JUSTICE WITHOUT LITIGATION

Reforms initiated by Member States

JuWiLi II – Justice Without Litigation II

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Reforms initiated by Member States during the JUWILI II project period (2025-26)

Country	Reform
Austria	
Belgium	
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
Czechia	
Estonia	On 17 June 2026, the Estonian Parliament passed the Act Amending the Courts Act and Other Acts (Acceleration of Court Proceedings). The purpose of the Act is to accelerate court proceedings by introducing amendments concerning the organisation of the courts, civil procedure, administrative court procedure, and state fees. As part of these amendments, the state fee for filing a petition for divorce or the termination of a registered partnership before a court will increase from 100 euros to 310 euros. The aim of this amendment is to encourage couples to dissolve their marriages and registered partnerships outside the court. On 18 June 2026, the Act has been submitted to the President of the Republic of Estonia and is expected to be promulgated on 2 July 2026.
France	Since 1 May 2025, the Notaries of France, through 15 Regional Notarial Councils, issue apostilles, replacing the Public Prosecutors' Offices of the 33 Courts of Appeal. Since September 1, 2025, the Notaries of France are also be responsible for issuing legalisations, taking over this function from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.
Germany	In cooperative law, the notarial duty of review is to be extended to applications submitted to the cooperative register in order to relieve the registry courts and help accelerate registration procedures. This will enable registry courts to receive structured data records that they can process directly.
Greece	From 1 January 2026, a significant reform has entered into force in Greece, expanding the competences of notaries in the field of succession law. Greek notaries are now responsible for the registration of all last wills, regardless of whether they were drawn up before a notary or not. This competence was previously exercised by the courts. The new platform operated by notaries intends to speed up the procedure of publication of wills and contribute to the decongestion of courts. It is estimated that there were 40 000 requests for publication pending before the Athens courts. Thanks to the transfer of competence to notaries, this backlog could be fully eliminated. The reform also entrusts notaries with the authority to acknowledge certain types of wills and to designate the experts responsible for

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	verifying the authenticity of an instrument. In addition, notaries are now competent to issue succession certificates.
Hungary	
Italy	
Lithuania	
Latvia	
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Netherlands	
Poland	
Portugal[1]	The Law No. 69/2023 of 7 December assigned two important new competences to Portuguese notaries. Although both competences entered into force on 1 March 2024, their practical implementation followed different timelines. **Apostilles (1961 Hague Convention)** Law No. 69/2023 amended the Portuguese Notarial Profession Statute (Estatuto do Notariado) by introducing, in Article 4(4)(i), the competence of notaries to "legalise documents by affixing apostilles, under the terms to be established by an ordinance of the member of the Government responsible for justice." The law entered into force on 1 March 2024 (the first day of the third month following its publication). However, the exercise of this competence remained subject to the adoption of the implementing legislation expressly required by the Act. **European Certificate of Succession (ECS)** The same Act also amended Article 4(4) of the Notarial Profession Statute by introducing a new paragraph (h), empowering notaries to issue European Certificates of Succession. Although this competence also entered into force on 1 March 2024, notarial offices only began issuing European Certificates of Succession on 19 August 2024, following the development of the necessary digital platform and the implementation of the relevant procedural framework by the Portuguese Chamber of Notaries.
Romania	
Slovakia	From 17 August 2026, a major reform enters into force in Slovakia with the new Commercial Register Act (Act No. 29/2026), significantly expanding the competences of notaries in company law. Notaries will be authorised to register all types of companies directly in the Commercial Register, covering both incorporations and subsequent changes. This reform completes the transfer of registration tasks from courts to notaries across all company forms. At the same time, the reform reinforces the use of the notarial act at key moments in corporate life. Founding documents, as well as changes of shareholders and managing directors in capital companies, will now require an authentic instrument. By anchoring incorporation, key corporate changes and registration within the notarial process, the new system strengthens legal certainty, ensures reliable identity verification, and enhances the overall quality of register data.

[1] Although the reform was adopted before 2025, it is interesting under this project because the implementation took full effect under the project period.

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	The Slovenian government has initiated plans for reforming the succession procedure. Under a new framework, notaries could be entrusted as Court commissioners with all succession procedures in Slovenia and thereby taking over thsese tasks from courts. This would free-up ressources at Slovenian courts and therby strengthen the Slovenian justice system.
Slovenia	
Spain	

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