



SUPREME COURT
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

eCourt – a roadmap to a functioning digital infrastructure for the judiciary

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Where are we now/have we come to?

- ♦ no paper case files, except in criminal cases;
- ♦ Court Information System (KIS) through various apps allows electronic communication with the parties;
- ♦ judges can work remotely with digital case files;
- ♦ judge can hold virtual court sessions.

Problems with the existing information system

- ♦ KIS is mirroring the paper file;
- ♦ the system is document-based, not data-based;
- ♦ working with a digital case file is time-consuming;
- ♦ system failures due to data processing volumes;
- ♦ too complicated and expensive to change and develop.

A new approach is needed

We should also keep in mind:

- we can afford fewer people with the expectation that their qualification is even higher and they work more efficiently;
- data volumes are increasing;
- law is becoming more complex;
- access to legal aid is low, there is a high number of unsatisfactory and unpromising court referrals.

CONCLUSION: We need a data-driven, intelligent system, that would partly take over the work of humans.

New court information system? (I)

- KIS is built on the basis of data;
- forms that could be easily filled in the information system;
- AI will help with drafting actions and complaints;
- KIS can generate basis for the judgements and other procedural documents;
- digital signing is replaced by simpler approvals;
- AI produces intelligent protocols;
- AI produces translation and interpretation.

New court information system? (II)

- AI can identify the person in remote hearings;
- AI could take over interaction with people on their simple everyday requests;
- AI distributes cases and unifies the workload;
- AI could help to assess with the determination of costs and legal aid proceedings;
- AI could be used in judgments for data cleansing

New court information system? (III)

- AI takes partially over the pre-trial procedures and case management;
- AI can analyse and summarise voluminous procedural documents, the parties' arguments and evidence and draw conclusions from it;
- AI can analyse law and case-law and also provide projects on how to settle the case on the basis of existing knowledge;
- AI could help with out-of-court online platform-based dispute resolution.

Risks and challenges of implementing AI

- we need robot assistants, not robot-judges. AI cannot take over judgements based on values or discretionary decisions,
- too much trust in AI?
- protecting personal data?
- ensuring the capacity of users of the system, training, development.
- how to finance and develop the system? Risks of using existing technology solutions in the private sector?
- bigger vision and systematically working towards it or move forward like in a trial-and-error fashion.

What could be achieved through AI?

- procedures are significantly faster and streamlined, while reducing errors and unequal treatment;
- the current secretarial and translation work could be replaced, at least to a large extent, by AI and could lead to significant savings in labour costs;
- the more technical part of the work of the court clerk (counsel) would be done by AI;
- would be an essential tool for the judge to navigate and draw conclusions from the law, background information (case law), procedural documents and evidence;
- AI would help plaintiffs to assess the success of their claim to court, so that they can make an informed decision about whether to go to court;
- information systems to make it easier for people to go to court in typical proceedings, while ensuring the quality of the referrals.

Thank you!

