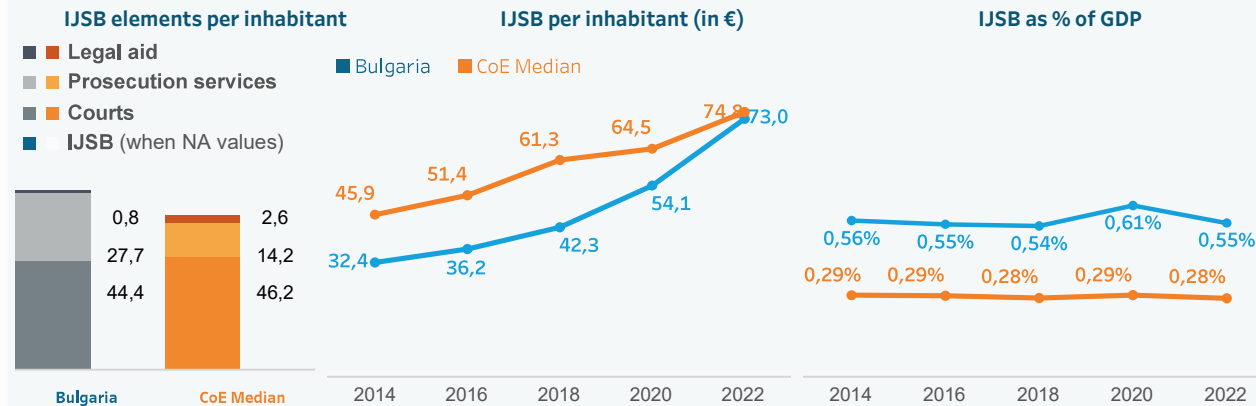**Inhabitants**
6 447 710

GDP per capita
13 271 €
CoE Median 27 406 €

Average gross annual salary
10 861 €
CoE Median 22 878 €

Implemented Judicial System Budget (IJSB)

IJSB elements per inhabitant

- Legal aid
- Prosecution services
- Courts
- IJSB (when NA values)

	Bulgaria	CoE Median
	0,8	2,6
	27,7	14,2
	44,4	46,2

IJSB per inhabitant (in €)

- Bulgaria
- CoE Median

CoE Median: 45,9 (2014), 51,4 (2016), 61,3 (2018), 64,5 (2020), 74,8 (2022)
Bulgaria: 32,4 (2014), 36,2 (2016), 42,3 (2018), 54,1 (2020), 73,0 (2022)

IJSB as % of GDP

Bulgaria: 0,56% (2014), 0,55% (2016), 0,54% (2018), 0,61% (2020), 0,55% (2022)
CoE Median: 0,29% (2014), 0,29% (2016), 0,28% (2018), 0,29% (2020), 0,28% (2022)

Efficiency - Disposition Time (days)

1st instance DT

Civil	Criminal	Administrative
NA	**61**	**129**

days to solve a case

	1st Instance	2nd Instance	Highest Instance
Civil	NA	NA	237
Criminal	61	66	90
Administrative	129	57	127

Budget : In 2022, the implemented budget of the judicial system is 470 444 108 €, which represents 73,0 € per inhabitant and is close to the CoE median. As a percentage of GDP, this budget stands at 0,55%, making it one of the highest in Europe. The implemented budget of courts per inhabitant continues its up-ward trend, moving closer to the CoE median. The prosecution services' budget remains above the CoE median. However, the legal aid budget is only 0,8 € per inhabitant in 2022, which is among the lowest in Europe.

Court organisation: In 2022, the 1st and 2nd instance Specialised Criminal Courts and their respective prosecutor's offices were abolished. Jurisdiction over the offences concerned was transferred to the district and regional courts. Besides, the Sofia City Court became competent for crimes of a general nature committed by judges, prosecutors and investigators, other persons with immunity and members of the Council of Ministers.

Court-related mediation: Pursuant to the 2022 amendments to the Legal Aid Act, legal assistance can also be provided in a mediation procedure - mediation before a court case is initiated (decision of the chairman of the National Legal Aid Bureau) and mediation in an initiated case (court decision).

Training of judges and public prosecutors: Besides the trainings, the National Institute of Justice makes available e-resources for individual work and self-study. In 2022, 43 practice-oriented videos on working with the Electronic Court Information System were published on the e-learning portal. The latter had 6,165 registered users - a 15% increase compared to 2021.
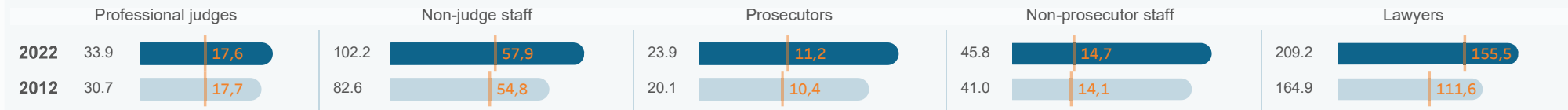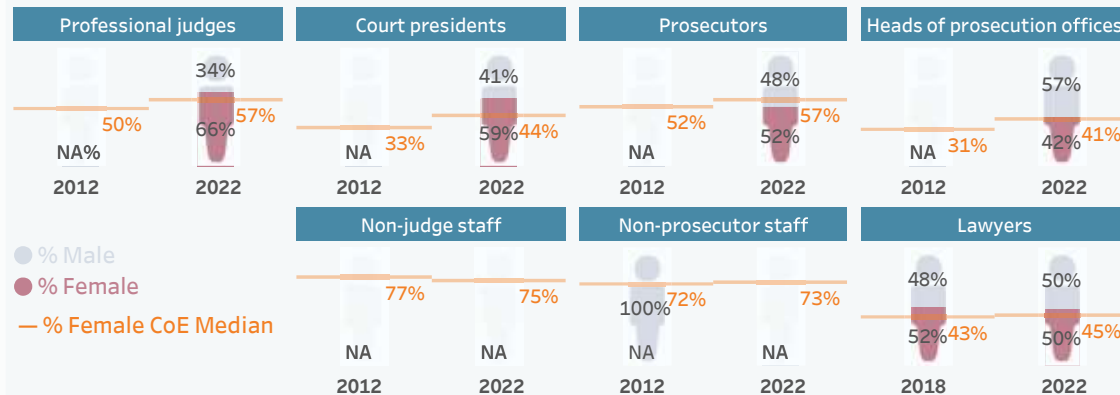
Efficiency : It should be recalled that data on civil litigious cases at 1st and 2nd instances are still not available due to the impossibility to distinguish between litigious and non-litigious matters. In general, courts' efficiency remained stable. Overall, the courts are most efficient in the field of criminal justice.

In respect of the data available, it is worth noticing that the Disposition Time is well below the respective CoE medians, except for 3d instance civil cases. Indeed, following the 2020 amendments to the Civil Procedure Law, access to cassation appeals has been expanded in consumer disputes, resulting in an increased number of incoming cases in 2021 and 2022. Moreover, it was explained that the Cassation Court was not sufficiently staffed due to delays in the competitions, as well as the retirement of 4 judges in 2021.
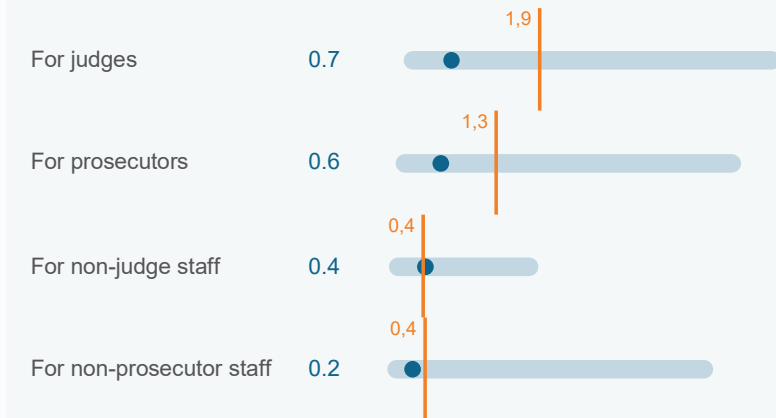
Human Resources (per 100 000 inhabitants)

■ Bulgaria ■ CoE Median

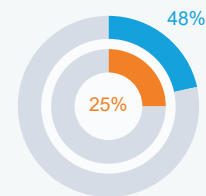|	Professional judges	Non-judge staff	Prosecutors	Non-prosecutor staff	Lawyers
2022	33.9 — 17,6	102.2 — 57,9	23.9 — 11,2	45.8 — 14,7	209.2 — 155,5
2012	30.7 — 17,7	82.6 — 54,8	20.1 — 10,4	41.0 — 14,1	164.9 — 111,6

Gender Balance

● % Male
● % Female
— % Female CoE Median

Professional judges
	2012	2022
	50%	34%
	NA%	66% 57%

Court presidents
	2012	2022
	NA 33%	41%
		59% 44%

Prosecutors
	2012	2022
	52%	48%
	NA	52% 57%

Heads of prosecution offices
	2012	2022
	NA 31%	57%
		42% 41%

Non-judge staff
	2012	2022
	77%	75%
	NA	NA

Non-prosecutor staff
	2012	2022
	100% 72%	73%
	NA	NA

Lawyers
	2018	2022
	48%	50%
	52% 43%	50% 45%

Absolute gross salaries

Salary at the begining of career
Judges: 46 812 € ● 30 085 €
Prosecutors: 42 249 € ● 30 085 €

Salary at the end of career
Judges: 100 367 € ● 53 144 €
Prosecutors: 70 090 € ● 53 144 €

Ratio with the average annual gross salary

Salary at the begining of career
	Bulgaria	CoE Median
Judges	2.8	2,1
Prosecutors	2.8	1,7

Salary at the end of career
	Bulgaria	CoE Median
Judges	4.9	4,3
Prosecutors	4.9	3,2

Training of Justice Professionals

Average number of live training participations per professional*

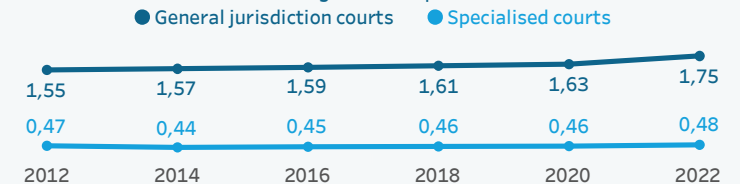|		
For judges	0.7	● 1,9
For prosecutors	0.6	● 1,3
For non-judge staff	0.4	● 0,4
For non-prosecutor staff	0.2	● 0,4

Distribution (%) of 1st instance specialised and general jurisdiction courts

48%
25%
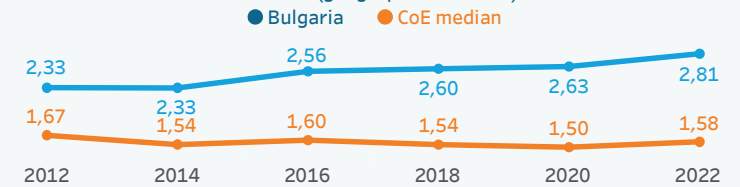
● Specialised courts
● Courts of general jurisdiction
● CoE Median

First instance legal entities per 100 000 inh.
● General jurisdiction courts ● Specialised courts

2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
1,55	1,57	1,59	1,61	1,63	1,75
0,47	0,44	0,45	0,46	0,46	0,48

All courts (geographic locations)
● Bulgaria ● CoE median

2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
2,33	2,33	2,56	2,60	2,63	2,81
1,67	1,54	1,60	1,54	1,50	1,58

* 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
CR > 100%, the court/judicial system is able to resolve more cases than it received => backlog is decreasing
CR < 100%, the court/judicial system is able to resolve fewer cases than it received => backlog is increasing
Disposition Time (DT) = (Pending cases / Resolved cases) *365
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
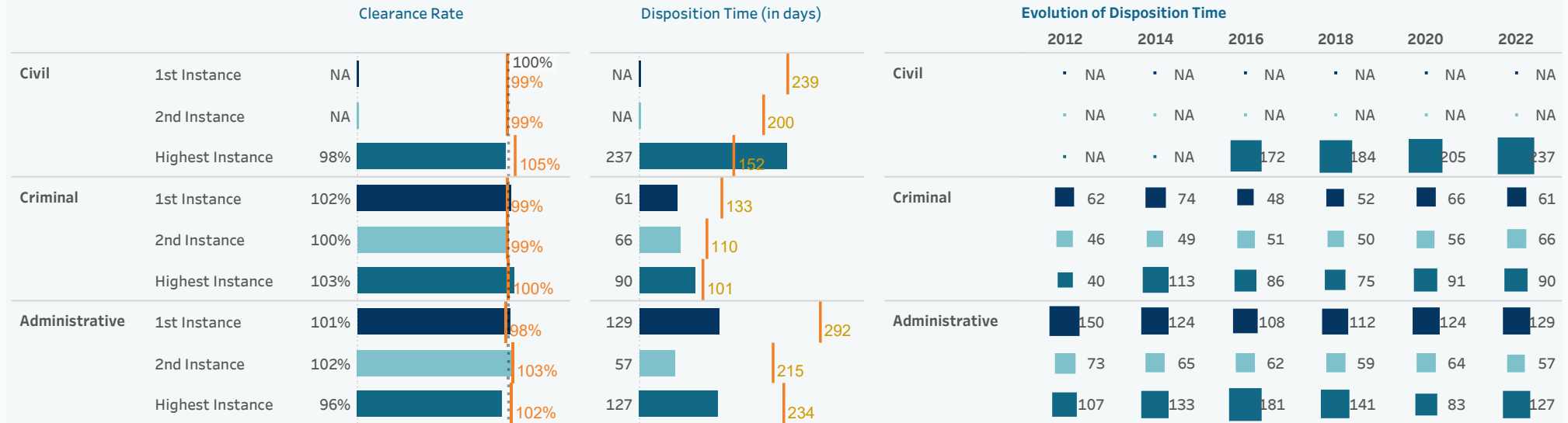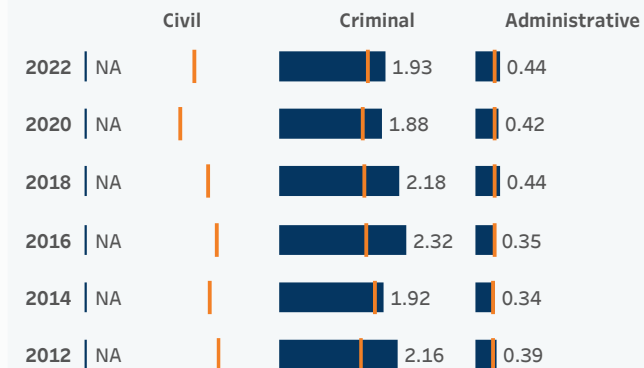
■ Bulgaria
■ CoE Median

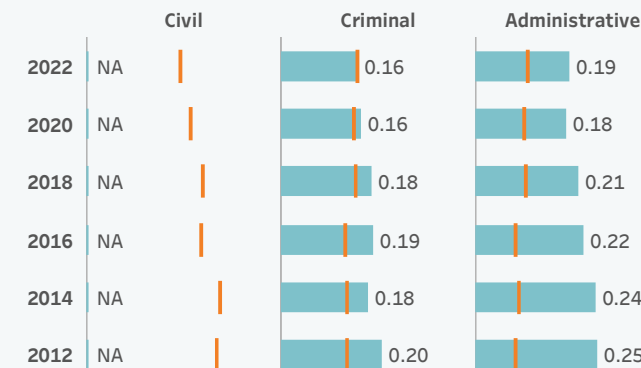**Instance**
■ 1st Instance
■ 2nd Instance
■ Highest Instance

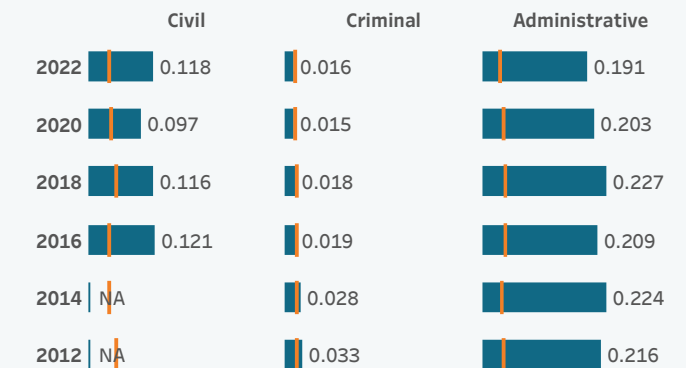### Clearance Rate

		Bulgaria	CoE Median
Civil	1st Instance	NA	100% / 99%
	2nd Instance	NA	99%
	Highest Instance	98%	105%
Criminal	1st Instance	102%	99%
	2nd Instance	100%	99%
	Highest Instance	103%	100%
Administrative	1st Instance	101%	98%
	2nd Instance	102%	103%
	Highest Instance	96%	102%

Disposition Time (in days)

		Bulgaria	CoE Median
Civil	1st Instance	NA	239
	2nd Instance	NA	200
	Highest Instance	237	152
Criminal	1st Instance	61	133
	2nd Instance	66	110
	Highest Instance	90	101
Administrative	1st Instance	129	292
	2nd Instance	57	215
	Highest Instance	127	234

Evolution of Disposition Time

		2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Civil	1st Instance	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2nd Instance	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Highest Instance	NA	NA	172	184	205	237
Criminal	1st Instance	62	74	48	52	66	61
	2nd Instance	46	49	51	50	56	66
	Highest Instance	40	113	86	75	91	90
Administrative	1st Instance	150	124	108	112	124	129
	2nd Instance	73	65	62	59	64	57
	Highest Instance	107	133	181	141	83	127

Incoming Cases

Total number of 1st instance cases per 100 inhabitants

	Civil	Criminal	Administrative
2022	NA	1.93	0.44
2020	NA	1.88	0.42
2018	NA	2.18	0.44
2016	NA	2.32	0.35
2014	NA	1.92	0.34
2012	NA	2.16	0.39

Total number of 2nd instance cases per 100 inhabitants

	Civil	Criminal	Administrative
2022	NA	0.16	0.19
2020	NA	0.16	0.18
2018	NA	0.18	0.21
2016	NA	0.19	0.22
2014	NA	0.18	0.24
2012	NA	0.20	0.25

Total number of Supreme Court cases per 100 inhabitants

	Civil	Criminal	Administrative
2022	0.118	0.016	0.191
2020	0.097	0.015	0.203
2018	0.116	0.018	0.227
2016	0.121	0.019	0.209
2014	NA	0.028	0.224
2012	NA	0.033	0.216

Public Prosecution Services

Total number of received cases (1st instance) per prosecutor

Year	CoE Median	Bulgaria
2012	266	98.87
2014	244	94.92
2016	205	85.26
2018	190	75.34
2020	234	66.12
2022	204	62.88
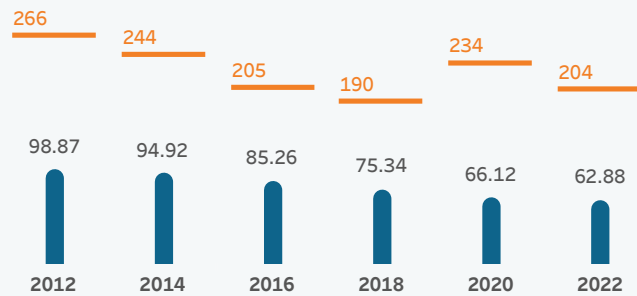
Distribution of processed cases in %

	Bulgaria	CoE Median
Discontinued during the reference year	82%	57%
Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor	NAP	5%
Cases brought to court	18%	32%
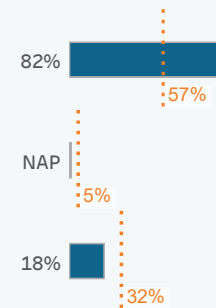
Distribution of discontinued cases in % ■ Bulgaria ■ CoE Median

	Bulgaria	CoE Median
Discontinued because the offender could not be identified	NAP	38%
Discontinued due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation	74%	35%
Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reasons of opportunity	NAP	12%
Discontinued for other reasons	26%	18%
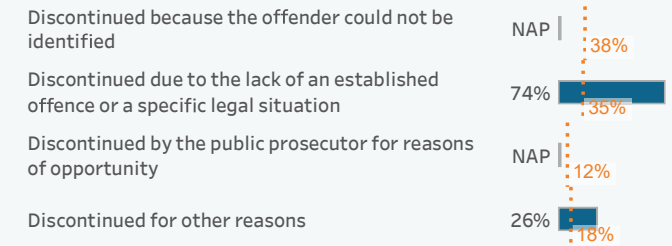
Note: There are different methodologies for calculating the number of cases in the prosecution services' statistics: by event or by perpetrator. The CEPEJ collects data per case (event), but some countries present it per perpetrator.
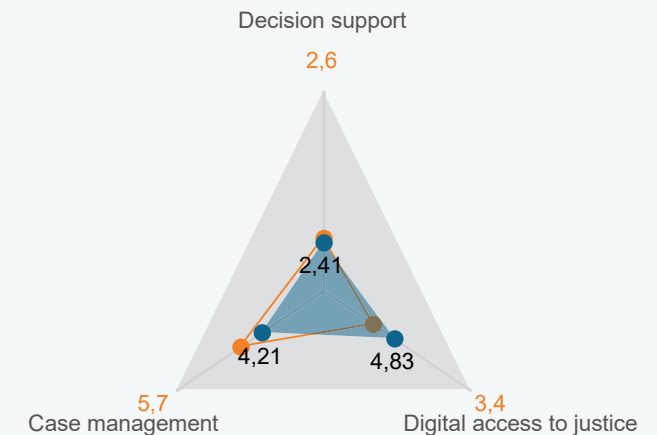
ICT Deployment and Usage Index
(from 0 to 10)

Total deployment rate : **4,27**

4,16
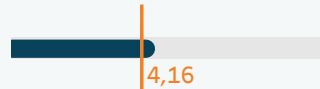
Total usage rate : **1,98**

(experimental)

Deployment index by matter (0 to 10)

Administrative matter
4,1
3,76

Civil matter 4,5 — 4,80
Criminal matter 4,1 — 4,26

Deployment index by category (0 to 10)

Decision support
2,6
2,41

Case management 5,7 — 4,21
Digital access to justice 3,4 — 4,83

Judiciary Related Websites

Legal texts	Case-law of the higher court/s	Information about the judicial system
dv.parliament.bg	www.vks.bg	https://vss.justice.bg/