ELECTRONIC TOOLS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN FINLAND AND GREECE

"Tracking progress in strengthening criminal justice indicators for integrated case management" JLS

The use of information and communication technology is considered to be one of the most important elements for improving the administration, not only in the sector of justice. This emerging issue is streesed in various documents issued by the European Agencies fostering the area of freedom, security and justice. The rapid technical developments of the last years serve as a platform to speed up the judicial system as such and to make an efficient use of the available electronic tools in the courts' daily workload, as well as their decision making process.

Summary

- FINLAND

  - Electronic tools for Criminal Justice in Finland

  - TOUMAS and SANTRA, CMS operating in civil cases

  - SAKARI system, CMS used in criminal cases

  - E-tools used by citizens

- GREECE

  - The E-tools for Lawyers and Legal Practitioners

  - E-tools already completed, to be launched for the use of authorized authorities in the upcoming weeks

  - E-tools scheduled to begin within 2012

  - E-tools whose implementation is scheduled for distinct future

Electronic tools for Criminal Justice in Finland

The electronic system of e-justice to be defined as already functioning through a very well developed network of information and communication technologies

- Finland has the most exceptionally developed technical infrastructure accross Europe
- Existence of Justice Network connecting the Judicial Authorities under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice

Best Practices in the use of e-tools in Finland

The use of electronic tools can be divided into two groups:

    1. Electronic tools among the State authorities themselves and the citizens (Santra, Tuomas, Sakari CMS)

    2. Electronic tools used by citizens

TOUMAS and SANTRA, CMS operating in Civil Cases

- The rules mentioned made it possible to use IT extensively in the written preliminary hearing. Two systems were developed, the TUOMAS case management system and the SANTRA electronic transfer system

- Plaintiffs using SANTRA transfer daily the data on all of their applications to the common «mailbox» of the courts

- The courts, then, up-date their own TUOMAS systems on the basis of data in their mailboxes.

SAKARI system, CMS used in Criminal Cases

- The case management system in criminal cases is more complicated, as more parties and public authorities are involved

- Dates back to the 1990s, when the prosecutors' office and the district courts had to implement a case tracking system to provide information about basic data of the person involved in the crime, suspected crimes committed, as well as issuance of the related decisions

- The new system has roughly the same case management features as the TUOMAS system in civil cases, but more emphasis has been put to managing the information in a case

- The information flow goes from the police → the prosecutor → the court. After the decision is made, it goes the other way around – from the court to the prosecutors' office

- Once the form is filled and put into the system, through the SAKARI system one can search on cases pending with the same suspect, if under any circumstances he/she has committed a crime elsewhere within the country

- After the decision is taken, the prosecutor can find out the basic information in the SAKARI case management system and the ruling itself is sent to the prosecutor electronically.

E-tools used by citizens

- Every citizen has his/her own citizen's account which makes it possible to communicate and to file online applications, as well as to receive the official documents

- Citizens can, in particular, ask for the compensation rates or search for Legal Aid electronically

- Criminal record and the international criminal record in several languages can be filled in online and will be delivered in hard copy to the address of the applicant together with the bill to be paid

- Report a crime in an online form

Electronic Tools for Criminal Justice in Greece

- Greece is currently in the phase of developing and implementing the system of electronic tools in criminal justice

- Therefore, e-tools being presently used or planned to be used can be divided into following cathegories:

  1. E-tools for Lawyers and Legal Practitioners;

  2. E-tools to be put into practice by the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights for the benefit of judicial authorities, legal practitioners and the public at large.

The E-tools for Lawyers and Legal Practitioners

- ISOKRATIS - a Legal Information Bank which can be defined as an informational platform for various legal practitioners

- Originally set up in 1992 as an initiative of the Athens Bar Association

Electronic Tools to be put into Practice by the Ministry of Justice

1. E-tools already completed, to be launched for the use of authorized authorities in the upcoming weeks

- **Electronic filing and application monitoring - Online service for lawyers, judges and citizens**: E- tool aiming particularly at tackling the individual needs of citizens, while reducing the costs and increasing the efficiency of courts' management.

2. E-tools scheduled to begin within 2012

- **Electronic Criminal Record**– The project is part of the creation of the Integrated Information System of the National Criminal Record, where criminal records from all the Prosecutors' Offices of the Court of First Instance of the country are registered in a systematic way

- **E – tools for detention centers** – The electronic tool foresees the creation and establishment of an electronic database across all prison institutions to be connected with the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights and subsequently, the data regarding the prisoner will be provided to authorized persons – lawyer and family member

- **Electronic update of the Court of Audits -** The project aims to upgrade the already existing Management Information System of Auditors and the creation of new electronic services for citizens (including citizens with disabilities) in order to create a technological framework that ensures faster processing procedures of the Court and fully serves all citizens of the country

- **Online Services in connection with the Released society -** The project involves the provision of electronic services offered by the return released detainees and the country, in order to create a technological framework that will ensure faster processing of the return process and will better serve all operators for the smooth reintegration into society and the labor market itself

3. E-tools whose implementation is scheduled for distinct future

- **Electronic archiving, filing and availability of Court Records:**

   The project aims to improve the system of recording, archiving and availability practices of the courts in order to increase judicial transparency and efficiency of justice, achieve the rule of law and improve state services to citizens

- **Study to optimize the flow of civil and criminal proceedings:**

   The project aim at designing a single, integrated enterprise architecture policy and criminal procedure at all levels of courts and prosecution offices, in order to homogenize and simplify the flow of processes.

Thank you for your attention!

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