



World Justice Project

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Poland Earns ‘Most-Improved Country’ Status in 2024 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index

Country makes substantial gains countering authoritarianism

WASHINGTON (Oct. 23, 2024) – Poland is the most improved country in the [World Justice Project \(WJP\) Rule of Law Index 2024](#), released today. The country ranks 33 out of 142 countries and jurisdictions in the Index and improved its overall rule of law score by more than 3% over last year.

Poland made gains in six of eight factors measured by the Index this year, with the largest improvements reflecting a reversal of recent authoritarian trends. The country’s score for checks on government powers improved by 14%, and its score for open government improved by 11%.

Poland is also among the few countries that improved in fundamental rights this year.

“Progress is often slow, but Poland now offers the world’s top example that positive change is possible,” said **Elizabeth Andersen, executive director of the World Justice Project**. “As authoritarian trends continue to drive a global rule of law recession, Poland’s reversal of these trends should be celebrated. Now is the time to build on these gains.”

A deeper dive into the data shows where Poland is having the most success in improving the rule of law.

This year, Poland’s scores in the subfactors measuring checks on the executive branch by the legislature and by independent auditing and review improved 25% and 27% respectively. The right to information subfactor score increased by 26%.

The country’s justice system also made progress this year. Poland strengthened access to civil justice and the effectiveness of criminal justice. The subfactor measuring whether the government has undue influence over the criminal justice system improved 22%.

“The case of Poland is a good illustration of how restoring the rule of law requires a whole-of-society effort,” said **Sylwia Gregorczyk-Abram, co-founder of the Free Courts Foundation**. “Civil society has played a pivotal role in constraining the power of the executive branch and catalyzing change, but challenges still remain. We need further reforms to rebuild the capacity and independence of the judiciary.”

Despite the improvements, Poland still ranks behind most European Union countries in each Index factor.

Global Trends

The *WJP Rule of Law Index* shows that an ongoing global rule of law recession began in 2016. This year, the rule of law again weakened in a majority of countries surveyed (57%). However, the proportion of countries where the rule of law is eroding has shrunk for the third year in a row.

Since 2016, there has been a global rule of law recession driven primarily by authoritarian trends. Between 2016 and 2024, the Index factor measuring Fundamental Rights fell in 81% of countries and Index scores for Constraints on Government Powers fell in 77% of countries. Poland suffered some of the world’s greatest declines in both these factors before regaining some ground this year.

The top-ranked country in the 2024 *WJP Rule of Law Index* is **Denmark**, followed by **Norway** (2), **Finland** (3), **Sweden** (4), and **Germany** (5). The bottom ranked countries are **Myanmar** (138), **Haiti** (139), **Afghanistan** (140), **Cambodia** (141), and **Venezuela** (142).

Explore the full rankings and findings of the 2024 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index at: <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/index/>

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- Access the complete 2024 Rule of Law Index and "Insights" booklet [here](#).
- Find graphics (regional rankings, global rankings, and comparative maps) [here](#).
- Find 142 country press releases organized by region [here](#).

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About the WJP Rule Of Law Index:

The [World Justice Project \(WJP\) Rule of Law Index®](#) is the world’s leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. Now covering 142 countries and jurisdictions, the Index relies on more than 214,000 household surveys and 3,500 legal practitioner and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide. Published

annually since 2009 and subject to a rigorous methodology, the Index is used by governments, multilateral organizations, businesses, academia, media, and civil society organizations around the world to assess and address gaps in the rule of law.

About the World Justice Project:

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, nonpartisan, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.

Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It underpins development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights, and it is the foundation for communities of justice, health, opportunity, and peace.

The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers: accountability, just laws, open government, and accessible justice. Learn more about these four universal principles and our work at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/>.