



EUROPEAN JUDICIAL SYSTEMS CEPEJ EVALUATION REPORT 2024 EVALUATION CYCLE (2022 DATA)





European
Commission
for the Efficiency
of Justice

Cepej

Commission
européenne
pour l'efficacité
de la justice

member states participated in the 2024 evaluation cycle

+ 2 observer states

Months for data collection, verification, analysis, report drafting, and online database development







CEPEJ

Composed of qualified experts from all 46 member states of the Council of Europe, the CEPEJ develops tools and practical measures to improve the efficiency and the quality of the public service of justice



Promotes the effective implementation of existing Council of Europe's instruments in the field of justice



Ensures **public court policies** consider the needs of **justice system users**



Offers **effective solutions** to the states to **prevent violations of Article 6** of the European Convention on Human Rights and reduce the number of applications to the European Court of Human Rights

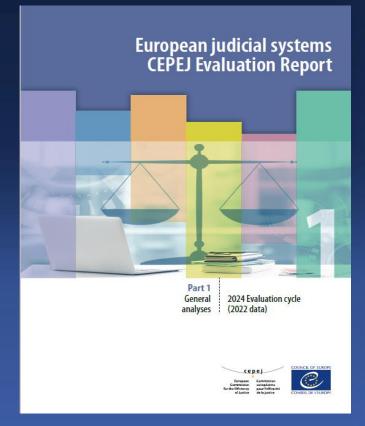




General Analyses (Part 1)

Overview of European judicial systems and identification of main trends through data collection and quality check







Ratio with the averag





Country profiles (Part 2)

4-page comprehensive overview of the functioning of the judicial system based on key indicators



Page 1: → Narrative summary analysis specific for each state/entity

Page 3: → Efficiency Indicators

Page 2: → Human Resources and Gender Balance

Page 4: → ICT
Deployment Index













CEPEJ-STAT (Part 3)

DASHBOARDS

- Overview of judicial systems
- Efficiency
- Budget
- Information and Revised communication technology
- Gender equality
- Judges and prosecutors
- Country/entity profiles

EXPLORERS

- Search by topics (based on quantitative data)
- Variation of quantitative data
- Search by topics (based on qualitative data)
- Search by question number or CEPEJ questionnaire key words
- ICT Question Explorer New
- Reforms planned for judicial systems







Commission européenne pour l'efficacité de la justice



JUDICIAL SYSTEM BUDGET

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

COURT BUDGET

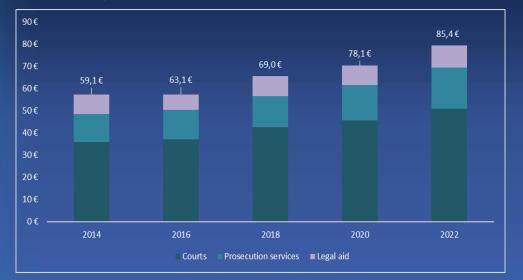
BUDGET OF PROSECUTION SERVICES

LEGAL AID BUDGET

+9%

between 2020 and 2022

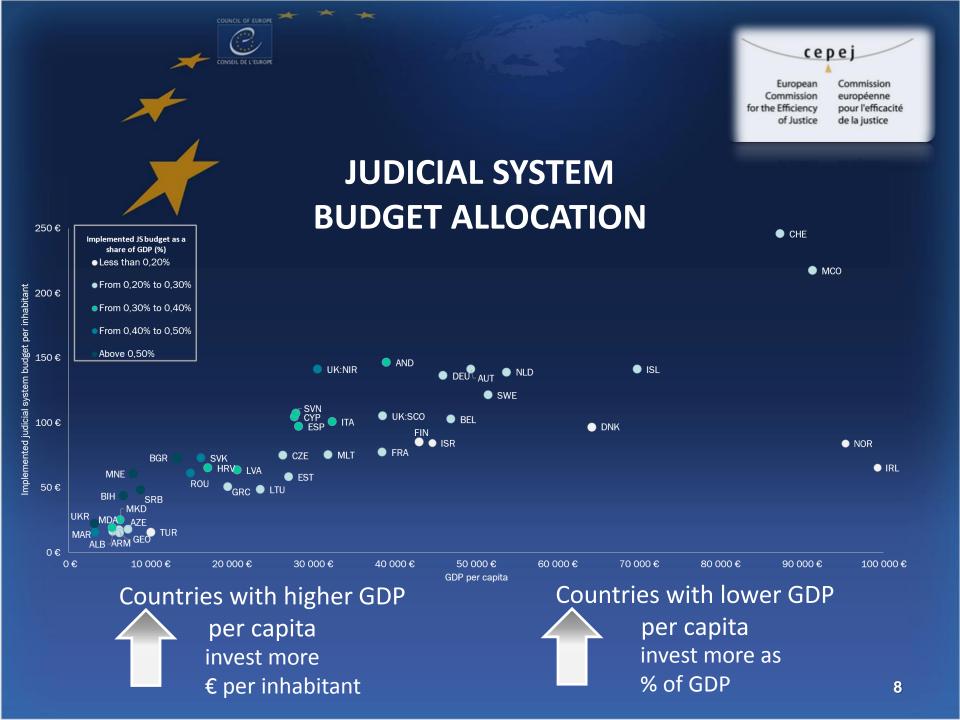
Evolution of the implemented judicial system budget per inhabitant, 2014-2022

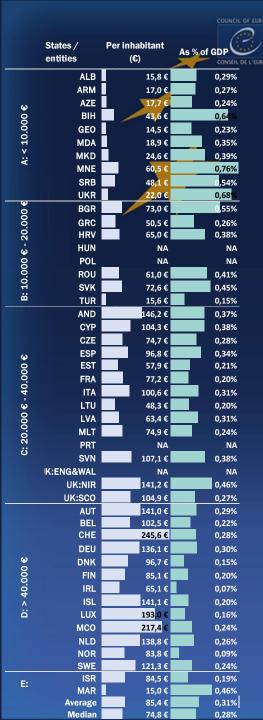


1,1 Bn €

Average budget spent by CoE member States

- **85,4 € per inhabitant** (up from 59,1 € in 2014)
- **0,31%** of **GDP**







WHO INVESTS THE MOST IN THEIR JUDICIAL SYSTEMS?

Groups A and B allocate more of their GDP (0.41%) compared to Groups C and D (0.26%), and to observer States.

High Investment Countries (average per inhabitant):

- 136 € per inhabitant
- 0,21 % from GDP

High Investment Countries (average as % of GDP):

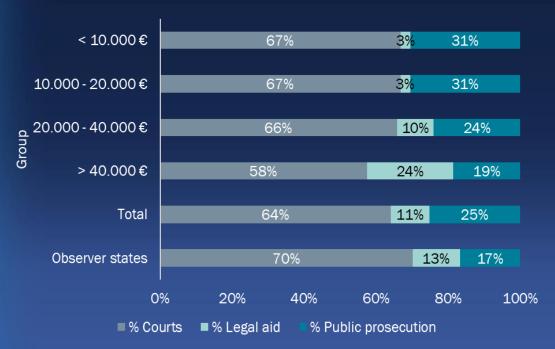
- 28,3 € per inhabitant
- 0,44 % from GDP







COMPONENTS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM BUDGET



General Distribution:

Courts: 64%Public Prosecution: 25%

Legal Aid: 11%

- Eastern European countries spend proportionally more on prosecution services (31%)
- Northern European and Common Law countries invest relatively more in legal aid (24%)





BUDGET ALLOCATED TO COURTS

Average Budget per Inhabitant:

• 2014: 35.4 €

• 2022: 46.8 €

Court Budget Composition:

• Salaries: 68.8% of total budget

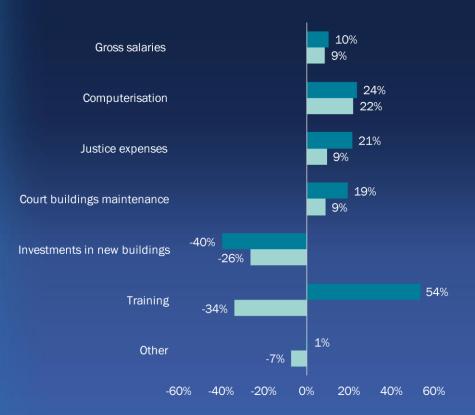
Minimal change in salary expenditure over the years







- Variation of the total annual budget of the courts 2020 2022
- Variation of the total annual budget of the courts 2018 2020



Changes in Specific Budget Categories (2020-2022):

| • | Training: | +54% |
|---|------------------|------|
| • | Computerisation: | +24% |

Justice-related expenses: +21%

Gross salaries: +10%

Court building maintenance: +19%

New building investments: -40%

The significant budget increase of training is linked to post-COVID-19 training initiatives.





BUDGET ALLOCATED TO PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICES

> Average: 25% of the judicial system budget

Significant increases: 2020-2022 (Median +12%, Average +21%):

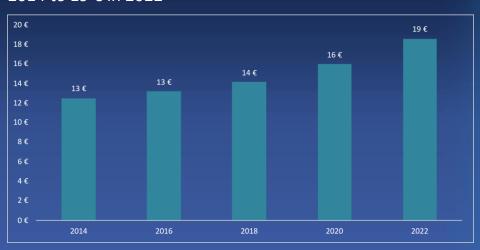
• Azerbaijan: +104%

• Georgia: +46%

These increases were influenced by higher salaries, restructuring, and increased training.

Minimal changes observed in **Croatia**, **Denmark**, **Portugal**, **Israel**.

Evolution 2014-2022: Increase from 13 € per inhabitant in 2014 to 19 € in 2022









BUDGET ALLOCATED TO LEGAL AID

All countries <u>continue</u> to implement a legal aid system in criminal and other than criminal matters in compliance with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court

Affluent Countries: Invest more in legal aid relative

to GDP and per inhabitant:

| • | UK-Northern Ireland: | 0,194% |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| | | |

lceland: 0,073%

UK-Scotland: 0,072%

• Sweden: 0,060%

• The Netherlands: 0,058%

Highest legal aid budget per inhabitant:

• UK-Northern Ireland: 59.35 €

| Group | Per inhabitant | As % of GDP |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| A: < 10.000 € | 0,65 € | 0,011% |
| B: 10.000 - 20.000 € | 1,58€ | 0,010% |
| C: 20.000 - 40.000 € | 10,29 € | 0,033% |
| D: > 40.000 € | 20,82 € | 0,032% |
| Average | 10,00 € | 0,024% |
| E: (Observer states) | 5,60 € | 0,013% |







WHO INVESTS THE MOST IN LEGAL AID PER CASE?



CEPEJ's Focus: Improving evaluation of policies that facilitate access to justice via legal aid, by correlating the demand (number of litigious and non-litigious cases granted with legal aid/100 000 inhabitants) with the amount of legal aid per case. This data is available in 23 states and entities.

Highest expenditure per case:

- Finland
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Norway

UK-Northern Ireland

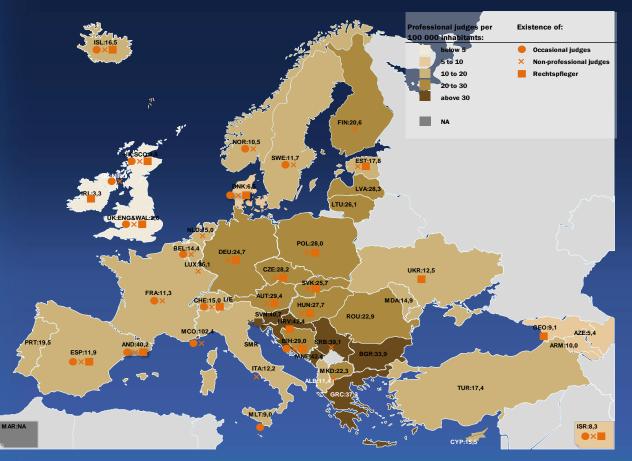
Highest volume of cases supported:

- Lithuania
- Spain
- UK-Scotland





JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS: JUDGES



21,9
judges per 100 000
inhabitants on average

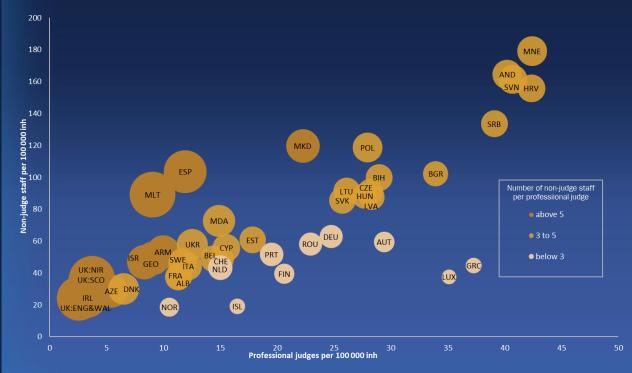
- UK-England and Wales:
 3 judges/100 000 inhab.
- Croatia, Montenegro: 42,4/100 000 inhab.





JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS: NON-JUDGE STAFF

Number of non-judge staff compared to the number of professional judges (per 100 000 inhabitants)



Countries with more professional judges also have more non-judge staff

Average Ratio Stable: around 4:1

(non-judge staff per professional judge)

Ratio of Non-Judge Staff per Professional Judges (2022):

Min: Luxembourg 1.1

Max: UK and Malta

over 9









JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS: PROSECUTORS

12,2

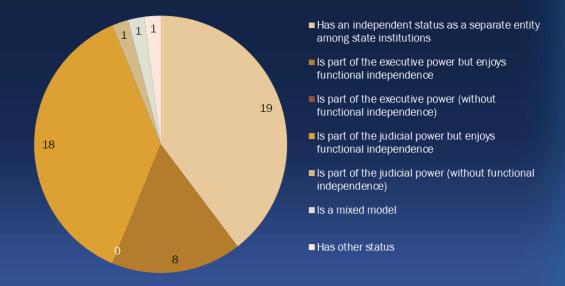
Average number of prosecutors per 100,000 inhabitants in 2022

Highest Numbers:

- Bulgaria, Latvia, Moldova
- over 23 prosecutors per100,000 inhabitants

Lowest Numbers:

- France, Ireland
- ☐ around 3 prosecutors per 100 000 inhabitants



Support staff in member States:

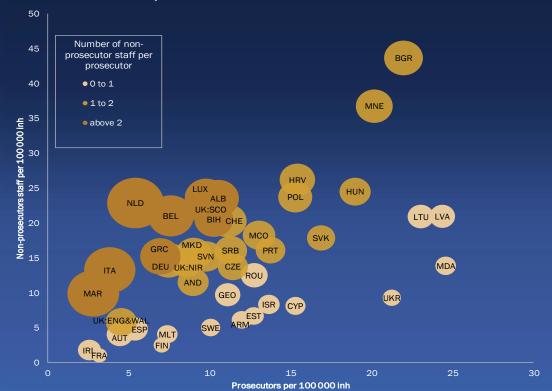
■ 15 member States and 1 observer State have staff with comparable roles to those of prosecutors





JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS: NON-PROSECUTOR STAFF

Number of non-prosecutor staff compared to the number of prosecutors (per 100 000 inhabitants)



Average Ratio (2022):

1.5

(non-prosecutor staff per prosecutor)

Correlation:

- Higher Number of
 Prosecutors: more non-prosecutor staff generally
- Lower Number of
 Prosecutors: higher ratio
 of non-prosecutor staff per
 prosecutor







GENDER EQUALITY AMONG PROFESSIONAL JUDGES

- ✓ Increase in average of women judges (2012-2022): from 49% to 57%
- Under 40% women: Armenia, Azerbaijan, UK-England and Wales, UK-Northern Ireland and UK-Scotland
- Over 70% women: Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

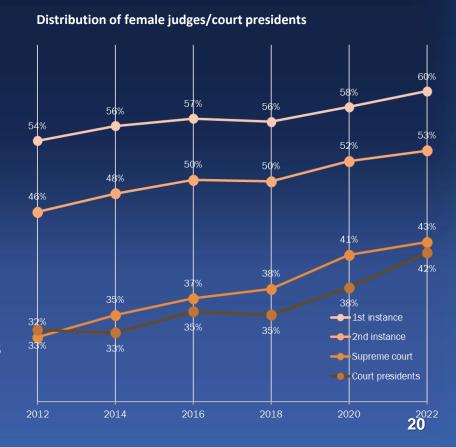


court presidents

57 % of female professional judges

The glass celling exists

→ Fewer women in higher
judicial roles









GENDER EQUALITY AMONG PROSECUTORS

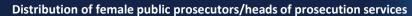
- ✓ Increase in average women prosecutors (2012-2022): from 49% to 54%
- Cyprus and Estonia over 70% women in 2022
- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Türkiye 20% or less women in 2022

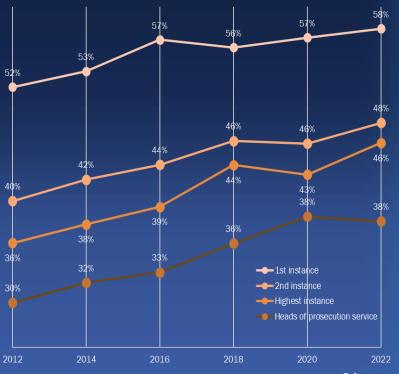


54 % of female prosecutors

The glass celling exists

Fewer women in higher
prosecutorial roles





female heads of public prosecution offices







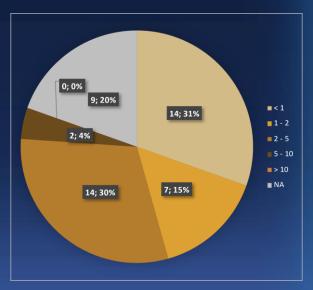


Availability of in-service training for judges and

<u>In-service live training participation of judges</u>



2 training courses per judge or prosecutor on average



- Available general training for judges in 91% (42) of states and similar for prosecutors
- Training on IT tools seems lowest for judges and prosecutors

For judges:

In 46% of all member States (21), judges attend fewer than 2 courses annually

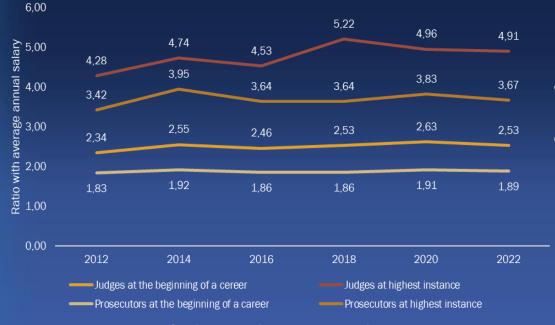
For prosecutors:

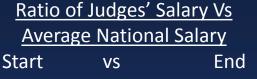
Similarly, in 48% of states (22), prosecutors attend fewer than 2 courses annually



JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS: SALARIES OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS

Evolution of the average ratios of gross salaries of judges and public prosecutors in relation to annual gross salaries 2012- 2022





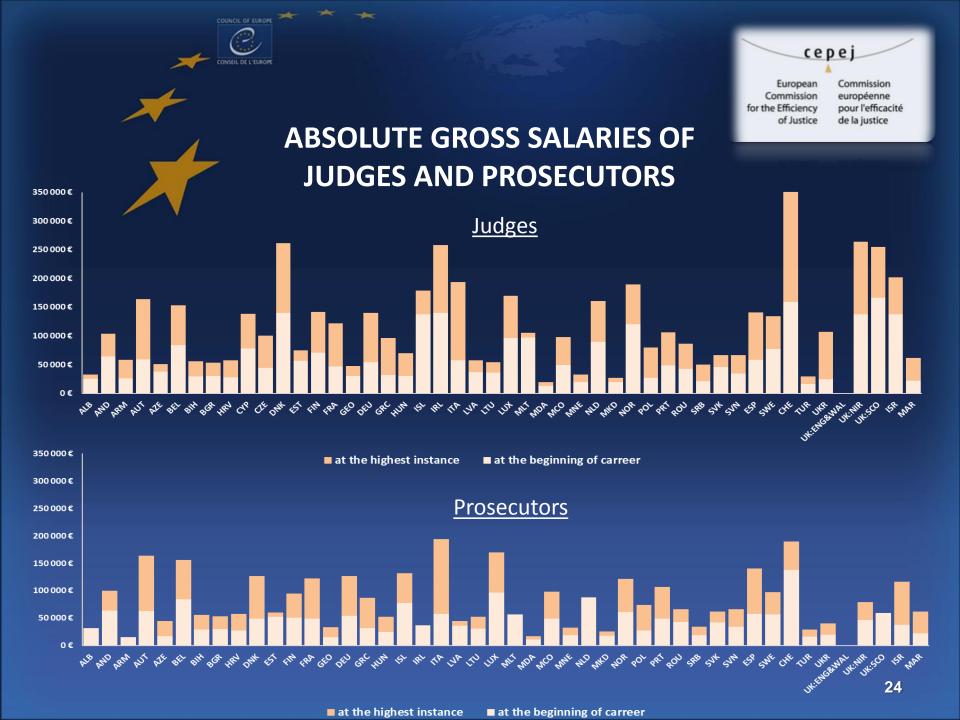
1.5x to 3.5x in 61% • **2.5x to 6.5x** in of states **74%** of states

 above 3.5x in 39% of states

Salary ratio:
Beginning vs End of Career
twice higher for both judges and
prosecutors

If Index = 1, salary = average salary

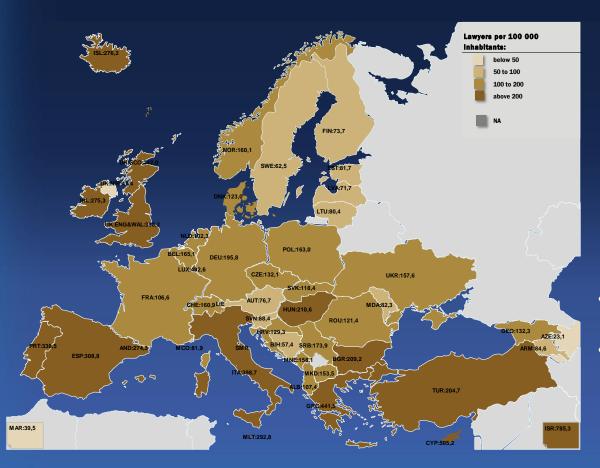
If Index = 2, salary = x2 of average salary







JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS: LAWYERS



Average number of lawyers in 2022: **180 per 100 000 inhabitants**



30% increase between 2012-2022

Average proportion of women lawyers in 2022:

44% (up from 43% in 2018)

- Range: 18% in Azerbaijan, 58% in Cyprus, Greece, and Romania
- Near 50% threshold: **Georgia, Latvia**, and **Luxembourg** (49%)







ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Quality justice depends on four key pillars in terms of accessibility: accessible information, financial support, physical access to courts, and fair hearings.

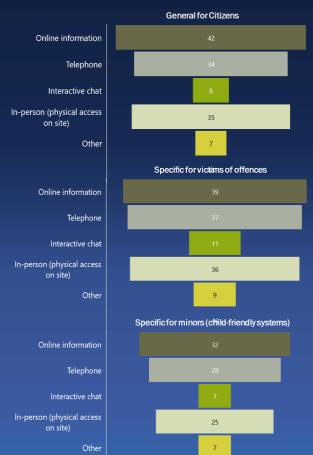
ACCESSIBLE LEGAL INFORMATION

Methods of Information Delivery:

- Court Websites
- Specialist Websites (Poland: "Stop Child Abduction")
- Other Channels: In-person; Telephone; Interactive Chat

Multi-channel approaches for vulnerable individuals:

- Georgia: hotlines for case info and children's rights
- Latvia: Helpdesk for emotional victims' support
- Montenegro, Poland: 24h hotlines for child related issues
- Israel: mobile app for real-time case updates







FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

Legal Aid

Available in all 46 member States and entities and 2 observer States for both civil and criminal cases.

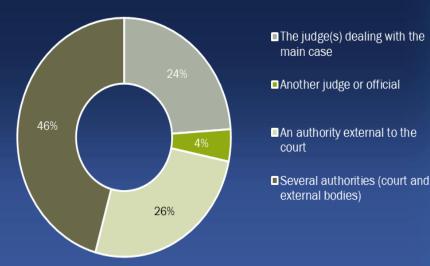
Eligibility Criteria:

Based on applicants' income and assets

 Exceptions: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Malta (criminal cases only), and Romania.

Automatic Grants for:

- Victims of domestic or sexual violence (Ireland, Malta, North Macedonia, UK-Scotland and Israel)
- Immigrants (the Netherlands)
- Asylum seekers (Serbia)







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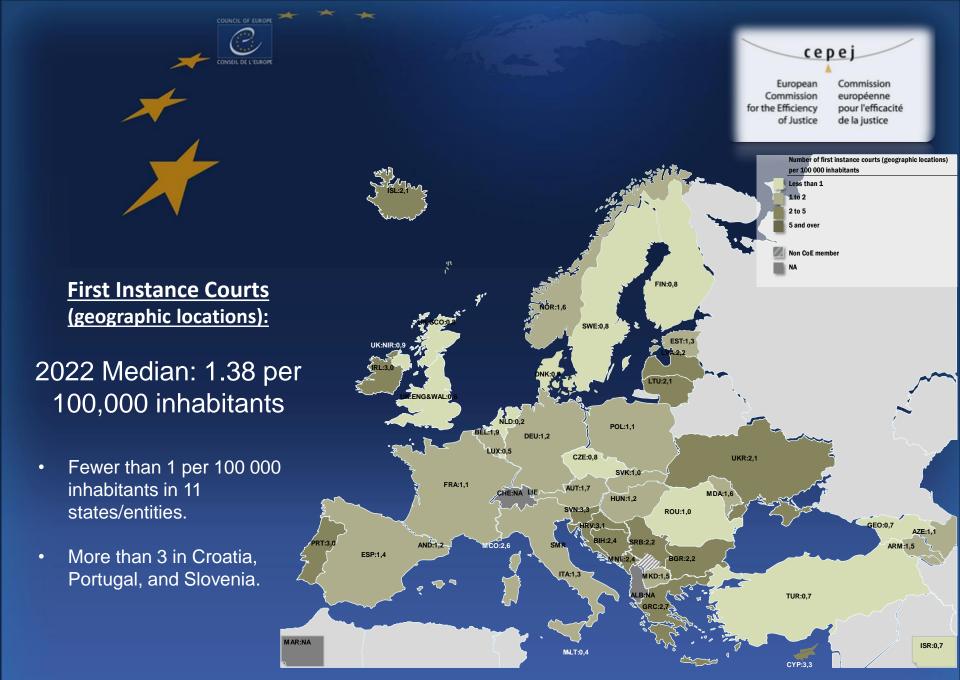
First Instance Courts (legal entities):

 General Jurisdiction: Decreased by 10% since 2012; median is 0.89 per 100 000 inhabitants

Specialised Courts:
 Slight increase of 3% in the same period

- Purpose: Enhance efficiency and effectiveness by focusing on specific case types.
- Common Types: Administrative (30 states), Commercial (18), Labour (17), among others.









ACCESS TO A FAIR HEARING

Minor's Protection in Court Proceedings:

77% of states offer "child-friendly" explanations, **80%** provide specially trained professionals, and most have dedicated facilities for minors to give evidence.

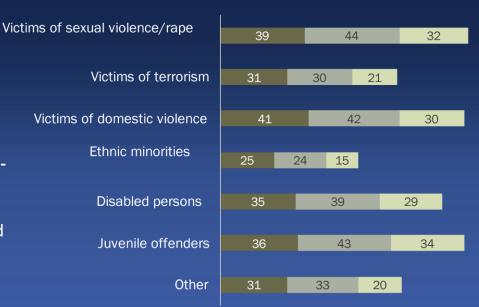
- Barnahus in 22 member States and entities
- New model in Türkiye: "one-stop-shop" courthouses

Protection of other vulnerable groups:

- "Safe houses" (Germany, Greece, Poland, UK-England and Wales, Israel and Morocco)
- Remote testimony (Germany, Poland, UK-England and Wales, UK-Northern Ireland and UK-Scotland)
- Specific training for public prosecutors on sexual and domestic violence: 38 states and entities

Favourable arrangements during judicial proceedings for certain categories of vulnerable persons in 2022







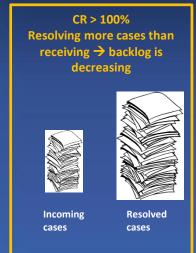


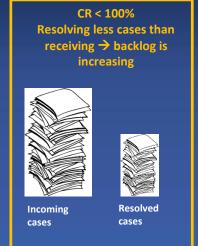


EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY Definitions

The Clearance Rate (CR) is the ratio obtained by dividing the number of resolved cases by the number of incoming cases in a given period, expressed as a percentage.

It demonstrates how the court, or the judicial system is coping with the in-flow of cases and allows comparison between systems regardless of their differences and individual characteristics.





Disposition Time (DT) is the estimated time required for a pending case to be resolved at the current pace of work. It is calculated by dividing the number of pending cases by the number of resolved cases within a specific period, then multiplying by 365 to express the result in days. A DT above 365 days suggests more cases are pending than resolved, while a DT below 365 days indicates the opposite.

$$DT = \frac{Pending cases on 31st of December}{Resolved cases} X 365$$







COURT EFFICIENCY IN 2022

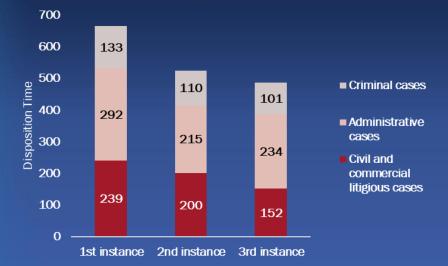
Covid-19 Impact:

- Significant improvement in court efficiency in 2022 compared to 2020
- Increase in both incoming and resolved cases across all case types
- Challenges remaining: return to pre-pandemic levels for all courts

Court Efficiency by Instance

Most efficient: 3rd (Highest) Instance Courts

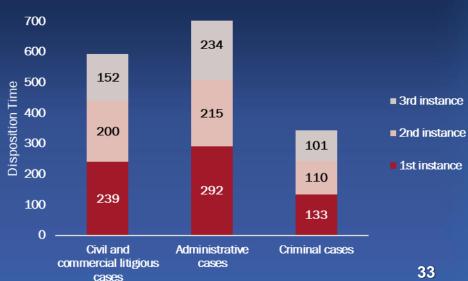
<u>Least efficient:</u> 1st Instance Courts



Court Efficiency by Area of Law



<u>Least efficient:</u> Administrative matters (combined DT 741 days)









PERFORMANCE BY COURT INSTANCE

First Instance Courts



- The least efficient: highest DT in various case types
- DT for Civil & Commercial Litigious Cases: 239 days

Second Instance Courts

- Improved efficiency with lower DT than first instance courts
- DT for Civil & Commercial Litigious Cases: 200 days

Third Instance Courts



- The most efficient with DT reductions in all case types
- DT for Civil & Commercial Litigious Cases: 152 days

<u>Clearance Rate Across All Instances and Case Types</u>

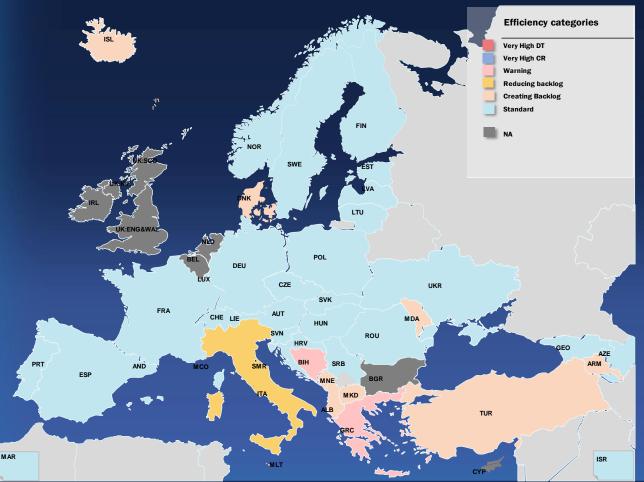
Median CR values: close to 100% across all instances and case types

1st Instance: below 100% CR in any case type 2nd Instance: close to 100% in most case types 3rd Instance met or exceeded 100% CR in all case types





CR AND DT FOR CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL LITIGIOUS CASES AT FIRST INSTANCE IN 2022



Efficiency categories

Standard efficiency: 28 states/entities

✓ 9 states improved to "standard" efficiency

<u>Creating Backlog:</u> 8 states/entities

Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro: CRs < 90%</p>

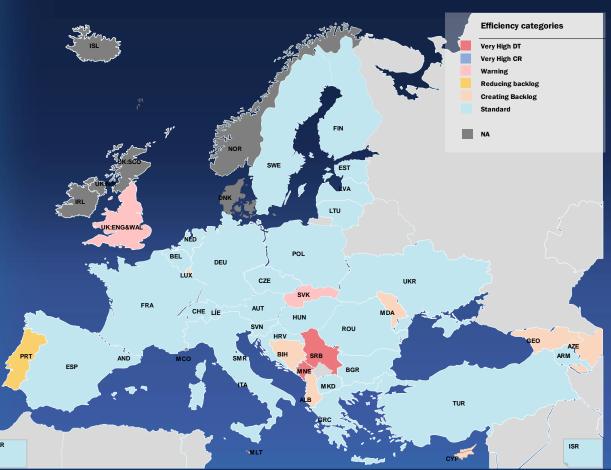
Reducing backlog: Italy but with long delays (DT 540 days)

Warning: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece and Malta





CR AND DT FOR FIRST INSTANCE ADMINISTRATIVE CASES IN 2022



Efficiency categories

<u>Standard Efficiency Improvement:</u>

From 25% (2020) to 68% (2022) - 29 states/entities

Creating Backlog:

 Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova

Warning:

Malta, Slovak Republic, UK (England and Wales)

Very High DT:

Serbia (DT 1,528 days, CR 39%),
 Montenegro (DT 1,180 days, CR 40%).

Reducing backlog:

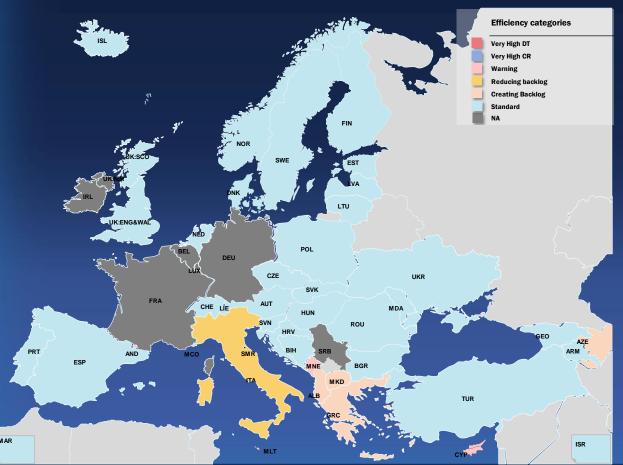
Portugal (CR 112%, DT 747 36 days)







CR AND DT FOR CRIMINAL CASES AT FIRST INSTANCE IN 2022



Efficiency categories

Standard Efficiency:

75% of states/entities

- ✓ CR: 95% 200%
- ✓ DT: \leq 266 days (most \leq 100 days)

Improvements with mixed results:

- Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Ukraine: more cases, mixed outcomes
- Latvia, Moldova: efficiency improved
- Croatia, Italy: moved to Reducing Backlog

Creating backlog:

Albania, Azerbaijan, Greece, North Macedonia

Warning:

- Cyprus, Montenegro (high incoming, low resolutions)
- Very high DT: Malta (527 days)







SECOND INSTANCE COURTS EFFICIENCY IN 2022

Incoming cases per 100 inh. (2020-2022):

Civil/Commercial:

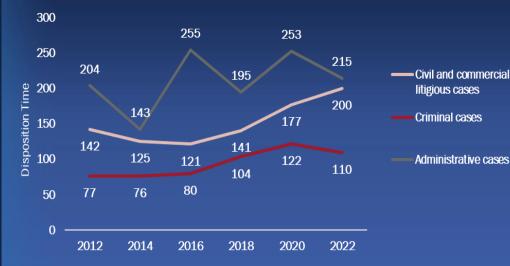
0.19

Criminal:

0.15 (back to 2018 levels)

Administrative:

0.10



Clearance Rate:

Civil/Commercial: 99% (↓ 5% since 2020)

• Criminal: 99% (unchanged)

• Administrative: **103%** (↑ 1%)

Disposition Time:

• Civil/Commercial:

200 days

(highest in 6 cycles)

❖ Albania: 2 272 days

Germany: 391 days, up by 126 days

Malta: 562 days, down from 837

Criminal:

↓ 110 days

Italy: 750 days

Administrative:

215 days

Albania: 8 680 days







THIRD INSTANCE COURT EFFICIENCY IN 2022

Incoming Cases per 100 inh. (2020-2022):

Civil/Commercial: 0.03

Criminal: 0.0

Administrative:

▼ 0

0.03

0.03

Civil and commercial

Administrative cases

litigious cases

Criminal cases



Clearance Rate (CR): High Efficiency in 2022!

Civil/Commercial: 105%

Administrative: 102%

Criminal: 101%

Disposition Time (DT):

Decreased across all case types since 2020!

Civil/Commercial: ↓ 21 daystaly1,063 days

• Armenia 22 days

• Criminal: ↓ 18 days

❖ Albania 902 days

Montenegro 12 days

Administrative: \downarrow 12 days

Albania 1,584 daysArmenia 23 days

39







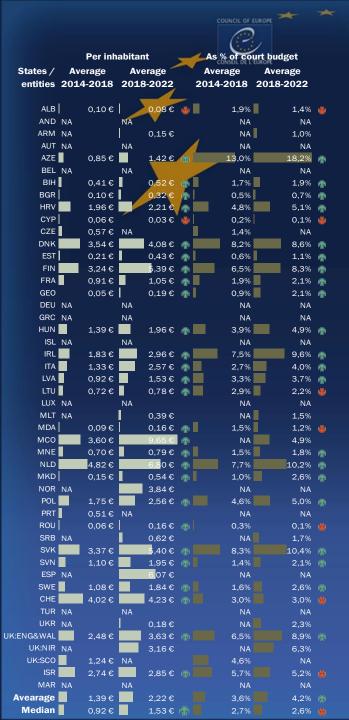
Information and Communication technology (ICT)

What Has Changed?

- Complete redesign of the questionnaire
- Adjustment of the index (deployment and usage)
- Keep the concept

Why?

- Adjust to the rapid progress of ICT (reality)
- Identify new ICT developments





Budget for ICT

Average of implemented budget dedicated to ICT per capita in 2018 - 2022

Increased in most of the countries



and decreased only in 2



Average of implemented budget dedicated to ICT as % of court budget 2018 – 2022

Increased in 22 countries



and decreased in 8



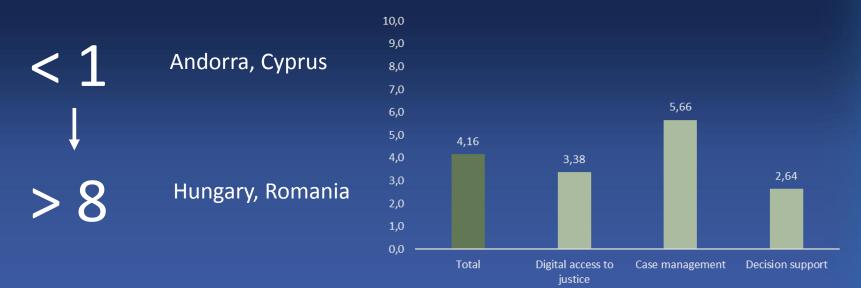






Diversity between states/entities

Total ICT Deployment index and per category in 2022



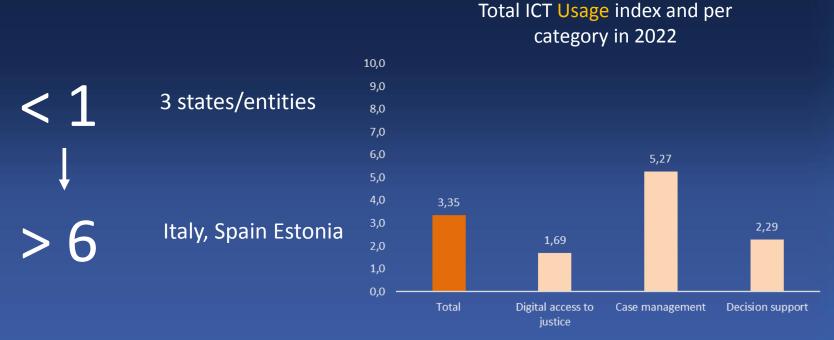






ICT Usage Index (experimental)

Diversity between states/entities









ICT index (can we compare with 2020?)

- The 2022 index includes more features and for that reason is lower in average; comparison with previous cycle is not possible
- Only comparison with CoE median and between countries is recommended.







USEFUL LINKS:

- Special file Report "European judicial systems CEPEJ Evaluation report - 2024 Evaluation cycle (2022 data)
- Part 1: General Analyses
- Part 2: Country Profiles
- Part 3: CEPEJ-STAT database





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CEPEJ Council of Europe



European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)





Thank you for your attention