## BELGIUM



Inhabitants 11 697 557



GDP per capita
46 972 €

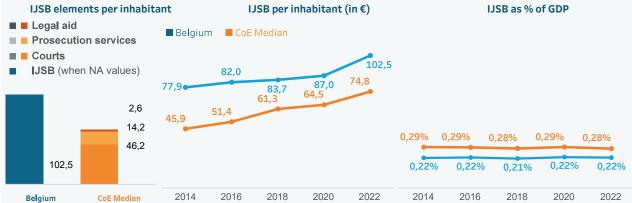
CoE Median 27 406 €



Average gross annual salary 47 319 €

CoE Median 22 878 €

# Implemented Judicial System Budget (IJSB) IJSB elements per inhabitant IJSB per in

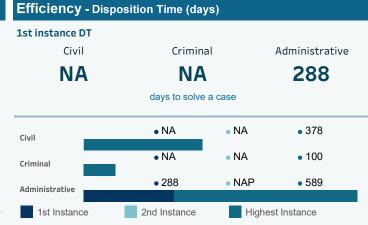


**Budget**: In 2022, the implemented budget of the judicial system is 1 199 563 192 €, representing 102,5 € per inhabitant and exceeding the CoE median. Conversely, as a percentage of GDP (0,22%), this budget is below the CoE median. For the first time, it is possible to isolate the budget of public prosecution services from the one of courts and its value per inhabitant (22,3 €) is above the CoE median. With regard to legal aid, following the 2020 amendments to the Judicial code increasing the applicable income thresholds, the budget per inhabitant evolved from 9.4 € in 2020 to 12.9 € in 2022.

**Legal aid:** The legal aid budget per inhabitant ( $\le$ 12.9) is well above the CoE median ( $\le$ 2,6). Moreover, as a % of the GDP ( $\le$ 0,028), it is also quite above the CoE median ( $\le$ 0,015). Additionally, in Belgium legal aid is granted to a high number of cases (2.06 per 100 inhabitants v. 0,89 CoE median) and the amount allocated per case is relatively high -  $\le$ 628, the CoE median being of  $\le$ 320.

**Courts:** In the frame of the last European "Crystal Scales of Justice" Prize, a special mention was awarded to the Belgian Project "Civil and criminal chamber specialised in environmental and urbanism matters". The latter was established within the Court of appeal of Mons, composed of three judges, one of whom is a criminal law judge. The specific feature of this Chamber is that it deals with both civil and criminal matters.

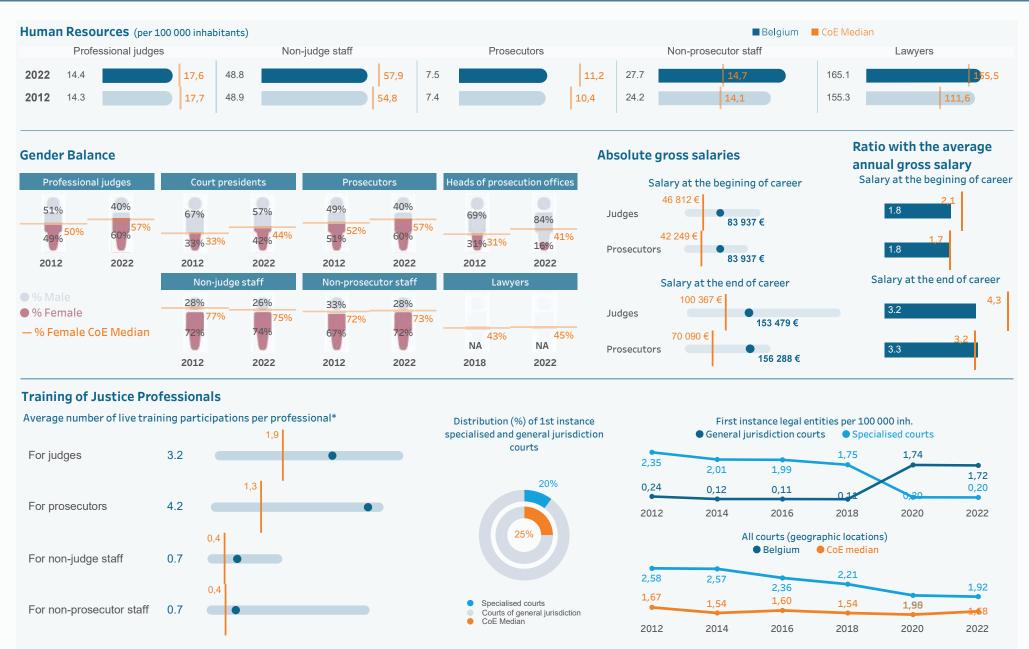
**Cleaning stock' project:** In the College of Courts and Tribunals internal databases, many resolved cases were still registered as pending. Since 2022, the College has focused on checking the open cases and updating the database and the status of the cases with the aim to improve data relating to length of proceedings and backlogs.



**Efficiency:** It is worth recalling that the number of pending civil and criminal cases is not available for 1st and 2nd instances, which limits the analyses on efficiency in both matters.

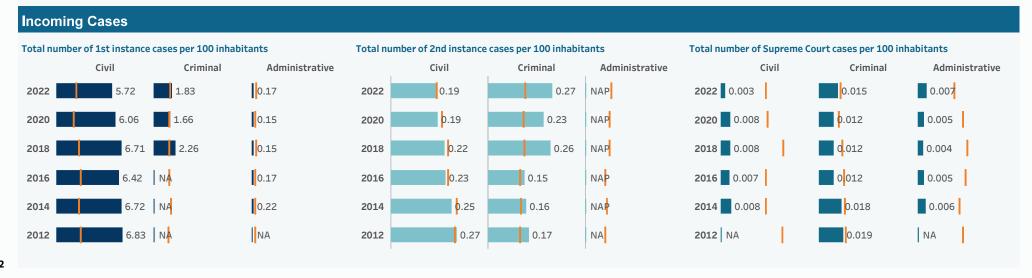
In civil matters, the Clearance Rate in 2022 exceeds the 100% threshold at all instances, while in criminal it is slightly below 100% only at 3d instance. In administrative matters, the 100% threshold is not met at any instance, but the Disposition Time has improved significantly at 1st instance.

One can notice that at 3d instance, the Disposition Time has evolved positively for civil cases and negatively for administrative cases, but this should be nuanced by a methodological change in presentation of data.



<sup>\*</sup> This indicator is calculated as follows: the number of participants in live trainings is divided by the number of professionals for that category. For example, if the CoE Median for judges is 3,9, this means that, each judge in Europe participated to 3,9 live trainings (as mid value). Indeed, this analysis allows to better understand quantity of training per professional if all were trained.

#### **CEPEJ Efficiency Indicators** Clearance Rate (CR) = (Resolved cases / Incoming cases) \*100 Instance CR > 100%, the court/judicial system is able to resolve more cases than it received => backlog is decreasing ■ Belgium 1st Instance CR < 100%, the court/judicial system is able to resolve fewer cases than it received => backlog is increasing ■ CoE Median 2nd Instance Dispostion Time (DT) = (Pending cases / Resolved cases) \*365 Highest Instance The Disposition Time (DT) is the theoretical time for a pending case to be resolved, taken into consideration the current pace of work of the courts Clearance Rate Disposition Time (in days) **Evolution of Disposition Time** 2012 2020 2014 2016 2018 2022 100% Civil Civil 1st Instance 102% NA NA NA NA • NA NA NA 239 2nd Instance 109% NA - NA - NA NA - NA - NA - NA 200 104% Highest Instance 378 NA 480 378 105% Criminal 1st Instance 100% NA Criminal NA NA • NA NA NA • NA 99% 133 101% NA 235 243 188 NA 2nd Instance NA NA 99% 110 96% 145 165 96 Highest Instance 100 145 100 100% 101 Administrative Administrative 1st Instance 97% 288 NA 429 370 399 288 2nd Instance NAP NA NAP NAP NAP NAP NAP NAP 103% 215



589

102%

176

316

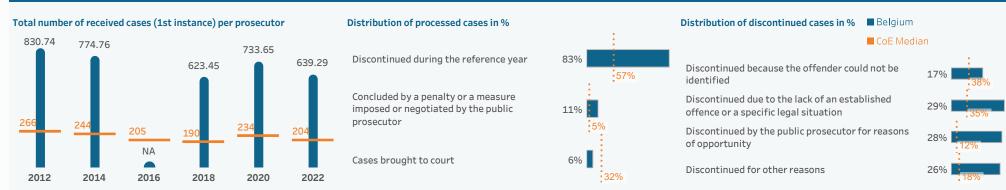
148

NA

Highest Instance

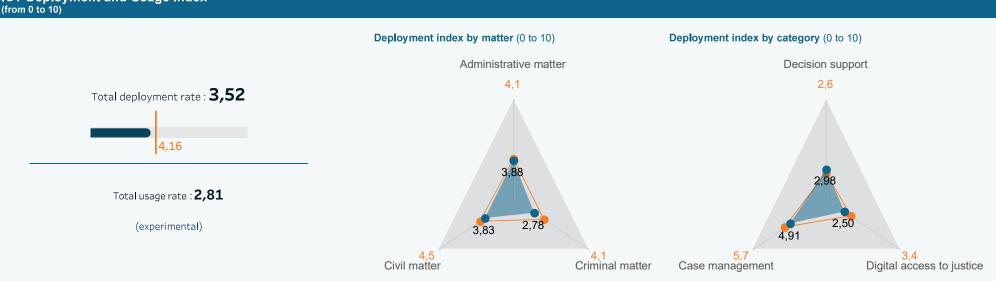
91%

#### **Public Prosecution Services**



Note: There are different methodologies for calculating the number of cases in the prosecution services' statistics: by event or by perpetrator. The CEPEJ collects data per case (event), but some countries present it per perpetrator.

#### ICT Deployment and Usage Index (from 0 to 10)



### **Judiciary Related Websites**

Legal texts

https://justice.belgium.be/fr/legislation\_belge

Case-law of the higher court/s

https://juportal.be/home/accueil

Information about the judicial system

https://justice.belgium.be/fr