



# The EU Justice Scoreboard

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# What is the EU Justice Scoreboard?

*An **annual comparative information tool***

*Not an overall single ranking but a **comprehensive overview** of how all Member States' justice systems function*

*Presents **comparable data** on the **efficiency, quality and independence** of national justice systems across EU Member States, as well as indicators relevant for the Single Market*

# What is an effective justice system?

*A justice system, which can work **efficiently***

*A justice system, which offers a good **quality** justice*

*An **independent** justice system*

# Why effective justice systems are important?

*Essential for the application and enforcement of EU law*

*Essential for upholding the rule of law and other values, on which the EU is founded and which are common to the Member States.*

*National courts act as EU courts when applying EU law.*

# EU Justice Scoreboard

*Launched in 2013, it serves to monitor justice systems and reforms related to them.*

*It focuses on the three main elements of an effective justice system:*

- **Efficiency**
- **Quality**
- **Independence**

# What are the sources of the data?

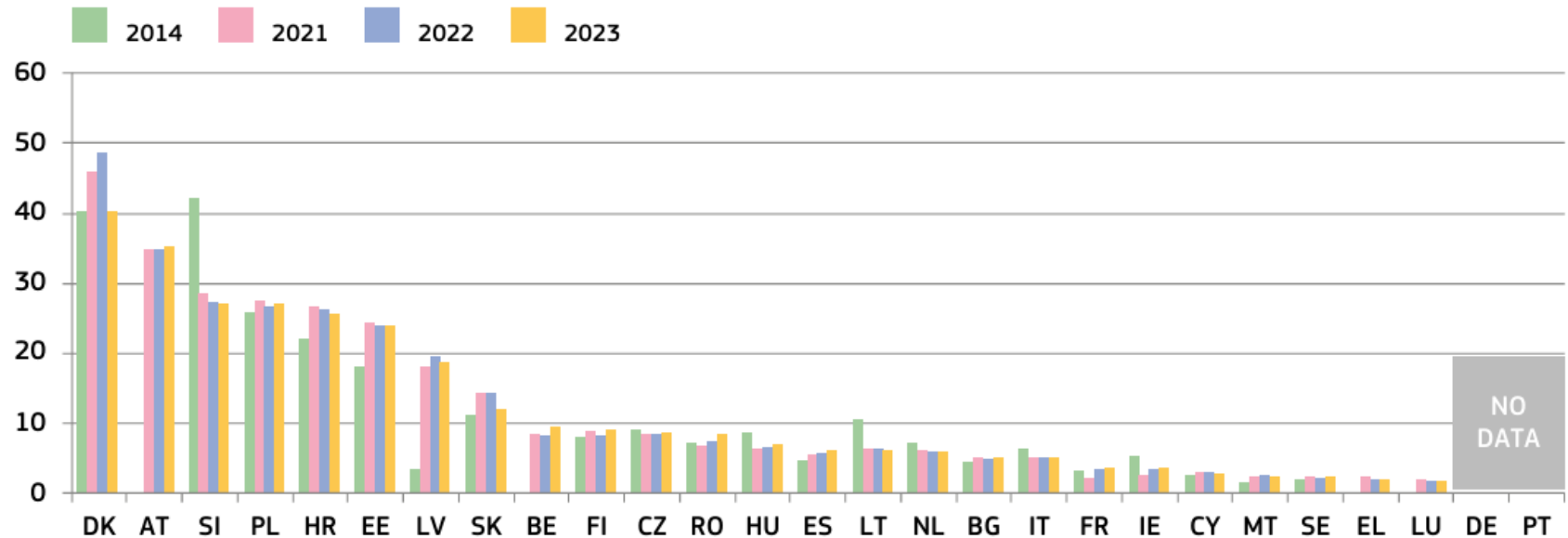
*18 questionnaires*

*Main ones – questionnaire of the contact persons group and CEPEJ*

*The rest – expert groups, pan-European professional organisations and others*

# Efficiency

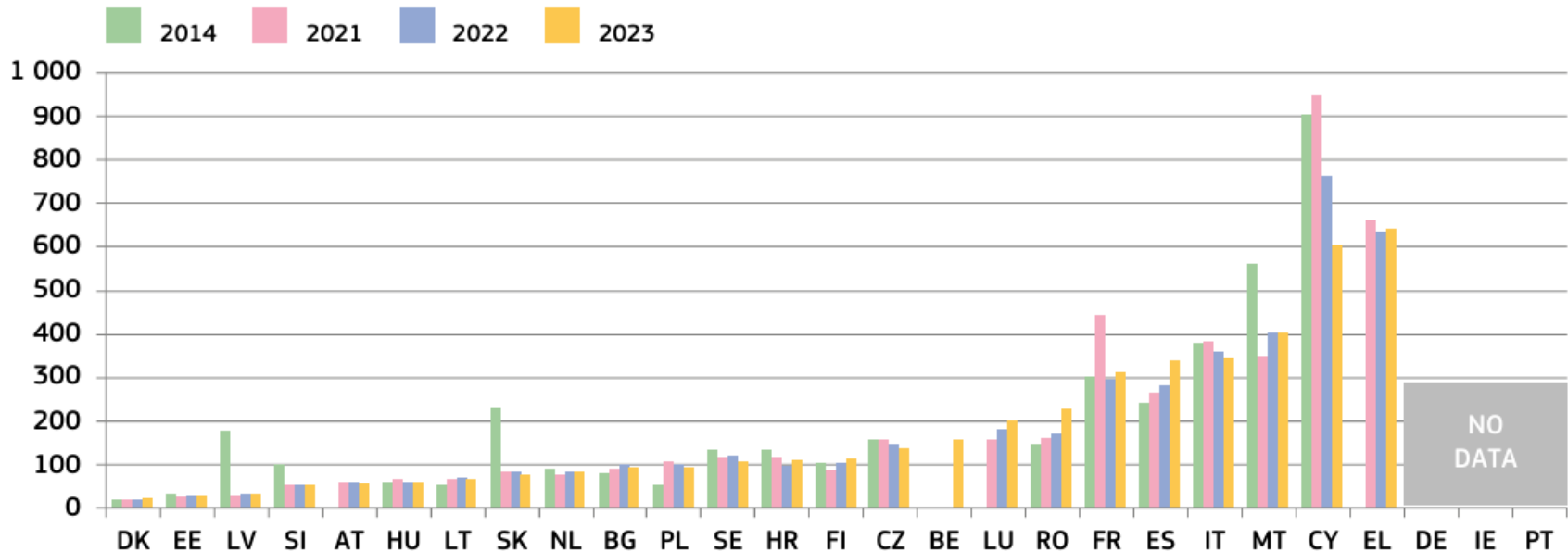
**Figure 1** Number of incoming civil, commercial, administrative and other cases in 2014, 2021 – 2023 (\*) (at first instance/per 100 inhabitants) (source: CEPEJ study <sup>(46)</sup>)



(\*) Under the CEPEJ methodology, this category includes all civil and commercial litigious and non-litigious cases, non-litigious land and business registry cases, other registry cases, other non-litigious cases, administrative law cases and other non-criminal cases.

# Efficiency

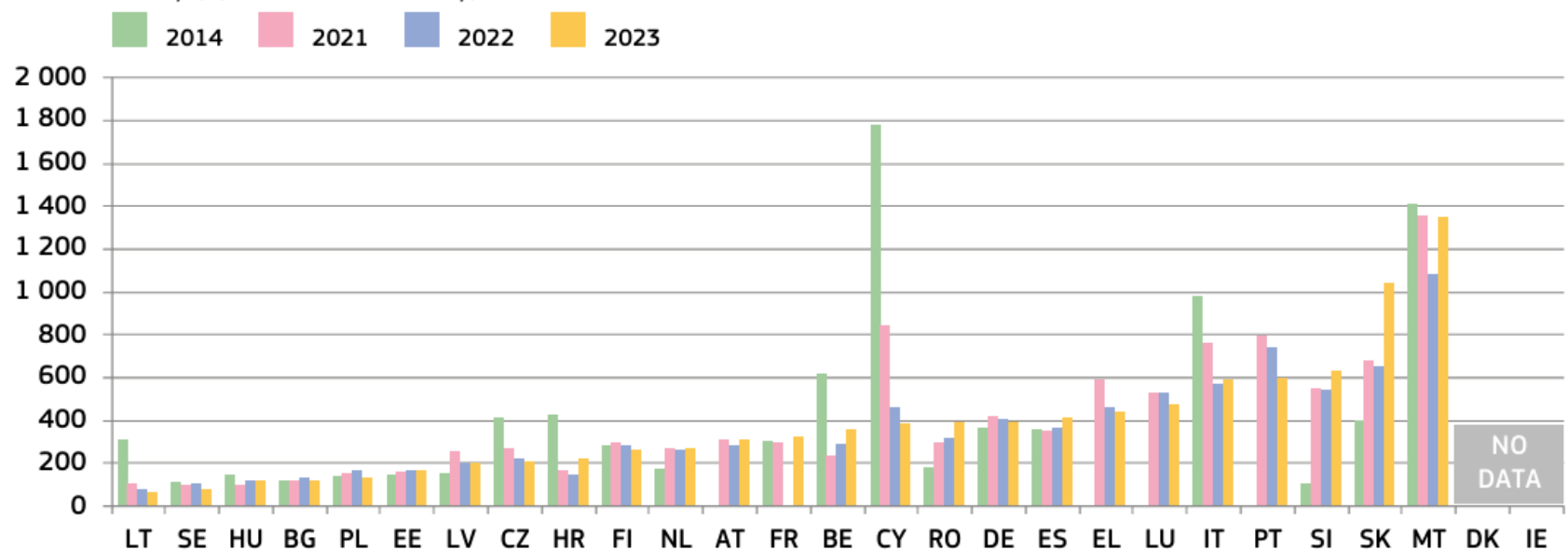
**Figure 4** Estimated time needed to resolve civil, commercial, administrative and other cases in 2014, 2021 – 2023 (\*) (at first instance/in days) (source: CEPEJ study)



(\*) Under the CEPEJ methodology, this category includes all civil and commercial litigious and non-litigious cases, non-litigious land and business registry cases, other registry cases, other non-litigious cases, administrative law cases and other non-criminal cases. Methodology changes in **SK**. Pending cases include all instances in **CZ** and, until 2016, in **SK**. For **LV**, the sharp decrease is due to court system reform, error checks and data clean-ups of the information system. In **PT**, the new Code of Civil Procedure which creates a new enforcement regime entered into force on 1 September 2013. It is based on a new paradigm, which states that court proceedings must be clearly distinguished from out-of-court proceedings. However, so far it has not been possible to adjust the collection of data accordingly and provide the necessary data for this Figure.

# Efficiency

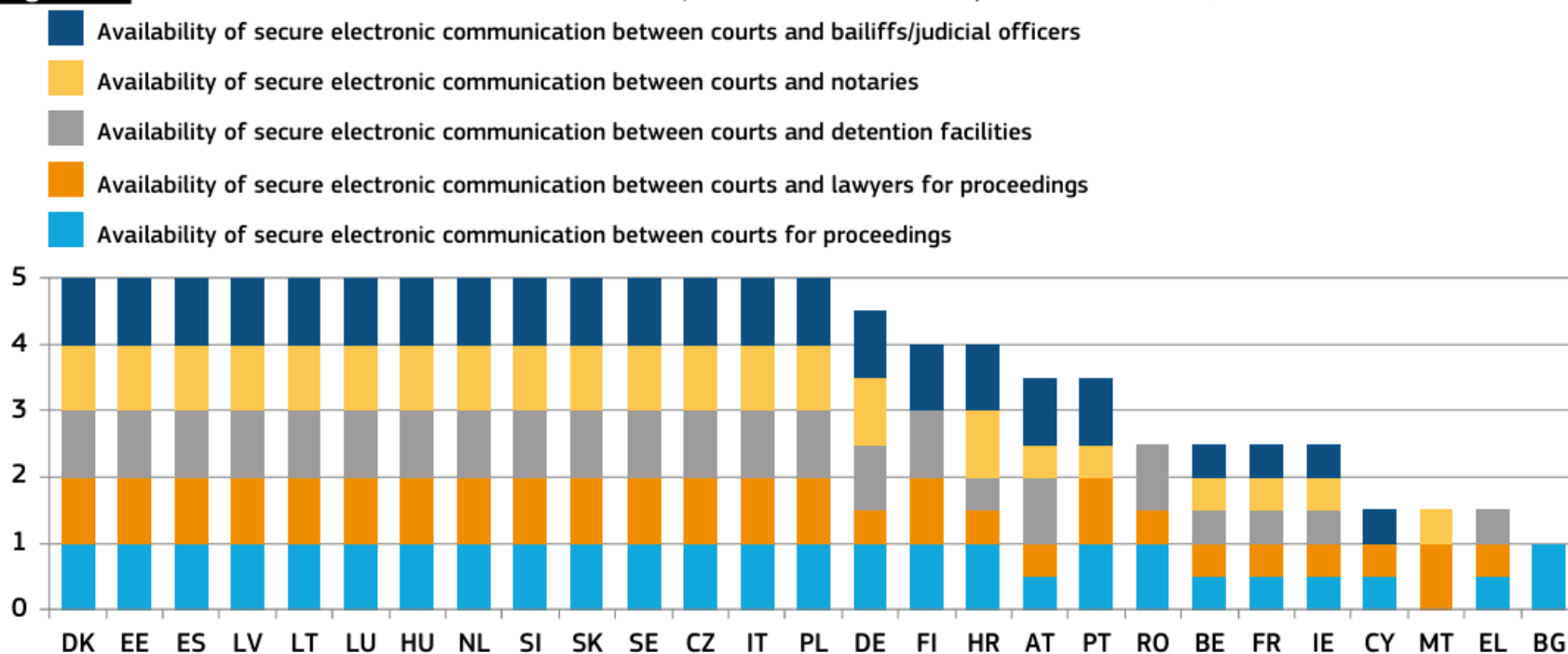
**Figure 7** Estimated time needed to resolve administrative cases at first instance in 2014, 2021 – 2023 (\*) (at first instance/in days) (source: CEPEJ study)



(\*) Under the CEPEJ methodology, administrative law cases concern disputes between individuals and local, regional or national authorities. Methodology changes in **EL** and **SK**. Pending cases include courts of all instances in **CZ** and, until 2016, in **SK**. **DK** and **IE** do not record administrative cases separately.

# Quality

**Figure 43 Courts: electronic communication tools, 2024 (\*)** (source: European Commission <sup>(93)</sup>)



(\*) Maximum possible: 5 points. For each criterion, one point was given if secure electronic communication is available for courts. 0.5 was awarded when the possibility does not exist in all cases. **FI**: the tasks of notaries do not relate to courts. Therefore, there is no reason to provide them with secure connection.



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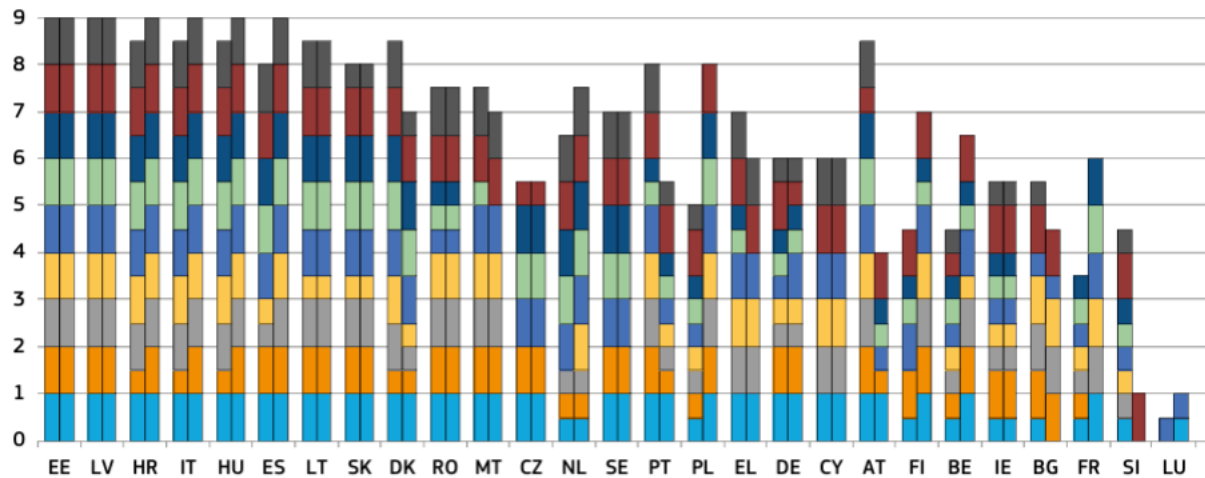
# Quality

**Figure 45 Digital solutions to initiate and follow proceedings in civil/commercial and administrative cases, 2024 (\*)** (source: European Commission <sup>(95)</sup>)

For each Member State, the two columns represent the digital solutions to initiate and follow proceedings in the following types of cases (from left to right):

1. civil/commercial cases
2. administrative cases

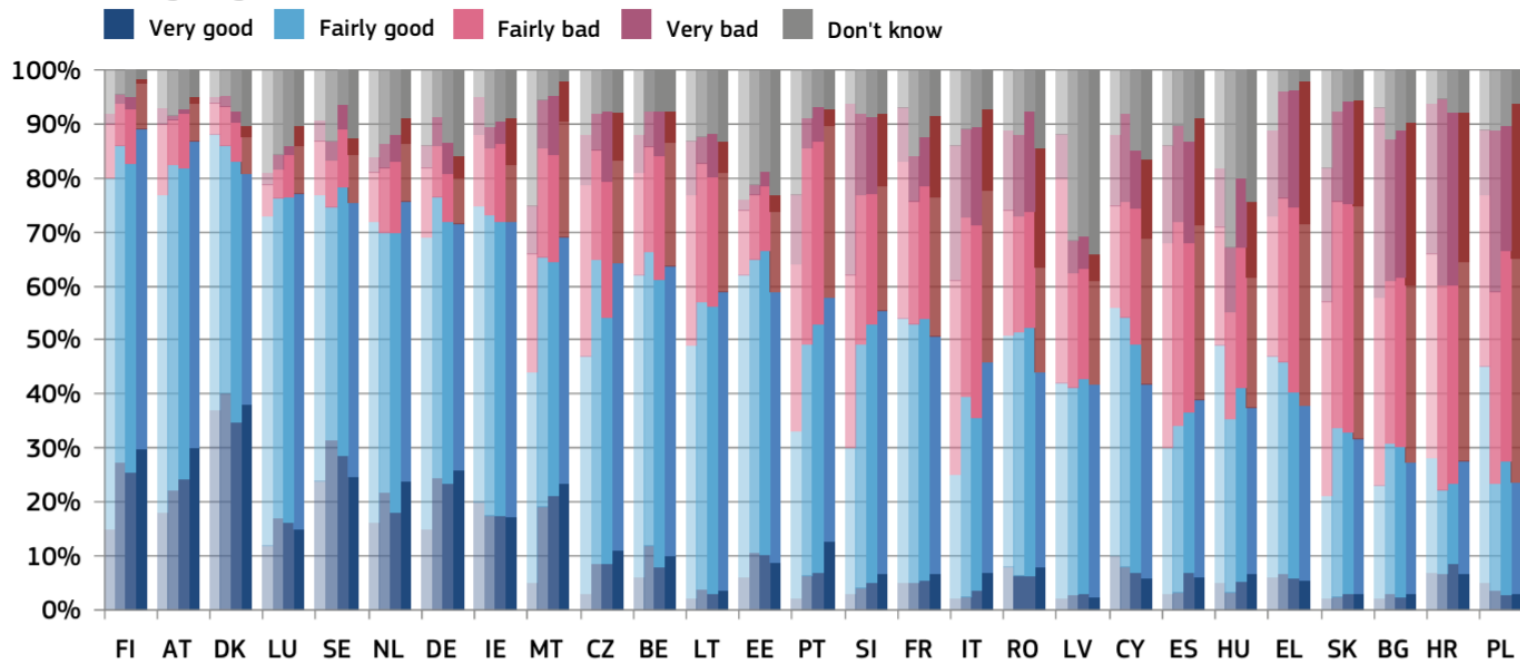
- Possibility of online payment of court fees
- Availability of online information about the court fees
- Official court documents can be served electronically on businesses (when procedure is not initiated by the business)
- Official court documents can be served electronically on citizens (when procedure is not initiated by the citizen)
- Availability of electronic acknowledgement of receipt proving submission of documents with the court
- Possibility for clients to access the electronic file of their closed cases
- Possibility for clients to access the electronic file of their ongoing cases
- Possibility to file an application for legal aid online
- Possibility to initiate proceedings/file a claim online



(\*) Maximum possible: 9 points. For each criterion, one point was given if the possibility exists in all civil/commercial and administrative cases, respectively. 0.5 point was awarded when the possibility does not exist in all cases. For those Member States that do not distinguish civil/commercial and administrative cases, the same number of points has been given for both areas.

# Independence

**Figure 50** How the general public perceives the independence of courts and judges (\*) (source: Eurobarometer (111) – from left to right, light colours: 2016, 2023 and 2024, dark colours: 2025)



(\*) 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 'very good' then they are ordered by the percentage of respondents who stated that the independence of courts and judges is 'very bad'.

# How is this tool useful in practice?

*At national level*

*European Semester*

*Recovery and Resilience Facility*

*Rule of Law Report*

# Questions?

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