**Armenia**

**REFORMS OF THE JUDICIARY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

The continuous implementation of corruption prevention tools in the judicial system is important from the point of view of neutralization of possible financial and other risks towards judges. Those measures were fixed both within the framework of the 2019-2022 anti-corruption strategy and the judicial reform strategy. A number of actions were carried out for the implementation of strategic measures, namely:

1. On 25 March 2020, with the amendments implemented in the constitutional law "Judicial Code of the Republic of Armenia" and other laws related thereto, the mechanisms for integrity checks were introduced for a number of officials. It was also stipulated that the Corruption Prevention Commission will carry out integrity checks of candidate judges, judges of the Constitutional Court and Supreme Judicial Council candidate-members. Tools for integrity checks of judges subject to promotion were planned. On 11 April 2024, the National Assembly passed amendments to the Judicial Code to complete the structure of integrity checks, which introduced tools of periodic integrity checks. It was regulated that the judges should undergo a integrity check not only during their appointment or promotion, but also six years after their appointment.

2. With the legislative amendments implemented on 7 December 2022 in the Law on "Public Service", the existing regulations on conflict of interest and restrictions on accepting gifts were revised. Taking into account certain features of the judicial code, these changes are also applicable to judges. At the same time, within the framework of the 2023-2026 anti-corruption strategy, the improvement of corruption prevention tools applicable to officials, including judges, continues.

3. The Ministry of Justice has developed a set of drafts of the Constitutional Law on Amendments to the Judicial Code and other laws related thereto, which is currently under public discussion (<https://www.e-draft.am/projects/7186>). According to the draft, the new definition of conflict of interest will be implemented in individual types of public service. The drafts will clarify the grounds for applying disciplinary liability in case of violation of provisions on conflict of interest, including in the case of judges.

4. The legislative amendments made in January 2021 to the Law on "Public Service" completely revised the systems of declarations submitted by officials, including judges, and improved the functions of the Corruption Prevention Commission in the framework of the study of said declarations. These changes make it possible to have complete information about the property status, income, interests and expenses of officials, including judges.