

In the last decades, due to the rise of social media, the popularity of online meetings and the expansion of the right to information, expectations for state institutions to be made open have significantly grown. When it comes to judiciaries, this process is known as Open Justice (OJ) and embraces factors that render the decision-making process more transparent and understandable for the public.

At the same time, a key value for a properly functioning judiciary is judicial independence (JI), which, combined with the developing OJ, creates space for a comprehensive analysis of the problematic relationship between JI and OJ.

The goal of the project is to establish a theoretical framework in which the highest possible extent of JI and OJ is preserved. To achieve this, legal, sociological, and economic methods will be applied. They will make it possible to answer the following questions: 1) what consequences does OJ have for JI? 2) how can OJ strengthen JI?

The research will be carried out from the perspective of international law, including European law, as well as national law, considering the cultural diversity of thought concerning JI and OJ. The result of the research will be a model of the relations between JI and OJ (OpenJudge) which will lead to a better understanding of legal regulation governing JI, tested against the phenomenon of opening justice to the public. It will present the conditions under which JI and OJ can exist without undue pressure threatening JI and while maintaining respect for transparency in adjudication.

OpenJudge will shift the perception of OJ from the individual right to have a transparent trial to the judge's obligation to stay independent. The novelty of the project will be focused on judges' perspective and their needs linked with OJ.

OpenJudge will broaden knowledge about challenges that arise with JI, providing legal, sociological and economic mechanisms that can protect this crucial principle in legal systems.

OpenJudge will create new insights on factors that determine the judicial decision-making process in legal systems functioning in different cultural circumstances.