

LITHUANIAN COURTS

OPEN, MODERN AND JUST

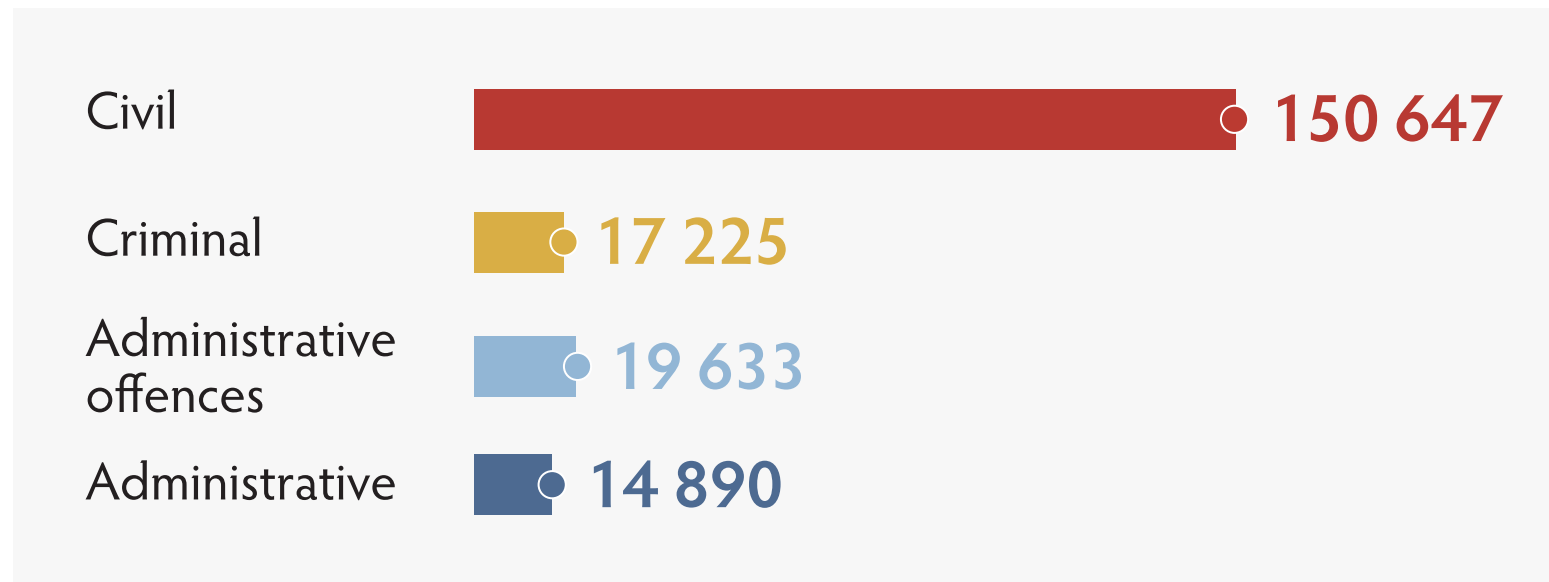


2020 PERFORMANCE RESULTS

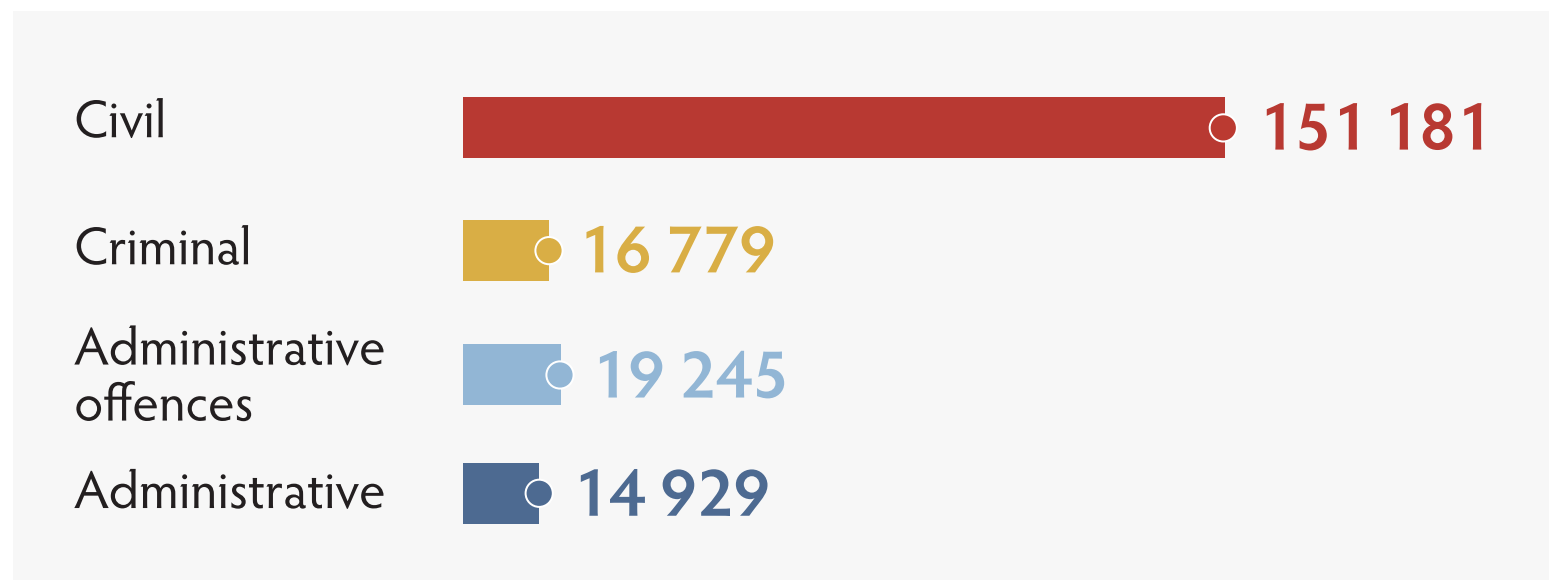




Cases received by Lithuanian courts in 2020:



Cases examined by Lithuanian courts in 2020:



Disputes over loan repayments, sale and purchase obligations, divorce and child support were among the most common disputes in **civil cases**. In 2020, there was an increasing tendency for the number of examined cases concerning legal relations in rem and labour relations, while the number of other cases mentioned earlier has slightly decreased.

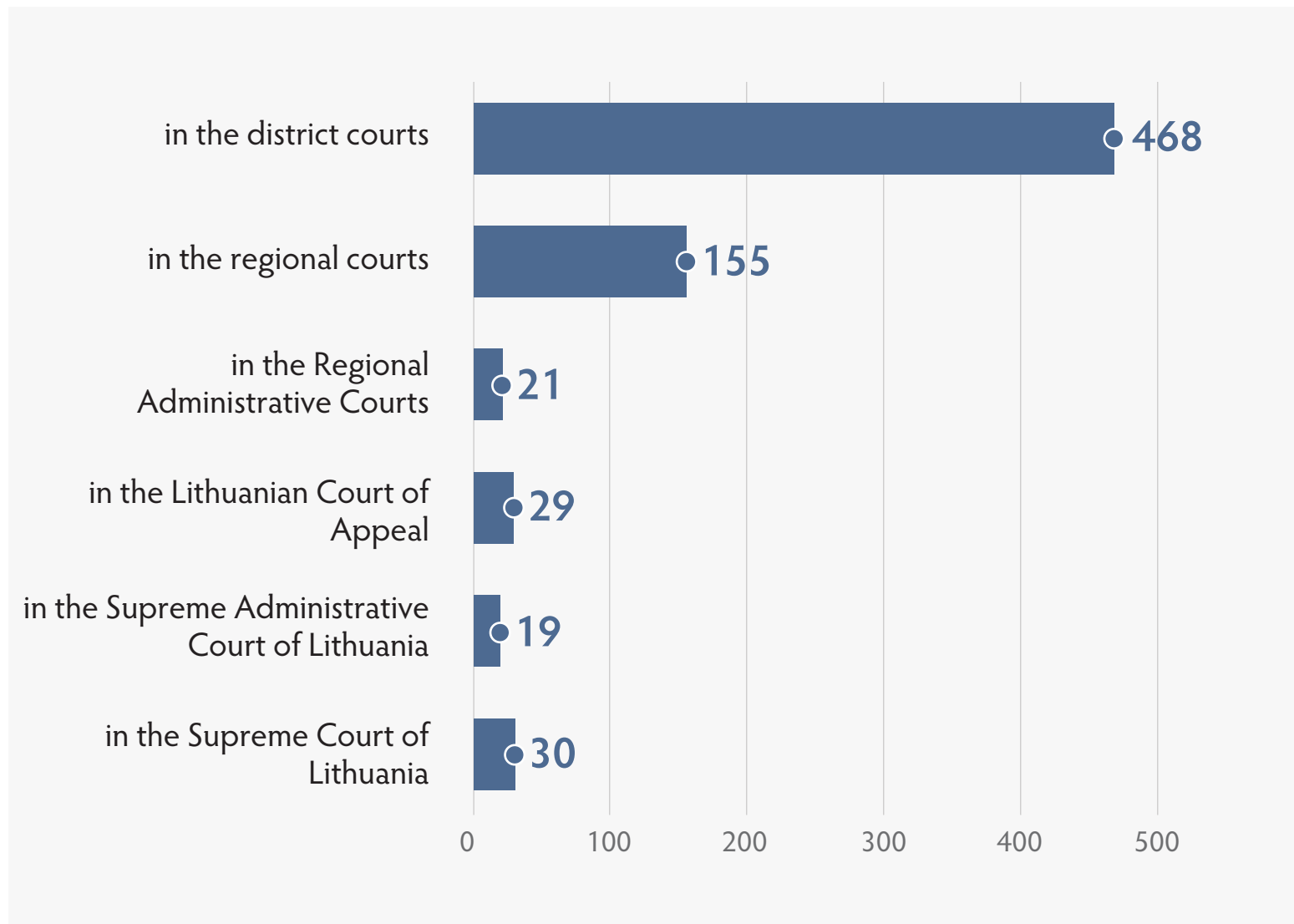
Last year, Lithuanian courts mostly heard **criminal cases** concerning crimes against human health, driving under the influence of alcohol, theft and other property related crimes.

Administrative cases experienced an increasing trend in land law cases. The introduction of a new category of case marking has significantly reduced the number of civil liability cases for damage caused by illegal actions of public authorities (316 cases in 2020, 1 242 cases in 2019).

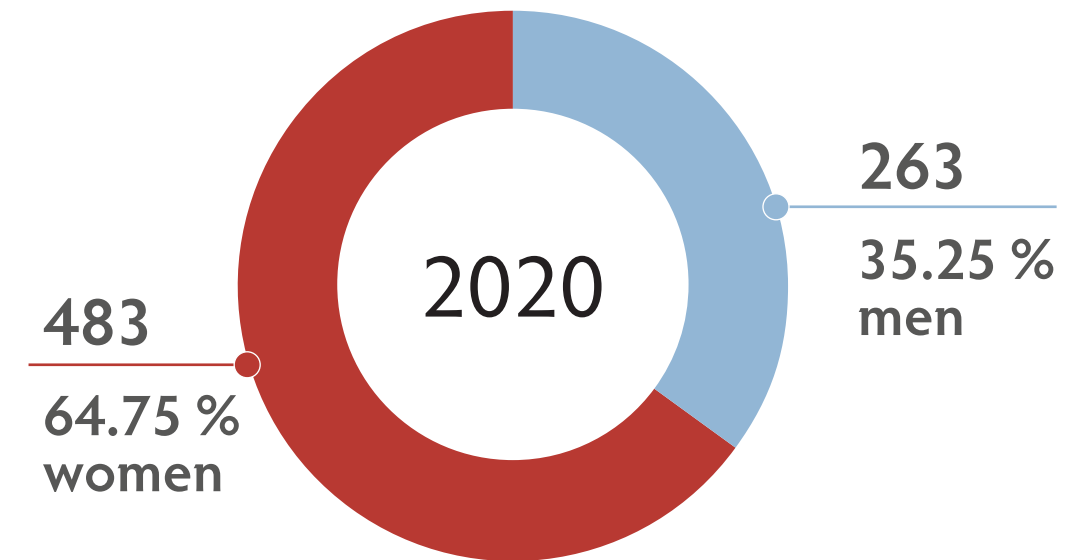
In 2020, there has been a significant increase in administrative offence cases related to human life and health protection. This was due to the increased number of violations related to non-compliance with the quarantine regulations announced on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.



In 2020, around **3 500** court employees worked in 22 Lithuanian courts, including **746** judges:



Judges in Lithuanian courts in 2020:

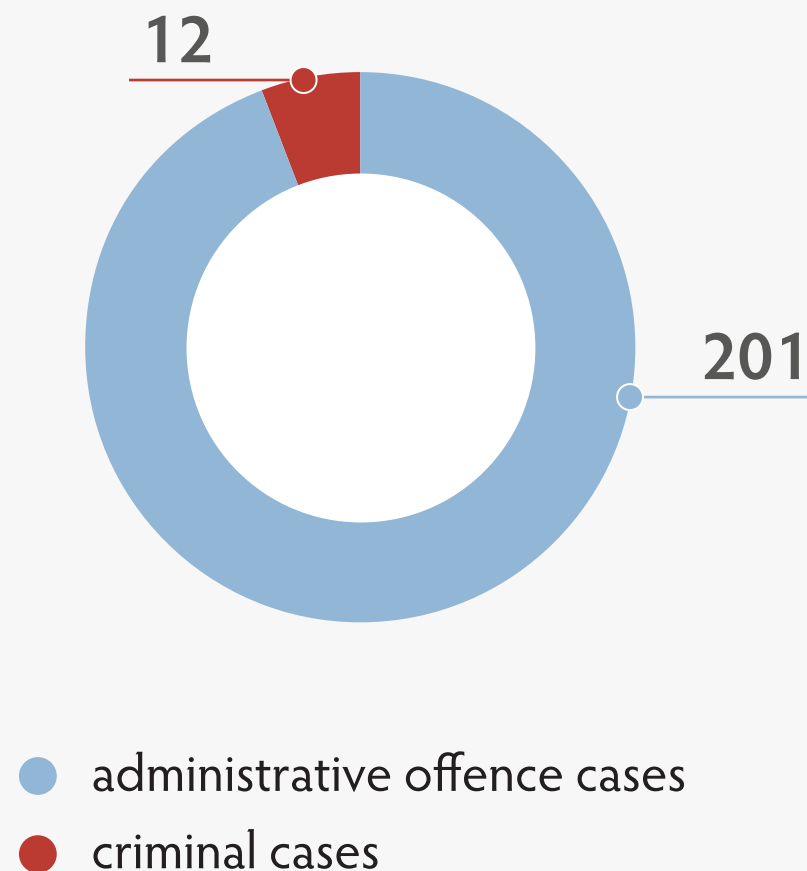


The largest in Lithuania Vilnius District Court had **104** judges while the smallest number of judges was recorded in Plungė (16) and Telšiai (15) District Courts.

As many as 19 of the 26 newly appointed judges have previously served as assistants to judges.



In 2020, a total of **213** cases of non-compliance with the requirements and restrictions applied in Lithuania related to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 were examined.



Most common offences:

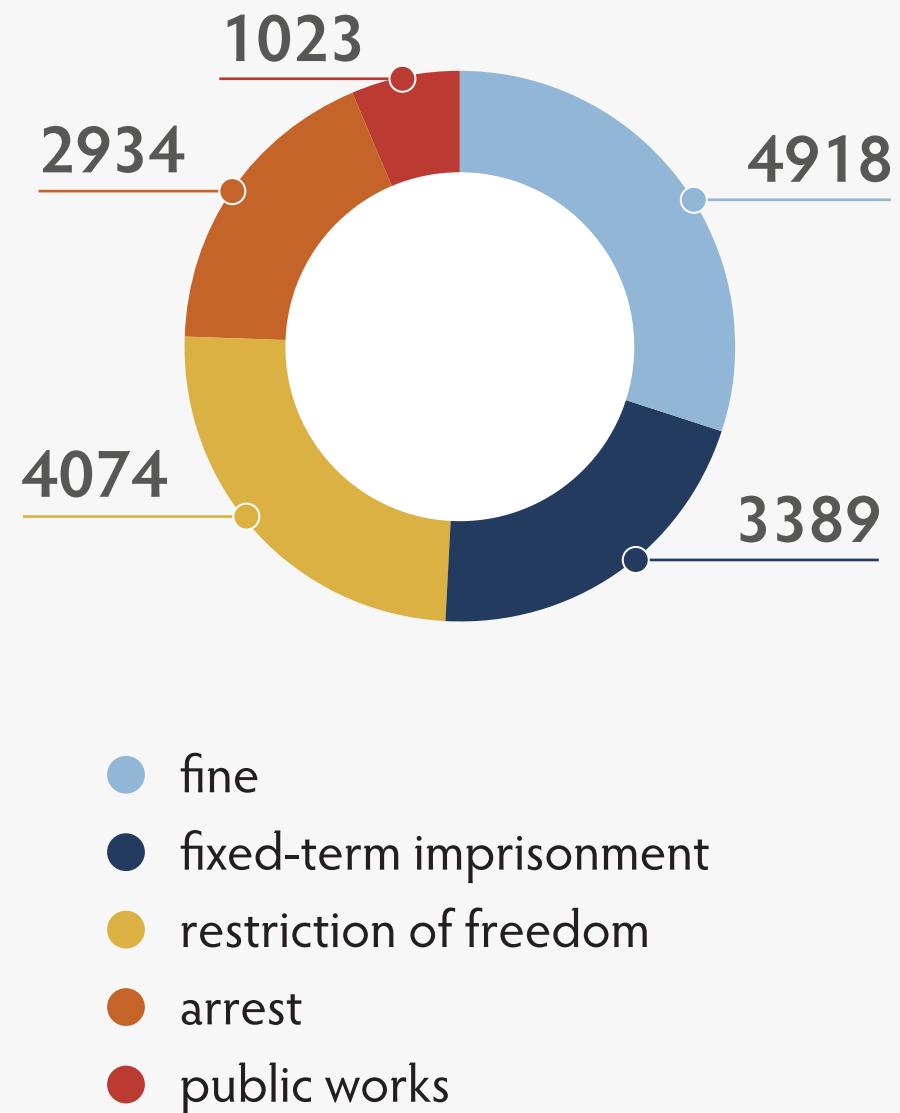
- ◆ failure to wear protective masks covering nose and mouth;
- ◆ gathering in larger groups than allowed;
- ◆ non-compliance with the self-isolation requirements in the event of a positive laboratory test result.

In administrative offence, cases individuals are usually fined (€ 50-1500).

In criminal cases, punishment came in the form of the restriction of freedom (from 6 to 10 months), a fine (€ 700-1700) and public works. In two cases, punishment came in two forms including both restriction of freedom and public works.



The most common penalties imposed by the courts are:



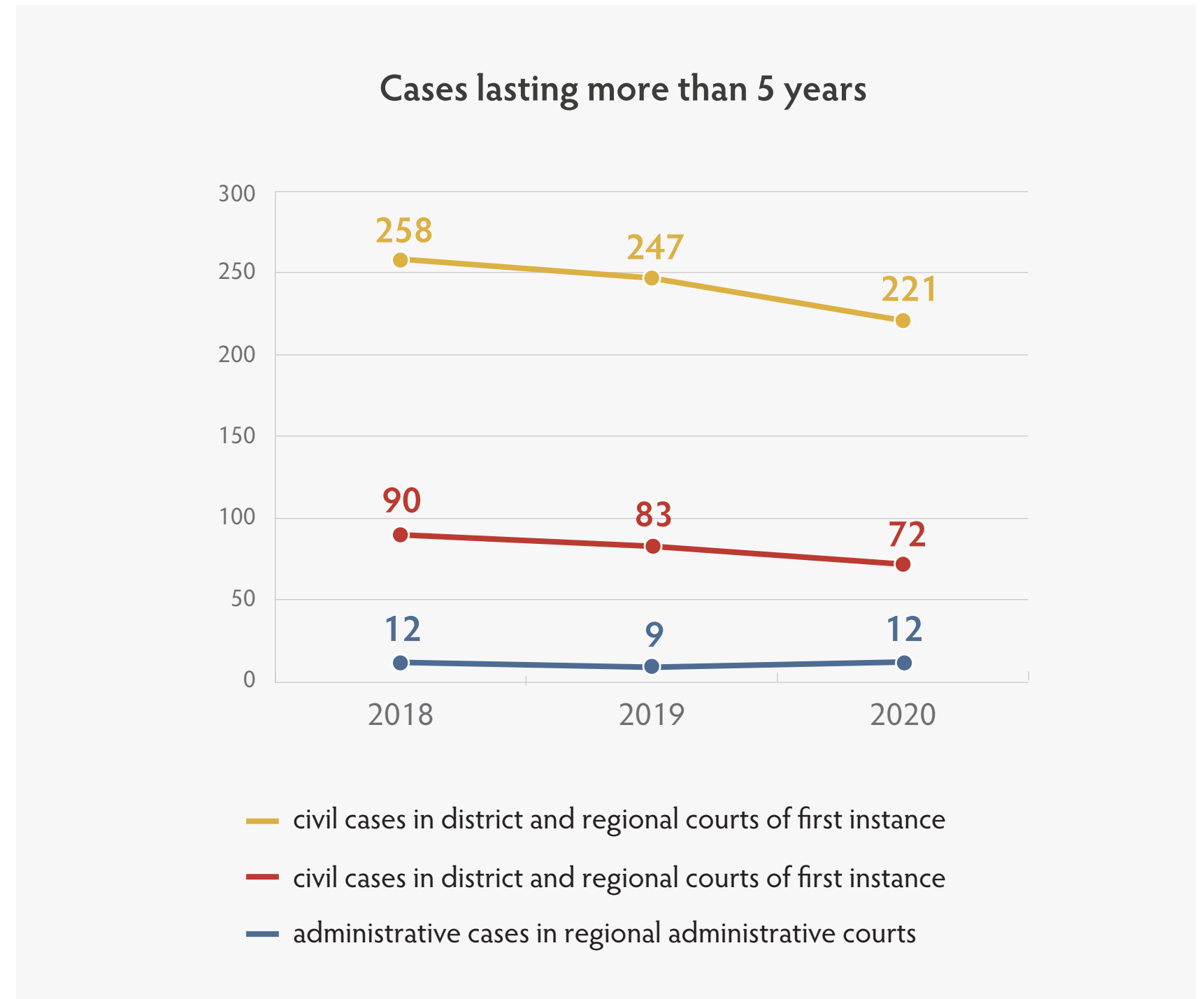
There is a tendency to impose **non-custodial sentences** first, i.e. the courts shall, where possible, try to achieve the purpose of the sentence through other means, depending on the circumstances of the case.

However, according to the World Prison Brief, Lithuania ranks **5th in Europe** in terms of the number of prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants (only Russia, Belarus, Turkey and Georgia overtake Lithuania in terms of the number of prisoners) and takes the leading position in the European Union.



- ◆ In 2020, the length of civil proceedings in courts of all instances and the examination time of criminal cases in district courts as courts of first instance, **has reduced**.
- ◆ Lithuanian courts hear the largest number of civil and administrative cases in Europe and are the fastest. *
- ◆ Lithuania ranks fourth in terms of the overall speed of court proceedings at first instance courts. *
- ◆ For the past few years, there has been a **declining trend** in the number of civil cases in district and regional courts of first instance, which have been pending for more than 5 years.

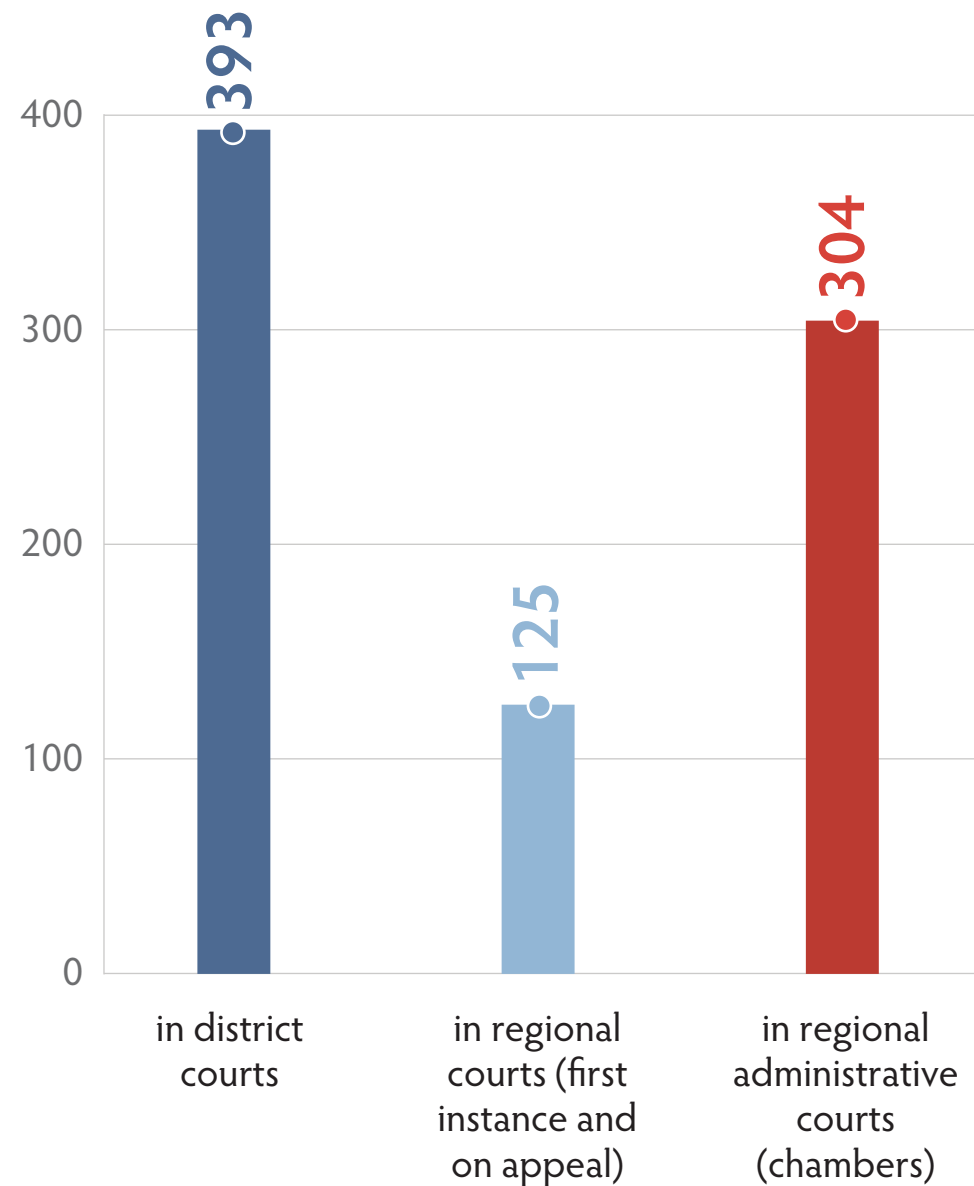
* 2020 Data from the EU Justice Scoreboard.



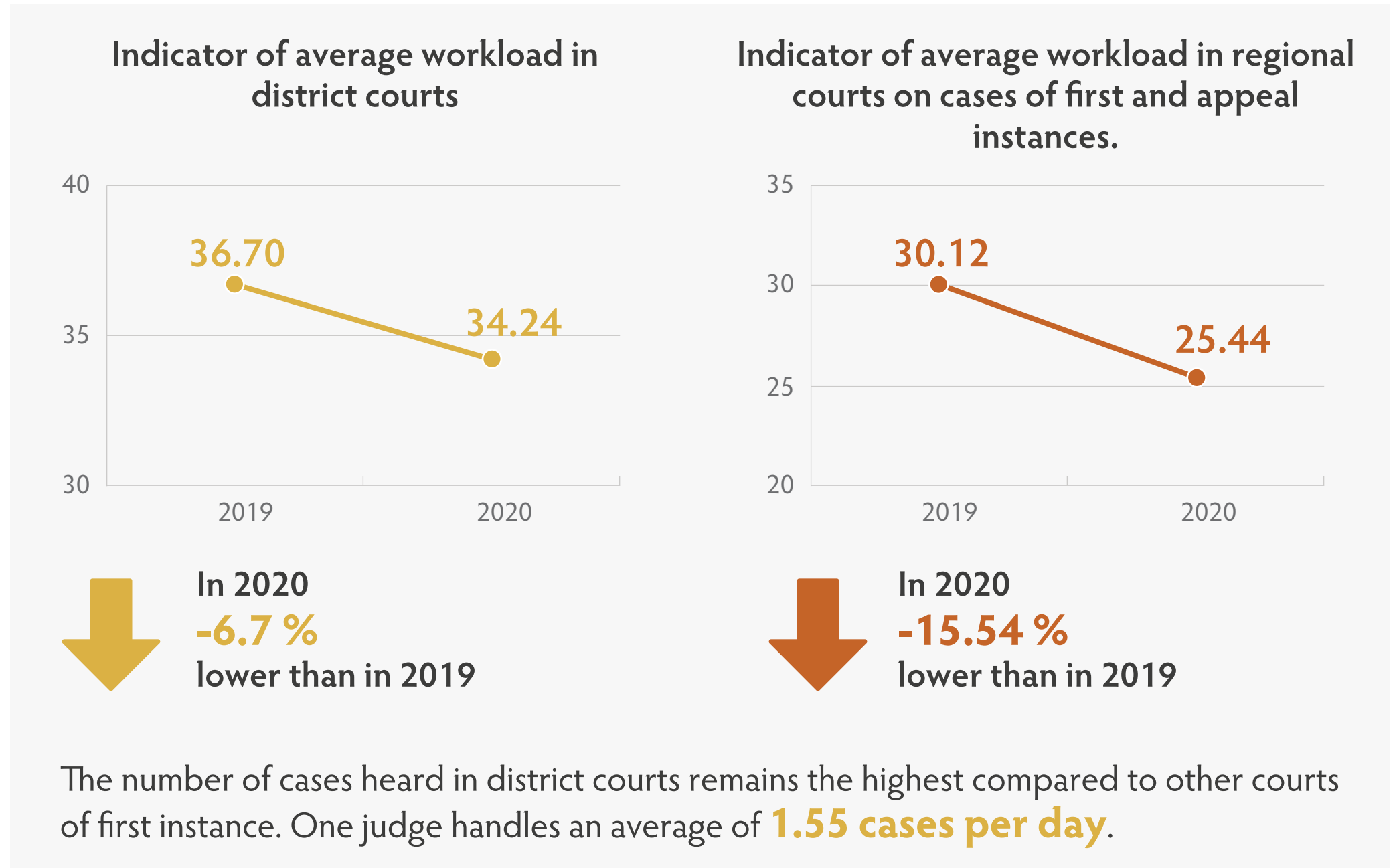
Just



In 2020, on average per year one judge has examined the following number of cases:



In 2020, the workload of district and regional courts has decreased:

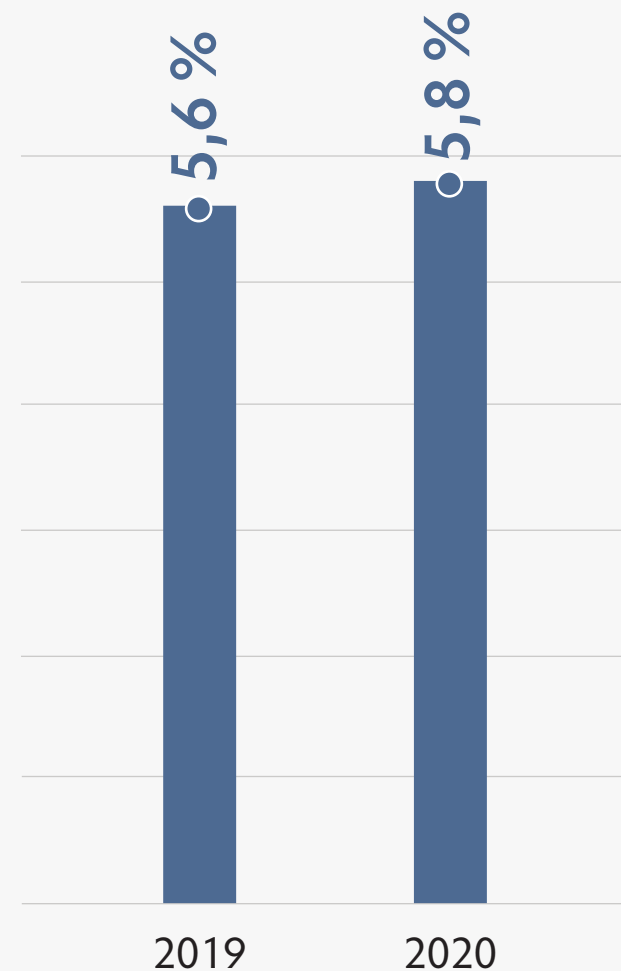




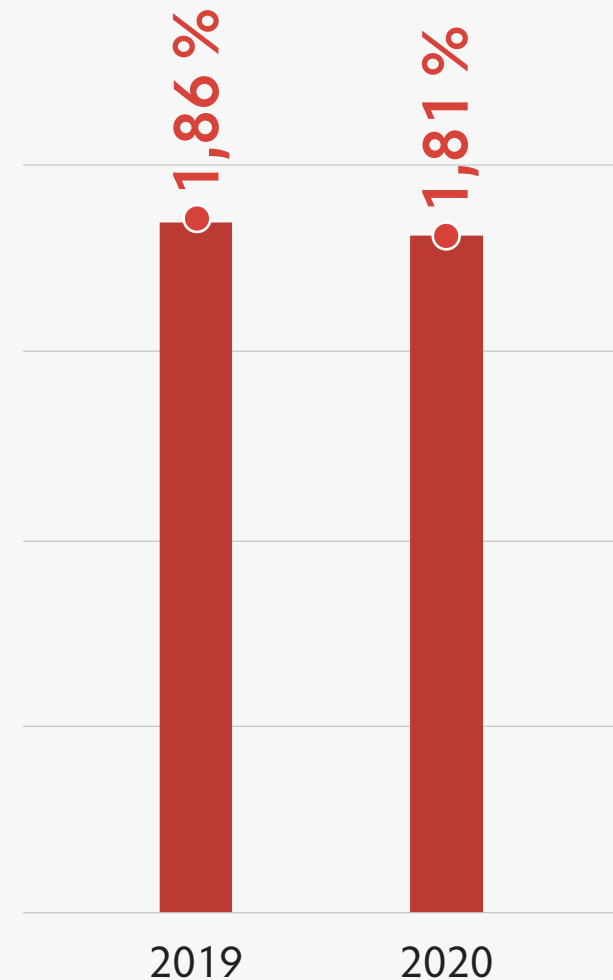
The quality of court decisions remains stable.

In 2020, only **5.8%** of the decisions made in the Lithuanian courts were appealed by the parties to the proceedings and only **1.8%** of all the decisions made were changed or revoked.

Appeals examined of all decisions taken:

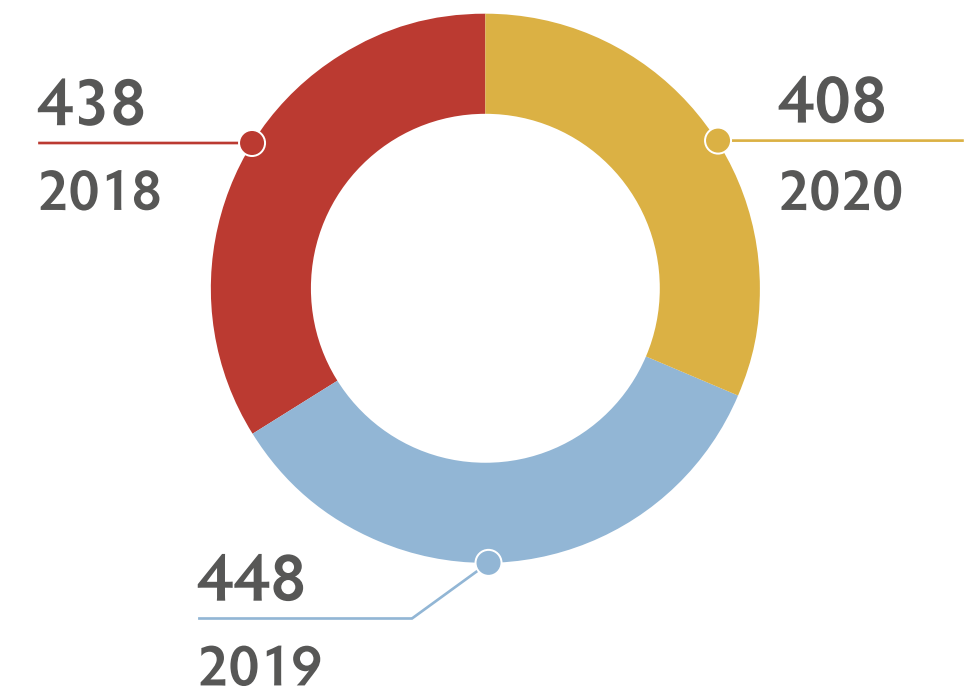


Changed or revoked of all decisions taken:



The number of petitions against Lithuania submitted to the European Court of Human Rights has significantly decreased. **342** petitions were rejected as inadmissible or removed from the list of cases.

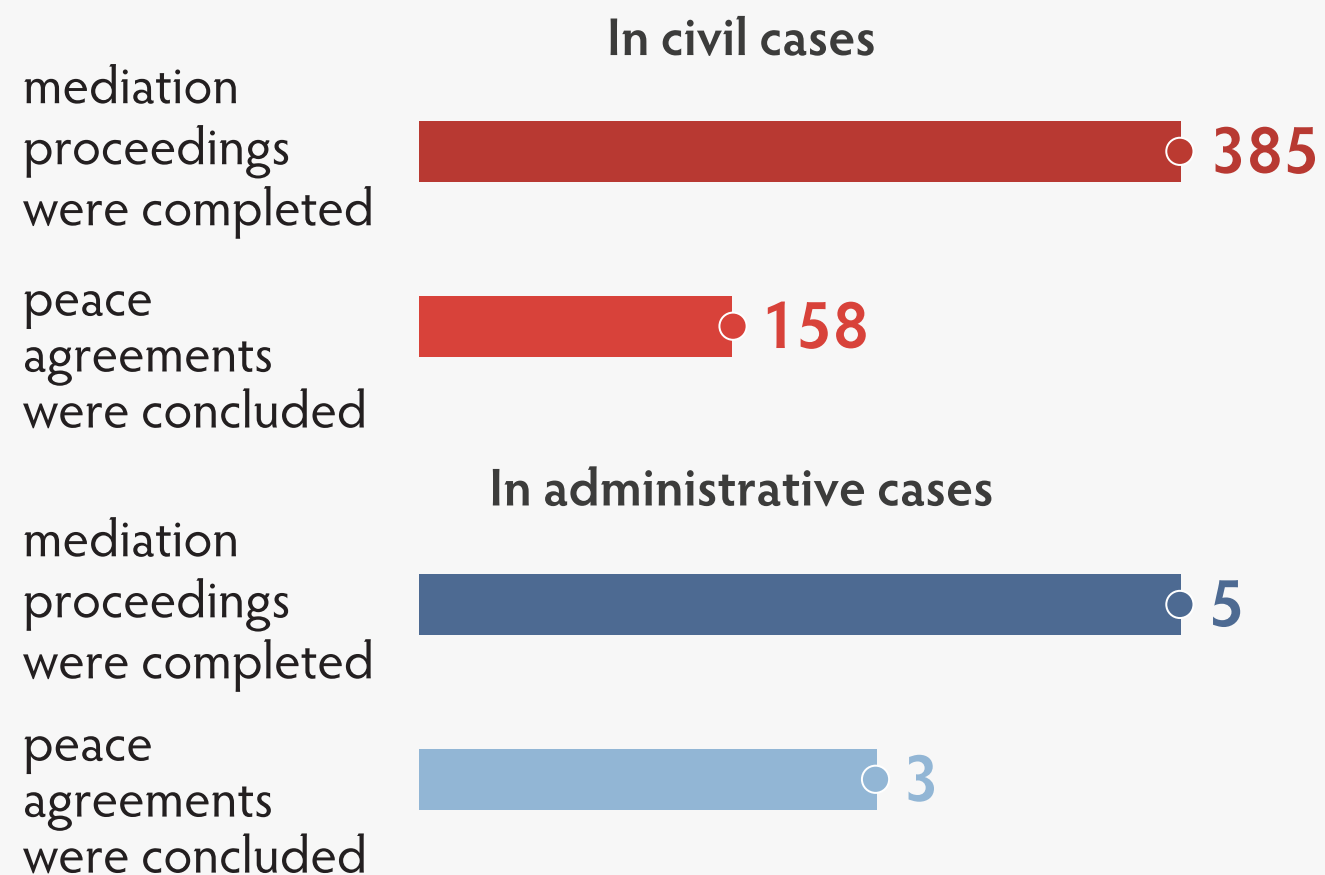
Petitions against Lithuania submitted to the European Court of Human Rights:





Judicial mediation is a dispute resolution procedure in which one or more mediators help the parties to a dispute to settle the dispute amicably in a civil or administrative case before a court.

In 2020, a total of **390** judicial mediation proceedings were completed and in almost half of them (**41%**) peace agreements were reached:



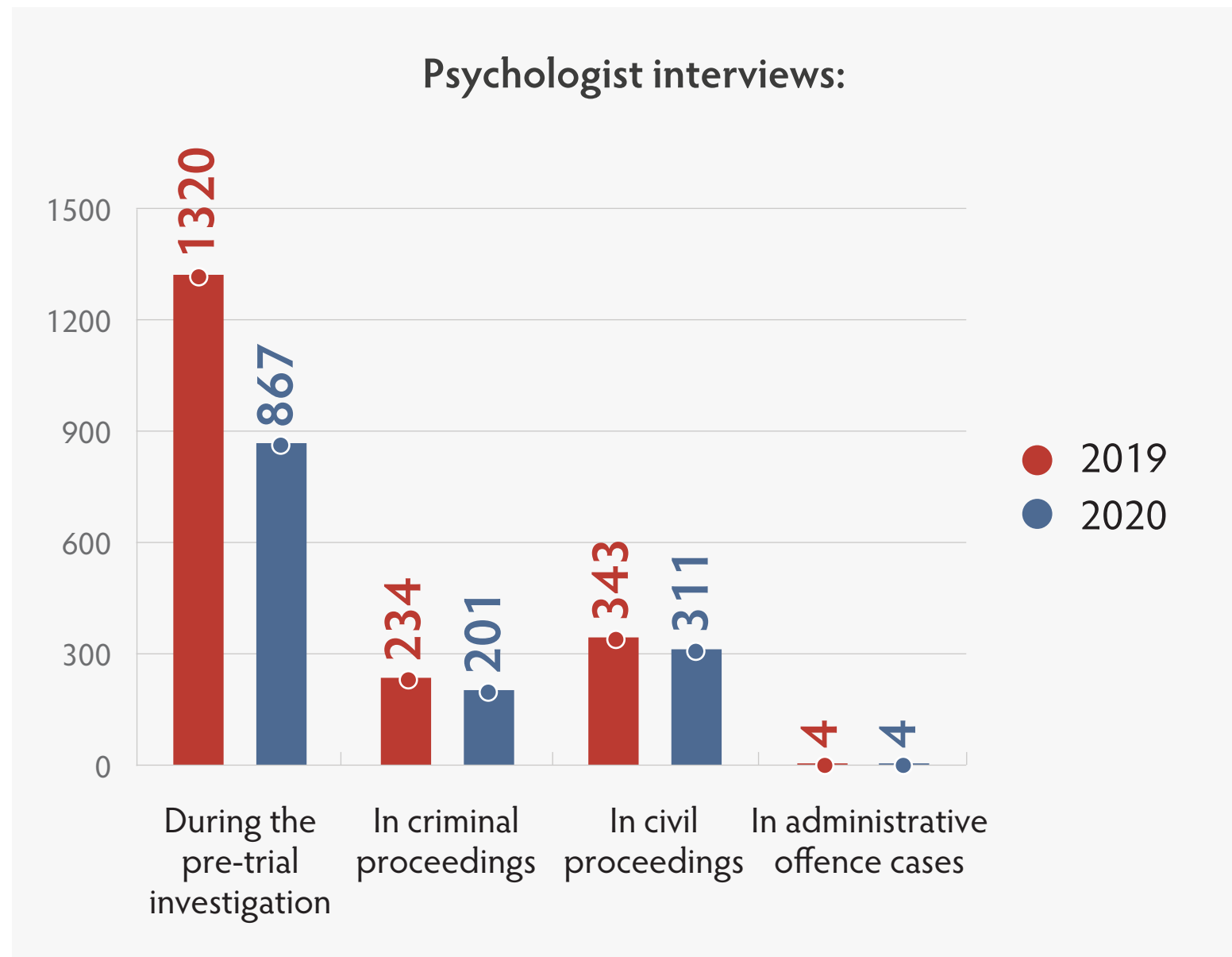
The largest number of cases referred to court mediation concerned legal family relations - **254**.

At the end of 2020, a total of **104** judges had the status of court mediators.

In order to promote and popularise mediation, International Remote Practical Conference "Mediation Success Story and Its Cost" took place on 24 September 2020. Speakers from Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Belarus and Italy shared their experiences during the event. More than 1 500 unique viewers watched the event live on YouTube.



In 2020, the forensic psychologists team expanded to **16** professional psychologists (15 in 2019; 13 in 2018), who help to effectively ensure the emotional safety of children involved in court proceedings during their interviews.



- ◆ **1 108** introductory interviews were held (1 751 in 2019).
- ◆ **76** conclusions (written or oral) on issues related to ensuring the interests of minors were presented (76 in 2019).
- ◆ Forensic psychologists provided commentary on the Crime Victim Assistance Act and related legislation, protection from domestic violence and violence against women, and other draft laws.

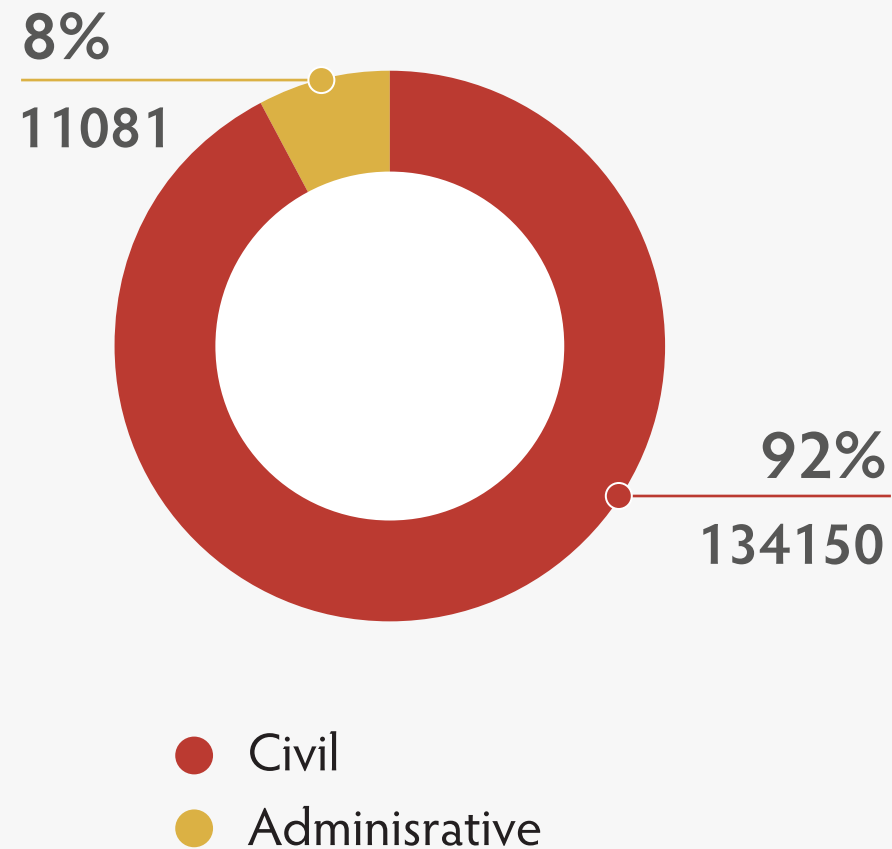
In 2020, an agreement was signed with associate professors and scientists of the Institute of Psychology of Vilnius University, who are counting many years of professional experience and undertook to supervise the activities of forensic psychologists.

Modern



In 2020, Lithuanian courts examined **145 231** civil and administrative electronic cases.

2020 Electronic cases:



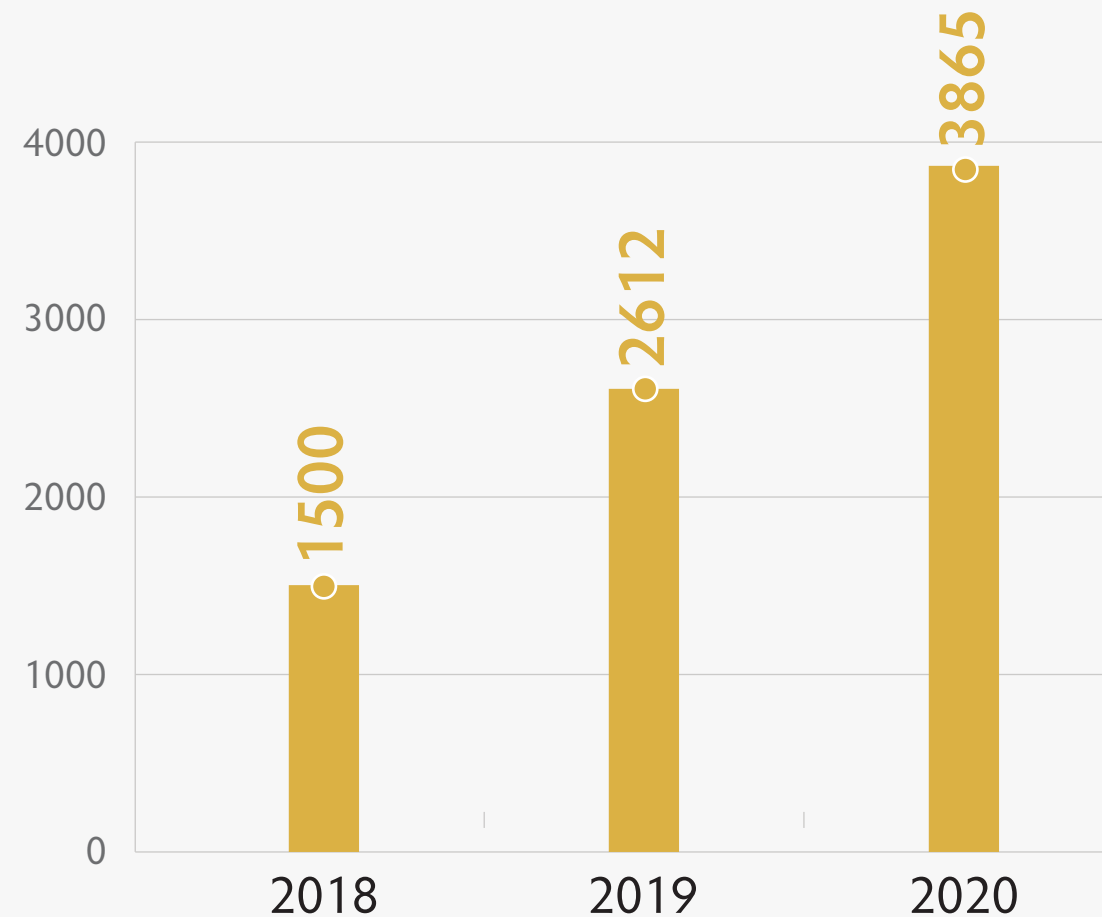
- ◆ **The share of civil and administrative electronic files is steadily increasing every year.**
- ◆ In 2020, a total of 146 administrative offence cases, based on an electronic document (10 in 2019), and 16 requests in the process of enforcement of administrative offence cases (6 in 2019) were examined.
- ◆ From 1 January 2020, criminal cases based on the prosecutor's statement on the termination of the proceedings by a criminal order are handled only in the electronic format.

Modern

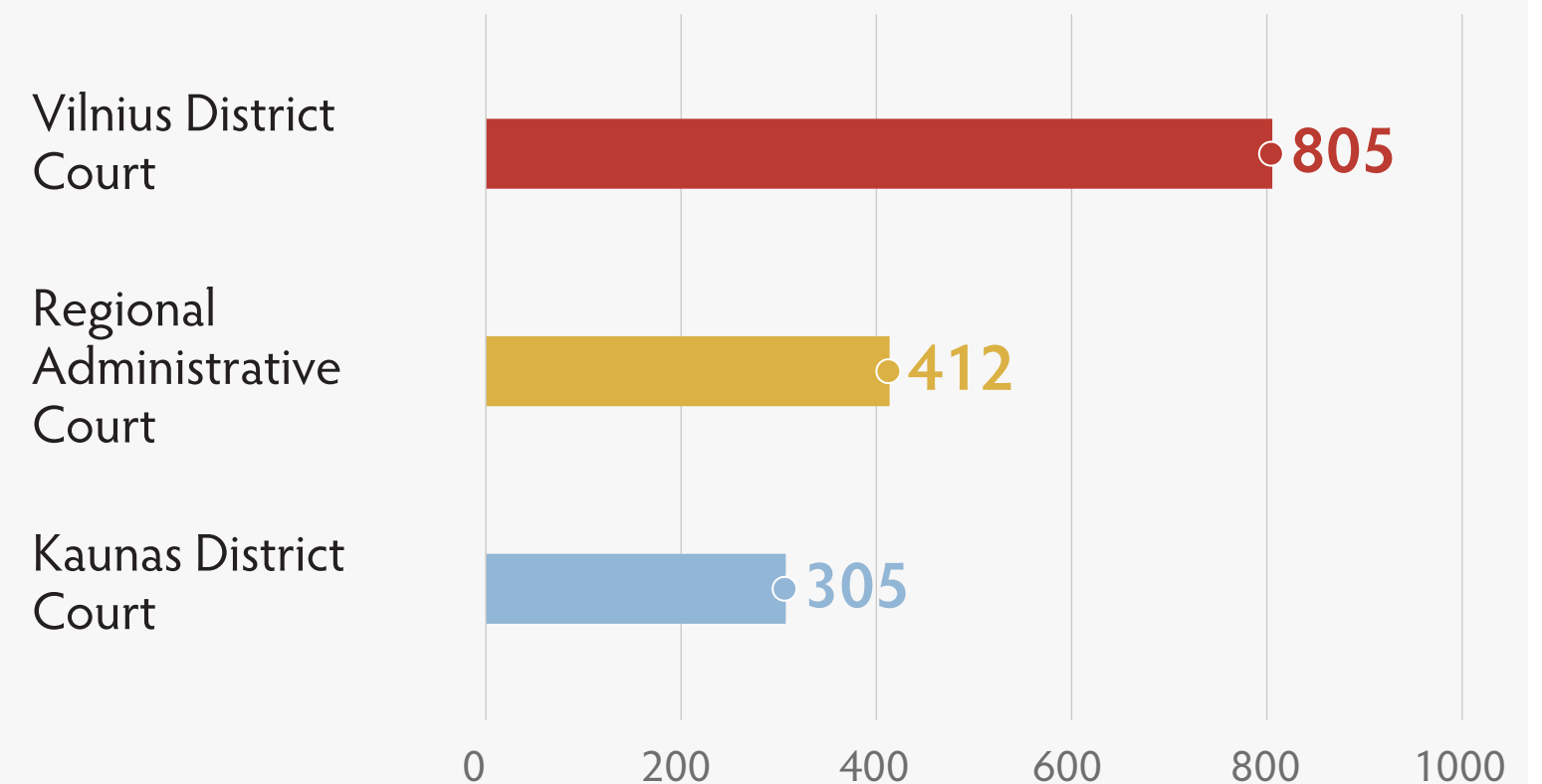


The number of remote court hearings organised in Lithuanian courts continued to grow and reached **3 865** in 2020.

Remote court hearings in Lithuanian courts:



The following courts were the most active in using remote video conferencing equipment and organising remote court hearings:



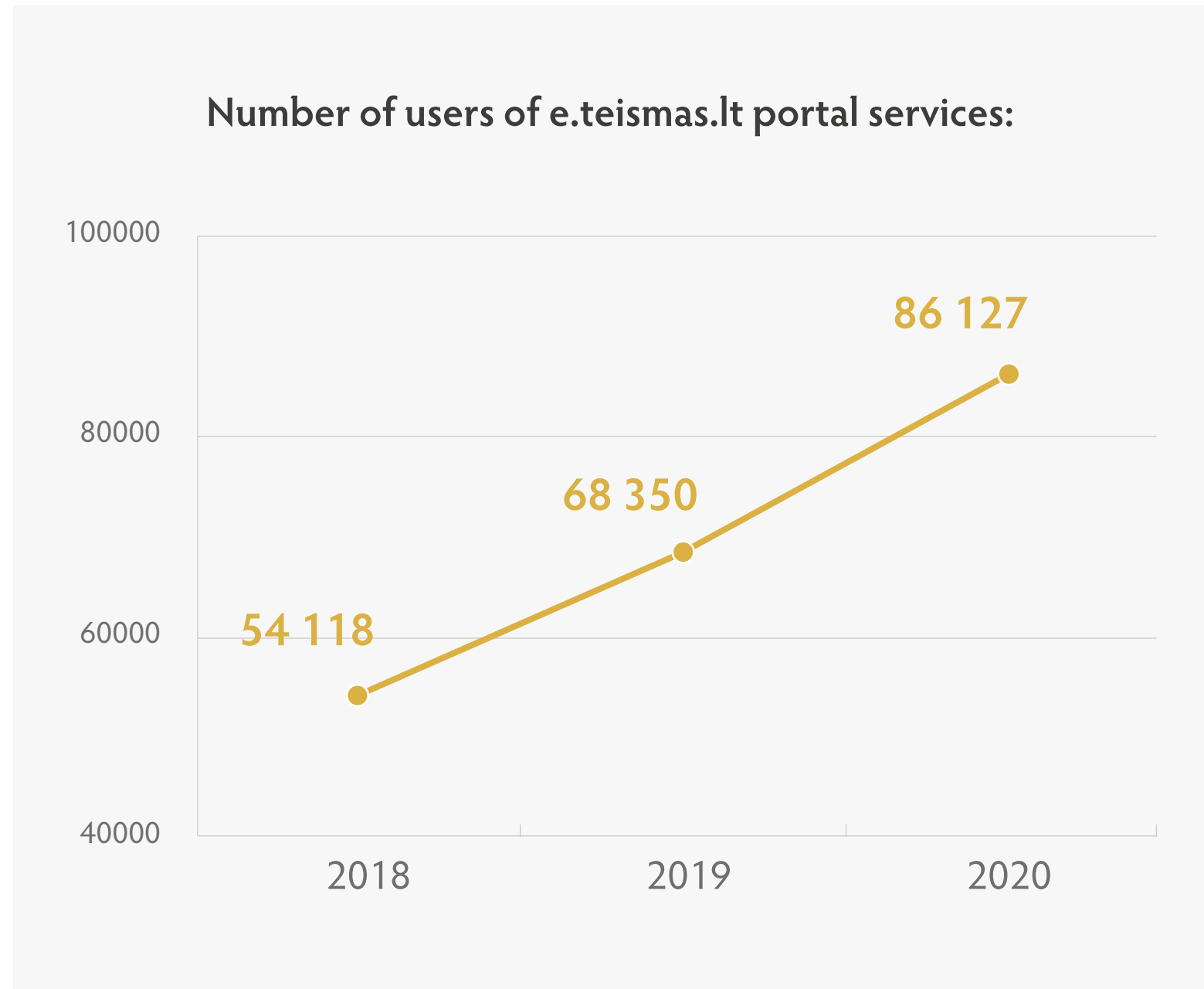
10 973 meetings were held in courts using the remote communication tool.

Modern



Use of the e.teismas.lt. portal services continued to grow.

In 2020, a total of **17 777** new users have registered on the e.teismas.lt. portal.



During 2020, almost **3.5 million** electronic procedural documents were signed in the court information system.

You can use the services provided by the portal when you need to:

- ◆ get acquainted with the course and materials of the case;
- ◆ submit procedural court documents;
- ◆ pay for supporting documents.

Open



Judicial Council provided recommendations to the courts on the operation of courts in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Opportunities were created for the media to observe court hearings remotely.



To ensure the safety of all participants in the proceedings, case hearings take place in larger spaces.



Remote day of free legal advice "You ask - we answer!".



54 court volunteers provided invaluable help in 7 Lithuanian courts.



11 000 Facebook followers of Lithuanian courts visited a remote historical court exposition.

Open



663 judges' comments featured in the media



28 radio shows and **172** TV shows featured judges' comments



680 court and NCA articles and press releases



37 articles from the magazine TEISMAI.LT were published on the news portal www.delfi.lt



287 posts on the www.teismai.lt website



976 new followers on Facebook (11,245 followers in 2020)



- ◆ Public search of court decisions on LITEKO.
- ◆ Public search of litigation schedules on LITEKO.
- ◆ Opportunities were created for the media to observe court hearings remotely.

Services provided by the Lithuanian courts were evaluated as high or very high reaching 95 percent.