



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF COMPUTERISATION AND COURT REGISTERS

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**Summary of the speech of the Director of the Department for Computerisation and Court Registers of the Polish Ministry of Justice, Jarosław Paszke, at the European Parliament conference held on 26th March 2012.**

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Poland is currently implementing two major systems, one concerning the merits of court proceedings, and the other for financial matters, personnel administration and maintenance. These systems will be essential to processing of cases in civil and criminal divisions, and service of all auxiliary processes, i.e. financial, economic and connected with human resources. The two main systems will provide the information to carry out a range of analyzes and statistical work, helping to increase the efficiency of courts and judges. At the same time the Polish Ministry of Justice has decided that court service and court proceedings be public and available to the maximum extent possible for citizens and businesses, as well as decided to relieve judges from cases that are simple but mass and subject them to digitization and make efforts to shorten litigation time.

Within e-services EPU (Electronic Writ-of-Payment Proceedings) was implemented, e-BTE (Electronic Bank Writ of Execution) is being implemented and MS EPO (System for Electronic Receipt Confirmation) was tested. **EPU** allows all participants of the proceedings to work through electronic means. The only traditional element is the warrant which is sent on paper to the defendant. All the processes performed inside are electronic. Features of these proceedings are:

- facultative mode
- range of entities – both businesses as well as non-business entities
- range of subject matters – cases which are currently recognised in proceedings by writ of payments regardless of the value of the object of dispute

During the first six months after implementation, there were about 1.2 mln incoming cases. The revenue from court fees exceeded 1.5 mln PLN, while expenses amounted to 1.5 mln PLN. So far there have been 2,970,961 incoming cases.

The Ministry of Justice's priorities concerning computerisation are:

- 1. The implementation of electronic minutes in the form of an audio-video recording of hearings - audio-video recording system.** The introduction of recording court proceedings will make court proceedings quicker and more efficient, improve the quality of the course of trial proceedings because of the possibility to faithfully replay what the parties said, enable evaluation of the correctness of the ongoing proceedings, especially in the context of an appeal or caused by an action for the resumption of proceedings, increase the level of confidence in the courts and the justice system and provide a

safe platform for access to the Judiciary by setting a new approach to information management, flow of information and access to information.

2. **Electronic information on courts and cases** – the implementation of websites with decisions of Regional Courts and Courts of Appeal in Poland.
3. **SIWPM-SAWA Computer system for support in content-related processes.** The goal of the Project is to change the model of registering cases incoming to courts by creating one repertory for every unit of a court and a uniform repertory for every level of public courts which would function in the central information management system. The information management system will be based on interconnected court repertories, Information Management Centres and the Information Management Centre in the Department for Computerisation and Court Registers of the Ministry of Justice. There is software from different developers functioning in courts, which makes central information management impossible. The implementation of a central system will enable central storing and processing of data and making the data accessible to the internal (court employees) and external (parties to proceedings, prosecutors and enforcement officers) users.
4. **Construction of the e-MS system-** building a system of electronic services of the Ministry of Justice, including the launch of services to businesses and individuals through electronic access to the departments of the National Court Register, the National Criminal Register, the Office of Court and Economic Monitor. Advantages: increasing the accessibility of the services provided by the Judiciary for businesses and individuals seeking to increase customer satisfaction, adjusting the systems of the Ministry of Justice to the current standards. Thanks to previous efforts, access to the register via the Internet and the possibility to send applications and set up a business via the Internet were implemented.
5. **Integrated System for Accounting and Personnel (ZSRK).** An important task carried out in the abovementioned project is to develop uniform accounting and human resources management principles as well as to construct and implement a central integrated ERP system with a database for courts and the Ministry of Justice, with the use of SAP solutions and software. The system will eventually replace the currently used systems for currently used finances and accounting, personnel and salaries and court charges. Advantages: possibility to obtain data from subordinated courts by courts at particular levels, faster and cheaper adjustment of the system to legal and procedural changes, better automation of work, integration of information, entering data only once, faster access to information in real time, higher quality of data, conducting comprehensive analyses including analyses performed at hoc, elimination of expensive interfaces and acquiring if information on costs of particular court cases.

**6. e-BTE - Electronic Bank Writ of Execution.**

**e-BTE Elektroniczny Bankowy Tytuł Egzekucyjny.** The project aims to implement a system for support of proceedings for granting an enforcement clause to the bank writ of execution. The implementation of the e-BTE system will facilitate the proceedings granting an enforcement clause to the bank writ of execution.

**7. MS-EPO - System for Electronic Receipt Confirmation.** This system will enable recording of receipts of court correspondence delivered to parties to/ participants of proceedings in the computer system. The traditional return receipt confirmation in paper form will be replaced by entries performed directly by the post service. The main benefit will be a reduction of the time of document workflow during delivery (by 50%) and the possibility of scheduling hearings several weeks rather than months in advance.

**8. Introduction of e-services in the Land and Mortgage Register.** Project scope: obtaining copies and extracts from the Land and Mortgage Register, certificates of closing land and mortgage registers electronically; introduction of the first phase of electronic accounting and land and mortgage proceedings by filing applications for registration by electronic means; addition of entries by notaries, granting access to data from registers to authorised entities through transmission of data; exchange of information with authorized entities including the Central Office of Geodesy and Cartography under the Integrated Real-Estate Information System. Advantages: faster and easier access to information contained in the central land and mortgage registry database, the ability to print a copy of the land and mortgage register which has the same force as a document issued by the Central Information of the Land and mortgage Register; facilitation of proceedings for registration in the Land and Mortgage Register' increasing the security of trading through faster posting of entries excluding the principle of public credibility of land and mortgage registers (immediately after preparation of a notarial deed); improvement of work of law enforcement authorities, fiscal authorities as well as prosecutor's offices, the police and courts by providing them with data from the central database of the Land and Mortgage Registry through data transmission.

Previous efforts resulted in enabling Internet access to the register. Up to now, there have been 41,386,991 looks up in the register through the publically accessible solution and 1,274,521 by court enforcement officers and notaries. It is used, *inter alia*, in granting bank loans.

The introduction of a whole range of changes, sometimes quite profound, in the area of technology, organization and procedure of court proceedings, causes understandable tensions among judicial and administrative personnel. The Ministry is trying to solve these problems by organizing large trainings and frequent conferences and through introduction of representatives of the broadest possible groups of judicial and administrative circles to the teams creating these solutions.