

**Results of assessments in 2018 and 2024 by judges,
prosecutors, attorneys, members of the High Judicial
Council, court users and the public**

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Methodology of field work

- Survey among general population of Georgia on their perceptions of the judicial system (2000 respondents)
- Self-administered interviews with representative samples of four groups of professional stakeholders: prosecutors (82), attorneys/lawyers (98), judges (235) and members of the Judicial Council (11)
- Face to face interviews with random sample of natural and legal persons who have recently been users of a court in Georgia as either parties in civil or administrative law cases or as defendants in criminal cases (152)
- Comparable data retrieved from databases of European Network of Judicial Councils, Gallup Int a.o.
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- ** percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding error*

How safe do you feel walking alone in your area after dark? Do you feel very safe, fairly safe, a bit unsafe, or very unsafe?

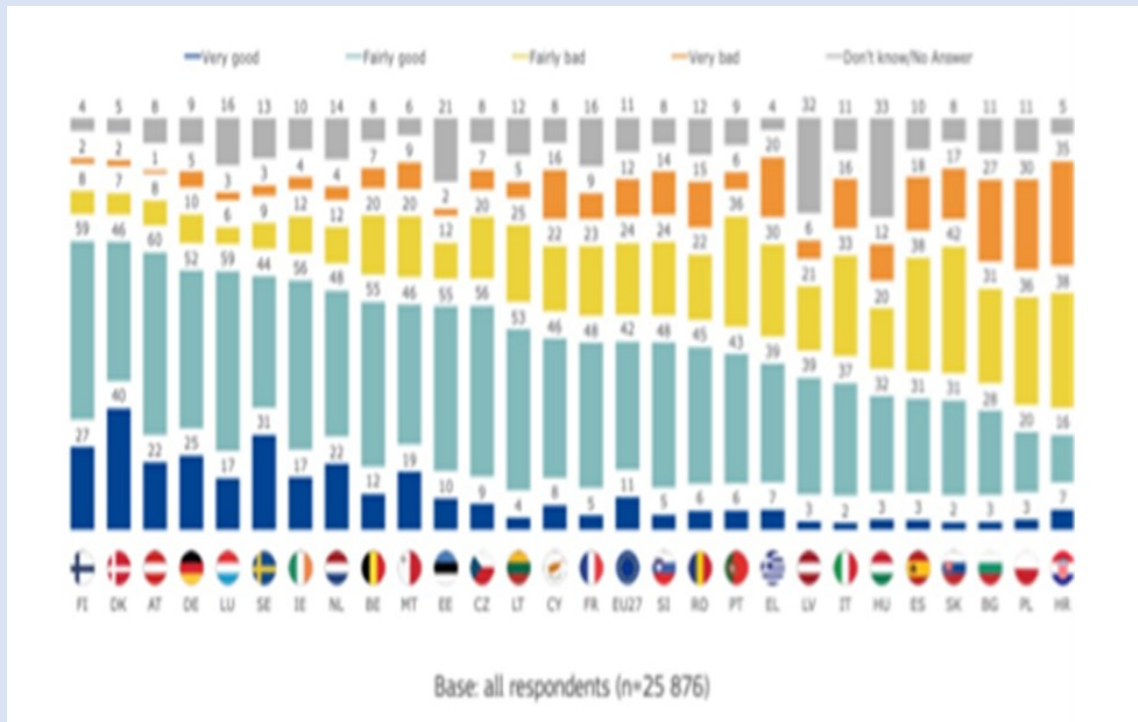
General Public Survey - Georgia	2018	2024
	%	%
Very safe	69	64
Fairly safe	16	20
A bit unsafe	12	13
Very unsafe	3	3

- According to the 2017 results of the World Poll of Gallup International, Georgia, with its percentage of 84% very or fairly safe, ranks among the ten safest countries in the world together with inter alia Singapore, Switzerland and Norway (out of 142) (Gallup, 2018).

Study among the general public

Assessment of the independence of judges by the general public, Eurobarometer 2023; and IPSOS survey in Georgia 2024

Q1. From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (OUR COUNTRY) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?



- In Georgia in 2024 61% of the public rates the justice system in terms of independence as very or fairly good. Compared to 2018 it has increased by 10%. This score is higher than the EU mean of 53%. It is much higher than in most other 'new democracies'.

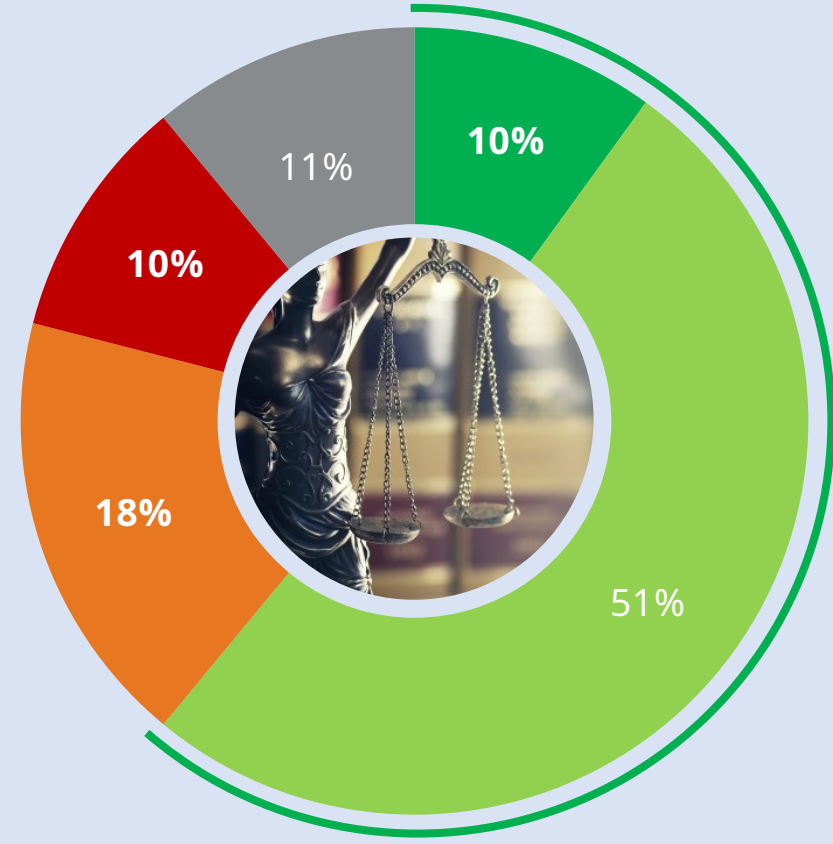
The independence of courts and judges

Question: « From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in Georgia in terms of the independence of courts and judges? » - To all

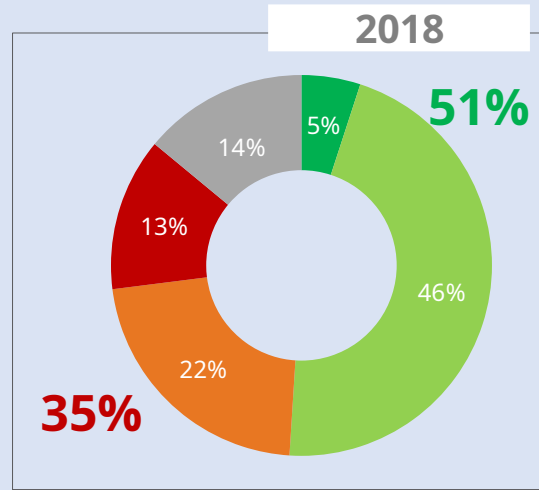


Living in Tbilisi	37%
Living in urban areas	33%
Higher education	34%

Total Bad 28%



Total Good 61%



Comparison among the general public and various stakeholders

From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in Georgia in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

	General Public	Natural and Legal Persons (n=152)	Lawyers (n=98)	Lawyers (n=47) [state attorneys not included]	Prosecutors (n=82)
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Very good	9.7	15.1	31.6	8.5	72.0
Fairly good	51.6	36.8	41.8	42.6	26.8
Fairly bad	17.7	15.1	17.3	29.8	-
Very bad	9.7	9.2	9.2	19.1	1.2
DK	11.2	23.7	-	-	-

Do you think the judges in Georgia are in general tougher than you yourself or softer / more lenient in their sentencing?

	2018	2024
	%	%
Tougher than I am	56	49.7
They have the same approach as I do	8	9.6
Softer / more lenient than I am	16	17.1
Don't know	20	23.6

- Surveys in other countries including Australia, United Kingdom and The Netherlands invariably show that a majority of the public thinks judges are too soft

Confidence in the judicial system among recent court users (natural and legal persons)

What level of confidence do you have in the justice system? N= 186

2018	Overall	Civil	Administrative	Criminal
Very low confidence	19.9%	17.1%	17.8%	32.4%
Low confidence	7%	8.6%	6.7%	2.9%
Average confidence	36.6%	44.8%	28.9%	23.5%
High confidence	26.9%	21.0%	37.8%	29.4%
Very high confidence	8.6%	8.6%	8.9%	5.9%
Don't know	1.1%	0%	0%	5.9%

What level of confidence do you have in the justice system? N= 152

2024	Overall	Civil	Administrative	Criminal
Very low confidence	15.8	8.2	18.2	23.5
Low confidence	10.5	18.4	5.5	8.8
Average confidence	36.8	30.6	47.3	26.5
High confidence	17.8	20.4	12.7	20.6
Very high confidence	10.5	16.3	9.1	8.8
Don't know	8.6%	6.1%	7.3%	11.8%

Study among professional stakeholders (prosecutors and lawyers)

Question: Please compare the level of openness of court proceedings with the one five years ago. Would you say that the level of openness of court proceedings improved, worsened or stayed the same?

2018	Prosecutors n=157	Lawyers n=243	2024	Prosecutors n=82	Lawyers n=98
Improved	73.9	56.8	Improved	74.4	53.1
Worsened	-	6.2	Worsened	-	7.1
Stayed the same	26.1	37.0	Stayed the same	25.6	39.8

To what extent are you satisfied with the possibility of requesting the video recordings of the proceedings?

2018	Prosecutors n=156	Lawyers n=236	2024	Prosecutors n=82	Lawyers n=98
Very satisfied	35.3	21.2	Very satisfied	79.3	38.8
Largely satisfied	60.3	65.7	Largely satisfied	19.5	56.1
Largely unsatisfied	3.2	9.3	Largely unsatisfied	-	4.1
Very unsatisfied	1.3	3.8	Very unsatisfied	1.2	1.0

The rule of composition of the HCOJ of Georgia

To what extent do you agree that the renewed rules of composition of the High Council of Justice of Georgia ensure the independence of the Council?

2018	Prosecutors n=157	Lawyers n=222
Totally agree	19.7	4.1
Largely agree	60.5	32.9
Largely disagree	16.6	34.2
Totally disagree	3.2	28.8

To what extent do you agree that the rules of composition of the High Council of Justice of Georgia ensure the independence of the Council? [slightly edited question in 2024]

2024	Prosecutors n=82	Lawyers n=98
Totally agree	72.0	34.7
Largely agree	26.8	30.6
Largely disagree	-	15.3
Totally disagree	1.2	19.4

To what extent does the rule of the appointment of a judge ensure the independence of judges?

2018	Prosecutors n=157	Lawyers n=227	2024	Prosecutors n=82	Lawyers n=98
Totally ensures	20.4	4.8	Totally ensures	73.2	29.6
Largely ensures	56.1	28.6	Largely ensures	24.4	32.7
Ensures to a lesser degree	10.8	19.8	Ensures to a lesser degree	-	20.4
Does not ensure at all	7.0	36.1	Does not ensure at all	1.2	13.3
Don't know	5.7	10.6	Don't know	1.2	4.1

Per your assessment, acquittal decisions on criminal cases launched by the prosecutor's office have increased, decreased or stayed the same in comparison with 5 years ago?

2018	Prosecutors n=157	Lawyers n=244	2024	Prosecutors n=82	Lawyers n=98
Increased	79.6	65.2	Increased	62.2	55.1
Decreased	2.5	9.0	Decreased	3.7	15.3
Stayed the same	17.8	25.8	Stayed the same	34.1	29.6

Per your assessment, successful administrative and civil cases against an administrative body have increased, decreased or stayed the same in comparison with 5 years ago?

2018	Lawyers n=254	2024	Lawyers n=98
Increased	52.0	Increased	49.0
Decreased	13.4	Decreased	8.2
Stayed the same	34.6	Stayed the same	42.9

Study among professional stakeholders (HCOJ and judges)

To what extent does the scope of powers of the High Council of Justice of Georgia ensure the independence of judiciary?

<i>2018</i>	Members of HCOJ n=12	Judges n=201	<i>2024</i>	Members of HCOJ n=11	Judges n=235
Completely ensures	10	53.2	Completely ensures	10	79.6%
Largely ensures	2	45.3	Largely ensures	1	19.6%
Does not largely ensure	-	1.5	Does not largely ensure	-	0.9%
Does not ensure at all	-	-	Does not ensure at all	-	-

During the last two years I believe that my independence as a judge has been respected by: Government

source: ENCI survey 2022
survey in GEORGIA among judges 2024

	Response	Agree - Strongly agree
Austria	720	39%
Belgium	437	57%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	315	69%
Bulgaria	409	22%
Croatia	485	68%
Cyprus	53	79%
Czech Republic	327	52%
Denmark	205	91%
Estonia	67	58%
Finland	227	89%
France	1,433	29%
Germany	3,104	79%
Greece	795	62%
Hungary	788	46%
Ireland	115	84%
Italy	396	51%
Latvia	199	34%
Lithuania	179	25%
Montenegro	95	64%
Netherlands	756	74%
Norway	285	90%
Portugal	486	57%
Slovakia	62	26%
Slovenia	168	23%
Spain	1,112	44%
Sweden	584	85%
England and Wales	1,265	40%
Northern Ireland	27	41%
Scotland	103	48%
Total/Average	15,197	56%
Georgia – 2024	235	93.2

I believe judges in my country have been appointed other than on the basis of ability and experience during the last two years

source: *ENCJ survey 2022*
survey in GEORGIA among judges 2024

	Response	Disagree - Strongly disagree
Austria	740	63%
Belgium	457	68%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	388	25%
Bulgaria	424	31%
Croatia	525	29%
Cyprus	60	78%
Czech Republic	378	63%
Denmark	211	98%
Estonia	67	67%
Finland	227	81%
France	1,583	88%
Germany	3,140	79%
Greece	820	67%
Hungary	788	40%
Ireland	115	61%
Italy	423	79%
Latvia	200	57%
Lithuania	181	27%
Montenegro	100	56%
Netherlands	755	92%
Norway	315	82%
Portugal	494	66%
Slovakia	67	57%
Slovenia	193	40%
Spain	1,191	69%
Sweden	599	71%
England and Wales	1,273	81%
Northern Ireland	27	93%
Scotland	104	79%
Total/Average	15,821	65%
Georgia - 2024	235	92%

In my country I believe that during the last two years individual judges have accepted bribes as an inducement to decide case(s) in a specific way.

Source: *ENCJ survey 2022*
survey in GEORGIA among judges 2024

	Response	Disagree - Strongly disagree
Austria	740	83%
Belgium	457	87%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	338	28%
Bulgaria	424	31%
Croatia	525	23%
Cyprus	60	98%
Czech Republic	378	49%
Denmark	211	100%
Estonia	67	79%
Finland	227	96%
France	1,583	89%
Germany	3,140	88%
Greece	826	46%
Hungary	788	61%
Ireland	115	97%
Italy	423	31%
Latvia	200	53%
Lithuania	181	27%
Montenegro	100	67%
Netherlands	775	98%
Norway	315	96%
Portugal	494	59%
Slovakia	67	34%
Slovenia	193	64%
Spain	1,191	72%
Sweden	599	95%
England and Wales	1,273	98%
Northern Ireland	27	100%
Scotland	104	99%
Total/Average	15,821	71%
Georgia - 2024	235	92%

Would you say that the scope of powers of the High Council of Justice of Georgia should be increased, decreased or stay the same?

<i>2018</i>	Members of HCOJ n=12	Judges n=200	<i>2024</i>	Members of HCOJ n=11	Judges n=235
Should be increased	10	69.5	Should be increased	9	51.5
Should stay the same	2	29.0	Should stay the same	2	46.4
Should be decreased	-	1.5	Should be decreased	-	2.1

To what extent are you satisfied with the openness of the appointment process of judges?

2018	Members of HCOJ n=12	Judges n=198	2024	Members of HCOJ n=11	Judges n=235
Very satisfied	9	51.0	Very satisfied	11	74.5
Largely satisfied	3	38.9	Largely satisfied	-	19.1
Neither satisfied, nor dissatisfied / neutral	-	8.1	Neither satisfied, nor dissatisfied / neutral	-	5.5
Largely dissatisfied	-	2.0	Largely dissatisfied	-	0.9
Very dissatisfied	-	-	Very dissatisfied	-	-

Would you say that everyone gets equal opportunity for promotion?

2018	Members of HCOJ n=12	Judges n=195	2024	Members of HCOJ n=11	Judges n=235
Yes	11	87.2	Yes	11	91.9
No	1	12.8	No	-	8.1

To what extent are you satisfied with the introduction of the “Juvenile Justice Code ?

2018	Prosecutors n=157	Lawyers n=221	2024	Prosecutors n=82	Lawyers n=98
Very satisfied	25.5	22.6	Very satisfied	48.8	33.7
Largely satisfied	58.6	66.5	Largely satisfied	45.1	62.2
Largely dissatisfied	13.4	8.6	Largely dissatisfied	3.7	3.1
Very dissatisfied	2.5	2.3	Very dissatisfied	2.4	1.0

To what extent are you satisfied with the introduction of the “Juvenile Justice Code ?

2018	Members of HCOJ n=12	Judges n=172	2024	Members of HCOJ n=11	Judges n=235
Very satisfied	9	42.4	Very satisfied	7	60.4
Largely satisfied	3	54.1	Largely satisfied	4	38.7
Largely dissatisfied	-	3.5	Largely dissatisfied	-	0.4
Very dissatisfied	-	-	Very dissatisfied	-	0.4

In Conclusion

- **The interviews on the reforms conducted with samples of official stakeholders show that they have been well-received by a large majority of judges, prosecutors and members of the High Council.**
- **Across the board, assessments of the reforms by stakeholders were ten percent points more favorable than in 2018.**
- **Most attorneys/lawyers also judged favorably about most reforms, especially those working as state attorneys.**
- **Many of them also said that acquittal rates had gone up and that more cases against governmental parties were won than before.**
- **Most recent court users reported positive experiences with access to information, legal aid and various aspects of the court sessions itself.**

In conclusion

- **From an international perspective, judges in Georgia are markedly more positive about their independence than judges in the European Union on average, especially those working in ‘new democracies’.**
- **Opinions of the public at large about the reforms and the independence of the judiciary have become more favorable since 2018.**
- **Trust in the judiciary has grown more steeply than trust in other institutions. After the police, the judiciary is now the most trusted institution of the six institutions under review.**
- **Sixty percent (60%) of the public sees the courts as very or fairly independent, a higher rate than the mean of the public in the European Union (53%).**