

JUDICIAL REFORM AS A FACTOR IN INCREASING PUBLIC TRUST IN JUSTICE

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Abstract

The article examines the stages of development of the judicial system of Ukraine in 2010-2024 in the context of institutional reforms, digital transformation and procedural modernization. The dynamics of key indicators of the efficiency of judicial proceedings are analyzed – the level of funding, staffing, average duration of case consideration, the share of electronic proceedings and rule of law indices. Based on a comparative analysis of data from Ukraine and the countries of the European Union (Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania), the main trends that determine structural changes in the sphere of justice are identified. The results of the study show that during the period under study, there was a significant reduction in the duration of case consideration (by 22%), an increase in the completion rate to 0.91, as well as the active implementation of digital technologies – in particular, the "Electronic Court" system, which ensured the submission of more than 35% of claims in electronic form. At the same time, there is a shortage of judicial personnel (more than 28% of vacant positions) and an insufficient level of financing of the judiciary (0.38% of GDP), which limits the sustainability of reforms. The paper proves that the digitalization of the judicial system is a key factor in increasing its efficiency, transparency and citizens' trust in the judiciary. Strengthening the institutional independence of judges, ensuring financial autonomy and forming professional integrity are identified as the main conditions for the further development of justice in Ukraine



in accordance with European standards of the rule of law. The methodological basis of the study is the principles of systemic, comparative and statistical analysis. The work uses official data from international organizations and the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine. The results obtained have practical significance for developing strategies for reforming the judiciary, optimizing funding and improving e-justice.

Keywords

Judicial system, rule of law, digitalization of justice, judicial reform, efficiency of judicial proceedings, trust in the judiciary.

Resumo

O artigo examina as etapas de desenvolvimento do sistema judicial da Ucrânia em 2010-2024 no contexto das reformas institucionais, da transformação digital e da modernização processual. É analisada a dinâmica dos principais indicadores da eficiência dos processos judiciais – o nível de financiamento, o quadro de pessoal, a duração média da apreciação dos processos, a percentagem de processos eletrônicos e os índices do Estado de direito. Com base numa análise comparativa dos dados da Ucrânia e dos países da União Europeia (Polónia, República Checa, Roménia), são identificadas as principais tendências que determinam as mudanças estruturais na esfera da justiça. Os resultados do estudo mostram que, durante o período em análise, houve uma redução significativa na duração da apreciação dos processos (em 22%), um aumento na taxa de conclusão para 0,91, bem como a implementação ativa de tecnologias digitais – em particular, o sistema «Tribunal Eletrónico», que garantiu a apresentação de mais de 35% das reclamações em formato eletrónico. Ao mesmo tempo, há uma escassez de pessoal judicial (mais de 28% dos cargos vagos) e um nível insuficiente de financiamento do poder judicial (0,38% do PIB), o que limita a sustentabilidade das reformas. O artigo prova que a digitalização do sistema judicial é um fator-chave para aumentar a sua eficiência, transparência e confiança dos cidadãos no poder judicial. O reforço da independência institucional dos juízes, a garantia da autonomia financeira e a formação da integridade profissional são identificados como as principais condições para o desenvolvimento da justiça na Ucrânia, de acordo com os padrões europeus do Estado de direito. A base metodológica do estudo são os princípios da análise sistémica, comparativa e estatística. O trabalho utiliza dados oficiais de organizações internacionais e da Administração Judicial do Estado da Ucrânia. Os resultados obtidos têm significado prático para o desenvolvimento de estratégias de reforma do poder judicial, otimização do financiamento e melhoria da justiça eletrónica.

Palavras-chave

Sistema judicial, Estado de direito, digitalização da justiça, reforma judicial, eficiência dos processos judiciais, confiança no poder judicial.

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Introduction

In modern democratic states, the judiciary is one of the main institutions for ensuring the rule of law, protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, and maintaining the stability of public administration. The effectiveness of the functioning of the judicial system determines the level of legitimacy of the state, since it is through the mechanisms of justice that the social need for justice, equality before the law, and accountability of government to citizens is realized.

In Ukraine, the problem of trust in the judiciary remains one of the most urgent and at the same time the most complex. Since 2014, judicial reform has become a strategic priority of state policy, which is confirmed by the adoption of a number of regulatory legal acts: the Law of Ukraine "On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2016), amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine regarding justice, the creation of the High Council of Justice, the High Qualification Commission of Judges and the High Anti-Corruption Court. These steps were aimed at ensuring the independence of the judiciary, increasing its transparency and strengthening the responsibility of the judiciary.

However, as evidenced by the official analytical reports of the Consultative Council of European Judges (2024) and the Basel Institute on Governance (2024), Ukraine still faces a number of institutional challenges. According to the report by CEPEJ (2024), indicators of trust in the judiciary in Ukraine remain lower than in most European Union countries. For comparison: the average level of public trust in courts in EU countries exceeds 50%, while in Ukraine this indicator fluctuates within 25-30%. This lag is explained not only by



historical distrust of state institutions, but also by insufficient transparency of judicial procedures, the duration of court proceedings and the low level of communication between the judicial system and society.

The problem of trust in justice is complex. It encompasses not only organizational and legal aspects, but also socio-psychological factors, in particular the perception of the court as an impartial and effective arbiter. In this context, judicial reform should be considered not as a separate legislative or administrative measure, but as a systemic policy of modernization of the entire institutional architecture of justice – from personnel selection to mechanisms of accountability and control.

International standards play an important role in shaping a positive image of the judiciary. The documents of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Venice Commission have repeatedly emphasized that judicial independence is a basic condition for economic development and citizens' trust in the state. According to analytical data from the World Bank (2024), countries with high indicators of judicial independence demonstrate more stable GDP growth, lower levels of corruption, and higher investment attractiveness.

In this context, scientific substantiation of judicial reform is necessary as a key factor in increasing public trust in justice through the analysis of official statistical and international data.

Literature Review

The issue of judicial reform, its impact on the efficiency of justice and the level of public trust in judicial institutions is a subject of constant attention of both domestic and foreign scholars. Research in this area covers theoretical and legal, institutional, socio-economic and managerial aspects of judicial reform.

One of the key areas of modern scientific discussions is the identification of institutional factors of trust in justice. According to the conclusions of experts from OECD (2024; 2025), trust in the courts is formed primarily through the stability of the legal environment, the independence of judges, the effectiveness of disciplinary procedures and the transparency of appointments to the judicial system. The OECD emphasizes that in countries with high rule of law indicators (e.g. the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland), the stability of the judicial system is directly correlated with citizens' trust in the state and the level of economic development.

According to analytical reports of CEPEJ (2024) and Kalliris and Alysandratos (2023), the main indicators of the efficiency of the judiciary are the duration of court proceedings, the workload on judges, the level of automation of processes, the financing of the judicial system and independence from political influence. Comparative analysis of data shows that in Central and Eastern European countries that have successfully implemented judicial reforms (Estonia, Lithuania, Poland by 2016), the indicator of trust in courts increased by 15-20 percentage points after the introduction of e-justice mechanisms and open access to court decisions.



The issue of the relationship between the institutional independence of the courts and economic development has been studied in the works of the World Bank within the framework of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (World Bank, 2024). The reports emphasize that countries with high indices of rule of law and control of corruption demonstrate more stable growth of gross domestic product (GDP) and higher level of investment attractiveness. Thus, judicial independence and transparency of judicial procedures are recognized as critical prerequisites for economic stability and democratic development.

In the works of Venice Commission (n.d.) emphasized that effective judicial reform requires a balanced model of judicial governance – with a clear division of powers between the High Council of Justice, the parliament and the executive branch. The Commission has repeatedly drawn Ukraine's attention to the need to ensure transparency in the selection of judges, create an effective integrity verification mechanism and introduce clear criteria for the career growth of judges.

In Ukrainian scientific literature, the issues of judicial reform are studied in the context of ensuring the rule of law, combating corruption, and increasing the efficiency of justice. In particular, in the works of Lashyn et al. (2023), Zabokrytskyy (2020), Teremetskyi et al. (2023), Yara and Sologub (2024): Krushynskyy and Dankova (2022) and Zhukevych et al. (2025) examine the problems of personnel renewal of the judicial system, transparency of disciplinary procedures and interaction of the judiciary with civil society. In the works of Kryvytskyi (2024), Sereda et al. (2024) and Pomaza-Ponomarenko et al. (2024) emphasized that a sustainable increase in trust is possible only with the systematic digitalization of judicial processes and public monitoring of judges' decisions.

Some attention in modern research has also been paid to the digital transformation of the judiciary. According to the CEPEJ (2021), European Union (2025), Krushynskyy (2025) and Fabri (2023) electronic justice services (e-Court, e-Filing, online broadcasts of hearings) significantly reduce the level of distrust of citizens, as they ensure the openness of processes, accessibility of information and reduce the duration of case consideration. These conclusions confirm the practical feasibility of implementing an electronic court in Ukraine, which is gradually covering all regions since 2020. Thus, the analysis of scientific and official sources allows us to conclude that judicial reform has a comprehensive impact on citizens' trust in justice. It is not limited to regulatory changes, but covers organizational, technological and ethical aspects of the activities of courts. A high level of public trust is formed only under the conditions of a combination of the independence of the judiciary, the transparency of its procedures and effective communication with citizens, which is confirmed by both European and world experience.

Materials and Methods

The methodological basis of the study is a systemic, institutional, and comparative-analytical approaches that allow us to identify the patterns of the impact of judicial reform on the level of public trust in justice in Ukraine in the context of European standards.

The work used exclusively official statistical sources and analytical reports of international organizations, in particular:



- CEPEJ (2024). Analytical reports 2016-2024, containing data on the financing of the judicial system, the number of judges, the average duration of case consideration, the level of automation and openness of justice in European countries;
- World Bank (2024). Rule of law and corruption control indicators used to assess the effectiveness of legal institutions in international comparison;
- OECD (2025). Official statistics on the effectiveness of public administration, judicial independence and access to justice in the OECD countries D;
- State Judicial Administration of Ukraine (2024). Data on the financing of the judiciary, the workload on judges, the number of cases considered, the duration of proceedings and the digitalization of judicial processes (2016-2024);
- High Council of Justice of Ukraine (2024). Report of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine (2024).

To assess trends in the field of justice, a comparative analysis of the main statistical indicators of Ukraine and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Czech Republic), which have similar conditions of legal modernization, was conducted. This allows us to determine the dynamics of changes and position Ukraine in the European context.

Research methods include:

1. Comparative legal analysis, which was applied to study the content of judicial reforms in various EU countries, their regulatory framework and implementation results.
2. Statistical analysis aimed at processing quantitative indicators of justice efficiency – financing of the judicial system (% of GDP), average duration of case consideration, number of judges per 100 thousand population, share of electronic proceedings.
3. Trend analysis used to study the dynamics of official European indicators Commission for the Efficiency of Justice and World Bank for 2010 – 2024.
4. A systemic approach that allows considering judicial reform as a component of the general policy of public administration aimed at establishing the principle of the rule of law.

All data were summarized in comparative tables and visualized in the form of graphs to better reflect the dynamics of changes. Particular attention was paid to the correlation between institutional indicators and qualitative results of reforms.

Research Results

The development of the judicial system of Ukraine during 2010-2024 is characterized by a phased reform process, accompanied by changes in the legislative framework, financial support, staffing structure and the degree of digitalization of justice. The main trends were formed under the influence of European standards of justice (CEPEJ, Venice Commission) and internal reforms aimed at increasing the independence of judges and public trust.



The level of funding for the judiciary is an indicator of the state's ability to guarantee effective justice. In 2010, funding amounted to only 0.34% of GDP, which indicated an insufficient level of support for institutional infrastructure. Starting from 2016, after the creation of new institutions, such as the High Council of Justice and the Public Integrity Council, funding for the judicial system increased to 0.48% of GDP (2018). This allowed for an increase in judges' salaries, modernization of court premises and partial implementation of digital services.

However, since 2022, there has been a decrease in funding to 0.38% of GDP due to military spending, which has negatively affected the stability of staffing and investments in judicial infrastructure. For comparison, according to CEPEJ (2021), Venice Commission (n.d.), the average financing of judicial systems in EU countries is 0.41-0.45% of GDP, i.e., Ukraine remains below the average European level. One of the biggest problems remains the shortage of judicial personnel. If in 2010 there were about 8300 judges working in Ukraine, then in 2024 there will be only 5100, while more than 2000 positions remain vacant. This means that almost 30% of courts are working understaffed, which leads to excessive workload – more than 500 cases per judge annually (compared to 230-250 in EU countries).

The reason for the staff shortage is the long process of qualification assessment, the migration of judges in connection with the reform and the low level of public trust, which makes it difficult to renew the corps. The presence of vacant positions directly affects the terms of consideration of cases and the overall quality of justice, creating the risk of overloading judges and reducing motivation. The efficiency of justice is assessed through the average duration of consideration of cases, the ratio of considered and unconsidered proceedings, as well as the level of automation of processes. According to the CEPEJ (2022), Venice Commission (n.d.), the average duration of civil cases in Ukraine decreased from 268 days in 2010 to 210 days in 2023, indicating an increase in procedural efficiency by 22%.

Following the introduction of the new version of the procedural codes (the Civil Procedure Code of Ukraine, the Commercial Procedure Code of Ukraine, and the Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine) in 2017, there was a certain decrease in the number of pending cases. According to the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine (2024), the completion rate (the ratio of resolved cases to the total number) increased from 0.82 in 2015 to 0.91 in 2023. This indicator is approaching the level of Central and Eastern European countries, in particular Poland (0.93) and the Czech Republic (0.94).

However, the problem of uneven workload between courts of different instances remains: if in local courts it is 450-480 cases per year, then in appellate courts this figure reaches over 700. Such imbalances indicate the need to optimize the court network and redistribute the functional workload. A significant achievement in recent years has been the introduction of the "Electronic Court" system and the expansion of online access to court decisions. While in 2010, submission of documents was carried out exclusively in paper form, in 2024 more than 35% of all claims were filed electronically, and 90% of court decisions are published in an open register.

**Table 1.** Comparative analysis and trends in judicial system indicators in Ukraine and EU countries

Indicator	Ukraine 2010	Ukraine 2024	Poland 2024	Czech Republic 2024	Romania 2024	Trend
Court financing, % of GDP	0.34	0.38	0.43	0.39	0.45	Slight increase, below EU level
Number of judges per 100 thousand people	18.7	12.5	25.4	24.6	20.1	Staff reduction
Average duration of case consideration, days	268	210	185	170	190	Gradual reduction
Share of electronic proceedings, %	0	35	38	45	33	Active digitalization
Vacancies of judges, % of total number	5.2	28.4	4.8	3.1	6.5	Critical load

Source: based on Council of Europe data by CEPEJ (2022, 2024), OECD (2025), European Union (2025) and Basel Institute on Governance (2024).

The growth of digitalization contributes to reducing corruption risks, reducing waiting times and increasing the transparency of judicial procedures. For comparison: in Poland the share of electronic proceedings is 38%, in the Czech Republic – 45%, in Romania – 33%. Thus, Ukraine is approaching the average level of digital integration of EU countries, although the pace of development depends on stable funding and technical support.

The data shows that positive dynamics are observed primarily in the digitalization of judicial proceedings and the reduction of case processing times, while staff shortages and limited funding remain key barriers to the stability of the system. Compared to EU countries, Ukraine demonstrates a similar pace of procedural changes, but does not reach the level of structural balance and staffing.

Thus, the period 2010-2024 can be characterized as a stage of forming the foundations of an independent, digitalized, but still institutionally vulnerable judicial system. Gradual positive changes in financing, duration of case consideration and transparency of processes create the basis for increasing public trust, but achieving stability requires staff renewal, sustainable funding and completion of reforms of the institutional governance of the judiciary.

The concept of trust in the judiciary is one of the key indicators of a country's democratic maturity. According to international research, the level of trust in the judicial system is directly correlated with the indices of the rule of law, judicial independence and control of corruption, which are measured by the World Bank, Bank, OECD and Transparency



International. According to World Bank (2024), Ukraine is gradually improving its position in the Rule ranking of Law Index: in 2010 the indicator was 0.33; in 2015 – 0.39; in 2023 – 0.46 (on a scale from 0 to 1). This indicates a 40% strengthening of the rule of law over the past 13 years. For comparison, in 2023 Poland had an indicator of 0.74, the Czech Republic – 0.78, Romania – 0.67, i.e., Ukraine is still at the stage of forming stable legal institutions.

The gradual growth of the index is associated with key reforms:

2016: creation of the High Council of Justice, responsible for personnel policy and disciplinary procedures;

2017: adoption of a new version of procedural codes, which standardized the procedure for considering cases and introduced the principle of “reasonable time”;

2020 – 2023: implementation of electronic justice and open registers of court decisions.

In parallel, according to OECD (2025), Ukraine increased its Judicial Independence from 41 points in 2015 to 49 points in 2023 (on a scale of 0 – 100). This indicates a moderate but steady strengthening of the independence of the judiciary, especially in the area of personnel decisions and financial autonomy of the courts.

One of the determining factors of public trust is the ability of the courts to ensure fairness and impartiality. According to the analytical report by GRECO (2024), Ukraine has implemented over 65 % of the recommendations on preventing corruption in the judicial system, which is significantly higher than in 2016 (less than 30% implementation). The main achievements relate to the transparency of the selection of judges and disciplinary liability. An important step was the introduction of the Public Integrity Council, which participates in the qualification assessment of judges. According to the High Council of Justice (2024), during 2017-2023, almost 300 candidates were not allowed to be appointed due to a negative opinion of the council. This contributed to the cleansing of the judicial corps and increased public trust in the appointment procedures.

At the same time, there is a decrease in the level of corruption perception in the justice sector. Control Index of Corruption (Worldwide) Governance Indicators, 2023) increased from 0.26 in 2010 to 0.43 in 2023, reflecting reduced administrative pressure and increased transparency of funding (Table 2).

Thus, increasing trust in justice in Ukraine is the result of a combination of three factors:

1. Institutional renewal – the creation of new judicial governance bodies that ensured transparency in the appointment of judges.
2. Procedural modernization – adoption of new versions of procedural codes and reduction of case processing times.
3. Digitalization – implementation of the “Electronic Court”, online access to decisions and transparency of disciplinary procedures.



Table 2. Comparative dynamics indices supremacy rights, independence judicial authorities and control corruption in Ukraine and countries Central Eastern Europe (2010–2023)

Indicator	Ukraine 2010	Ukraine 2024	Poland 2024	Czech Republic 2023	Romania 2023	Trend
Rule of Law Index (World Bank (0–1))	0.33	0.48	0.72	0.79	0.69	Gradual improvement
Judicial Independence (OECD, 0–100)	41	52	63	74	60	Strengthening institutional independence
Control of Corruption (World Bank (0–1))	0.26	0.45	0.68	0.80	0.66	Reducing corruption pressure

Source: compiled from World Bank (2024), OECD (2025), Basel Institute on Governance (2024).

However, despite the positive dynamics, the level of actual public trust in the courts remains below potential, as public expectations regarding the complete renewal of the judicial corps and the elimination of corrupt practices are being realized gradually. For a stable growth of trust, not only a normative but also a value-based renewal of judicial culture, the formation of professional ethics of judges, accountability and openness are necessary. The results obtained indicate that judicial reform in Ukraine has a gradual positive effect on the formation of public trust in justice.

The growth of international indices of the rule of law, judicial independence, and corruption control is objective evidence of institutional progress. At the same time, incomplete personnel procedures, uneven digital integration of courts, and insufficient financial autonomy leave risks that could slow down the dynamics of change.

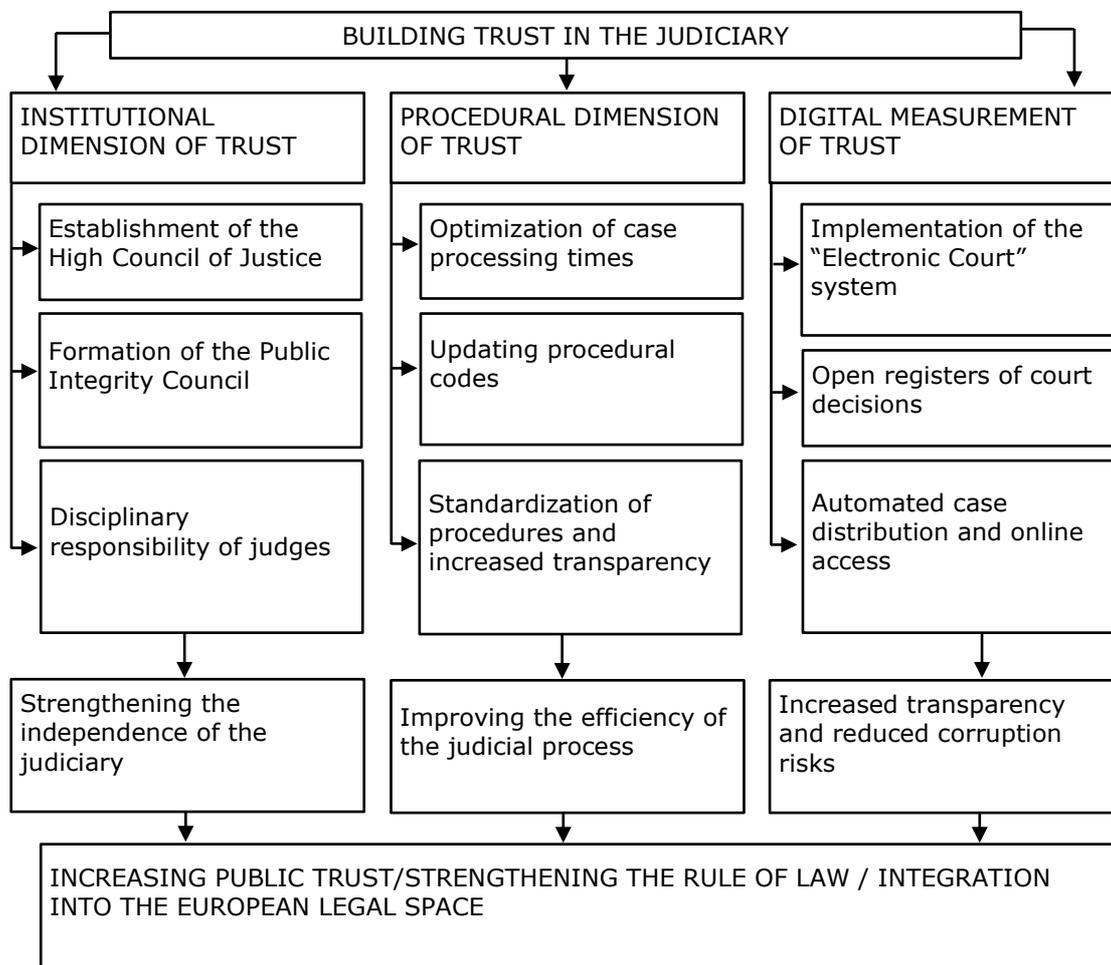
Thus, trust in justice is formed not only through regulatory changes, but also through the stability of their practical application, which requires a long-term state policy of supporting the judiciary.

The process of building trust in the judiciary in Ukraine in 2010-2024 is complex and encompasses three interrelated dimensions: institutional, procedural, and digital (Figure 1).

Each of them plays an independent but complementary role in the formation of a modern model of justice that meets European standards of the rule of law. The institutional component determines the management structure and personnel policy of the courts, the procedural component determines the quality and speed of the administration of justice, and the digital component determines the openness and transparency of judicial procedures. Their interaction creates the basis for increasing citizens' trust in the judicial system, which is one of the key indicators of the democratic maturity of the state.



Figure 1. Structural and functional scheme of building trust in the judiciary of Ukraine



Source: compiled by authors

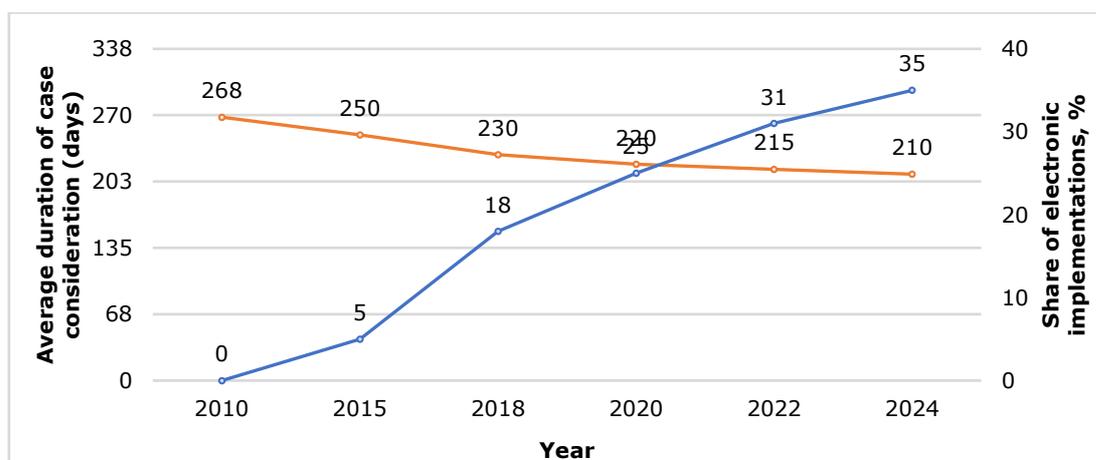
The proposed structural and functional scheme (Fig. 1) demonstrates that the development of the judicial system of Ukraine takes place in the format of multi-level interaction of reforms. Institutional changes ensure the stability and independence of the judiciary, procedural changes ensure its efficiency, and digital changes ensure openness and controllability. It is the synergy of these areas that contributes to an increase in the level of public trust, which is confirmed by the positive dynamics of international indices – Rule of Law Index, Judicial Independence and Control of Corruption. In the long term, achieving a high level of trust requires not only technical modernization, but also the formation of a new professional ethics of judges, accountability to society, and sustainable financing of the judicial system as a basic element of the rule of law.

The digital transformation of the judicial system of Ukraine during 2010–2024 is accompanied by a gradual increase in the share of electronic proceedings and a reduction in the average duration of case consideration. From 2010 to 2024, the share of electronic



claims increased from 0% to 35%, while the average time for case consideration decreased by 22% – from 268 to 210 days. This trend indicates the effective impact of digital tools (“Electronic Court”, online registries, automated case distribution) on increasing the efficiency of judicial proceedings (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Dynamics digitalization judicial systems Ukraine and average duration consideration cases (2010–2024)



Source: State data Judicial Administration of Ukraine (2024); CEPEJ (2024); Teremetskyi et al. (2024)

The results obtained confirm that digitalization is one of the key factors in increasing the efficiency of the judicial system of Ukraine. It not only speeds up the process of considering cases, but also increases the transparency of procedures, reduces administrative barriers and contributes to the formation of citizens' trust in the judiciary. At the same time, the further development of e-justice requires sustainable funding, unification of technical standards and ensuring cybersecurity of judicial data.

Discussion

The study shows that the judicial system of Ukraine in 2010-2024. went through a difficult path of structural, procedural and technological transformation. The results obtained demonstrate that the main driver of increasing the efficiency of justice was digitalization, which, combined with institutional renewal and procedural reforms, ensured increased transparency, accountability and public trust in the judiciary.

However, despite the positive dynamics of most indicators (reduction of case processing times, increase in the share of electronic proceedings, increase in the rule of law index), structural problems persist – primarily staff shortages and insufficient financial autonomy of courts. These factors limit the sustainable development of the system and create risks of slowing down reforms. A comparison with EU countries shows that Ukraine has come



close to the average European standards of procedural efficiency, but is significantly inferior in terms of staffing (by 40-45%) and funding.

The key conclusion is that increased trust in justice is not solely a consequence of legislative changes – it is formed through the practical sustainability of reforms, transparency in the selection of judges and digital openness of judicial processes. The positive correlation between the increase in the share of electronic proceedings and the reduction in the duration of case consideration indicates that digitalization has a direct impact on the efficiency of judicial proceedings. This is also confirmed by international indices: Rule of Law, Judicial Independence and Control of Corruption, which demonstrate the gradual strengthening of the institutional capacity of the judiciary.

At the same time, maintaining trust requires not only technical development, but also an ethical renewal of judicial culture. The formation of professional integrity, ensuring stable funding, improving personnel policy and guarantees of cybersecurity are prerequisites for the sustainability of reforms. It is also important to ensure an even workload between courts of different instances, as the imbalance of procedural resources continues to reduce the quality of justice.

Thus, the modern judicial system of Ukraine is at the stage of transition from institutional reform to the stage of consolidation of the achieved results. The further effectiveness of the reforms will be determined by the state's ability to combine institutional stability, technological innovations and public trust. It is this trinity: independence, efficiency and openness, that is the basis for the formation of a mature legal state in Ukraine.

Conclusions

The results of the study of the development of the judicial system of Ukraine in 2010-2024 allow us to note the dynamics of its institutional formation, procedural efficiency, and digital transformation.

The institutional modernization of the judiciary in the mentioned period took place gradually and under the influence of both domestic reforms and international standards (CEPEJ, 2024; Venice Commission, n.d.). The creation of new judicial governance bodies, such as the High Council of Justice and the Public Integrity Council, has provided greater transparency and accountability to the system. This has contributed to the gradual strengthening of judicial independence, as evidenced by the increase in the Judicial Independence from 41 to 52 points (on the OECD scale).

The financing of the judicial system remained unstable and insufficient during the period under review. Despite the increase in the indicator from 0.34% of GDP in 2010 to 0.48% in 2018, the military circumstances of 2022-2024 led to its reduction to 0.38%. This creates risks for the material support of the courts, the implementation of digitalization programs and infrastructure renewal. Compared to the average level of court financing in the EU (0.41-0.45% of GDP), Ukraine is still below the threshold value necessary for the sustainable functioning of the system.

The shortage of judges remains one of the most acute problems. In 2024, the number of judges decreased to 5,100 with more than 2,000 vacant positions. This leads to an



excessive workload – more than 500 cases per judge annually, which is almost twice the average European rate. The reasons are the slow process of qualification assessment, staff turnover and low public trust. Without systematic staff renewal, the efficiency of the judiciary will remain limited.

The procedural efficiency of the judicial system shows positive dynamics. The average duration of civil cases has decreased from 268 to 210 days (by 22%), and the completion rate has increased from 0.82 to 0.91. These changes indicate an improvement in the organization of procedural management, but the problem of uneven workload between courts of different instances remains unresolved.

The digitalization of judicial proceedings has become a key factor in the modernization of the system. The introduction of the “Electronic Court” system, electronic document management, and online access to decisions has contributed to increased transparency and reduced administrative procedures. The share of electronic claims has reached 35%, which brings Ukraine closer to the average level of digital integration of EU countries (33-45%). Digital tools have significantly reduced corruption risks and increased trust in judicial procedures.

The rule of law, judicial independence, and corruption control indices indicate a gradual strengthening of the institutional capacity of justice. Rule Indicator of Law Index increased from 0.33 to 0.48, and Control of Corruption – from 0.26 to 0.45. This confirms that judicial reform has not only a declarative, but also a practical impact on improving the legal system.

Trust in the judiciary is formed under the influence of three interrelated factors:

- institutional: stability of personnel policy, transparency of the appointment of judges;
- procedural: timeliness and fairness of case consideration;
- digital: openness and accessibility of justice for citizens.

Their interaction determines the level of democratic maturity of the state and the degree of legitimacy of the judiciary in the eyes of society.

Further development of the judicial system of Ukraine requires a comprehensive approach that combines technical modernization, personnel renewal, and financial stability. The following are necessary: unification of technical standards for electronic justice; increased guarantees of cybersecurity of judicial data; strengthening the independence of judges in personnel and financial decisions; development of professional ethics and integrity of the judicial corps.

Thus, the judicial system of Ukraine in 2010-2024 went through the stage of forming a modern model of justice, based on the principles of independence, efficiency and digital openness. Despite the preservation of certain structural problems, existing trends indicate a steady movement towards European standards of justice. Further strengthening of the institutional capacity of the judiciary is a key condition for the formation of the rule of law and the trust of citizens – the foundation of a democratic and legal state.



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