



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Investing in your future

OPERATION PART FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
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RAISING LEGAL AWARENESS:
NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AGE OF E-TECHNOLOGIES?

E-JUSTICE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CITIZENS

Sabina Klaneček, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, December 2012



OPERATION e-JUSTICE (PARTLY FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FOUND)

In Slovenia, we started with a Strategy of Modernization of Justice System and in the studies which were conducted we saw that firstly we have to modernize the **internal business processes** at the courts, prosecutors' offices, state attorneys office, and at our Ministry.

We started with developing of **electronic registries** as registers at courts, prosecutors offices, state attorneys` office, our Ministry and afterwards we started connecting them.

A few of them are already connected, some are in the process of being connected, such as registers at prosecutors offices which will be able to secure exchange of the information with all the involved stakeholders in a criminal case in a secure manner and maybe even for purposes of criminal judicial investigation, so the whole **criminal case will be administered and tracked electronically**.



- All of our **case law** of **Higher and Supreme Court** and also of our **Constitutional Court** is available for all the citizens through courts web pages, some of the decisions are also available in English.
 - At the web page of the Constitutional Court a user can also subscribe to a Newsletter, where he can choose the key words that should be connected to information that he is interested in.
 - Applications to the Constitutional Court can also be filled electronically, but they have to be signed with a secure electronic signature based on a qualified certificate.

Supreme Court

Constitutional Court

- For better access to justice for the citizens all the **legislation** is also available free of charge on internet on a few different web pages: our Ministry, Government, and the Parliament.
<http://zakonodaja.gov.si/>
- The citizens can also give their **suggestions** and can help create a **better legislation** through the (e-Government) State portal, <http://e-uprava.gov.si/e-uprava/zakonodajalskanje.euprava>



- On the State Portal we also currently test - for providing information on legislation for citizens - the tool for the blind and visually impaired and some topics can therefore also be heard
- <http://e-uprava.gov.si/e-uprava/portalStran.euprava?pageid=631>



e-NOTARY

With the cooperation with our Notaries` Chamber we made an **interface** for support of the service, that citizens can get at the notaries' office.

The citizens do not have to visit one register and then visit another or bring a lot of documents with themselves, when they have a matter, which has to be handled by the notary.

The notary now has **access to all of the official registers** and databases (filing systems) he needs to get the matter resolved or service performed.

The Notary now offers a **complete service to the citizen.**

- <http://www.notar-z.si/en/predstavitev/predstavitev>



INTERVIEWS WITH CHILDREN

In Slovenia, we are using the **video conferencing** systems also for the interviews with children, victims of crimes, abused, who are most **delicate groups within the society**.

The children do not have to come to the court anymore, they are **staying in a child friendly room** at the social care center, where the judge or an expert has the interview with the child and all the other participants can **follow the interview online** from the courtroom and can transmit their questions to an handheld communication device in the social care center, so the judge or expert can translate the question to child in a friendly language and get the answer from the child.

The entire **session is being recorded**, so the record can be used in a parallel ongoing procedures or the record can be given to another expert, who should make a second opinion.

The objective is to avoid secondary victimization of children.

Guidelines:

<http://www.mpju.gov.si/fileadmin/mpju.gov.si/pageuploads/mp.gov.si/PDF/PDF/priporocila/>



AUDIO RECORDINGS OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

One of the major projects that are ongoing in Slovenia is audio recording of court sessions. The recordings are **digitally signed** by the judge, **encrypted** and **stored in one database**.

All the parties and participants of a particular court session which have the permission to hear the recordings can **access them through a web page** and listen to it at home.

They just have to **identify** themselves to the system with a qualified certificate. The recordings are encrypted, so with the **e-ID** they get a **key for decrypting** the recording.

Now we are planning to start a **Pilot Project** of implementation of **voice recognition system**, by which we want to get information on how it could be used for providing a transcription of the recording on-line for people with hearing disabilities.



PRESIDENTS DASHBOARDS

A new system for court management, that is operating completely electronically

Data warehouse

- Construction of the central data warehouse, the data from different source systems (ie data sources) unifies and standardizes, it can be used and further quantitative and qualitative analyzes.

The President's panel

- Interactive and dynamic analytical tool that allows (visual) monitoring and processing of data from the data warehouse. President of the Court to access services via the Internet and so as soon as possible to get the essential information about the operations of the court.

The Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia got the Special Mention in the Cristal Scales of Justice Prize Award in 2012 (organized by the CEPEJ of the Council of Europe and the European Commission).



The main objectives of the project are:

- Faster responses and elimination of court backlogs
- Improved control over the business processes of the courts, the comparability of the courts
- Deal more effectively with older cases
- Help in creating a single case
- Effective planning and balancing of human resources for each court
- Rationalization of spending
- Relief of judges in the preparation of statistical analyzes

More information:

<http://www.sodisce.si/psp/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=uOCq0nQvZ



INTEROPERABILITY BACKBONE

- On the national level we are preparing the interoperability backbone, which will enable secure exchange of information and electronic documents between all the judiciary institutions
- Interoperability backbone will also implement the national connector to eCODEX



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FURTHER DEVELOPMENT....



Thank you for your attention!

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