases such authorities and organizations participate in the programme (that can be considered as concerned by the justice system in a broad sense), such as the prosecutor's office, the police or the government offices. As a result of such cooperation a short movie was prepared by the Regional Court of Zalaegerszeg and the Police Headquarters of Zalaegerszeg that can be used for the crime prevention purposes of the latter and also in the Open Court Programme.

The goal next year in the field of event organization is to continue the brainstorming started in 2017 that aims at the facilitation of the cooperation of judicial bodies, at the creation of internal forums suitable for the experience sharing for the maintenance of the high standard of the programmes, at the creation of a knowledge database integrating the innovative and creative solutions and at the introduction of the uniform data collection necessary for the evaluation of the programme.

Future goals and tasks:

- Enabling the online inspection of judicial litigation documentations that will enable the authorized clients to inspect the files free of temporal or spatial restrictions.
- Handover of the first client centres.
- Setting up internal civil and criminal E-LAWSUIT networks at all regional courts.
- Wide-scope distribution of client information publications.
- Presentation of the photos submitted to the "Courts in focus" photo contest in an exclusive publication.

PART VI – THE TRAINING

The most important results of the NOJ in 2017 is the development of the training system in line with the strategic goal of cooperation with other legal professions:

- Expanding the network of training organizers: including the training organizers operating at regional courts of appeal.
- Delivery of the Coospace e-learning platform and implementation of same to training tasks.
- The first Court History Week.
- Successful continuation of the Mailáth György Scientific Competition and of the Ráth György Judicial History and Tradition Competition.
- Accession to the EISZ National Program of the Hungarian Academy of Science (MTA) with the help of which several domestic and foreign professional literature and databases became available for the courts.
- Successful organization of the semi-final D – Judicial ethics and professional conduct – of the EJTN THEMIS Competition at the HAJ.
- The professional scholarship program continued at the Academy of European Law (ERA) and at the Court of Justice of the European Union (Luxembourg) announced by the President of the NOJ.
- The Court and Communication series of conferences continued at the HAJ.
- The secretary Judge Division of the European Law Advisors Network started its operation.

1. The foundations of the training organization and the development of the structure

1.1. Expansion of the network of training organizers

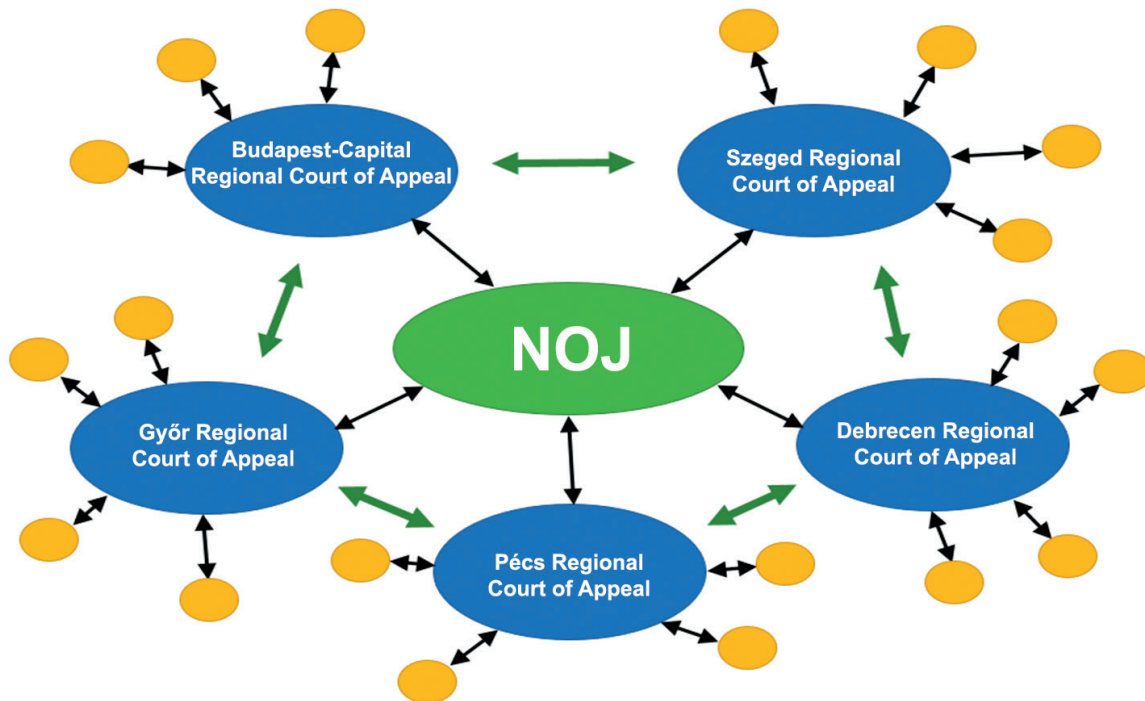
The dynamic legislation and the digital world meant new technological challenges and due to these factors, since the foundation of the NOJ the requirements concerning the number of trainings and concerning their quality have become more demanding. The number of regular trainings in the field of law and the number of attendees remained nearly unchanged and we could react on the requirements of the electronic proceedings and the efficiency of the administration that also support the work of the judges actually passing decisions.

The fact that the number of participants in the trainings showed a six-fold increase in the past 10 years, since the HAJ (the department of the NOJ responsible for trainings) has been founded, also resulted in the requirements that the organization of the trainings should be taken to another level.

It is a strategic goal and also at the same time a statutory obligation of the President of the NOJ to ensure the trainings of the judges that includes the constant development of the content of the trainings and the training system, as well. In 2015 the training central system was supplemented by local and regional trainings. This means that without interfering with the own trainings organized by the respective courts, the NOJ supports the local or regional trainings with quality assur-

ance and financing. For this purpose the national network of the training organizers and their assistants was set up at all regional courts and regional courts of appeal and also at the Curia. Since the creation of the network, it has been operating successfully but the ever increasing quality and quantity challenges induced the integration of a new coordination step in the system. Based on § 121 of Act CLXI of 2011 on the organization and administration of the courts since 2017 the regional courts of appeal perform priority coordination tasks concerning the trainings for the judges and judicial employees working at the courts within their specific geographical area.

***The coordination model of the training system,
now including the regional courts of appeal***

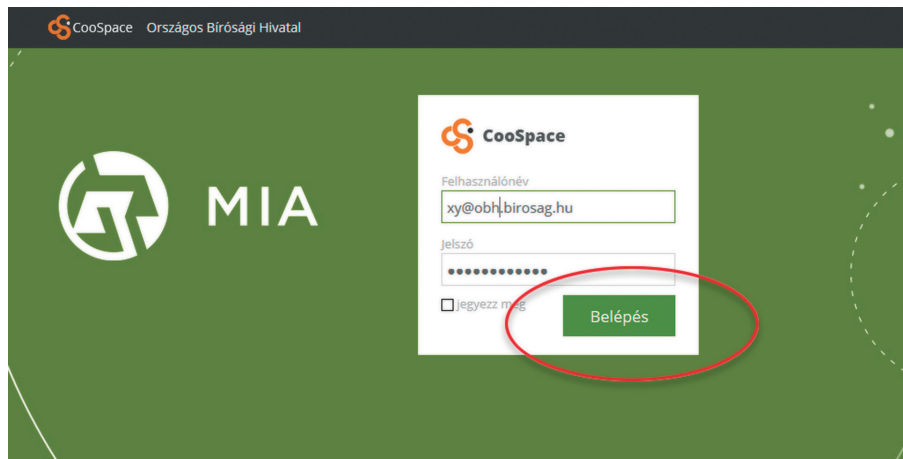


The NOJ President Regulation/Order no. 6/2015. (XI.30.) on the regulation for the judicial administration (hereinafter: administration regulation) contains all the obligations of the judicial leaders concerning trainings. The statutory coordination tasks of the regional courts of appeal, in line with the above regulation, in training matters covers the regional courts, the respective other courts under the authority of the regional courts, their groups and even the chambers working at the respective courts. Beyond the administrative hierarchy, with a view to the professional leader levels, the coordination task includes the tasks of the judicial panels and regional judicial panels concerning trainings and knowledge sharing. This interconnected system enables the vertical and horizontal coordination and development of the trainings.

1.2. Development of the e-learning framework system

A new direction in the training system is the modernization of the e-learning trainings. In connection with the preparation for the new Civil Procedure Code and the Public Administration Procedure Code in 2017 it became especially justifiable to use other channels for knowledge sharing and for the testing of the results other than the personal trainings organized in a physical space. In line with the requirements of modern times, the NOJ successfully implemented an e-learning system capable of handling video, audio and interactive materials so that the trainings materials concerning the new procedural codes can be learned in a user-friendly environment.

Login at the <https://coospace-noj.birosag.hu/>



The CooSpace e-learning platform was opened for the users on 13 July 2017, including the more than 1 800 page learning material for Act CXXX of 2016 on the Civil Procedure Code (New CPC). The material written by 68 judges and reviewed by 22 Curia judges contains the text of the laws, their explanation, the case-law, flow diagrams and test questions facilitating the passing of the closing exam at the same place. This was supplemented by 50 training videos and by downloadable podcasts of the trainings. These options covered the currently available audio-visual training methods. The more than 11 000 users just needed to pick the learning method fitting them the most. The members of the judicial organization can reach the materials anytime, anywhere; at their workstations or through their smartphones. The success of the first learning material is shown by the ca. 78 000 minutes spent with online learning only in the first half-year after the publication.

In September 2017 the 860-page learning material for Act I of 2017 on the Public Administration Procedure Code (independent PAPC) written by 15 judges and reviewed by 5 Curia judges and 18 lectures of the physical trainings and their downloadable podcasts containing the audio materials of the trainings.

After starting using the CooSpace e-learning framework system the HAJ continued the development of the software-based support of the training system by introducing the training registry system that will be available in 2018. A long-term developmental goal is to organize the trainings for well-defined target groups and then eventually to create an individual training registry and to the independent online application and own data handling. We plan to realize this in several steps, with independent but interconnected software operating in cooperation.

2. Plans for central trainings and programmes

The slogan for 2017 is comprehensibility. It hallmarks the whole training and scientific field. In order to be able to transmit the necessary knowledge in a more targeted way, to the adequate persons, we formed target groups and focus topics during the annual planning. With a view to the hot topics and the long-term goals, certain groups and topics are in the focus of the trainings. This particular attention, however, does not mean exclusivity, just that certain topics receive more emphasis for certain groups. We also hold several legal and professional trainings, meetings and discussions to disseminate information on changes of laws and practical issues.

2.1. Priority focus groups of central trainings

In the training plan it is definitely necessary to determine which target groups and topics are considered as of high priority for the given planning period. The expected training goal determines the selection criteria when determining the target groups and topics in focus. The central training plan needs to fulfil a two-way requirement in the following year, as well: on one hand general training opportunities have to be provided to everyone; this training system must serve the whole judicial organization; on the other hand the particularly important development directions have to be determined that will be prioritized in the upcoming period.

In 2017 among the focus groups of the central trainings, the group of judicial leaders received the primary attention and other focus groups were the new generation, the members and coordinators of the national networks and the participants of prioritized and international conferences and other events. For the fulfilment of the strategic goals primary focus must be turned to the judicial leaders as their administrative activities have effect on the whole system. In the judicial organization there are administrative and professional leaders. These positions include the court presidents, the head of the judicial colleges, the head of unit, their deputies, also the chairperson of judicial chambers, as well. Also giving thought to the future, adequate labour supply must be provided for and the development of the competences of the upcoming, potential leaders. Based on the experiences of the leader trainings started in 2016, the competence development of the higher leaders of the judicial organization was a key in 2017, including the head of the judicial colleges and their deputies, and the court presidents and their deputies.

Just like in the previous years, the focus group of the new generation needs continuous prioritized development, including judges with experience of less than 6 years, secretary judges and trainee judges.

For the consistent, country-wide operation of the judicial organization it is essential the cooperation and training of the members and coordinators of the national networks so that they can perform their work with the expected efficiency and results for the sake of all of us. This focus group includes the members of all networks supporting the courts or being in connection with the strategic programmes of the NOJ, including the training of the coordinators and training organizers of the central, local and regional trainings. The foundation of a new professional network, the national coach network of the judicial organization enables the competence development of the judges that undertake training duties, especially lecturing duties, among the target groups performing special professional tasks.

The participants of scientific and international conferences and of other events constitute a special focus group for the sake of providing forums for the cooperation with domestic and international organizations and other legal professions.

2.2. Priority focus topics of the central trainings

With a view to the focus groups, the focus topics realized in 2017 were the following:

- **leader training:** conscious handling of social relations at the workplace with a view to the aspects of psychology of leading at the workplace and the organization psychology; targeted development of the administrative leading and administrative technological competences with a view to the requirements of the judicial organization; development of leaders' soft skills;
- **new generation:** the systematic trainings for trainee judges, secretary judges and judges appointed for a definite period of time involving several weeks and trainings methods that prepare the participants for the profession; the purposes are to update the substantial and procedural legal knowledge and to provide sound foundations for

the learning of ethics, integrity and other special rules for the legal profession of the judges and the further strengthening of this knowledge;

- **development of national networks:** just to mention some, this development includes networks of the judicial mediators, the specialized consultants in EU law, the spokespersons, the contact persons of the E-lawsuit and the training organizers and the general goal is the support for the national strategic programmes of the President of the NOJ;
- **scientific and international events:** this is a priority goal in order to ensure the thriving of scientific life and the internal and external knowledge transfer, to ensure the contact with the universities, other legal professions and with the international partners;
- **new procedural codes:** preparing all judges, secretary judges and trainee judges in the field of civil law for the application of the new CPC and of the Independent PAPC

2.3. Central, local and regional trainings

2.3.1. Mandatory trainings

In 2017 mandatory trainings were organized for the following three topics:

1. Comprehensibility and professionalism in the judicial application of the laws
2. Family law awareness-raising and professional training
3. E-code CPC – preparation for the application of Act CXXX of 2016

The purpose of the training “Comprehensibility and professionalism in the judicial application of the laws” was to provide support to the judges how to lead lawsuits in a clear and comprehensible way and how to draft clear and comprehensible decisions, other goals included the strengthening of the comprehensible administration of justice, providing thorough knowledge in the drafting of judicial decisions, developing written communication based on practical examples and with some sample tasks and improving the comprehensibility of the decisions for judges, secretary judges and trainees. Mandatory trainings were organized at a local level 55 times with the participation of 2 941 attendants.

National mandatory training was announced for family law judges. The 2-module complex programme that took 4 days and included professional and psychological knowledge was an outstanding success among the total of 1 080 judges at the 20 training events.

For the HAJ the greatest challenge of 2017 was the preparation for the new procedural codes. The NOJ ensured the preparation for the new CPC in the framework of an 8-day training organized 28 times at the regional courts throughout the country, beside the e-learning material, for all judges, secretary judges and trainee judges in the field of civil law. A total of 2 457 attendants participated in the trainings in the country.

2.3.2. Recommended trainings

We organized a week for the recommended trainings in the fields of criminal, civil and public administration and labour laws with the support of the regional courts of appeal and the regional public administration and labour law judicial panel in 2017 where the courts organized the recommended trainings adjusted to the local requirements with the quality assurance of the HAJ. A total of 4 567 attendants participated in the 25 different trainings organized by at the local and regional levels and financed by the NOJ in the following topics:

- corporate law for judges other than corporate law judges,
- budgetary fraud,

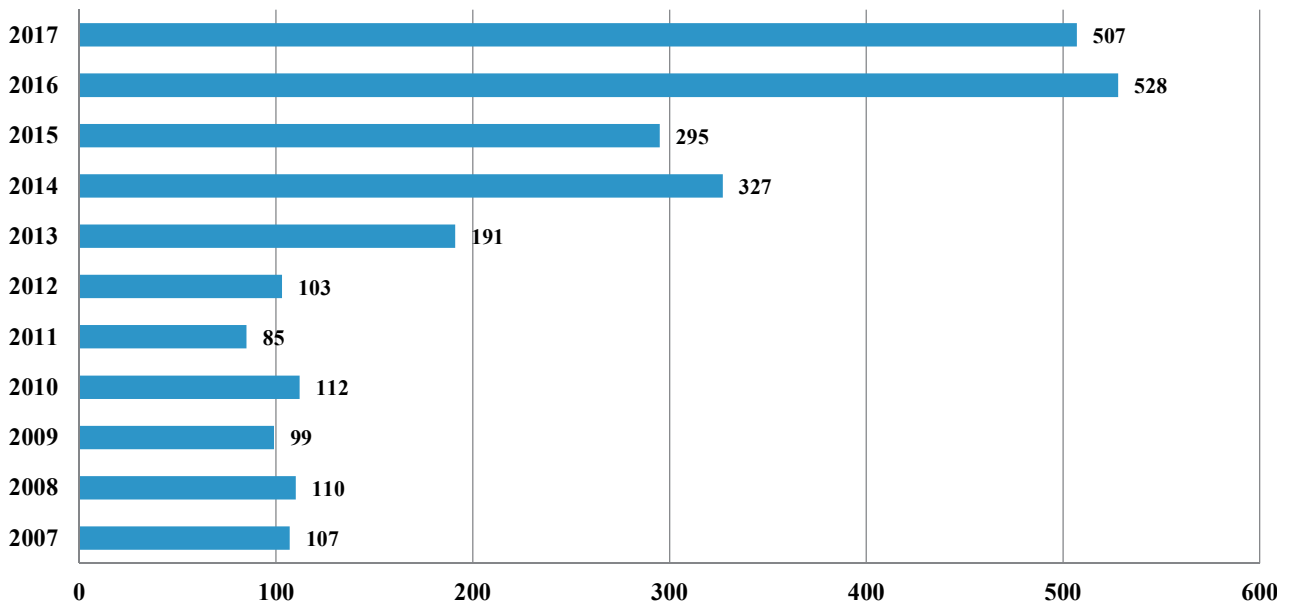
- practical matters of the Act on law enforcement,
- crimes concerning narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances,
- additional rights of minors and children in the criminal proceeding,
- evidencing and classification issues of sexual crimes and the aspects of the victim protection,
- preconditions of lawsuits – practice of the dismissal of statements of claims without summoning,
- judgement revision proceeding,
- liability of executives,
- practice of lawsuits for the compensation of damages, with special view to lawsuits for compensation of damages initiated against law enforcement facilities and courts,
- issues arisen in connection with the application of the new Civil Code,
- The new Civil Code – issues concerning the implementation of general compensation,
- workshop in corporate liquidation,
- practice of the exclusion of judges and the appointment of the competent court,
- complex training in public administration law,
- complex training in labour law,
- liability of the employer,
- EU law challenges of the judgements concerning asylum-seekers,
- electronic procedure in practice for judges,
- electronic procedure in practice for secretary judges, trainee judges, administrators and officials,
- moot court for judicial employees (civil and criminal),
- Legal database training (repeating the training of 2016),
- new regulations at the courts (Court case management regulation, Document handling regulation, internal regulations),
- judicial review of psychiatric treatments,
- specialized knowledge in recording minutes, data sheets and notifications (target group: secretary judges, trainee judges, administrators and officials in the field of criminal law).

In total in the central local/regional training system, with the coordination of HAJ, 236 trainings were organized in the country with the financing of the NOJ. The calendar for the central trainings organized at local and regional levels can be found in Annex VI. 1.

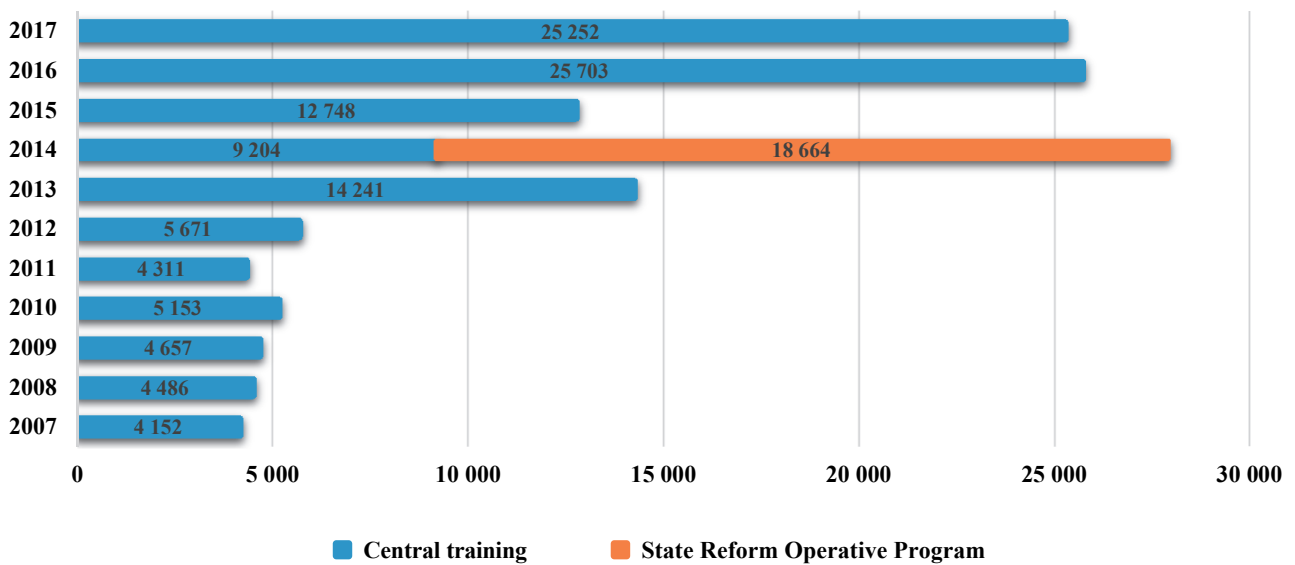
2.4. Central trainings hosted by the HAJ

In the 507 central training events in 2017 25 252 attendants participated. 271 of these events were organized at the HAJ with a total visitor number of 10 751. To ensure the clarity this great number of trainings we further improved the training calendar view in the intranet for the judicial employees where the central trainings can be tracked and the continuously updated topics are available as well.

**Number of central trainings
2007 - 2017**



**Number of participants of the central trainings
2007 - 2017**



The calendar of the central trainings hosted by the HAJ is attached as Annex VI.2.

2.4.1. Mandatory basic trainings for the preparation for the career as a judge

The new generation was prepared for the judges' work in the course of 10 one-week trainings at the HAJ in 2017. Taking into consideration that there are only 40 training weeks in a calendar year, this already shows the extreme importance of this target group. These trainings included:

- preparation of the trainee judges for the bar exam (for all 3 modules of the bar exam),
- trainings as preparation for the career as judges for secretary judges (training in theory and practice in the leading of court hearing in 4 modules in each field of law),
- training for judges appointed for a fixed-term (2 modules each in civil and criminal fields of law)

2.4.2. National programmes and networks

The HAJ supports the networks and working groups set up by the NOJ, provides a venue for the meetings and enables the participants to present their work in national conferences for the judicial organization. In 2017 the HAJ hosted, among others the following:

- sectional sessions of the specialized consultants in European law,
- working group meetings (spokespersons, Civil Procedure Code, Public Administration Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code training and administrative working groups), conferences disseminating information about national programmes (with the following priority topics: open court, witness care, victim protection and Child-centred Justice).

2.4.2.1. Coach network

In 2017 the setting up of the national coach network of the judicial organization started. The founding group has 9 members, who contributed to the competence development of the lecturers concerning the new CPC with their very own presentation methodology training in 2017. In the future the goal is to develop further the centrally coordinated network, including the recruitment of further members, trainings for the group, holding systematic professional meetings and joining the trainings of the judicial organization held at central, regional and local venues.

2.4.3. Trainings supporting the court work concerning the e-procedures

The new IT environment created by the NOJ also had its effects for the trainings and created new challenges as everything new had to be learned first. Therefore the HAJ supported the modernization by holding trainings supporting the use of the new e-systems in 2017. The 20, mostly practical, trainings were held with the participation of 740 judicial employees.

2.4.4. Leader training

The development of the leaders' following competences was in focus of the training:

1. development of the leaders' soft skills,
2. development of administrative leading competences,
3. development of administrative technological competences.

The goals were achieved as the practical training provided new knowledge but at the same time it was an experience, including professional discussions. The professional networking as another goal was achieved as well, since the personal relations, the trust and comradery were all strengthened among the judicial leaders.

Another result of 2017 was that the so-called new generation was also included in the leaders' training as a pilot group. 16 of the ambitious applicants who do not have an appointment for a leading role just yet could participate in the training that would be followed up and further developed in 2018 foreseeably.

2.4.5. Competence development in the judicial organization

Competence means all the knowledge, skills and attitudes that make the given person proficient, suitable and authentic for their professional work. The competence-based approach shows that if the tasks are determined then the necessary theoretical and practical competences are not just identifiable but they can be developed and measured in a targeted way.

Based on the experience gained from the leaders' training commenced in 2016, the key focus was on the competence development of the higher leaders of the judicial organization, i.e. the judicial college leaders and their deputies in 2017. The foundation of the national coach network of the judicial organization enabled the competence development of a target group performing specialized professional tasks, namely judges who gave lectures and played a trainer role.

Training title	Start date	End date	Applicant number
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module I	27/02/2017	01/03/2017	17
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module II	27/03/2017	29/03/2017	15
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module I	02/05/2017	04/05/2017	15
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module I	15/05/2017	17/05/2017	26
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module I	22/05/2017	24/05/2017	21
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module II	24/05/2017	26/05/2017	15
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module II	12/06/2017	14/06/2017	20
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module II	19/06/2017	21/06/2017	15
Leaders' training for the leaders of the Regional Court of Budapest-Environs	16/10/2017	18/10/2017	16
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module I – for your leaders	13/11/2017	15/11/2017	16
Leaders' training – complex competence development training, Module II – for your leaders	04/12/2017	06/12/2017	16
Training for lecturers – Methodology training – Lecture and presentation	13/09/2017	13/09/2017	40

The multi-level competence development will be a crucial element of the training plans in the upcoming years, as well.

3. Competitions and scientific research, library

3.1. Mailáth György Scientific Competition

As the completion of the Mailáth György Scientific Competition of 2016 the awarded applicants could present their works on 13 March 2017 in a symposium. The President of the NOJ provided internship places at the various departments of the NOJ for the award winners in 2017 and the works were published in an e-book.

In 2017 the competition was announced by the NOJ for the 4th time, this time with the motto: "Comprehensibility and accessibility – the role of comprehensibility in the administration of justice". The law students and the judicial employees submitted their works in four sections, just like in the previous years, in the fields of civil law, criminal law, public administration, labour and EU laws and in the field of general judicial administration. A total of 60 works were submitted and they were judged by the members of the judicial organization with excellent professional knowledge. The selected competitors received the prizes on 8 December 2017 at the Consilium Peritorum event.

3.2. Ráth György Judicial History and Tradition Competition

The NOJ announced on 6 September 2017 for the fourth time the Ráth György Judicial History and Tradition Competition. With this competition the NOJ intends to support the activities concerning the history and tradition of the courts.

The person giving his name to the competition was also commemorated during the events of the Court History Week organized for the first time from 11th to 15th September 2017. The life and career accomplishments of Ráth György were presented at the exhibition organized for the 110th anniversary of the Act ordering the setting up of the Ráth György Museum.

12 works were submitted in 2017 to the NOJ: 9 regional courts and 3 regional courts of appeal participated.

The works were evaluated by the committee invited by the NOJ, consisting of judicial leaders and well-known legal history professors who considered all works worth of supporting. The winners were:

Court	Title of the work
Debrecen Regional Court of Appeal	"Justice served to the litigating parties" The Chairpersons and judges of the Royal Regional Court of Appeal Debrecen
Debrecen Regional Court	History of the administration of justice in Hajdúböszörmény
Eger Regional Court	History of the House of Law in Eger
Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal	Restoration of 14 books from the pre-1945 era in the library of the Regional Court of Appeal of Budapest-Capital
Kaposvár Regional Court	Exhibition from the past of the currently not existing trial courts of Somogy county
Miskolc Regional Court	Ráth György Judicial History and Tradition Competition 2017 Preparation of the 2nd and extended edition of the impressive publication "Anthologies from the history of the Royal Trial Court of Edelény"

Court	Title of the work
Nyíregyháza Regional Court	Commemorating our predecessors – Presentation of the career of the former chamber chairman of the Regional court of Nyíregyháza, dr. jur. Janthó László
Pécs Regional Court	Renovation of the antique furniture of the presidential office of the Trial Court of Mohács
Szeged Regional Court of Appeal	History of the Royal Regional Court of Appeal Szeged between 1921 and 1938
Szolnok Regional Court	The history of the Regional Court of Szolnok according to the press before 1945
Veszprém Regional Court	Inauguration of plaques concerning the history of the Regional Court of Veszprém
Zalaegerszeg Regional Court	Judicial exhibition – permanent exhibition in the building of the Trial Court of Nagykanizsa

As a result of the awarded applications and with the funding ensured by the NOJ for instance the following activities were carried out concerning the judicial history and tradition;

Publications:

- On the careers of chairpersons and judges of the Debrecen Royal Regional Court of Appeal.
- Presentation of the history of the administration of justice in Hajdúböszörmény.
- Publication of the 2nd and extended edition of the impressive publication “Anthologies from the history of the Royal Trial Court of Edelény”.
- Presentation of the career of the former chamber chairman of the Nyíregyháza Regional Court, dr. jur. JANTHÓ László.
- Publication of the third volume of the presentation processing the history of the Szeged Regional Court of Appeal.

Conferences and exhibitions:

- Exhibition and book release event in Eger concerning the 2016-17 renovation and inauguration of the 110-year old Courthouse.
- Permanent court history exhibition with the title “Forgotten trial courts – History of the Trial Courts of Curgó, Igal, Lengyeltóti and Tab” in Kaposvár.
- Presentation of the career of the former chamber chairman of the Nyíregyháza Regional Court, dr. jur. JANTHÓ László and the exhibitions of his professional archives.
- Permanent exhibition about the delivery of the building of the Szolnok Regional Court in 1893 that celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2018.
- Judicial exhibition in the building of the Trial Court of Nagykanizsa.

Restoration of assets, inauguration of plaques and statues:

- Restoration of 14 books from the pre-1945 era in the library of the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal.
- Proper restoration of a workroom furniture made in the 1920s and used by the Trial Court of Mohács.
- Plaque on the façade of the Regional Court of Veszprém to commemorate that the Royal Regional Court of Veszprém and the Veszprém Royal Trial Court commenced their work nearly 150 years ago in 1872 independently from the public administration.

Beyond the above 9 other events (conferences and book release events) were organized in 2017 owing to the applications that were awarded in 2016.

3.3. Scientific research concerning the court organization

In 2017 44 research requests were submitted to the NOJ. Beside the individual requests, we also cooperated with several domestic research institutes, such as the National Institute of Criminology or the Faculty of Law of the Eötvös Loránd Science University.

Some of the researches were realized through the mutual research tender of the Constitutional Court and the Curia and were connected to the implementation of the Fundamental Law (Constitution). The purposes of the cooperation were to ensure that the researches mirror an objective picture of the subject-matter of the research both to the scientific public and to the lawyers working in the practice and that the results could be used and integrated in real life. The researches had to also comply with the integrity requirements of the judicial organization.

The NOJ included as a cooperating partner, the Faculty of Law of the University of Miskolc in the international competition of the European Commission (HERCULE III, 2014-2020) with the title "Legal training and Studies" programme that was awarded by the European Commission in 2017.

The general purpose of the programme was the protection of the monetary interests of the European Union that facilitated the competitiveness of the EU economy and the protection of the taxpayer money could be ensured. The actual objective of the programme was to prevent fraud, corruption and other illegal activities harming the financial interests of the EU and the combatting against the same. The programme enables high standard researches, the strengthening of cooperation of professionals of theory and of practice and also enables the setup of programmes that increases the legal awareness of the professionals of the judiciary and of other legal professions concerning the protection of the financial interests of the EU.

The joint work of the Faculty of Law Miskolc and of the HAJ of the NOJ with the title "Criminal law protection of the financial interests of the European Union – with special regard to combatting money laundering, tax fraud and corruption and the related compliance activities" was supported by the European Commission. It will be realized in 2018.

One of the main communicational objectives of the NOJ and of the judicial organization is the development of comprehensibility. The NOJ announced that 2017 would be the year of comprehensibility to ensure the comprehensibility of the judicial written and verbal communication. In cooperation with the National University of Public Service a research project was launched. An important objective is to ensure the comprehensibility of press releases and the creation of a practical guidance or manual based on the evaluation of suitability for the media that can be useful for the judicial spokespersons and press secretaries for their day-to-day work.

With the coordination and financing of the NOJ, based on the cooperation agreement between the Regional Court of Debrecen and the Faculty of Law of the University of Debrecen, the so-called "Debrecen model" (elaborated and operated by the Regional Court of Debrecen for the effective and timely administration of justice) was available for a research and working groups were set up for this purpose. The presentation summarizing the research will be published in 2018.

3.4. Library

The NOJ supports the operation of the judicial libraries through the National Judicial Library Coordinating Network founded in 2016 so that they can comply with the information demands of the judicial system at the highest standard possible. The network assisted the work of the 27

libraries operating at the courts (and their deposit libraries) by preparing methodology materials and guidelines. Two central professional trainings were organized for the judicial libraries in 2017 and the libraries participated in the leaders' training organized by the HAJ in the topics of how to use the libraries and concerning research methodology.

The catalogue of the National Judicial Integrated Library System has made the materials of all judicial libraries searchable through a renewed internet platform since 2017. The judicial content available on the intranet or internet joined the National EISZ Programme of the Hungarian Academy of Science in 2017 and this provided access to several domestic and international professional literature and databases for the courts and it could be considered as an outstanding gain of the reporting period.

The internal information materials were also updated (reviews and recommendation of specialized literature) providing information on the new additions of the judicial libraries from Hungary and from abroad in Hungarian and in other languages, about published articles, the latest news and events of legal science and of the legal libraries.

On 13 September 2017 a conference was organized under the title of "Renewing National Judicial Library System: cooperation with the domestic specialized library network" for the Hungarian participants of the library field and the results of the development were presented. The conference also facilitated the discussion among the directors of the specialized libraries and other legal professions and the development of the cooperation.

4. Entrance exam for trainee judges

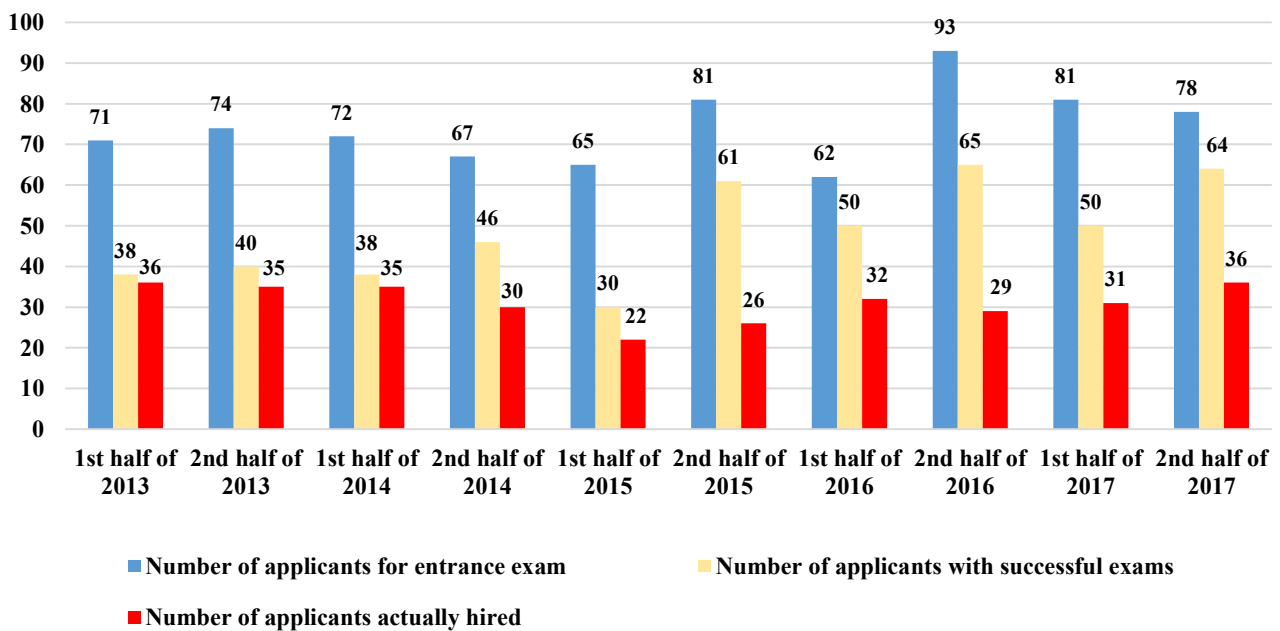
Trainee judge positions were open for application twice in 2017. The applicants could prove their knowledge and skills in an entrance exam based on a competence evaluation introduced in 2016.

As a result of the change in the regulation in the 1st of half of 2017 the system of the additional points significantly changed and expanded and the verification method also changed in some cases. The departure from the uniform start date became possible in more cases too. Owing to the changes of the regulation, the application process got shorter and more flexible and the conditions changed as well and this made the selection system even more objective.

As to the results of the application for trainee judge positions:

- 99 applications were submitted for the 34 positions in the 1st semester. 81 applicants applied for the exam and 50 of them passed. 31 trainee judges were appointed throughout the country out of the 65 eligible applicants.
- 83 applications were submitted for the 43 positions in the 2nd semester. 78 applicants applied for the exam and 64 of them passed. 36 trainee judges were appointed throughout the country out of the 67 eligible applicants.
- 22 of the 182 applicants reached or exceeded 90%.
- For the 77 positions the selection committee could choose from 114 applicants.
- Owing to the comprehensible tender documentation only 2 invalid applications were submitted in 2017.

Entrance exam for trainee judges



Based on the anonymous questionnaires completed by the applicants and on the feedback received through workshops evaluating the exams, the new examination system was appreciated by both the applicants and the committee members participating in the selection.

5. International relation

5.1. Network of international relations

The NOJ and the courts have extensive long-term professional relations with international organizations and foreign courts. The cooperation provides opportunities for judges and secretary judges to learn about international tendencies and are the places for wide-scope knowledge sharing, as well.

5.1.1. International relations of the courts

A significant number of the regional courts of appeal and of the regional courts had international relations with courts of other states in 2017. Most of them have a long tradition, often several decades and serve the professional purposes of both parties. Most of the partner courts are still from Germany. The courts close to the Hungarian border often have intensive international relations with the courts of the neighbouring countries that facilitate joint work in international cases. The cooperation ranges from protocol visits to systematic, joint professional conferences. The international relations of the respective courts are summarized in the following chart as of 2017.

The independent international relations of the respective regional courts of appeal and of the regional court

Court	Partner country	Partner court
Regional Courts of Appeal		
Debrecen Regional Court of Appeal	Romania	Regional Court of Appeal Oradea
Pécs Regional Court of Appeal	Germany	Regional Court of Bamberg
Regional Courts		
Balassagyarmat Regional Court	Poland	Krosno District Court
Budapest Environs Regional Court	France	Bordeaux Court of Appeal
Debrecen Regional Court	Germany	Bremerhaven Trial Court
	Romania	Oradea Regional Court
Budapest-Capital Regional Court	Germany	Regional Labour Court of Berlin
		Dresden Social Court
		Regional Court of Bonn
	Austria	Vienna State Criminal Court
	Poland	Krakow Public Administration Court
Győr Regional Court	Austria	Wiener-Neustadt State Court
	Germany	Meiningen State Court
	Slovakia	Slovakian Capital Court
Court of Bratislava, 5th District		
Gyula Regional Court	Romania	Arad Regional Court
Kaposvár Regional Court	Germany	Regional Court of Traunsten
	Poland	Krakow Regional Court
Kecskemét Regional Court	Serbia	Courts of Subotica
Miskolc Regional Court	Slovakia	Kosice District Court
Pécs Regional Court	Croatia	Vukovar County Court
Szolnok Regional Court	Poland	Wroclaw Regional Court
Szombathely Regional Court	Austria	Regional Court of Eisenstadt
	Germany	Regional Court of Chemnitz
	Austria, Slovenia	Maribor Higher Court, Regional Court of Eisenstadt (Symposium of Pannon Lawyers)
Zalaegerszeg Regional Court	Austria, Slovenia	Maribor Higher Court, Regional Court of Eisenstadt (Symposium of Pannon Lawyers)
	Austria	Regional Court of Eisenstadt

Beyond the bilateral relations, the regional courts participate in the tasks concerning the international relations of the NOJ. The Veszprém Regional Court has been an appointed pilot court within the committee of the Council of Europe for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ) since 2015.

In 2017 the delegations arriving in Hungary within the short term exchange programme of the EJTN were hosted by Debrecen Public Administration and Labour Court, by the Budapest-Capital Regional Court and by the Veszprém Regional Court for one week each.

5.1.2. The international relations of the NOJ

The NOJ has membership in the following international organizations:

- European Judicial Training Network (EJTN),
- Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary (BEMNCJ).

The NOJ has regular contact with the following organizations:

- Hague Conference in Private International Law,
- European Judicial Network (EJN),
- Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU),
- European Court of Human Rights (ECHR),
- Council of Europe,
- European Academy of Law (ERA),
- EASO network of court and tribunal members,
- EUROJUST Joint Supervisory Body, JSB),
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The Hungarian Academy of Justice closely cooperates with the following organizations in the field of judicial trainings:

- European Judicial Training Network (EJTN),
- European Academy of Law (ERA),
- German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ),
- The European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals of the Council of Europe (HELP),
- European Institute for Public Administration (EIPA),
- Judicial Academies of the Visegrád Four (V4),
- International Training Institute (IGO),
- Central and Eastern European Legal Institute (CEELI).

The NOJ supports the work of the international associations for judges and facilitates the participation of the judges and judicial associations in international organizations, such as:

- European Association for Labour Court Judges (EALCJ),
- Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ),
- International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ),
- International Labour Organization (ILO),
- Associations of Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions (ACA Europe),
- Association for European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ),
- European Union Forum of Judges for the environment,

- CEPEJ Network of Pilot Courts,
- Legal Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention.

The international relations of the NOJ in 2017, with special view to the results:

	Name of the international relations	Results
	Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary	Providing for the tasks of the Secretariat of the Network: editing the network website, preparation of the annual general meeting, supporting the tasks of the president. Participation in the meeting of the Board of the BEMNCJ in 2017 and at the Plenary and at the Professional Conference at Burgas, Bulgaria.
TRAININGS	European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)	146 participants in trainings (90 judges, 40 secretary judges and 16 judicial employee), secondment for 12 judges and hosting 11 judges in a short term exchange programme, participation of 1 judge in a long-term exchange programme, 18 secretary judges and trainee judges travelled and 19 were hosted in the AIAKOS programme, 6 trainee judges participated in the C and D semi-finals of the Themis competition, 3 judges travelled and 3 were hosted in a special exchange programme, 1 judicial chairperson travelled and 1 was hosted in a leader exchange programme.
	Visegrád Four (Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland)	3 participants in the conference organized by the Slovakian Academy of Justice with the title of "Relations between the General Court of the Court of Justice and the domestic courts – tracing mutual interests". 3 participants in the language course organized by the Polish Judge and State Attorney Training Academy with the title "Judiciary cooperation in criminal cases". Hungary will be rotating to the chair position for the period between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018.
	European Academy of Justice (ERA)	Delegation of 2 NOJ Presidential scholarship fellows, 39 judges and 20 secretary judges participated in ERA seminars organized abroad, mutual projects.
	German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (IRZ)	3 judges participated in 2 programmes.

	Name of the international relations	Results
EU INSTITUTIONS	Court of Justice of the European Union	Delegation of 3 NOJ Presidential scholarship fellows, 10 people visited the court in an EJTN study trip.
	European Judicial Network (EJN)	Participation in contact and working group meetings (10 times).
	EUROJUST	2 participated in the EJTN study trip to the EU-ROJUST. 1 judge participated in the conference "Cyber crime – 18th annual training against the sexual exploitation of children on the internet"
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	Council of Europe	Participation in the 12th plenary session of the CEPEJ "Pilot courts" network (1 judge)
	European Court of Human Rights	1 judge participated in the long-term exchange programme of the EJTN, 7 participated in the EJTN study trip to the court.
	Hague Conference in Private International Law	Permanent activity of the appointed contact person judge in unlawful abduction of children.
OTHER PROJECTS	North Rhine-Westphalia – Hungary cooperation in joint committee	5 Hungarian judges participated in a study trip to Düsseldorf (topics: public administration proceeding, refugee law, environment protection, tax law, social court).

The NOJ delegated a representative 10 times to the sessions of the civil and criminal contact point meetings of the EJTN.

The delegates of the NOJ, a total of 22 judges and secretary judges participated at the following international conferences:

- 21st annual congress of the EALCJ European Labour Law Judges, Prague;
- ILO conferences with the title "European Labour Standards for Judges", Turin;
- Conference organized by the Serbian mission of the OSCE "Advantages and disadvantages of the current public administration judicial systems in the member states", Belgrade;
- Meeting of EJTN Contact persons, Lisbon;
- Project closing conference concerning the training of judicial employees and court enforcers organized by the French Training Centre for Judicial employees (ENG), Lisbon;
- Terre des hommes – project closing conference of the international rights defender foundation with the title "Procedural Rights of Juveniles Suspected or Accused in the European Union (PRO-JUS)", Brussel;
- 5th Annual conference of the Presidents of the EU Courts of Appeal, 's-Hertogenbosch (Holland);
- Association of Hungarian-German Lawyers – Hungarian-German Conference in Refugee law, Heidelberg;
- Session of the e-Evidence Steering Committee European Commission, Brussels;
- Conference of the European University Institute with the title "Role of the single digital market in the EU", Brussels;

- Project closing conference organized by the French Ministry of Justice (Court Quality Framework Design Project), Paris;
- Future e-justice conference organized by the Estonian Ministry of Justice, Tallinn.

5.1.3. Participation in the work of international organizations

5.1.3.1. Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary

The purpose of the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary is to facilitate the judicial cooperation effectively in the region. It means the organization of conferences, workshops, professional visits and researches and the compilation of questionnaires. The judicial organizations represented by the members ensure to 300 million people indirectly that their legal cases are heard by judges being aware of the good practices in line with the European standards. The Network passes its decisions at the Plenary and it is operated by the elected President, by the Board with five members and the Secretariat. Since 2015 the NOJ has provided the tasks of the Secretariat.

The Network held its annual Conference and Plenary in Burgas, Bulgaria from the 10th to the 11th July 2017. For the preparatory works the Board had a meeting in Tirana on 22 February 2017. The NOJ had a significant role in the preparation and organisation of both professional meetings as the NOJ undertakes the tasks concerning the Secretariat of the Network until 2018. The general meeting held in Burgas elected the Hungarian members to be Board members and this increases Hungary's future role in the Network.

5.1.3.2. Participation in intergovernmental regional cooperation

5.1.3.2.1. Hungarian - North Rhine-Westphalia Intergovernmental Joint Committee

The cooperation of the judiciary with the Hungarian - North Rhine-Westphalia Intergovernmental Joint Committee set up in 2008 started in 2012 with the inclusion of the NOJ. As a result of the enquiry received in 2016 that was aimed at the judicial cooperation in field of public administration judicial work between the North Rhine-Westphalia High Administrative Court and a corresponding Hungarian court. According to the decision of the President of the NOJ a delegation with 5 members travelled to Germany on 28 March 2017. The delegation consisted of members from the NOJ, the Curia and the Public Administration and Labour Court of Budapest-Capital. As a result of the meeting that ended on 1 April 2017 the Budapest-Capital Regional Court and the German partner court started talks for the establishment of a bilateral cooperation.

5.1.3.2.2. Bavarian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Joint Committee

According to the work schedule of the Bavarian-Hungarian Joint Committee the parties organize a conference annually on judiciary based on which Hungarian judges can participate in the trainings of the Bavarian Academy of Justice.

5.1.3.2.3. Visegrád Four cooperation

The Hungarian judiciary participated in the language and professional trainings organized by the Slovakian Academy of Justice and by the Polish Judge and State Attorney Training Academy for the V4 countries. The presidents of the V4 academies of justice organize regular meetings, adjusted to the V4 Presidency. Hungary will be the President of the V4 for the 5th time between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018.

5.1.4. International assignments, hosting delegations

Due to the international relations of the NOJ it is possible to inform the foreign counterparts at a high standard in detail about the Hungarian judicial system and its administrative and professional management. Beside the maintenance and setting up of the international relations and the cooperation with the international counterparts, the hosting of delegations and the international assignments provide outstanding opportunities to exchange good practices and experience and for their domestic implementation. The foreign professionals visiting Hungary can get a peek into the structure and the administrative and professional management of the Hungarian judiciary.

This year the NOJ was active concerning more enquiries than the year before and hosted among others the following guests and delegations:

- delegation of the Dutch Council for the Judiciary,
- judicial delegation from Sudan,
- public administration judge from Estonia,
- delegation of the Vienna State Criminal Court,
- delegation of the Justice Committee from Vietnam,
- delegation of the Krakow Regional Court,
- President of the European Association of Secretary judges,
- delegation of Norwegian attorneys,
- representatives of the French Embassy.

The President of the NOJ accompanied by the delegation of the Curia visited some buildings in Vienna and Leipzig concerning the preparation of the reconstruction and design works of the former Palace of Justice in Kossuth square. The Deputy of the President of the NOJ participated in the annual general meeting of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) in Malta.

5.1.5. Supporting the operation of the International Relations Coordination Body

For the harmonization of the international relations of the judicial organization the International Relations Coordination Body was set up in 2014. At the annual meetings of the body, the Curia, the President of the NOJ and the NJC present reports for a harmonized representation of the international relations of the judicial organization and the tasks, objectives and international roles are discussed and put into writing. The body had meetings in 2017 twice, on 10 January and 28 March to discuss the current topics.

5.2. International trainings, scholarship fellows

The President of the NOJ coordinates the participation of the judicial colleagues in international trainings in line with § 76(7) of the Courts Act. The HAJ performs the organizing tasks of the courts concerning international trainings and the administrative and professional support of the participation and the dissemination of the obtained knowledge among the judges. For the purposes of this task the HAJ closely cooperates with the international training institutes. In 2017 204 judges, 80 secretary judges and 27 judicial employees participated in international events.

5.2.1. Cooperation with the EJTN

Owing to the membership of the NOJ more and more Hungarian judges, secretary judges and trainee judges have the opportunity to participate in the exchange programmes and interna-

tional trainings organized by the EJTN. In 2017 146 colleagues participated in 51 foreign seminars, conferences, exchanges programmes and study trips organized by the EJTN. Among the participants there were 90 judges, 40 secretary judges and 16 judicial employees.

5.2.1.1. Short and long term exchange programmes of the EJTN

The EJTN provides opportunities for participating in short and long-term exchange programmes each year. 12 Hungarian judges participated in international study trips as short-term, two-week exchange programmes in 2017 and a total of 12 judges were hosted in Hungary. In a long-term exchange programme of the EJTN 1 judge started his/her 12-month internship period at the ECHR that will extend to 2018.

In 2017 18 judges appointed for fixed-term, secretary judges and trainee judges participated in study trips for the new generation (EJTN AIAKOS exchange programme) while the Hungarian courts hosted 19 foreign guests.

5.2.1.2. Special and judicial leader exchange programmes of the EJTN

In 2017 3 Hungarian judges participated in the special exchange programme of the EJTN started in 2016. The idea behind this programme is that the participants focus on one legal field selected by them and this way they peek into the regulatory and procedural systems of the hosting country. The Hungarian participants opted for programmes dealing with organized crime, family law and labour law and 3 foreign judges were hosted in Hungary at these fields.

In the exchange programme for judicial leaders 1 Hungarian court president participated and 1 foreign judicial leader visited Hungary.

5.2.1.3. Bilateral exchange programme of the EJTN

The EJTN provides a separate funding for the courts of the member states to establish bilateral relations and for gaining experience and the one-week study trips to courts of other member states are supported. As the first Hungarian court, the Kaposvár Regional Court had a successful application in 2017. It has to be noted that in the exchange programme the EJTN provided funds for the mutual visits of the delegations of the Kaposvár Regional Court and of its partner court, the Krakow Regional Court. The delegation of the Kaposvár Regional Court visited Krakow from 18th to 23rd September 2017, while the delegation of the Polish court was hosted from 27th November to 1st December 2017 in Hungary. The Polish delegation also visited the NOJ and learned about the systems of judicial administration and training. The topics of the exchange of professional experience included the electronic communication, the recording of audio and video in the courtrooms and the studying of the second instance civil litigation cases.

5.2.1.4. THEMIS Competition for trainee judges of the EJTN

In 2017 Hungary was represented at the C and D semi finals of the EJTN THEMIS international competition. The semi final C was held from 6th to 8th June 2017 in Vilnius with the title "European cooperation in civil cases". The HAJ hosted the D semi final from 3rd to 6th July 2017 in the topic of "Judicial ethics and conduct" for the next time after 2013. The groups of 3 members proved their knowledge of the subject by preparing presentations and answering questions of the competition committee. The international jury decided that the Greek and Polish teams could advance to the finals from the ten teams. The special award of the NOJ was awarded to the Czech team. Michael Korhonen, the communication director of the EJTN stated that the competition was organized at a very high level.

5.2.1.5. Other EJTN trainings, conferences

Several 1,5 – 5 days long international trainings are organized by the EJTN annually concerning the application of the EU law and for the development of foreign language skills and judicial competences in foreign languages. Judges, secretary judges and trainee judges participated 108 times in such trainings in 2017.

5.2.2. Cooperation with the European Academy of Law (ERA)

The NOJ closely cooperates with the ERA founded in 1992 concerning the international trainings.

5.2.2.1. Training cooperation with the ERA

One of the important elements of the NOJ – ERA cooperation is the training cooperation owing to which Hungarian judges and judicial employees can participate in ERA seminars. In 2017 the NOJ could delegate 39 judges and 20 secretary judges to 25 international seminars organized by the ERA abroad.

5.2.2.2. Project cooperation with ERA

The NOJ cooperated as an ERA partner in three training projects ended in the autumn of 2017 financed by the Consumer Policy and Justice General-Directorate of the European Commission. Within these projects series of seminars were held in the fields of EU civil law, IT crime and language trainings specialized in European family law. The main objective of the trainings, beyond the supplementing knowledge, was to facilitate the closer cooperation of legal professions, the exchange of experiences, the distribution of good practices and the information provision on national proceedings.

In 2016 the ERA competition law training tender won funds and the NOJ joined as cooperating partner. The purpose of the project was the theoretical and practical training of professionals dealing with competition law and the facilitation of the networking and the exchange of experience among the concerned professionals. In the project two seminars were held with 5 Hungarian participants so far and in 2018 two more trainings within the project.

The NOJ also joined as cooperating partner to the ERA training project dealing with the law of cartels. The funding was granted by the European Commission in 2017. The project realization will start on 1 January 2018.

In October 2017 the NOJ joined another legal and language training for judicial employees as an ERA partner. The application will be decided on in the spring of 2018.

5.2.3. Project cooperation with other organizations

The NOJ cooperated in other projects supported by the Consumer Policy and Justice General-Directorate of the European Commission that focus on the trainings of judges and judicial employees.

5.2.3.1. Modena Project

The EU competition law training project organized by the University of Modena and funded by the European Commission was joined by the NOJ as a cooperating partner. The change in the person of the Italian project coordinator required the rescheduling of the project.

5.2.3.2. Maastricht Project

The project led by the University of Maastricht with the cooperation of 7 EU member states examines the practice of the enforcement of European arrest warrants and aims at the development of the mutual recognition of judicial decisions. The project financed by the European Commission was joined by the NOJ as cooperating partner. A Hungarian judge appointed by the President of the NOJ participates in the project realization as an expert.

5.2.4. Scholarship programmes of the President of the NOJ

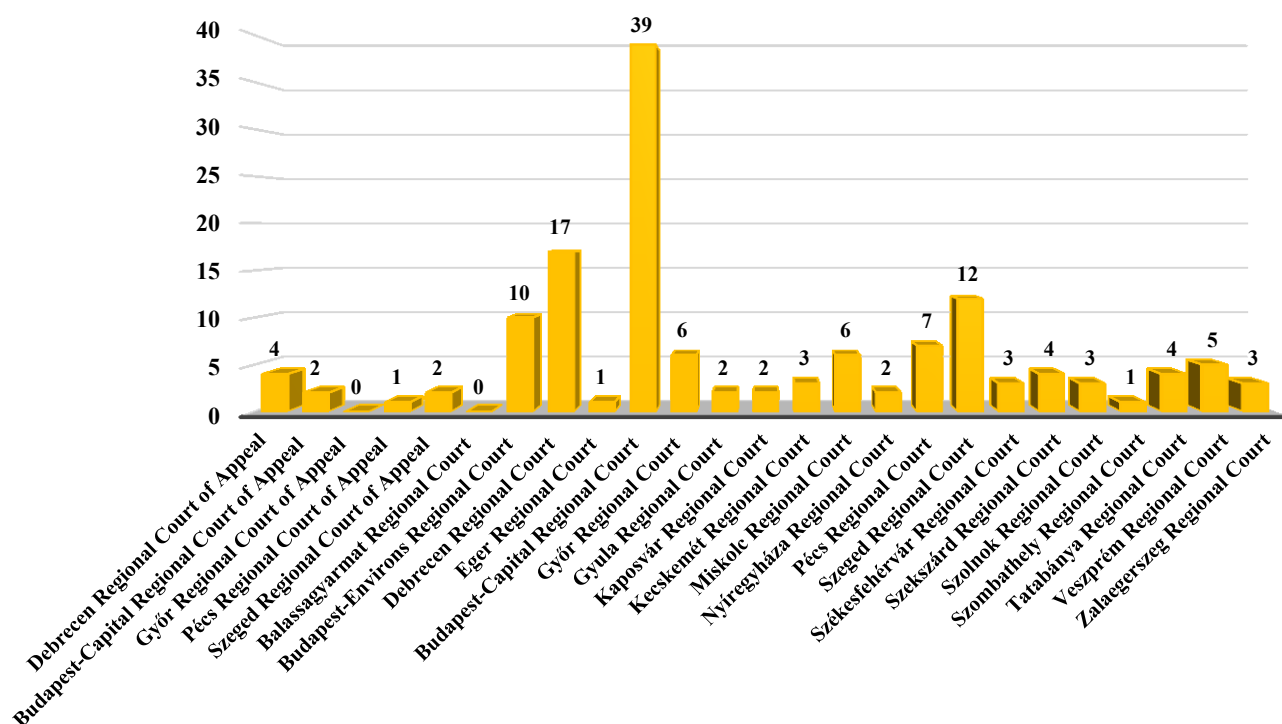
The President of the NOJ has provided opportunity for trainings and obtaining of experience for several months within the framework of a scholarship programme since 2014 for judges and secretary judges at the ERA in Germany and at the Court of Justice of the EU in Luxembourg. The scholarship fellows working at the EU Court of Justice may join the work of the Hungarian cabinet of the Curia and can study the procedural and organizational work of the Curia from close and also get to participate in trainings organized for judges from the respective member states.

The ERA celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2017. The ERA enables its trainees to become familiar with the state-of-the-art training and organizational methods. They can also participate in several seminars in different fields of law. The NOJ closely cooperates with the ERA concerning its international trainings therefore the returning fellows can join the activities of the NOJ in order to be able to utilize their experiences. In 2017 a total of 5 colleagues participated in scholarship programmes (2 colleagues at the ERA and 3 colleagues at the Court of Justice).

The fellows prepare reports biweekly during their scholarship period and this way share their experience at the hosting institute with the colleagues working in the judicial organization. The good practices that can be used in Hungary are highlighted and proposals are made for foreign lecturers who can be invited to domestic trainings. The searchable reports are published in the central judicial intranet so they can be accessed by all judicial colleagues.

The actual number of judges, secretary judges and trainee judges participating in international trainings from the regional courts and regional courts of appeal (without the ones working in the NOJ) was the following in 2017 broken down according to the place of work, without taking into consideration of the number of travels of a fellow.

Number of fellows in 2017



5.3. International events organized at the HAJ

5.3.1. International trainings at the HAJ

The ERA is a permanent partner of NOJ for organizing joint trainings. In 2017 with the funding of the European Commission the ERA organized a specialized language training with the cooperation of the NOJ at the HAJ with 10 Hungarian and 17 foreign participants from 25th to 28th April 2017 with the title “European Family Law: Brussels II regulation”.

5.3.2. International conferences at the HAJ

German-Hungarian Comparative Labour Law Conference

Based on the two-decade long German-Hungarian labour law relations the NOJ organized the German-Hungarian Comparative Labour Law Conference from 4th to 7th May 2017 that primarily focused on the member state implementation of the EU law. Hungarian and German judges participated in the conference who primarily shared their experience with each other in this field. The HAJ hosted 12 Hungarian and 10 foreign participants, including the presidents of the State Labour Court of Berlin and Hamburg.

Court and Communication international conference

As the NOJ announced that 2017 was the year of clarity, the 5th Court and Communication international conference held from 12th to 13th October 2017 focused on this topic as well.

Specialists from 20 countries visited the event attracting more and more participants. The event was held again at the HAJ according to the traditions. At the two-day conference lec-

tures and workshops were held for the development of the clarity of the judicial administration, of the administration of justice and of the press communication by such internationally recognized professionals as William Valasidis, the press chief of the Court of Justice of the EU, Lieneke de Klerk, the spokesperson and judge of the Trial Court of Oost-Brabant (NL), Ilse Westenenk, the press coordinator and leading spokesperson of the Trial Court of Oost-Brabant (NL), by dr. jur. Lehócki Balázs, the press officer of the Court of Justice of the EU and by Merethe Eckhardt, the development director of the Danish Judicial Administration Council. The event had ca. 100 visitors.

ELCJM Conference

The 25th International Meeting of the European Labour Law Judges was held from 27th to 29th November 2017 with the cooperation of the NOJ and the connected labour law seminar with the title "Preliminary rulings and whistleblowing in the field of labour law" at the HAJ. The events were focused on preliminary ruling procedures, the labour law aspects of whistleblowing and the ILO's activities in the field of labour law. The 25th jubilee meeting had guests from 14 countries, including well-known speakers as dr. Gerhard Kuras, chamber chairman at the Vienna Supreme Court, dr. Reinhard Schinz, chamber chairman of the State Labour Court of Berlin-Brandenburg and dr. Mario Eylert, chamber chairman of the German Federal Labour Court. 90 guests participated at the meeting and at the labour law seminar.

Judicial mediation international conference

The judicial mediation international conference was organized for the second time on 4th and 5th December 2017 at the HAJ. The two-day conference held as a training for judicial mediators focused on the purpose and effects of judicial mediation and the future of judicial mediation. 4 foreign judges participated at the event: dr. Gordana Ristin, judge, Head of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Department of the Higher Court of Ljubljana, dr. Kaijus Tuomo Ervasti, associate professor of the Criminology and Law Institute of the University of Helsinki, member of the Scandinavian judicial mediation network, dr. Kirsti Uusitalo, the judge of the Supreme Court of Finland and DI Stefanie Jirgal Austrian mediator. More than 100 people participated in the successful conference.

5.3.3. Other international events

Meeting of ambassadors

The NOJ organized the professional event for the representatives of the embassies in Budapest for the second time on 24 October 2017 to commemorate the European Day of Justice at the HAJ. The main speaker of the event was ZUPKÓ Gábor, Head of Representation of Hungary's Representation at the European Commission. 12 embassies participated in the event. The professional meeting is a useful venue to exchange experience with the counterparts of other countries and to share good practices and to facilitate and deepen partnerships.

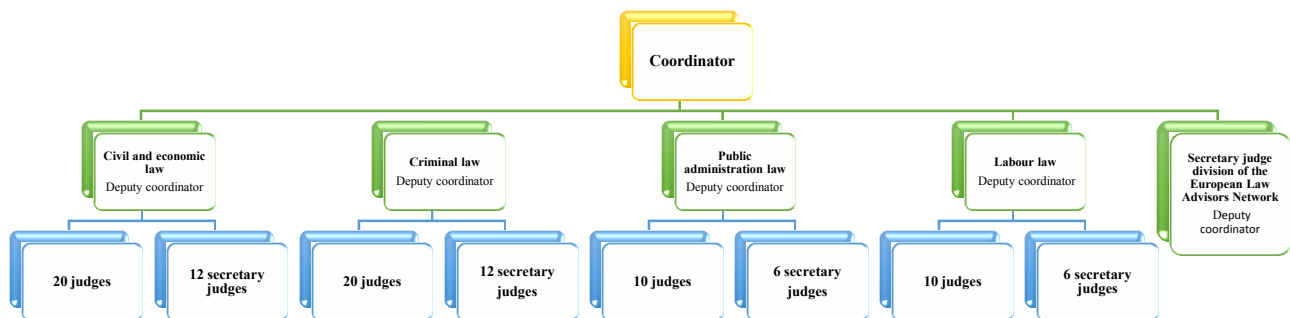
5.4. European Law Advisors Network

The European Law Advisors Network (ELAN) has been assisting the adequate implementation of the EU law and the dissemination of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the EU and of the ECHR among the Hungarian judges since 2013 in line with the regulation of the President of the NOJ. The priority goal of the Network is to ensure the smooth information flow in matters of the European law between the Hungarian justice system and the EU institutions and to provide rapid and efficient professional assistance for the judges in the administration of justice.

The coordinator and their deputies and the consultant judges are selected after a strict application process and are assigned for 3 years by the President of the NOJ. They perform their tasks at the geographical areas of the respective regional courts of appeal (except for the Curia and the Budapest-Capital Regional Court). In exchange for their work they receive court hearing allowance and receive supplementary bonus and language bonus. The work of the consultants are managed and organized by a coordinator, besides a deputy coordinator in each field of law (civil, criminal, public administration and labour law).

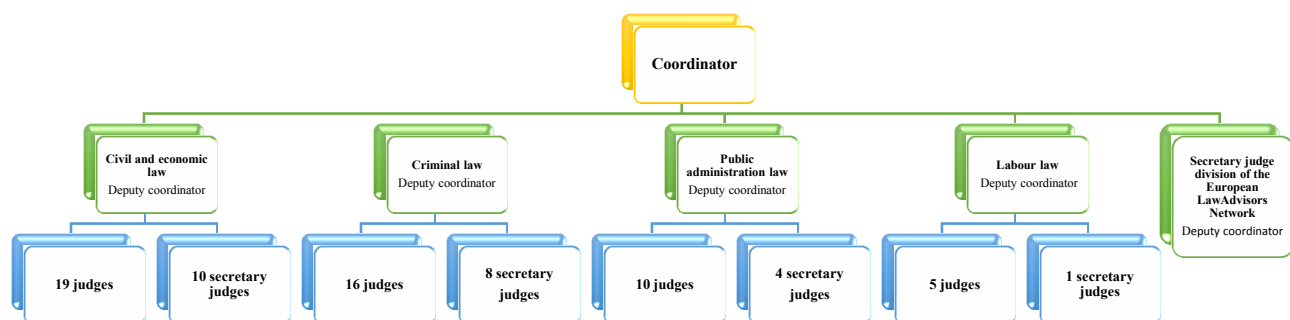
The secretary judge network of the ELAN that is managed by an assigned deputy coordinator in cooperation with deputy coordinators of the respective fields of law started its operation on 15 November 2017.

The approved staff of the ELAN



On 31 December 2017 the Network had 50 consultant judges and 23 consultant secretary judges.

The actual staff of the ELAN



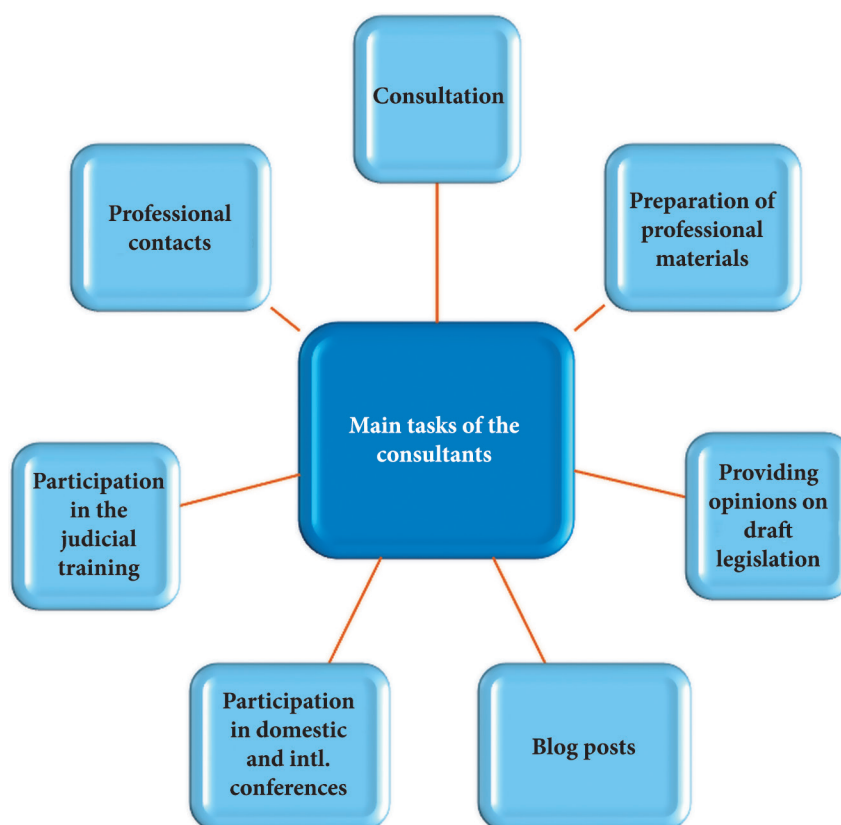
A performance evaluation system assists the high standard work of the Network. The members prepare reports quarterly, while the coordinator prepares reports annually to the President of the NOJ, in which they report their activities in a scoring system. The reporting takes place online from 2017.

The consultants reach the judges through different communication channels. They have their own page on the judicial central intranet, hold presentations at trainings and at judicial college sessions and try to create personal relations to facilitate the knowledge sharing. The consultants reflect on the current matters of the EU law by posting blog posts and Law Working Papers

(beyond providing their contact data and the current tenders) at the site. The number of professional materials significantly increased, among others with two flow charts for criminal matters (“Defendant abroad”, “Delivery”).

The Network members continuously enrich their EU law knowledge. In 2017 they participated twice in several days long mandatory trainings at the HAJ and held specialized sessions. 44 of the Network members participated in conferences and trainings abroad at a total of 100 occasions while 28 members participated at foreign language domestic conferences at a total of 44 occasions. Beyond the above, they held foreign language presentations and represented the Hungarian judicial organization at specialists’ meeting at the EU institutions. Concerning these tasks, that on one hand served their personal development, they also prepared reports to share their knowledge with all the judges and this way contributed to the high standard judgements and requests for preliminary rulings. The Network also initiated regional trainings several times during 2017 to facilitate the exchange of experience. The consultants participated as speakers in these events. It is an important task of the consultants to provide their professional opinion on EU law that took place 918 times in 2017.

They also perform several other tasks as follows:.



5.5. Communication and knowledge sharing

For the NOJ the continuous communication and the information on the results of the justice system are extremely important. The communication and the information provision is aimed at on one hand the concerned international organizations and on the other hand the domestic public and the colleagues in the justice system. In the case of the latter ones the continuous sharing of information takes place through the central judicial intranet.

5.5.1. Websites

The judicial website is available in English as well, and the contents and news that might interest foreigners are updated monthly by the NOJ. The NOJ also operates the website of the Balkan and Euro-Mediterranean Network of Councils for the Judiciary among its secretarial duties.

The central intranet website contains the international materials in a separate menu item and the international training tenders are available on the website.

5.5.2. “Use your language skills and creativity” program

In the 1st half of 2017 the “Use your language skills and creativity” program was announced again. In the first semester 32 secretary judges and trainees with English, German or French language skills applied successfully who received foreign language bonus for their work. The translations prepared by the participants can be found at the English site of the birosag.hu and at the menu item “News from the world” of the central intranet.

5.5.3. Central intranet

The central judicial intranet is the most important platform for the information flow within the organization where all information can be found about international trainings. Several information materials are accessible in English that help the scholarship fellows in introducing the foreign partners to the Hungarian justice system.

The NOJ regularly publishes awareness-raising news and interviews concerning international training opportunities and the results of past trainings to motivate the judges for a more active international role and for developing their language skills.

5.5.4. Publications in English

The NOJ facilitates the information provision to the foreign partners and counterparts with own English publications. The publication “Courts in service of justice” presenting the results of the first 4,5 years of the NOJ is available in English and the extracts of the semi-annual and annual reports are also available, alongside of the “Strategy and the Success, reforms and results”

Future goals and tasks:

- Realizing software support for organizing trainings, for the sharing of study materials and knowledge and for providing information concerning the individual trainings.
- The inclusion of the whole domestic and international training process into an integrated electronic system and the development of the central judicial intranet in line therewith.
- Further development of the foreign language competence of the judges.
- Renewal of the NOJ Presidential scholarship program and of the “Use your language skills and creativity” program.
- Promoting the European Law Advisors Network internationally.
- Successful court history conference roadshow.

PART VII – OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE JUDICIARY

Main results of the NOJ in 2017 concerning the strategic goals of the President of the NOJ:

- The operation of the NOJ became more transparent and organized due to the modification of the By-Laws in February 2017.
- The forms and manuals, the practical guide and the new template for the data requests from the National Registry of Persons Under Guardianship in compliance with Decree no. 16/2014. (III.13.) of the Ministry of Justice have been prepared.
- The data cleaning in the registry of persons under guardianship enabled for the data connection between the NOJ and the National Election Office to go live.
- The ÁNYK forms necessary for the filing of the NGO reports have been updated and this makes it easier to file reports for previous years.

1. Statutory tasks

The NOJ is the central organization of the judicial administration that supports, manages, controls and supervises the main activities of the judiciary. The President of the NOJ exercises her powers and fulfils her obligations through the operation of the NOJ. These tasks are stipulated generally in Section 86 of the Courts Act. Pursuant to this section the NOJ prepares the decisions of the President of the NOJ and arranges their enforcement, takes care of the administrative tasks concerning the NJC, represents the President of the NOJ and the courts in judicial proceedings, keeps the central registry of the judges, handles the monetary part of the asset declarations of the judges and arranges other statutory tasks.

In some cases the laws prescribe obligations for keeping registries concerning the administration of justice activities of the courts. The following has to be noted among the tasks referenced in other laws and among the independent tasks:

- keeping the National Registry of Persons Under Guardianship and
- the national registry of non-governmental organizations; and
- operating the system of bulletin board announcements.

2. Organizational structure

2.1. Restructuring

The NOJ is an administrative organization with unique tasks and organizational structure. It was a basic requirement upon its founding that it reveal the shortcomings of the organization based on the experience gained within the shortest period of time after the commencement of its operation and based on these findings to find solutions for them and to continuously develop its operation to be able to adjust to changes and to comply with the requirements and expectations of the 21st century concerning the justice system. This is extremely important because the novelties to be introduced, the optimized operative processes and other achievements have their effect on the operation of all courts in the country and can serve for them as example.

The NOJ has to manage, organize, supervise and coordinate the tasks detailed in the report, such as

- central judicial administration,
- management of the judicial budgetary chapter worth several tens of billions of Hungarian forints,
- central HR administration of the judicial organization with a headcount exceeding 11 000,
- ensuring the operability and operation of nearly 200 judicial buildings and
- of several thousands of IT devices and of networks,
- arrangement, realization and maintenance of EU tenders worth several hundred million Hungarian forints.

The NOJ instruction on the By-Laws of the National Office for the Judiciary no. 11/2013. (XII. 31.) was amended with effect from 9 February 2017 as a result of which several changes took place in the organization.

The Judicial Division and the Organizational Development and Coordination Division ceased to exist and their tasks were allocated to the newly created Administration Management Division and the Legal Division and to the Communication and Professional Relations Division. From 9 February 2017 the Administration Management Division arranges the tasks concerning the central administration of the courts, coordinates the operation of the organizational units of the NOJ and arranges the organization regulatory and document handling tasks. The division consists of the Administration Department, the Coordination and Organization Development Department, the Statistical Analysis Department, the Organization Regulatory Department and the Central Office.

From 9 February 2017 the Legal Division arranges the tasks concerning providing opinions on bills and concerning the representation of the courts in legal matters. The Legal Division efficiently coordinated the preparation of the judicial organization for the tasks concerning new procedural codes.

The name of the Communication and International Relations Division changed to Communication and Professional Relations Division and the division took over the event organizing tasks that previously belonged to the Organization Development and Coordination Division. The division takes care of the development of the external relations of the NOJ and the coordination of the communication of the judicial organization with the assistance of the Communication Department, the International Relations Department and the Event Management Department.

The organizational units of the NOJ in 2017:

- Presidential Cabinet
- Administration Management Division
 - o Administrational Department
 - o Coordination and Organization Development Department
 - o Statistical Analysis Department
 - o Organization Regulatory Department
 - o Central Office
- Legal Division
 - o Department for Opinions on Bills
 - o Legal Representation Department
- Electronic Proceedings Division
 - o Electronic Regulatory and Development Department
 - o National Registry and Client Relations Department
 - o National Registry Office
- Supervision Division
- HR Management Division
 - o Judicial Department
 - o Authority Department
 - o Staffing and Wages Department
- Economy Division
 - o Budgetary Chapter Department
 - o Controlling Department
 - o Office of Economy Department
- IT Division
 - o National Infrastructure Department
 - o Application Development Department
 - o Application Operation Department
 - o Office of IT Department
- Communication and Professional Relations Division
 - o Communication Department
 - o International Relations Department
 - o Event Management Department
- Public Procurement and Contractual Relations Division
 - o Public Procurement Department
 - o Contractual Relations Department
- Hungarian Academy of Justice
 - o Training Department
 - o Scientific Management and Documentation Department
 - o Service Department
- Technical Division
 - o Building Development and Maintenance Department
 - o Security Technology Department
 - o Janitor and Vehicle Operation Department
- Project Office
 - o Project Planning Department
 - o Project Realization and Maintenance Department

2.2. Headcount of the NOJ

The NOJ performed the tasks detailed in the previous sections of this report with the assistance of a staff of 277 (as of at the end of the reporting period). The ratio of this staff compared to the total employee number of the judicial organization is less than 2,5%. The number of staff at the closing date did not change significantly but more and more secretary judges already knowing the judicial organization should be involved in administrative tasks and this aspiration is shown by the internal ratios. This way the secretary judges can learn about good practices that can be used in the administration of justice later on. Some judges assigned for central administrative tasks from the judicial organization participated in the specialized administrative tasks of the NOJ and 3 trainee judges were assigned to the NOJ.

Comparison of the staff of the NOJ in 2016 and 2017 broken down by job groups:

Job group	31 December 2016		31 December 2017		
	Authorised staff number (capita)	Active staff number (capita)	Authorised staff number (capita)	Active staff number (capita)	Actual staff number (capita)
Judge	35	35	37	34	33
Secretary judge	33	31	38	34	32
Trainee judge	1	1	3	2	2
Official with higher education diploma	136	122	132	119	112
Official with high school leaving exam	61	70	60	71	68
Administrator	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-collar worker	32	31	31	31	30
Total	298	290	301	291	277

The actual staff of the NOJ in 2017 broken down by job categories:

Judges (capita)		Secretary judges, Trainee judges, officials (capita)		Blue-collar workers (capita)	
Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Presidential Commissioner	3	Operation (actual administrators)	93	Tradesmen employees	15
Judges performing court-related tasks*	26	Actual administrators performing court-related tasks*	53	Driver	6
Communication, Public relations	4	Administrative operators	68	Cleaners, other hotel services	9
Total	33	Total	214	Total	30

Court-related tasks: providing opinion on bills, representation in litigation cases, administration management, regulation, complaint handling, e-proceeding, application for judicial positions, staffing, scientific management, training.

It can be established concerning the composition of the staff of 277 that the court-related tasks are carried out by 26 judges and 53 judicial employees. This number does not reach the number of the staff of the NJC in 2010 that required 29 judges and 65 administrators and officials with higher education diploma. It is characteristic of the work management of the NOJ that the number of blue-collar workers has not changed since the times of the NJC (30).

2.3. HR management

There is a persistent endeavour to be able to allocate and utilize human resources within the NOJ staff flexibly and in an optimal way, in line with the strategic goals. The following measures served the realization of these goals:

- The number of authorised judge positions increased by 2, while the number of authorised secretary judge positions increased by 5. Beyond the improvement of the professional standard of certain complex administrative activities concerning the judicial organization, the goal was to create positions for the winners of the ERA/CJEU scholarship programs, at least for the duration of their internships. The experience obtained abroad increases the standard of work and the efficiency of the organization on the long run.
- The President of the NOJ is committed to enable secretary judges and trainee judges open to such initiatives to get a peek into the operation of the NOJ to obtain practical experience for their further careers. These colleagues with judicial experience can contribute significantly to the efficient and successful performance of certain prioritized administrative – organizational work.
- Another way for the utilization of the knowledge and experience of the knowledge-based judicial organization is the participation in the working group operating in the central administration organization. (In 2017 primarily in the field of the preparation of developmental and training materials 11 working groups operated that were supported by a total of 106 colleagues.)
- In February 2017 the By-Laws were amended as a result of which the legal, administrative-organizational and communication tasks have been fully separated. After the restructuring the fields became more transparent, easy-to-manage, controllable and verifiable.
- As a result of the competence-based employment, the improvement of the qualification level and preparation of the staff and of the continuous supervision the complex tasks were executed more efficiently.
- The employer's measures for the purposes of the reasonable and efficient utilization of human resources taken in 2017 were primarily aimed at adjusting the strategic goals of the organization and the expectations of the employees.
- The competence-based selection process and the application of the entrance test for filling in the vacant positions effectively facilitated the supply of adequate human resources.
- Beyond the improvement of the qualification of the staff, quality changes took place as well that temporarily increased the fluctuation but in the long run it can be assessed as a positive event due to the positive effect on performance.
- As a part of the introductory process the newcomers participate in lectures presenting the professional conduct in the organization and also personal consultations are conducted.
- A HR supply plan was prepared for the preparation and management of the integrity risk in the HR fluctuation.

3. National Registry and Customer Relations Department and the National Registry Office

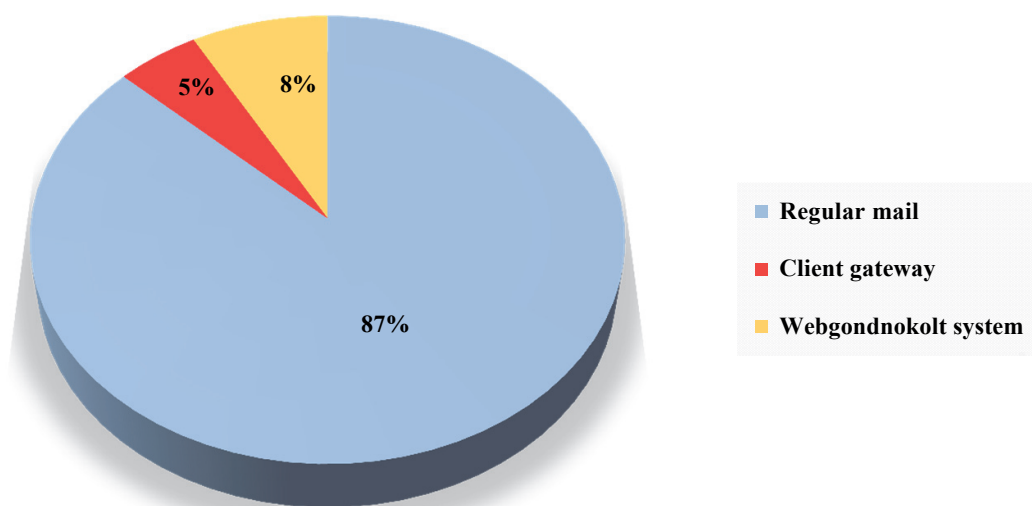
The National Registry and Customer Relations Department of the NOJ and the National Registry Office processes the reports of the civil organizations and fulfils the data supply requests and enquiries concerning the registry of persons under guardianship and of preliminary statements.

3.1. Requesting data from the National Registry of Persons Under Guardianship

Act CLXXV of 2013 on the registry of persons under guardianship and of preliminary statements regulates the procedure for requesting information from the registry of persons under guardianship kept by the NOJ. The legal professions enlisted in the Act are entitled to direct access if the purpose for the access is given, while other bodies and natural persons may file their requests electronically or in hard copy and must verify their legal interest.

In 2017 the NOJ received 91 requests through the “Webgondnokolt” system, 969 through mail and 55 electronically through the client gateway as shown by the following diagram:

Spread of the data requests received in 2017 concerning persons under guardianship



3.1.1. Developments concerning the National Registry of Persons Under Guardianship

Decree no. 16/2014. (III. 13.) of the Ministry of Justice was amended with effect from 1 January 2017 and consequently the forms and manuals and the practical guide and the new request form were all prepared in the 1st half of 2017 for requesting information from the National Registry of Persons Under Guardianship.

The NOJ modified the IT system and the Presidential Filing System (EIR) in such a way that they would be suitable for receiving the electronic requests and for providing data to the requests. The NOJ also updated the internet site providing information on the data requests concerning under guardianship for the sake of citizens and added new menu items (FAQ, news).

The registry of persons under guardianship at the end of 2017 contained 55 056 entries for persons placed under guardianship, while within the same period 88 persons made preliminary statements.

The NOJ pays special attention that the name list of the National Election Office (NVI) consisting of, among other items, people registered in the registry of the persons under guardianship who are without voting rights contain up-to-date information. For this purpose the NOJ ordered several overall data cleanings in 2017 for the courts. The data cleaning pertained to those people who were on the list of the NVI but who could not be found in the judicial registry.

The data cleaning contributed greatly so that the national elections held on 8 April 2018 were conducted smoothly. Owing to this neither during the elections, nor after it was any complaint filed with the NOJ.

The results of the data cleaning enable that the automatic data connection between the NOJ and the NVI could go live in 2017. The data transfer and the data migration ran successfully and this way any changes in the registry that concerns the right to vote will be transmitted to the NVI automatically and not manually anymore.

3.2. Activity reports of the civil organizations

Pursuant to Act CLXXV of 2011 on the right of association, public interest status and on the operation and support of the civil organizations the civil organizations shall send their activity reports to the NOJ for publication until 31 May after the year of the reporting period.

The organizations obliged for electronic communication can fulfil this electronically since 1 January 2015 through the so-called client gateway. From 1 March 2017 public foundations belong in this group as well. Those not obliged for electronic communication may choose between hard copy and electronic filing.

The number of electronic filings grows each year while less and less reports are sent via postal mail.

- In 2017 62 012 reports were filed electronically, 14 727 in hard copy (submitted in person: 776). Total: 77 515.
- In 2016 53 413 reports were filed electronically, 20 594 in hard copy. Total: 74 007.
- In 2015 46 152 reports were filed electronically, 37 698 in hard copy. Total: 83 850.

Development of the number of reports filed electronically:

Year	2015	2016	2017
Piece	46 152	53 413	62 012

Most of the civil organizations send their activity reports within the last few days before the deadline but the NOJ was ready for this great load for the system in the reporting period. At the end of May and at the beginning of June 42 185 reports were filed electronically and 10 100 reports were sent via mail. This is a total of 52 285 reports. For the processing of this volume of reports some judicial employees assisted the NOJ colleagues from 29 May 2017 in overtime work. Owing to the proper preparation and to the judicial employees and NOJ colleagues working overtime, the reports sent electronically were processed by 3 July 2017.

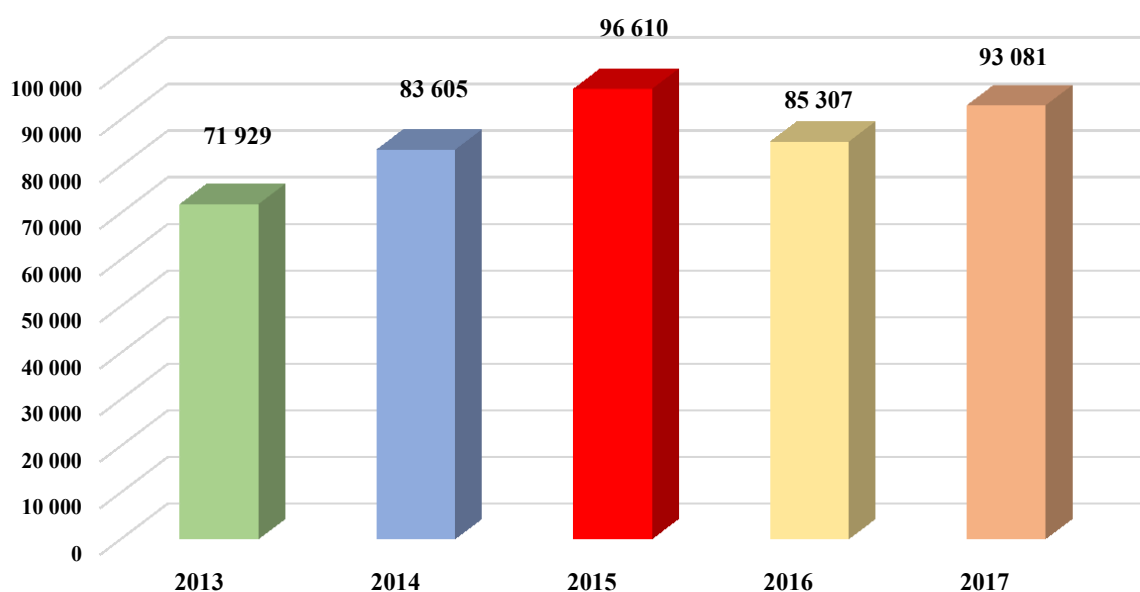
3.2.1. Developments concerning the reports of civil organizations

The electronic forms necessary for the filing of the reports were updated in line with Government Decree no. 479/2016 (XII.28.) on the unique obligations for the preparation of activity reports and bookkeeping obligations of certain other organizations as set out in the Act on Accountancy that came into force on 1 January 2017 in order to facilitate the filing of reports for the previous years and new versions of forms were added as well.

4. Documents received by the NOJ

The day-to-day work of the NOJ includes service provision, decision preparing, operative, servicing, data collection, analytical and other activities. In 2017 a total of 93 081 documents were filed that topped the number of documents received by the Central Office in 2016 by nearly 8 000 and was close to the record number of 96 610 in 2015.

Documents received by the NOJ in the period 2013-2017



The number of documents received by the NOJ in 2017 and its details can be found in Annex VII.1.

The effective and timely handling of the documents received in 2017 constitutes a great load for all NOJ colleagues. For the fulfilment of the tasks it is crucial that the colleagues handle the documents accurately and up-to-date and to be familiar with the applicable regulations and to comply with same.

Future goals and tasks:

- Realization of the program for the creation of regulatory instruments in 2018.
- Continuing and developing activities and processes facilitating the flexible and optimal allocation of human resources.
- Optimization of the placement of the organizational units of the NOJ.

ANNEXES

II. Annex 1

Authorised number of judges and judicial staff in the judicial organisation									
Court	Judge	Secretary Judge	Trainee Judge	Court Administrator	High-level Officer	Mid-level Officer	Reporter	Manual	Total Number of Institutions
Curia	92	14	0	18	67	59	6	70	326
Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal	87	22	0	25	26	33	0	8	201
Debrecen Regional Court of Appeal	24	7	0	7	15	9	0	7	69
Győr Regional Court of Appeal	24	5	0	5	6	14	2	8	64
Pécs Regional Court of Appeal	16	3	0	2	10	11	0	7	49
Szeged Regional Court of Appeal	21	6	0	4	10	16	1	7	65
Balassagyarmat Regional Court	49	15	5	9	10	81	13	43	225
Budapest Environs Regional Court	279	98	18	94	31	309	130	56	1 015
Debrecen Regional Court	135	43	10	25	22	191	49	49	524
Eger Regional Court	71	22	7	18	20	90	19	35	282
Budapest-Capital Regional Court	805	218	86	208	74	908	437	203	2 939
Győr Regional Court	94	29	14	20	16	120	34	42	369
Gyula Regional Court	77	27	3	19	19	109	19	51	324
Kaposvár Regional Court	82	25	8	31	13	101	35	56	351

Authorised number of judges and judicial staff in the judicial organisation									
Court	Judge	Secretary Judge	Trainee Judge	Court Administrator	High-level Officer	Mid-level Officer	Reporter	Manual	Total Number of Institutions
Kecskemét Regional Court	119	37	16	24	24	172	53	70	515
Miskolc Regional Court	174	58	15	37	22	251	78	71	706
Nyíregyháza Regional Court	123	46	4	34	21	170	35	46	479
Pécs Regional Court	96	34	11	28	22	90	64	47	392
Szeged Regional Court	115	38	6	23	15	178	45	39	459
Székesfehérvár Regional Court	85	31	9	18	16	103	38	30	330
Szekszárd Regional Court	58	15	4	12	10	92	16	22	229
Szolnok Regional Court	85	22	10	16	18	129	17	36	333
Szombathely Regional Court	49	14	7	10	11	76	15	34	216
Tatabánya Regional Court	76	25	4	18	28	100	23	11	285
Veszprém Regional Court	85	25	7	14	11	91	52	43	328
Zalaegerszeg Regional Court	65	20	6	19	14	72	37	26	259
IN TOTAL:	2 986	899	250	738	551	3 575	1 218	1 117	11 334
National Office for the Judiciary	37	38	3	0	132	60	0	31	301
IN TOTAL:	3 023	937	253	738	683	3 635	1 218	1 148	11 635

II. Annex 2

Actual number of judges and judicial staff in the judicial organisation										
Court	Judge	Secretary Judge	Trainee Judge	Court Administrator	High-level Officer	Mid-level Officer	Reporter	Manual	Total Number of Institutions	
Curia	84	15	1	17	63	58	5	57	300	
Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal	83	22	0	25	13	43	4	8	198	
Debrecen Regional Court of Appeal	23	7	0	7	12	11	1	9	70	
Győr Regional Court of Appeal	21	4	0	3	7	15	1	11	62	
Pécs Regional Court of Appeal	16	3	0	2	8	12	0	7	48	
Szeged Regional Court of Appeal	21	6	0	4	10	16	2	7	66	
Balassagyarmat Regional Court	49	13	5	9	10	84	15	45	230	
Budapest Environs Regional Court	268	96	11	88	30	318	125	52	988	
Debrecen Regional Court	134	42	7	25	22	197	46	60	533	
Eger Regional Court	70	22	6	18	16	83	36	36	287	
Budapest-Capital Regional Court	734	185	82	196	65	797	525	189	2 773	
Győr Regional Court	86	29	11	20	14	106	59	49	374	
Gyula Regional Court	76	27	4	19	18	108	37	51	340	
Kaposvár Regional Court	80	25	7	31	14	100	45	58	360	

Actual number of judges and judicial staff in the judicial organisation										
Court	Judge	Secretary Judge	Trainee Judge	Court Administrator	High-level Officer	Mid-level Officer	Reporter	Manual	Total Number of Institutions	
Kecskemét Regional Court	115	41	13	22	22	168	67	69	517	
Miskolc Regional Court	161	55	15	35	21	240	110	69	706	
Nyíregyháza Regional Court	119	47	4	33	19	155	59	47	483	
Pécs Regional Court	92	34	11	27	20	88	78	49	399	
Szeged Regional Court	103	33	6	23	13	151	73	43	445	
Székesfehérvár Regional Court	85	27	7	18	17	95	56	35	340	
Szekszárd Regional Court	56	14	5	9	11	70	47	23	235	
Szolnok Regional Court	82	21	7	16	15	103	50	39	333	
Szombathely Regional Court	48	15	7	10	9	78	22	38	227	
Tatabánya Regional Court	78	26	3	18	29	99	32	11	296	
Veszprém Regional Court	83	22	5	14	10	85	61	46	326	
Zalaegerszeg Regional Court	61	21	5	19	14	73	50	28	271	
IN TOTAL:	2 828	852	222	708	502	3 353	1 606	1 136	11 207	
National Office for the Judiciary	34	34	2	0	119	71	0	31	291	
IN TOTAL:	2 862	886	224	708	621	3 424	1 606	1 167	11 498	

III. Annex 1

	2016.					2017.						
	Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.	Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					
	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Fire alarm system	Security technology	IT	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Work environment	Fire alarm system	Security technology
Curia			6 788	8 255							20 000	
<i>in total::</i>			15 043						20 000			
Debrecen Regional										7 064		
<i>in total:</i>			0						7 064			
Szeged Regional Court of Appeal				12 857	5 277							
<i>in total:</i>			18 134						0			
Balassagyarmat Regional Court												
Balassagyarmat Reg. C. Building A				19 524								
Balassagyarmat Reg. C. Building B	18 072			12 325								
<i>in total:</i>			49 921						0			
Budapest Environs Regional Court												
Budaörs Distr. C.						936						
Dabas Distr. C.						936						
Nagykáta Distr. C.			9 586	4 140	3 433	936						

		2016.					2017.						
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.						
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.						
		Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Fire alarm system	Security technology	IT	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Work environment	Fire alarm system	Security technology
Győr Regional Court										1 242			
	Győr Reg. C. Szent I. út 6.												
	Győr Reg. C. (Gy. A&LC), Arpád út 2.				9 074								11 046
	Győr Dist. C.				9 729					1 339			
	<i>in total:</i>				18 803					13 627			
Gyula Regional Court													
	Békéscsaba Distr. C.				6 766								
	Gyula Reg. C. and Distr. C.							41 679					
	Orosháza Distr. C.				7 558		1 010						
	Szeghalom Distr. C.				6 922	7 912	1 010						
	<i>in total:</i>				31 178					41 679			
Kaposvár Regional Court													
	Barcs Distr. C.											6 399	
	Kaposvár Reg. C.				7 308	2 611	2 787						
	Kaposvár Distr. C.				7 754							6 750	
	Marcali Distr. C.											5 764	
	Nagyatád Distr. C.											6 241	
	Siófok Distr. C.				8 635								
	<i>in total:</i>				29 095					25 154			

	2016.					2017.						
	Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.						
	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Fire alarm system	Security technology	IT	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Work environment	Fire alarm system	Security technology
Kecskemét Regional Court												
Kecskemét Distr. C.	39 845					1 850		33 445				
Kecskemét Reg. C.						1 400						
Kalocsa Distr. C.		5 344										
Kiskunfélegyháza Distr. C.		1 489	946									
Kiskunhalas Distr. C.			1 188					4 800				
<i>in total:</i>			52 062					38 245				
Miskolc Regional Court												
Encs Distr. C.		2 750	7 900									
Mezőkövesd Distr. C.	16 600											
Ózd Distr. C.						1 400		22 989				
Szerencs Distr. C.		3 700										
<i>in total:</i>			32 350					22 989				
Nyíregyháza Regional Court												
Fehérgyarmat Distr. C.									4 037			377
Nyíregyháza Reg. C. (Toldi u. 1.)		4 168							9 833			
Nyíregyháza Reg. C. (Bocskai u. 2.)						2 700			3 684			4 727
<i>in total:</i>			6 868					22 658				

		2016.					2017.						
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.						
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.						
		Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Fire alarm system	Security technology	IT	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Work environment	Fire alarm system	Security technology
Pécs Regional Court													
Pécs Reg. C.										11 896			
Szigetvár Distr. C.				16 581	4 238								
Mohács Distr. C.	8 388												
Pécs Distr. C.				8 045	3 515	5 014					13 842		
Siklós Distr. C.				2 457									
<i>in total:</i>				48 238						25 738			
Szeged Regional Court													
Csongrád Distr. C.						2 604							
Hódmezővásárhely Distr. C.													1 931
Makó Distr. C.											444		
Szeged Distr. C. (Tisza L. krt. 2-4.)	2 669			571		793					7 704		
Szeged Reg. C. (Széchenyi tér 4.)													
Szeged Reg. C. Court of Registration (Tábor u. 4.)						1 099					8 422		
Szentés Distr. C.								635			1 626		1 878
<i>in total:</i>				7 736						22 640			

	2016.					2017.									
	Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.									
	Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.									
Szekszárd Regional Court															
Bonyhád Distr. C.				880					19 206						
Dombóvár Distr. C.			9 248	839											
Paks Distr. C.			19 910	664											
Szekszárd Distr. C.				970											
Szekszárd Reg. C.				1 760											
Tamási Distr. C.				1 781											
<i>in total:.</i>				36 052					19 206						
Székesfehérvár Regional Court															
Dunaújváros Distr. C.				7 847					15 691						
Székesfehérvár Reg. C. Zichy liget										15 030					
Székesfehérvár Reg. C.				4 399							10 076				
<i>in total:.</i>				12 246					40 797						
Szolnok Regional Court															
Jászberény Distr. C.													9 542		12 689
Szolnok Reg. C. and Distr. C.											4 805				
Tiszafüred Distr. C.															
<i>in total:.</i>				0					27 036						

		2016.					2017.					
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.					
		Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Fire alarm system	Security technology	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Work environment	Fire alarm system	Security technology
Szombathely Regional Court												
	Körmend Distr. C.			2 287	10 050	2 457				6 389		
	Sárvár Distr. C.		33 198	2 584	8 422					13 072		
	Szombathely Reg. C. (Petőfi u.)										11 329	3 900
	<i>in total:</i>											
							58 998			34 690		
Tatabánya Regional Court												
	Esztergom Distr. C.					5 673						
	Komárom Distr. C.					971						
	Tatabánya Distr. C. + A&LC			13 971	548	603				8 901		
	Tatabánya Reg. C.				125	886				22 733		
	<i>in total:</i>						24 096			31 634		
Veszprém Regional Court												
	Pápa Distr. C.		36 822	9 799	12 509	2 532						
	Veszprém Distr. C.				3 533	1 957						
	Veszprém Reg. C.				19 431					21 993		
	<i>in total:</i>						89 111			21 993		

		2016.					2017.						
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 4.						
		Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.					Jablonszky Ferenc Tender 5.						
		Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Fire alarm system	Security technology	IT	Modernisation of heating	Replacement of doors and windows	Electricity network	Work environment	Fire alarm system	Security technology
Zalaegerszeg Regional Court											682		749
	Lenti Distr. C.												
	Nagykanizsa Distr. C.		33 381	1 845	925						4 620		
	Zalaegerszeg Distr. C. Buildings A, B, C				19 094				2 108		3 735		
	<i>in total:</i>				55 245						11 894		

VI. Annex 1
Calendar of central trainings organised at the local and regional level in 2017

Title of training	Number of regions organising the training	Number of trainings	Number of participants	Type of training
Practice of the recusal of judges and appointment of the proceeding court	2	2	60	recommended
Practical questions of the application of the Sentence Execution Act	2	2	63	recommended
Additional rights of minors, children in criminal proceedings	5	7	323	recommended
Practice of actions for damages, in particular with regard to actions for damages filed against prisons and courts	1	1	59	recommended
Challenges of adjudication in refugee cases in EU law	1	1	33	recommended
The employer's liability for damages	1	1	39	recommended
Preconditions of actions (practice of refusing applications without issuing a summons), practice of the recusal of judges and appointment of the proceeding court	1	1	99	recommended
Preconditions of actions – Practice of refusing applications without issuing a summons	1	1	62	recommended
Preconditions of actions – Practice of refusing applications without issuing a summons	3	3	101	recommended
Electronic proceedings in practice (for secretary judges, trainee judges, administrators and officers)	3	13	464	recommended
Electronic proceedings in practice for judges	4	9	528	recommended
Questions regarding the application of the new Civil Code	2	3	175	recommended
Criminal cases – Comprehensibility and professionalism in the judicial application of law	5	23	1 178	mandatory
Company law education for judges not working in a court of registration	3	5	157	recommended
Family law sensitising training, module I	5	5	492	mandatory
Family law sensitising training, module II	5	5	507	mandatory
Family law professional training I	5	5	532	mandatory
Family law professional training II	5	5	548	mandatory

Title of training	Number of regions organising the training	Number of trainings	Number of participants	Type of training
E-codex Civil Procedural Code - preparation for the application of Act CXXX of 2016 (Phase 1)	5	28	2 457	mandatory
E-codex Civil Procedural Code - preparation for the application of Act CXXX of 2016 (Phase 2)	5	28	2 457	mandatory
Liquidation workshop	3	3	82	recommended
'Jogtár' training	1	1	20	recommended
Criminal offences related to drugs and psychoactive substances	4	6	310	recommended
Practice of actions for damages, in particular with regard to actions for damages filed against prisons and courts	1	1	61	recommended
Budget fraud	5	6	237	recommended
Complex public administration training	1	1	103	recommended
Special knowledge in the subject of minutes-keeping – datasheets, notices (target group: secretary criminal judges, trainee judges, administrators, officers)	3	4	147	recommended
Labour law/public administration – Comprehensibility and professionalism in the judicial application of law	5	5	247	mandatory
Complex labour law training	1	1	126	recommended
Simulation of criminal lawsuit	3	5	78	recommended
Simulation of civil lawsuit	3	6	99	recommended
Revision procedure	1	1	39	recommended
Civil cases – Comprehensibility and professionalism in the judicial application of law	5	27	1 516	mandatory
Review of psychiatric treatments	2	2	81	recommended
Questions of proving and classifying sexual offences, victim protection aspects	5	7	285	recommended
New Civil Code – Questions of the practical application of torts	5	6	316	recommended
New regulations at the courts (Act on the Rules of the Administration of Court Cases, Document Handling Rules, internal regulations)	1	4	326	recommended
Liability of senior officers	2	2	94	recommended
In total:		236	14 501	

VI. Annex 2
Calendar of central trainings organised at the HAJ in 2017

	Main group	Sub-group	Number of occasions on which the training was held in 2017	Number of persons registered to the training
1	Leader trainings	Leaders' meetings for court chairpersons, heads of chambers and heads of the NOJ	14	559
1	Leader trainings	Leader training	11	192
2	Basic trainings preparing for working as a judge – Events of the New Generation	Other events for trainee judges	5	614
2	Basic trainings preparing for working as a judge – Events of the New Generation	Mandatory basic trainings for trainee judges, secretary judges and judges appointed for a definite term	10	520
2	Basic trainings preparing for working as a judge – Events of the New Generation	Professional trainings for secretary judges	3	316
3	Networks and national strategic programmes	Accredited training for court mediators	5	94
3	Networks and national strategic programmes	Trainings associated with central local/regional trainings; training of trainers	1	97
3	Networks and national strategic programmes	Training of the members, correspondents and coordinators of national strategic programmes and networks	16	829
4	Central professional trainings supporting the unification of jurisprudence	Trainings related to designation and special case types	5	285
4	Central professional trainings supporting the unification of jurisprudence	Professional conferences for civil, criminal, administrative and labour judges	4	353
5	Events in international and EU topics	International events organised based on EJTJN cooperation	2	71
5	Events in international and EU topics	International events organised based on ERA cooperation	1	22

	Main group	Sub-group	Number of occasions on which the training was held in 2017	Number of persons registered to the training
5	Events in international and EU topics	Other international professional events	4	291
6	Trainings supporting the operation of courts	Trainings supporting electronic procedures, IT trainings	20	740
6	Trainings supporting the operation of courts	Trainings supporting administration and development	25	1 319
7	Scientific and other events	Competitive exam for trainee judge applicants and related events	4	127
7	Scientific and other events	Scientific events	5	293
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	Consultations	30	210
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	E-codex (Civil Procedural Code, Public Administration Procedural Code) - new procedural law trainings and conferences	17	1 196
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	Trainings supporting administration and development	29	1 043
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	Visits	6	117
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	Work group discussions	25	310
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	Training of the members, correspondents and coordinators of national strategic programmes and networks	5	69
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	Professional trainings	5	327
8	Events announced beyond the scope of the training plan	Leaders' meetings	11	174
9	Trainings of central local regional, local and extra-court organisations at the Academy	International trainings/ professional trainings	8	583
In total:			271	10 751

VII. Annex 1
Document traffic at the National Office for the Judiciary in 2017 and its distribution

Name of office department	Total number of documents received	Main number	Sub-number
Presidential Cabinet	1 360	93	1 267
General Department of Administration	14 509	1 247	13 262
Administration Department	4 789	322	4 467
including complaints:	1 925	422	1 503
Department of Statistical Analysis	3 939	288	3 651
Department of Coordination and Organisation Development	3 856	215	3 641
General Department of Electronic Procedures	7 797	2 124	5 673
Department of Electronic Regulation and Development	2 297	124	2 173
National Department of Records and Customer Relations	5 500	2 000	3 500
General Department of Inspection	393	17	376
General Department of Human Resources and Management	12 023	1 457	10 566
Office Department	1 976	260	1 716
Judicial Department	10 047	1 197	8 850
General Department of Communication and Liaising	2 069	291	1 778
Communications Department	636	58	578
Department of International Relations	1 327	227	1 100
Department of Event Organisation	106	6	100
General Department of Legal Matters	9 102	733	8 369
Department of Opinions on Legislation	5 995	289	5 706
Department of Legal Representation	3 107	444	2 663
General Department of Technical Matters	1 096	57	1 039
General Department of Management	4 488	231	4 257
General Department of IT	2 582	339	2 243
Project Office	1 609	34	1 575
General Department of Public Procurement and Contractual Relations	2 027	261	1 766
Hungarian Academy of Justice	7 423	336	7 087
Training Department	6 110	220	5 890
Science Organisation and Documentation Department	463	24	439
Service Department	850	92	758
In total	66 478	7 220	59 258
Document registrations carried over from 2014, 2015 and 2016 / including complaints	26 603/1 356	-	26 603/1 356
In total	93 081	7 220	85 861



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