



European Commission

# THE 2023 EU JUSTICE SCOREBOARD



Factsheet / June 2023

This document contains a selection of graphs with quantitative data from the 2023 EU Justice Scoreboard.

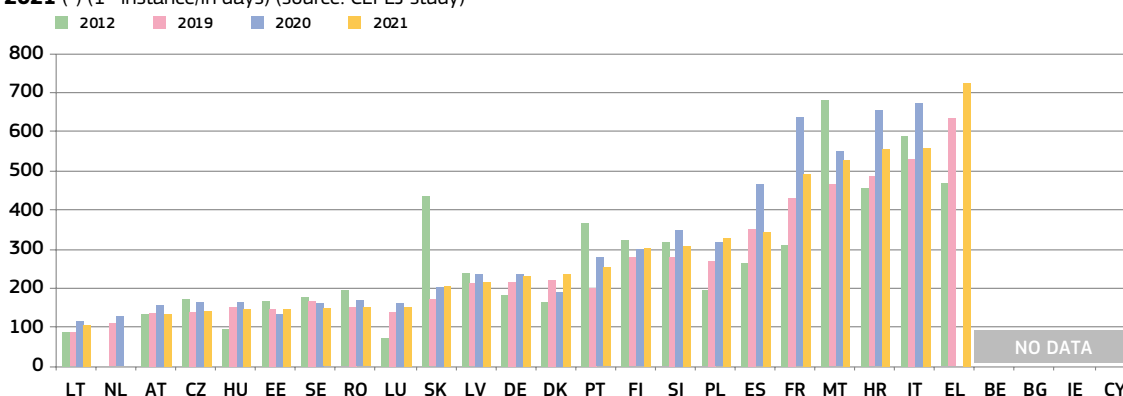


See the complete 2023 EU Justice Scoreboard at: <https://europa.eu/!CJdXbP>

## EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE SYSTEMS

In 2021, civil and commercial cases were **resolved within < 1 year in most Member States** and the lengths of proceedings **decreased in 16 Member States** (compared to 2020).

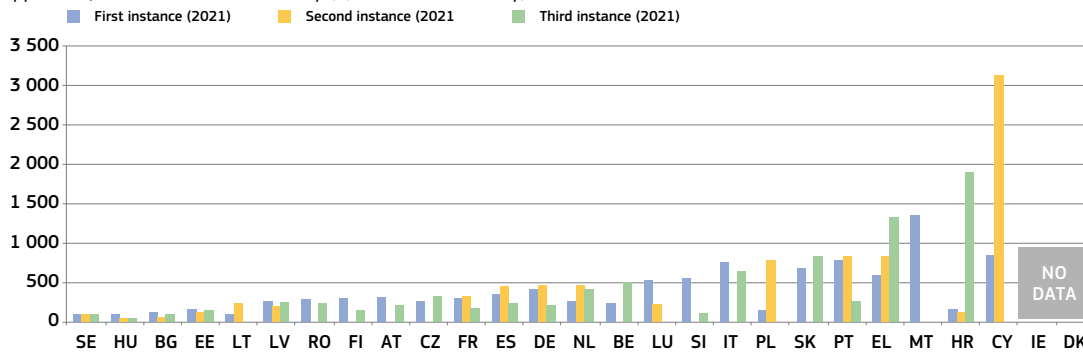
**Figure 6** Estimated time needed to resolve litigious civil and commercial cases at first instance in 2012, 2019 – 2021 (\*) (1<sup>st</sup> instance/in days) (source: CEPEJ study)



(\*) Under the CEPEJ methodology, litigious civil/commercial cases concern disputes between parties, e.g. disputes about contracts. Non-litigious civil/commercial cases concern uncontested proceedings, e.g. uncontested payment orders. Methodology changes in **EL** and **SK**. Pending cases include all instances in **CZ** and, up to 2016, in **SK**. **IT**: the temporary slowdown of judicial activity due to strict restrictive measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic affected the disposition time. Data for **NL** include non-litigious cases.

In **5 of the Member States** facing challenges with the length of proceedings in first instance courts, higher instance courts perform more efficiently.

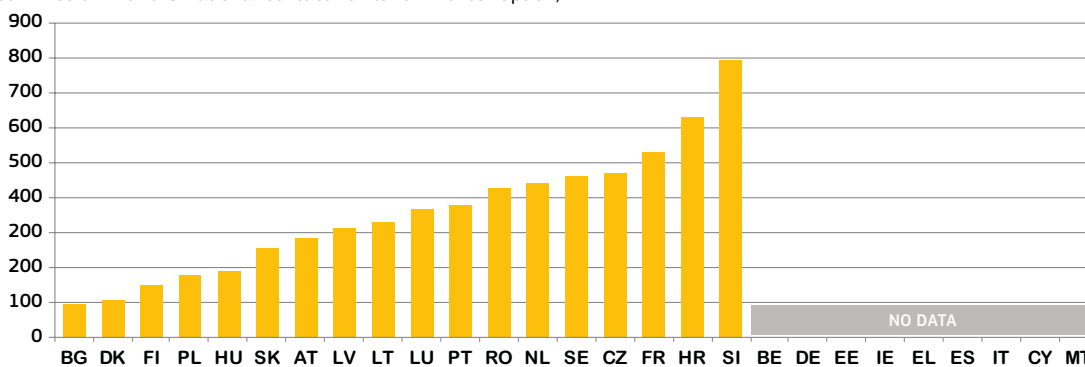
**Figure 9** Estimated time needed to resolve administrative cases at all court instances in 2021 (\*) (1<sup>st</sup> and, where applicable, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> instance/in days) (source: CEPEJ study)



(\*) The order is determined by the court instance with the longest proceedings in each Member State. No data available for second instance courts in **BE, CZ, HU, MT, AT, RO, SI, SK** and **FI**, for third instance courts in **CY, LT, LU, MT** and **PL**. The supreme, or other highest court, is the only appeal instance in **CZ, IT, CY, AT, SI** and **FI**. There is no third instance court for these types of cases in **HR, LT, LU** and **MT**. The highest Administrative Court is the first and only instance for certain cases in **BE**. Access to third instance courts may be limited in some Member States. **DK** and **IE** do not record administrative cases separately.

In **12 Member States** bribery cases in criminal courts are resolved within < 1 year.

**Figure 23** Corruption (bribery): average length of court cases in 2021 (\*) (1<sup>st</sup> instance/in days) (source: European Commission with the National Contact Points for Anti-corruption)



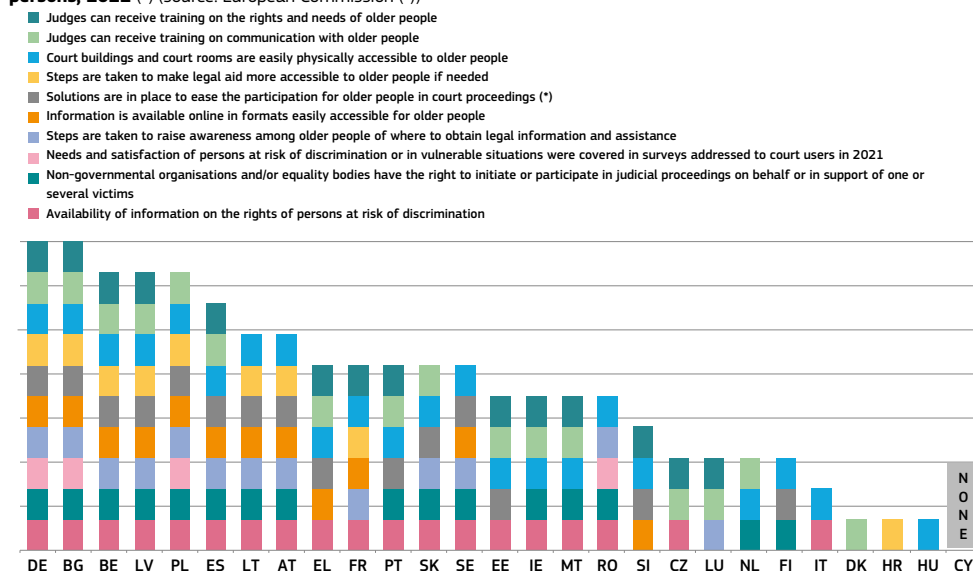
(\*) No reply on this question from **MT** and **CY**. For **BE, EE, DE, IE, EL, ES** and **IT** the exact number of days is not available. **NL**: The average processing time for the 27 cases is 443 days. However, the indictment/subpoena at this starting point is not yet final, and often the case is not yet ready for trial, so it takes some time before it is placed in a hearing. If the starting point is the first hearing and the endpoint is the date of the final verdict (by first instance judge), then the average processing time for the abovementioned cases is 100 days.

## QUALITY AND CITIZEN-FRIENDLY JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Almost all EU countries have arrangements to **support persons at risk of discrimination and older persons** in accessing justice **but only**

- **17 Member States** provide information on the rights of persons at risk of discrimination;
- **14 Member States** have solutions in place to make it easier for older people to participate in court proceedings.

**Figure 27 Specific arrangements for access to justice of persons at risk of discrimination and older persons, 2022** (\*) (source: European Commission <sup>(1)</sup>)



(\*) LT: No data on training were provided.

**All EU countries** have in place at least some arrangements for victims of violence against women and domestic violence.

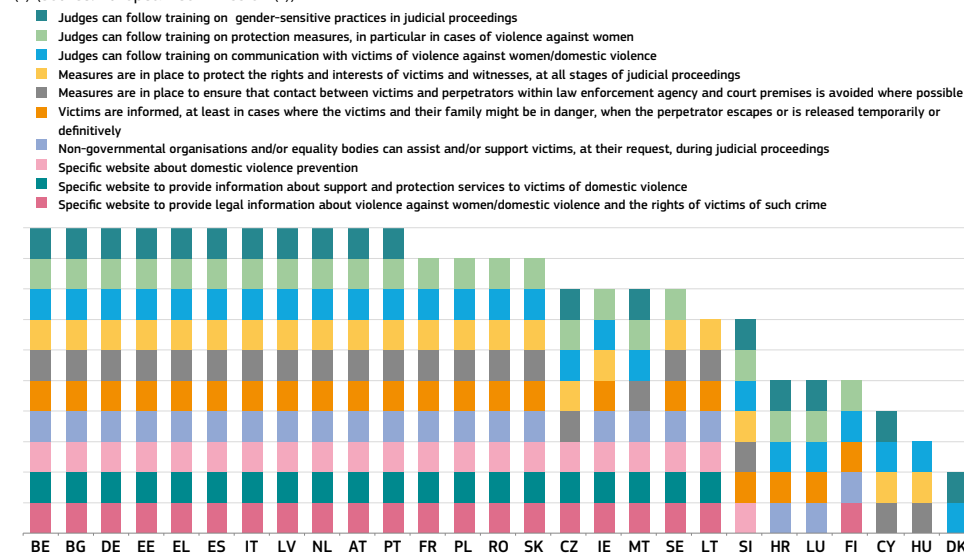
- **In 12 Member States**, all mapped safeguards are in place, including online access to specific information that is relevant to this group, special protection for victims and witnesses, support during judicial proceedings by non-governmental organisations or equality bodies or specific dedicated training for judges.

However,

- **nearly a quarter EU countries** do not provide online access to specific information on domestic violence prevention, support and protection services, or legal information about violence and victims' rights.

**Figure 28 Specific arrangements for victims of violence against women/domestic violence, 2022**

(\*) (source: European Commission <sup>(2)</sup>)



(\*) LT: No data on training were provided.

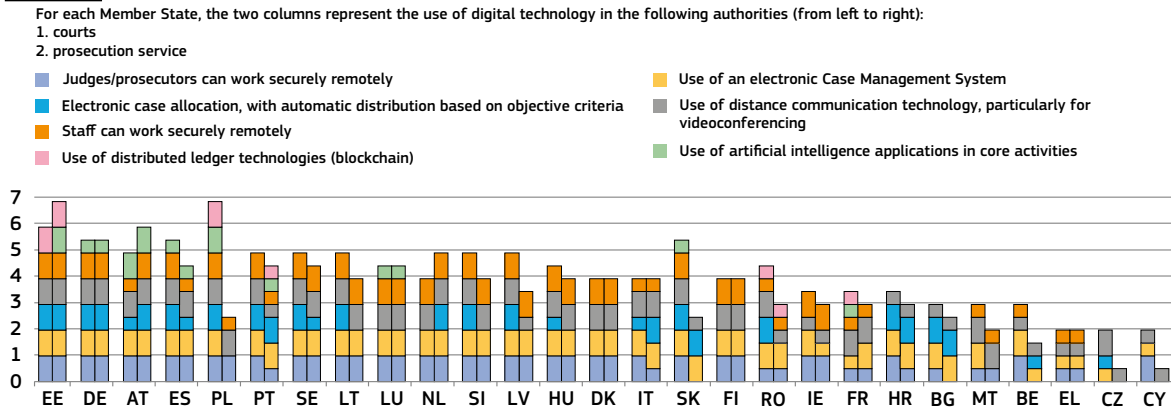
<sup>1</sup> 2022 data collected in cooperation with the group of contact persons on national justice systems and the European Judicial Training Network.

<sup>2</sup> 2022 data collected in cooperation with the group of contact persons on national justice systems and the European Judicial Training Network.

**Most Member States** already use digital solutions such as online information or use of digital technology by courts and prosecution services but

- **Only 8 Member States** have digital-ready procedural rules, which allow fully or mostly for the use of distance communication and for the admissibility of evidence in digital format only;
- **In 25 Member States**, courts and prosecution services in Member States do not fully use digital technology up to the potential allowed by their procedural rules.

**Figure 42 Use of digital technology by courts and prosecution services, 2022** (\*) (source: European Commission (3))

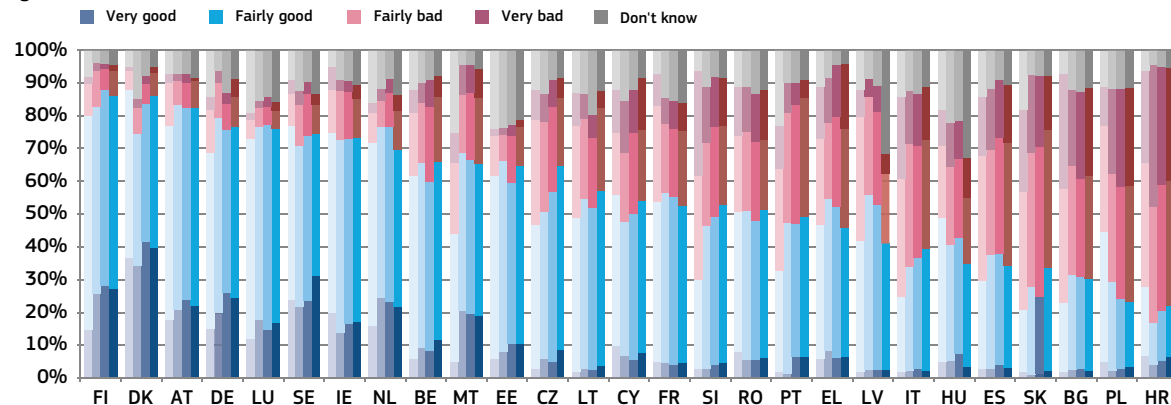


(\*) Maximum possible: 7 points. For each criterion, one point was given if courts and prosecution services, respectively, use a given technology and 0.5 point was awarded when the technology is not always used by them.

## INDEPENDENCE OF JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Perception of judicial independence by the general public: improved in **15 Member States since 2016** and in **12 Member States since last year**.

**Figure 49 How the general public perceives the independence of courts and judges** (\*) (source: Eurobarometer (4) - light colours: 2016, 2021 and 2022, dark colours: 2023)



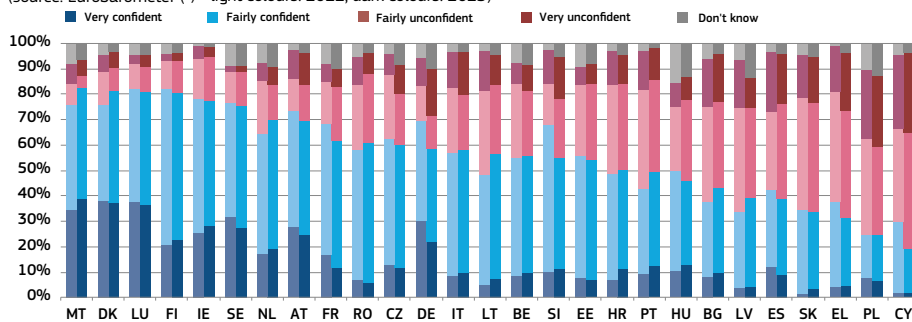
(\*) Member States are ordered first by the percentage of respondents who stated that the independence of courts and judges is very good or fairly good (total good); if some Member States have the same percentage of total good, then they are ordered by the percentage of respondents who stated that the independence of courts and judges is fairly bad or very bad (total bad); if some Member States have the same percentage of total good and total bad, then they are ordered by the percentage of respondents who stated that the independence of courts and judges is very good; if some Member States have the same percentage of total good, total bad and of very good, then they are ordered by the percentage of respondents who stated that the independence of courts and judges is very bad.

<sup>3</sup> 2022 data collected in cooperation with the group of contact persons on national justice systems.

<sup>4</sup> Eurobarometer survey FL519, conducted between 16 and 24 January 2023. Replies to the question: 'From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (your country) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?', see: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/justice-and-fundamental-rights/effective-justice/eu-justice-scoreboard\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/justice-and-fundamental-rights/effective-justice/eu-justice-scoreboard_en) FL 503 (2022), FL 489 (2021), FL 435 (2016), also available on the Eurobarometer website: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home>.

Perception of effective investment protection by the law and courts: Compared to last year, confidence in investment protection **improved in 16 Member States.**

**Figure 53** How companies perceive the effectiveness of investment protection by the law and courts (\*) (source: Eurobarometer (5) - light colours: 2022, dark colours: 2023)



(\*) Member States are ordered first by the combined percentage of respondents who stated that they are very or fairly confident in investment protection by the law and courts (total confident).

Most Member States have one or more bodies that play a role in the prevention of corruption. **17 Member States** have bodies **specialised in the prevention of corruption** and 9 Member States have authorities that, apart from their other tasks, also deal with prevention of corruption.

**Figure 58** Powers of specialised bodies dealing with the prevention of corruption (\*) (source: European Commission with the National Contact Points for Anti-corruption (6))



(\*) Member States have one or several bodies that have at least some role in preventing corruption. For clarity and comparability, the chart only presents the powers of one authority for each Member State, which is specialised in preventing corruption. The authorities whose powers are represented are listed hereafter. Some Member States do not have such authorities, while others have several, with different competences. **BE**: Unit for Integrity within the Federal Public Service for Policy and Support (FOD BOSA/FPS BOSA). **BG**: Commission on Combating Corruption and Forfeiture of Illegally Acquired Property (CCCFIAP). **CZ**: Conflict of Interests and Anti-corruption Department, (Ministry of Justice). **IE**: Standards in Public Office Commission. Garda National Economic Crime Bureau also has a role to play in the prevention of corruption. **EL**: National Transparency Authority. **ES**: Office on the Conflict of Interests. **FR**: There are two anti-corruption bodies - L'Agence française anticorruption (AFA) and la Haute Autorité pour la transparence de la vie publique (HATVP). They have complementary functions in relation to the prevention of corruption. The chart presents the powers of the AFA. **HR**: Commission for the Resolution of Conflicts of Interest. **IT**: National Anti-corruption Authority. **CY**: Independent Authority Against Corruption. **LV**: Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau. **LT**: There are two authorities dealing with the prevention of corruption - Special Investigation Service (STT), which is presented in the chart, and the Chief Official Ethic Commission (COEC). **HU**: Integrity Authority. The competence to verify asset declarations of senior political executives was transferred to the Integrity Authority in 2022. The procedure under the Conditionality Regulation and Hungary's Recovery and Resilience Plan include, in addition, reforms to extend the Integrity Authority's powers to directly verify public asset declarations of all high-risk officials whose assets declarations are publicly available, and, for non-public asset declarations, to request the competent bodies to carry out the verification and to obtain the verification results. There are two other authorities that play a role in prevention of corruption - the National Protective Service and the Constitution Protection Office. **AT**: Federal Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAK). **PL**: The Central Anti-corruption Bureau. **PT**: National Anti-corruption Mechanism. **RO**: The National Integrity Agency. **SI**: Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. **SE**: There is a decentralised approach in the prevention of corruption and SE has entrusted this task to many different agencies and bodies.

5 Eurobarometer survey FL520; replies to the question: 'To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in (your country) if something goes wrong?' For the purpose of the survey, investment was defined as including any kind of asset that a company owns or controls and that is characterised by the commitment of capital or other resources, the expectation of gain or profit or the assumption of risk.

6 Data collected through a questionnaire drawn up by the Commission in close association with the National contact points in the fight against corruption.