

**EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME**

Analysis of statistics 2008

March 2009

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Commentary on the statistical overview of developments in the Court's caseload in 2008

A. Number of new applications

In 2008 49,850 applications were allocated to a judicial formation, an overall increase of 20% compared with 2007 (41,650). 38,800 of these were identified as Committee cases likely to be declared inadmissible (an increase of 16% in relation to 2007). 11,050 were identified as Chamber cases (an increase of 36%).

B. Total number of applications disposed of judicially and pending applications

32,043 applications were disposed of judicially, an increase of 11% in relation to 2007. It follows that the annual deficit, the difference between cases allocated and cases disposed of, was approximately 17,800 (i.e. a monthly deficit of about 1,490).

As a result the number of applications pending before a judicial formation rose by 23% in 2008, from 79,400 to 97,300.

C. Details concerning the processing of applications

1. Pre-allocation

Before a case is allocated to a judicial formation applicants are required to complete the application form and submit the necessary supporting documents on pain of administrative disposal. As at 31 December 2008 the number of applications pending at this pre-judicial stage stood at 21,450, a drop of 12% in relation to the same date the previous year. The number of applications disposed of administratively in 2008 was 14,800, an increase of 10%. The introduction of new rules requiring applicants to submit a completed file more rapidly explains this increase.

2. Inadmissibility or strike out decisions

In 2008 30,163 applications were declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases by a Committee or a Chamber, an 11% increase compared with 2007 (27,059).

3. Communicated applications

Where an application is not on its face inadmissible, it is communicated to the respondent Government for observations. In 2008 4,416 applications were communicated (an increase of 28% in relation to 2007 when 3,456 applications were communicated). This figure reflects an increase in the number of Chamber cases processed in accordance with the Court's policy of concentrating more resources on potentially well-founded cases.

4. Judgments

Judgments were delivered in respect of 1,880 applications (compared with 1,735 in 2007 – an increase of 8%). A number of these applications were joined with the effect that the number of judgments actually delivered was 1,543, an increase of 3%.

5. Requests for interim measures (Rule 39 of the Rules of Court)

Requests for interim measures again saw a sharp increase in particular in respect of two countries: France and the United Kingdom. The Court granted requests for interim measures in 747 cases (i.e. an increase of 182% compared with 2007) and dismissed them in 1,161 cases (93% more than in 2007). In addition, many requests fell outside the scope of Rule 39 of the Rules of Court but nonetheless required an urgent examination and thus diverted resources from the processing of other cases.

D. Time elapsed since date of allocation of cases

57% of cases allocated to a Chamber have been pending for less than two years and 14% for between two and three years. The remaining 29% of cases have been pending for over three years.

50% of cases allocated to a Committee have been pending for less than one year, 30% for more than one year and 20% for more than two years.

General information

Table 1 General statistical information

1. Applications allocated to a judicial formation Committee/Chamber [round figures (50)]	2008	2007	+/-
Applications allocated	49850	41650	20%

2. Interim procedural events	2008	2007	+/-
Applications communicated to respondent Government	4416	3456	28%
Applications declared admissible	1671	1626	3%
- in separate decision	76	185	-59%
- in judgment on merits	1595	1441	11%

3. Applications decided	2008	2007	+/-
By decision or judgment	32043	28794	11%
- by judgment delivered	1880	1735	8%
- by decision (inadmissible or struck out)	30163	27059	11%

4. Pending applications [round figures (50)]	31/12/2008	1/1/2008	+/-
Applications pending before a judicial formation	97300	79400	23%
- Chamber (7 judges)	33850	27950	21%
- Committee (3 judges)	63450	51450	23%

5. Pre-judicial applications [round figures (50)]	31/12/2008	1/1/2008	+/-
Applications at a pre-judicial stage	21450	24450	-12%
	2008	2007	+/-
Applications disposed of administratively (applications not pursued - files destroyed)	14800	13400	10%

Number of applications allocated to a judicial formation¹

Chart 1 Applications allocated to a judicial formation per year

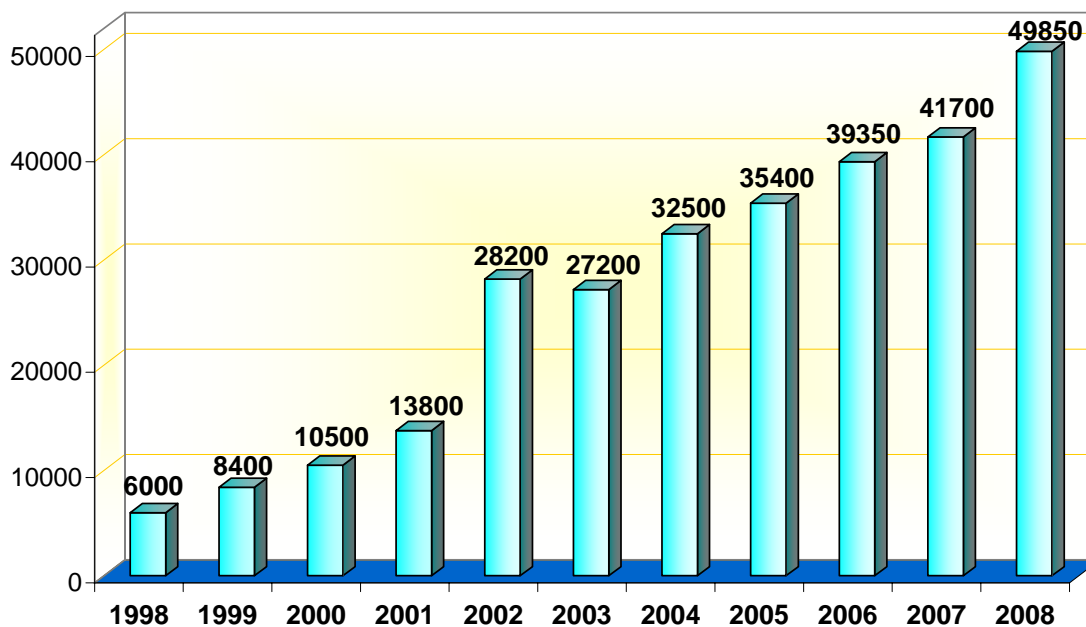
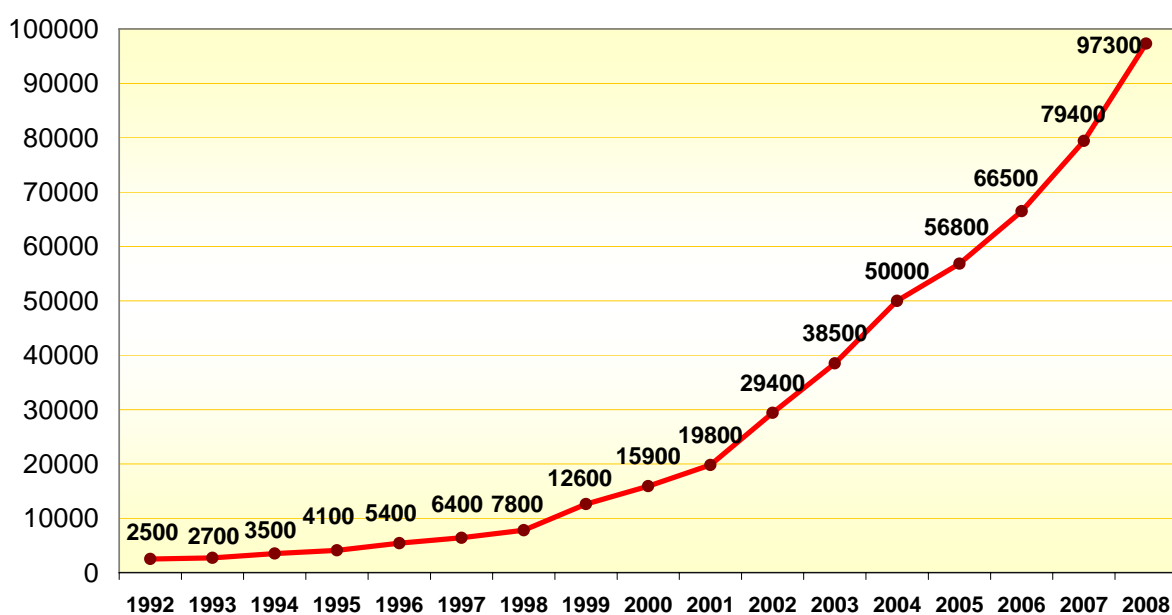


Chart 2 Applications pending before a judicial formation



¹ Figures represent the total number of applications, including joined applications. The document generally gives round figures. Figures prior to 1 November 1998 relate to the European Commission of Human Rights. The upsurge in applications allocated in 2002 was due to a change in working methods, transferring much of the screening of inadmissible applications from the administrative, pre-judicial phase to the judicial stage.

Chart 3 High case-count States (more than 2,000 applications pending before a judicial formation)

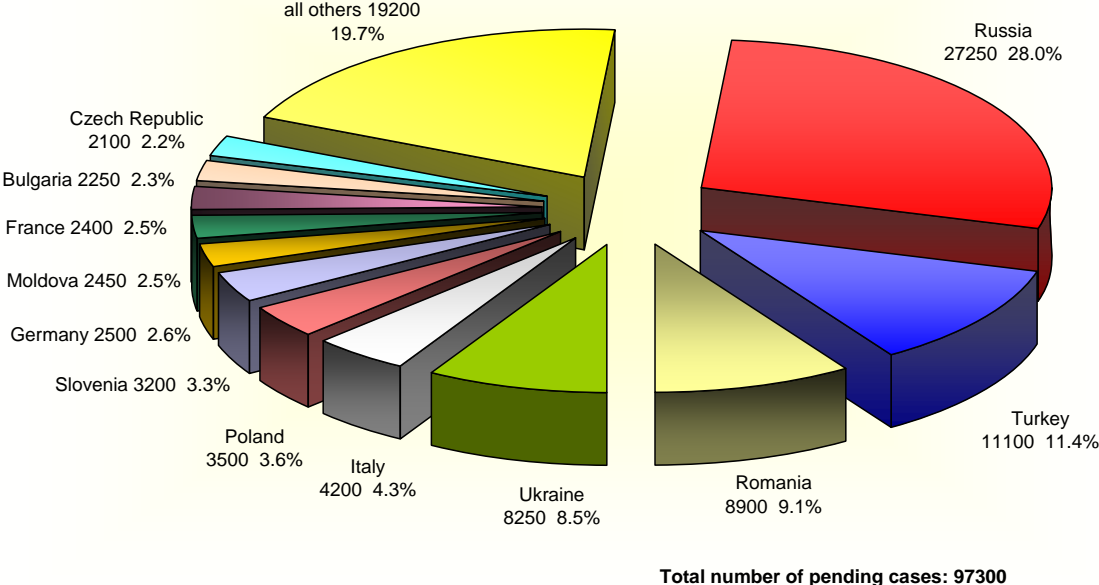
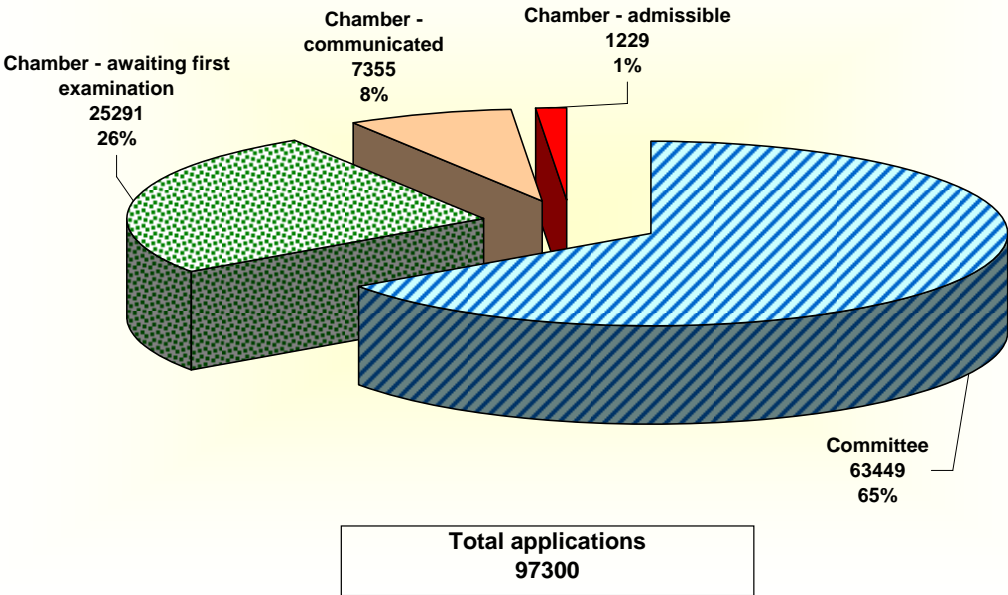


Chart 4 The Court’s total caseload by stage of proceedings and judicial formation



Processing of applications

Chart 5 Major procedural steps in processing of applications

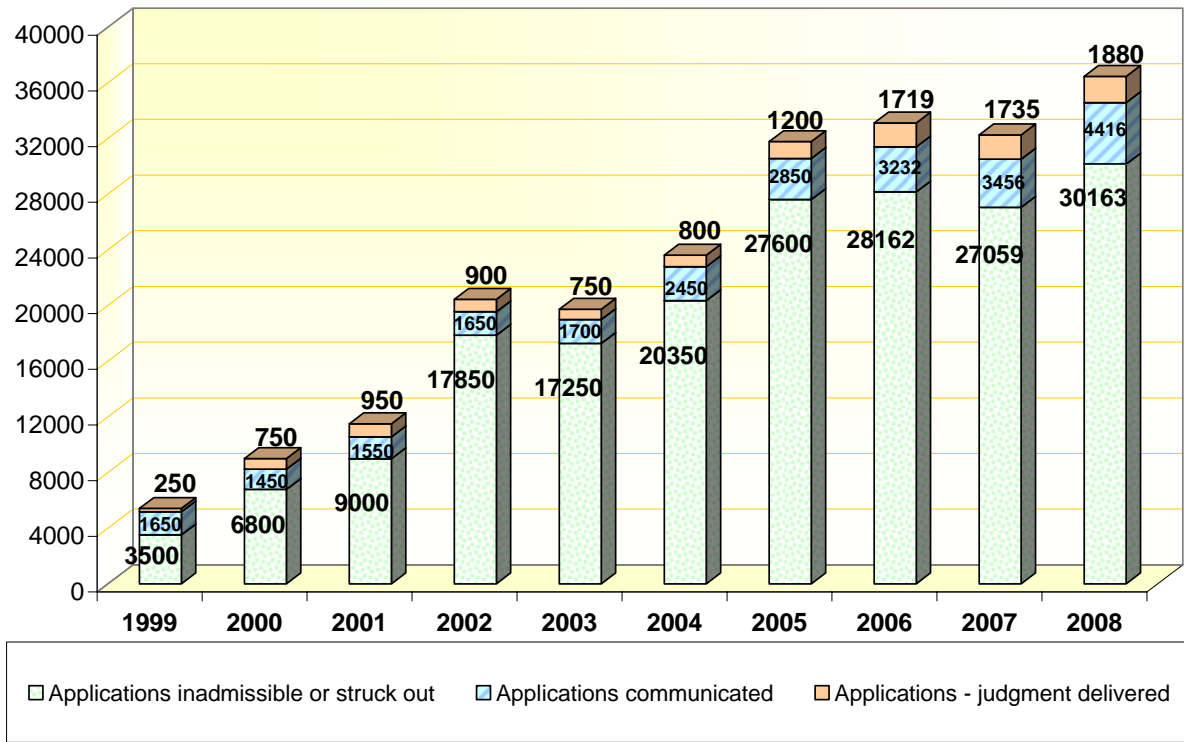
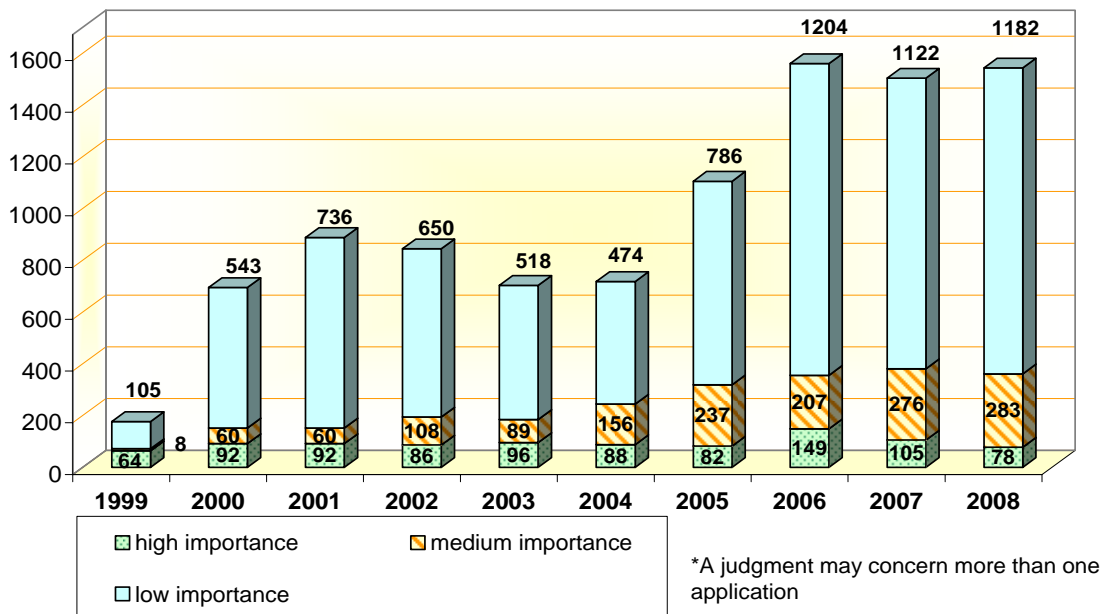


Chart 6 Judgments by level of importance²



² Importance levels:

1. High importance, judgments which the Court considers make a significant contribution to the development, clarification or modification of its case-law, either generally or in relation to a particular State.
2. Medium importance, judgments which do not make a significant contribution to the case-law but nevertheless do not merely apply existing case-law.
3. Low importance, judgments with little legal interest - those applying existing case-law, friendly settlements and striking-out judgments (unless these have any particular point of interest).

Chart 7 Requests for interim measures 2006-2008³

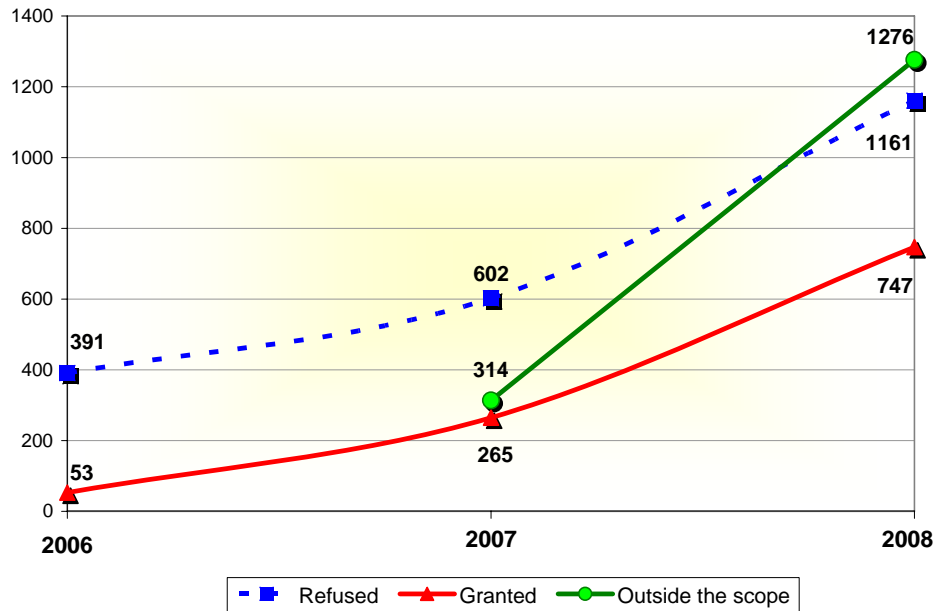
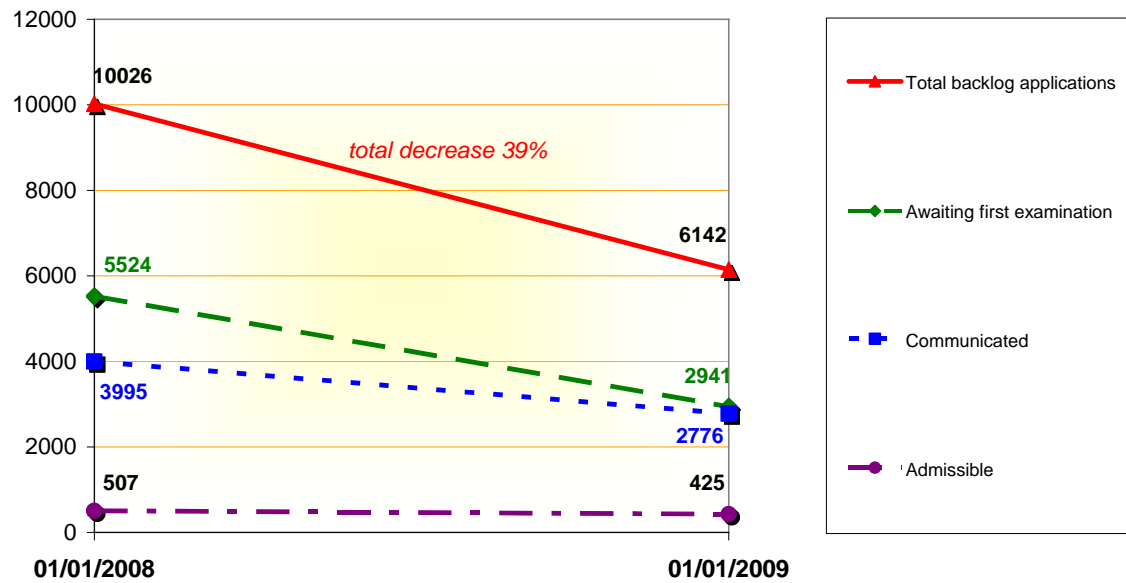


Chart 8 Applications allocated to a judicial formation before 1 January 2005 (backlog)



³ Statistics on the number of requests for interim measures falling outside the scope of Rule 39 are available only from 2007.

Chart 9 Time elapsed since date of allocation to a judicial formation– pending Chamber cases

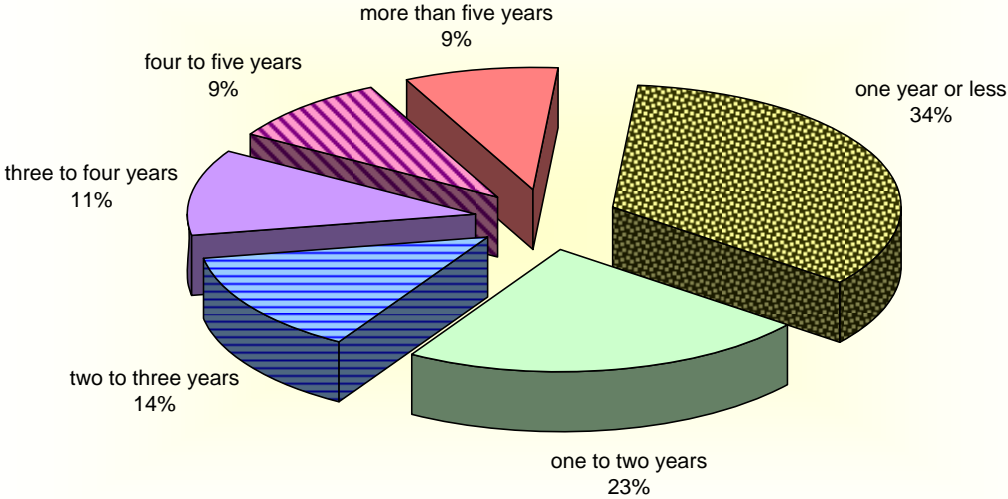


Chart 10 Time elapsed since date of allocation to a judicial formation – pending Committee cases

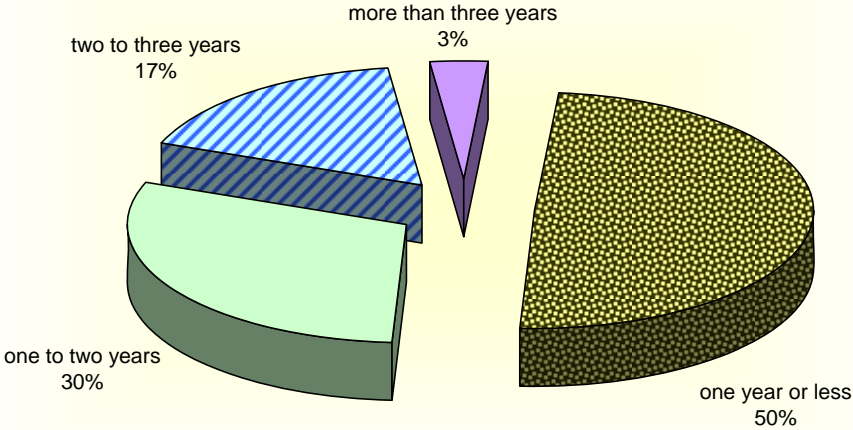


Table 2 Applications allocated per Contracting State and population

State	Applications allocated to a judicial formation				Population (1000)				Allocated/population (10000)			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	1.1.2005	1.1.2006	1.1.2007	1.1.2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
Albania	45	52	55	75	3127	3127	3153	3170	0,14	0,17	0,17	0,24
Andorra	5	8	4	1	75	75	80	83	0,67	1,07	0,50	0,12
Armenia	110	98	614	106	3216	3216	3226	3230	0,34	0,30	1,90	0,33
Austria	298	344	329	373	8207	8266	8299	8332	0,36	0,42	0,40	0,45
Azerbaijan	175	221	708	334	8388	8388	8533	8630	0,21	0,26	0,83	0,39
Belgium	173	107	122	166	10446	10511	10585	10670	0,17	0,10	0,12	0,16
Bosnia and Herzegovina	209	243	705	971	3842	3842	3884	3843	0,54	0,63	1,82	2,53
Bulgaria	820	748	818	890	7761	7719	7679	7640	1,06	0,97	1,07	1,16
Croatia	553	640	558	608	4444	4443	4441	4435	1,24	1,44	1,26	1,37
Cyprus	66	56	63	66	749	766	779	795	0,88	0,73	0,81	0,83
Czech Republic	1267	2466	806	721	10221	10251	10287	10381	1,24	2,41	0,78	0,69
Denmark	72	68	45	73	5411	5427	5447	5476	0,13	0,13	0,08	0,13
Estonia	165	184	153	169	1348	1345	1342	1341	1,22	1,37	1,14	1,26
Finland	243	262	268	276	5237	5256	5277	5301	0,46	0,50	0,51	0,52
France	1821	1831	1553	2724	62519	62886	63392	63753	0,29	0,29	0,24	0,43
Georgia	72	105	162	1771	4361	4361	4400	4382	0,17	0,24	0,37	4,04
Germany	1592	1601	1483	1572	82501	82438	82315	82222	0,19	0,19	0,18	0,19
Greece	365	371	384	416	11083	11125	11172	11215	0,33	0,33	0,34	0,37
Hungary	644	423	529	425	10098	10077	10066	10045	0,64	0,42	0,53	0,42
Iceland	6	12	9	7	294	300	308	314	0,20	0,40	0,29	0,22
Ireland	45	40	45	48	4109	4209	4315	4420	0,11	0,10	0,10	0,11
Italy	847	931	1353	1824	58462	58752	59131	59618	0,14	0,16	0,23	0,31
Latvia	233	268	232	248	2306	2295	2281	2271	1,01	1,17	1,02	1,09
Liechtenstein	4	1	5	8	35	35	35	35	1,16	0,29	1,42	2,26
Lithuania	267	204	226	255	3425	3403	3385	3366	0,78	0,60	0,67	0,76
Luxembourg	28	32	34	35	455	460	476	484	0,62	0,70	0,71	0,72
Malta	13	16	18	12	403	404	408	411	0,32	0,40	0,44	0,29
Moldova	594	517	889	1147	3604	3604	3581	3573	1,65	1,43	2,48	3,21
Monaco	1	4	10	5	32	32	32	32	0,31	1,25	3,13	1,56
Montenegro	-	13	95	156	-	-	651	628	-	-	1,46	2,49
Netherlands	410	397	366	385	16306	16334	16358	16404	0,25	0,24	0,22	0,23
Norway	58	70	63	79	4606	4640	4681	4737	0,13	0,15	0,13	0,17
Poland	4563	3975	4202	4369	38174	38157	38126	38116	1,20	1,04	1,10	1,15
Portugal	221	215	134	151	10529	10570	10599	10618	0,21	0,20	0,13	0,14
Romania	3103	3310	3168	5242	21659	21610	21565	21529	1,43	1,53	1,47	2,43
Russia	8069	10132	9493	10146	143821	143821	142221	142009	0,56	0,70	0,67	0,71
San Marino	4	2	1	4	29	29	32	31	1,38	0,69	0,32	1,30
Serbia	660	595	1056	1067	8118	8118	7398	7374	0,81	0,75	1,43	1,45
Slovakia	442	487	349	488	5385	5389	5394	5401	0,82	0,90	0,65	0,90
Slovenia	343	1338	1012	1353	1998	2003	2010	2026	1,72	6,68	5,03	6,68
Spain	495	361	310	393	43038	43758	44475	45283	0,12	0,08	0,07	0,09
Sweden	449	371	361	317	9011	9048	9113	9183	0,50	0,41	0,40	0,35
Switzerland	230	282	237	261	7415	7459	7509	7591	0,31	0,38	0,32	0,34
"The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia"	229	295	453	395	2032	2032	2042	2045	1,13	1,45	2,22	1,93
Turkey	2488	2328	2828	3706	71610	72520	73423	70586	0,35	0,32	0,39	0,53
Ukraine	1869	2482	4499	4770	47075	47075	46466	46373	0,40	0,53	0,97	1,03
United Kingdom	1003	843	860	1253	60060	60393	60853	61186	0,17	0,14	0,14	0,20

SOURCES 2008: Internet sites of the Eurostat service ("Population and social conditions") for the population of all countries except Monaco. For this country the estimate is from the United Nations Statistics Division.

The Council of Europe member States had a combined population of about 811 million inhabitants on 1 January 2008. The average number of applications allocated per million inhabitants was 62 in 2008.

Table 3 The Court's total caseload by stage of proceedings and judicial formation

State	Committee	Chamber - awaiting first examination	Chamber - communicated	Chamber - admissible	TOTAL
Albania	67	40	53	0	160
Andorra	1	0	1	1	3
Armenia	135	617	41	7	800
Austria	423	88	86	20	617
Azerbaijan	365	617	65	4	1051
Belgium	107	67	26	2	202
Bosnia and Herzegovina	233	1291	23	2	1549
Bulgaria	1195	728	235	72	2230
Croatia	544	163	77	9	793
Cyprus	62	41	27	8	138
Czech Republic	1903	152	56	6	2117
Denmark	20	4	7	4	35
Estonia	356	28	5	1	390
Finland	176	30	72	8	286
France	1969	273	148	29	2419
Georgia	182	1751	84	4	2021
Germany	2284	139	61	11	2495
Greece	291	133	106	37	567
Hungary	963	204	29	22	1218
Iceland	9	1	2	1	13
Ireland	37	10	6	0	53
Italy	1325	2007	749	110	4191
Latvia	471	201	59	10	741
Liechtenstein	7	1	0	0	8
Lithuania	307	91	39	11	448
Luxembourg	24	18	9	3	54
Malta	13	5	4	1	23
Moldova	1723	526	176	20	2445
Monaco	3	3	2	0	8
Montenegro	266	35	1	0	302
Netherlands	243	69	28	4	344
Norway	69	7	2	4	82
Poland	2244	757	440	74	3515
Portugal	45	95	90	28	258
Romania	5128	2822	844	126	8920
Russia	23595	2030	1376	241	27242
San Marino	0	0	1	0	1
Serbia	1293	696	85	9	2083
Slovakia	911	155	102	13	1181
Slovenia	1249	1759	209	1	3218
Spain	532	48	28	15	623
Sweden	199	14	24	5	242
Switzerland	456	69	30	3	558
"the former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia"	724	247	47	12	1030
Turkey	4471	5097	1285	232	11085
Ukraine	5956	1848	425	46	8275
United Kingdom	873	314	90	13	1290
ALL STATES	63449	25291	7355	1229	97324

Country-specific information

Albania

Chart 11 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

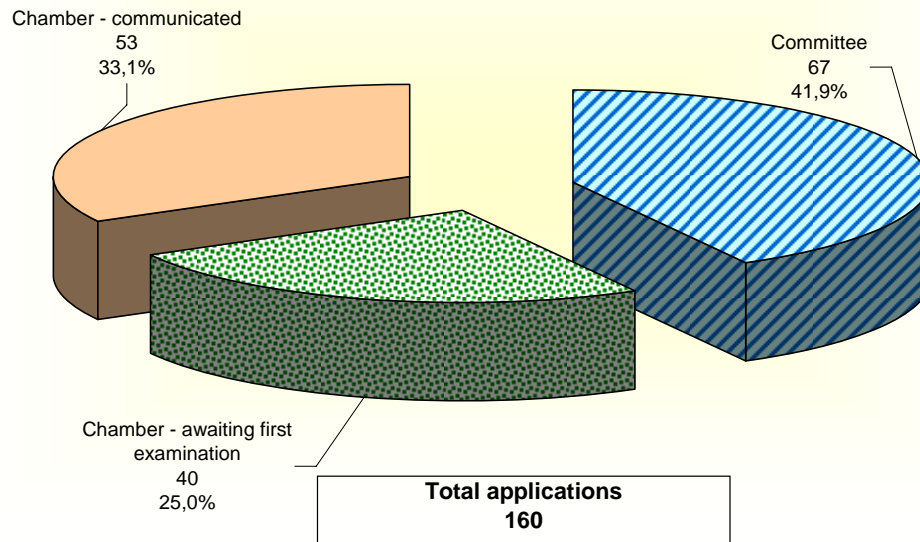
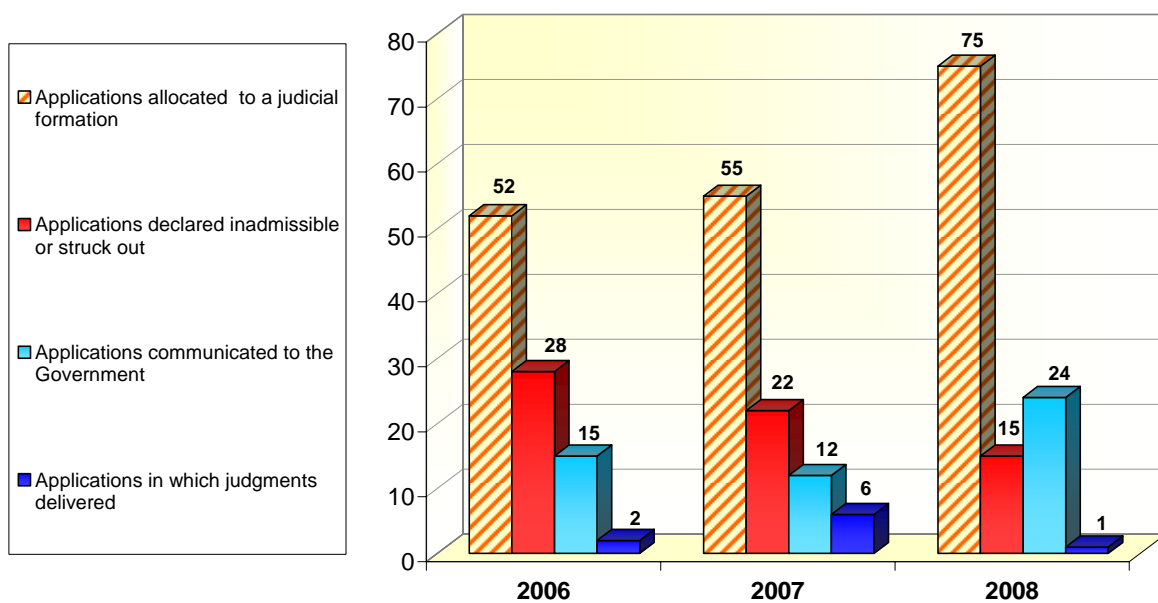


Chart 12 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Andorra

Chart 13 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

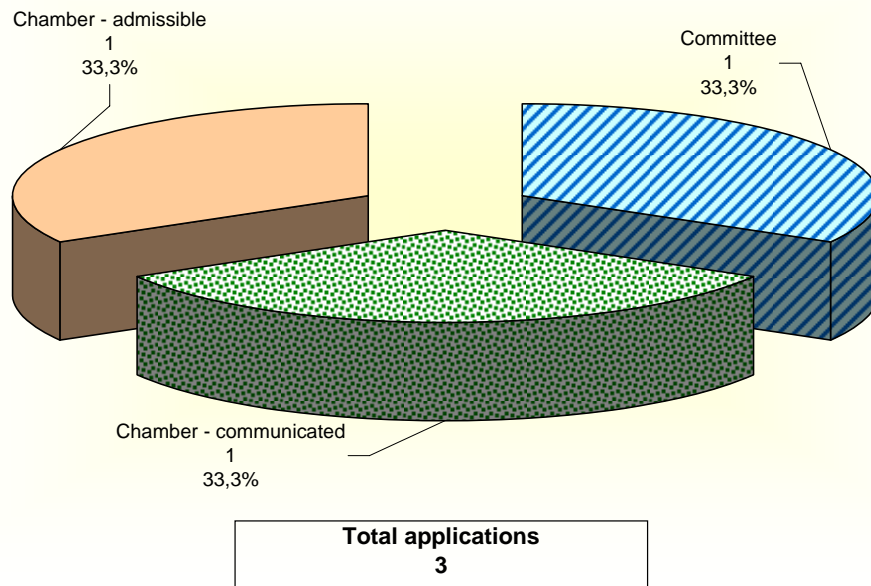
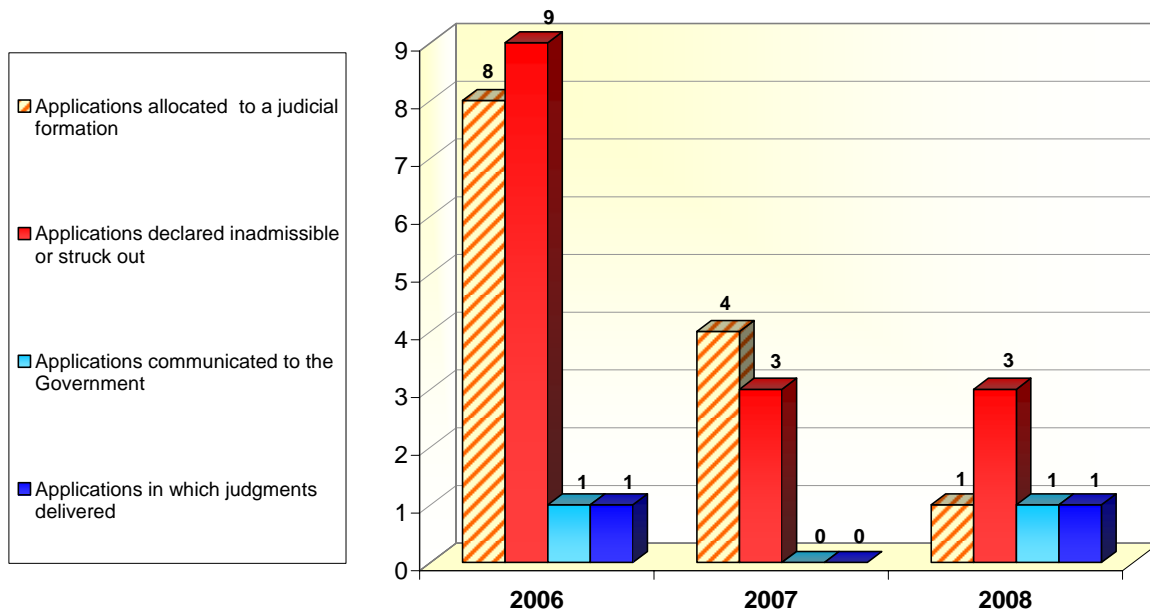


Chart 14 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Armenia

Chart 15 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

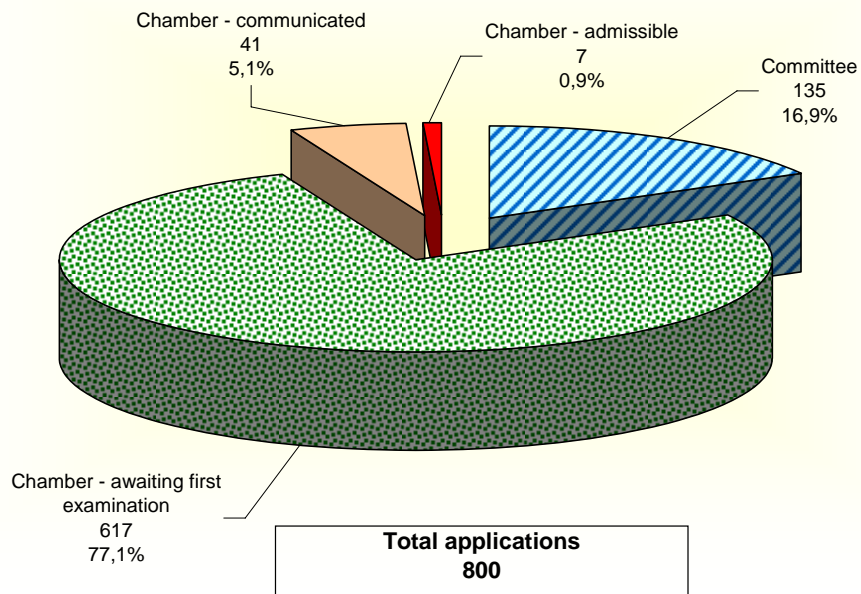
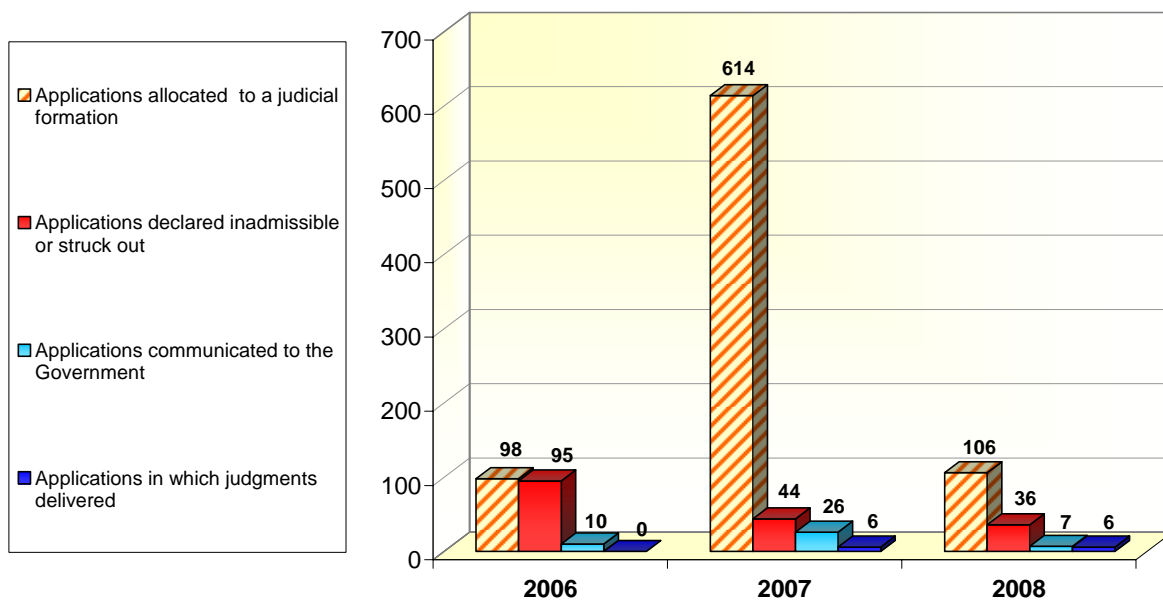


Chart 16 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Austria

Chart 17 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

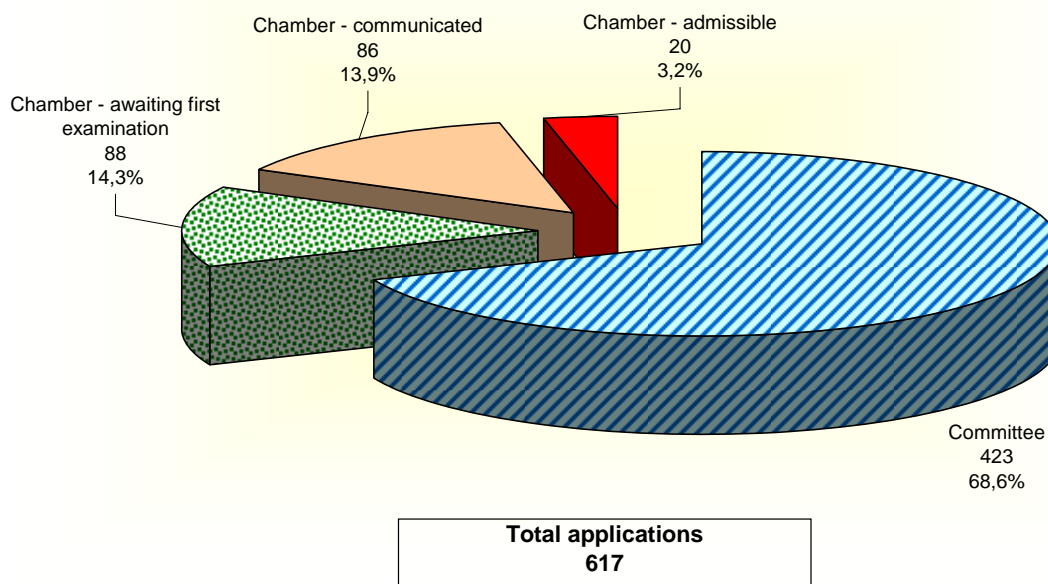
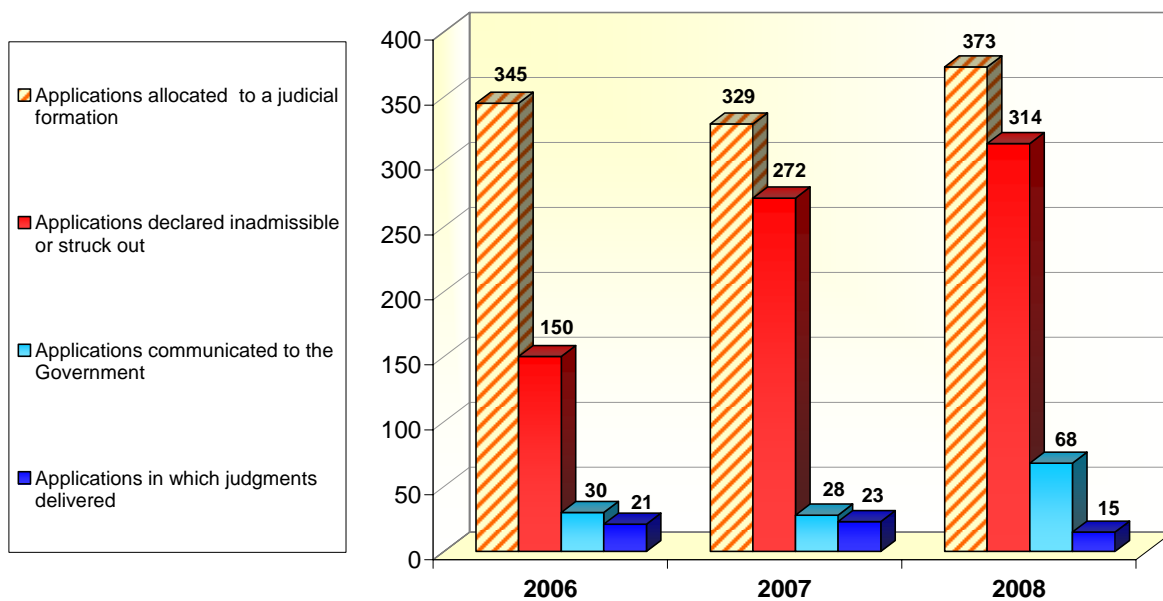


Chart 18 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Azerbaijan

Chart 19 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

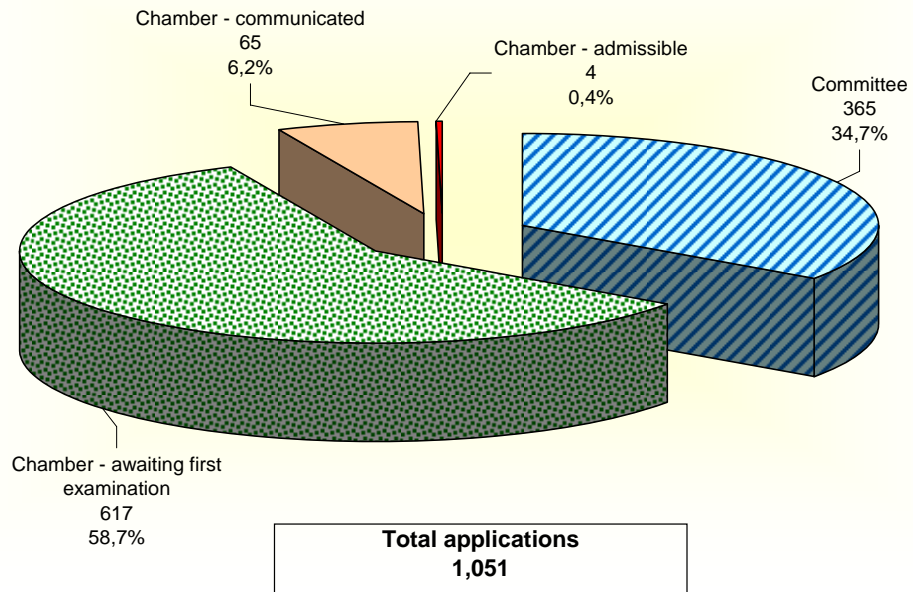
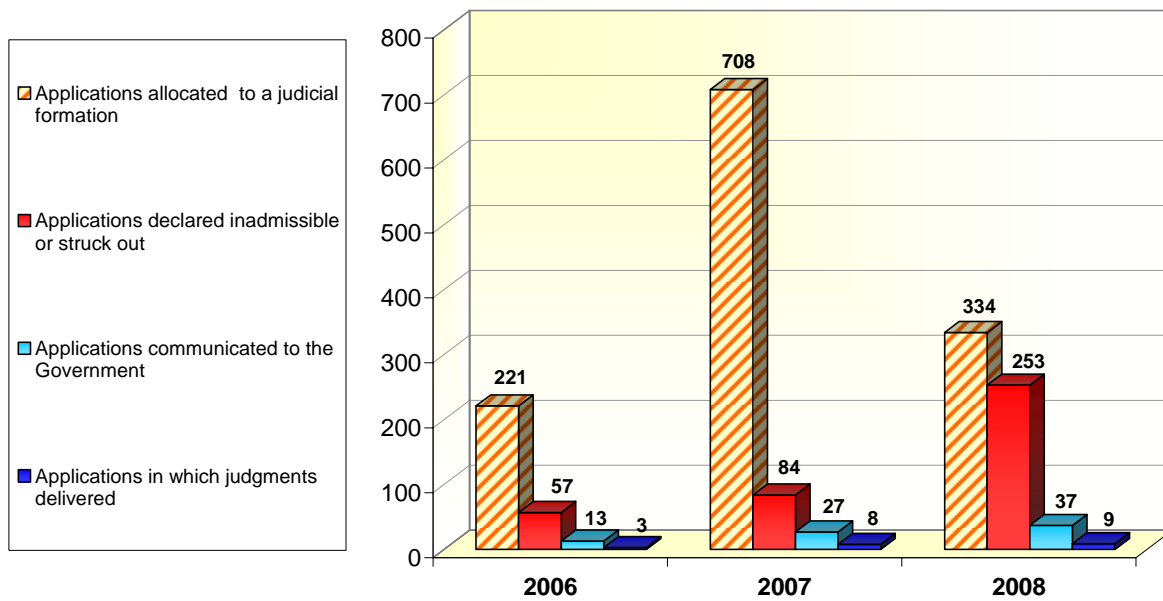


Chart 20 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Belgium

Chart 21 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

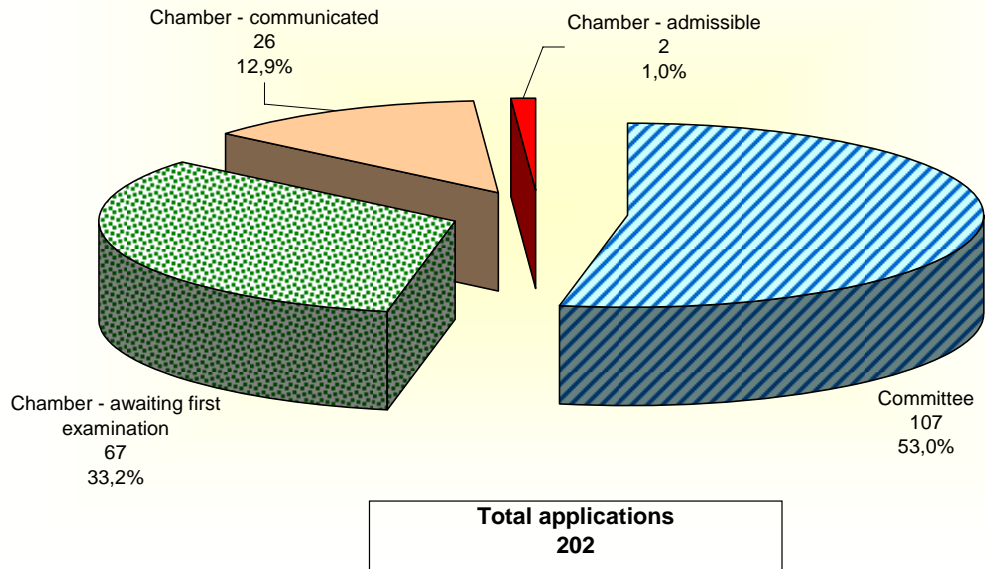
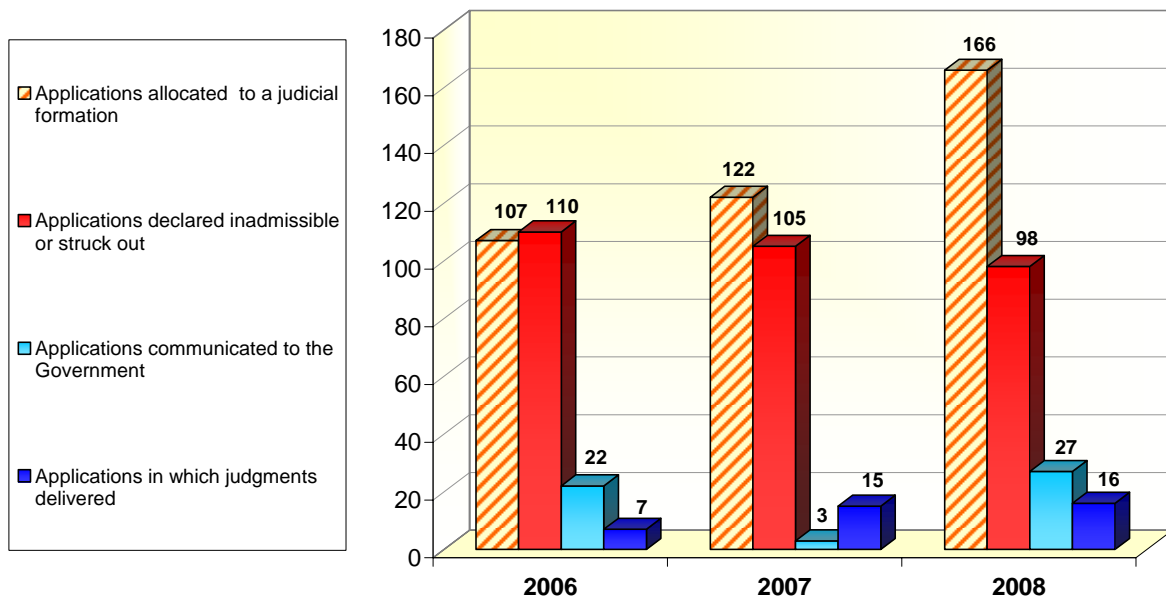


Chart 22 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Chart 23 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

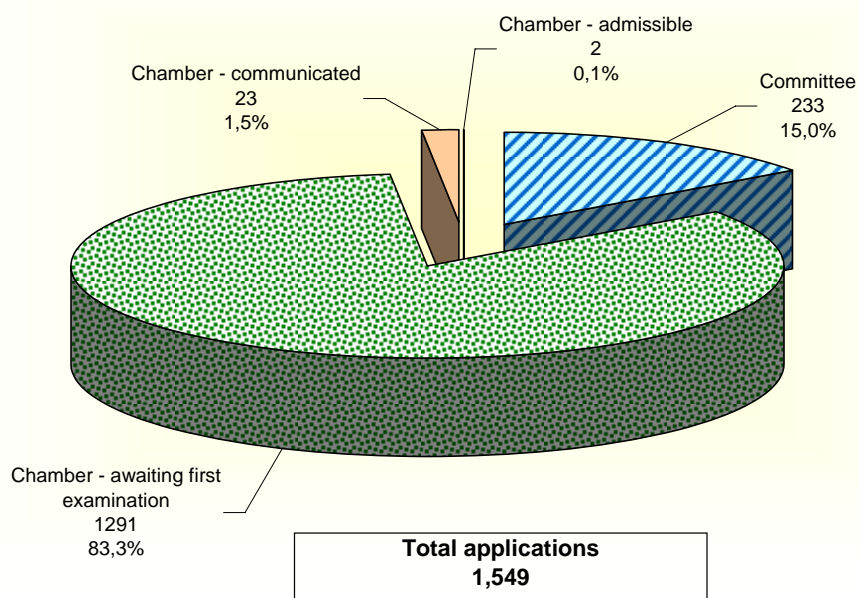
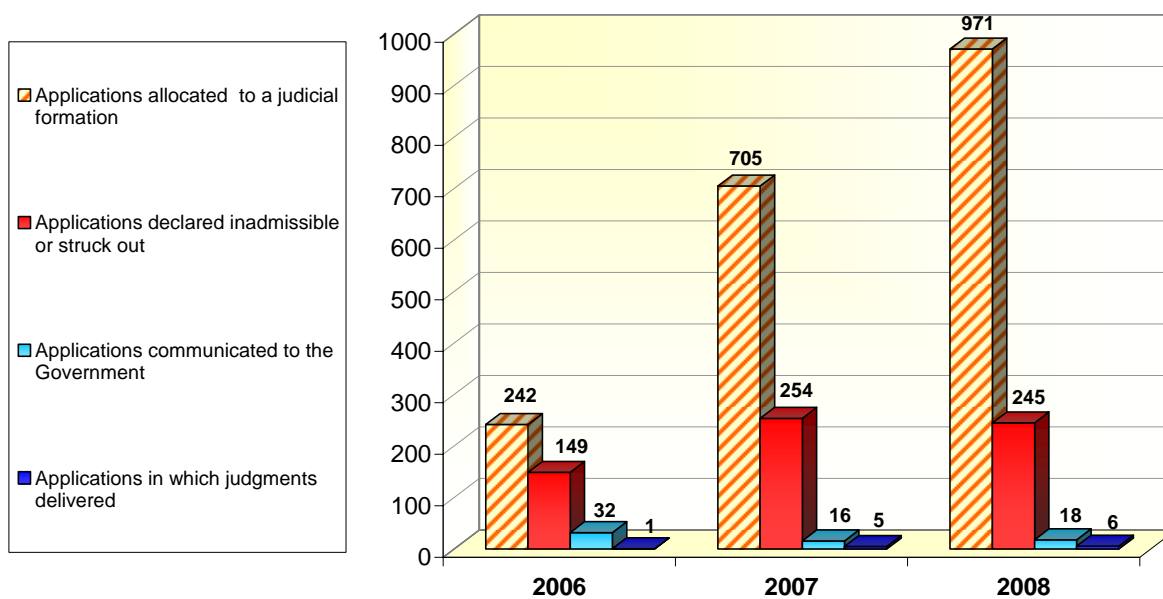


Chart 24 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Bulgaria

Chart 25 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

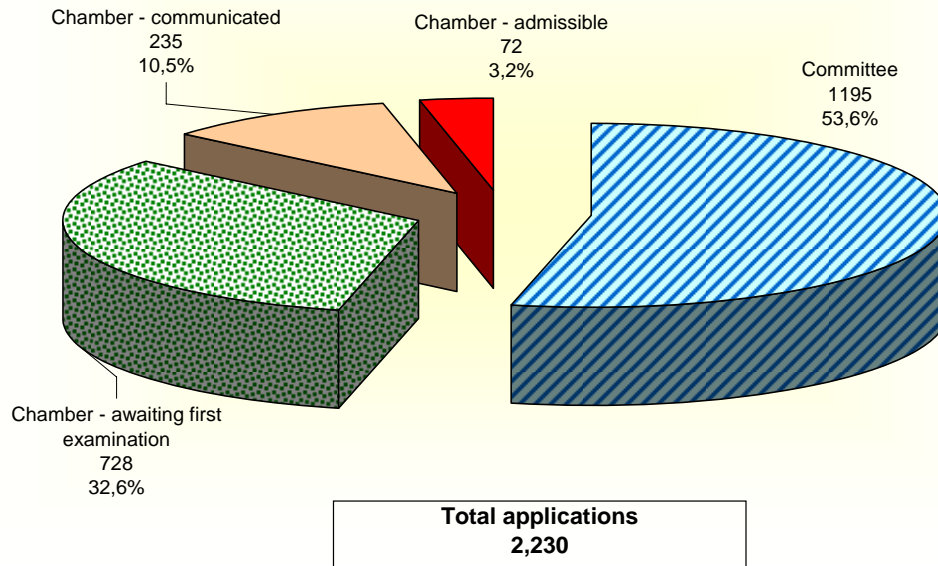
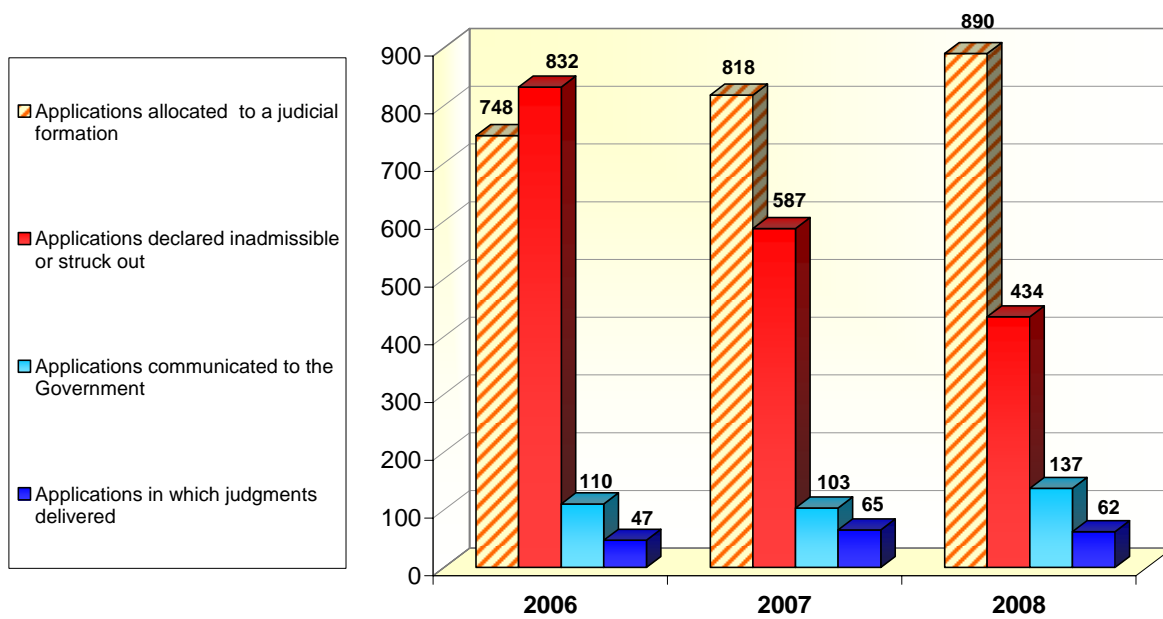


Chart 26 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Croatia

Chart 27 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

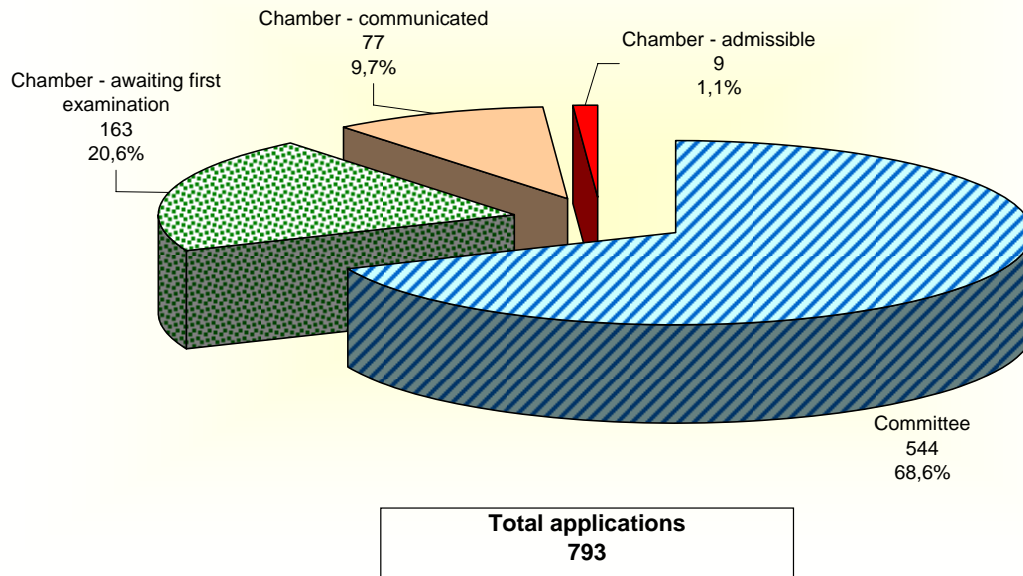
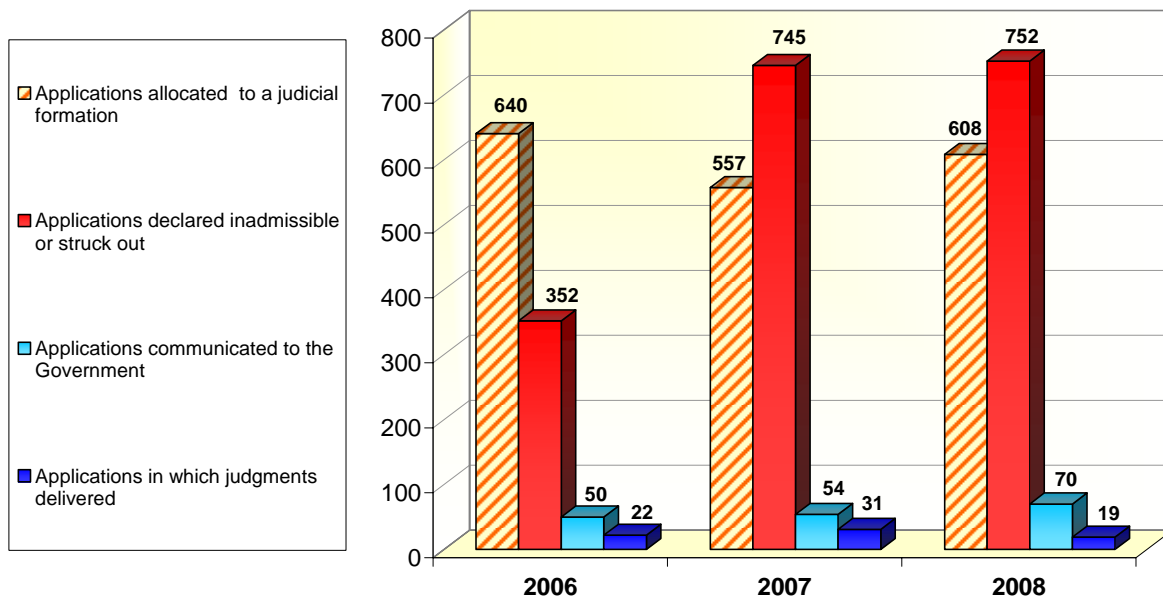


Chart 28 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Cyprus

Chart 29 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

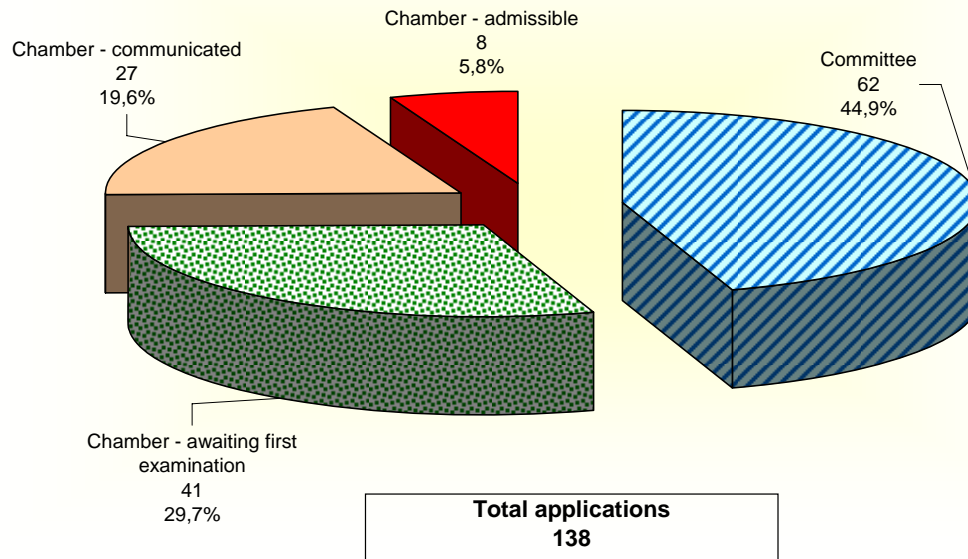
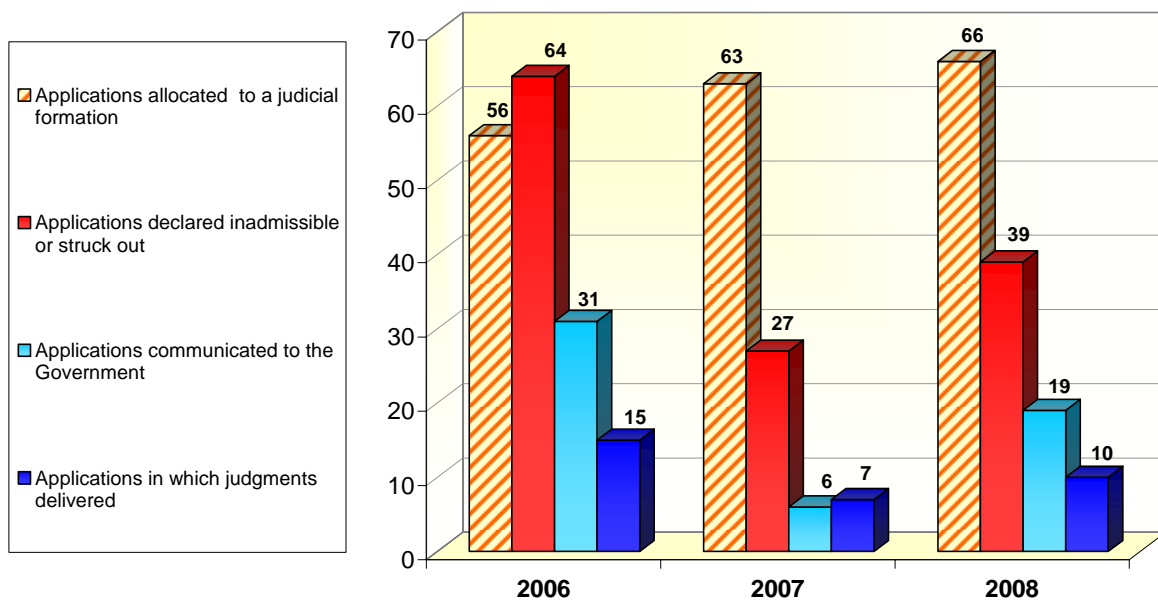


Chart 30 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Czech Republic

Chart 31 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

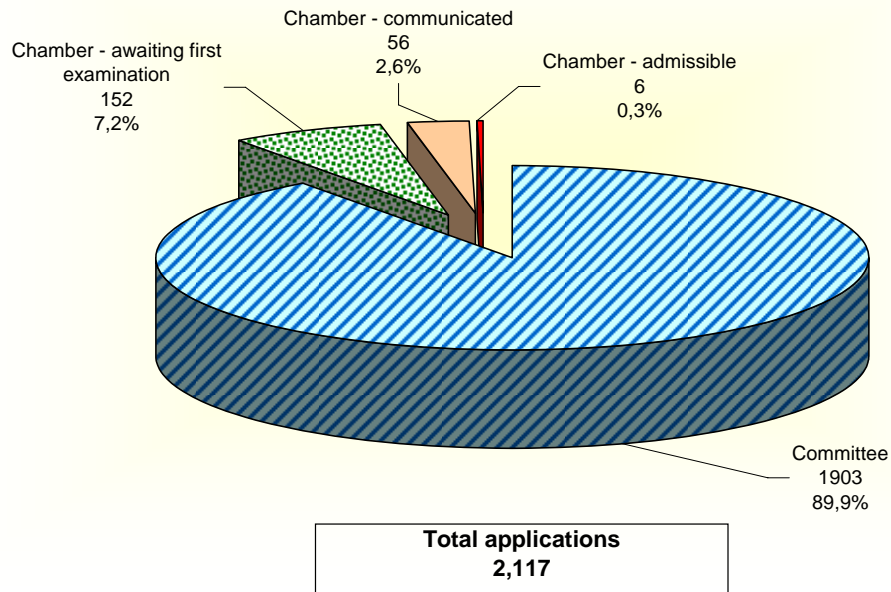
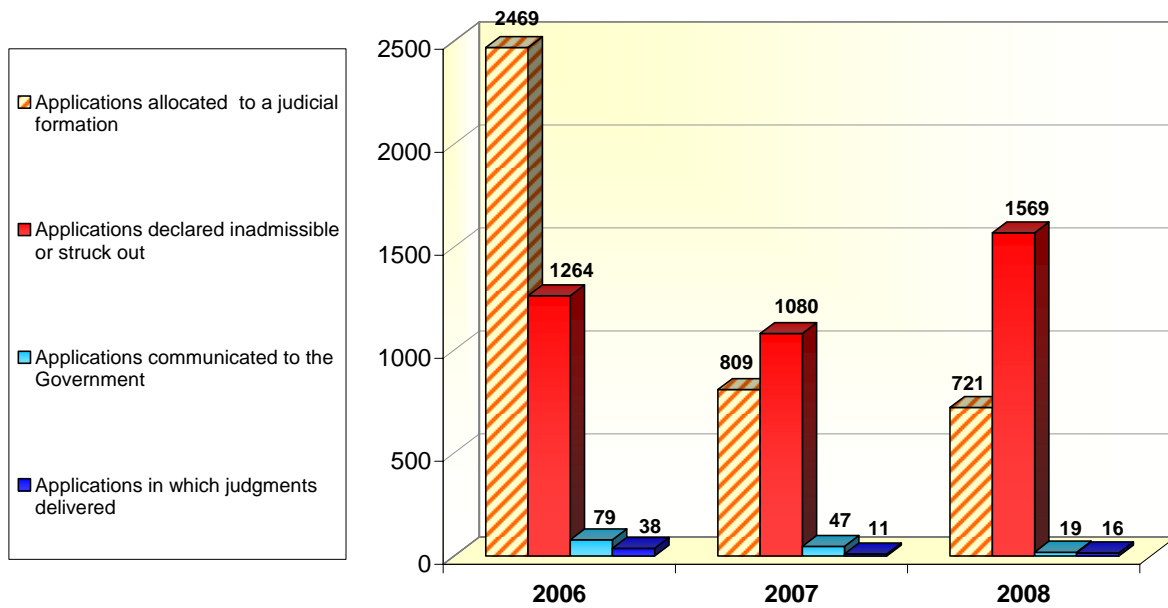


Chart 32 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Denmark

Chart 33 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

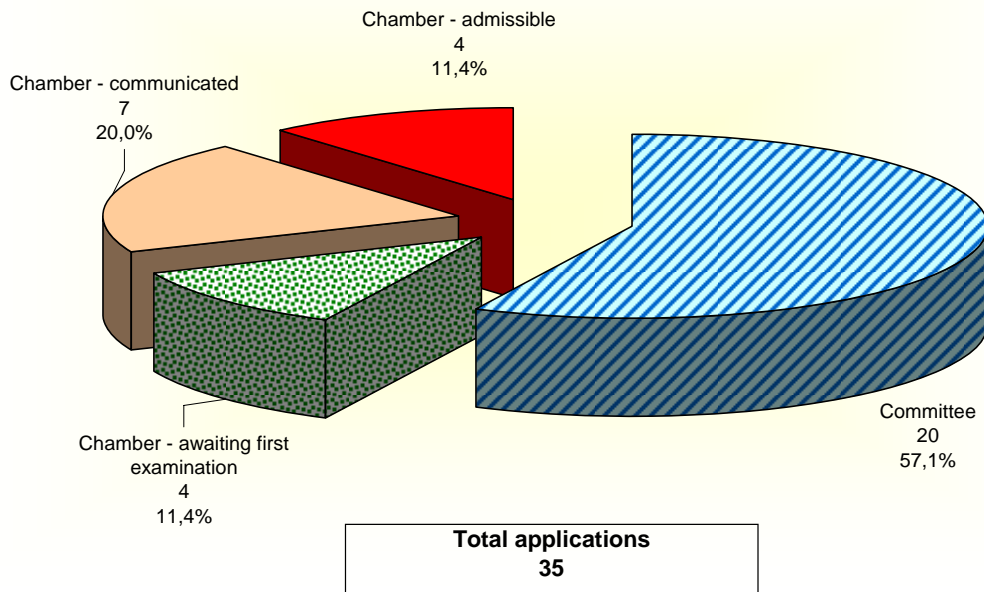
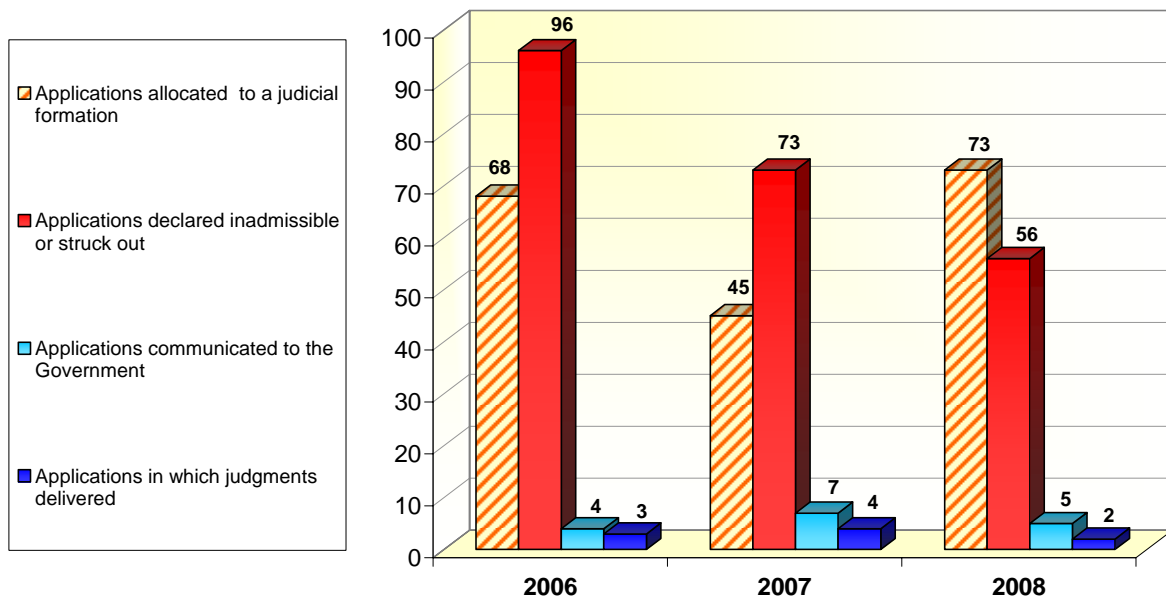


Chart 34 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Estonia

Chart 35 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

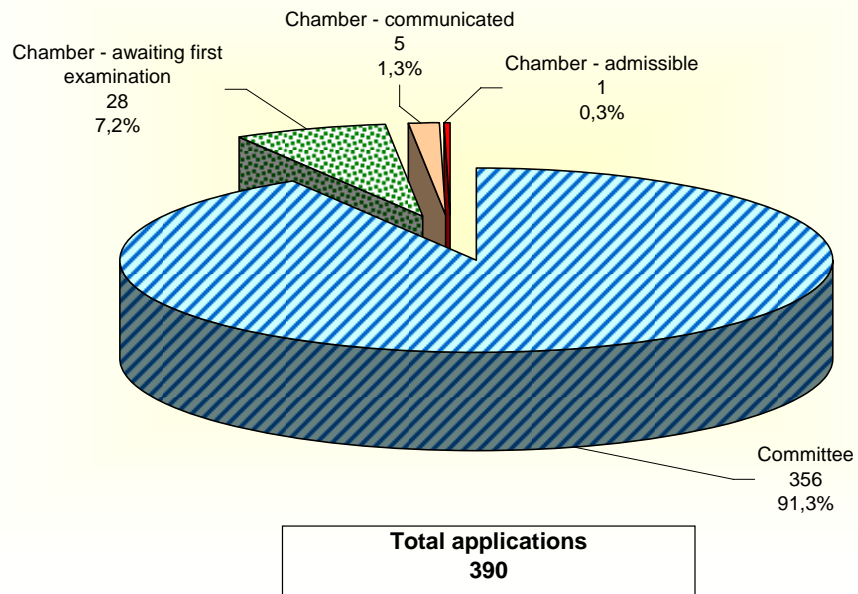
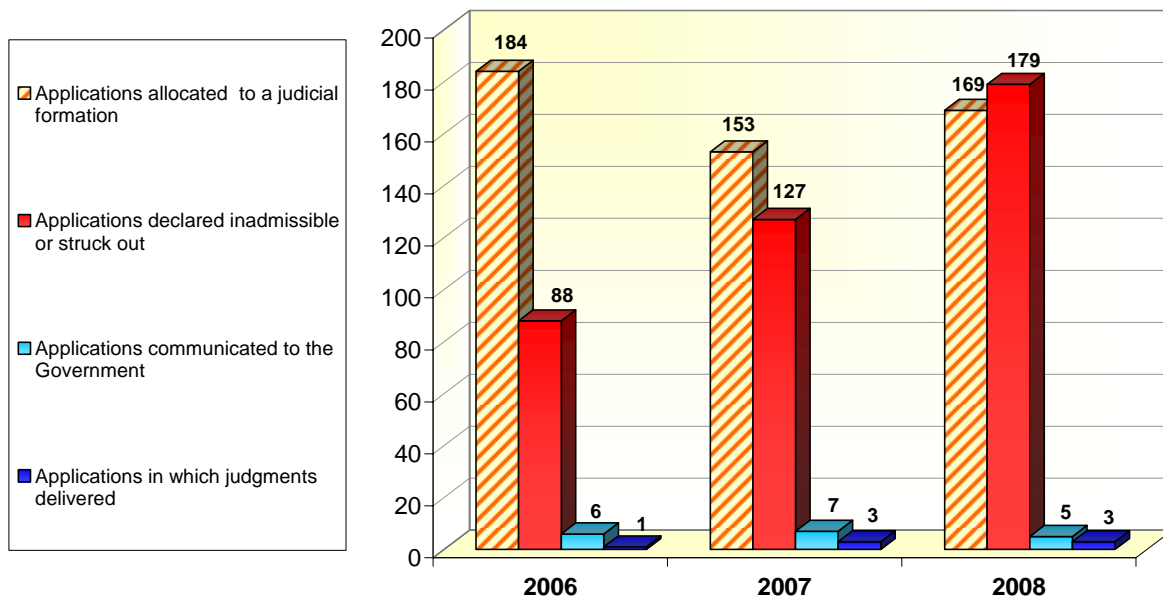


Chart 36 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Finland

Chart 37 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

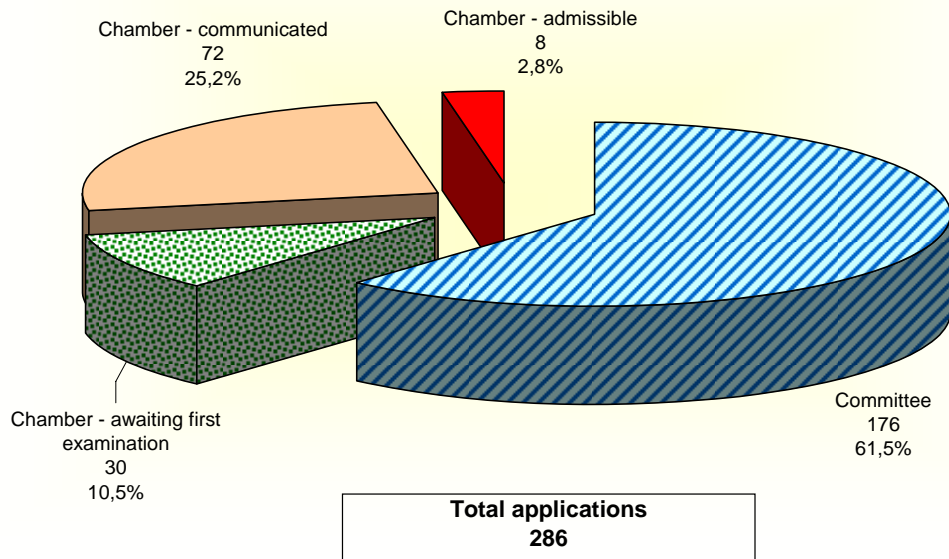
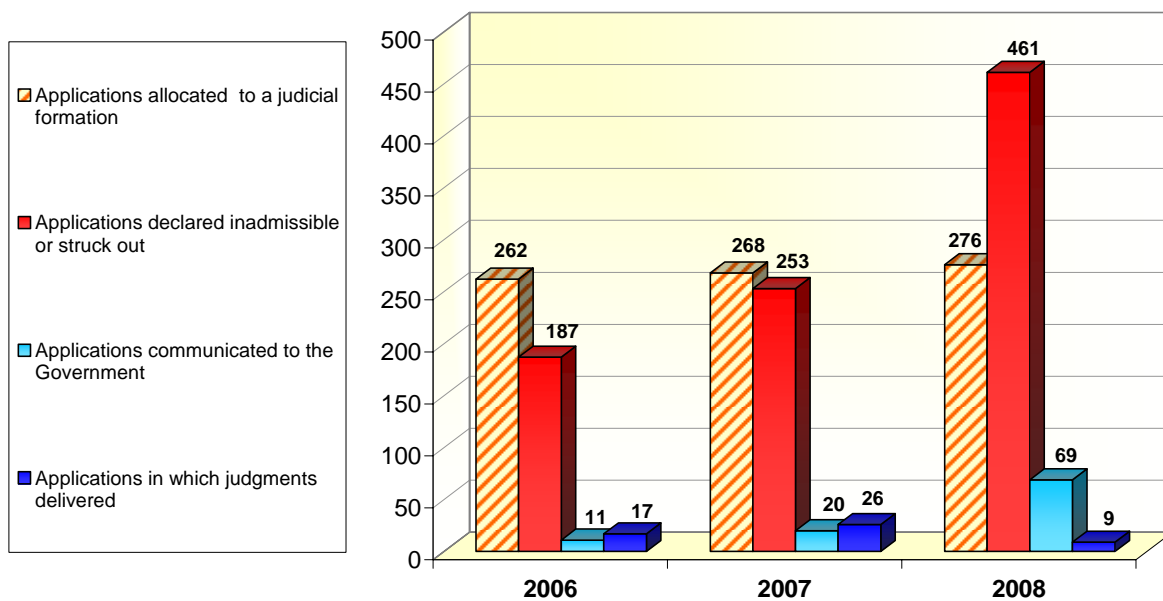


Chart 38 Major procedural steps in processing applications



France

Chart 39 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

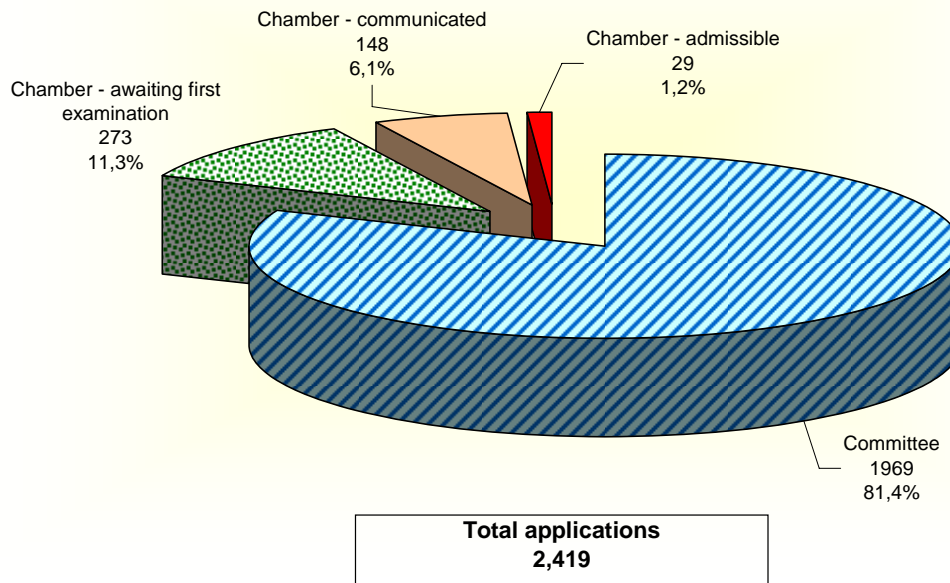


Chart 40 Major procedural steps in processing applications

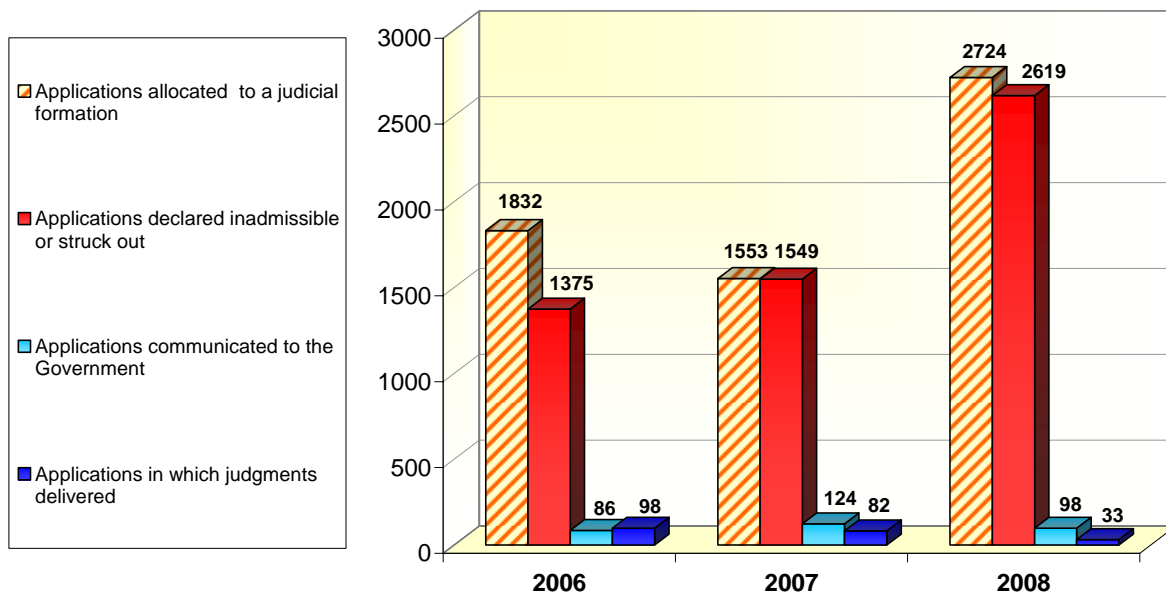
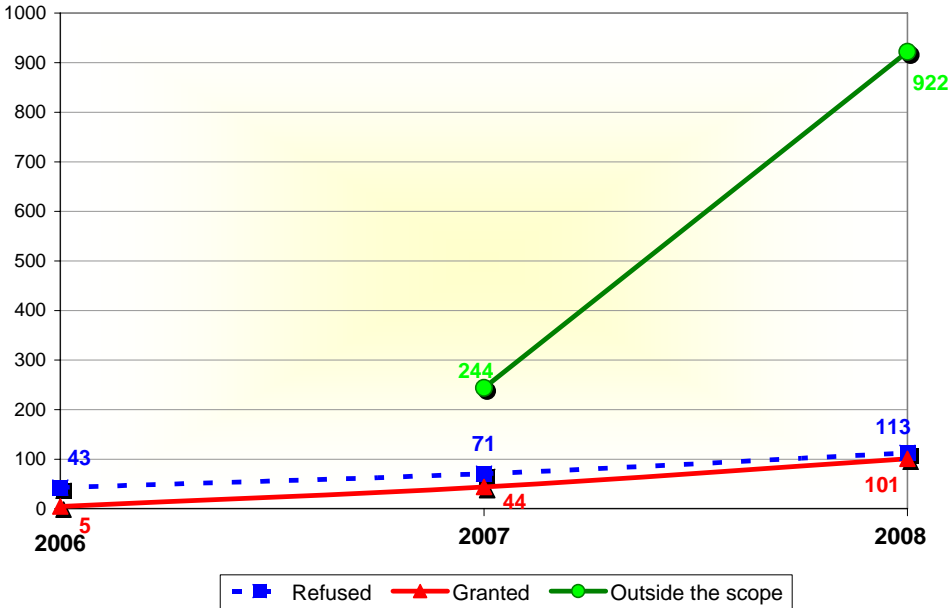


Chart 41 Requests for interim measures 2006-2008



Georgia

Chart 42 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

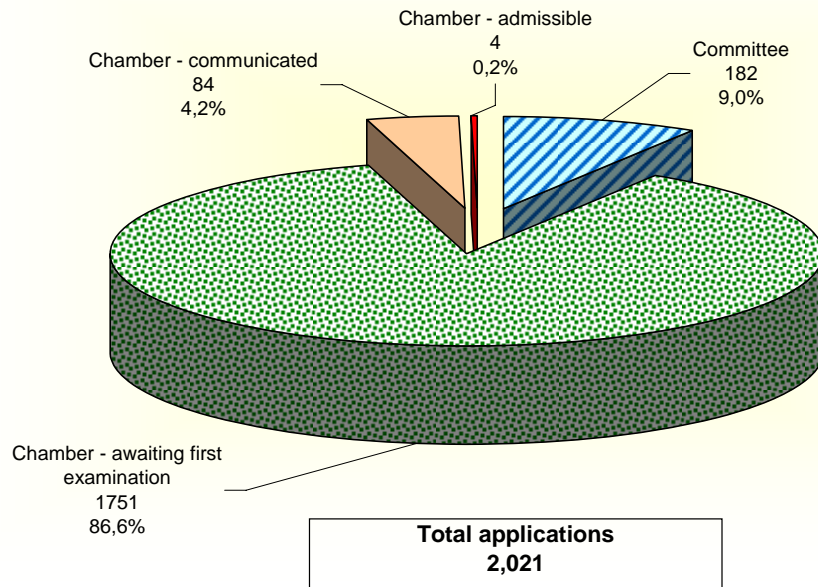
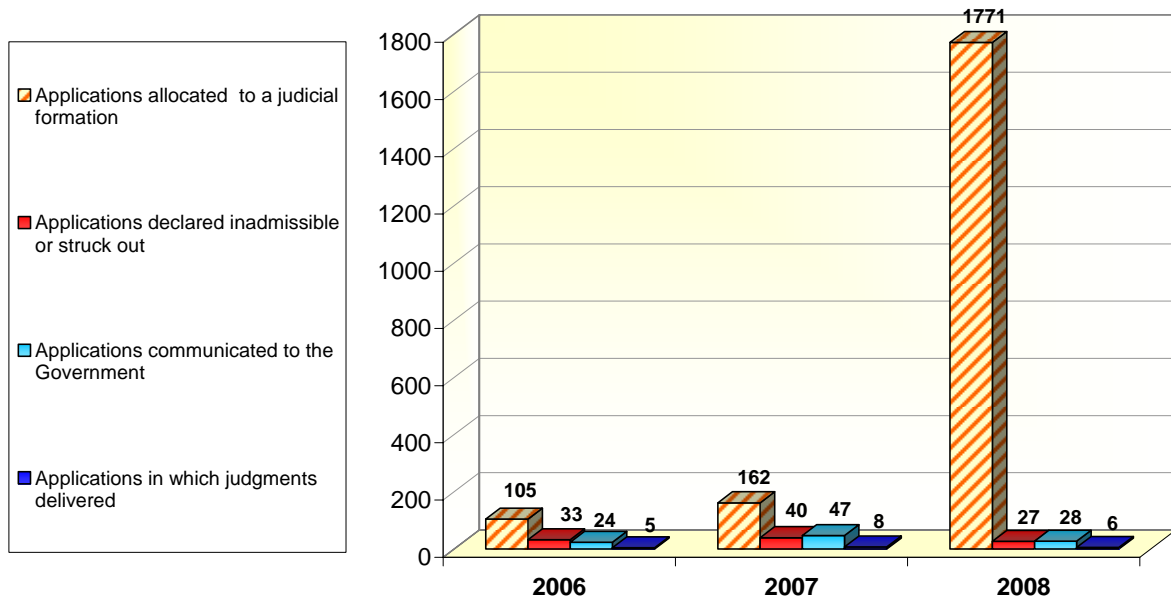


Chart 43 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Germany

Chart 44 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

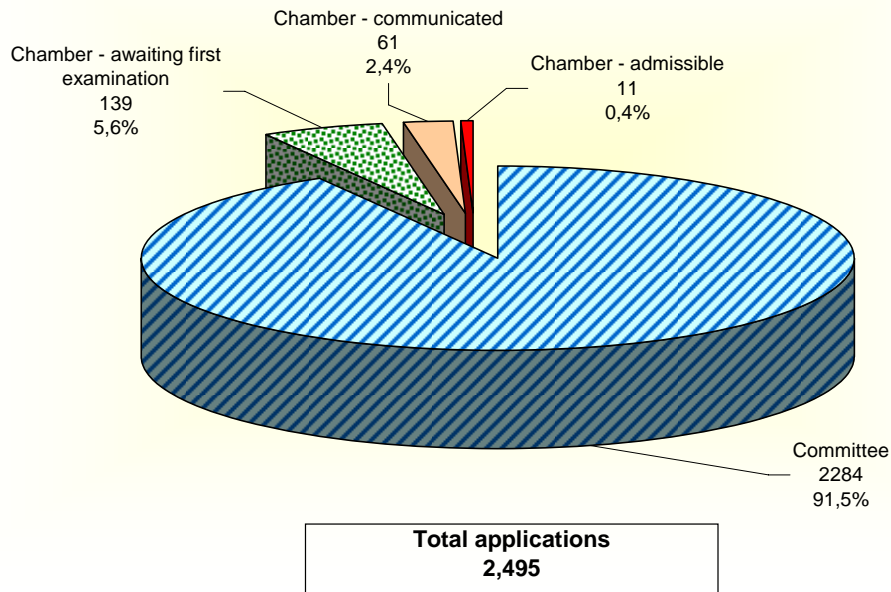


Chart 45 Major procedural steps in processing applications

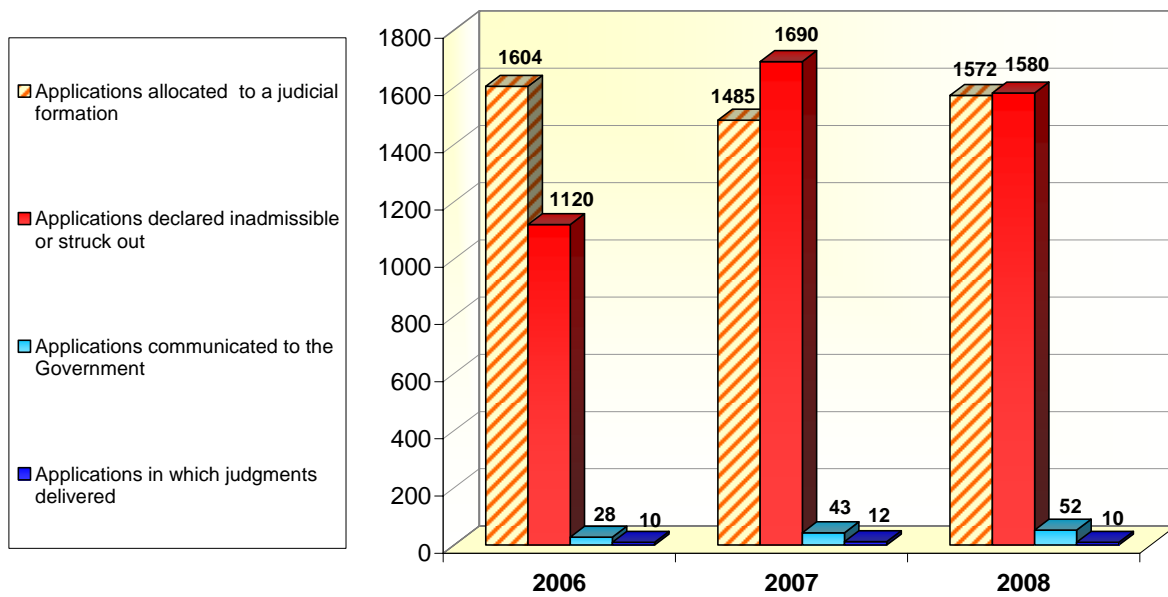
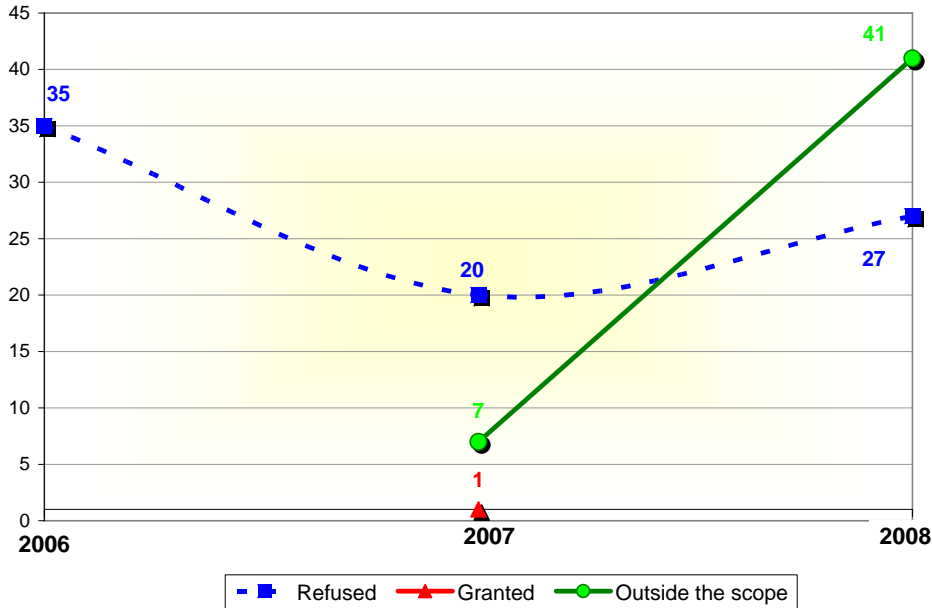


Chart 46 Requests for interim measures 2006-2008



Greece

Chart 47 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

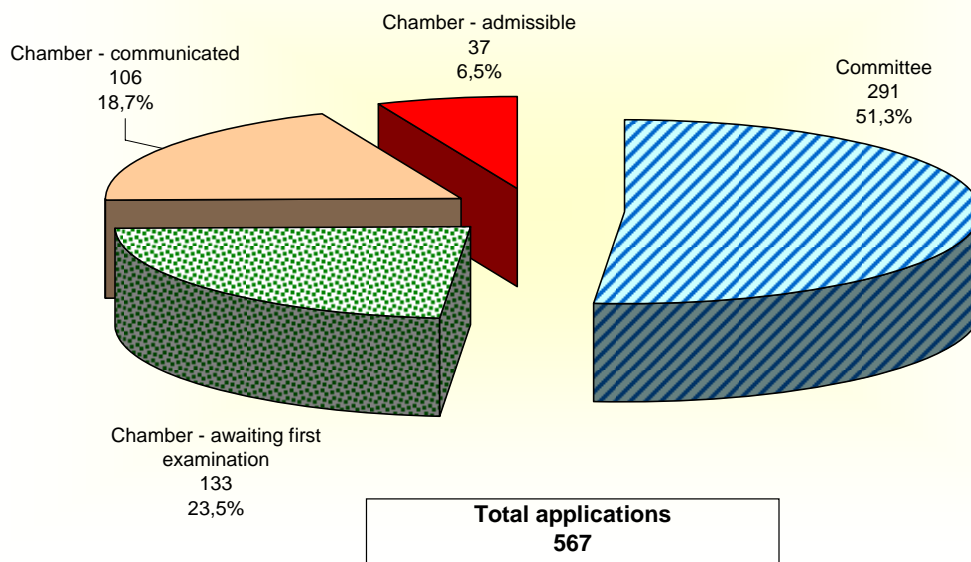
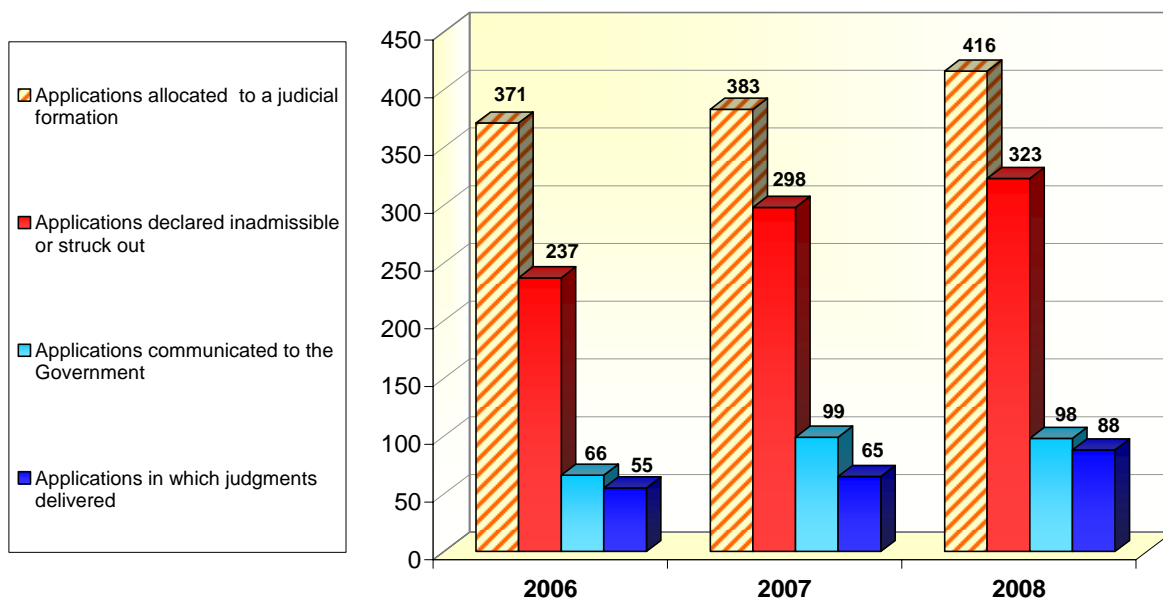


Chart 48 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Hungary

Chart 49 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

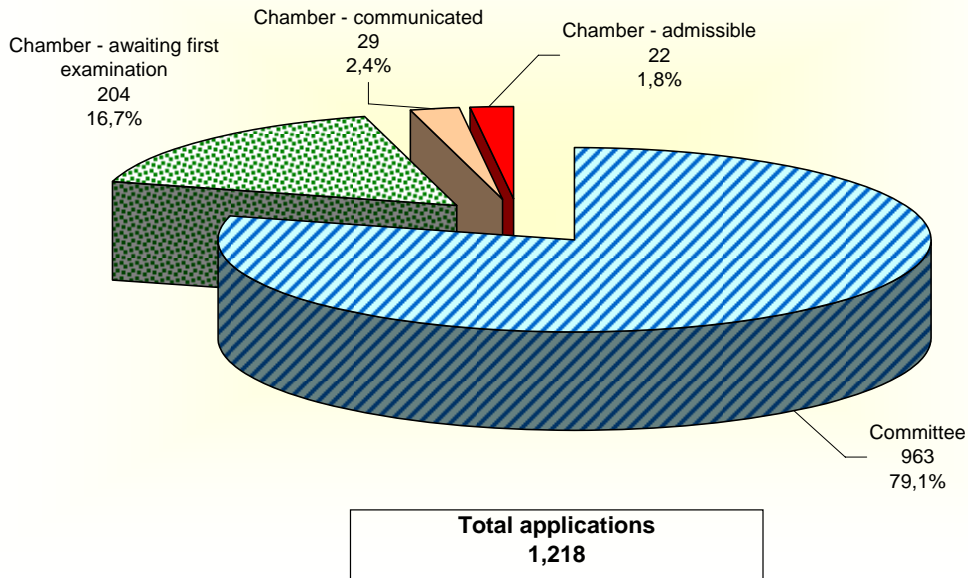
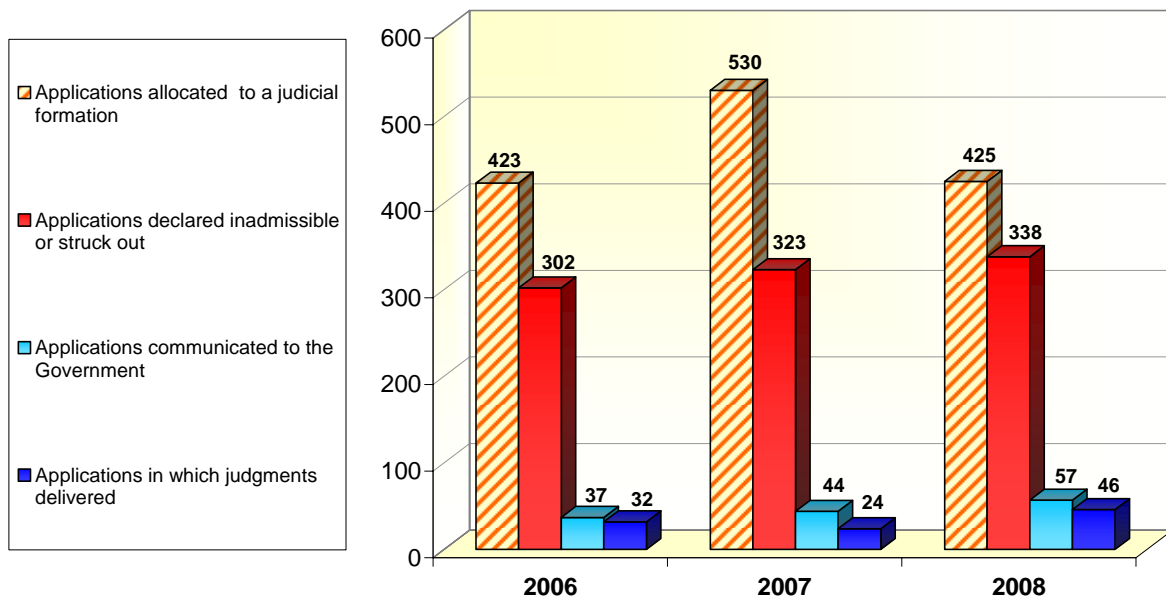


Chart 50 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Iceland

Chart 51 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

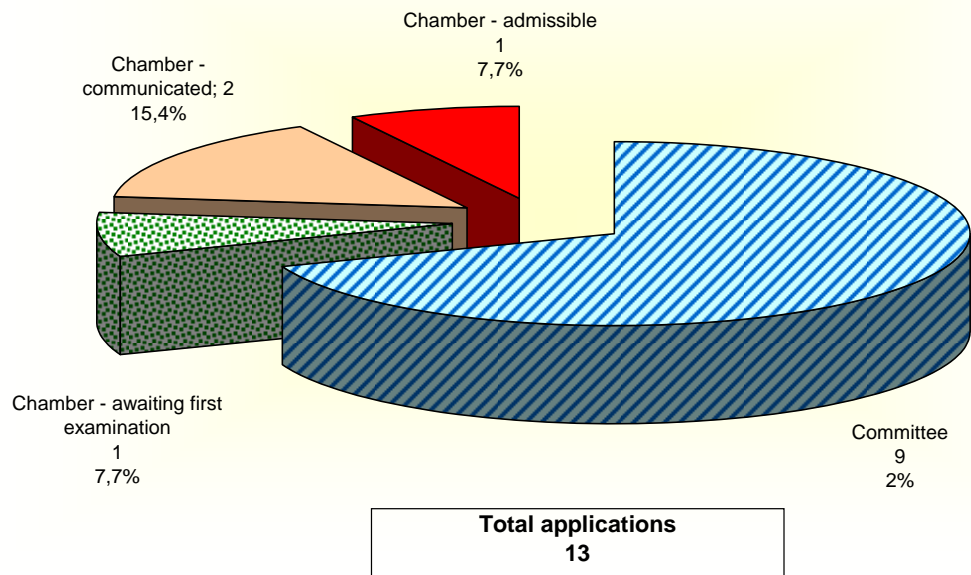
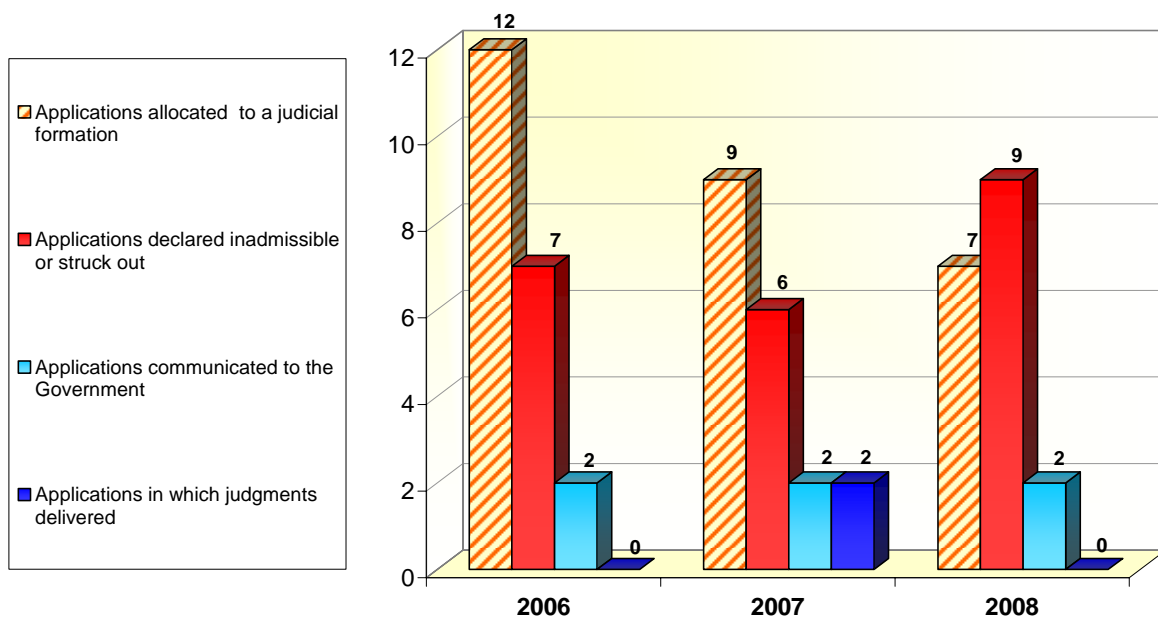


Chart 52 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Ireland

Chart 53 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

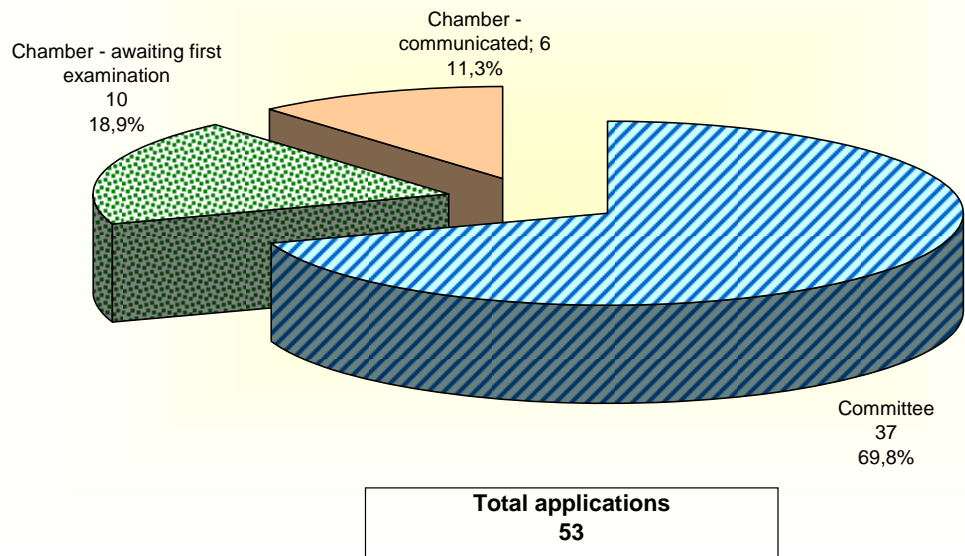
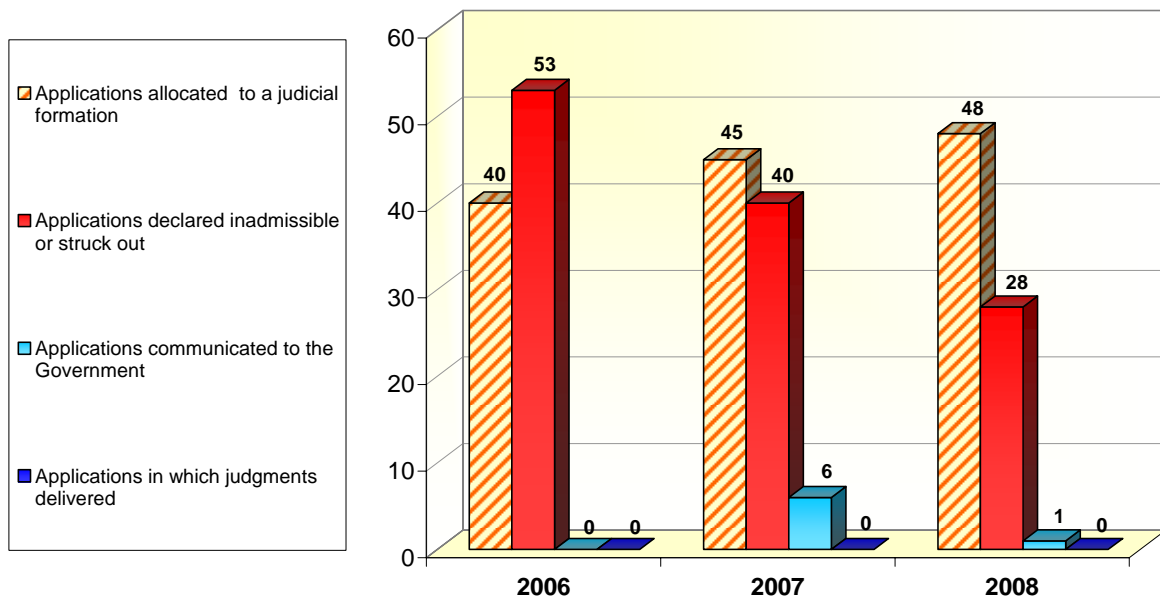


Chart 54 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Italy

Chart 55 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

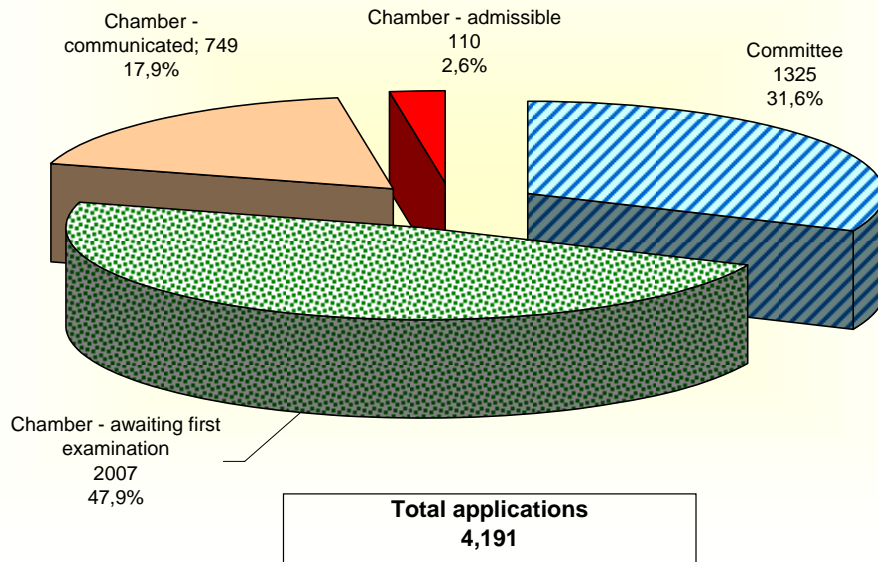
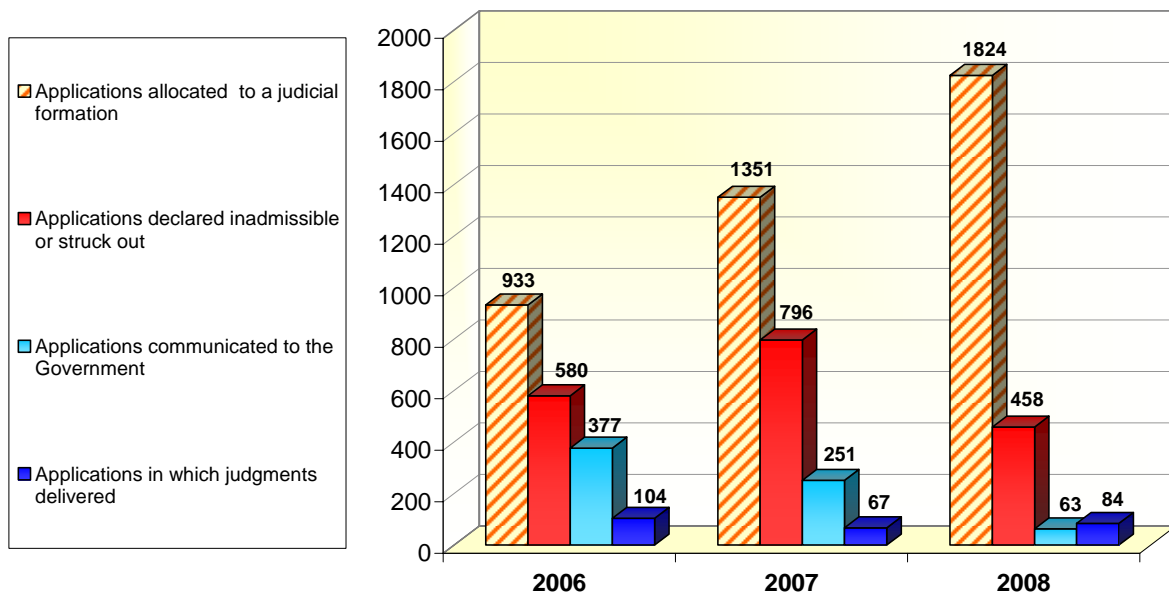


Chart 56 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Latvia

Chart 57 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

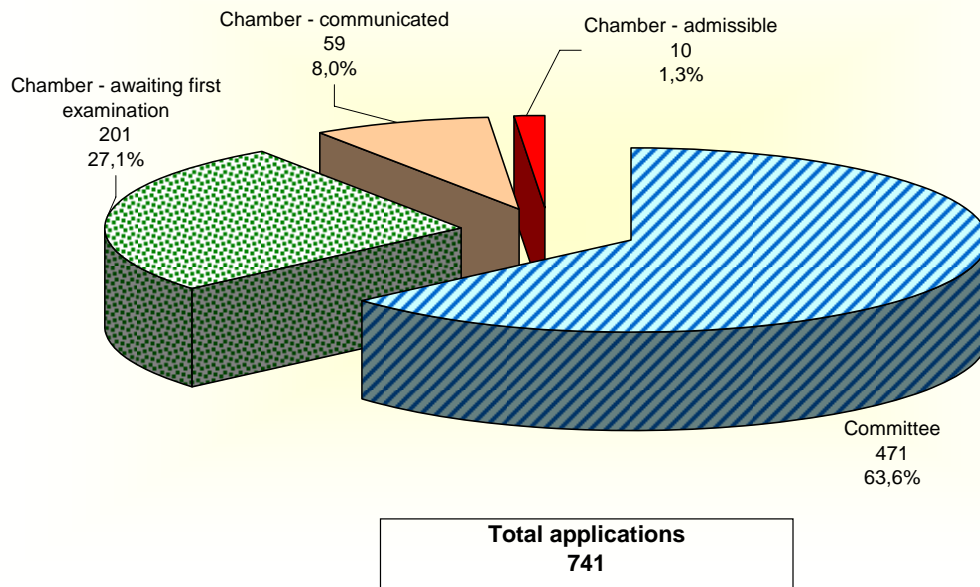
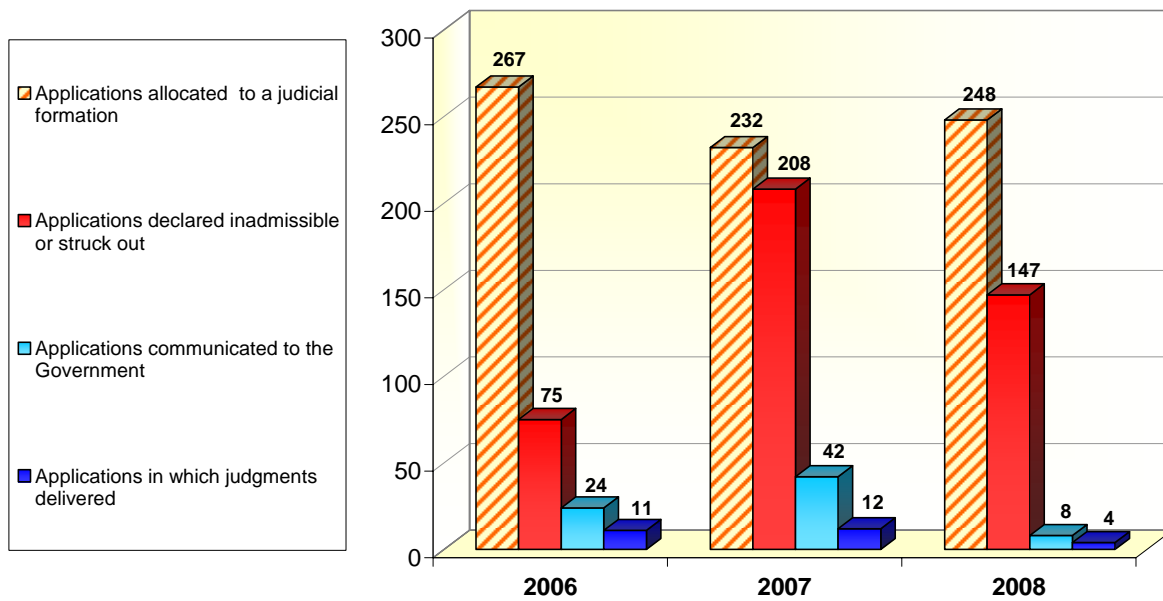


Chart 58 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Liechtenstein

Chart 59 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

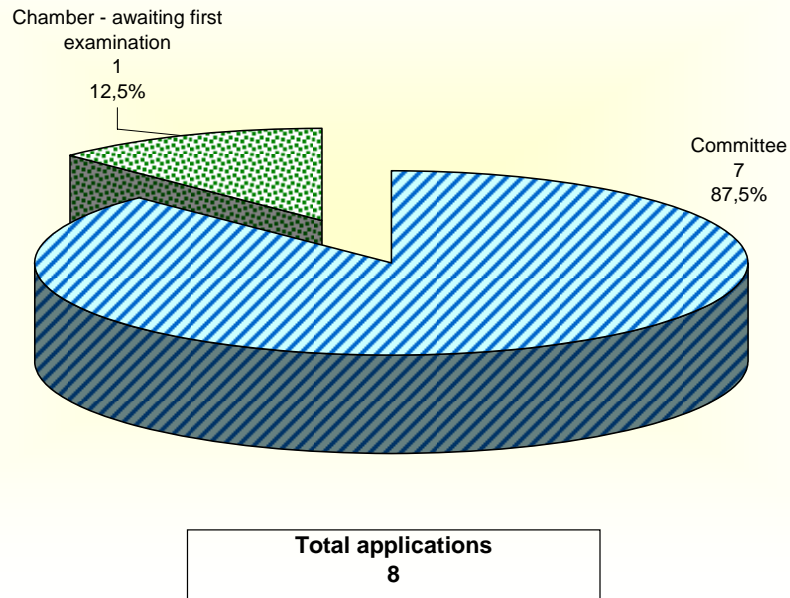
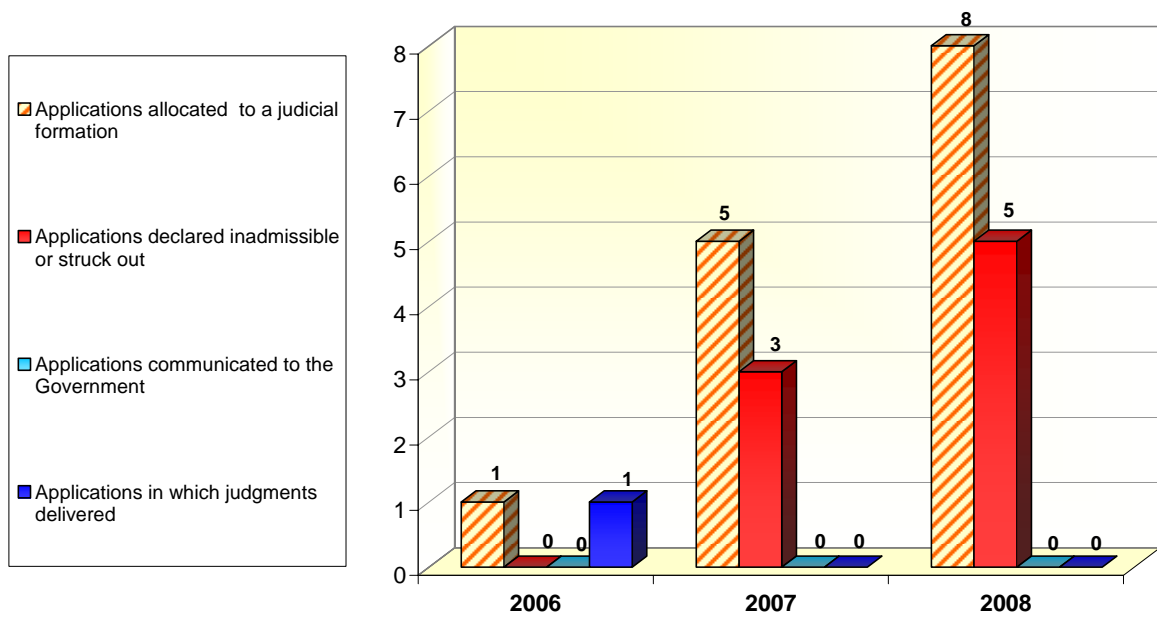


Chart 60 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Lithuania

Chart 61 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

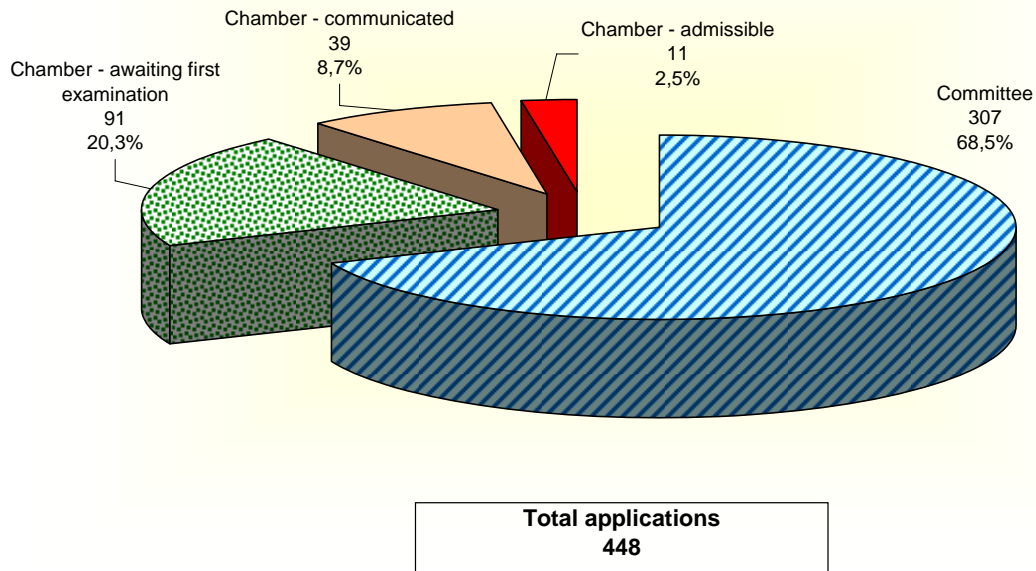
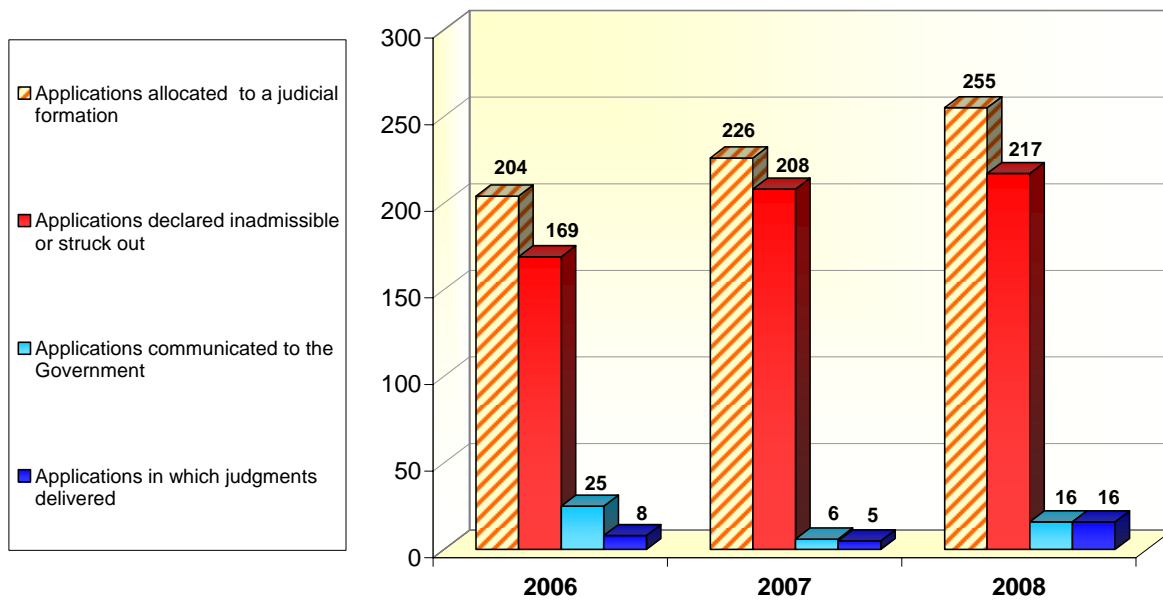


Chart 62 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Luxembourg

Chart 63 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

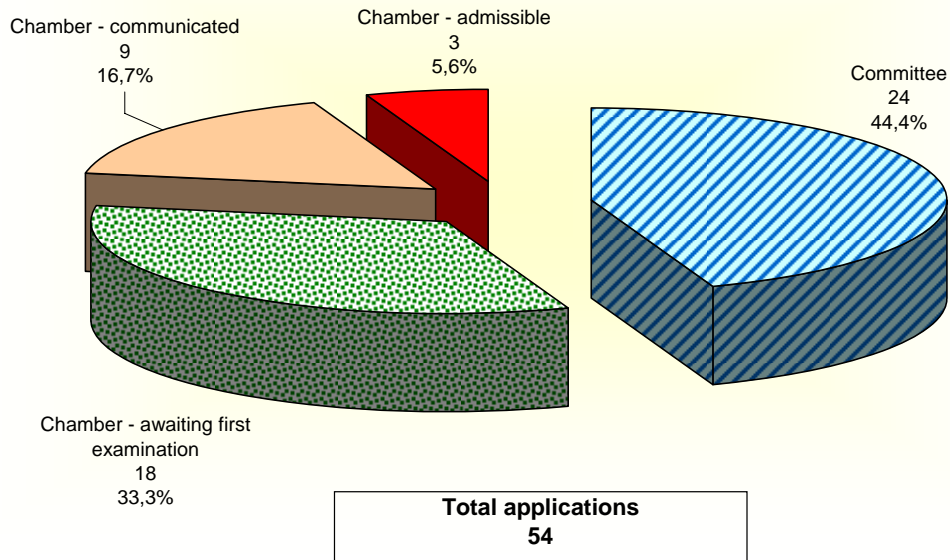
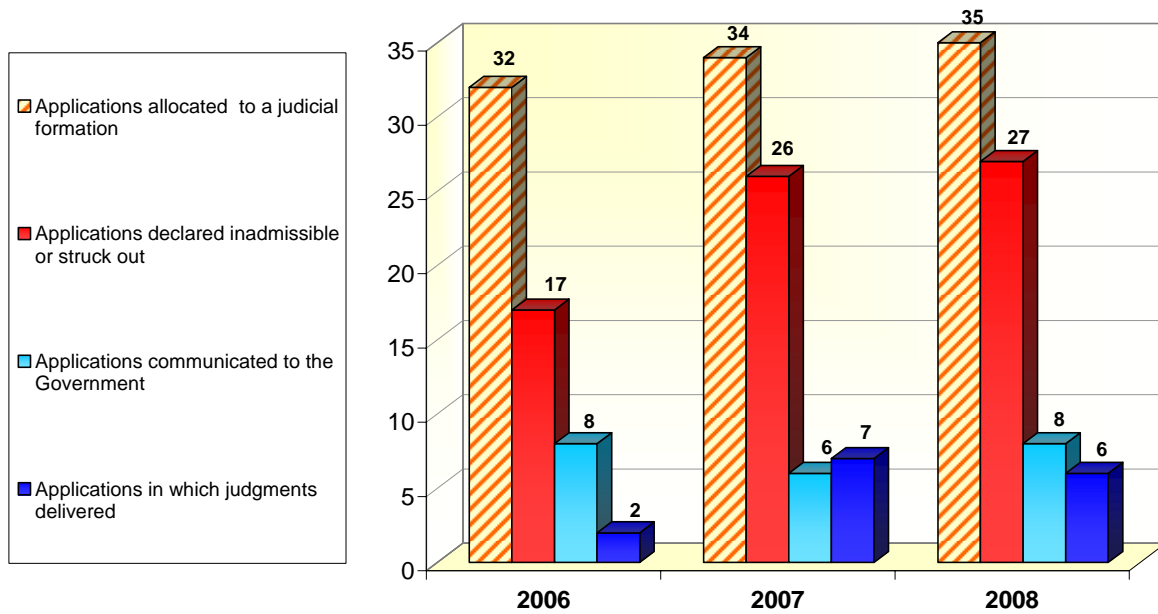


Chart 64 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Malta

Chart 65 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

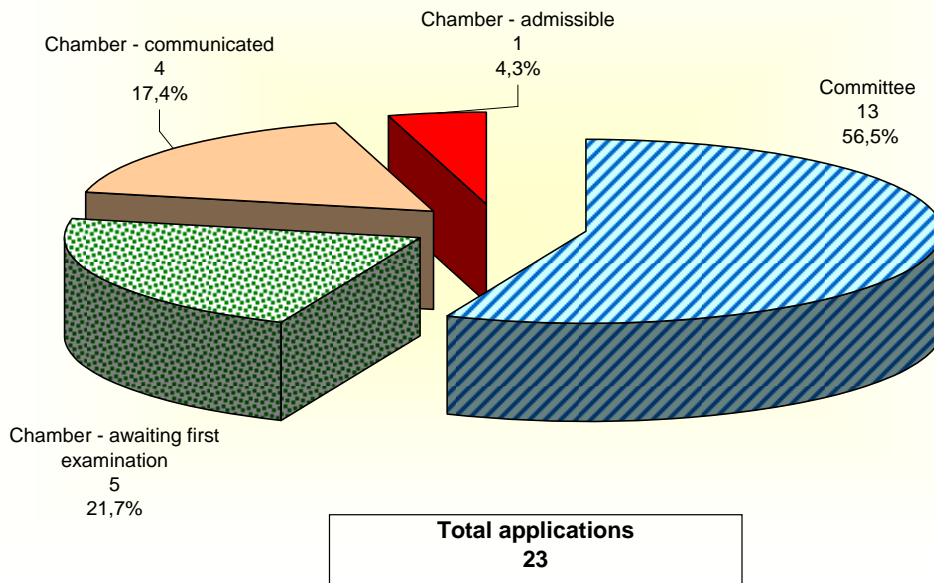
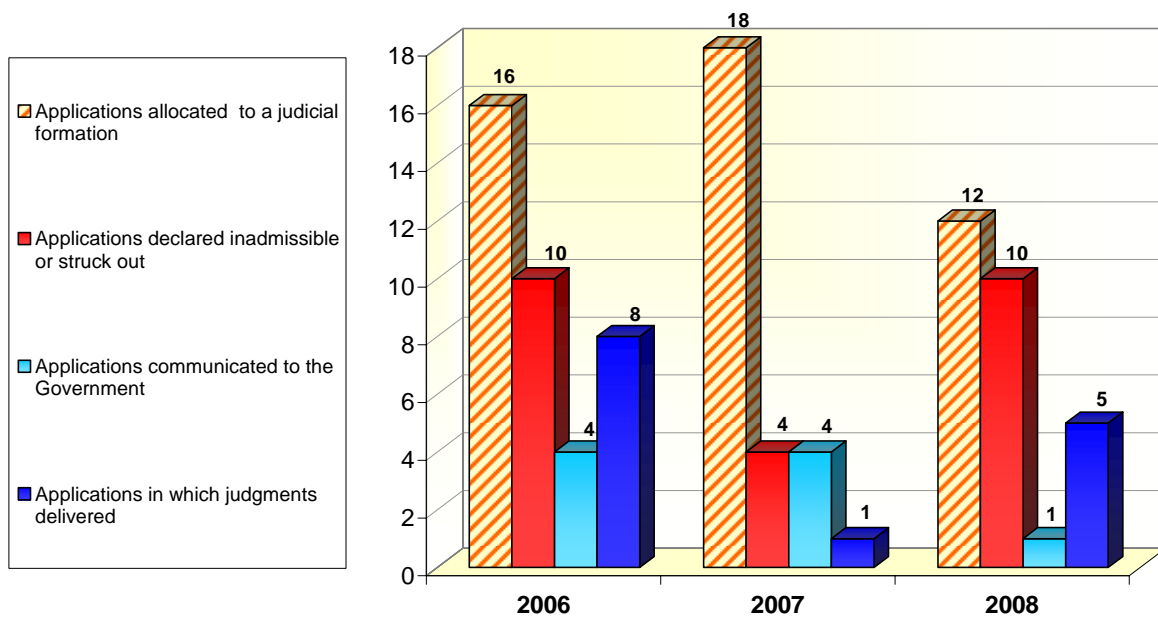


Chart 66 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Moldova

Chart 67 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

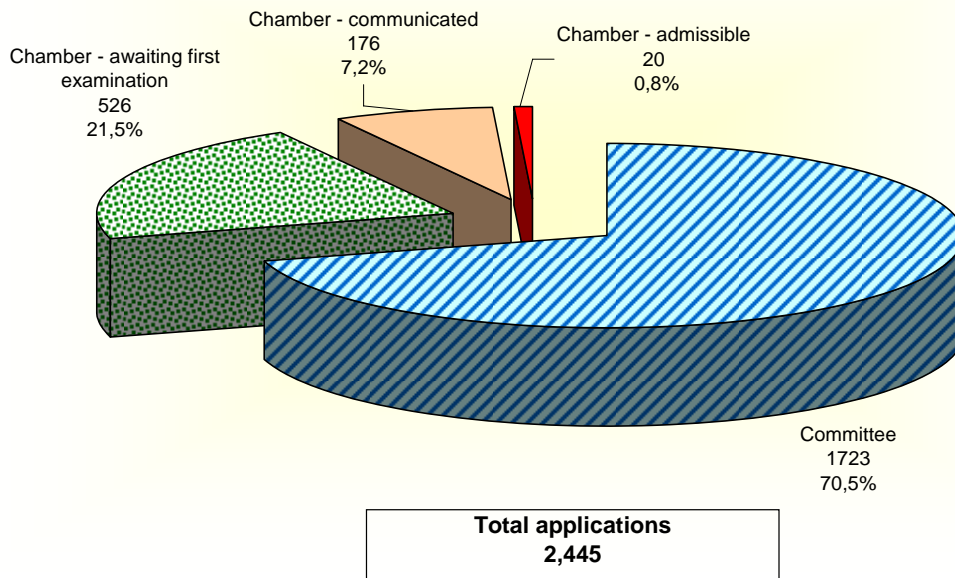
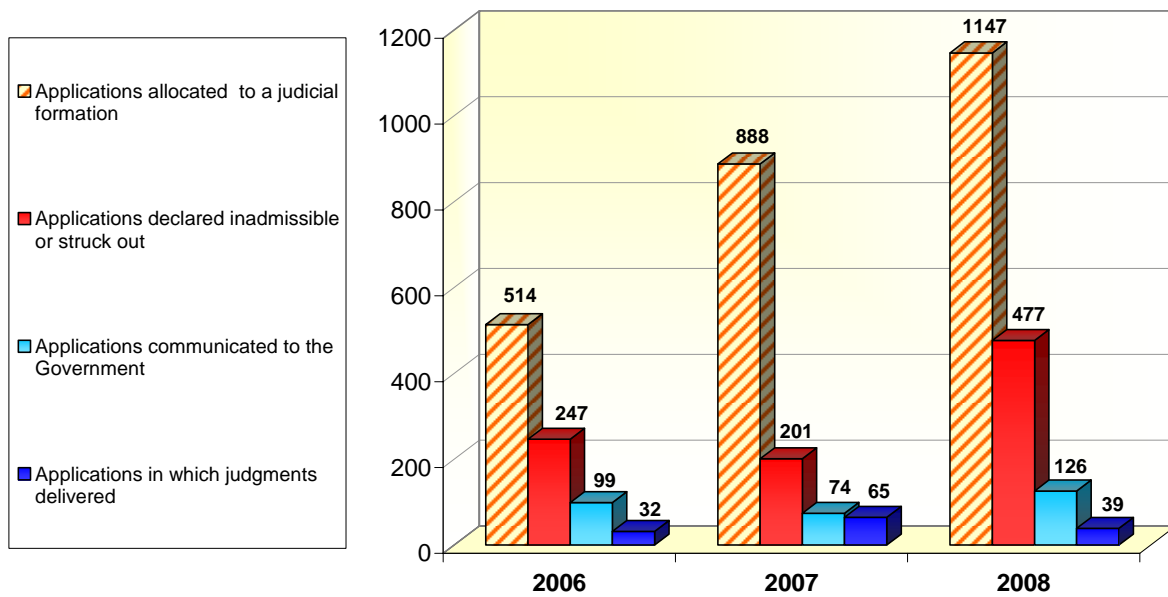


Chart 68 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Monaco

Chart 69 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

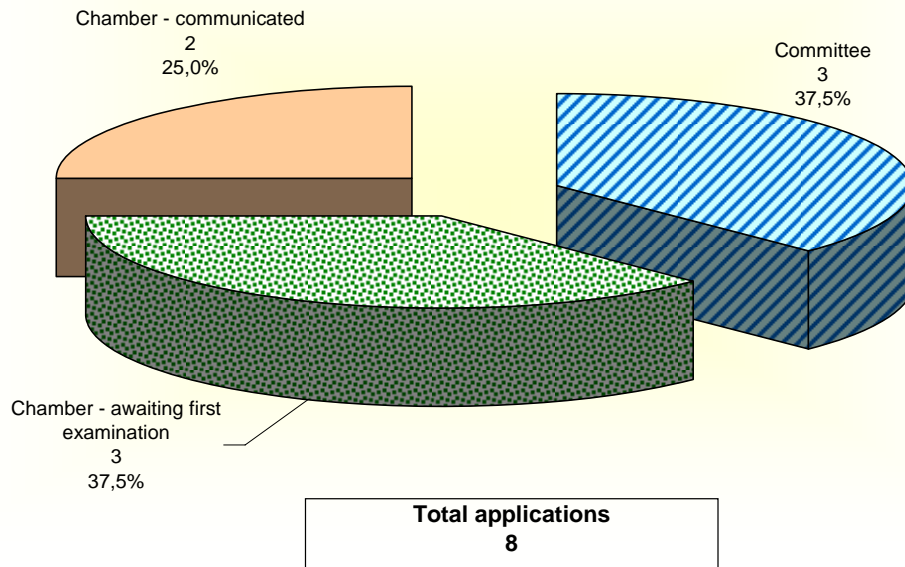
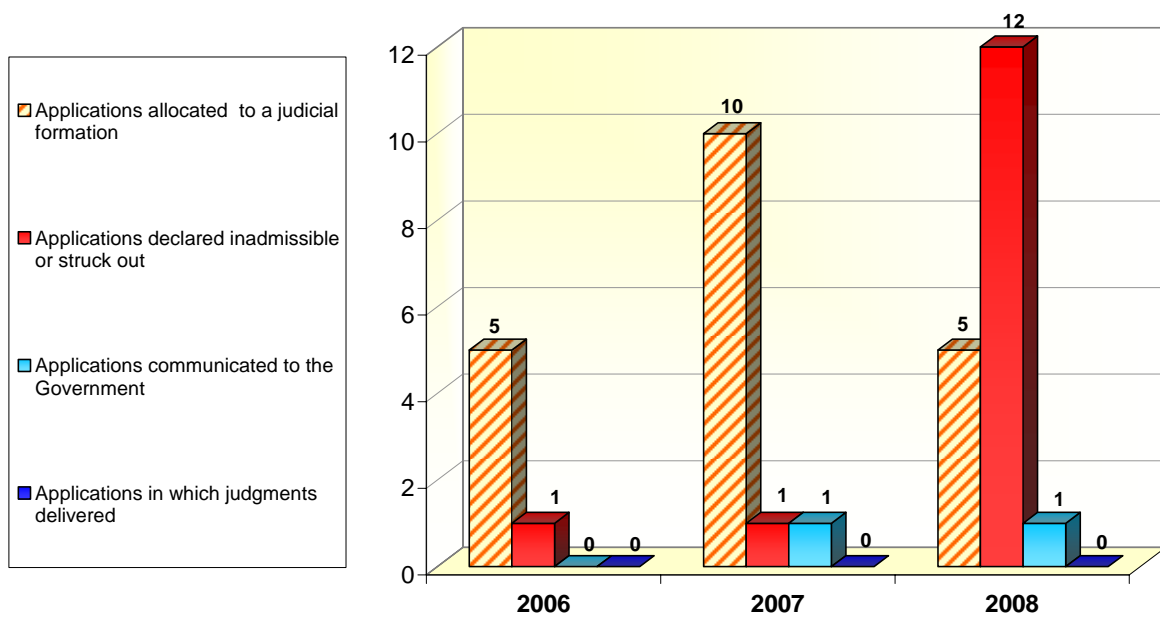


Chart 70 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Montenegro

Chart 71 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

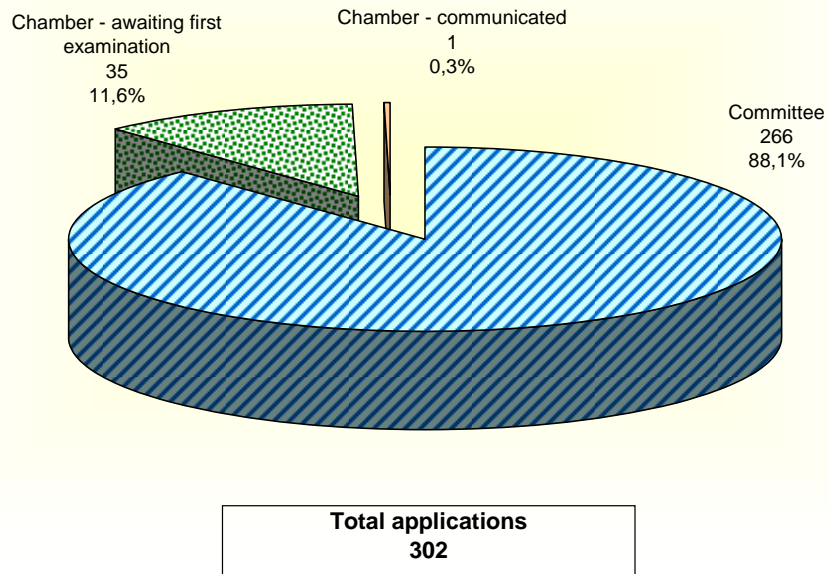
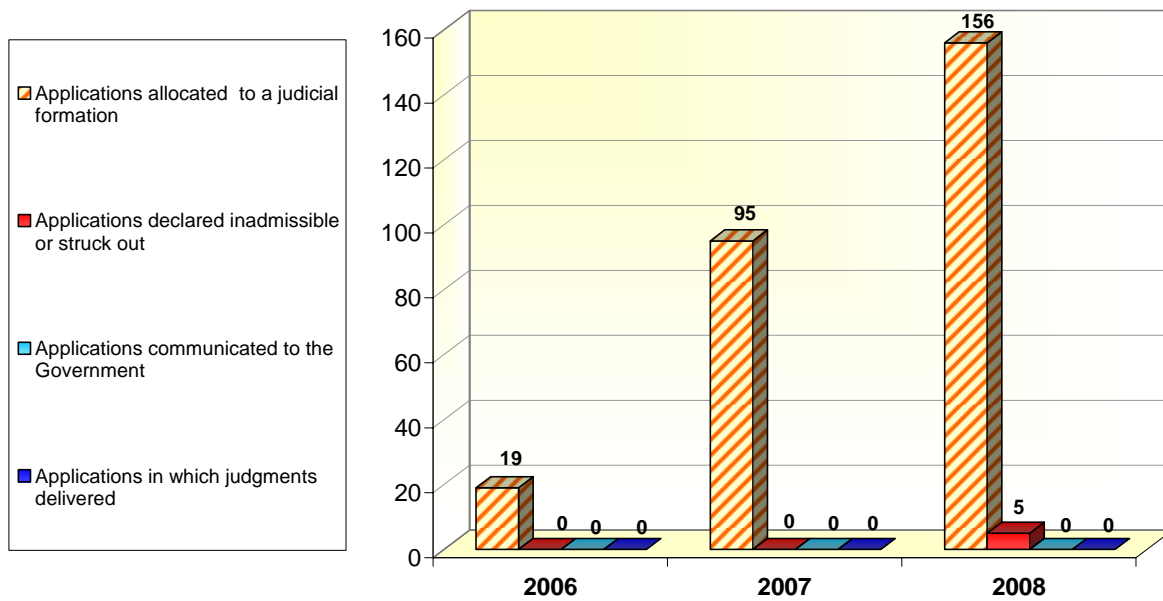


Chart 72 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Netherlands

Chart 73 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

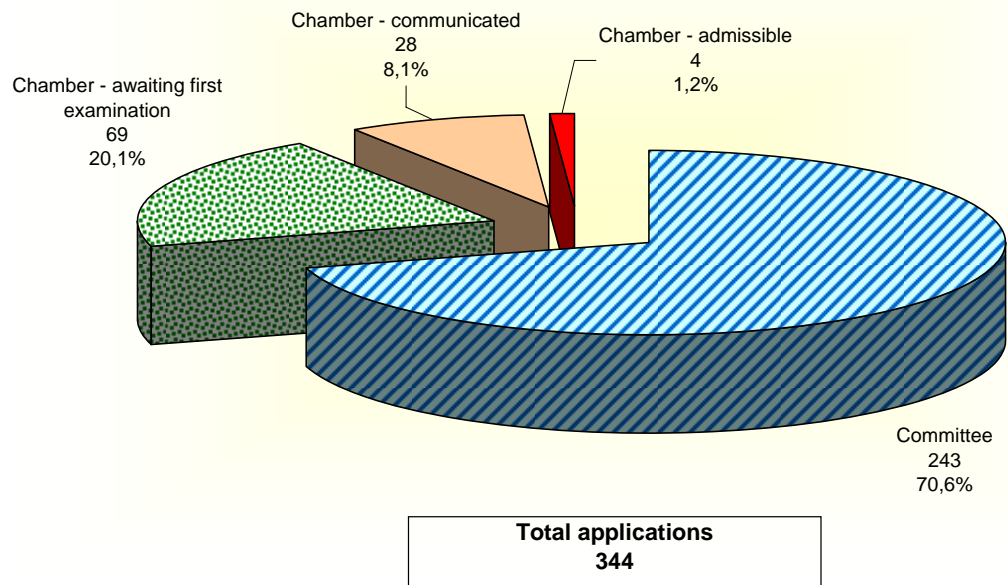
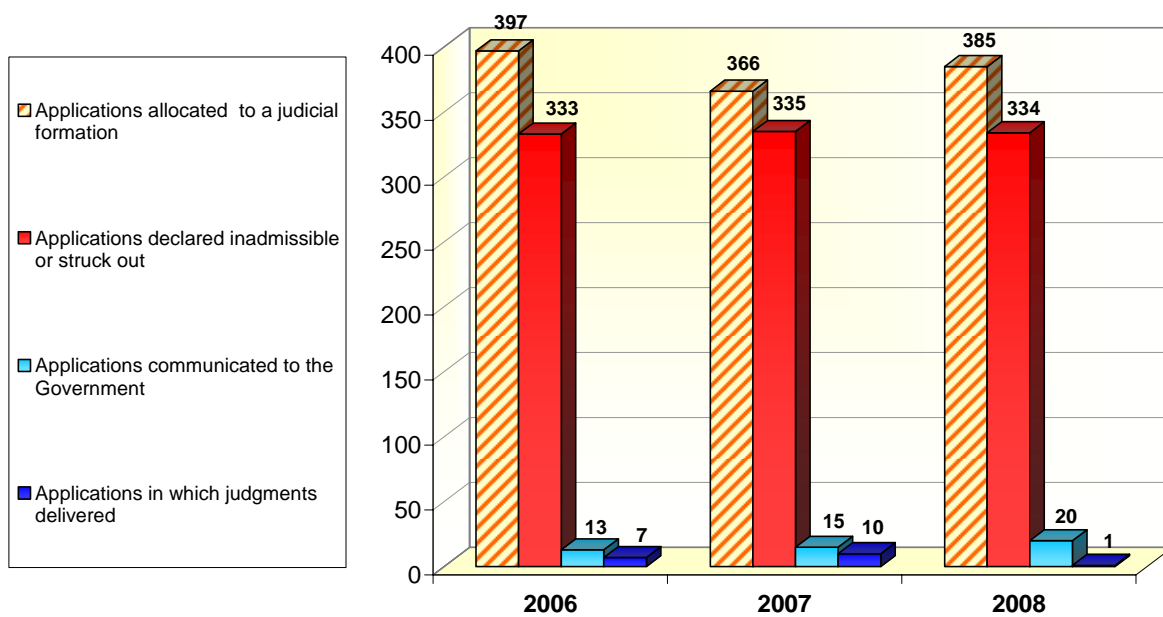


Chart 74 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Norway

Chart 75 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

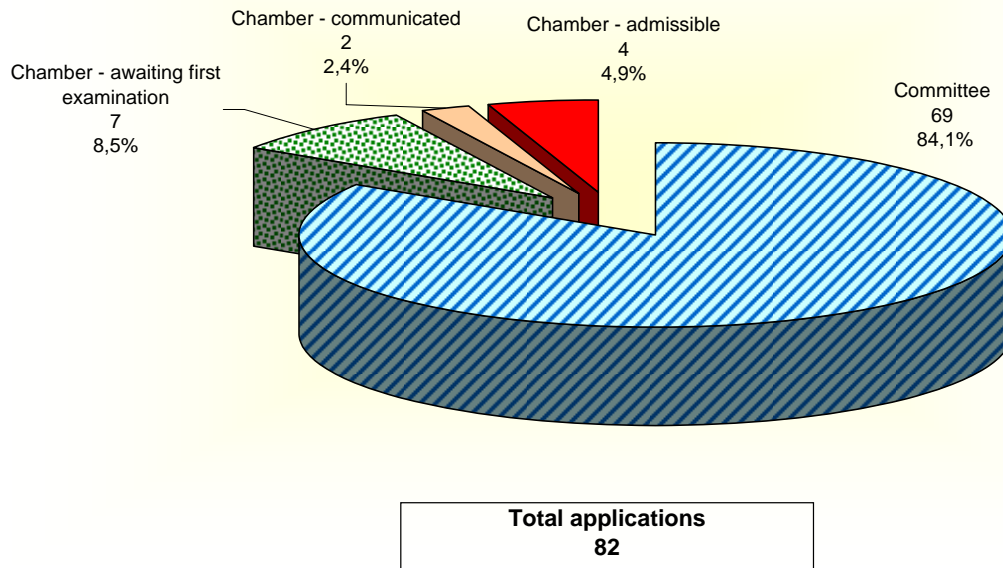
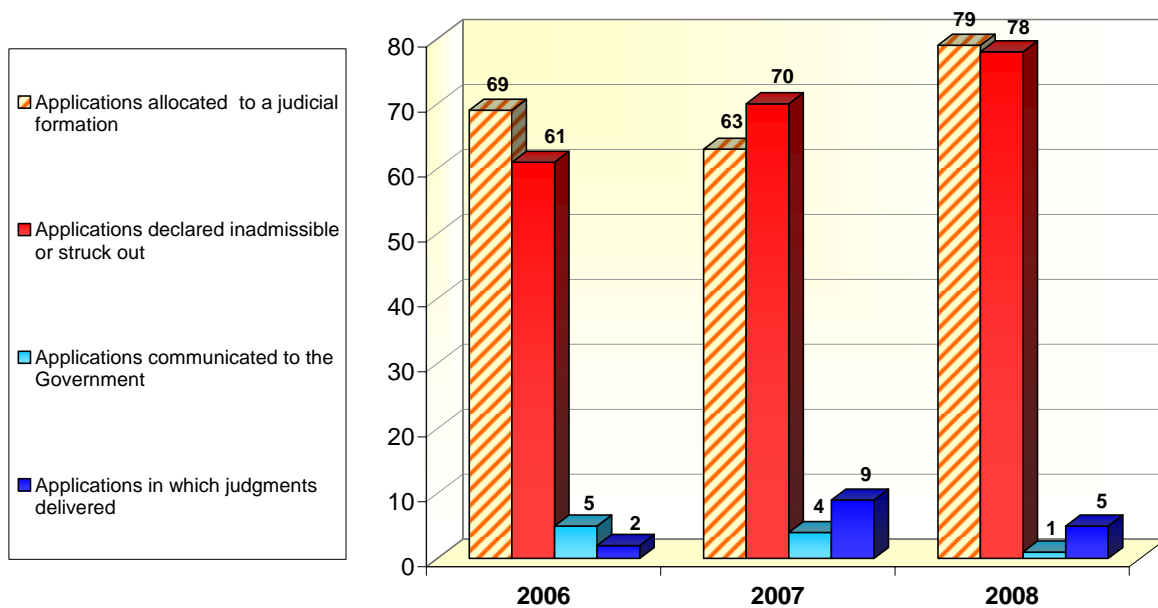


Chart 76 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Poland

Chart 77 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

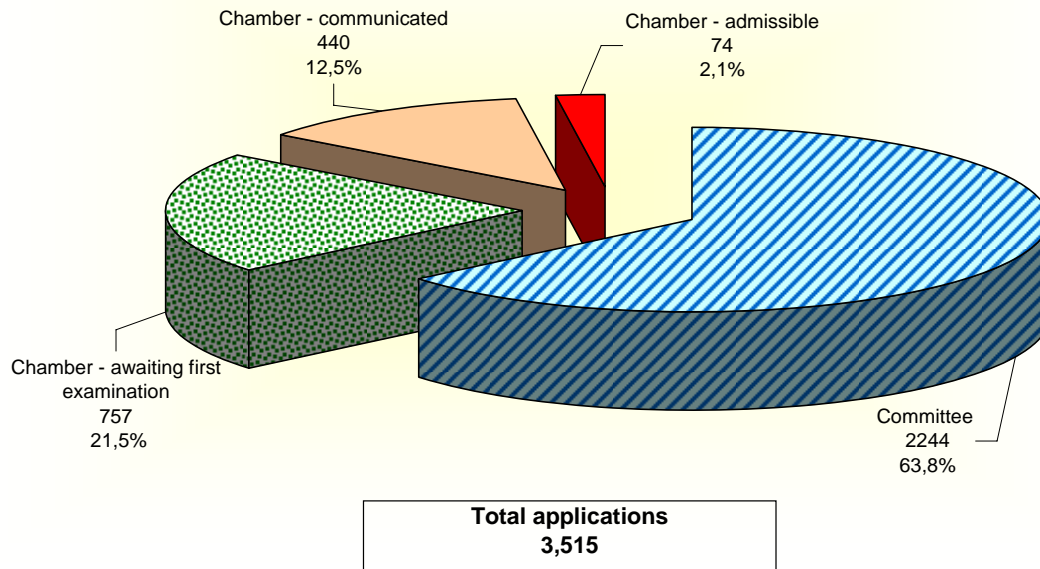
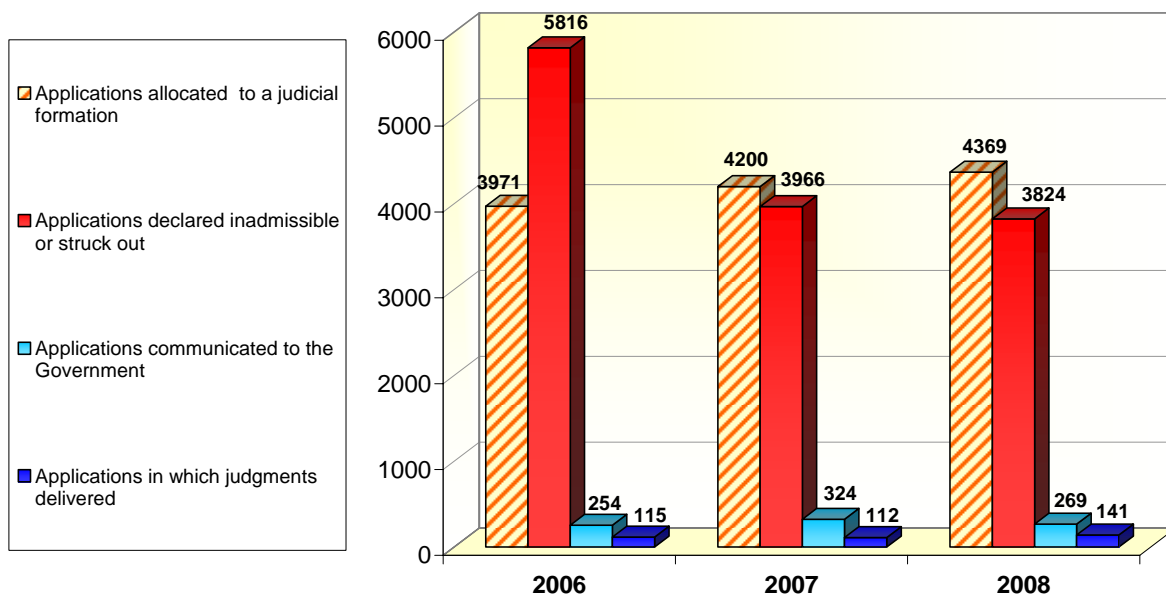


Chart 78 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Portugal

Chart 79 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

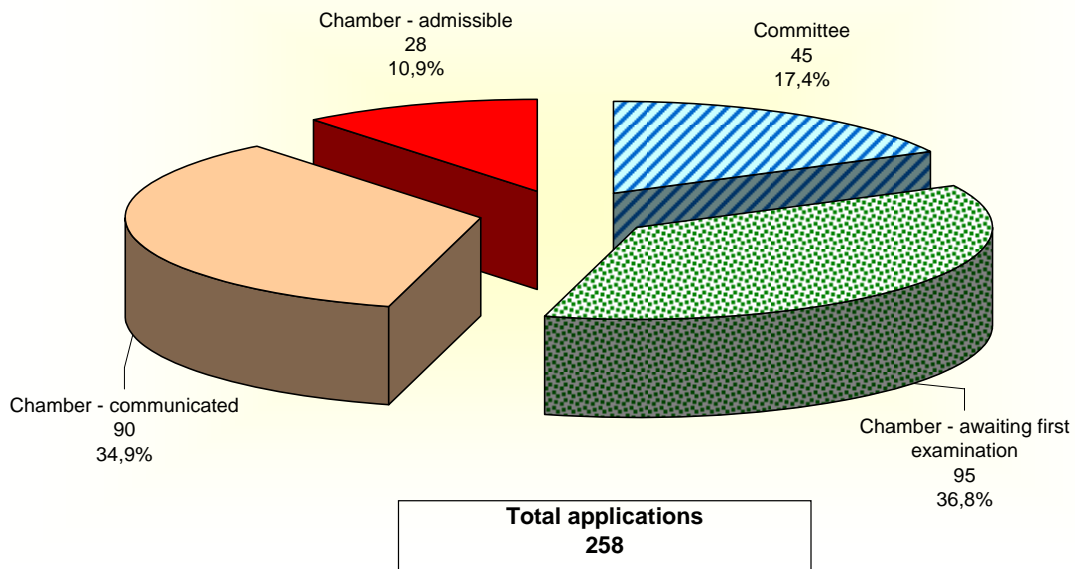
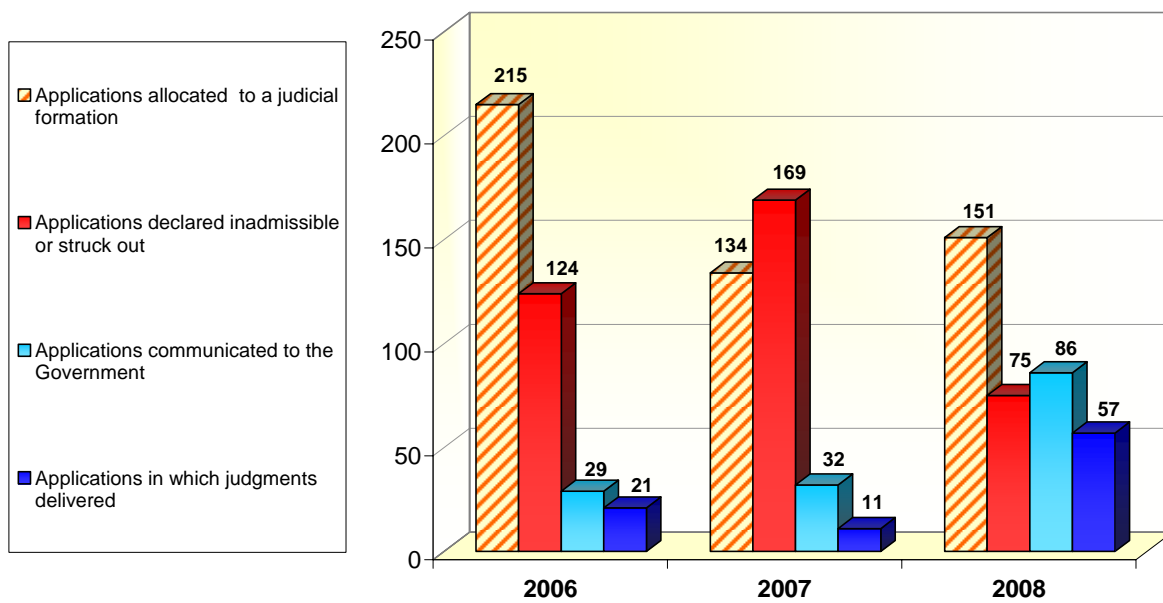


Chart 80 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Romania

Chart 81 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

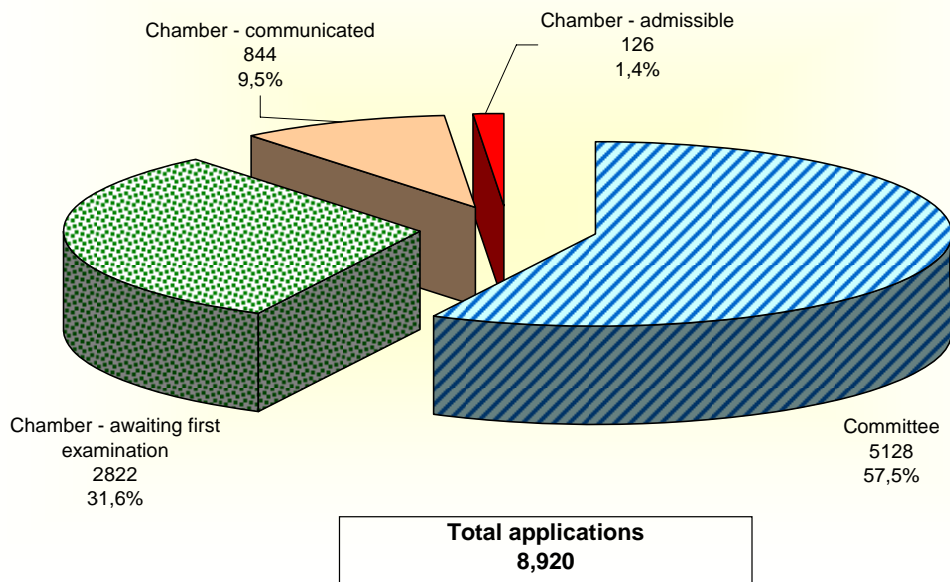
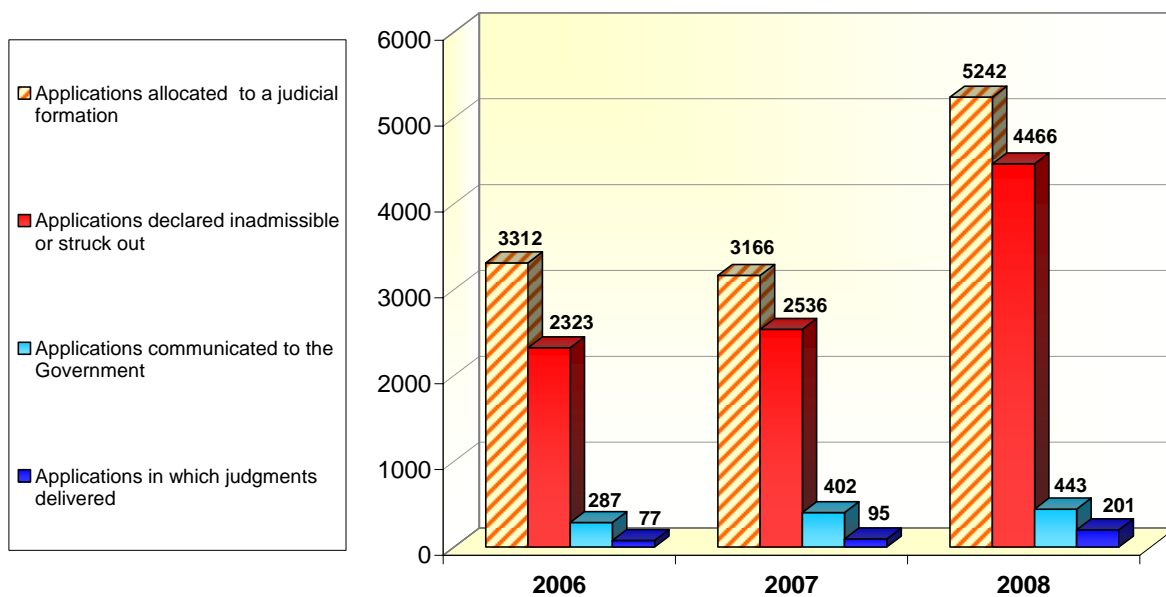


Chart 82 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Russia

Chart 83 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

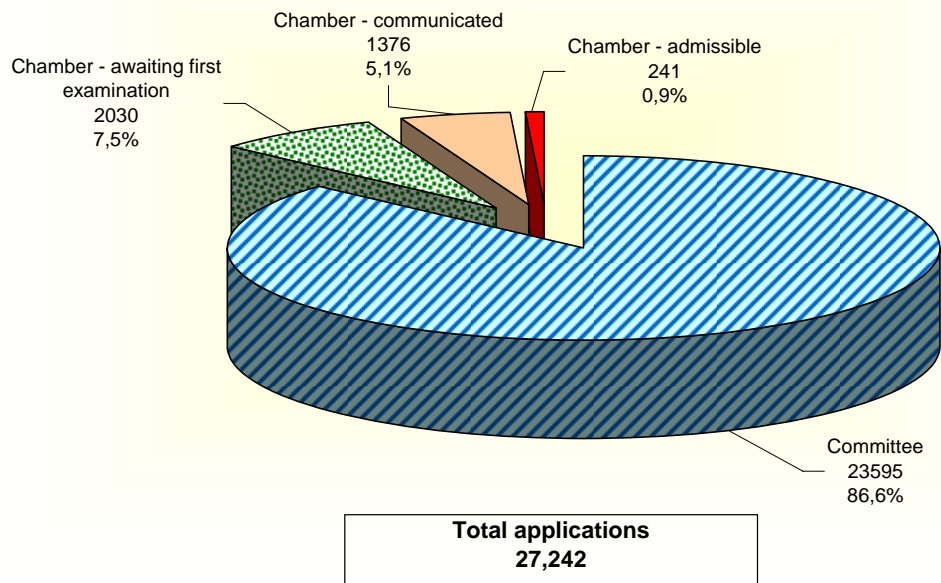


Chart 84 Major procedural steps in processing applications

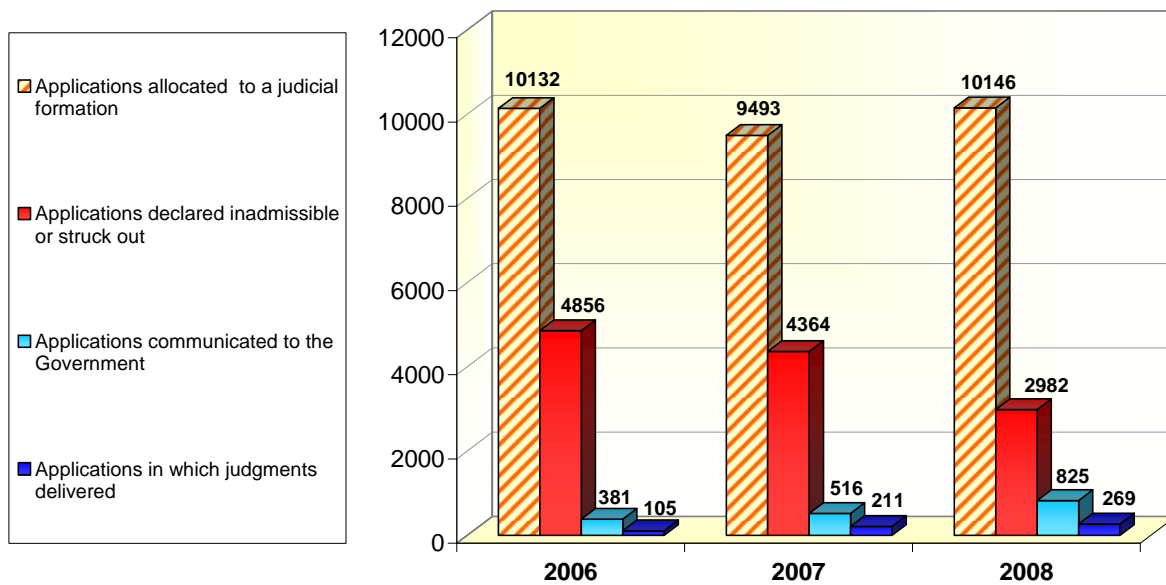
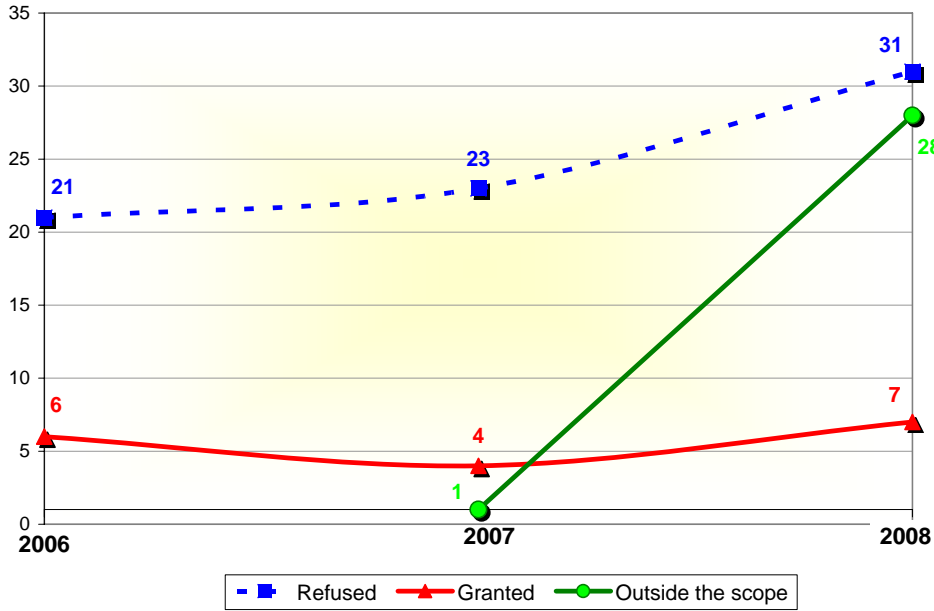


Chart 85 Requests for interim measures 2006-2008



San Marino

Chart 86 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

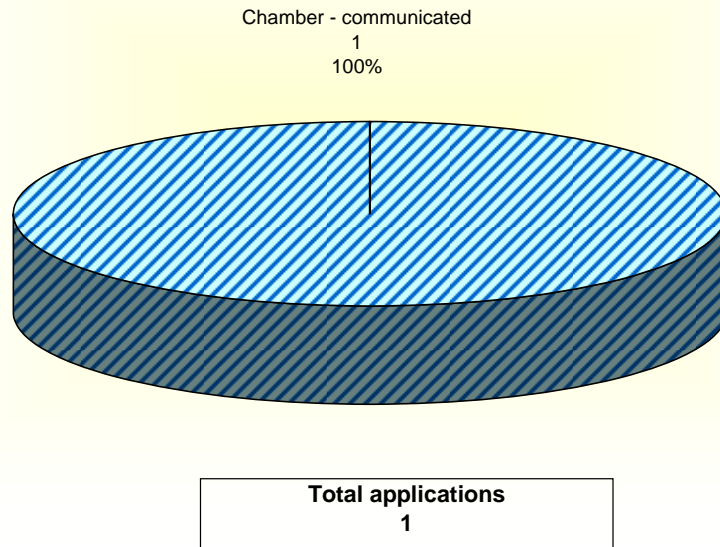
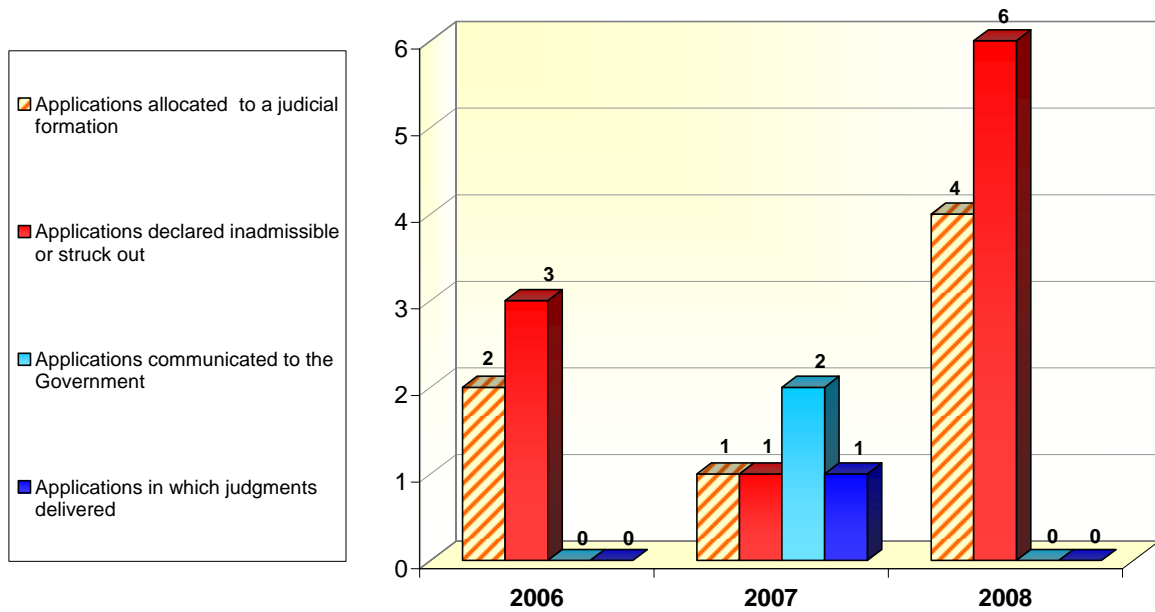


Chart 87 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Serbia

Chart 88 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

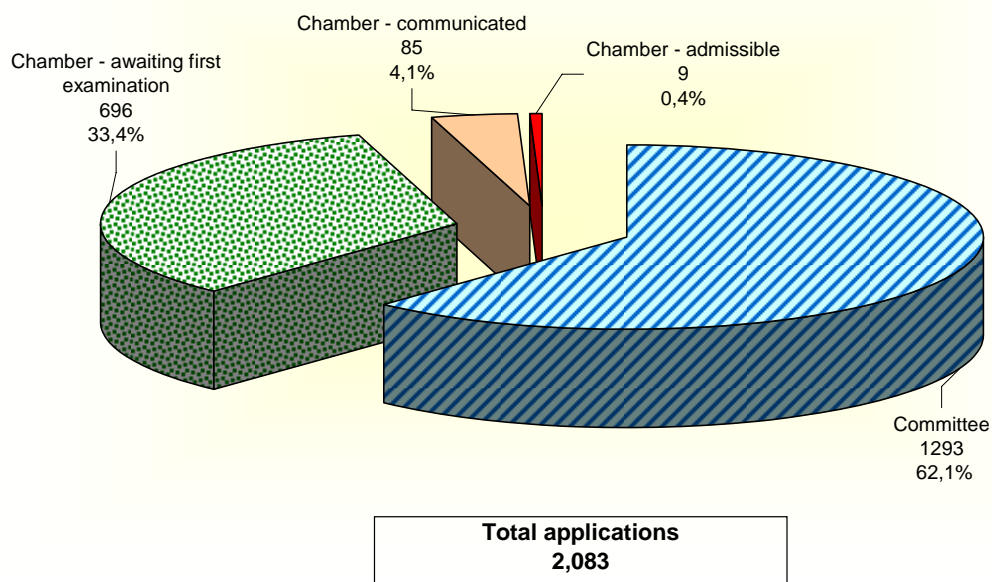
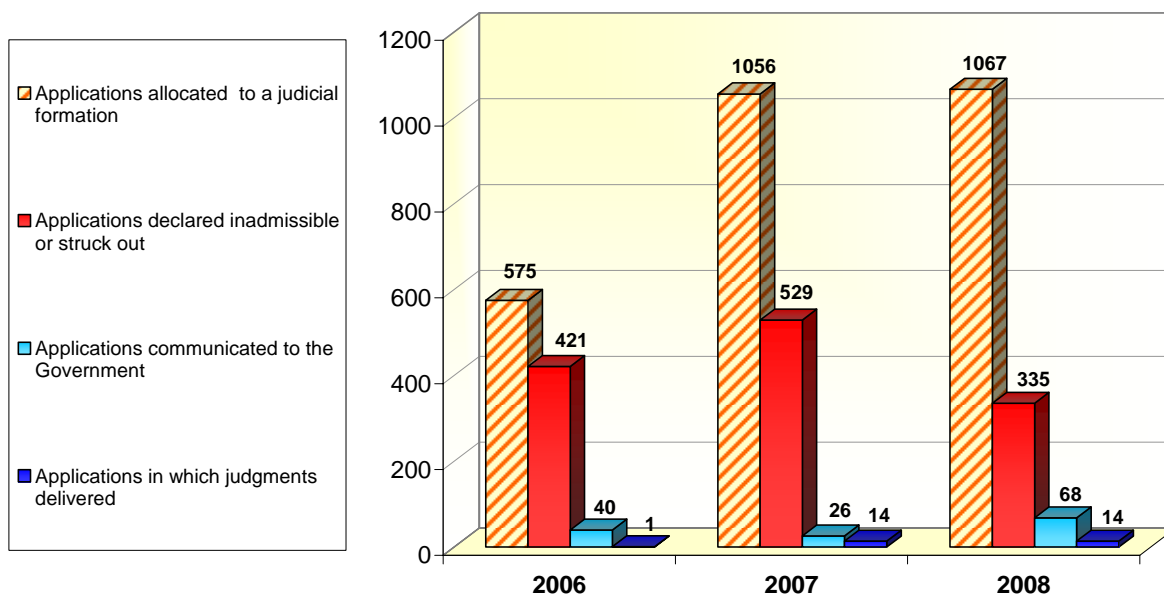


Chart 89 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Slovakia

Chart 90 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

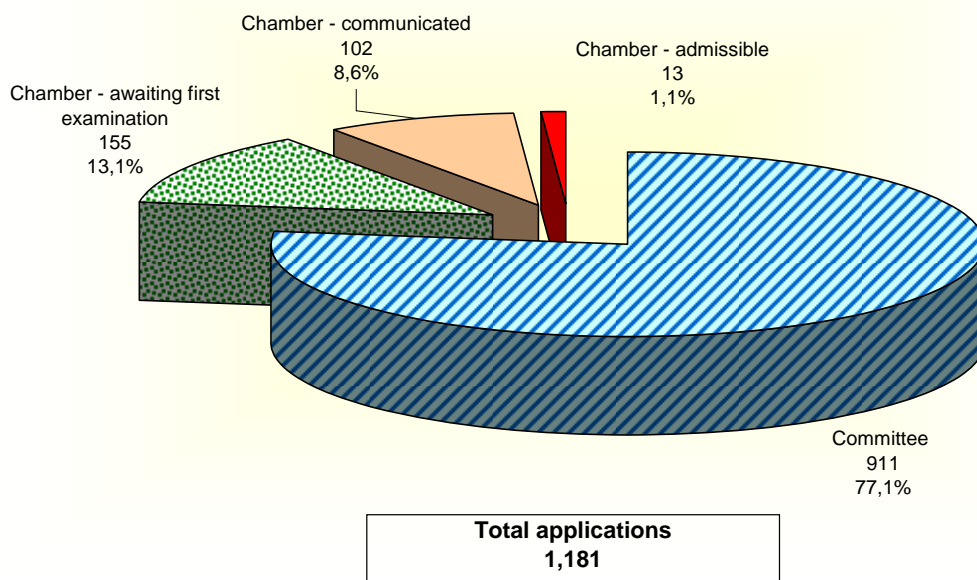
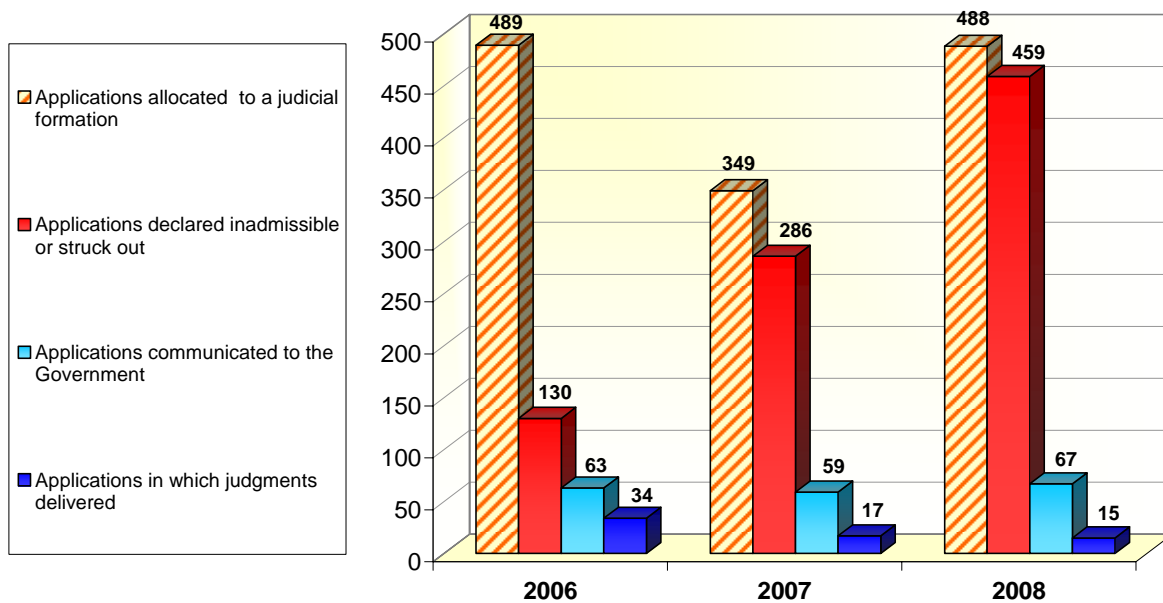


Chart 91 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Slovenia

Chart 92 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

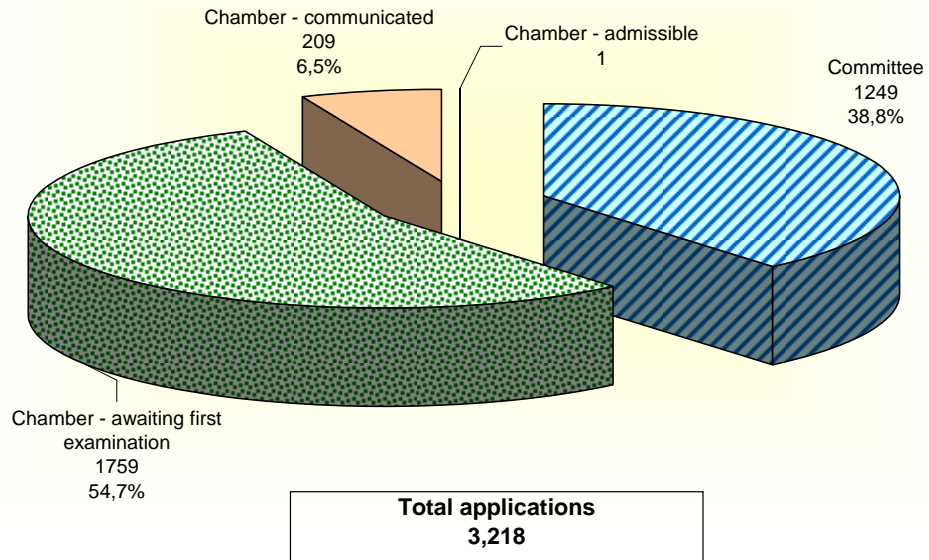
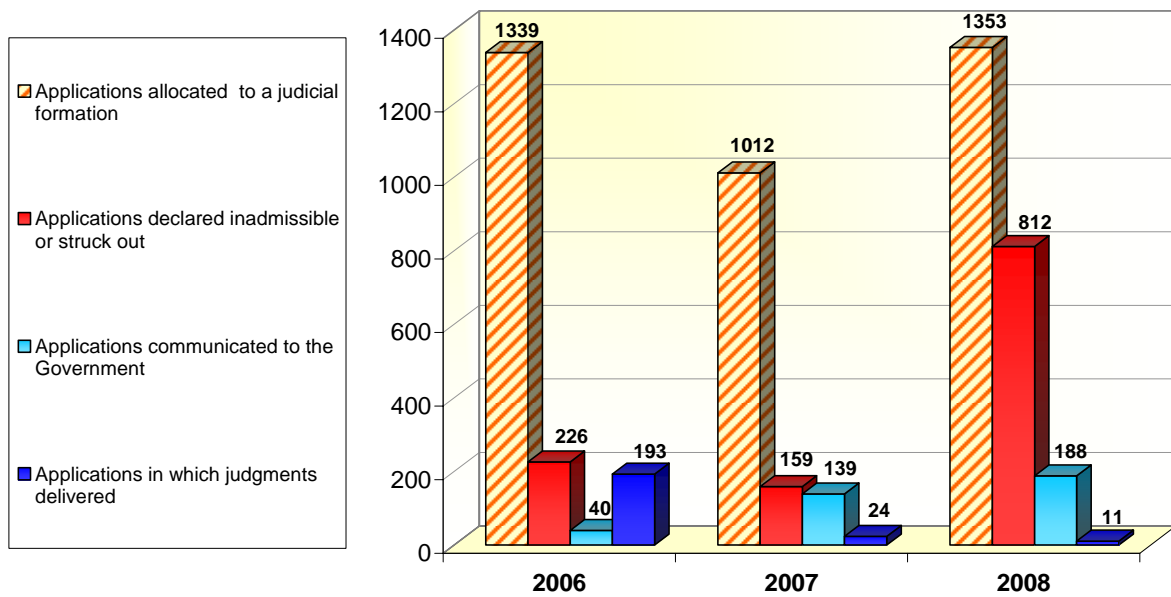


Chart 93 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Spain

Chart 94 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

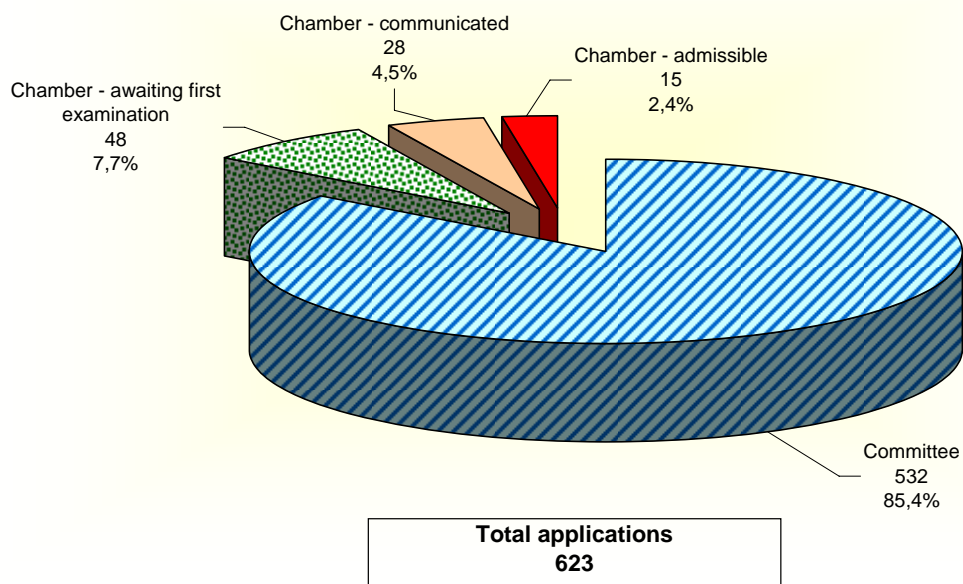
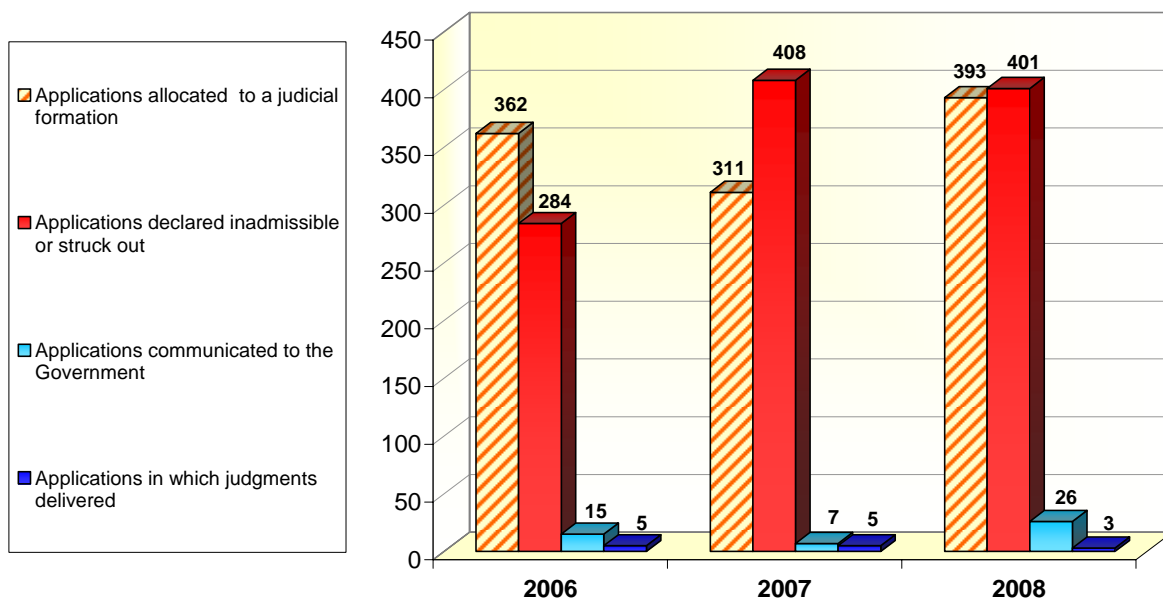


Chart 95 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Sweden

Chart 96 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

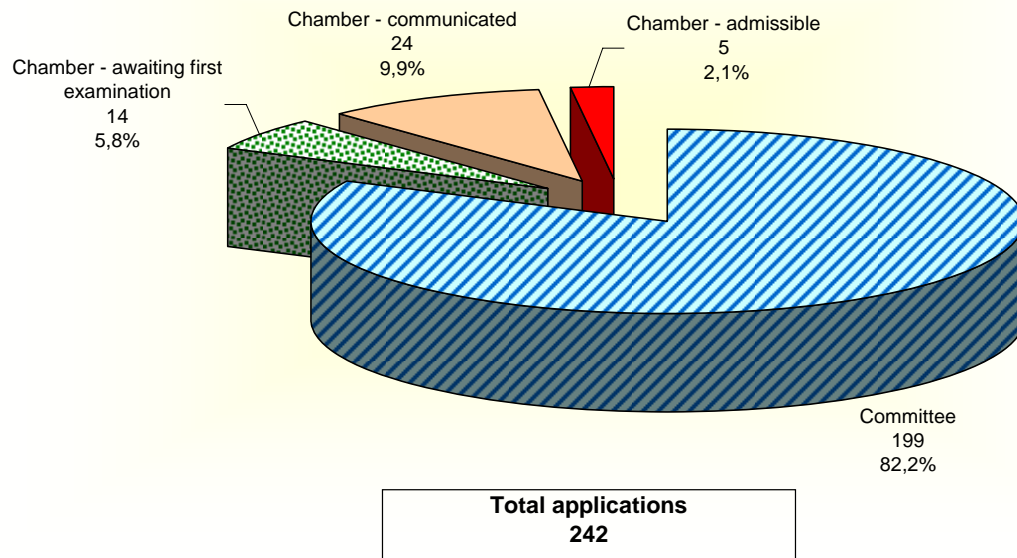
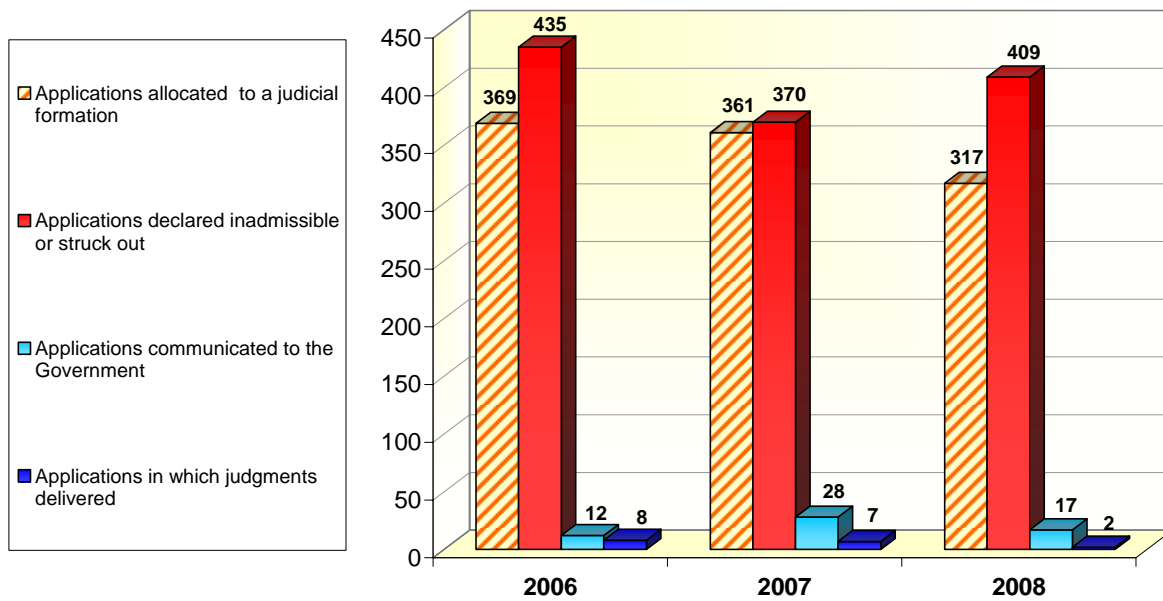


Chart 97 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Switzerland

Chart 98 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

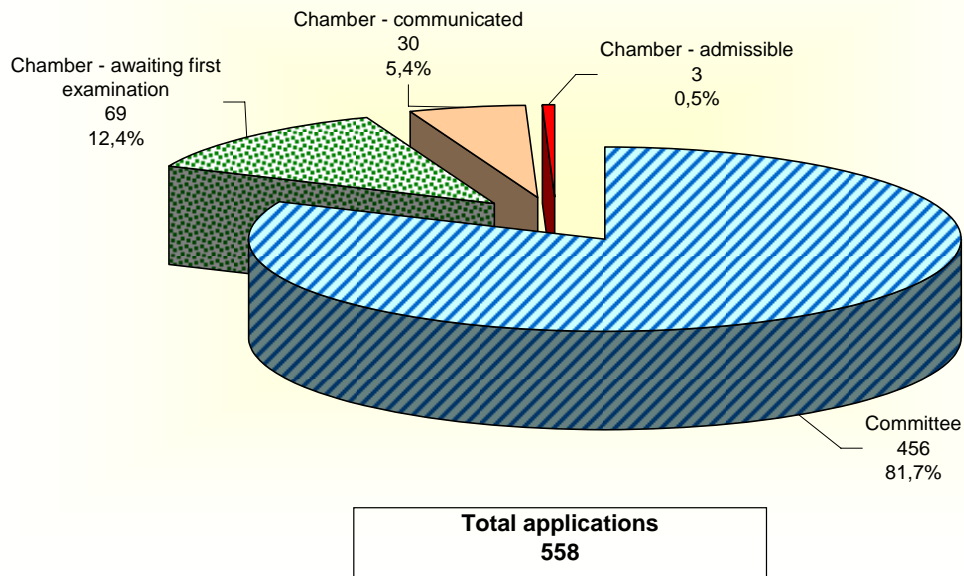
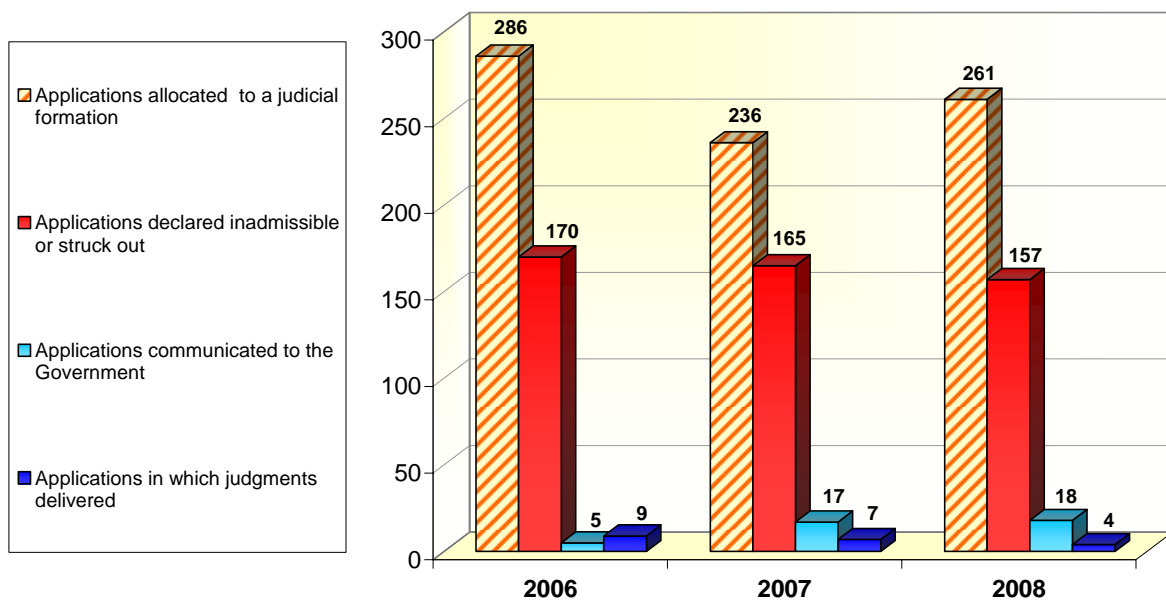


Chart 99 Major procedural steps in processing applications



"The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia"

Chart 100 The Court's caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

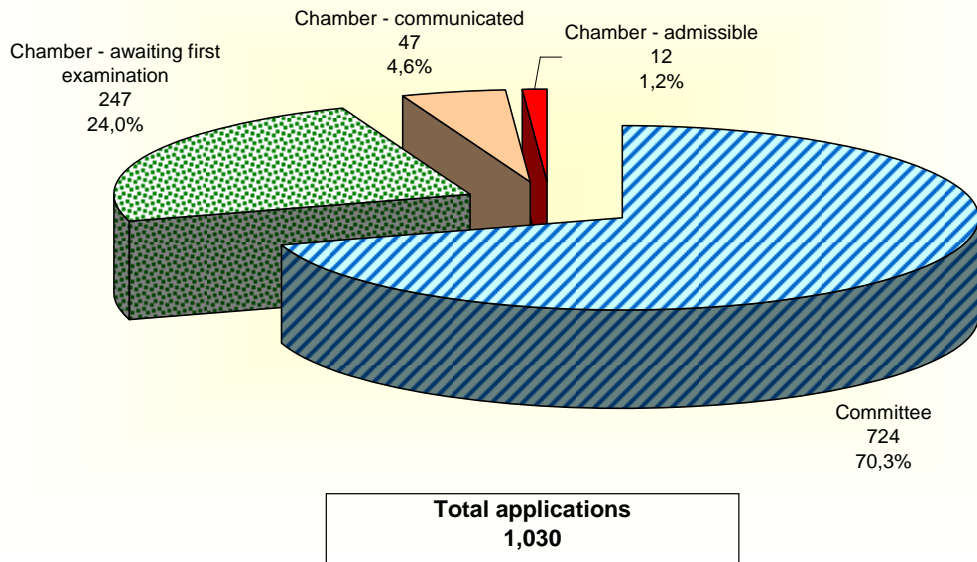
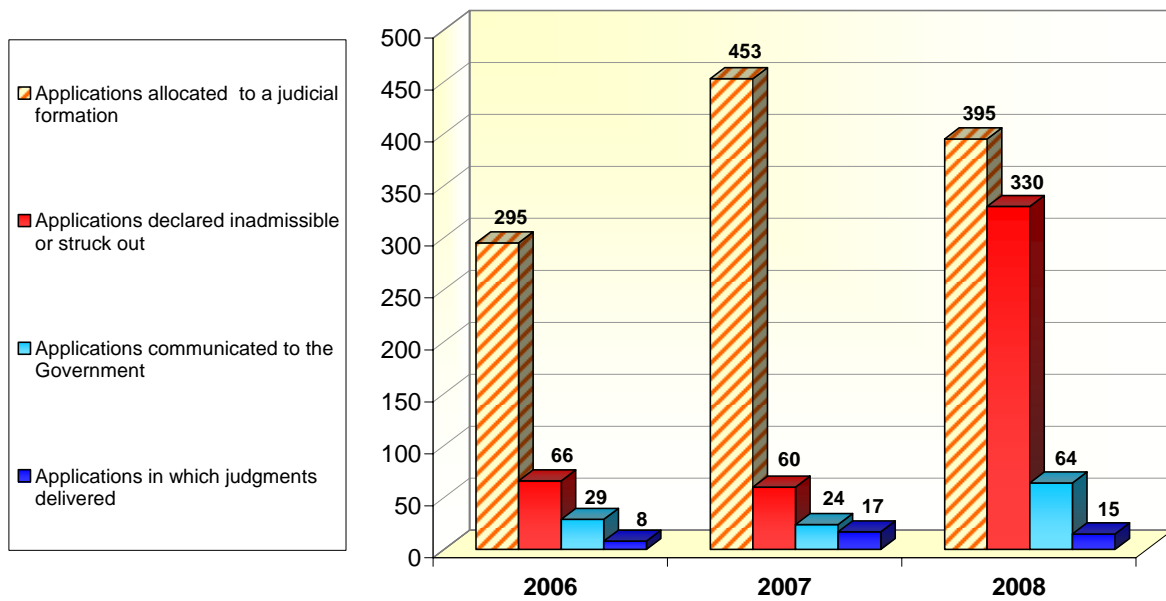


Chart 101 Major procedural steps in processing applications



Turkey

Chart 102 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

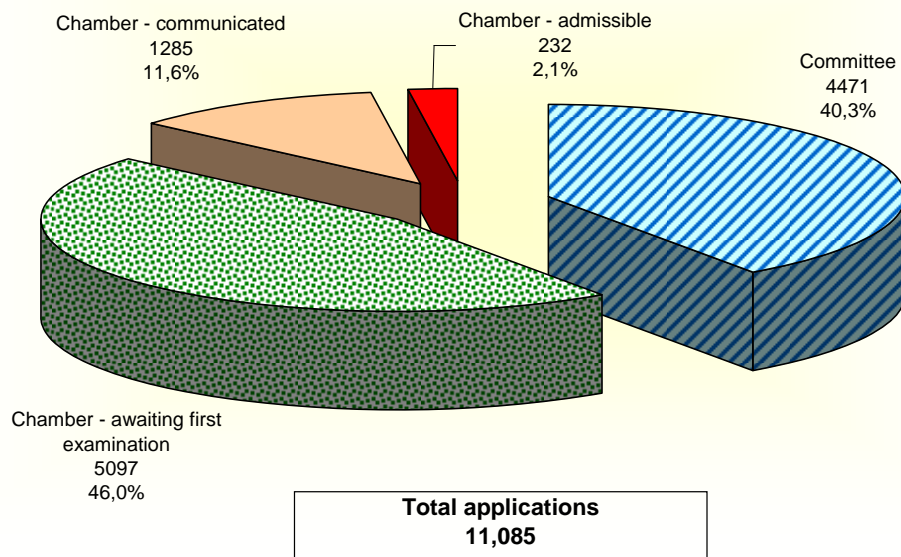


Chart 103 Major procedural steps in processing applications

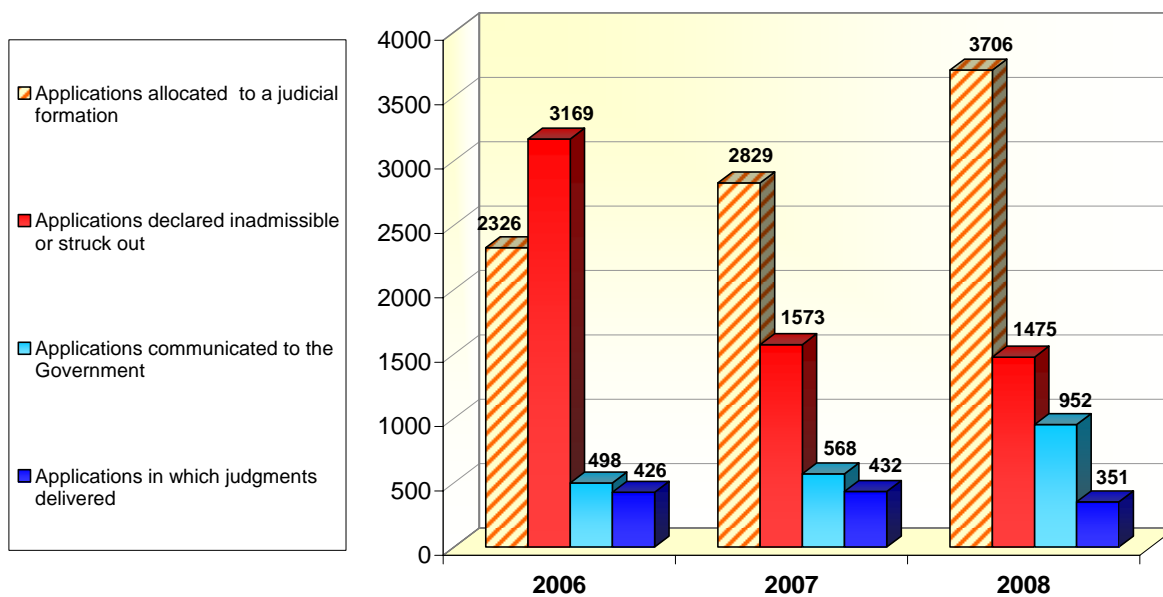
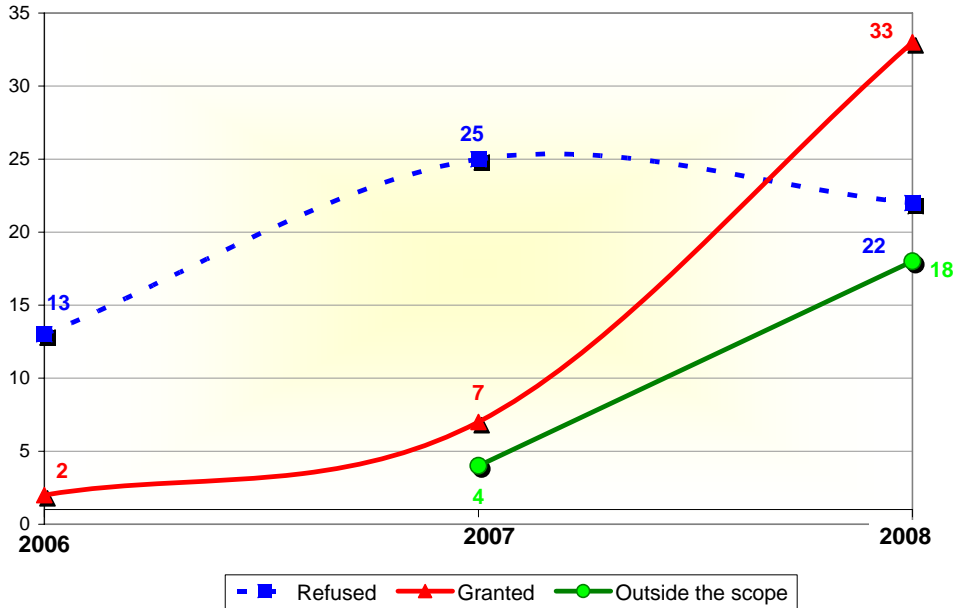


Chart 104 Requests for interim measures 2006-2008



Ukraine

Chart 105 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

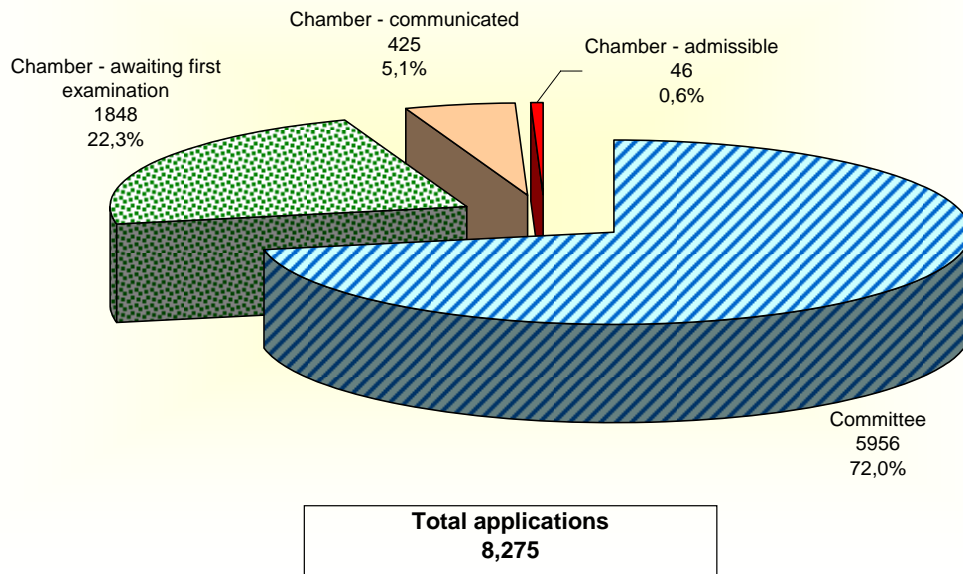
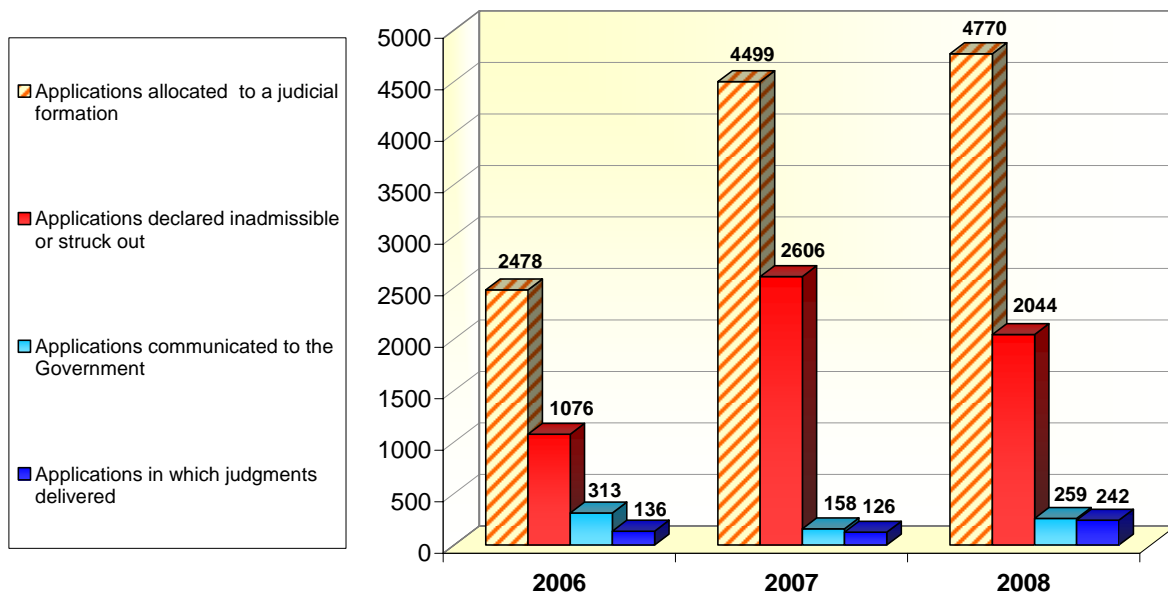


Chart 106 Major procedural steps in processing applications



United Kingdom

Chart 107 The Court’s caseload by stage of proceedings and decision body

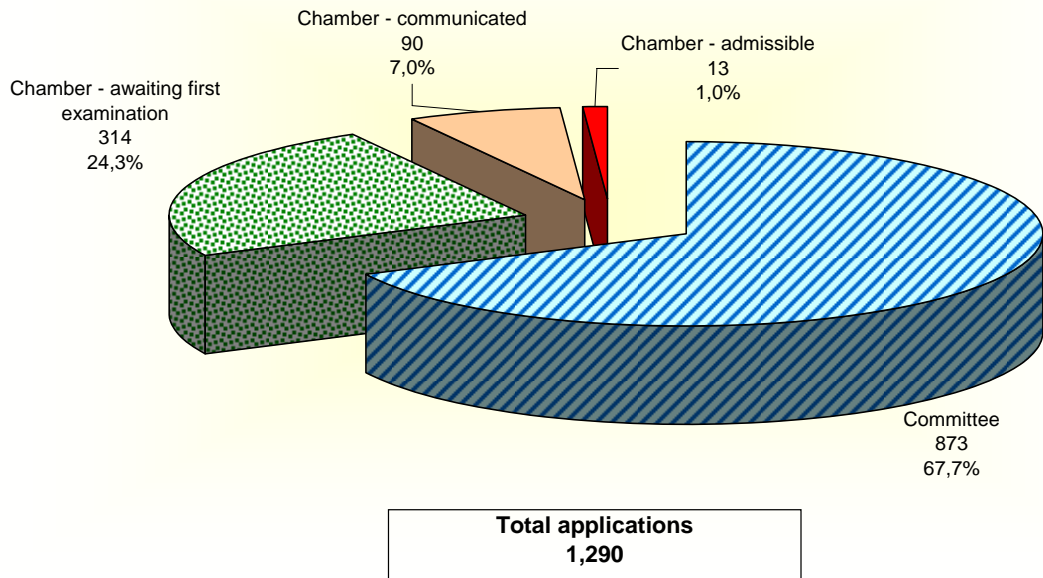


Chart 108 Major procedural steps in processing applications

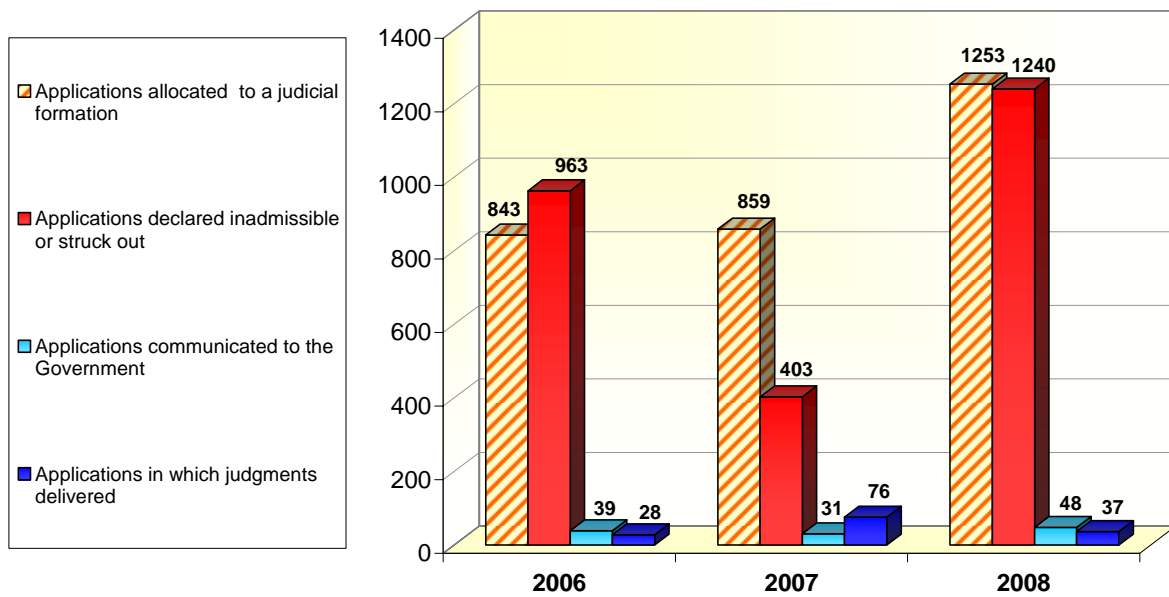


Chart 109 Requests for interim measures 2006-2008

