c e p e j

European
Commission
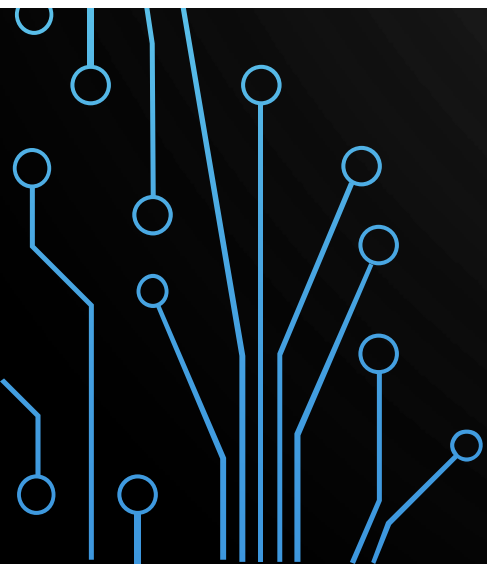for the Efficiency
of Justice

Commission
européenne
pour l'efficacité
de la justice

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE 2024
EVALUATION REPORT

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

- **Created on 18 September 2002**
- **Composed of the 46 Member States, 10 Observer States and 13 Observer International instituions**
- **Two-fold objective**

  - ➤ to *improve the efficiency* and the functioning of member States judicial systems, given that a quality justice is the core upholder of the rule of law and the ultimate guarantee of the human rights.
  - ➤ to *enable a better implementation* of the international legal instruments of the Council of Europe concerning efficiency and fairness of justice.

The CEPEJ Tasks

Tasks:
- **first step**: to examine the results achieved by the different judicial systems through evaluation;
- **second step**: to identify problems and areas for possible improvements;
- **third step**: to propose concrete solutions to improve the functioning of the judicial systems;
- **additionally**: - to assist one or more member States in complying with the CoE standards;
- to suggest, if appropriate, areas in which new international legal instruments can be adopted by the Committee of Ministers.
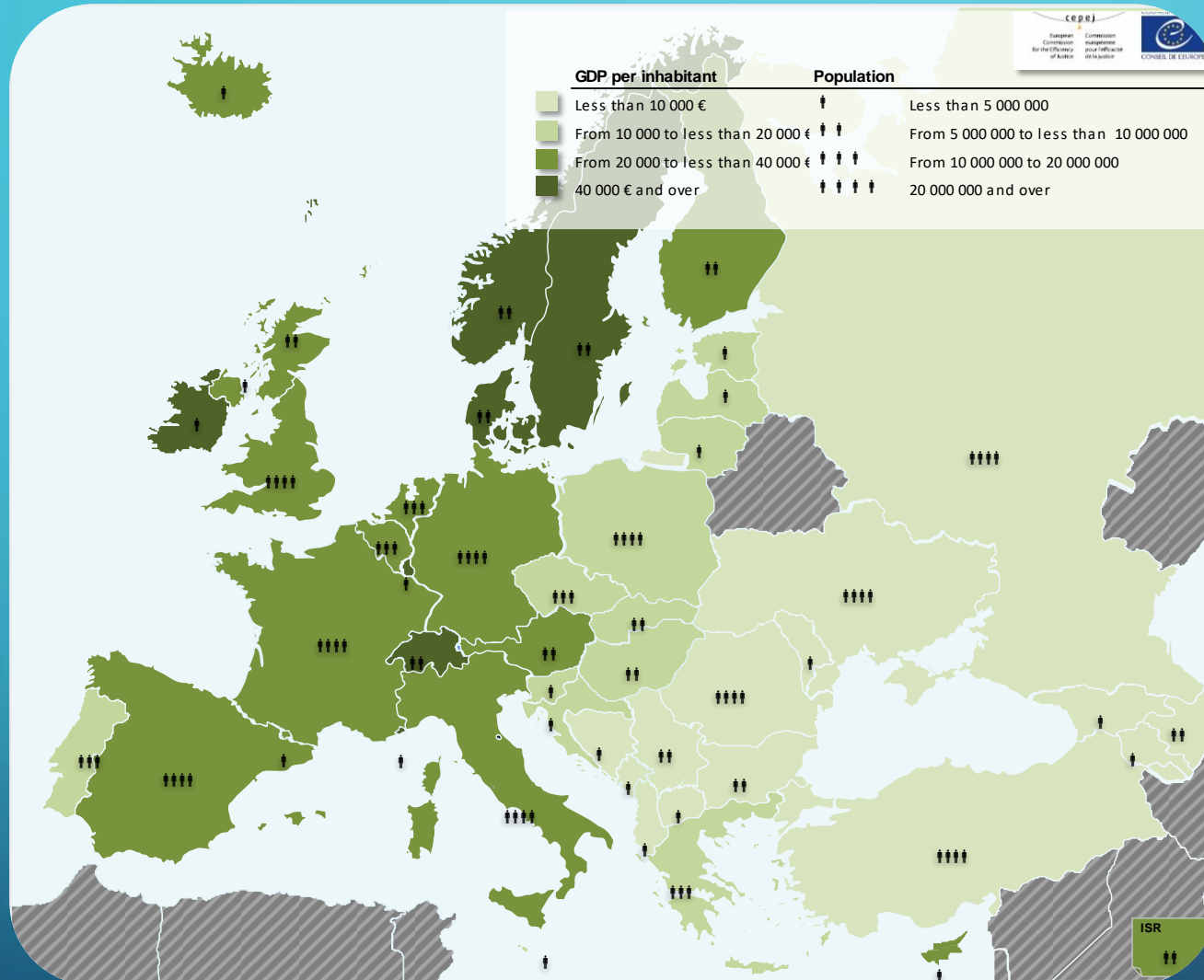
The CEPEJ Working Groups

- **Evaluation** – evaluation of judicial systems

- **Judicial time management** (**SATURN Centre**)- research and analyses judicial timeframes in member States; promotes and assesses Guidelines for judicial time management

- **Quality** - develops means to analyse and evaluate work in courts in order to improve quality of public service delivered by justice system in member States

- **Cyber Justice & AI**- create or use ICT (information andcommunication technologies) and/or Artificial Intelligence (AI) mechanisms in judicial systems, in order to improve the efficiency and quality of justice.

4

Our means of action

Means used by the CEPEJ:

o developing *indicators*,
o collecting and analysing quantitative and qualitative *data*, defining *measures and means of evaluation*;
o drawing up *reports*, statistics, best practice surveys, guidelines, *action plans*, opinions and general comments;
o establishing links with research institutes and documentation and study centres;
o creating *networks* of professionals involved in the justice area.

GDP per inhabitant
Less than 10 000 €
From 10 000 to less than 20 000 €
From 20 000 to less than 40 000 €
40 000 € and over

Population
Less than 5 000 000
From 5 000 000 to less than 10 000 000
From 10 000 000 to 20 000 000
20 000 000 and over

44 **Member states evaluated**

+2 observers

17 Months to collect, check and analyse data, to draft the reports and to build the internet database

https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/cepej-work/evaluation-of-judicial-systems

METHODOLOGY

The CEPEJ study related to the EU Justice Scoreboard is prepared according to the CEPEJ methodology conceived in the frame of the evaluation activity and used with regard to the CEPEJ Evaluation Report.

All information come from our *national correspondents* designated by the member States and entities to collect the relevant data in respect of their system and deliver them to the CEPEJ. They are the main interlocutors of the CEPEJ Secretariat in ensuring the quality of the data.

The CEPEJ Secretariat verifies the accuracy and consistency of all data submitted by the national correspondents, through dialogue with them concerning replies which require additional clarifications.

At the end of the process, the Secretariat validates the data. No data are modified by the CEPEJ without the authorisation of the national correspondents.

Compatability and Comparability

- Only verified and validated data are used in the Evaluation Report and the CEPEJ study related to the EU Justice Scoreboard, EuroStat, Dashboard Western Balkans & Dashboard Eastern Partnership

- To ensure comparability of data, the latter are often standardised based on some general data (population, GDP, national average gross salary).

- The CEPEJ establishes the median European value in respect of different topics (budget, justice professionals, efficiency etc.) and every state can situate itself in relation to this median.

- The CEPEJ does not rank countries, it establishes trends in Europe on the one hand, and drafts country profiles where we have core data and indicators for every country and some analyses are proposed, against the background of the European medians.

Preview

of the

Country Profile for Greece

As it results from the

CEPEJ Evaluation Report 2024

approved on the 19th July 2024
and to be published officially
on the 16th October 2024

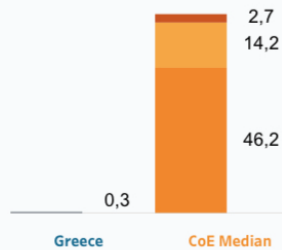| Population	GDP per capita	Avg gross annual salary
10 678 632	**19 548 €**	**NA**
	CoE Median 27 777 €	CoE Median 24 287 €

Implemented judicial system budget (IJS)

IJS elements per inhabitant

- Courts
- Prosecution services
- Legal aid

	Greece	CoE Median
	0,3	2,7
		14,2
		46,2

IJS per inhabitant (in €)

Greece: 45,9 (2014), 41,8 (2016), 52,1 (2018), 45,2 (2020), 50,5 (2022)

CoE Median: 45,9 (2014), 51,4 (2016), 63,1 (2018), 64,5 (2020), 74,9 (2022)

IJS as % of GDP

- Greece
- CoE Median

CoE Median: 0,29% (2014), 0,29% (2016), 0,28% (2018), 0,29% (2020), 0,27% (2022)

Greece: 0.28% (2014), 0.26% (2016), 0.31% (2018), 0.29% (2020), 0.26% (2022)
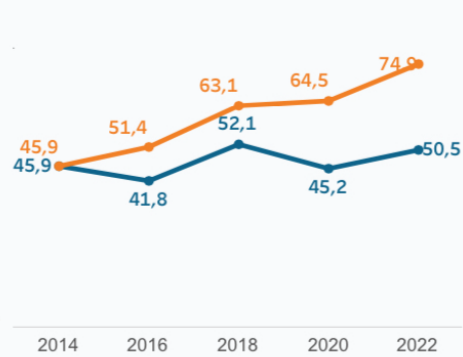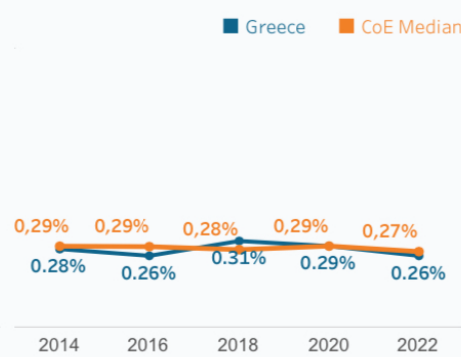
Efficiency - Disposition time (days)

1st instance DT

Civil	Criminal	Administrative
746	**223**	**464**

days to solve a case

	1st Instance	2nd Instance	Highest Instance
Civil	746	422	NA
Criminal	223	294	304
Administrative	464	661	1239
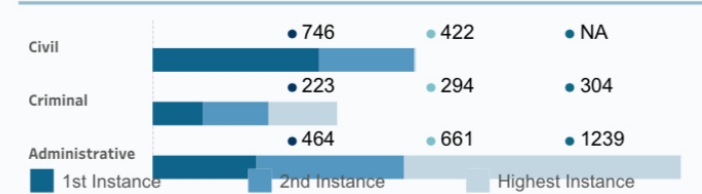
Budget : In 2022, the implemented judicial system budget was €539.561.654 which represents € 50,5 per inhabitant, below the CoE median. As a % of the GDP (0,26%), it is close to the CoE median. It is not possible to distinguish between courts' budget and the one of the public prosecution services. The implemented legal aid budget was 0,3 € per inhabitant, one of the lowest among the member States and entities.

Minors

The "Children's Houses" of Athens and Piraeus, are fully operational since 2021. They are responsible for the individual assessment of minor victims to determine special protection needs and the provision of assistance to judicial authorities for the appropriate
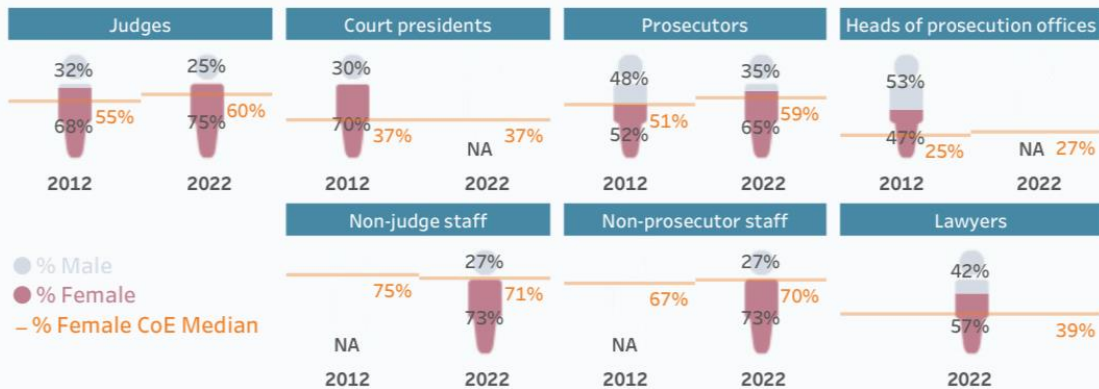
Efficiency: At the outset it should be mentioned that comparisons with previous cycles are not relevant, the data collection process is being improved. In 2022, courts were most efficient in 1st instance criminal cases, while the Supreme Administrative Court proved to be least efficient. When considering 1st and 2d instances combined, criminal cases were the most efficient area of law.

In 2022, the CR achieved the 100% only in administrative

Greece

Human resources (per 100 000 inhabitants)

Greece · CoE Median

	Professional judges		Non-judge staff		Prosecutors		Non-prosecutor staff		Lawyers	
2022	37.28	17,63	44.67	55,72	5.68	11,20	14.66	14,74	441.45	153,50
2012	23.27	17,41	48.15	54,46	4.96	10,44	NA	14,56	380.68	112,56

Gender balance (% of women in total)

Judges
2012	2022
32%	25%
68% / 55%	75% / 60%

Court presidents
2012	2022
30%	
70% / 37%	NA / 37%

Prosecutors
2012	2022
48%	35%
52% / 51%	65% / 59%

Heads of prosecution offices
2012	2022
53%	
47% / 25%	NA / 27%

● % Male
● % Female
– % Female CoE Median

Non-judge staff
2012	2022
	27%
75%	73% / 71%
NA	

Non-prosecutor staff
2012	2022
	27%
67%	73% / 70%
NA	

Lawyers
2022
42%
57% / 39%

Absolute gross salaries

Salary at the begining of career
Judges	47 770 €	31 710 €
Prosecutors	42 395 €	31 710 €

Salary at the end of career
Judges	102 100 €	96 037 €
Prosecutors	73 651 €	87 247 €

Ratio with the average annual gross salary

Salary at the begining of career
31 710	31 710	2,0
31 710	31 710	1,7

Salary at the end of career
96 037		4,3
87 247		3,1

Training of justice professionals

Average number of live training participations per professional*

3,8

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

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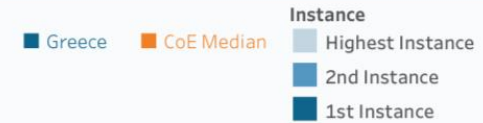
CEPEJ efficiency indicators

Clearance Rate (CR) = (Resolved cases / Incoming cases) *100
CR > 100%, court/judicial system is able to resolve more cases than it received => backlog is decreasing
CR < 100%, 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

■ Greece ■ CoE Median

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

Clearance Rate / Disposition Time (in days) / Evolution of Disposition Time

		Clearance Rate		Disposition Time (in days)		2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Civil	Highest Instance	NA	100% 104,7%	NA	151	346	NA	NA	331	NA	NA
	2nd Instance	79,07%	98,7%	422	200	834	509	1149	662	NA	422
	1st Instance	92,97%	99,1%	746	239	469	330	610	559	NA	746
Criminal	Highest Instance	83,97%	100,5%	304	104	24	16	121	6	NA	304
	2nd Instance	64,06%	99,0%	294	110	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	294
	1st Instance	70,23%	99,5%	223	183	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	223
Administrative	Highest Instance	114,94%	101,6%	1239	237	NA	NA	893	1265	1107	1239
	2nd Instance	107,49%	102,9%	661	215	1130	NA	915	564	599	661
	1st Instance	127,01%	98,5%	464	292	1520	NA	1086	601	551	464

Incoming cases

Greece

Public prosecution services

Greece ■ **CoE Median** ■

Total number of received cases per prosecutor

66 687

340,67
274,71 254,84 210,14 210,92 233,65 234,09

NA   NA   NA   NA   NA   NA
2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 2022

Distribution of processed cases %

Discontinued during the reference year — 43%
97,7%

Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor — 1%
15,6%

Cases brought to court — 56.0..
52,9%

Distribution of discontinued cases %

Discontinued because the offender could not be identified — 52%
45,0%

Discontinued due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation — 28.9..
53,6%

Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reasons of opportunity — 2%
12,1%

Discontinued for other reasons — 17%
4,6%
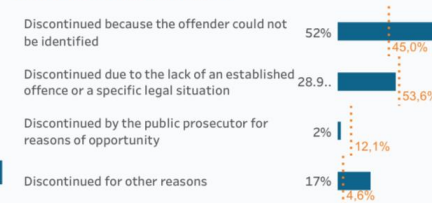
Note: There are different methodologies on calculating number of cases in prosecution statistics by event or by perpetrator. CEPEJ collects data per case (event) but some countries present it by perpetrator.

ICT Deployment and usage index
(from 0 to 10)

Total deployment index : **3,17**

7,29
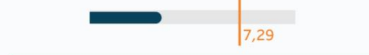
Total usage index : **2,56**

(experimental)

Deployment index by matter (0 to 10)

Administrative matters
3,9
4,09
3,16   2,18
          4,0
Civil matters   Criminal matters
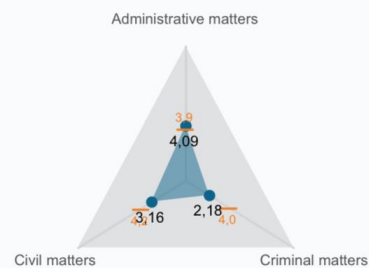
Deployment index by category (0 to 10)

Decision support
2,45
2,52
4,78   2,030
Case management   Digital access to justice

Judiciary related websites

Case-law
https://www.elsyn.gr : Anonymized decisions of the Court of Auditors are available to the public ..

Information about the judicial system
https://ministryofjustice.gr/ : Information on the Justice in Greece is provided, such as the cons..

Legislation
https://ministryofjustice.gr/ : Legal texts describing the function and structure of Justice i..

Other official websites
http://www.adjustice.gr : Regarding the Supreme Administrative Court, any kind of court certificat..

LACK OF A CENTRALIZED DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

It is essential to highlight that the main problem related to case-flow data of Greece concerns the methodology of data collection which is under development, thus efficiency analyses should be carried out with great caution.

CEPEJ has been informed by the national correspondent that since 2020, measures have been taken to improve the system for collecting statistical data, such as the training of staff and the creation of an instructional manual guide with definitions and instructions. These measures were intended to help collecting more reliable data from both small and large courts and prosecution services and eliminate the standard errors in judicial statistics.

The first challenge for the Greek authorities is to have a **centralized data collection system** allowing them to communicate to CEPEJ reliable and thus comparable data. Currently, this is not the case and it is scientifically too risky to draw conclusions based on comparison with other member States.

Supporting the reduction of backlog in the First Instance Courts of Athens and Thessaloniki

The efficiency of the justice system in Greece in general and in Athens and Thessaloniki in particular faces longstanding challenges with its overall effectiveness, efficiency and quality. It requires substantive reform to improve its performance.

At the end of 2022, the First Instance Court of Athens had 221.186 pending civil cases, whereas the First Instance Court in Thessaloniki reported 13.278 cases.

According to the 2024 EU Justice Scoreboard, Greece had one of the highest disposition time (estimated time needed to resolve cases) in the EU for litigious civil and commercial cases at first instance.

There were many efforts to tackle the backlog problem in the Greek judicial system, most of which were unsuccessful, for various reasons, including the lack of a prior comprehensive diagnosis of the situation of the judicial system.

Objective of the project

Supporting the reduction of backlog in the First Instance Courts of Athens and Thessaloniki in line with CEPEJ tools on efficiency, primarily the Backlog Reduction Tool:

❏ The project will be based on an assessment of the root causes of the delays (civil cases) in the First Instance Courts of Athens and Thessaloniki at the level of organisation, legal framework, structures, processes and human resources available.

❏ Recommendations and concrete action plans for backlog reduction describing the organizational, legal and workflow frameworks will be developed in close cooperation with both courts.

❏ Capacity building measures will be provided for the implementation of the action plans and proposed measures in both courts for a duration of 14 months.

The Project will seek the close involvement and buy-in by relevant stakeholders to increase their awareness and understanding, and facilitate proposed organisational development actions via change management.

2.2

Map 3. 1 **Number of professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants in 2022 (Q1, Q46)**
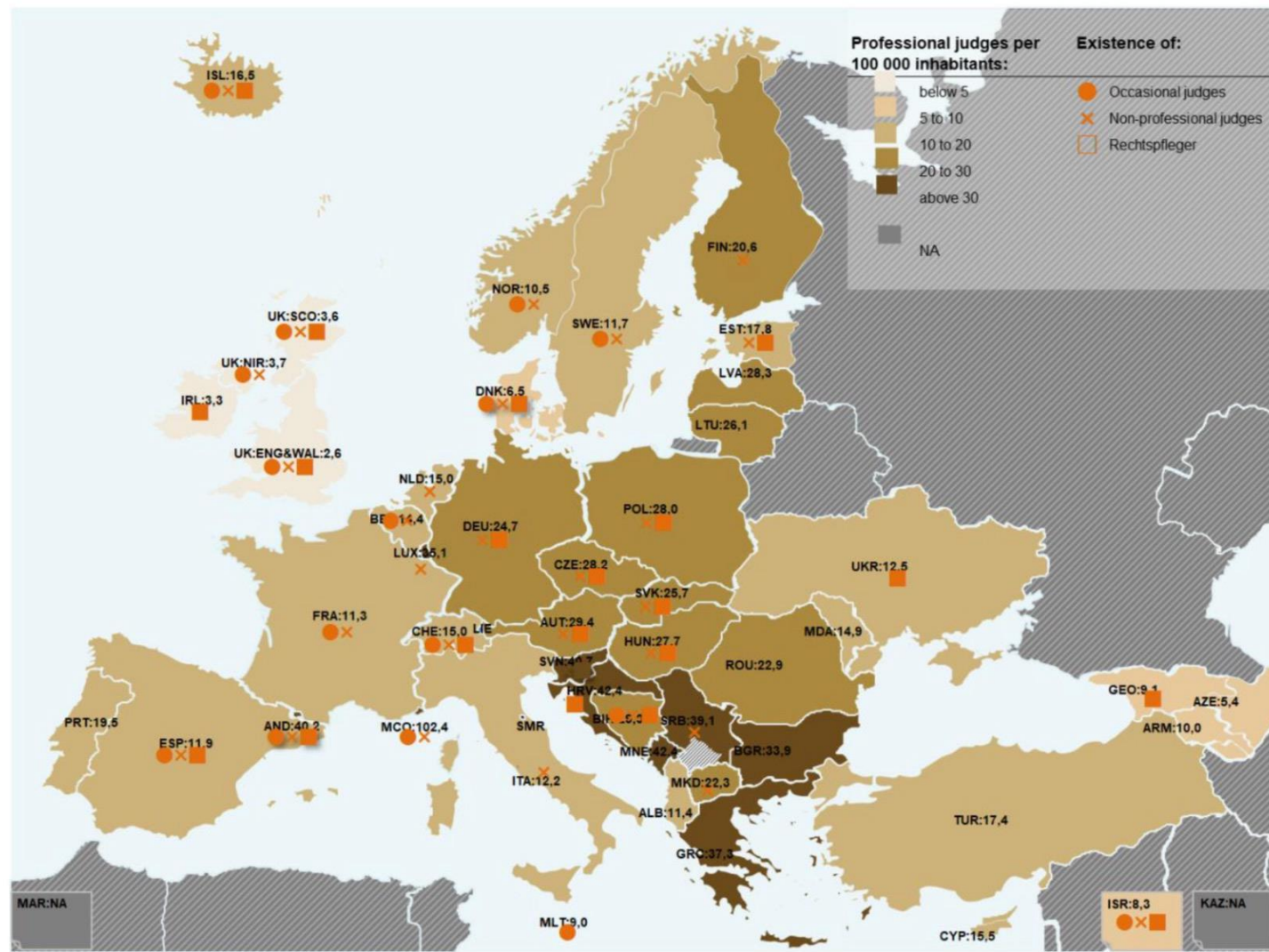
37.2 Judges per 100,000 in Greece

CoE Average is 21.9 Judges per 100,000

Figure 3.12 **Non-judge staff by professional judge in 2022 (Q1, Q46, Q52)**

State / entity Total		Categories (1+2+3)	Rechtsfleger (1)	Assist the judges (2)	Administrative (3)	Technical (4)	Other (5)
ALB	3.32	2.59	NAP	1.97	0.62	0.74	NAP
AND	4.09	3.18	NAP	0.70	2.48	0.91	NA
ARM	5.33	3.65	NAP	1.05	2.60	1.67	NAP
AUT	2.02	1.84	0.27	0.25	1.33	0.04	0.14
AZE	5.29	4.56	NAP	2.27	2.29	0.73	NAP
BEL	3.39	3.04	NAP	2.94	0.10	0.35	0.00
BIH	3.45	3.07	0.09	1.19	1.79	0.38	NAP
BGR	3.01	2.71	NAP	2.26	0.45	0.29	0.02
HRV	3.68	3.27	0.36	2.56	0.35	0.41	NAP
CYP	3.59	2.24	NAP	1.06	1.19	1.02	0.32
CZE	3.23	3.00	0.82	1.48	0.71	0.21	0.02
DNK	4.62	4.37	0.82	0.03	3.52	0.23	0.02
EST	3.40	3.01	0.23	2.50	0.28	0.25	0.14
FIN	1.91	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA
FRA	3.30	3.07	NAP	2.63	0.45	0.12	0.11
GEO	5.41	2.91	0.01	2.48	0.41	2.50	NAP
DEU	2.54	2.04	0.40	1.31	0.33	0.19	0.31
GRC	1.20	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NAP
HUN	3.19	NA	0.37	0.35	NA	NA	2.54
ISL	1.16	1.05	0.39	0.50	0.16	0.00	0.11
IRL	7.33	6.59	0.14	5.70	0.75	0.29	0.44
ITA	3.62	3.07	NAP	2.41	0.66	0.27	0.27
LVA	3.09	2.82	NAP	2.14	0.68	0.24	0.03
LTU	3.50	3.05	NAP	1.90	1.15	0.33	0.11
LUX	1.07	1.00	NAP	0.99	0.01	0.02	0.05
MLT	9.87	7.40	NAP	6.34	1.06	0.26	2.21
MDA	4.89	3.87	NAP	2.23	1.64	1.01	NAP
MCO	1.15	0.85	NAP	0.50	0.35	0.25	0.05
MNE	4.22	3.12	NAP	2.61	0.51	0.48	0.62
NLD	2.90	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA
MKD	5.37	4.56	NAP	1.37	3.18	0.34	0.47
NOR	1.76	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA
POL	4.25	3.48	0.25	2.39	0.84	0.24	0.53
PRT	2.65	2.50	NAP	2.46	0.04	0.13	0.02
ROU	2.54	1.91	NAP	1.53	0.38	0.38	0.24
SRB	3.42	2.77	NAP	1.47	1.30	0.64	0.01
SVK	3.32	3.31	0.76	1.55	1.00	0.01	NA
SVN	3.96	3.76	0.54	1.30	1.92	0.21	NAP
ESP	8.69	NA	0.78	NAP	NAP	NAP	7.91
SWE	3.97	3.19	NAP	2.65	0.55	0.14	0.63
CHE	3.25	2.93	0.01	1.56	1.36	0.12	0.21
TUR	NA	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA
UKR	4.62	1.59	NAP	1.13	0.46	0.34	2.69
UK:ENG&WAL	9.46	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA
UK:NIR	9.83	9.83	NAP	6.48	3.35	NA	NA
UK:SCO	9.82	9.36	NAP	0.90	8.47	0.46	NAP
ISR	5.64	3.90	0.09	1.22	2.59	0.85	0.89
MAR	NA	NA	NAP	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average	4.12	3.44	0.39	1.98	1.28	0.44	0.72
Median	3.45	3.06	0.37	1.56	0.73	0.29	0.17
Minimum	1.07	0.85	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00
Maximum	9.87	9.83	0.82	6.48	8.47	2.50	7.91

1.2 Court Staff per 100,000 in Greece

CoE Average is 4.12 per 100,000

Figure 3. 13 **Non-judge staff compared with the number of professional judges per 100 000 inhabitants; non-judge staff per professional judge in 2022 (Q1, Q46, Q52)**
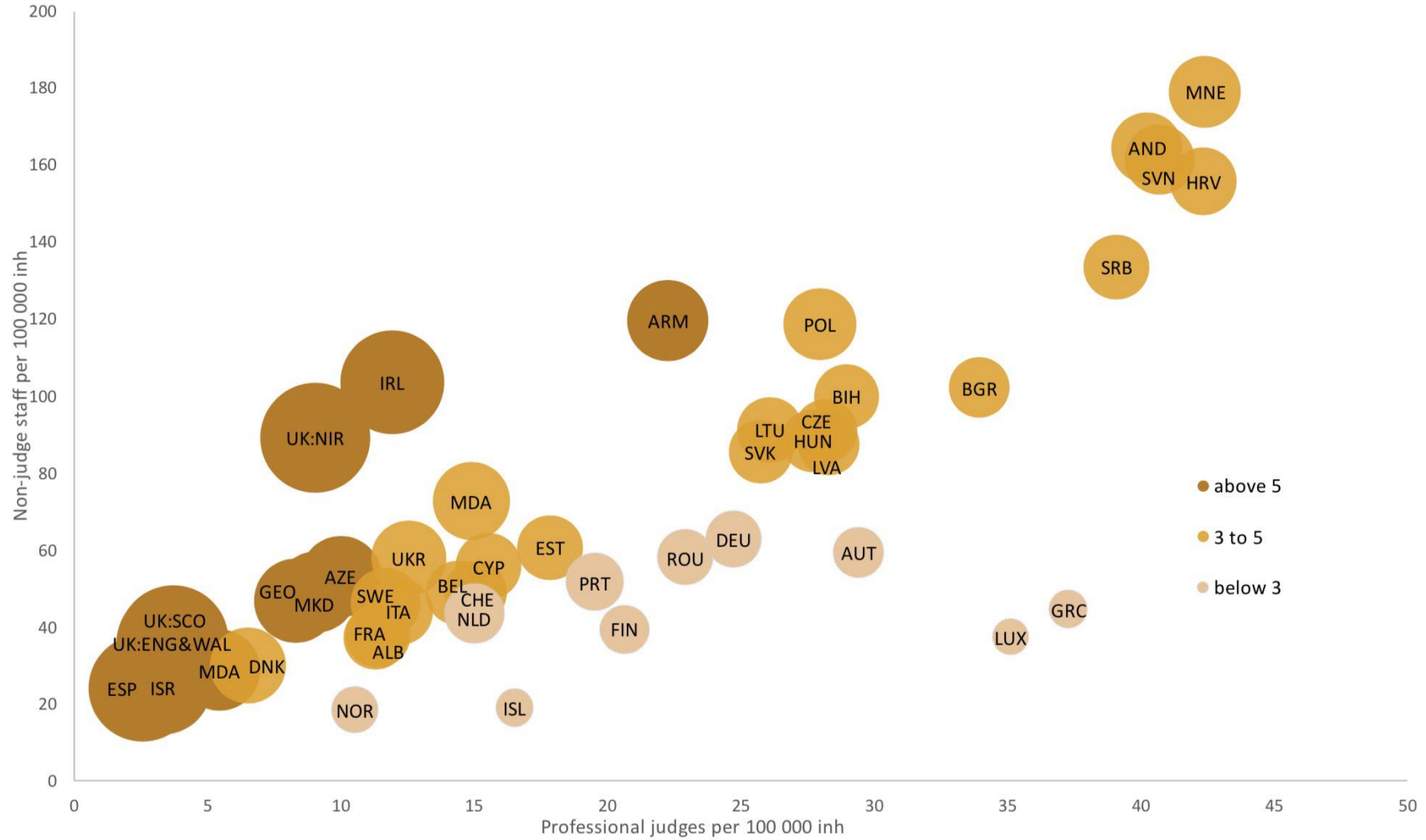
Map 3. 51 **Number of lawyers per 100 000 inhabitants in 2022 (Q1, Q146)**
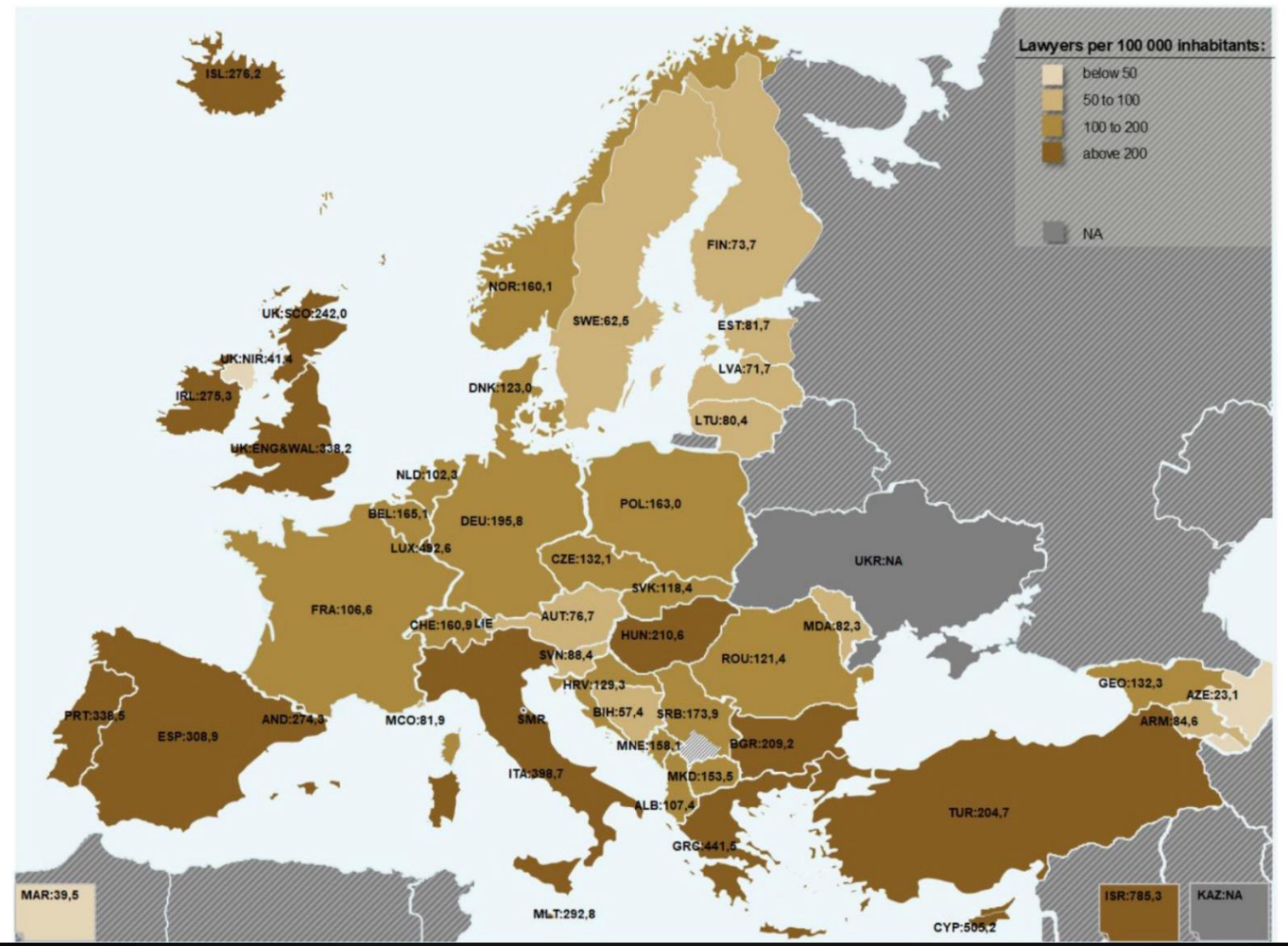
441.5 lawyers per 100,000 in Greece

CoE Average is 189 per 100,000

Map 5.5 **Clearance Rate and Disposition Time for civil and commercial litigious cases at first instance in 2022 (Q91)**
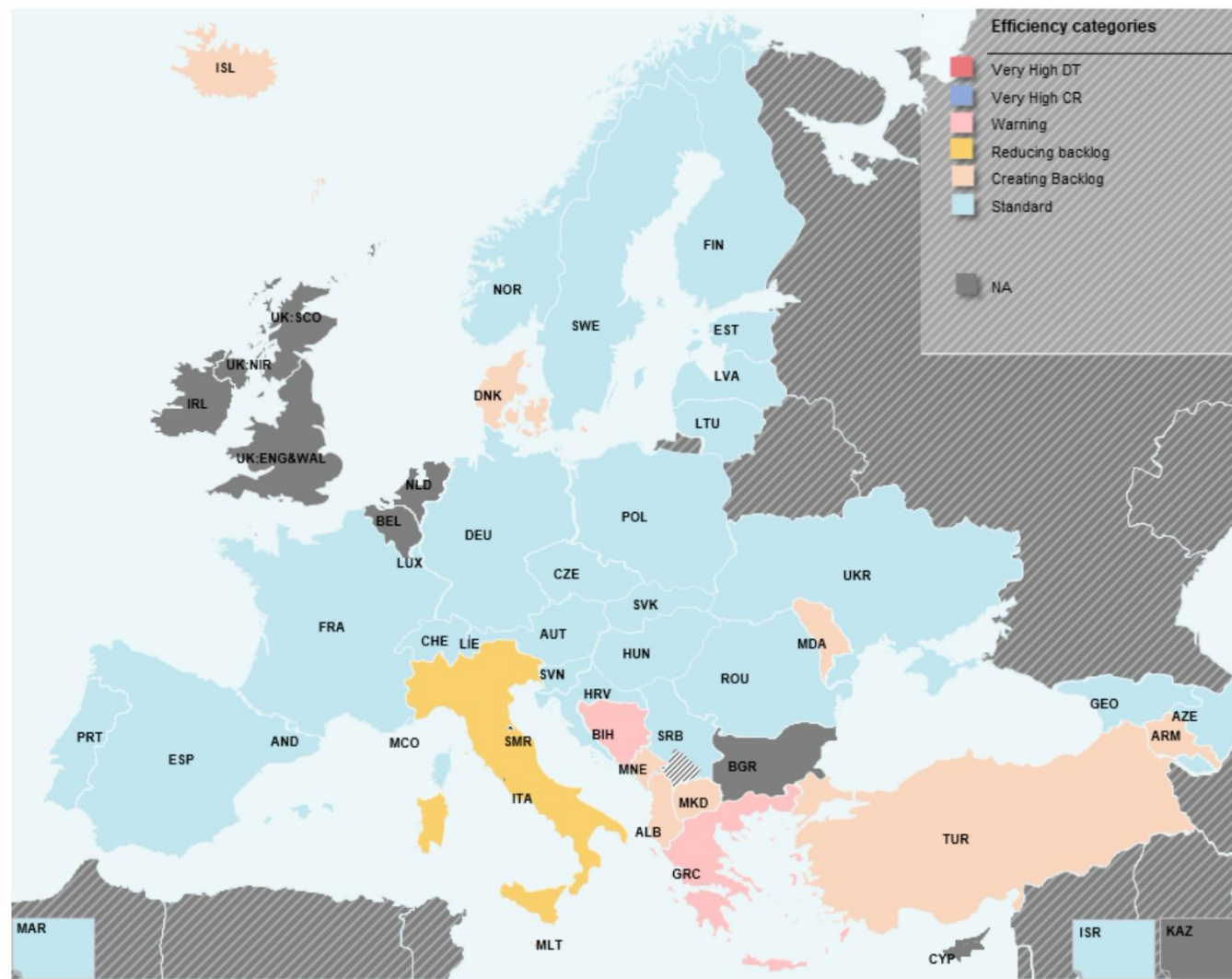
Map 5.9 **Clearance Rate and Disposition Time for first instance administrative cases in 2022 (Q91)**
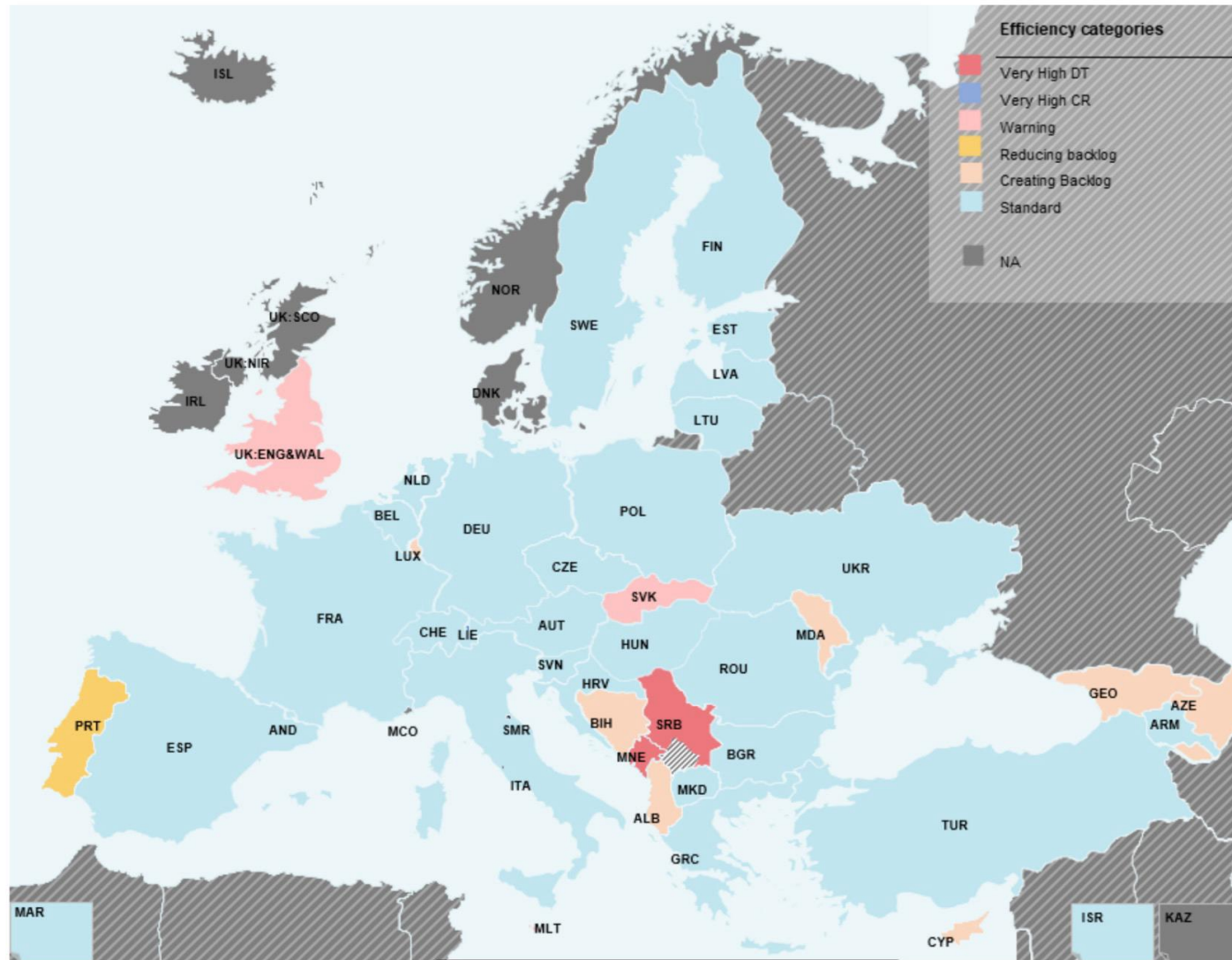
Map 5.13 **Clearance Rates and Disposition Time for criminal cases at first instance in 2022 (Q94)**
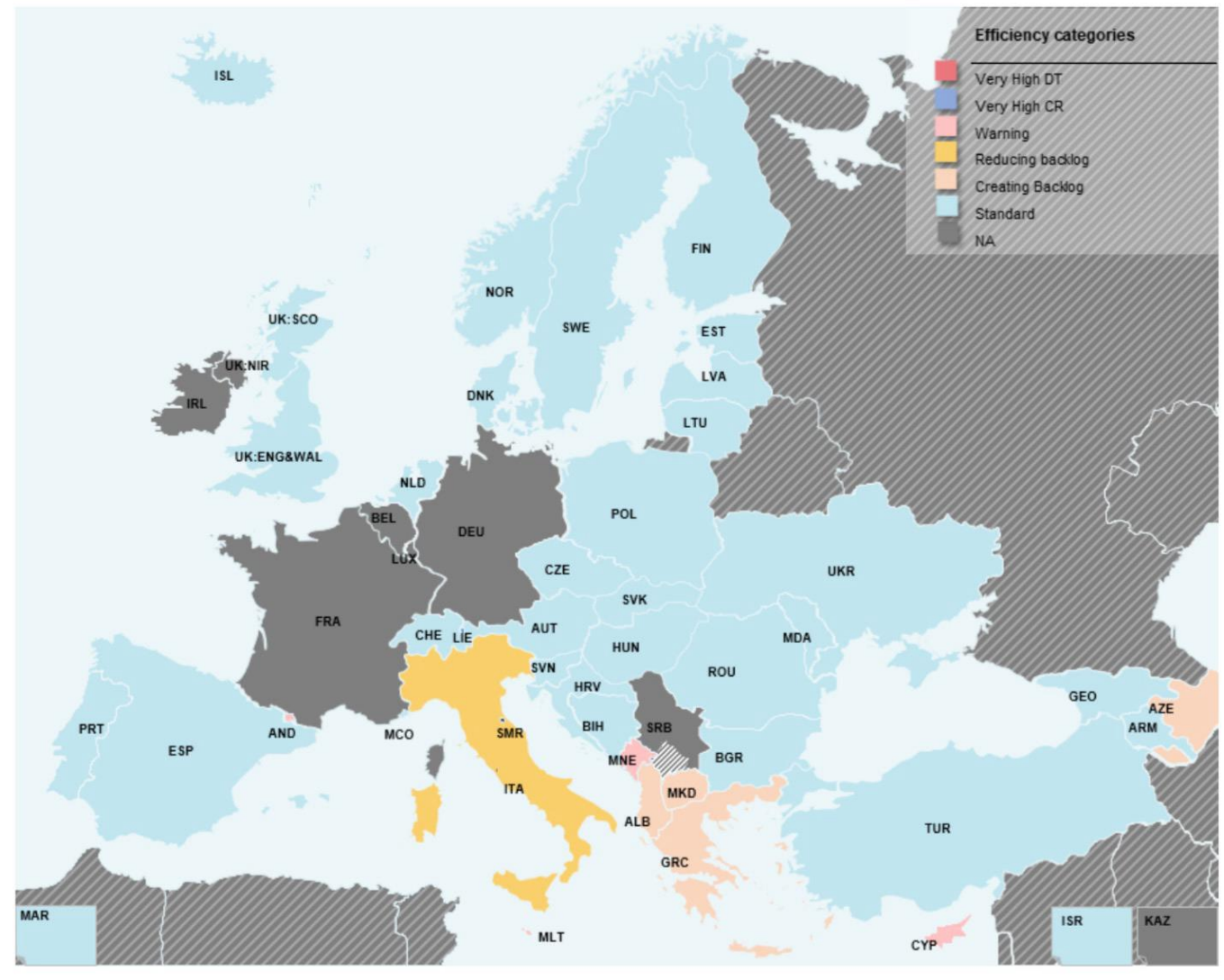
Figure 6.5 **ICT Deployment Index**

Figure 6.7 **ICT Use Index**
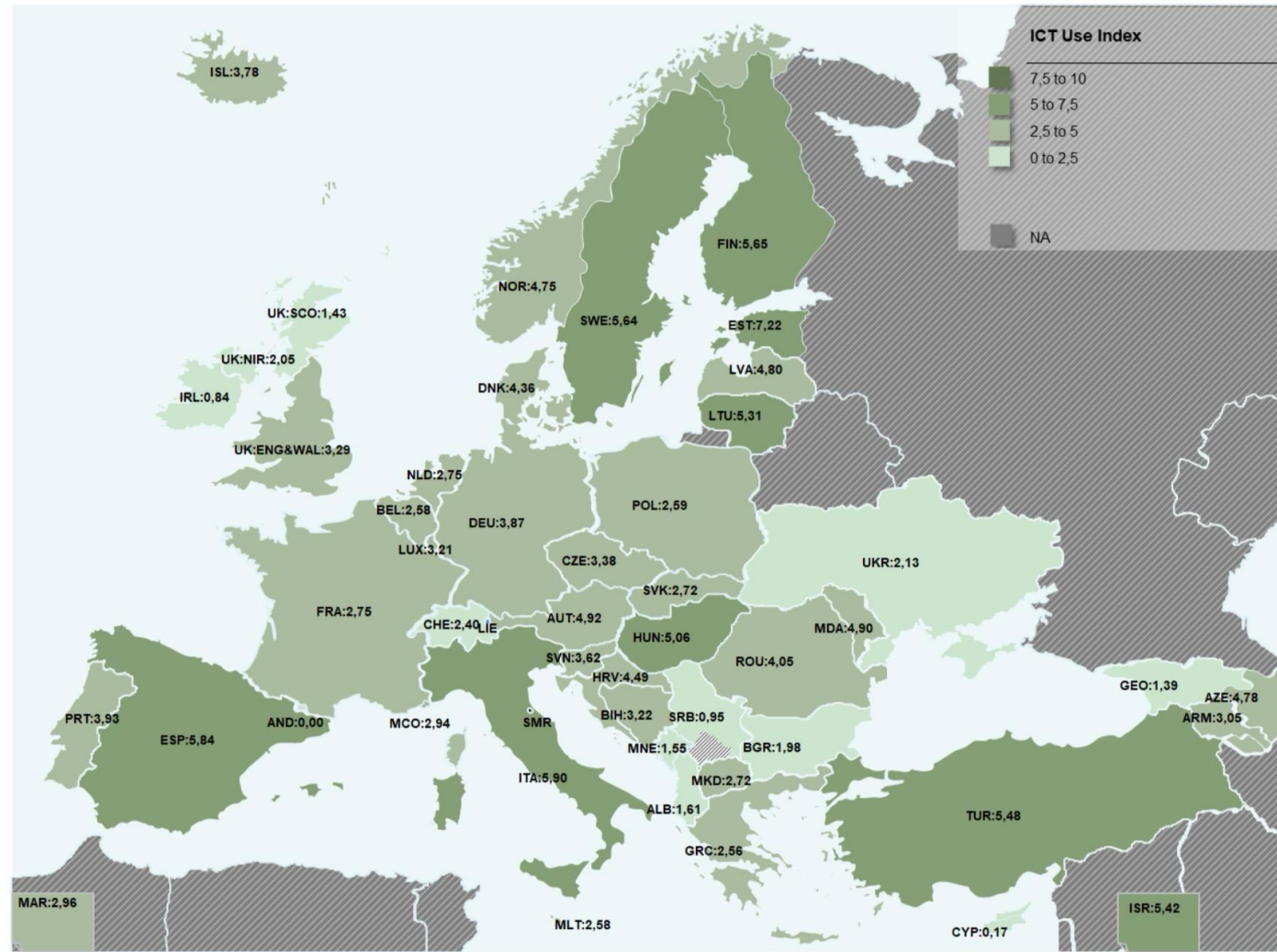
Another important factor which should be closely linked to the number of judges is the *case weighting*: are cases evenly distributed among professional judges? Here also the CEPEJ carried out deepened studies dedicated on case weighting systems in courts and prosecution services used in member States.

Numerous other parameters can be added in the analyses on length of proceedings such as:
- the legal framework
  - the need to amend the procedural laws;
  - the existence of simplified or urgent procedures for some cases);
- adequate training of judges;
- evaluation of judges' work;
- the use of ICT facilitating the daily work of judges;
- the resort to court related mediation procedures and other ADR;
- the number of lawyers.

Therefore, the slow pace of rendering judgments, the negative clearance rate and long disposition time cannot be exclusively attributable to the number of judges.

Simple conventional first step

Enhance the methodology of collecting, analyzing and using data from courts at <u>national level</u>;

A centralized approach instead of collecting data individually from each court is necessary.

ICT tools present numerous advantages that should be explored, for example a modern Case management system with a monitoring processes and alerts with regard to old cases

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
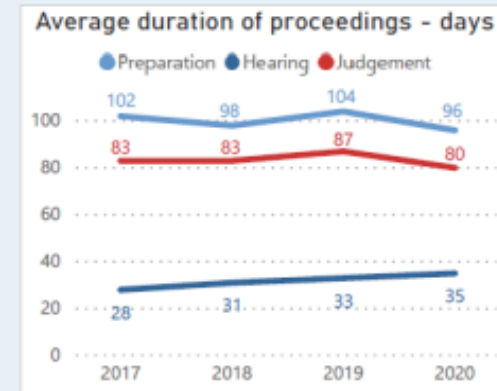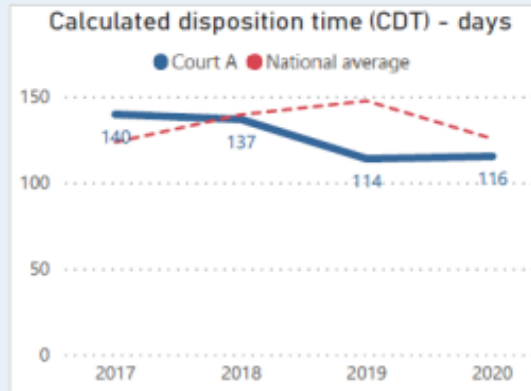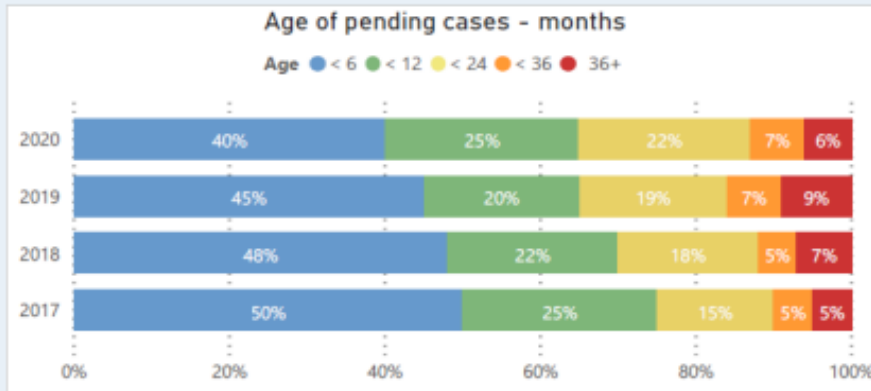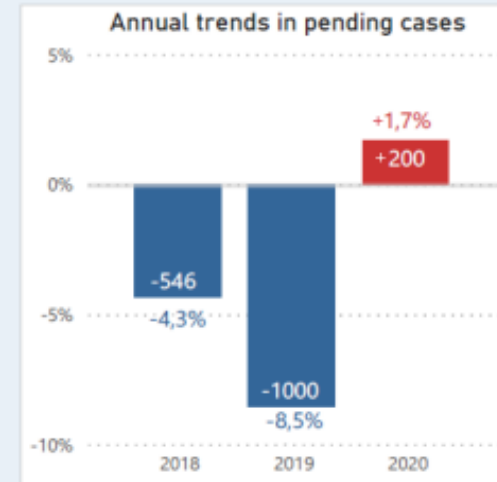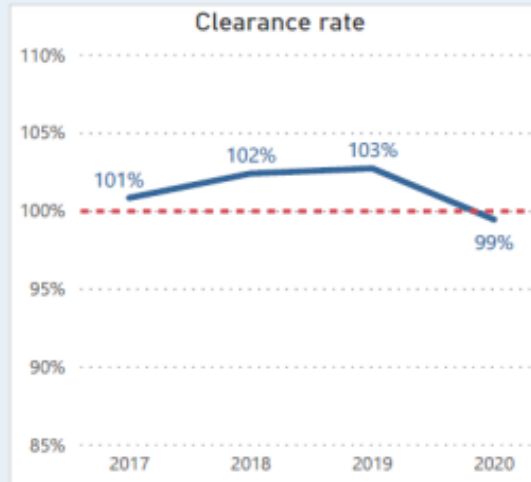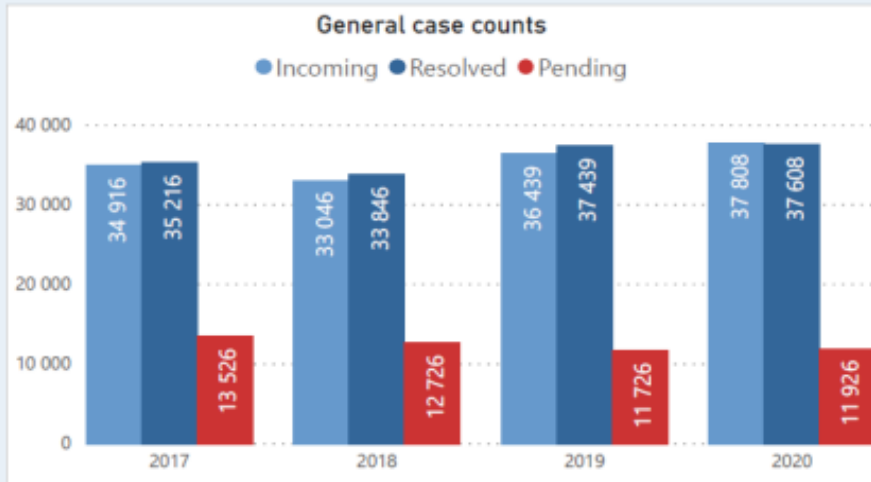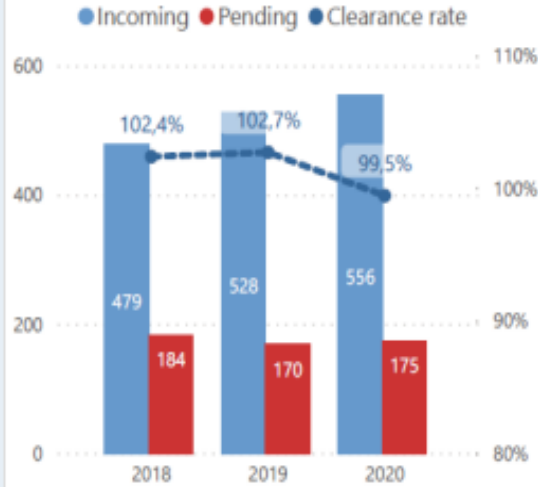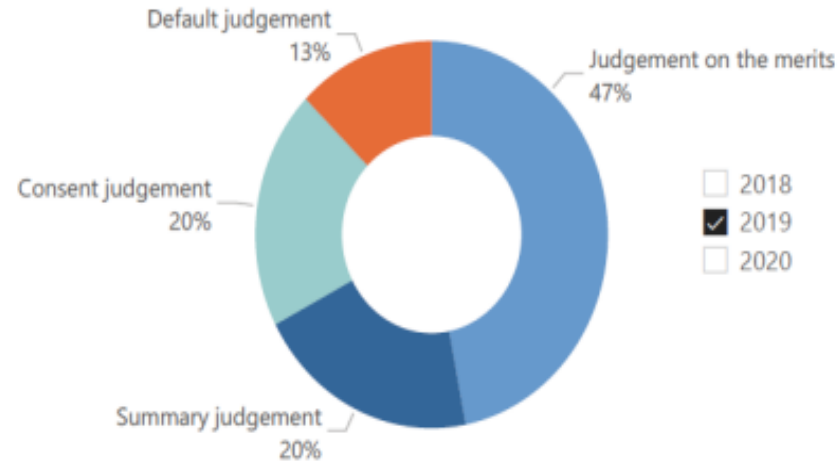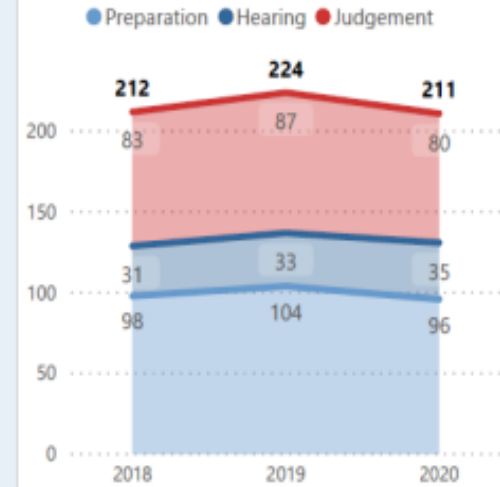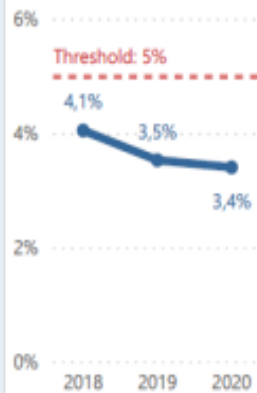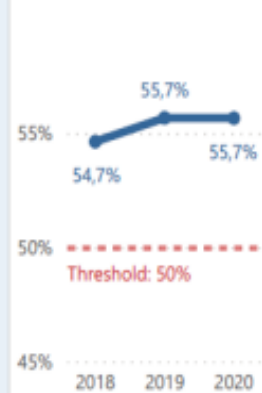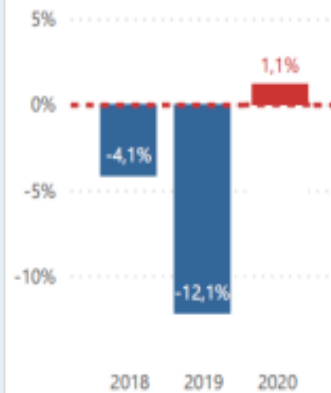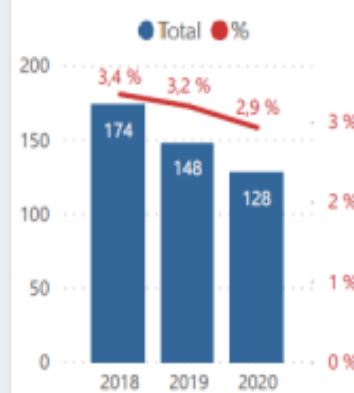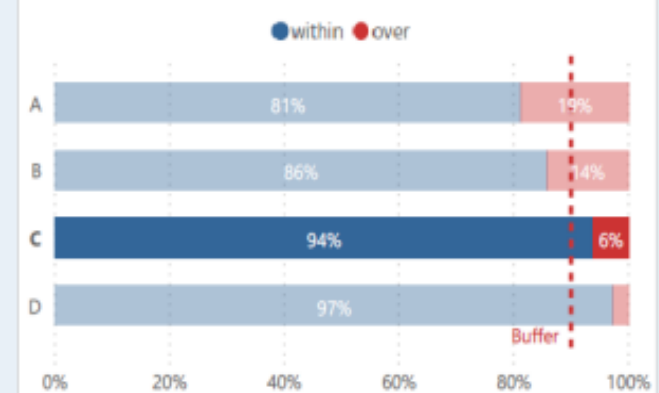
4.1

ITALY

Civil justice:
*   introduction of binding deadlines for all phases of the processes;
*   introduction of a monitoring to increase the productivity of courts;
*   Simplified out of court settlement procedures in insolvency matters;
*   the use of alternative instruments for the resolution of disputes, primarily arbitration and mediation;
*   simplification of the appeal procedure by strengthening the admissibility filter and increasing the cases in which only one judge is competent to rule;
*   elimination of the backlog in the judicial offices thanks to the temporary hiring provided.

Criminal justice:
*   expanding the possibility of using simplified procedures,
*   spreading the use of digital technology,
*   ensuring stringent time frames of the preliminary hearing
*   re-examining the notification system to make it more effective.

Italy (cont)

<u>Digitisation of the judicial system</u>:
- the obligatory nature of the mandatory electronic file and the completion of the electronic civil process.
- the digitisation of the first degree criminal trial (excluding the preliminary hearing)
- plans to introduce a free, fully accessible and searchable database of civil decisions in accordance with the legislation.

The **<u>organisational tool "Trial Office"</u>** consists in:
- establishing (or reinforcing if they already exist) resources to support judges (recruited on a fixed-term basis) to reduce the backlog and the time required to complete the proceedings in Italy.
- This measure should also improve the quality of judicial action by supporting judges in their normal activities of studying, researching, preparing draft orders, organising files and allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.
- The investment also includes training to support the digital transition of the judiciary.

Bulgaria:

The project "*Establishing a balanced workload distribution in the judicial system in Bulgaria*" was aimed at improving workload management of judges. CEPEJ experts provided a more accurate picture and recommendations regarding the workload of judges and courts based on a strengthened judicial data collection and analysis.

France:

Various measures have been put in place: creation of a National Mediation Council in 2021, extension of the prior attempt of compulsory ADR to certain administrative disputes and abnormal neighbourhood disturbances, possibility of making an agreement resulting from an ADR enforceable. Furthermore, the remuneration of lawyers participating in mediation in the frame of the legal aid regime was tripled in the event of an agreement reached.

Lithuania:

Recent amendments to the Code of Administrative Misdemeanors entered into force, by which the cases of administrative offences were transferred to be examined from district courts out of court to pre-trial institutions.

https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/resource-centre-on-cyberjustice-and-ai

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT
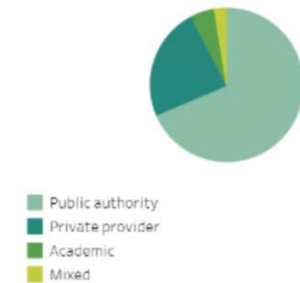
o Document search, review and Large-scale Discovery

o Automated Online Dispute Resolution

o Prediction of Litigation Outcomes

o Decision-Support and Decision-Making

o Anonymization

o E-Filing

o Triaging, allocation and workflow automation

o Natural Language Processing
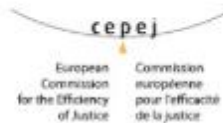
o Information/assistance services

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
FOR THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE (CEPEJ)
Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings

Document adopted by the CEPEJ
at its 36th plenary meeting
(June 2021)

cepej
European Commission
Commission européenne
for the Efficiency
pour l'efficacité
of Justice
de la justice

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Tools developed by the CEPEJ

Information note on the Use of Generative AI by judicial professionals in a work-related context (2/2024)

Guidelines on online alternative dispute resolution (12/2023)

Guide on judicial e-auctions (6/2023)

Comparative Study on the use of judicial e-auctions in the Council of Europe Member States (6/2023)

Guidelines on electronic court filing (e-filing) and digitalisation of courts (12/2021)

Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings (6/2021) and Selected National Good practices (6/2021)

Relevant Guidelines in the field of QUALITY

- Checklist for promoting the quality of justice and the courts (2008)

- Revised Guidelines on the creation of judicial maps to support access to justice within a quality judicial system (2013)

- Handbook for conducting satisfaction surveys aimed at court users in Council of Europe member States (2016)

- Guide on communication with the media and the public for courts and prosecution authorities (2018)

- Guidelines on the simplification and clarification of language with users (2021)

Relevant Guidelines in the field of JUDICIAL TIME MANAGEMENT

- Towards European timeframes for judicial proceedings (Implementation Guide, 2016)

- Case weighting in judicial systems (2020)

- Revised SATURN guidelines for judicial time management (4th revision, 2021)

- Backlog reduction tool (2023)

- Time management checklist (2023)

Relevant Guidelines in the field of CYBERJUSTICE & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- **Information note on the Use of Generative AI by judicial professionals in a work-related context** (2024)

- **Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and AI (2022)**

- European ethical Charter on the use of Artificial Intelligence in judicial systems and their environment and tool for its operationalization (respectively **2018** and **2023**)

- **Guidelines on electronic court filing (e-filing) and digitalisation of courts (2021)**

- **Guidelines on videoconferencing in judicial proceedings** (2021)

Relevant Guidelines in the field of MEDIATION & ENFORCEMENT

In terms of mediation

- Mediation development toolkit (2018)

- European Handbook for Mediation Lawmaking (2019)

- Promoting mediation to resolve administrative disputes in Council of Europe member States (2022)

**In terms of enforcement of judicial decisions**

- Good practice guide on enforcement of judicial decisions (2015)

Can disputes be solved by algorithms one day

- The use of digital technologies, including algorithm-based solutions, can make judicial systems more transparent and efficient, including by reducing the administrative burden on courts, reducing case processing times, making communication more secure and reliable, making information more accessible to the public and partially automating case processing.

- Safeguards must be put in place to ensure that the use of digital technologies in the justice field does not undermine the **right to a fair trial** and an **effective judicial remedy**, including equal opportunities for both parties to present their arguments (equality of arms), the right to see and comment on all evidence and submissions (**adversarial proceedings**), the right to a **public hearing,** and – in criminal proceedings - **the rights of the defence**, including access to a lawyer and to the case file.

- **The current task of the CEPEJ is to assist in the rethinking Article 6 of the ECHR in the digital context!**
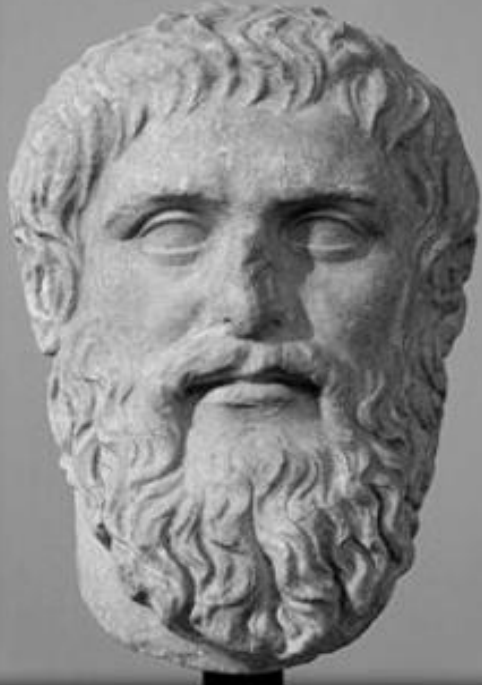
"Justice in the life and conduct of the State is possible only as first it resides in the hearts and souls of the citizens". (Plato).-

Thankyou – Mr Justice Francesco Depasquale
President CEPEJ