

GREECE'S RESPONSE

VIRTUAL TRIALS IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

1. Did your jurisdiction offer complete or partial virtual civil trials or hearings before the Pandemic?

If yes, please describe what was offered and how often the offer was exercised.

During the pandemic the trials were suspended, except for those of an urgent nature, for any reason, which were tried in the traditional way.

Prior to the pandemic, there was no option for virtual participation in civil trials. But litigants are not obliged to appear in Court. Even lawyers, in a great part of the civil cases, are entitled to attend by their statement by which they agree to have the case tried without their presence. Just for judges and the secretary, who form the court, their presence is mandatory in the Court room.

2. Did your jurisdiction offer civil virtual trials or hearings during the Pandemic? If yes, was there a change in how, what and when it was offered? Were protocols published? Also, if yes, when were the virtual trials/hearings offered and what was the uptake?

There is no such an option.

The National School of Judges has just launched online training of judges.

3. Presuming that civil virtual trials were offered, was there any improvements made in the technology/software that the government provided? How were documents and exhibits managed?

There is never software used for running virtual hearings by the Court and there is no development on it.

4. What does the future hold in your jurisdiction with respect to the continuation of virtual trials?

What are the issues and or benefits that have arisen?

No comment.

5. Has or is research being done in your jurisdiction to help ameliorate some of the concerns that have arisen with virtual trials?

No comment.

6. How did the digitally excluded people in your jurisdictions have access to justice and specifically to virtual trials during the Pandemic?

No comment, see above.