

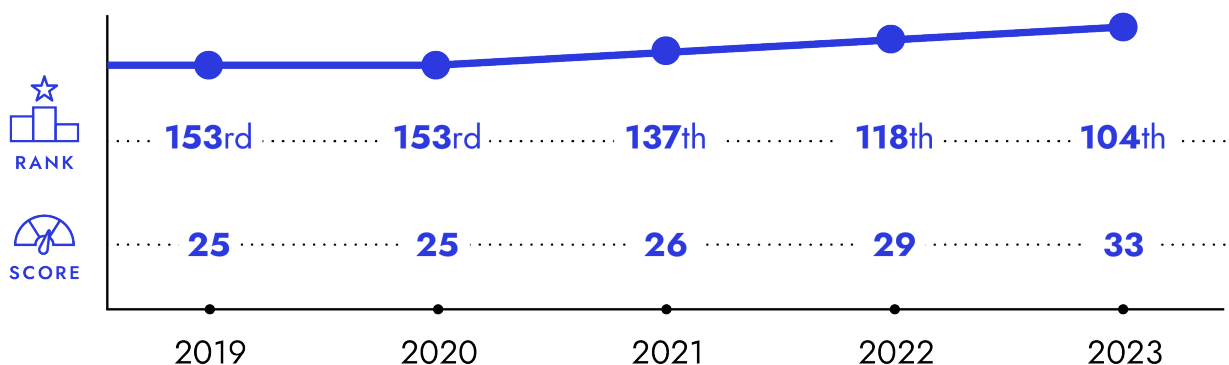
Uzbekistan's statistics and ratings

UZBEKISTAN'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

The short abstract of Uzbekistan's ratings in various international indexes indicates that the country is making slow and steady progress in practically all aspects relevant to the rule of law and democracy. Regional Dialogue is actively supporting these efforts by assisting the country's efforts to strengthen the institutional and legal framework. Our extensive work is particularly evident in the Corruption Perception Index, where our experts are regularly involved in implementing the OECD's Istanbul Action Plan. Uzbekistan is currently undergoing a review cycle, with new recommendations expected in the second half of 2024. We are advising Uzbek counterparts on the reporting mechanism's methodology and implementing recommendations from the previous review cycle in 2019.

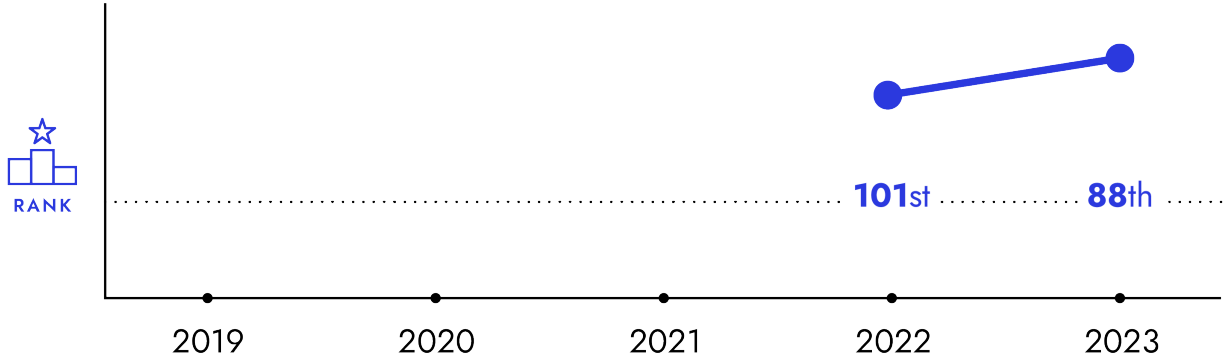
Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International):

Uzbekistan improved steadily from 2019 to 2023, moving up 49 places and increasing the score by 8 points:



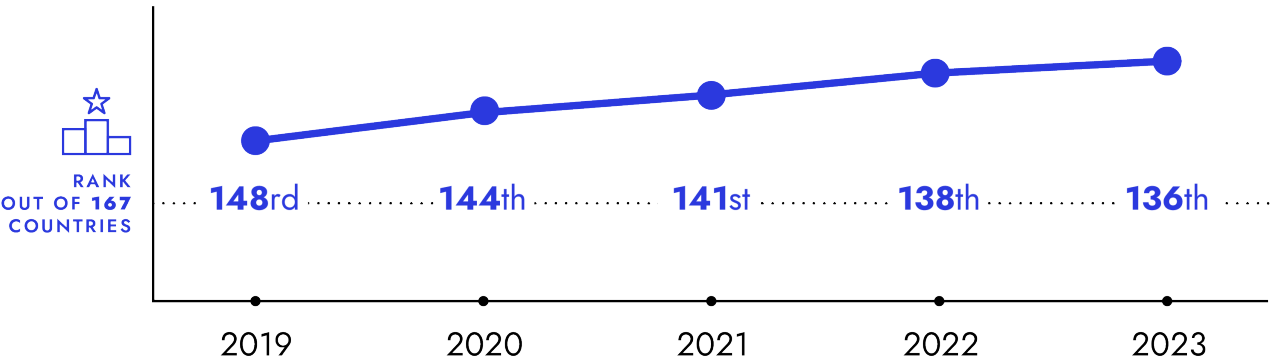
Rule of Law Index (World Justice Project):

Uzbekistan first ranked in 2022 and moved up 13 places in 2023:



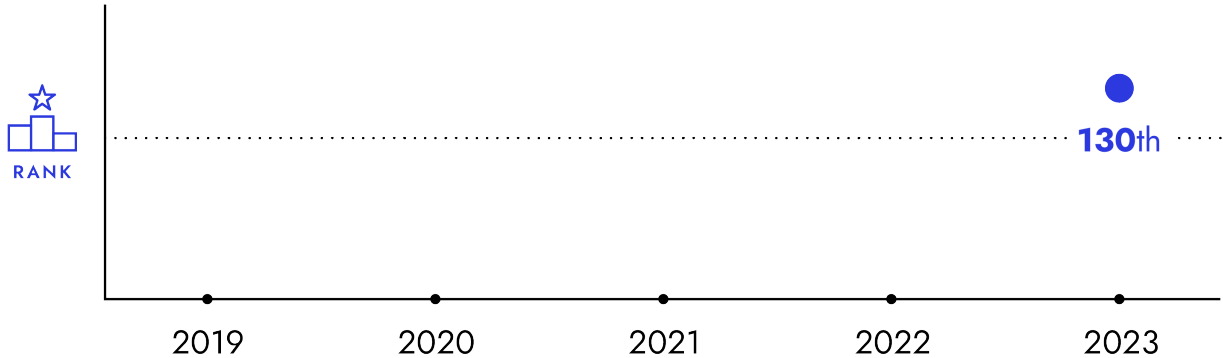
Democracy Index (The Economist Intelligence Unit):

Uzbekistan showed steady improvement from 2019 to 2023, moving up 12 places:



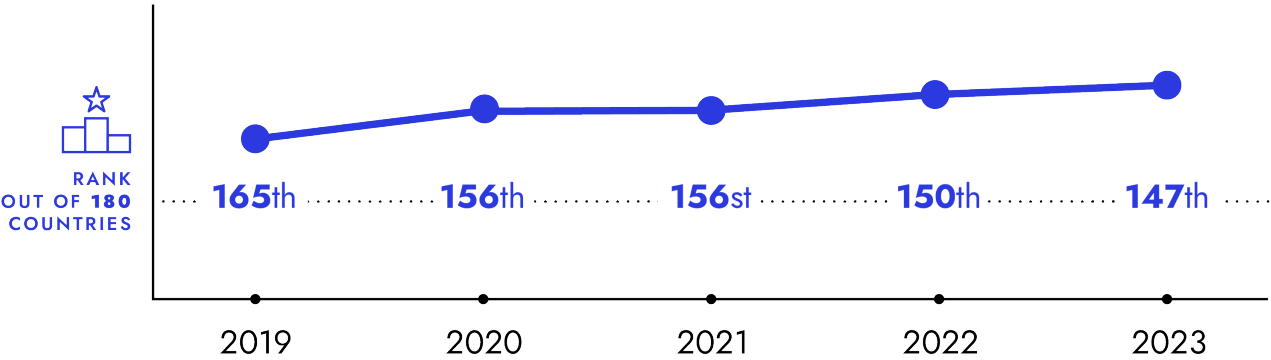
Civil Society Index (CIVICUS):

Uzbekistan's first appearance in 2023, ranking 130th:






Media Freedom Index (Reporters Without Borders):

Uzbekistan showed steady improvement from 2019 to 2023, moving up 18 places:



CRIME STATISTICS IN UZBEKISTAN

Recent crime statistics in Uzbekistan reveal a steady trend of improved capacity and capabilities among justice sector stakeholders. This positive development aligns with Regional Dialogue’s decade-long efforts in capacity building for the Uzbek justice system.

-  - improved capacity of the law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate and prosecute crime;
-  - improved capabilities of the justice sector to tackle complex and emerging crimes;
-  - improved capacity of the justice sector to protect individual’s rights in criminal proceedings.

Between 2019 and 2023, the caseload of criminal courts in Uzbekistan doubled, increasing from 28,846 to 58,418 cases, with the number of individuals involved rising from 36,845 to 73,797. Notably, there was a nearly fourfold increase in economic crimes—including embezzlement, fraud, corruption, and financing of terrorism—from 7,538 cases (involving 7,824 individuals) in 2019 to 29,281 cases (involving 17,775 individuals) in 2023. In contrast, drug-related offenses only saw a doubling, from 3,347 cases in 2019 to 6,671 cases in 2023. These figures indicate that Uzbekistan’s justice system is increasingly

focused on addressing widespread economic and financial crimes, which often involve political elites and business groups engaged in corruption and fraudulent activities.

This shouldn't be interpreted solely as a rise in crime (though there has been an increase in economic crimes) but also as a result of improved capabilities of law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate, and prosecute crimes. Regional Dialogue runs several programs focused on enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to tackle complex and emerging crimes. We have a well-developed anti-money laundering training program that assists Uzbek institutions in analyzing complex financial data. Additionally, Regional Dialogue conducts numerous trainings on anti-corruption measures, which include increasing governmental transparency, building capacity for corruption risk analysis, and educating law enforcement and judiciary personnel on the specifics of corruption-related crimes.

Over the past decade, Regional Dialogue has not only focused on enhancing the effectiveness of criminal proceedings and law enforcement agencies but has also played a pivotal role in improving the capacity of actors within the Uzbek justice system to safeguard individuals' rights in criminal proceedings. We emphasize principles such as the presumption of innocence and other related rights, including the right to defense, adversarial hearings, and the fruits of the poisonous tree doctrine. Our training programs promote the use of alternative dispute resolution measures as part of a restorative justice approach, ensuring a balanced approach to training justice sector actors.

When examining conviction rates in Uzbekistan, they largely mirror the trend of the caseload itself, with 27,603 individuals convicted in 2019 and 55,763 in 2023. Similarly, acquittal rates have followed a similar pattern, with 859 individuals acquitted in 2019 and 1,244 in 2023. However, what is particularly relevant in this context is the number of individuals relieved of criminal liability as part of the reconciliation process, which has doubled in the last five years, increasing from 7,329 in 2019 to 14,698 in 2023.

When looking at criminal sanctions imposed in recent years, we observe a consistent application of both custodial and non-custodial measures. Over the past four years, approximately 25-30% of individuals were sentenced to prison (rising from 6,957 in 2019 to 17,396 in 2023), while more than half received non-custodial sentences (increasing from 19,278 in 2019 to 37,077 in 2023). Notably, the proportion of suspended sentences within the non-custodial category has halved, remaining relatively stable in absolute numbers (1,368 in 2019 to 1,290 in 2023), despite the overall doubling of criminal cases. This shift suggests a better understanding of the limited deterrent effect of suspended sentences compared to other non-custodial measures.

Regional Dialogue has played a key role in this evolution by providing extensive trial skills training and introducing contemporary sentencing trends and approaches from the US and European countries to the Uzbek justice system.

3. JUSTICE SYSTEM OF UZBEKISTAN

In 2021, there were 1,292 judges in Uzbekistan, and this number increased to 1,418 in 2024. While Regional Dialogue's programs cannot directly influence this quantitative trend, we actively contribute to enhancing the quality of the Uzbek judiciary. We conduct tailor-made trainings on trial and soft skills and support the Supreme Judicial Council, established in 2017, which is tasked with safeguarding judicial independence and integrity. In 2021, the Council initiated disciplinary proceedings against 220 judges, resulting in 38 being relieved of their duties. In 2022, disciplinary actions were taken against 227 judges, with 19 resulting in early termination of their tenure.

In 2018, there were 4,166 prosecutors (including investigators, assistant prosecutors, and other related professions) in Uzbekistan, and this number increased to 4,886 in 2023. When compared to the number of judges and licensed lawyers, it is evident that the prosecutorial profession is dominant in the justice sector. Regional Dialogue takes this into account when planning capacity-building activities, ensuring that our programs are tailored to the specific needs and dynamics of the Uzbek justice system.

Regional Dialogue is actively engaged in several initiatives to promote the defense lawyer profession, such as organizing the annual Exceptional Lawyer competition and promoting the profession in law colleges and universities across the country. We also support the Chamber of Advocates in its efforts to become a more autonomous and self-governing institution, as outlined in the new Constitution. Through these activities, we contribute to a progressive force in the Uzbek justice system that upholds the constitutional rights of individuals and is gradually growing in numbers. In 2021, there were 4,211 licensed lawyers in Uzbekistan, and this number increased to 5,219. Additionally, between 1/1/2022 and 1/1/2024, the number of lawyers has increased by 24% and young lawyers (under 30) by 165%, with the national development strategy **"Uzbekistan 2030"** ambitiously aiming at increasing this number by at least 2,000 by the year 2030.