Digital Justice and generative artificial intelligence in Europe



Daniel Schmidt, Secretary of the working group on cyberjustice and ai, European commission for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ), Council of Europe

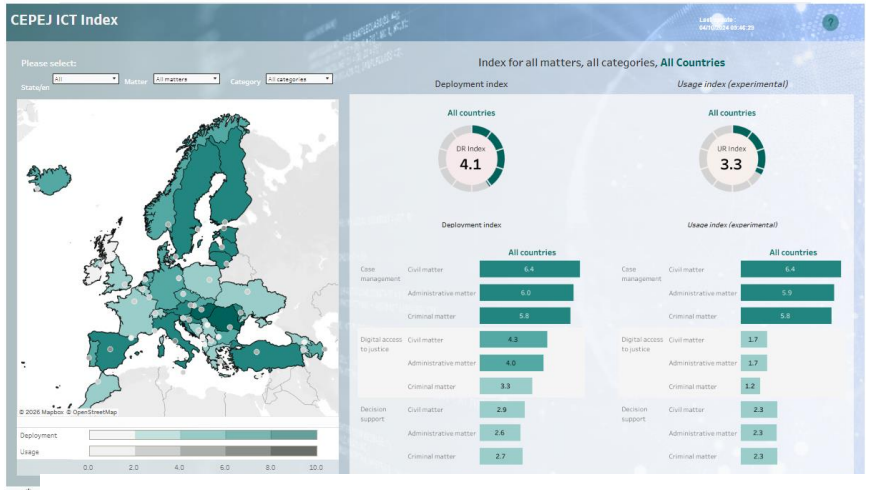
How is (generative) AI used by the European courts in comparison?

Does it make justice better?

Efficient and fairer: faster, cheaper, accessible, transparent, non discriminatory?



Comparative Sources on AI use (I)



CEPEJ ICT use and development index

Remote hearings (Tools for witness protection, subtitling)

CMS (Anonymisation)

Writing asssitance tools (automatically generated text, ***automatically generated decision***, speech to text)

Recording of Court hearings (Automatic transcription, indexing)

Comparative Sources on AI use (II)

EU Justice Scoreboard – Quality of Justice Systems – Digitalisation

Availability of online information about the judicial system for the general public

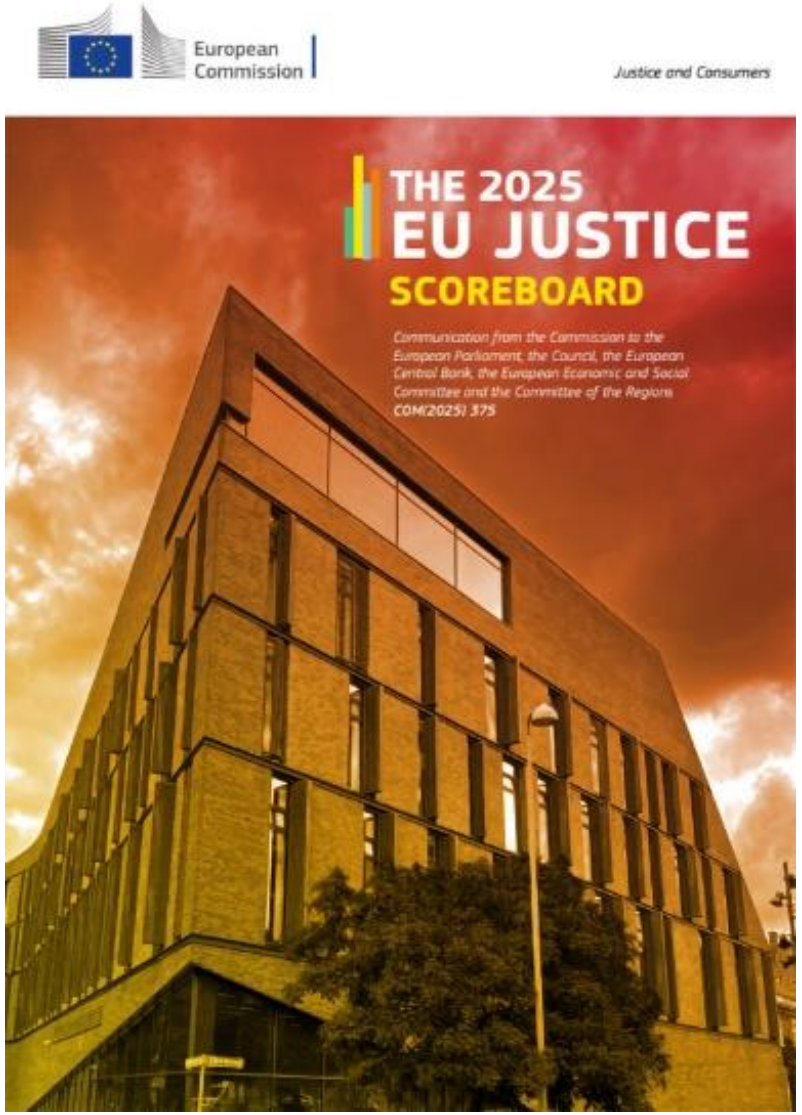
- Use of chatbots for assisting citizens with finding information about the justice system

  (DE, ES, LV, EL, HR, AT, PT)

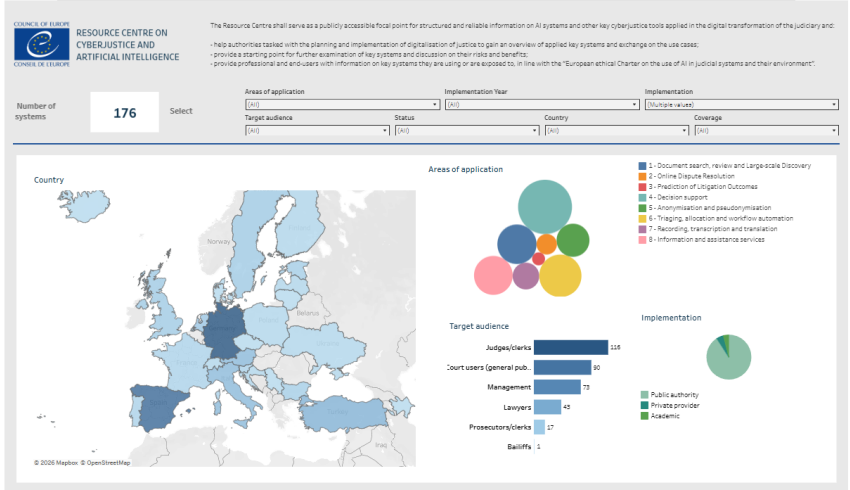
Use of digital technology by courts and prosecution services

- Use of artificial intelligence applications in core activities

  (AT, DE, FR)



Comparative Sources on AI use (III)



CEPEJ Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and AI

Interactive database for reliable information on AI systems and other advanced cyberjustice tools applied in the digital transformation of the judiciary.

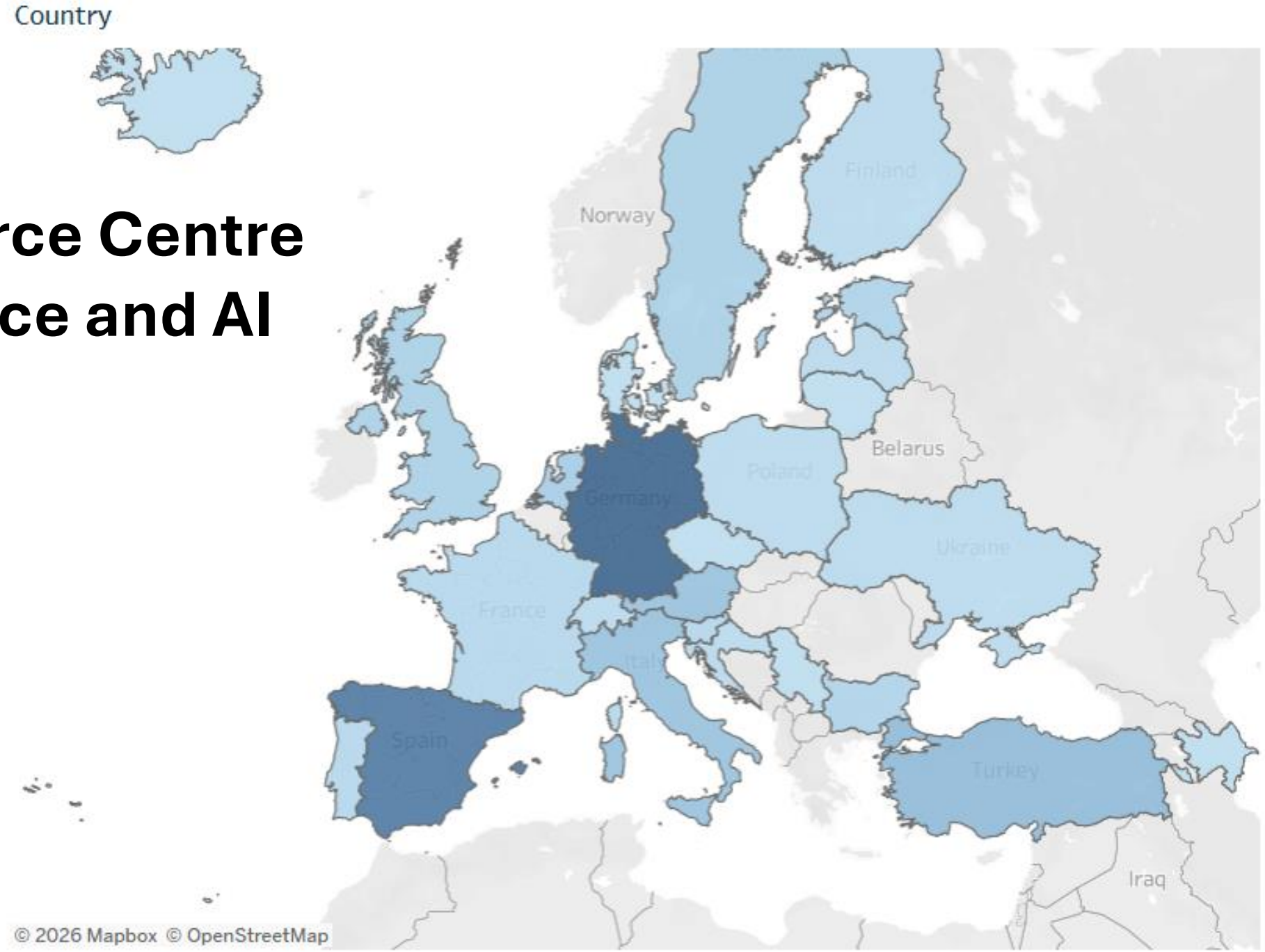
- Fact or fiction?
- Is it AI? Is it generative AI?

Ad hoc surveys

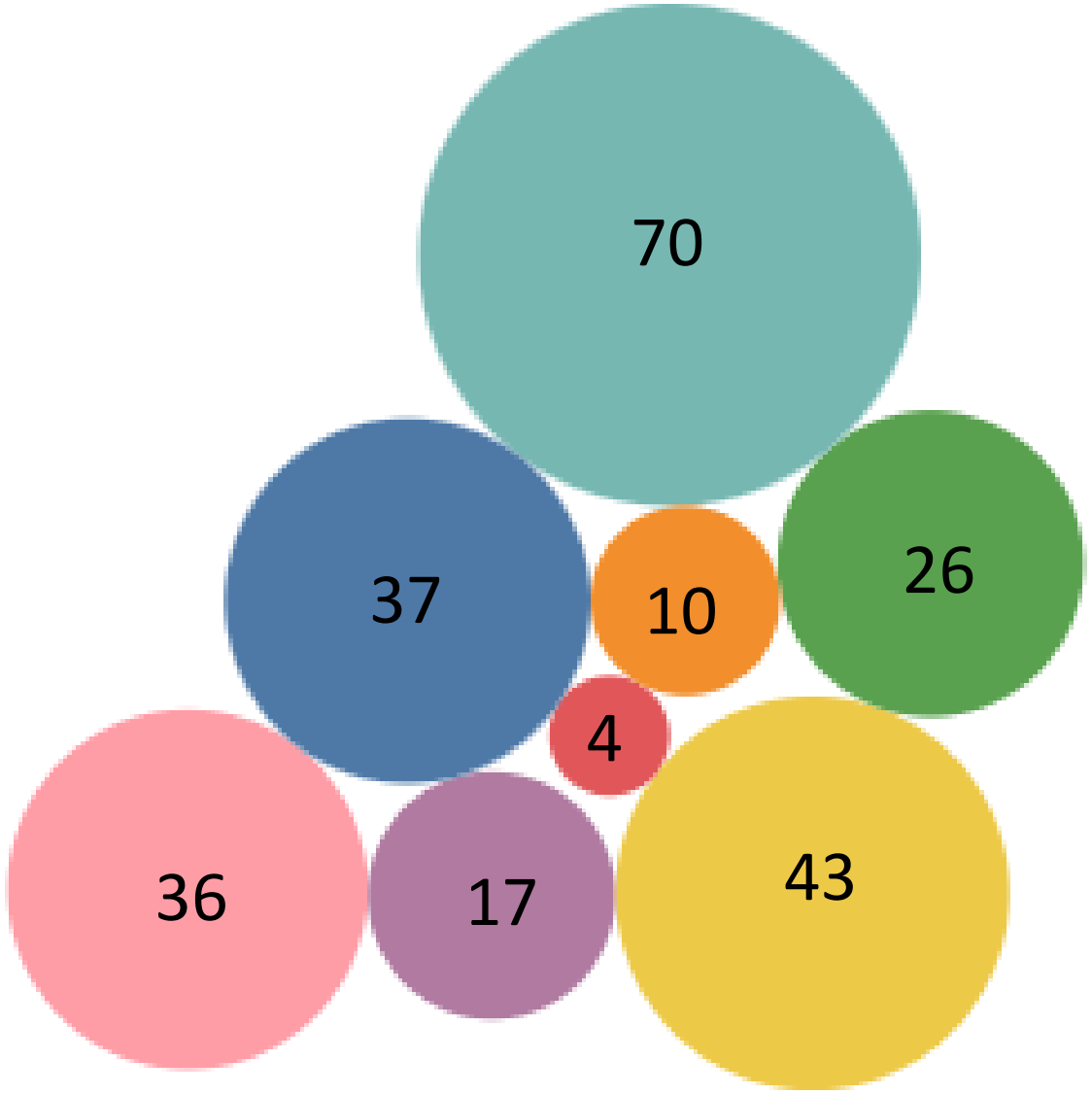
- European Cyberjustice Network (ECN)
- Online Survey (mid 2025)

CEPEJ Resource Centre on Cyberjustice and AI

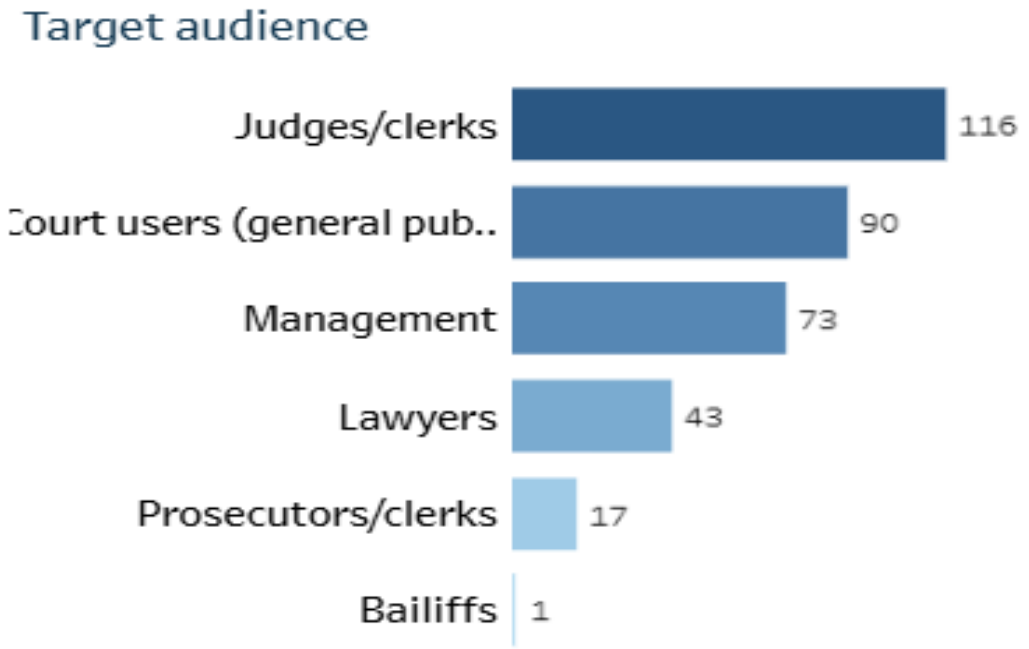
(176 entries)



Areas of application



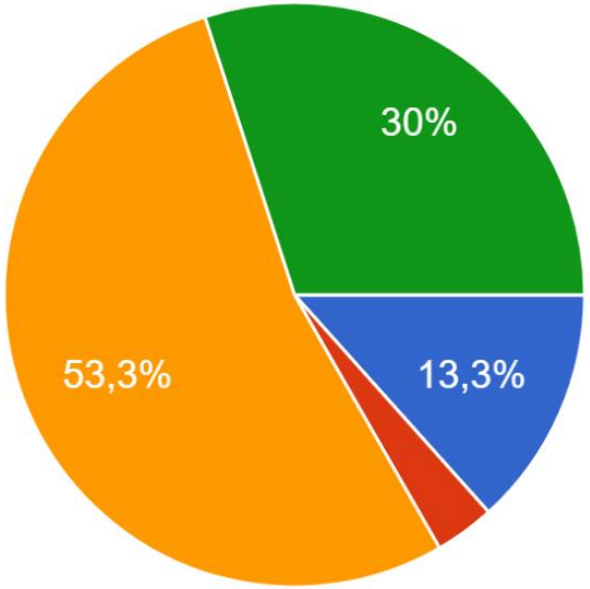
1 - Document search, review and Large-scale Discovery
2 - Online Dispute Resolution
3 - Prediction of Litigation Outcomes
4 - Decision support
5 - Anonymisation and pseudonymisation
6 - Triaging, allocation and workflow automation
7 - Recording, transcription and translation
8 - Information and assistance services



What about generative AI?

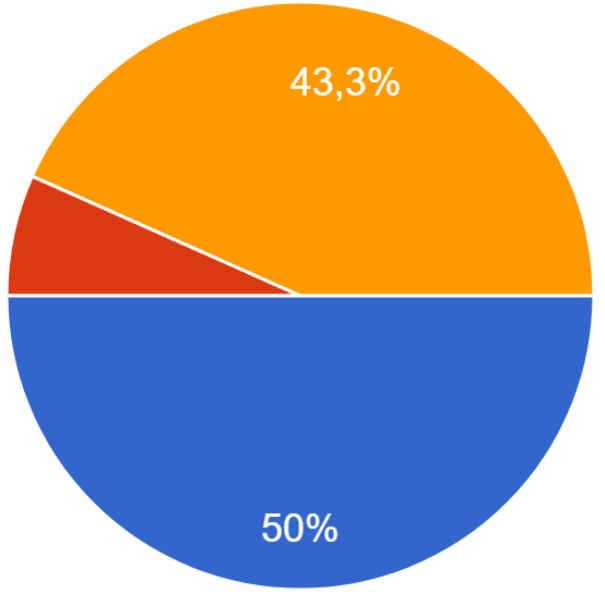
Are any AI tools in use by the courts in your country?

30 réponses

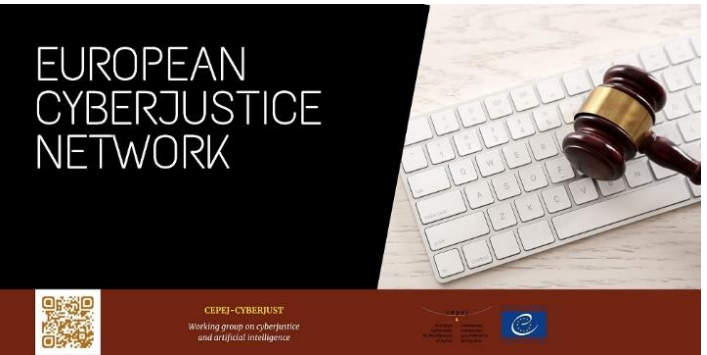


Are generative AI tools in use by the courts?

30 réponses

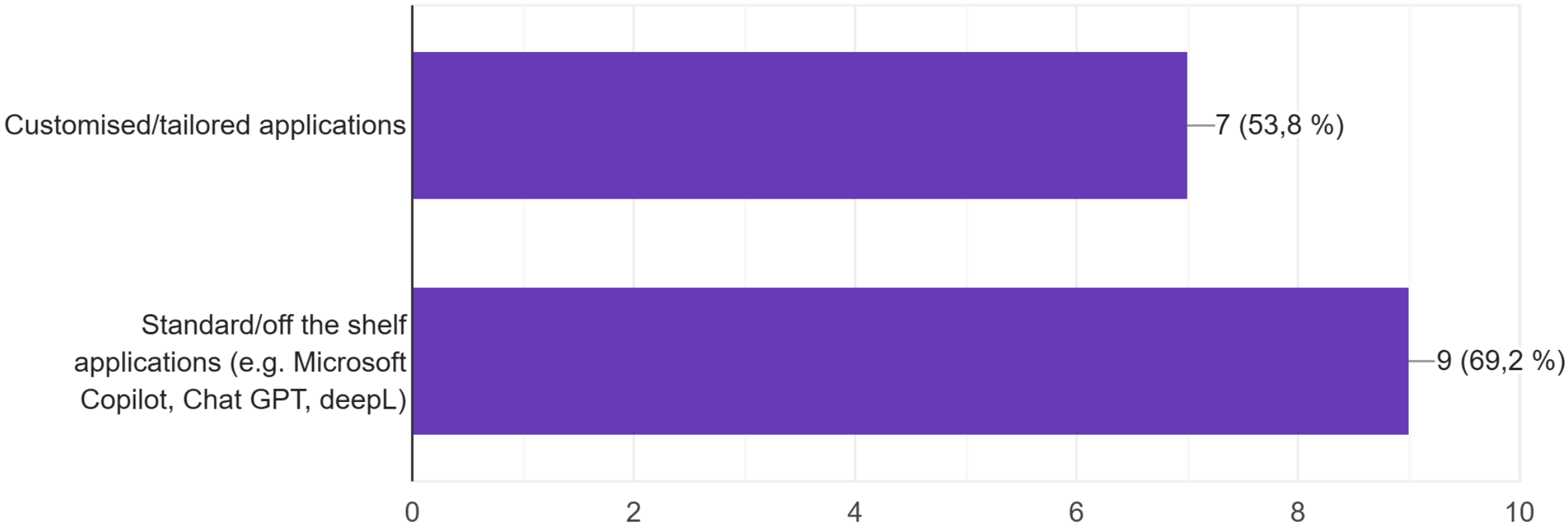


- No
- Cannot say
- Yes
- Under consideration/experimental stage



What type of generative AI tools do you have?

13 réponses



What are the generative AI tools mainly used for ?

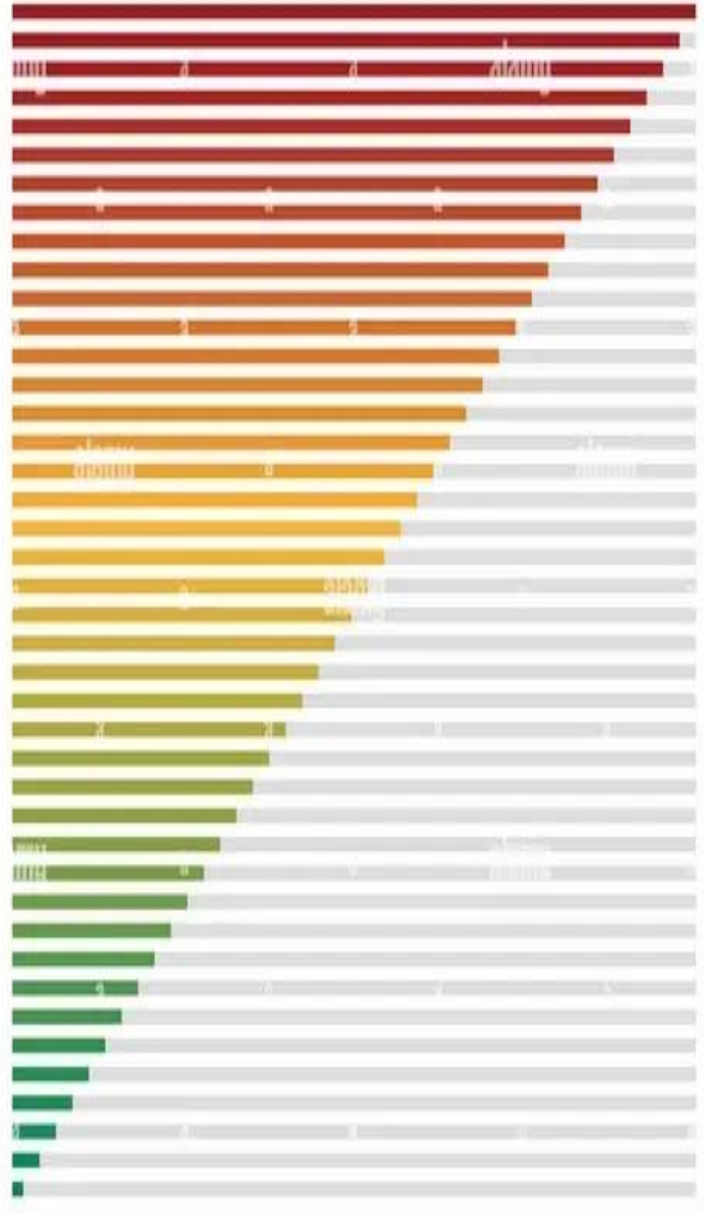
<u>2 + mentions</u>

- Summarisation of documents – 7
- Transcription/generation of hearing minutes (speech to text) - 6
- Identification and extraction of specific information in documents - 6
- Translation (languages) - 5
- Easy/plain language translation - 4
- Linguistic correction and improvement of documents – 4
- Legal research - 4
- Drafting of other texts but judgments - 3
- Identification of legal arguments in texts - 2
- Analysis of document coherence - 2
- Administrative workflow automation (e.g. document classification, scheduling, notification, attribution…) – 2

<u>1 mention</u>

- Guidance of potential litigants (e.g. chatbots)
- Interpretation (languages)
- Analysis of patterns in mass claims/cases
- Assistance in drafting interlocutory resolutions/orders
- Assistance in drafting of judgments
- Verification of jurisprudential citations
- Verification of admissibility

<u>0 mentions :</u> Quantitative estimate of legal outcomes



Examples generative AI tools (I)

Document search, review and large scale discovery

- (M)INI – Intelligentes Notitia Iustitia (Sweden)

Application that uses AI to search for legal information in vast volumes of material, cases, law, preparatory work. Presents relevant statistics, has semantic understanding.

Online dispute resolution

- Civil resolution tribunal (Canada)

To help people without lawyers resolve certain types of disputes quickly. It deals with: small claims in civil matters, condo disputes, motor vehicle injury claims and societies and cooperative association disputes. Its decisions can be appealed.

Prediction of litigation outcomes

- AI model for Analysis and Standardisation of Case Law (Bulgaria)

Automating case analysis and supporting judicial work by generating draft judicial acts based on mandatory case law and case law selected by appellate and cassation judges.

Decision support

- OLGA (Germany)

The AI based system helps to analyse and classify applications according to the facts. Information identification and automatic decision generation (Diesel emission scandal)

Examples generative AI tools (II)

Anonymisation and pseudonymisation

- Anoppi (Finland)

A pseudonymization tool for legal documents for linked data publication and use on the semantic web.

Triaging, allocation and workflow automation

- Automated Allocation and Processing of Incoming Documents (Austria)

Fully automated allocation and processing of incoming documents from electronic channels and/or scanned documents: extraction of metadata and identification of case numbers with NLP, categorisation and titling of documents, recognition of the type of proceedings of new incoming cases.

Recording, transcription and translation

- Tipko – Speech to text (Slovenia), AI-speech recognition (Iceland)

The system directly transforms the audio recordings to text, based on machine learning and ontology of Slovene language.

Information and assistance services

- Justice GTP (Portugal)

Chatbot - Advanced language model with machine learning, which informs citizens and businesses about the tools and services that justice provides to respond to their needs.

How is (generative) AI used by the European courts in comparison? (I)

- Fragmentation in application and individual position on the technology hype cycle (national, court level)
- AI is driving digitalisation and automation (not always AI, nor generative AI)
- Number of specialised tools is increasing rapidly at the same time increasing the use of standard applications (MS Copilot)
- Indication for increasing “shadow use” of AI
- Some tools are the new standard: e.g. Anonymisation, transcription

How is (generative) AI used by the European courts in comparison? (I)

- Increasing international, national and sectoral regulatory frameworks
- Phased application of EU AI Act
  - Prohibition of crime prediction systems
  - LLMs: technical documentation transparency on data used for training, compliance with copyright law
  - 2 August 2026! – Obligations for high-risk systems *"AI systems intended to be used by a judicial authority or on their behalf or to assist a judicial authority in researching and interpreting facts and the law and in applying the law to a concrete set of facts."* = <u>FRIA compulsory</u>!

Does it make justice better?

Efficient and fairer: faster, cheaper, accessible, transparent, non discriminatory?

- Evidence for efficiency is case dependent (e.g. OLGA) – no immediate effect on the CEPEJ Key Performance Indicators
- Unforeseen secondary costs for proper implementation (human supervision, investments in data protection and cybersecurity, e.g. cloud services and data centres)
- There is currently no way of empirically measuring if it makes justice "better" (but one can assume yes, if applied by experienced judges).

Thank you for your attention!

… and visit our website!



https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/cepej-working-group-cyber-just