LATVIA



Population 1 893 223

2014 2016 2018 2020



11.4

2014 2016 2018 2020

GDP per capita 15 431 € CoE Median 20 301 €

4203 0290

2014 2016 2018 2020



Efficiency

Avg gross annual salary 13 716 €

CoE Median 20 612 €

Implemented judicial system budget **Judicial system Prosecution services** Courts Legal aid 0.37% of GDP 56.5 per inh. 37.5 per inh. 18.1 per inh. 0.88 per inh. CoE Median: 0.30% CoE Median: 64.50 CoE Median: 43,53 CoE Median: 13.86 CoE Median: 3.08 39,3 29.0 0.37% 26,8 25.5

Budget: In 2020, Latvia spent 106 944 589 € on the implemented judicial system budget. Although it increased by 54% between 2014 and 2020, the implemented judicial system budget per inhabitant (56.5€) was still below the CoE median in 2020. Over the same period, the prosecution services budget per inhabitant soared (+ 69,8%) and it was above the CoE median. In 2020, the distribution of this budget was as follows: 66% for all courts, 32% for prosecution services, and 2% for legal aid.

2014 2016 2018 2020

ICT in judiciary

2020

Latvia is one of the two countries with the highest ICT index (9.8 out of 10 in 2020, same level as in 2018) even if they spent only 3.1% of the total courts' budget for ICT. Latvia has launched a pilot project in which the work on administrative offence cases takes place in the new technological platform of the Court Information System, developed within the E-case project "Informative Development of Courts".

Gender balance

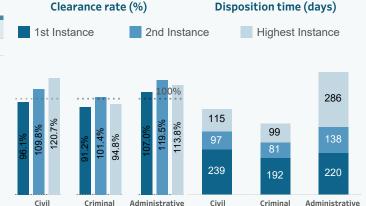
Between 2012 and 2020, the proportion of women among judges and prosecutors remained very high and as it did for court presidents (71% in 2020). Meanwhile, the proportion of women among the heads of prosecution offices has risen remarkably from 40% to 54%.

Mediation for family cases

The Project "State co-financed family mediation" provides support for families to solve the disputes affecting children. For each dispute, parties could receive up to 5 hours of State-paid mediation sessions provided by certified mediators. To ensure the availability of this type of mediation, the Mediation Law was amended in 2020.

Courts' organisation

The number of all first instance courts as legal entities was drastically reduced between 2016 and 2020 (-71%). Yet, in the meantime, the number of all courts as geographic locations per 100 000 inhabitants has increased by 36% and it is almost double of the CoE median.



Efficiency: Second instance courts appear to be the most efficient instance in 2020, while the courts are most efficient in the criminal domain in all three instances combined. The DT for both second and third instance cases is well below the CoE median for all matters except for the third instance administrative Law cases. For the latter type of cases, the DT was indeed the highest (286 days).

Although the Covid-19 pandemic affected the work of the courts in 2020, the resolved cases increased compared to 2018, in particular for third instance civil (and commercial) litigious cases and administrative law cases. As a result, between 2018 and 2020, the DT was reduced by 43.6% for third instance Civil (and commercial) litigious cases and by 37.7% for Administrative Law cases.

Meanwhile, the DT for the Total Criminal Law cases increased for all instances, especially for the first instance cases (+63%).

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