

**The Prosecutor General's
parliamentary report
on the Activities of the Prosecution Service
in 2024**
(extract)



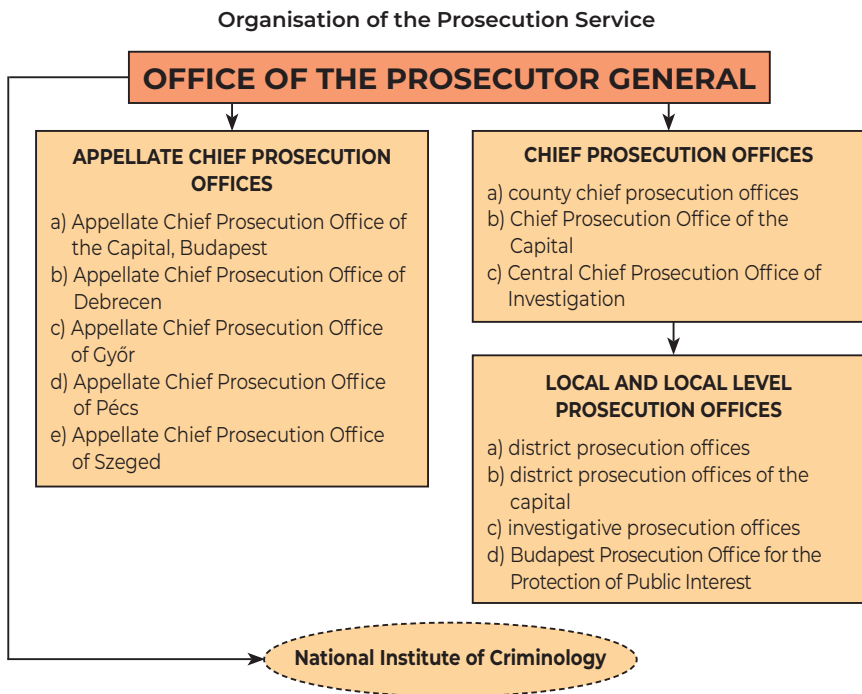
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1. The organisation of the Prosecution Service

The bases of the operation of the Prosecution Service are primarily contained by the Fundamental Law of Hungary as well as by cardinal acts concerning the Prosecution Service, more specifically by Act CLXIII of 2011 on the Prosecution Service (hereinafter referred to as the Prosecution Service Act/Ütv.) and Act CLXIV of 2011 on the Status of the Prosecutor General, Prosecutors and Other Prosecution Employees and the Prosecution Career (hereinafter referred to as the Prosecutorial Employment and Career Act/Üjt.).

The organizational structure of the Prosecution Service in the reporting period is shown in the following figure:



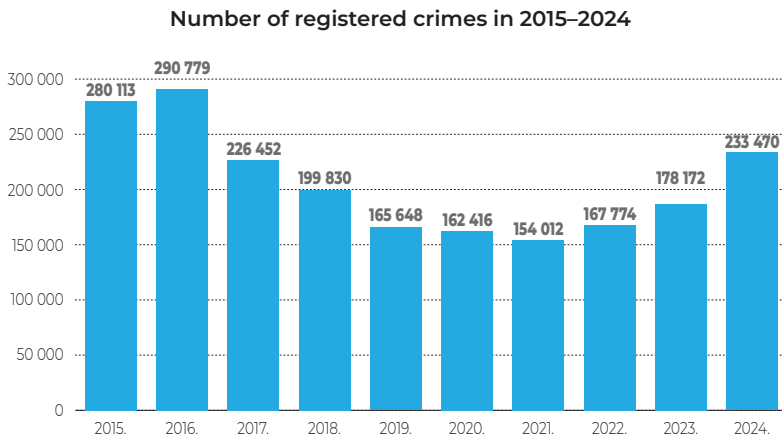
2. Activities of the Prosecution Service in the field of criminal law

Supervision and direction of investigations and investigations conducted by the Prosecution Service

Main data on criminality

The number of incoming and outgoing case files in the field of criminal law decreased steadily from 2015 to 2017. However, following the entry into force of Act XC of 2017 on Criminal Procedure Code (hereinafter referred to as CPC/Be.) on 1 July 2018, especially in 2019, the number of incoming and outgoing cases increased by hundreds of thousands.

The almost continuous decrease in the number of registered crimes since 2015 stopped in 2021, with an increase of 8.9%, followed by a further increase of 6.2% in 2023, and in 2024 the number of registered crimes increased significantly by 31%. Changes over the last ten years are shown in the following diagram :



However, the number of registered offenders decreased compared to 2023, with 78,984 offenders registered in 2024.

The following tables provide information on the main data for each offence:

Number of individual offences registered in the years 2022–2024

Crimes	2022.	2023.	2024.
Completed intentional homicide	89	70	67
Attempted homicide	98	83	100
Theft	46 833	49 127	58 419
Fraud	16 747	19 704	26 565
Robbery	534	536	669
Infringement of copyright and certain rights related to copyright	169	147	107
Offences against traffic regulations	20 570	19 116	18 304
Driving under the influence of alcohol	11 339	10 666	10 080
Causing a road accident through negligence	3 044	2 646	2 491
Trafficking in human beings	1 705	1 634	526
Assault on a public official and on a person entrusted with public functions and assault on a person aiding a public official or a person entrusted with public functions	904	756	786
Crimes against the judicial system	16 86	1 714	1 709
Public nuisance	8 812	8 709	8 312
Crimes related to official documents	11 124	12 755	35 800
Drug abuse crimes	7 453	6 619	6 697
Corruption crimes	1 003	2 000	3 834
Bribery of public officials	650	249	532
Economic bribery	126	792	3 163
Counterfeiting currency	254	316	419
Forgery of stamps	23	6	4
Crimes in connection with cash-substitute payment instruments	2 147	3 620	5 186
Budget fraud	1 189	1 041	999
Fraudulent bankruptcy	143	120	112
Money laundering	542	768	1 284
Breach of information system or data	1 737	1 601	1 488
Compromising or defrauding the integrity of the computer protection system or device	14	481	777
Environmental offences	35	27	23
Damaging the natural environment	97	230	204
Violation of waste management regulations	914	910	1 056
Military offences	197	190	350

Actions recorded in relation to the initiated procedures in 2022–2024

Crimes	2022.	2023.	2024.
Homicide, voluntary manslaughter	252	220	315
Theft	51 663	60 260	62 928
Fraud	21 246	23 375	25 099
Robbery	563	637	682
Infringement of copyright and certain rights related to copyright	210	249	221
Offences against traffic regulations	19 631	18 592	18 977
Driving under the influence of alcohol	10 779	9 536	9 331
Causing a road accident through negligence	2 755	2 693	2 751
Trafficking in human beings	2 007	1 247	196
Assault on a public official and on a person entrusted with public functions and assault on a person aiding a public official or a person entrusted with public functions	1 128	874	858
Crimes against the judicial system	4 428	4 322	4 518
Public nuisance	10 638	10 296	10 169
Crimes related to official documents	6 828	6 198	5 767
Drug abuse crimes	6 496	6 548	7 673
Corruption crimes	374	464	424
Bribery of public officials	176	212	217
Economic bribery	134	181	145
Counterfeiting currency	283	336	397
Forgery of stamps	6	7	5
Crimes in connection with cash-substitute payment instruments	1 964	3 842	4 423
Budget fraud	2 457	1 737	1 562
Fraudulent bankruptcy	841	1 139	902
Money laundering	531	577	1 066
Breach of information system or data	1 860	1 971	1 579
Compromising or defrauding the integrity of the computer protection system or device	27	13	15
Environmental offences	103	106	127
Damaging the natural environment	231	295	412
Violation of waste management regulations	1 815	1 577	1 818
Military offences	265	213	155

Given the different recording methodologies and dates, the data for the two sub-systems are not comparable. Conclusions that a certain number of offences occurred in a given year cannot be drawn from the recorded crime data.

The change in the number of recorded crimes in 2024 is particularly striking for the following categories of offences:

It is encouraging that, after an increase in 2022, the number of intentionally completed homicides decreased by 21.3% in 2023 and by a further 4.3% in 2024. In contrast, however, the number of attempted homicides increased by 20.5% in 2024.

Overall, the number of traffic offences also decreased by a further 4.2%. Within these, the number of road traffic accidents decreased by 5.9% and the number of drink driving offences decreased by 5.5%.

Trafficking in human beings, after a sharp increase of 168.5% in 2022, decreased only slightly (4.2%) in 2023, but fell sharply by 67.8% in 2024.

The number of drug abuse cases showed a slight increase of 1.2% in 2024, after a decrease of 11.2% in 2023.

As regards crimes against property, it is worth highlighting that the number of robberies increased by 24.8% in 2024.

There was a sharp increase of more than 30-fold in the number of cases of circumvention of technical measures to protect information systems in 2023. The increase (61.5%) continued in 2024. This latter type of crime covers the so-called “phishing” offences. The effective detection and proof of cybercrime also requires a continuous development of IT skills.

The decrease in the number of registered budget fraud cases, already observed in the previous year, has continued. Despite the positive figures, budget fraud continues to represent a steadily

increasing workload for the Prosecution Service due to the large number of suspects, the organised nature of the offences, the complex and sophisticated methods and, in many cases, the need for international cooperation. Although budget fraud condenses almost all types of offences against the subject matter into a single set of offences, the techniques used to commit it remain diverse. In addition to “invoice fraud” and “carousels” used to illegally reduce VAT, the evasion of employment taxes and contributions by means of fictitious contracts is typical, as is the import and distribution of untaxed excise goods.

The number of recorded cases of money laundering is on the increase. Whereas the number of offences recorded last year was almost one and a half times the figure recorded two years ago, the number recorded this year is already well above one and a half times the figure for the previous year and well over double the figure recorded two years ago. Behind this steady and ever-intensifying increase are the recent changes in the structure of crime, both in quantitative terms, with a rapid and dramatic increase in the number of fraudulent activities in the online space, and in qualitative terms, with the use of the Internet opening up more than ever before to cross-border forms of crime. The explosion in the number of crimes against property committed online also has a fundamental impact on the development of money laundering, which is one of the main reasons for the increase in the number of ancillary offences.

The starting point for the analysis of its anti-corruption activities is the idea that the of the Prosecution Service – and the judiciary in general – does not primarily prevent the commission of criminal behaviour, but ensures the prosecution of the perpetrators of criminal acts. Consequently, it is possible to assess the extent to which the Prosecution Service has been effective in dealing with the perpetrators of the corruption offences that have been committed.

The assessment should aim at reflecting as accurately as possible the actual corruption situation in the country, taking into

account both data on perceptions of corruption and objective statistical data.

A special report on the perception of corruption in Europe has been published in 2024 as part of the Eurobarometer series of opinion polls commissioned by the European Commission. According to the 548th survey, the vast majority of respondents in Hungary, 88%, consider corruption to be a widespread problem in Hungary, while 24% of Hungarian respondents said yes to the question whether corruption affects them in their daily life. However, when survey respondents were asked the specific question of whether they had personally experienced a case of corruption in the past 12 months, only 7% of respondents answered yes, compared to 12% in 2020, 10% in 2022 and 9% in 2023.

Looking at the statistical indicators of corruption in the criminal law sense, it can be concluded that absolute figures alone do not give a good picture of the corruption situation in Hungary, and other data need to be taken into account to assess the situation. Thus, in addition to the number of registered corruption offences, it is also useful to look at the number of prosecutions for corruption offences and the number of persons held liable for corruption offences.

Within the chapter on corruption offences, the number of registered acts of bribes of public officials has increased again after a decrease in 2023, but there is no change in the number of registered economic bribery cases, which continues to increase.

The number of prosecutions initiated for corruption offences decreased in 2024 after an increase in 2023.

As in previous years, the most appropriate measure to characterise the corruption situation in Hungary is the number of registered corruption offenders over a 5-year period. This data series filters out the distorting effects of the classification system of criminal law (even the persistent corrupt behaviour of a single offender causes an increase in the number of registered offences by an order of magnitude). The variability of the number of

offenders is much smaller than the variability of the number of registered offences.

The trend line for bribery, based on a series of data, deviates only slightly from the waterline, so there is no overall increase or decrease behind the volatility over a 5-year period. The improvement in the detection of corruption in the health sector is likely to be behind a clear upward trend line in economic bribery, which is also an element of the overall upward trend line in corruption.

Prosecutorial investigations

The CPC introduced a number of significant innovations to criminal procedures, but the provision that the Prosecution Service can investigate any case itself and that the investigation of specific crimes fall into its exclusive competence has not changed fundamentally.

The following diagram shows the changes in some essential data on prosecutorial investigations:



It is a priority task for the Central Chief Prosecution Office of Investigation to deal with the fight against corruption as the investigation of corruption crimes regarding officials falls within the competence of the Prosecution Service.

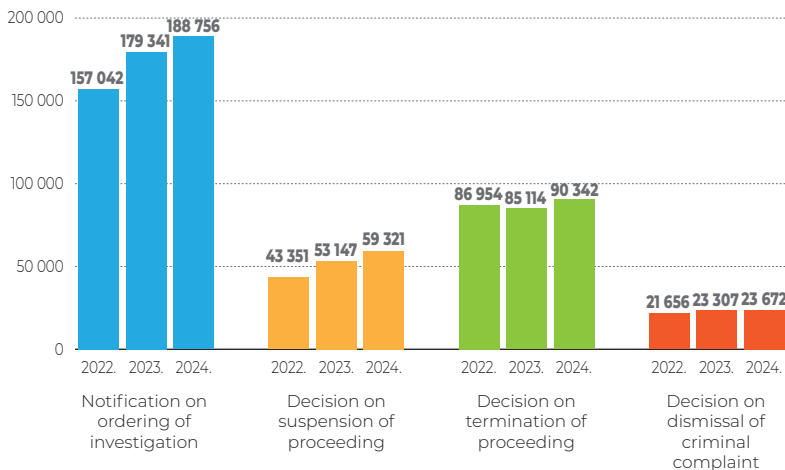
Supervision and direction of investigations

Powers of the Prosecution Service in the criminal procedure changed with the entry into force of the CPC on 1 July 2018 depending on whether the investigation is in its initial exploratory stage (detection) or is already conducted against a reasonably suspected person (examination).

The split investigation system has also changed the relationship between the Prosecution Service and the investigating authority. Detection can be characterized by the entire independence of the investigating authority under prosecutorial supervision of legality, whereas the examination phase of the investigation directed by the Prosecution Service aims at making a decision on the indictment against a specific person or on other prosecutorial measures, as well as at the collection of the necessary evidence for this purpose.

The number of decisions received from investigating authorities is shown in the following diagram:

Number of decisions received from investigating authorities in 2022–2024

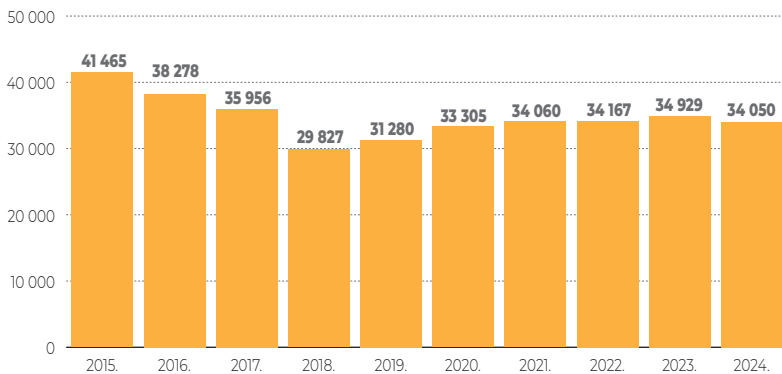


In 2024, the Prosecution Service received 362,091 decisions (2023: 340,909), of which 173,418 decisions, including the ex officio review of suspicions by investigating authorities, were reviewed on the merit, representing an increase of 7.3% compared to the 161,640 decisions reviewed in 2023.

According to the rules of handling complaints, the Prosecution Service is entitled to decide on the complaint if the decision was made by the investigating authority, and the superior prosecution office is entitled to decide on the complaint if the decision was made by the prosecution office. Complaints are one-level tools for legal redress; generally, there is no possibility for further legal remedy against them.

The number of complaints against decisions and suspicions of investigating authorities is shown in the following diagram:

Number of complaints against decisions and suspicions of investigating authorities in the years 2015–2024



The number of complaints against decisions and suspicions of investigating authorities shows a slight decrease in 2024.

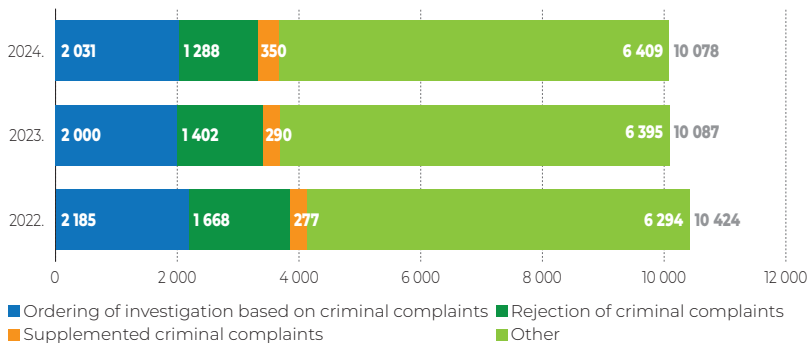
The Prosecution Service upheld 3184 complaints, rejected 26,057 complaints and took other measures with respect to the remaining part of the complaints.

Complaints may be also submitted against decisions taken by the Prosecution Service during its procedure before an indictment.

In 2024, out of the complaints lodged against own decisions and decisions of lower level prosecution offices, 294 were upheld, 1998 were rejected and with regard to the remaining part of the complaints other measures were taken.

The following diagram shows the handling of the complaints filed with the Prosecution Service:

Complaints to the Prosecution Service and the way they were dealt with in 2022-2024

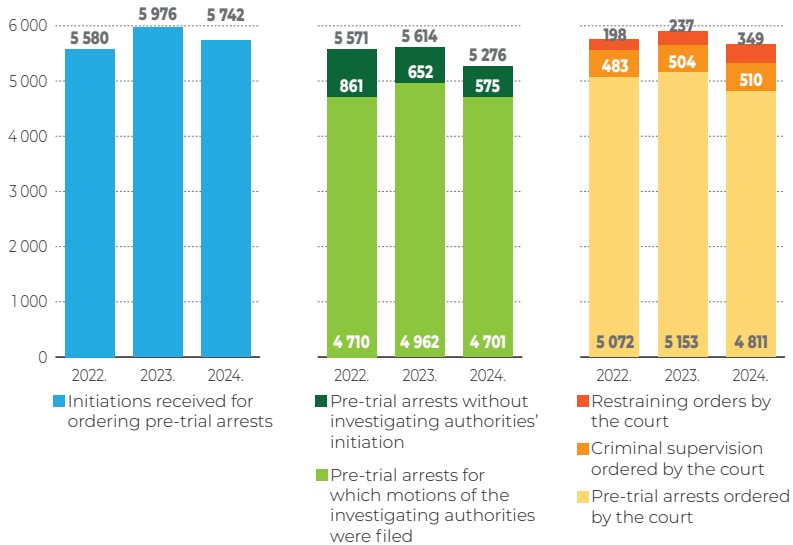


In 2024, the number of supplemented criminal complaints increased by 21%.

The CPC lays emphasis on the gradual approach with regard to the regime of coercive measures involving the deprivation or limitation of liberty. It is a statutory provision that the application and execution of a coercive measure shall comply with the principle of necessity and proportionality. The possibility of using a bail has widened significantly, indicating that the law intends to reduce the number of pre-trial arrests to a minimum, and it intends to limit pre-trial arrests to the most necessary cases.

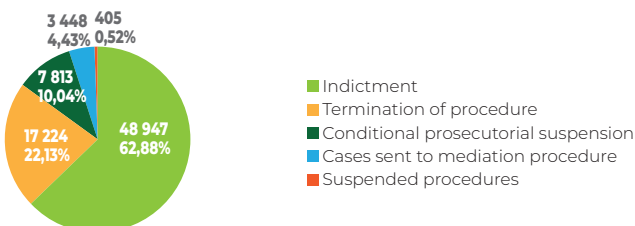
Generally, the investigating authority initiates to the Prosecution Service that a prosecutorial motion for pre-trial arrest should be filed. The following diagram illustrates the follow-up measures of such initiations:

Data regarding pre-trial arrests in 2022–2024



In 2024, there were 77,837 (2023: 78,409, 2022: 79,400) prosecutorial decisions concerning cases that were examined as to whether being appropriate for indictment. The results of these are shown in the following diagram:

Prosecutorial decisions on cases examined as to whether being appropriate for indictment in 2024



The types of indictment were as follows: the Prosecution Service filed indictments under the general rules in 3421 cases, 7% of all indictments, arraignments were conducted in 1814 cases, and it filed a motion for a penal order in 33,008 cases. Indictments based on agreements were filed in 93 cases, an increase of 12% compared to the previous year (2023: 83).

The Prosecution Service also has the possibility to propose in the indictment the level or duration of the sentence or measure in the event that the accused confesses to the offence at the preparatory hearing. Last year, such an indictment was filed in 10,407 cases, an increase of 2.4% compared to the previous year (2023: 10,162). And if we also take into account that the number of such motions in 2022 was only 8901, we can clearly see an upward trend.

Arraignment (speedy trial) is aimed at closing cases which are suitable for being decided in this way in a short time. Arraignment can be applied in cases which are easy to decide or to prove, when the defendant makes a confession or was caught in the act of committing the crime.

Simplifying and significantly accelerating the procedure as well as decreasing the workload are the purposes to be served, when the court – upon the motion of the Prosecution Service or ex officio – decides about the punishment or imposes criminal measures without hearing the defendant or without conducting the procedure. The procedure aiming at a penal order can even be applied if the defendant did not confess to the commission of the crime during the investigation.

Arraignments accounted for 3.7% of all indictments in 2024, which is practically the same as in the previous year and only slightly lower than in the year before (2023: 3.9%, 2022: 2.5%).

The proportion of motions for penal order filed by the Prosecution Service also fell slightly in 2024 to 67.4% of all indictments (2023: 68%, 2022: 70.3%).

Mediation is a conflict management procedure for minor cases, which can be used to its purpose is to reach an agreement between the defendant and the victim, which contains reparation and resolves their conflict. Such an agreement also facilitates the defendant's future law-abiding behaviour.

In 2024, the Prosecution Service suspended criminal proceedings and referred the case to mediation in case of 4770 motions (2023: 5048, 2022: 5067), while it refused to suspend proceedings on 4362 motions (2023: 4518, 2022: 4588). In view of the effectiveness of the proceedings, the Prosecution Service terminated proceedings against 2778 defendants.

Further options to avoid court procedures include the following: termination of the procedure (investigation) by application of reprimand, conditional prosecutorial suspension of the procedure.

In 2024, the Prosecution Service applied conditional prosecutorial suspension against 9450 persons (2023: 9102, 2022: 9749). After applying this legal instrument, proceedings were terminated against 6593 persons.

A provision amending the Criminal Procedure Code, which introduced the supplementary private prosecution procedure, applies from 1 January 2023. The new legal instrument will allow practically anyone to challenge the decision of the Prosecution Service and the investigating authority to dismiss a complaint or to terminate proceedings in the case of a major offence related to the exercise of public authority or the management of public property by filing a motion for review with the investigating judge of the Central District Court of Buda. If the investigating judge upholds the motion for reconsideration, the criminal proceedings are opened or continued by operation of law. Experience so far shows that the Prosecution Service makes well-founded, professional decisions not only on indictments, but also on the rejection of criminal complaints and on the termination of proceedings. In 2024, a total of 80 motions for reconsideration were submitted to the investigating judge, which represents an increase of 129%

compared to the previous year (2023: 35). The court, however, granted the appeal in only 6 cases (7.5% of the motions) (in 2023, 5 motions, 14.3% of all the appeals were successful). In the year under review, one motion for review was filed (which was rejected by the court), and, as in 2023, no supplementary private prosecution motions were filed by those entitled to do so.

Judicial experiences since the introduction of this legal instrument shows that the vast majority of cases of major offences relating to the exercise of public authority or the management of public property are cases of abuse of office. A significant proportion of the reports of these offences typically involve a challenge to an individual decision taken by a public authority against the complainant in a criminal, civil or other area of law, by attacking the decision-makers or the persons involved in the decision. Such denunciations do not challenge the management of public property or the wider exercise of public authority, but rather seek redress from the criminal authorities instead of, or in addition to, ordinary or extraordinary remedies. The legal instrument has thus opened the way to those who challenge individual decisions by public authorities, or anyone else to the criminalisation of persons who take such decisions.

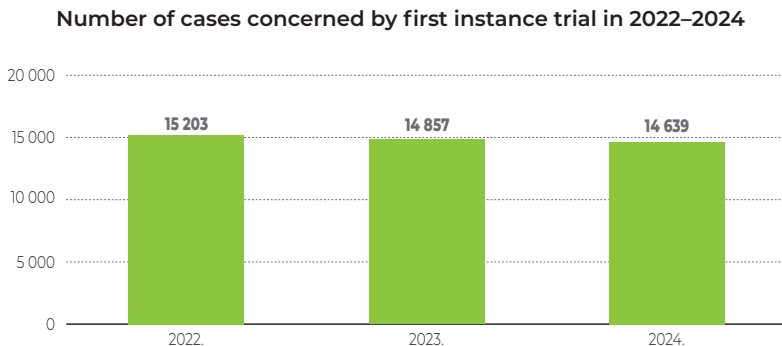
Prosecutorial activity before the criminal court

The statistical indicators show that, overall, the Prosecution Service continued to fulfil its constitutional duty effectively in 2024, and, as public prosecutor, it effectively pursued the State's criminal claim before the courts. Compared with 2023, the number of cases finally decided by the courts decreased by 3.9% and the number of defendants with final decisions decreased by 3.8%. Compared to 2015, the number of defendants with final judgments fell by 32.4%, a decade-long trend that was essentially broken only by the years of correction after the pandemic. This is linked to the fact that, although the number of registered offences has been on a steady upward trend since 2021, the number of registered offenders continued to decrease slightly in the years 2022–2024. This downward trend has also affected the number of cases and

defendants with final court decisions. As a result, fewer cases and fewer defendants were prosecuted.

In 2024, the mandatory preparatory session for cases to be tried in court continued to be of particular importance for the Prosecution Service's activities in criminal court. The Prosecution Service continued to make extensive use of the possibility to make a motion for the specific type and degree of penalty in cases where the accused pleads guilty at the preparatory session. The number of defendants convicted by the court at the preparatory hearing after a guilty plea decreased slightly by 1.5% compared to 2023, but it is still the second highest figure since the introduction of the legal instrument on 1 July 2018. The number of defendants against whom a final judgment was handed down in a preparatory hearing also fell by a slightly larger proportion, by 2.2% compared to 2023. The percentage of defendants with this type of completion reached 19.9% of the number of defendants with a final first instance decision, which is also the highest figure ever. It can therefore be concluded that there is still a significant number of defendants who, following their acceptance of a guilty plea, no longer had to be tried in court, thus reducing the duration of the criminal proceedings.

In 2024, the number of cases tried at first instance decreased by 1.5%, in line with the reduction in the number of defendants charged in the ordinary procedure.



The number of cases decided at second instance was essentially unchanged from the previous year: 7842 in 2023 and 7836 in 2024. The number of public hearings held by the court of appeal with the participation of a prosecutor decreased slightly by 3.2% and the number of trials decreased by 5.9%.

The direction and content of the appeal lodged by the Prosecution Service under the provisions of the CPC in many cases fundamentally determine the scope of the review and thereby the limits of the second instance court's procedure, thus requiring particular attention from the prosecutor representing the case. In this regard, the provision which does not allow for the later extension of appeals resulting in limited reviews is of paramount importance. As in previous years, prosecutors acting as first instance prosecutors have continued to perform to a high standard in 2024 and have shown increased attention when filing appeals.

The CPC provides for the possibility for the second instance court to establish the criminal liability of an accused acquitted at first instance on the basis of different facts. Whenever prosecutors who acted on behalf of prosecution offices at courts of second instance considered it possible to apply this provision, they tried to submit their motions in compliance with this provision, reducing the number of cases where the first instance court's conclusive decision had to be quashed.

The number of third instance proceedings was still low in 2024, but showed an increase of 13.5% compared to the previous year.

Overall, it can be concluded that the trial caseload of the Prosecution Service in 2024 showed no significant change compared to the previous year, but a slight decrease was observed in first instance proceedings.

Taking into account figures of the past ten years, the two most important legal instruments – in terms of their occurrence – to accelerate judicial proceedings are still the arraignment and

penal order procedures. There has been no significant change in the combined number and proportion of final decisions in these two separate procedures.

It remains unchanged that the arraignment and penal order procedures account for a significant proportion of the number of defendants with final convictions. In 2024, 63.9% of defendants with final convictions were subject to a decision in these two separate procedures.

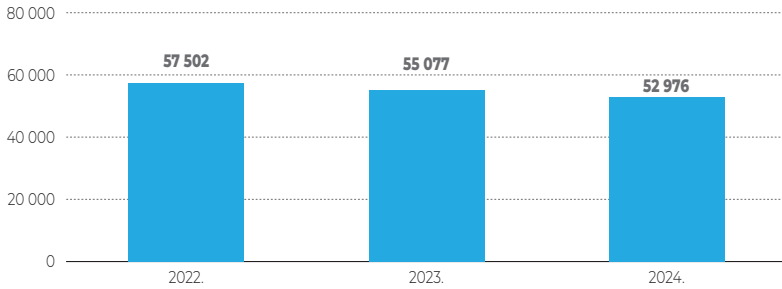
In 2024, 91% of the defendants brought to trial by the Prosecution Service were tried by the court in these separate proceedings, so the success rate of prosecutorial motions of this type remains high. It can also be noted that 71.9% of the defendants brought to trial had their first instance judgments become final.

In 2024, the trend towards penal order procedures became more and more dominant, both as far as the number of adjudicated cases and their ratio compared to the number of accused persons whose cases were adjudicated with final decisions are concerned. Not taking the number of accused persons affected by arraignments into consideration, the court issued a penal order with regard to 62.7% of the indicted defendants and in case of 83.3% of these defendants, the penal order also became final.

In 2024, 11,209 defendants entered guilty pleas and the court passed a sentence at a preparatory session. This – excluding the number of defendants affected by arraignments and penal orders – means 44.8% of the indicted defendants. If we compare this with the number of accused persons affected by penal order procedures, it can be found that the Prosecution Service chose the appropriate forms of procedure in the reporting year as well.

The number of defendants sentenced or subject to measures is shown in the following diagram:

Number of defendants sentenced or subject to measures in 2022–2024

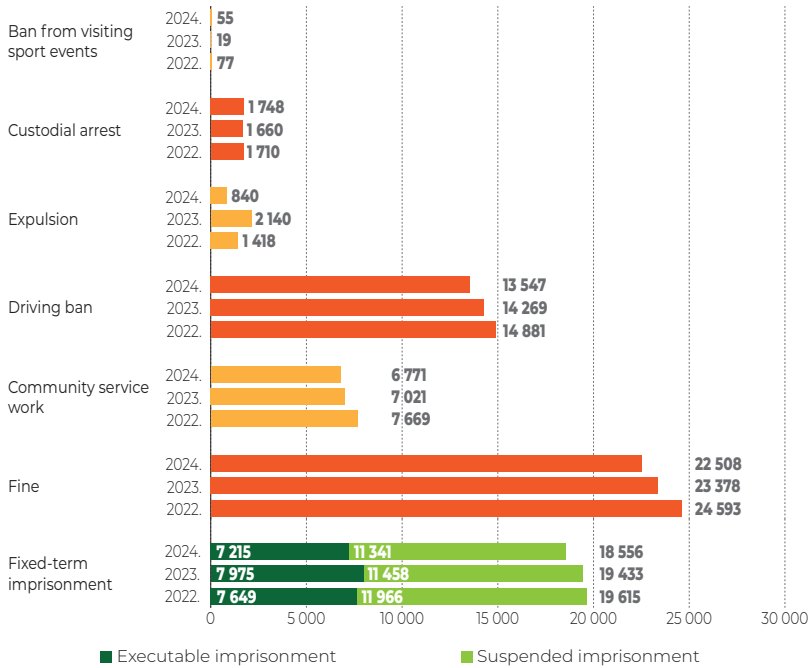


In 2024, the number of defendants punished or subject to measures was 52,976. The upward trend in the proportion of criminal penalties shown in previous years was halted and remained at 89.3% in the year under review, the same level as in 2023.

The number of defendants sentenced to life imprisonment decreased from 13 in the previous year to 12.

The evolution of the number of defendants sentenced to different punishments is shown in the following diagram, which does not include the number of defendants sentenced to life imprisonment:

Number of defendants subject to different punishments in 2022–2024



As in previous years, fine continued to be the most commonly imposed punishment in 2024. This punishment affected 47.6% of all defendants with a final sentence, an increase of 0.1 percentage points compared to 2023. Compared to the number of convicted offenders, the rate of imprisonment decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 39.2%, but the rate of imprisonment increased by 0.3 percentage points and affected 3.7% of the convicts.

The proportion of community service sentences imposed in the year under review remained essentially unchanged, with 14.3% of convicted persons receiving such sentences.

The proportion of driving disqualifications imposed by final judgment (28.6%) fell slightly by 0.4 percentage points.

The significant increase in the number of persons who were banned from practicing a profession, observed in previous years, continued in 2024. The number of defendants who were banned from practicing a profession increased by 1.9% compared to the previous year, which is still mainly due to the mandatory ban from practicing a profession penalties imposed on offenders of crimes against sexual morality and sexual freedom, which are consistently applied in the sentencing practice of the courts.

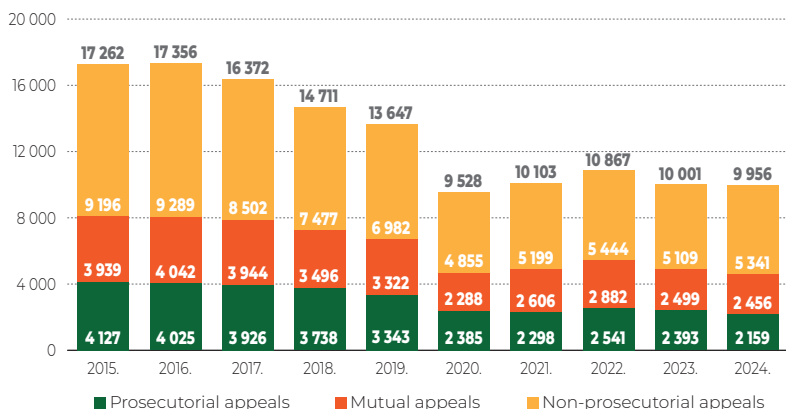
The number of defendants sentenced to expulsion has decreased significantly by 60.7% compared to 2023, which is related to the effective measures taken to curb mass illegal immigration, as the Criminal Code has made the imposition of expulsion mandatory for non-Hungarian citizens who commit trafficking in human beings since 1 January 2021, and this has been applied in a significant number of cases in previous years.

Although the use of the penalty of ban from visiting sport events increased significantly by 189.5%, it remained negligible, as it affected only 0.12% of the persons who were finally convicted.

The number of defendants against whom the court applied probation continued to decrease in 2024. However, the probation rate increased slightly, by 0.1 percentage points to 9.7% of the total. Probation remains the most common measure used in lieu of punishment.

The number of appeals filed against decisions on the merit of first instance courts are shown by the following diagram:

The number of appeals filed against decisions on the merit of first instance courts 2015–2024



In the year under review, the number of appeals against the decision of the court of first instance on the merits decreased by 0.4% compared to 2023. Excluding penal orders, 54.6% of defendants in 2024 appealed against a decision of the court of first instance on the merits of the case, 0.7 percentage points higher than in the previous year.

As the number of final decisions on the merits decreased, the number of appeals against final decisions on the merits also changed by a similar amount. Although the rate of prosecutorial appeals slightly decreased, it roughly corresponded to the data of the previous years. In the year under review, 46.4% of appeals against defendants subject to a first instance decision on the merits were filed by or on behalf of the Prosecution Service (2023: 48.9%, 2022: 49.9%, 2021: 48.5%).

In 2024, the success rate of prosecutorial appeals upheld by second instance prosecutors improved slightly to 54.6% from the 54.1% of the previous year. However, it could still be perceived that the sentencing practice is sometimes soft and lenient, and the legal provision prescribing that for the calculation of the length

of imprisonment the statutory medium-term punishment should be taken into consideration was not properly enforced, either.

In order to have the lenient sentencing practice changed and to ensure the strict enforcement of the law the Prosecution Service appealed for the aggravation of the imposed sentences. This was the most common reason for prosecutorial appeals, accounting for 89.3% of defendants who were subject to prosecutorial appeals. Compared to the previous year, the success rate of prosecutorial appeals for the aggravation of sentences upheld by second-instance prosecutors remained unchanged at 28%. The number of prosecutorial appeals upheld on grounds of unfoundedness was also essentially unchanged at 140 defendants, but their success rate increased by a larger margin compared to the previous year, from 38.9% to 49.3%.

In 2024, we filed appeals for the acquittal of the defendants in 8 cases, for the mitigation of the punishments imposed on the defendants in 34 cases.

The steady increase in the efficiency rate of the indictments stopped in 2023, but the 99.1% rate is still the second highest in the last 10 years. In addition, in 47,669 cases, 88.2% of the accused were found criminally responsible by the court in all respects in accordance with the indictment or the prosecutor's final sentencing recommendation.

The number of defendants affected by appeals lodged against decisions of courts of second instance was 157, and of these, the number of defendants who were subject to a prosecutorial appeal was 91.

In 2024, we continued to monitor priority criminal cases and cases of high interest to the public pending before criminal courts. We thoroughly and on an item-by-item basis examined procedures in this respect and generally those procedures that ended with final judgements of acquittal or with the termination of procedures, and we drew the necessary conclusions. Random

samples were taken of other cases which had been concluded in a manner that undermined the efficiency rate of indictment. Based on the results of the examinations, specific or general measures were taken. Consultations were offered to appellate chief prosecution offices and chief prosecution offices in ongoing cases. Assistance was offered to them before the conclusion of the proceedings in resolving any substantive or procedural issues that may have arisen as a result of changes in the law during the reporting year. All these measures contributed to the maintenance of a high efficiency rate of indictment.

Prosecutors' activities relating to criminal cases of juvenile offenders

In 2024, the number of criminal offenders was 214,144, of which 8844 juveniles aged 14 and over were registered.

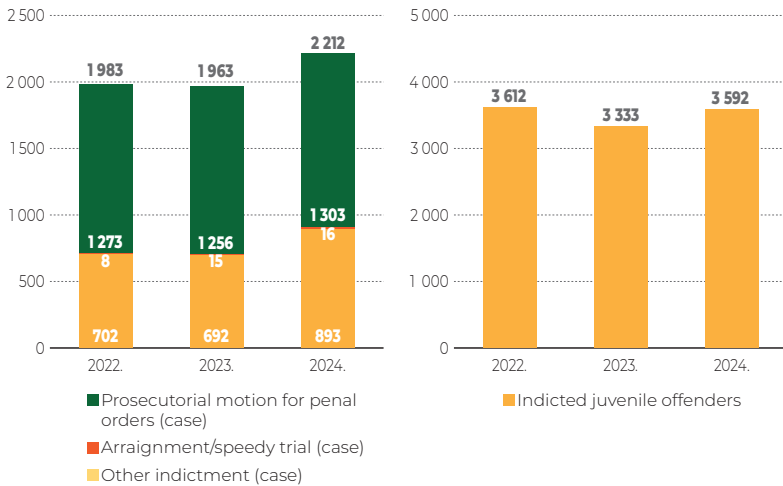
In 2024, the number of minors registered as perpetrators of criminal offences was 4,350.

Among the procedural forms to expedite proceedings, the Prosecution Service, continuing the practice developed during the pandemic, filed a motion for a penal order in 58.9% of all indictments in specialised cases. This rate represents a decrease of 5.1 percentage points compared to the 64% indicator in 2023, however, when considering the increase in the number of cases prosecuted, the number of motions for a penal order also increased by 3.7% compared to last year. It can be said that indictments motioning penal order continued to account for the majority of indictments in the year under review.

In 2024, only 0.7% of all indictments came to an arraignment.

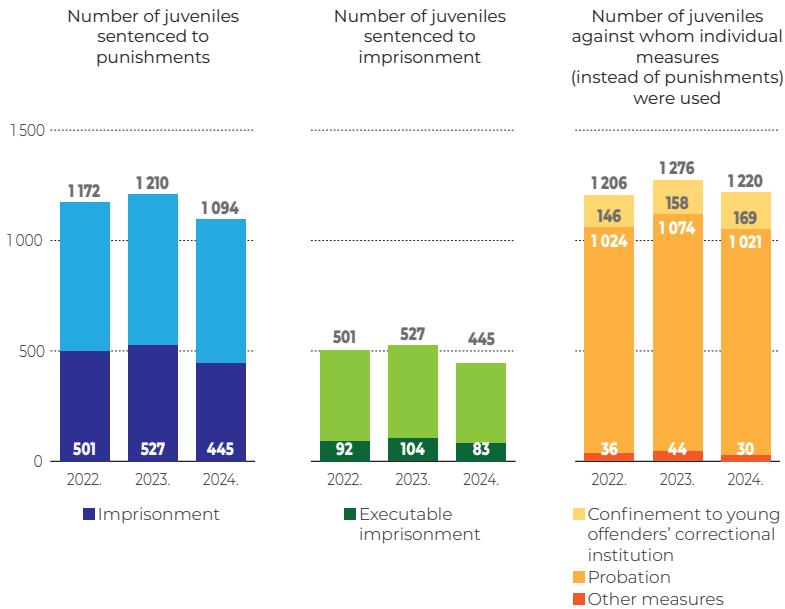
The evolution of the number of cases resulting in indictments and the number of indicted juvenile offenders are shown in the following diagram:

Data on the indictments brought within the activities of juvenile prosecutors in 2022–2024



In 2024, 40.7% of juvenile defendants who were prosecuted were sentenced to imprisonment by the court, which indicates that the frequency of this type of punishment has decreased slightly compared to the previous year (2023: 43.6%, 2022: 42.7%). Probation continued to be the most frequent measure used as a substitute for punishment (2024: 83.7%, 2023: 84.2%, 2022: 84.9%). The proportion of juveniles sentenced to reform school (2024: 13.9%, 2023: 12.4%, 2022: 12.1%) showed a slight increase compared with 2023. The data are illustrated in the following diagram:

Key data on punishments and criminal measures against juvenile delinquents in 2022–2024



In the year under review, the court accepted the confessions of 622 (2023: 669, 2022: 495) juvenile defendants at the preparatory session, of whom 584 (93.9%) [2023: 622 (93%), 2022: 442 (89.3%)] were the subject of a final decision, which had already become final at first instance at the preparatory session, in respect of 521 defendants (2023: 554, 2022: 403).

In the year under review, the Prosecution Service filed an appeal against the first instance decision in respect of 124 defendants, which was upheld by the second instance prosecutor in respect of 116 defendants, and which led to a decision in the second instance proceedings in respect of 56% of the defendants (65 defendants). Third instance proceedings were initiated in respect of 1 juvenile defendant.

The prosecution success rate in juvenile specialised cases was 99.6%, the same as in previous years (2023: 99.6%, 2022: 99.6%).

Guidelines facilitating the uniform application of law in the criminal section

In the course of the application of criminal law, it is essential that prosecutorial organs represent the same position on contentious issues. In 2023, too, the Office of the Prosecutor General supported the law enforcement activities of the Prosecution Service by conducting work plan examinations and issuing guidelines regularly.

In the year under review, the Office of the Prosecutor General issued guidelines on, inter alia:

- cumulative issues of driving bans;
- legal issues arising in criminal proceedings for crimes committed in cyberspace;
- the enforcement of European Investigation Orders;
- the enforcement of obligations arising from the Prosecution Service's membership of the Child Protection Signpost System;
- the use in criminal proceedings of on-site photos taken by unmanned aircraft;
- the lawfulness of allowing a juvenile detained in a correctional institution to make a statement in a broadcast on an electronic communications network;
- the factual nature of the offence of child pornography and the cumulative issues of offences against the freedom of sexual life and sexual morality;
- the cumulative nature of the offences of endangering a minor committed against the same victim and of assault while acting as a person performing public duties;
- the results of joint investigation teams (JIT), the experience of cooperation and the difficulties encountered;
- the result of using a covert means subject to the permission of a judge;

- the modification of the practice of motions for legal disadvantage of offenders in criminal cases initiated for budget fraud in order to facilitate the recovery of the caused damages;
- the seizure of real estate held by a business company that has been purchased with the proceeds of crime;
- the handling of bank account money seized from economic entities;
- the determination of the offence value of money laundering.

3. Prosecutors' activities outside the field of criminal law

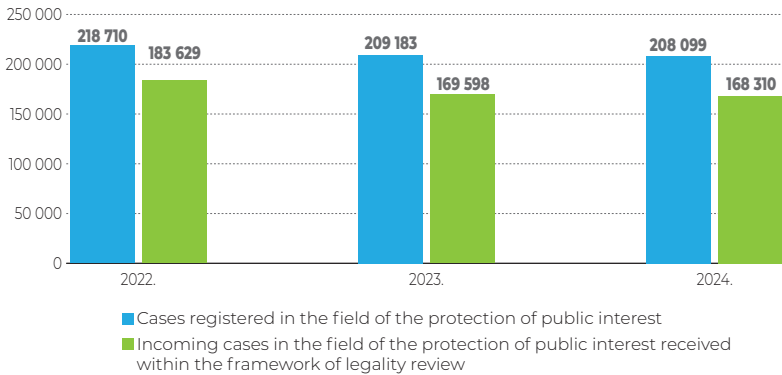
Prosecutors' activities in the field of the protection of public interest

In 2024, the conditions for the provision of public interest protection services have remained essentially unchanged, but certain legislative changes have had a significant impact on the way the tasks of the sector are carried out.

Statistical indicators and tendencies of cases in the field of the protection of public interest

The volume of cases registered decreased by only 0.52% compared with the previous year. The evolution of the main caseload figures for the public interest sector is shown in the following diagram:

Caseload data in the field of the protection of public interest in 2022–2024



In 2024, 81% of the arrivals continued to be legality review cases. Although the downward trend of previous years continued, the rate of decline was significantly reduced from 7.6% in 2023 to 0.8%. Following an increase in the previous year, the caseload of private law activity continued to increase by around 0.5%, accompanied by a 1.3% increase in the number of prosecutorial measures on the merits and a 4.5% increase in trial activity. The number of cases coming from the court, which has been steadily increasing in recent years, increased by a further 5.6% in 2024 (2024: 5218, 2023: 4943). However, the number of requests for prosecutorial measures decreased by 22.3% (2024: 1827, 2023: 2351).

Experience with legality control procedures

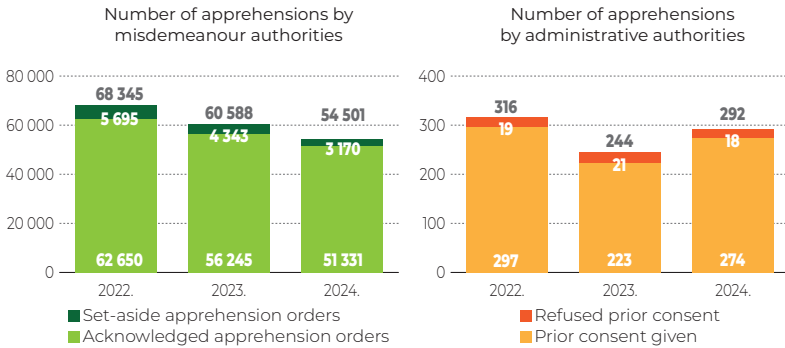
In 2024, prosecutors carried out a review of the legality of administrative procedures and decisions at the request of the persons interested in the procedure in 713 cases, which was by 12% less than in the previous year (812). Contrary to the applicants' opinion, the vast majority of the requests did not reveal any infringement of the law that would have given rise to action. In 27 cases of serious infringements, prosecutors issued an effective reminder, and in 31 cases of minor infringements, prosecutors considered it appropriate to submit a signal.

In environmental, nature protection and animal welfare cases, the number of priority actions in the field of legality review increased by 6.3% (2024: 811, 2023: 763). The number of signals issued by prosecutors for minor infringements was 21% lower than in the previous year, but the number of cases in which they initiated proceedings of environmental authorities was almost 22% higher (2024: 463, 2023: 380). Compared to the previous year, 37.5% more unsubstantiated administrative decisions were challenged by the Prosecution Service through reminders, all of which were successful. Prosecutors initiated proceedings for acts that seriously endanger or damage environmental values in 284 cases (2023: 270), of which 282 were criminal proceedings and 2 were misdemeanour proceedings. Overall, the number of substantive environment protection measures increased by more than 50% compared to the 533 substantive measures in 2022.

In consumer protection cases, as a result of the exercise of their power of review of legality, prosecutors issued 3 reminders and 75 signals in 2024 (2023: 13 reminders and 50 signals) and initiated 996 official procedures and 10 criminal proceedings (2023: 143 official procedures and 7 criminal proceedings). The vast majority of the official consumer protection procedures were initiated for failure to comply with the obligation to submit a notification regarding the launch of online store activities.

The following diagram illustrates the indicators of legality review prosecutorial activities of a guarantee nature, related to decisions ordering apprehension orders:

Number of apprehensions issued by misdemeanour and administrative authorities in 2022–2024



In 2024, there were around 20% more requests for prosecutors' consent in cases involving summons by apprehensions that were carried out by administrative authorities than in the previous year. 6.2% of the requests were refused, which is a lower proportion than in 2023. The number of apprehension orders by misdemeanour authorities sent to the Prosecution Service for legality review decreased by about 10% compared to the previous year. In 2024, prosecutors set aside almost 6% of all apprehension orders.

The number of termination decisions increased by 4.5% (2024: 73,449, 2023: 70,269), in contrast to the downward trend in previous years. The distribution of prosecutorial measures was broadly the same as in previous years: more than half of the measures (715) were signals relating to minor infringements of the law not affecting the merits of the decisions, more than 26% (346) were prosecutorial reminders in order to remedy a serious breach of the law, and around 19% (247) were requests to initiate other proceedings, typically criminal proceedings.

The number of complaints lodged in misdemeanour cases has remained broadly unchanged over the last three years, although the downward trend has continued (2024: 919, 2023: 926). Prosecutors granted the complainant's request and set aside the contested decision in 10% fewer cases than in the previous year.

In the majority of the retrials in misdemeanour cases, prosecutors challenged court orders converting fines, on-the-spot fines or community service into a misdemeanour detention, 10.5% more than in the previous year (2024: 1432, 2023: 1296).

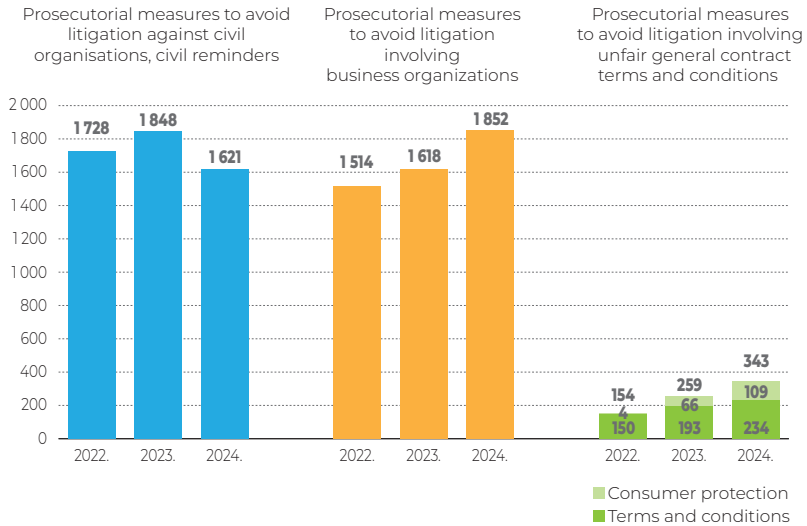
Prosecutorial activities relating to integrity screenings

In 2024, chief prosecution offices assigned to exercise such competence, approved 850 decisions ordering integrity screenings (National Protection Service: 835, Office for the Protection of the Constitution: 15). Of the persons involved in the proceedings, the National Protection Service filed criminal charges against 9 persons (2023: 17). 5 of the 9 persons charged were police officers, 2 were members of the penitentiary system, 1 was a government official and 1 was a disaster management employee.

Prosecutors' participation in court proceedings

In all cases in which, as a contributor to the administration of justice, prosecutors are entitled to apply to the courts by virtue of the law, before the court proceedings – if the legal conditions are met – they take measures to avoid litigation or issue a reminder in order that the violation of the law is eliminated voluntarily. The businesses, NGOs and individual enterprises contacted are motivated to engage in voluntary compliance. The evolution of the number of prosecutorial measures with the aim to avoid litigation is illustrated in the following diagram:

Prosecutorial measures aimed to avoid litigation, civil reminders in 2022–2024



The decrease of around 12% in the number of prosecutorial measures to avoid litigation issued in the framework of exercising prosecutors' NGO-related powers is due to the effectiveness of the large number of civil reminders issued in previous years for civil organisations to comply with their electronic communication obligation.

The number prosecutorial measures to avoid litigation involving business organizations issued for minor infringements that can be remedied in a short time has been increasing significantly for several years, with an increase of 14.5% in 2024.

The number of cases where prosecutors – based on the examination of general terms and conditions – issued a reminder to companies to eliminate the cause of unfairness in order to avoid a lawsuit, increased by 21.2%, with a high success rate. In order to protect the collective interests of consumers and to avoid litigation, prosecutors issued 65% more reminders than in the previous year. Almost without exception, prosecutorial non-litigious reminders were successful, with only 1 case in 2024 requiring the prosecutor

to represent the case before the court. As a result of prosecutorial activities, the number of consumer protection reminders – which includes measures to avoid litigation on unfair terms and conditions and measures to prevent representative activities – increased by 32.4% overall.

The number of actions brought by prosecutors decreased slightly by around 5.5% compared to the previous year (2024: 308, 2023: 326), mainly due to an increase in the number of successful reminders and preventive non-litigious measures.

In 2024, the number of civil actions increased by around 32%. Prosecutors also initiated 1,287 non-litigious proceedings against NGOs, only 5.4% fewer than in 2023.

Prosecutors, in the exercise of their statutory powers in relation to personal status, brought 10 actions for the guardianship of defendants on the grounds of lack of capacity to conduct their affairs. The number of prosecutor actions in civil proceedings for restraining orders for violence between relatives increased significantly by 19.2% in 2024 compared to the previous year (2024: 2708, 2023: 2272).

Although the number of prosecutorial requests for the initiation of proceedings for the supervision of company law decreased by 6.4% (2024: 966, 2023: 1032), the number of non-litigious injunctions, the majority of which were successful and thus made the initiation of proceedings for the supervision of company law unnecessary, increased by 14.5%. In company law cases, the number of actions for the annulment of unlawful orders brought by the prosecutor increased by 12.3% compared to the previous year (2024: 173, 2023: 154). The total number of actions brought by the prosecutor in company law cases has also been increasing steadily year on year. In 2024, the upward trend continued, with the total number of company law actions exceeding the previous year's total by almost 7% (2024: 2991, 2023: 2804).

In 2024, prosecutors brought 6 actions for compensation for damage to natural or protected organisms, which were about 88% fewer than in the previous year (52), and all of which were upheld by the courts in the proceedings that have already been completed.

In the context of their consumer protection powers, prosecutors brought nearly 55% more public interest actions for unfairness of general contractual terms and conditions than in the previous year (2024: 34, 2023: 22). However, when the actions and pre-trial reminders are counted together, the total volume of actions for unfairness of general terms and conditions increased by 24.7% (2024: 268, 2023: 215). It was necessary only in one case to file a representative action against a business that did not agree with the reminder to avoid litigation due to its activities causing consumer rights violations.

In 2024, a total of 6 cases were brought to court by prosecutors in order to cancel the entry in the land register.

Prosecutorial activity relating to child and juvenile protection outside the field of criminal law

Prosecutors have fully complied with their obligation to report child endangerment and risk of violence between relatives. There was a 42.2% increase in the number of administrative proceedings for child protection measures (2024: 472, 2023: 332). The number of notices of the risk of violence between relatives due to the involvement of a minor child increased by 22% (2024: 2414, 2023: 1978).

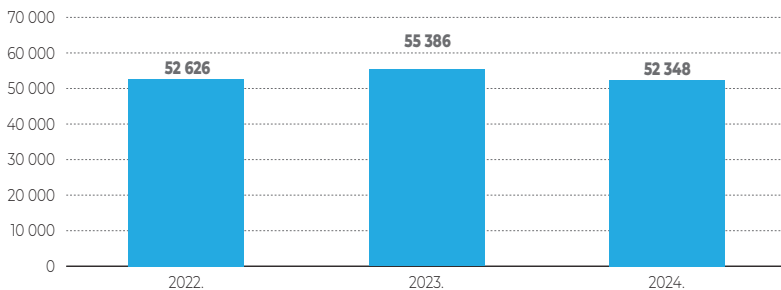
In 2024, within their powers to monitor the legality of child protection institutions, prosecutors carried out inspections in child protection institutions providing specialized care, in children's homes and foster homes providing temporary accommodation for children. The number of measures taken in the course of inspections into the legality of the operation of child protection institutions increased by 35.3% (2024: 253, 2023: 187).

Prosecutors submitted 187 reminders for substantive infringements and 829 signals for minor infringements of the law in decisions taken by the authorities concerning minors. The number of reminders decreased by 9.2% and the number of signals increased by 4.5%. In cases involving minors, 545 prosecutions were initiated (2023: 485).

Legality supervision of the enforcement of punishments

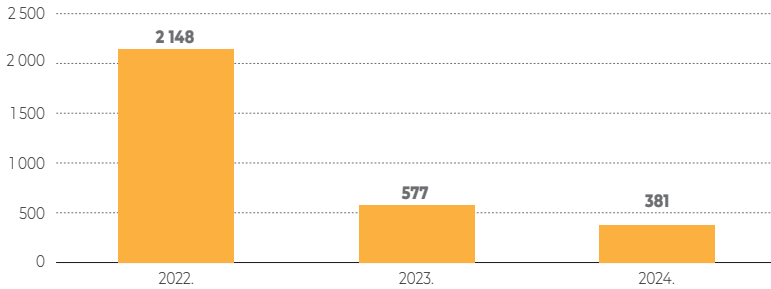
The change in the workload in the field of legality supervision of the enforcement of punishments and the protection of human rights (supervision of the enforcement of punishments) is well reflected by the change in the number of registered cases. The following diagram illustrates that the number of cases registered last year is by 5.5% less than the number of cases registered in 2023.

Changes in the number of cases registered in the field of legality supervision of the enforcement of punishments and the protection of human rights in 2022–2024



The decrease in 2024, compared to the previous year, is partly the result of changes in the opposite direction and partly the result of changes in the regulatory environment. The number of compensation procedures for placement conditions that violate fundamental rights has decreased in line with previous years. This is still linked to government measures to stabilise prison overcrowding and prevent recurrence. The evolution of the number of first instance penitentiary court decisions on the merits of compensation claims is shown in the following diagram:

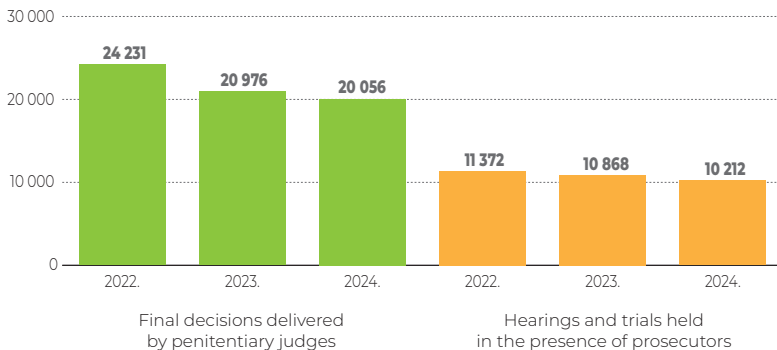
The number of judicial decisions passed in compensation matters by penitentiary judges at first instance in 2022–2024



An opposite trend (12.9% increase) can be observed in the number of complaints, applications and notifications received by the Prosecution Service (2024: 10,897, 2023: 9648). The proportion of prosecutorial decisions upholding these (2024: 11.2%, 2023: 11.9%, 2022: 10%) showed a statistically minimal decrease last year.

Participation in the proceedings of penitentiary judges represents a significant part of the work of prosecutors specialized in this field. The evolution of the number of final decisions in the proceedings of penitentiary judges and the number of hearings and trials with prosecutorial participation is illustrated in the following diagram:

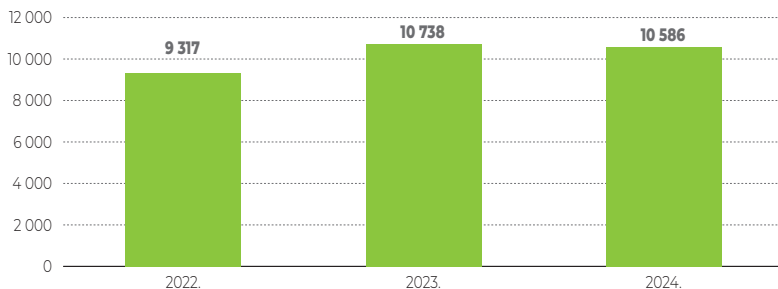
The number of final decisions delivered by penitentiary judges in their proceedings, the number of hearings and trials held with prosecutors' participation in 2022–2024



A decrease in the number of final decisions in bail court proceedings has been observed since 2020. To a lesser extent, this is also due to the aforementioned decrease in the number of compensation proceedings for placement conditions that violate fundamental rights in the period under review. At the same time, the amendment of the legislation governing the powers of penitentiary judges, which entered into force on 1 March 2024, had a similar effect. The introduction of the system of prisoner categories has made the proceedings of penitentiary judges to change the degree of enforcement of the custodial sentence, to adopt more lenient enforcement rules and to determine the degree of enforcement of the custodial sentence unnecessary, which has led to a significant reduction in the number of arrivals at the chief prosecution offices in the areas indicated. In the light of the 4.4% decrease in 2024 in the number of trials and hearings with the participation of prosecutors the decrease of only 6% in 2024 compared to the previous year remains unchanged and indicates an active prosecutorial participation in the proceedings of penitentiary judges.

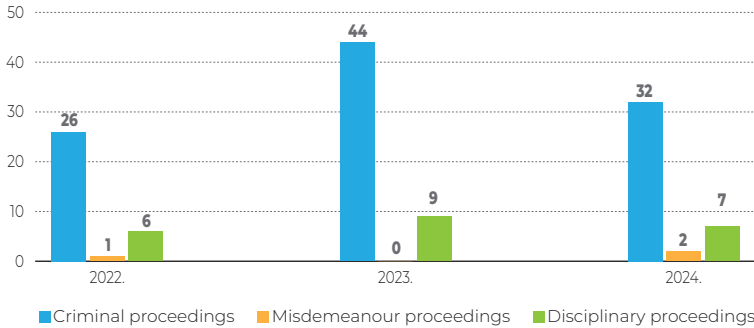
In a state governed by the rule of law, the cessation of infringements of personal freedom requires immediate action. This is ensured by the powers of investigation and action of the penitentiary supervisory prosecutors, which were exercised with unflinching consistency. The evolution of the number of inspections is shown in the following diagram:

Number of prosecutorial supervision inspections regarding penitentiary institutions in 2022–2024



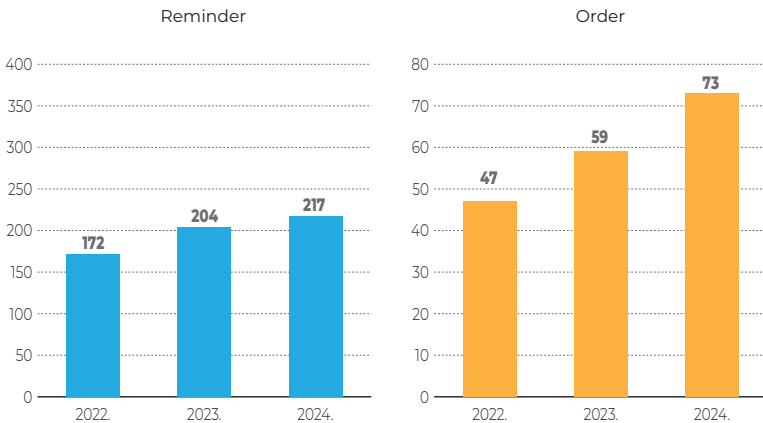
The change in the number of proceedings initiated as a result of prosecutorial inspections is shown in the following diagram:

Number of proceedings initiated on the basis of prosecutorial inspections of prison supervision in 2022–2024



Based on the above data, the number of criminal and disciplinary proceedings initiated by penitentiary supervisory prosecutors decreased (by 27.3% and 22.2% respectively), while there was an increase in misdemeanour proceedings.

The number of prosecutorial reminders and orders in 2022–2024



Last year, there was an increase in the number of reminders (6.4%) and a significant increase in the number of orders (23.7%) compared to the previous year. This suggests that the activity of the penitentiary supervisory prosecutors in this area, which was already evident in the past, has increased further in 2024.

The continuous monitoring of the legality of the treatment of prisoners has long been a priority for prosecutors in this field. The national survey carried out in 2024 found that, as in previous years, the legal provisions ensuring the lawfulness of the treatment of detainees were generally implemented by the detention services and that the way in which they were implemented was typically in line with the expectations set out in international legal standards and recommendations. However, this still did not mean that there were not occasional errors, shortcomings or incorrect application of the law.

Penitentiary supervisory prosecutors took all the necessary measures to remedy the shortcomings detected in the detention facilities and used the legal means at their disposal to help eliminate the detected shortcomings and prevent them in the future.

In 2024, the Office of the Prosecutor General ordered a nationwide review of the legality of asset confiscation enforcement practices. The aim of the investigation was to determine whether the investigative activities of the chief prosecution offices comply with the relevant provisions of the Prosecution Service Act and Instruction No. 20/2014 (XII. 23.) LÜ of the Prosecutor General on the activities of penitentiary supervisory prosecutors. The results of the inspection carried out confirmed the justification for the order. Based on the documents submitted by the chief prosecution offices, it was established that the legality inspections carried out in the period under review were in compliance with the legal and other normative requirements. The findings of the legality inspections were correct, the inspection notes met the substantive requirements and no unjustified failure to take action by prosecutors in connection with the inspections was

found. At the same time, it was considered appropriate to verify, as far as possible, the activities of all the bodies involved in the enforcement of the cases selected for examination by the chief prosecution offices, and in all cases to extend the examination to the relevant administrative activities of the trial courts, the work of the economic offices of the courts and the procedures of the National Tax and Customs Administration (NAV), which is responsible for the enforcement of confiscation of assets.

In 2024, the Office of the Prosecutor General continued to promote the lawful functioning of the penitentiary system through the opinions it gave to the National Prison Services Headquarters (BVOP). For example, we have taken a position on the provision of prisoners with underclothing, the contribution to the costs of detention of prisoners, tasks related to initial categorisation of prisoners and the regulation relating to smoking habits.

4. Activities of the Prosecutor General

Activities relating to the National Assembly

The Prosecutor General continued to fully discharge his constitutional duties in relation to the National Assembly in 2024.

In 2024, 197 written questions, 7 immediate questions and 1 oral question were addressed to the Prosecutor General by Members of Parliament. The questions are listed in Annex 2.

The Prosecutor General submitted the parliamentary report on the activities of the Prosecution Service on 25 September 2024 (B/8995). The Committee on Justice discussed the report on 29 October 2024 and submitted a proposal for a resolution on its adoption (H/9698), which was discussed by the plenary session of Parliament on 18 December 2024, together with the report on the activities of the Prosecution Service in 2022 (B/5010), and adopted on 24 February 2025.

Exercise of certain powers of the Prosecutor General

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Prosecutor General has the exclusive right to appeal to the Curia in the interests of justice against final decisions of the court which are final and conclusive and not subject to any other extraordinary remedy, and which are contrary to the law. In 2024, 10 such cases were brought in the field of criminal law.

The Curia has agreed with the arguments put forward by the Prosecutor General in the appeals in the cases decided up to the date of this extract.

The most important tool to standardize judicial practice are the uniformity decisions adopted by the Curia, which are binding for lower courts. In the field of criminal law, the Prosecutor General initiated a case-law decision in 2024 on two issues. In 2024, the Curia also initiated proceedings on two further preliminary rulings in criminal matters initiated by nonprosecutors, in relation to which the Prosecutor General made a statement.

In 2024, the Prosecutor General made written statements in 12 uniformity proceedings in the field of the protection of public interest and submitted a technical opinion to the Curia in amicus proceedings on the suspension of the statute of limitations.

In 2024, the Prosecutor General filed a motion for the suspension of the immunity of one Member of Parliament for the purpose of criminal proceedings, following which the Parliament suspended the immunity of the person involved by a decision taken in the year under review. In 2024, the Prosecutor General filed a motion to the President of the European Parliament for the suspension of the immunity of a Hungarian Member of the European Parliament. In 2024, the immunity of three judges was waived at the request of the Prosecutor General, and the Prosecutor General waived the immunity of two prosecutors. In 2024, the Prosecutor General did not propose to waive the immunity of a foreign national with diplomatic status on the grounds of diplomatic immunity.

In 2024, the Prosecutor General made 1 motion to the President of Parliament to waive immunity for a misdemeanour, based on a police referral. The National Assembly suspended the immunity of the Member of Parliament.

The Prosecutor General may give an opinion on draft legislation. In the year under review, nearly half a hundred draft laws were sent for opinion. The Prosecutor General and, by delegation, the heads of the Prosecution Service commented on more than a quarter of the drafts sent by the ministries.

The Prosecutor General has the statutory right to issue normative instructions regulating the organisation and functioning of the bodies under his leadership, management and supervision, as well as their activities, and to issue circulars to assist the functioning of the Prosecution Service, its professional activities and cooperation between the branches. In 2024, 19 Instructions and 1 Circular of the Prosecutor General were issued.

International activities of the Prosecutor General

In his international activities in 2024, the Prosecutor General focused on prosecutorial representation at international events and participation in the Hungarian EU Presidency, while strengthening bilateral relations with Austria.

In the framework of the traditionally good bilateral relations between Hungarian and Austrian Prosecution Services, the Hungarian Prosecutor General visited Vienna and Graz on 20 and 21 March. During this visit, he met the newly elected Austrian Procurator General and reviewed current bilateral issues with him, as well as visiting the Graz Prosecution Office. The Hungarian delegation was received by the Director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Graz.

On 12 April, at the invitation of the President of the Curia, the Prosecutor General participated in a technical conference at

which Prof. Dr. Koen Lenaerts, President of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), gave a presentation on cooperation between the CJEU and the national courts of the EU Member States, with a special focus on the CJEU decision in case C-537/22.

The Polish Prosecutor General's Office hosted the 12th annual working meeting of the Visegrád Four (V4) Prosecutors General in Łódź on 14-16 May of the reporting year, where the Hungarian Prosecutor General led a three-member delegation representing the Hungarian Prosecution Service. At the meeting they discussed the impact of digitalisation on cross-border investigations and criminal proceedings, as well as the challenges of cooperation with third countries in the field of mutual legal assistance and extradition. Their cooperation on these two issues was also set out in a joint declaration.

Also in May, the 15th annual meeting and general assembly of the Nadal Network of Prosecutors General attached to the Supreme Courts of the Member States of the European Union took place. At the event in Luxembourg, the Hungarian Prosecutor General gave a presentation on the role of Eurojust in the fight against international crime. During the conference, the case law on the retention of electronic communications data and its impact on national legislation and criminal proceedings was discussed, as well as new and important EU initiatives in the field of justice and the challenges of the European Public Prosecutor's Office's cooperation with EU Member States and third countries. As part of the official programme, participants visited the Court of Justice of the European Union.

At the Network's General Assembly in Malta in 2023, the Hungarian Prosecutor General was elected Vice-President for the period May 2023 – May 2024. In accordance with the procedure laid down in the Statutes, the Hungarian Prosecutor General took over the position of President of the Network from the Prosecutor General of Luxembourg at the General Assembly in May 2024. The Prosecutor General held the Presidency of the Network until the General Assembly closing the Hungarian Conference in May 2025.

Under the auspices of the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union, the Hungarian Prosecutor General chaired the Consultative Forum of the Prosecutors General of the EU Member States in The Hague on 17-18 October, sharing the first half of this year with the Belgian Prosecutor General.

Dr Péter Polt, in the framework of the Hungarian Presidency, welcomed the outgoing President of Eurojust and Slovak national member of Eurojust, Ladislav Hamran, who was awarded the Hungarian Cross of the Order of Merit for his outstanding professional activities and diplomatic mission as President of Eurojust on the occasion of the national holiday of 20 August.

In the framework of the Hungarian Presidency of the EU, the Prosecutor General delivered the opening speech at the online General Assembly of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) on 24 September and at the EJT conference in Budapest on 7 November.

On 16 September, the Prosecutor General held an online bilateral technical meeting with Ingrid Derveaux, Secretary General of the EJTN. The main topic of the consultation was the importance of digitalisation in the work of prosecutors and in the training of prosecutors.

On 14 October, Dr. Péter Polt received the Rector of the East China University of Law and Political Science and a delegation from the University of Law and Political Science of East China. During their meeting, they discussed the academic activities of the Hungarian Prosecutors' Association and the research of the National Institute of Criminology.

On 30 October, the Prosecutor General held a meeting with the President of the Austrian Supreme Court, who was on an official visit at the invitation of the Curia. During their meeting, they reviewed the division of responsibilities and competences between the Supreme Court and the Prosecution Services.

At the initiative of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Prosecutor General received Director General Ville Itälä on 13 November. The meeting focused on reviewing the cooperation to date and the working agreement concluded between the two institutions in February 2022, as well as on further strengthening relations. During the meeting, the parties underlined the importance they attach to the continued effective exchange of information and cooperation between their respective organisations on criminal misuse of EU funds.

5. International activities of the Prosecution Service

International relations

In 2024, the international activities of the Prosecution Service took the form of international training, exchanges, coordination meetings and contact point meetings, both online and in person.

The Prosecution Service of Hungary is in contact with a number of European and international judicial training institutions, including the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the European Law Academy (ERA), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), the Council of Europe Human Rights Training for Legal Professionals (HELP) and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP).

In most cases, prosecutors have participated in various types of judicial training and exchanges organised and funded by the EJTN. The EJTN organised in-person, online and hybrid training courses.

In the framework of the EJTN's one-week exchange programme for prosecutors abroad, 2 prosecutors travelled to Spain. The Spanish exchange partner is due to be hosted in Hungary in 2025.

Every year, the EJTN organises study visits to learn about the structure, function and activities of the European Union and of the various bodies of the Council of Europe. In this framework, 1 prosecutor participated in a joint study visit to the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg and 1 prosecutor participated in a joint study visit to Eurojust in The Hague.

For more than 15 years, the EJTN has been organising the THEMIS competition for prosecutors, in which prosecutors from EJTN member countries compete in the fields of European criminal cooperation, civil cooperation, European family law and judicial ethics. The criminal law section of the 2024 THEMIS competition took place in Hungary from 14–17 May 2024 at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Hungary. The Hungarian team of three prosecutors received a special prize, which will result in their paper being published in the EJTN's annual scientific volume, the Themis Annual Journal.

In 2024, the EJTN launched a new training programme funded by the European Commission under the Single Market Programme to improve the effectiveness of the detection of anti-competitive behaviour in economic and financial investigations. 4 Hungarian prosecutors participated in the programme. The training courses were held in Spain and Belgium.

In the context of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, in the second half of 2024, Hungarian contact point prosecutors carried out tasks relating to the presidency at the annual plenary meetings of certain EU organisations, such as the EJTN General Assembly, the Plenary Meeting of the Network against Genocide, Human Rights and War Crimes and the Plenary Meeting of the European Cybercrime Network (EJCN).

The Prosecution Service is responsible for cases relating to investigations conducted by OLAF.

In 2024, OLAF made a total of four judicial recommendations to the Hungarian Prosecution Service in the light of the outcome of its investigation, three of which resulted in the opening of an investigation, and one of which was evaluated in the context of an ongoing investigation in Hungary. In 2024, in its ongoing investigations, OLAF did not issue any alerts on suspicions of criminal offences that could be established before the administrative investigation was closed.

Of the cases opened following OLAF recommendations, indictment was filed in one case in 2024. In 2024, two of the cases that had previously resulted in indictments were concluded at the first instance and the defendants were convicted.

Mutual legal assistance cases

Cooperation with the judicial authorities of other States in the context of criminal proceedings, mainly through various forms of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, is a prominent area of the international activity of the Prosecution Service.

Three main factors influenced the development of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters last year: the continuing increase in the cross-border nature of crime, in particular in the light of the increasing use of cyberspace by offenders; the consequences of the digitalisation of everyday life, with an increasing proportion of evidence of crime being carried in electronic form, much of which is held by foreign service providers; and changes in the legal framework and trends in international cooperation.

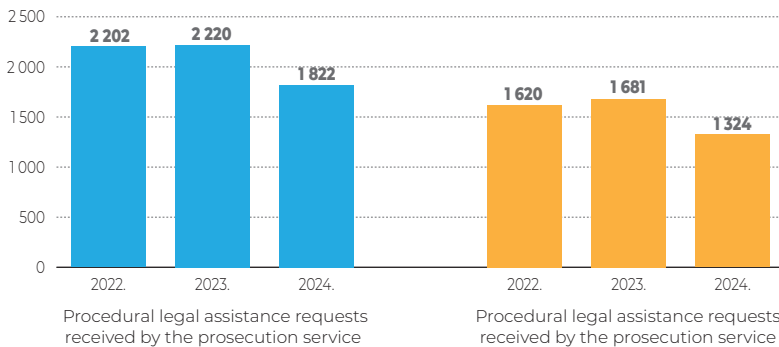
As in previous years, last year's exchanges of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters were mainly with the judicial authorities of the EU Member States, with a smaller proportion with third countries.

In 2024, the backbone of mutual legal assistance was again formed by requests for procedural assistance issued and received by the Prosecution Service. Among the procedural legal

assistance requests, the European Investigation Order (EIO) plays a prominent role, being issued by judicial authorities of EU Member States to initiate investigative measures to obtain evidence in another Member State or to hand over evidence held by a Member State authority.

The evolution of the overall number of requests for procedural legal assistance is illustrated in the following diagram:

Number of requests for procedural legal assistance received by and issued by the Prosecution Service in 2022–2024



The Prosecution Service is an important participant in surrender and extradition procedures: it applies to the court for a European or international arrest warrant as a first step in the procedure to apprehend a suspect abroad, and regularly contributes to the provision of additional information requested by the foreign authority conducting the post-arrest proceedings in the domestic criminal proceedings; while in the case of suspects arrested in Hungary and requested by a foreign state to surrender or extradite them, it submits a motion in the proceedings before the Hungarian court.

The domestic legislation refers the decision on the takeover of criminal proceedings abroad by Hungary and the offer of domestic criminal proceedings to a foreign authority prior to indictment to the exclusive competence of the Prosecutor General. As a result

of the changes in the structure of criminality, fraud in the online space has become the dominant area of cases involving the transfer and takeover of criminal proceedings.

In 2024, the number of requests received by the Prosecutor General as the central authority designated for legal assistance in misdemeanour proceedings did not change significantly compared to the previous year (2024: 1690, 2023: 1697).

As in previous years, the 1650 requests from abroad accounted for almost 98% of the caseload. The majority of requests were for the service of official documents (1006). Nearly 74% of requests from abroad could be fulfilled.

As in 2023, the Hungarian authorities referred 40 cases to the foreign authorities, typically for traffic offences. The Hungarian requests for mutual assistance were executed by the requested countries.

Activities of the Eurojust National Member for Hungary

Eurojust is the European Union's (EU) Agency for Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters, whose mission is to promote the fight against serious cross-border organised crime, the coordination of prosecution and judicial proceedings and the execution of requests for judicial cooperation. Hungary was represented by a deputy head of department prosecutor as a national member at the headquarters of the organisation in The Hague. The national member is employed exclusively by the Hungarian Prosecution Service and is supported by a national prosecutor, who is temporarily seconded to the EU administrative staff as a national expert (SNE) in The Hague on a six-monthly rotational basis.

In 2024, Eurojust dealt with 12,972 cases (2023: 13,164), facilitating the execution of requests submitted to Eurojust by the 27 EU Member States and 12 third countries with liaison prosecutors at Eurojust: Albania, the United States of America,

the United Kingdom, North Macedonia, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Switzerland, Serbia and Ukraine.

In 2024, the Hungarian national desk dealt with 1106 cases (2023: 1119), making Hungary the 9th (2023: 9th) Member State with the highest number of cases. Of these cases, 643 (2023: 625) were initiated by domestic authorities and 463 (2023: 494) by foreign authorities.

In 2024, the College of Eurojust registered 336 (2023: 460) new Hungarian cases, making Hungary the 14th (2023: 10th) Member State in the list. There were 202 (2023: 289) new requests from domestic authorities and 134 (2023: 171) new requests from foreign authorities.

During the year under review, Eurojust organised 640 (2023: 577) bilateral or multilateral coordination meetings, of which 22 (2023: 26) coordination meetings were attended by national prosecutors and investigators.

One of Eurojust's most important and increasingly focused tasks is to support the setting up and operation of joint investigation teams, mainly in organised crime cases, and to cover some of the costs of this currently the highest level form of judicial cooperation through tenders. Of the 361 joint investigation teams supported by Eurojust in 2024, 127 were newly established. The activities of the new joint investigation teams continue to reflect the nature of transnational organised crime. In the year under review, 5 (2023: 5) new JITs were established with domestic participation and 4 JITs were successfully completed by the Hungarian authorities.

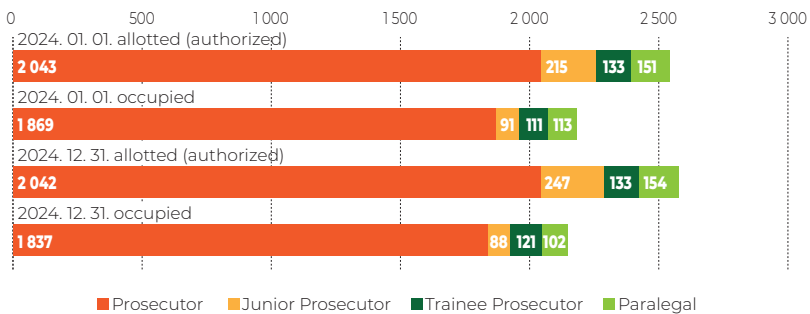
In the year under review, Eurojust-funded training to promote Eurojust's activities took place on 5 different days at one location in Budapest and three in the countryside.

6. Personnel of the Prosecution Service

Personnel situation

On 1 January 2024, there were 4765.25 job positions allotted (authorised) by the Prosecutor General to the Prosecution Service, which increased to 4769.25 by the end of the year. Within this total, the number of positions for prosecutors, junior prosecutors, trainee prosecutors and paralegals changed as follows during the past year:

The allotted and occupied job positions for prosecutors, junior and trainee prosecutors and paralegals in 2024



The number of prosecutor positions divided among the various structural units of the Prosecution Service was 2017 at the beginning of 2024 and 2023 at the end of 2024. At the end of 2024, the number of centrally reserved, non-allotted prosecutor positions was 19.

At the end of the reporting year, there were 186 vacant prosecutor positions divided among the structural units. The number of prosecutors decreased from 1869 on 1 January 2024 to 1837 on 31 December 2024.

During 2024, the number of junior prosecutor's posts increased from 215 to 247, as a result of the conversion of 8 prosecution official posts into 32 junior prosecutor posts. The number of trainee prosecutor's posts remained unchanged at 133 in 2024.

In 2024, 32 prosecutors, 24 junior prosecutors and 34 trainee prosecutors were appointed (in 2023, 43 prosecutors, 22 junior prosecutors and 59 trainee prosecutors were appointed).

As in previous years, the number of disciplinary proceedings decreased again in 2024, with 8 disciplinary proceedings being opened, which cannot be considered significant in relation to the number of employees of the Prosecution Service (12 in 2023 and 17 in 2022).

Training and further training of prosecution staff

The training courses were partly organised online. More than 5250 participants attended the 85 days of training, of which 42 days were in-person training with 685 participants.

Within the framework of the Hungarian Training Centre for Prosecutors, the training courses for trainee prosecutors and junior prosecutors were renewed, as well as the course on criminalistics. The training for trainee prosecutors consists of four modules. In modules 1 to 3, the basic knowledge and practice-oriented skills preparing for the profession of prosecutor were imparted in 1 three-day and 2 five-day courses. The criminalistics course was organised with new topics, in a two-week format and without a final examination.

25 central courses were offered to prosecutors and 10 to prosecution officials and clerks. A compulsory training course on ethics and integrity for prosecutors was organised in the form of e-learning. The advanced trainings targeting prosecutors with higher management positions took place in the management training and the consultation meeting organized for deputy chief prosecutors heading the criminal law and administrative law

branches. One- and two-day-long centrally organized courses and practical trainings were attended, inter alia, by recently appointed prosecutors, head-of-section and subordinate criminal trial prosecutors, prosecutors prosecuting cases in first instance courts, prosecutors specialised in juvenile criminal cases, prosecutors handling traffic offence cases, prosecutors supervising the legality of the enforcement of punishments and the protection of human rights, prosecutors working in the field of the protection of public interest and spokesperson prosecutors.

We held thematic trainings in support of prosecutorial tasks related to the fight against human trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, budget fraud, as well as European law and the rule of law, and to support prosecutors in their work on integrity screenings. In the network of prosecutors dealing with cybercrime, the prosecutors assigned to each county chief prosecution office received a two-day training, and the IT members received a one-day training. Prosecutors working in the field of the protection of public interest discussed in small online groups the main current affairs of the public interest protection field, in particular the prosecutorial responsibilities following the entry into force of the new Real Estate Registration Act.

According to the financial possibilities of the organization, we continued to support postgraduate studies and legal foreign language training. Under a new study contract, 12 prosecutorial employees staff have undertaken to continue their studies: 5 prosecutors, 2 junior prosecutors, 2 trainee prosecutors, as well as 3 clerks.

7. Communication activities of the Prosecution Service

In 2024, the communication activity of the Prosecution Service maintained its excellent performance. Last year, the Office of the Prosecutor General consciously and successfully focused on quality rather than quantity.

The media environment has changed dramatically in recent times. Institutional communication has shifted towards social media, at an accelerating pace in the second half of 2024. The Prosecution Service has been featured on platforms where it had not previously been present. A positive trend is the increase in the proportion of positive posts on the online space concerning the Prosecution Service, which is the result of the creation and successful management of its own content.

In the most important in-house film produced last year, we presented our country and the Prosecution Service of Hungary to the members of the NADAL NETWORK, on the occasion of the mandate of the Prosecutor General of Hungary and the organisation's conference in Budapest in May 2025.

We continued our popular educational series "Simply, legally". This time we covered online information for webshops, the world of food supplements and air passenger rights.

Our website was one of the most active media sites on the Prosecution Service in 2024. The website has consistently been ranked in the top ten of the content sites in this category. It deserves a special mention that it was ranked number one in this comparison last December.

Over the past year, the number of followers on the Facebook page of the Prosecution Service has grown dynamically. The total reach was 981,470. The most viewed post was viewed by 124,000 people.

Our YouTube channel reached 931,400 views last year. On this platform, we published 129 videos, most of which were related to press releases, while 16 were self-produced films. The most popular video received 53,118 clicks. We also published four videos related to crime news that generated over 35,000 views.

In addition to high-quality written and verbal communication, spokespersons placed great emphasis on meeting the requirement of clarity to the public. The communicators of the Prosecution Service continued to maintain a stable, well-functioning working relationship with press officers in partner agencies and with the media.

8. Information technology and statistical activities of the Prosecution Service

Information technology of the Prosecution Service

In 2024 too, special emphasis was placed on the continuous, fast and reliable exchange of information and the effective IT support of the statutory activity and daily work processes of prosecution offices despite the budgetary austerity. In 2024, a priority was given to compliance with Act CIII of 2023 on the Digital State and Certain Rules for the Provision of Digital Services (*Dáptv.*) and its implementing regulations, which entailed a significant rethinking of the workflows and developments within the Prosecution Service. In the second half of 2024, preparations for the provisions of Act LXIX of 2024 on Cyber Security in Hungary were started, in particular the review of internal processes and regulations.

The Prosecution Service operates a nationwide data transmission network covering all locations. The National Info-Communications Service Company Ltd. (*Nemzeti Infokommunikációs Szolgáltató Zrt.*) provides the integrated data and central internet services necessary for this, the ownership and operation rights of the network devices important from the point of view of data protection and security are held by the Prosecution Service. We constantly develop this network in order to ensure the appropriate standard of electronic case management and internal IT services, as well as the smooth electronic communication with partner organisations. Preparations for the consolidation of the district servers have been made for 2024, which allows the central operation of the servers in the district prosecution offices.

Prosecutors have been provided with the means to support both in-office and out-of-office activities, with appropriate security measures, and can access the IT network of the Prosecution Service and its services from the courtroom, off-site or even from home, using portable computers.

Apart from the registration systems operated by the Ministry of the Interior, the National Prison Services Headquarters, the Ministry of Justice, the National Police Headquarters and IdomSoft Informatikai Zrt., as well as the accessibility of the Central Media Library, the Central Criminal Evidence System, the ePostbook, the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II), as well as the Customer Document Access System of the National Office for Judiciary, the Prosecution Service has also established access to the Protecting Our Children System, the Registry of Civil Organisations and the Guardianship Registry through its own development activities in 2024.

The Prosecution Service ensured the electronic administration of cases and electronic communication with the cooperating bodies in compliance with the provisions of the Dáptv., the procedural laws and other relevant legislation.

In 2024, the Integrated Information and Document Management System (*IIDR*) was implemented in the district prosecution offices of 8 additional counties.

The Office of the Prosecutor General operates a system capable of analysing the database containing the data of offenders in criminal proceedings (created by processing the case management data of the Prosecution Service), and detecting correlations within the database. The importance of this system is demonstrated by the fact that, in 2024, a total of 290,238 requests for data were received, 56% of which were from legally authorized military and civilian national security services. The Prosecution Service also provides an electronic query option for this system, so that those entitled can access the data faster.

In 2024, the Prosecution Service continued to be a key participant in the national electronic archives project of the Hungarian National Archives, and it continuously provided data from its database processing case management data of the prosecutorial activity of the field of criminal law. In addition, this relationship was supplemented with the Metropolitan Archives.

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In 2023, the Prosecution Service continued to perform its statutory duty of providing public interest data electronically. In addition to the requirements set forth in the context of the freedom of information, it published information, statistics and consolidated notices that were found to be most relevant to the public.

Statistics of the Prosecution Service

The Office of the Prosecutor General carries out its official statistical activity as a member of the Official Statistical Service in accordance with Act CLV of 2016 on Official Statistics. The statistical data collections of the Prosecution Service are part of the Government's National Statistical Data Collection Program (OSAP), and the Prosecution Service also produces statistical data using its case management systems.

By collecting and disclosing data originating from its data collection activity, the Prosecution Service provides a realistic and objective picture about crimes, prosecutors' activity in criminal courts, as well as about the case management data regarding prosecutors' activity in and outside the field of criminal law.

The Prosecution Service is actively involved in the generation and development of statistics. The representative of the Office of the Prosecutor General is a member of the National Statistical Coordination Board, and delegates of the Prosecution Service take part in the activity of the Board's thematic working committees.

The Standard Criminal Statistics of Investigation Authorities and Prosecutors (*ENyÜBS*) is a joint data collection system of the Office of the Prosecutor General and the Ministry of Interior. The Prosecution Service participates in this system both as a data custodian and as a data provider.

9. Financial conditions of the operation of the Prosecution Service

In 2024, significant emphasis was placed on ensuring daily operations, which necessitated the introduction of extraordinary measures due to the changed economic environment. The significant increase in inflation and energy service prices caused a simultaneous jump in material expenditures, which was primarily compensated by the reduction of investment expenses.

The appropriations available last year at chapter level for the professional tasks of the Prosecution Service decreased by HUF 3,418.9 million compared to the initial appropriations for 2023. The revised expenditure appropriations increased by 13.8% due to the various adjustments made to appropriations in the course of the year.

The appropriation for staff allowances (HUF 50,669.3 million) guaranteed that payments prosecutorial employees are entitled to by virtue of law and provided for by the Prosecutorial Employment and Career Act (*Üjt.*), as well as payments falling under the category of external personnel allowance were sufficiently covered.

40.6% of the material expenditure was used for services (rent, maintenance, etc.), 8.5% for the purchase of professional and operational materials, 13% for the operation of the computer network of the Prosecution Service, 18.2% for utilities, 0.2% for official missions, 1.1% for other material expenditure and 18.4% for VAT-related expenditure and payments. In view of the energy price increase in 2023, the Office of the Prosecutor General received a one-time supplementary appropriation of HUF 880.4 million in the course of the year.

The chapter had an amount of HUF 1,399.6 million available for capital expenditure (investments, renovations, other capital expenditure combined) in 2024, which was revised to HUF 1,766.7 million due to the changes in appropriations (residual value from the previous year) during the year.

In the year 2024, we supported access to housing for prosecution employees by the use of the previous year's appropriations surplus, through the disbursement of an interest-free employer loan of HUF 24.0 million.

Within the changes in assets, the net value of immovable property and related rights decreased by HUF 267.4 million, the net value of machinery, equipment, fixtures and fittings, vehicles decreased by HUF 63.4 million. The balance sheet value of intangible assets decreased by HUF 195.1 million and the value of incomplete investments increased by HUF 172.6 million.

In 2024, the Office of the Prosecutor General continued to carry out measures necessary for prudent management, and continuously monitored and analysed the liquidity of the chief prosecution offices. In addition to providing the basic personal and material conditions for the performance of the professional tasks, the budgetary chapter also paid special attention to creating the conditions of continuous operation and liquidity.

10. Scientific activities of prosecution employees and the National Institute of Criminology

For decades, prosecutors have been valued participants in the national and international legal academic community, regularly publishing articles and studies and contributing to textbooks, university textbooks and other professional publications. During the year under review, 30 prosecutors, 16 junior prosecutors and other prosecutorial employees had academic titles, 3 of them obtained a habilitation degree. More than 40 prosecutors, junior prosecutors, trainee prosecutors and prosecutorial officials are students at various doctoral schools. Nearly 90 prosecutors, prosecutorial officials and scientific researchers are lecturers and examiners at faculties of universities of law and various higher educational institutes and postgraduate programs. 70 prosecutors are on the board of examiners of the mandatory professional legal exams (bar exams).

As the scientific and research institute of the Prosecution Service, the National Institute of Criminology (*OKRI*) carries out comprehensive researches on the causes of crime, the ways of crime prevention, and on the characteristics, current theoretical and practical issues of criminality and law enforcement.

The results of researches of the OKRI are used in the codification and law interpretation activity of the Prosecution Service, they enrich the theoretical achievements of criminal sciences, and they are also used in higher education and postgraduate studies.

In 2024, 23 research programs were carried out. The Institute's researchers published a total of 54 publications, 6 of which were in foreign languages. A total of 97 presentations were given at various conferences and professional forums, 7 of which were in foreign languages, and researchers participated in 11 international events in person, online or in a hybrid way.