



Judicial Vetting – THREE years of results supporting justice reform

On 15 June 2026, the Judicial Vetting Commission marked three years of activity. The Commission was established to assess the ethical and financial integrity of judges and candidates for certain positions within the judiciary. During this period, it has become an important actor in the justice reform process, contributing to the development of an accountable and integrity-driven judicial system and strengthening public trust in justice.

The Commission's mandate initially focused on evaluating judges and candidates for the Supreme Court of Justice. It was subsequently expanded to include additional categories of individuals within the judicial system.

Key results

Over its three years of activity, the Commission received **203** individuals for evaluation. Of these, **179** evaluation procedures have been completed. Following evaluations and re-evaluations, **69** individuals passed the evaluation, while 40 failed to meet the integrity criteria established by law. Another **70** individuals resigned or withdrew during the evaluation process. At present, 20 evaluations remain ongoing.

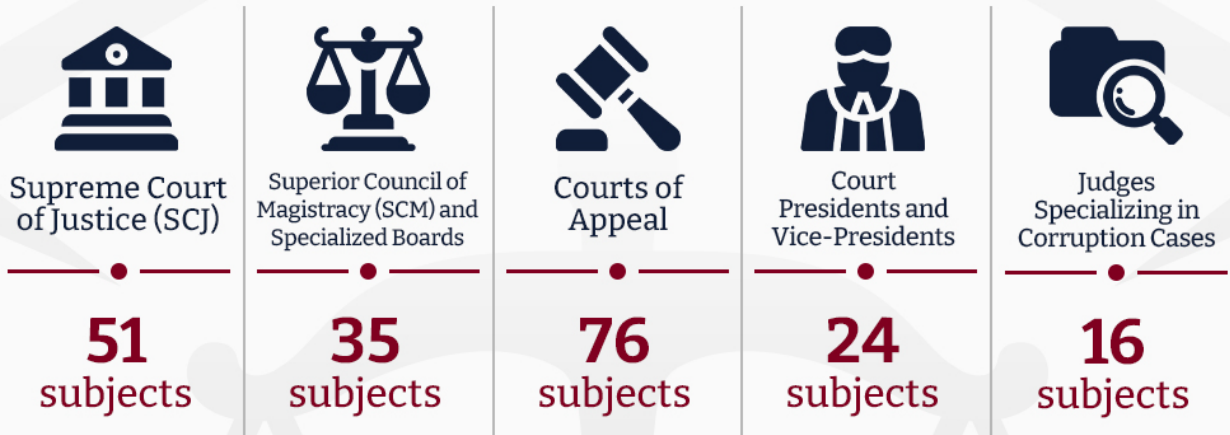
Throughout its activity, the Commission has assessed representatives from the main segments of the judiciary. The distribution of individuals referred for evaluation reflects the gradual expansion of the vetting process across the judicial system:

- 51 individuals from the Supreme Court of Justice (*2 evaluations pending*);
- 35 candidates for judicial self-governance bodies (*1 evaluation pending*);
- 76 judges and candidates for the Courts of Appeal (*2 re-evaluations pending*);
- 24 court presidents and vice-presidents (*2 re-evaluations pending*);
- 16 judges specialized in adjudicating corruption cases (*13 evaluations pending*).



JUDICIAL VETTING ACROSS THE JUDICIARY

203 candidates from all levels of the judicial system Category Candidates



*Four candidates referred for evaluation had previously undergone evaluation by the Pre-Vetting Commission.

i The vetting process **spans the entire judiciary—from the Supreme Court of Justice** to first-instance courts, including judges serving on specialized anti-corruption panels.

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Over the past three years, the external evaluation process has shown a positive trend in the pass rate among judges, increasing from 50% in 2023 to 64% in 2026.



JUDICIAL VETTING: THREE YEARS OF RESULTS

Advancing Justice Reform

KEY FIGURES

203 CANDIDATES
referred for evaluation

179 EVALUATIONS
completed

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70 candidates withdrew
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One in three individuals withdrew or resigned

Of the 203 individuals subject to evaluation, 70 resigned from office or withdrew from competitions, including during the re-evaluation stage.

The highest number of such cases was recorded at the Central Court of Appeal, where 21 of 40 judges resigned after being notified of the initiation of the evaluation process. At the Northern Court of Appeal, 12 of 15 judges resigned, while at the Southern Court of Appeal, 3 of 8 judges did so. In addition, four candidates for judicial positions at the Courts of Appeal withdrew during the evaluation process.

At the Supreme Court of Justice, there were 2 resignations and 11 withdrawals from competitions among the 51 judges and candidates subject to evaluation.

Among court presidents and vice-presidents, 10 out of 24 judges resigned immediately after receiving notification of the evaluation. Furthermore, 3 of the 16 judges serving on specialized anti-corruption panels resigned following notification.

An additional four candidates for positions in judicial self-governance bodies withdrew from competitions.



RESIGNATIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

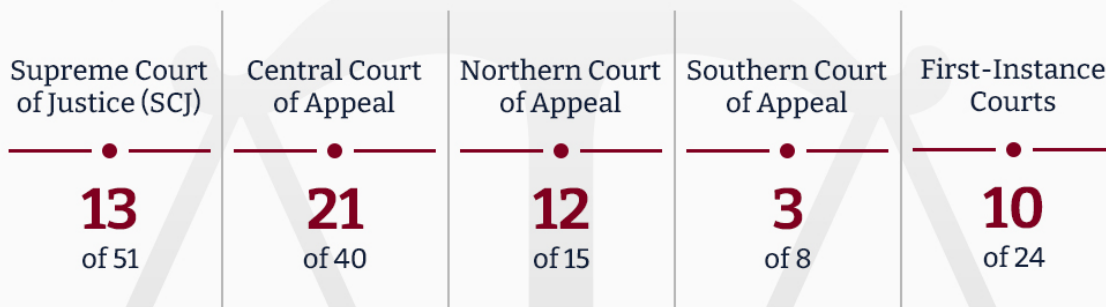


ONE IN THREE SUBJECTS resigned from office or withdrew from the vetting process

70 of the 203 subjects either resigned or withdrew before completing the evaluation

DISTRIBUTION BY COURT LEVEL

Court Level Resignations / Withdrawals



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Financial and ethical integrity

The Commission's evaluations revealed numerous examples of compliance with integrity standards, but also situations that raised serious doubts regarding compliance with the criteria established by law.

Among completed procedures:

- 32 cases of inexplicable wealth were identified;
- unjustified assets totaling MDL 13.8 million were established;
- the largest amount of unjustified assets identified in a single case exceeded MDL 3.7 million;
- two cases of unpaid tax liabilities were identified, one involving approximately MDL 100,000.

The Commission also identified 10 cases involving conflicts of interest, 7 cases of arbitrary actions contrary to European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) standards, as well as other breaches of professional ethics incompatible with the requirements of judicial office.



Re-evaluation procedures

The Superior Council of Magistracy referred 15 reports to the Commission for re-evaluation. To date, nine re-evaluation procedures have been completed.

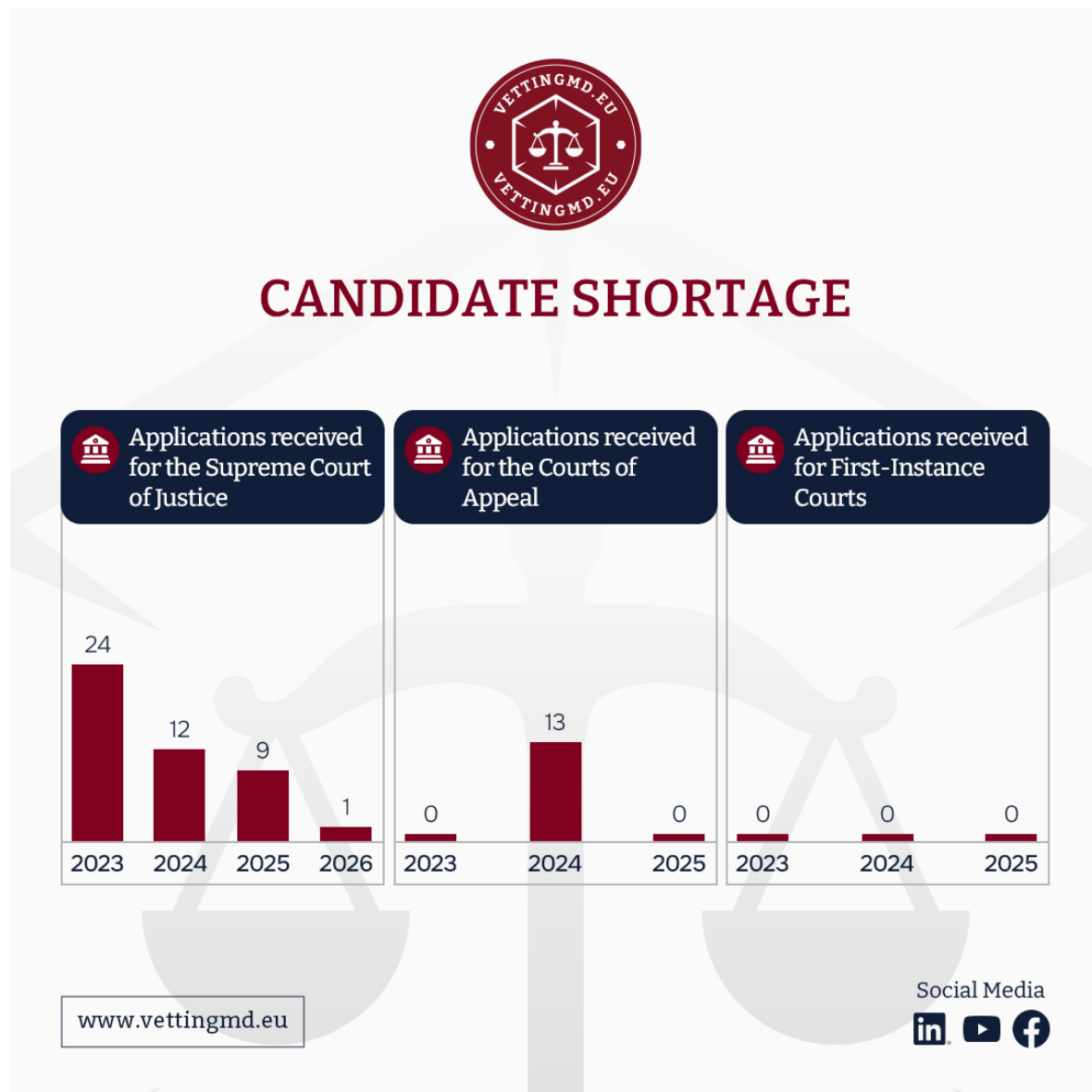
The data show that, in most cases, the Commission's initial conclusions were upheld. In seven re-evaluations, the Commission confirmed the outcome of the initial evaluation, while in two cases it revised its conclusion. Four additional re-evaluation procedures remain ongoing.

Furthermore, two individuals withdrew from competitions during the re-evaluation process.



Institutional resilience

Throughout its activity, the Commission has carried out its mandate in a complex environment marked by successive legislative amendments, the expansion of its membership from six to nine members, changes in its composition through the withdrawal and appointment of new members, the gradual extension of its mandate and operational timelines, and other significant institutional challenges.



During this period, the Commission was involved in 36 court proceedings. In 30 of these cases, the courts ruled in the Commission's favor, confirming both the legality of the procedures conducted and the soundness of its conclusions. The remaining cases are still pending.

Cooperation with development partners

The Commission's achievements have also been supported by the continued assistance of its international partners. The European Union, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and CILC (as implementing partner) have contributed to strengthening the Commission's administrative and operational capacities and ensuring the resources necessary for the effective performance of its mandate.

This support has been provided with full respect for the Commission's independence and its legal mandate.