

# Using audio protocols in courts

Court administration, Latvia



Tiesu administrācija

# Republic of Latvia

- Territory: 64,6 sqkm (30% forrest)
- Population: 2 million
- Independent since 1918
- EU member since 2004
- Euro since 2014
- GDP per capita: 12000 EUR
- State budget: 8 billion EUR



Tiesu administrācija

# Overview of court system

- 31 district courts
- 5 regional courts
- 2 administrative courts
- Supreme and Constitutional court
- 27 land registry offices

Overall 560 judges and  
1700 employees



Tiesu administrācija

# Audio protocols in courts

- Significantly shorter creation time
- Less chance to make a mistake
- Very easy to learn
- Universally compatible PDF file
- Easily available for parties involved



Tiesu administracija



# Main features

- Integration with Court information system
- Direct audio recording support
  - All court rooms in Latvia are equipped with audio recording
- Predefined fields for timeline marking
- Predefined phrases (expressions)
- Easy editing

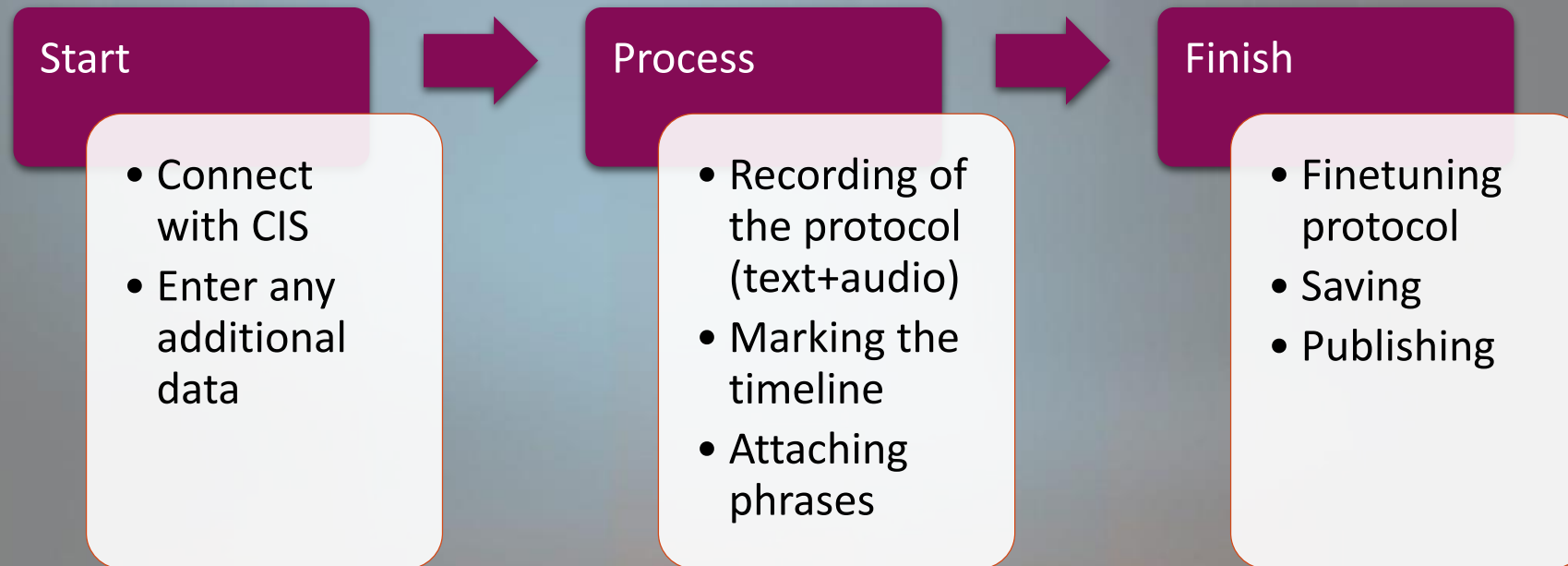


Tiesu administrācija

# Creation of audio protocol



Tiesu administracija



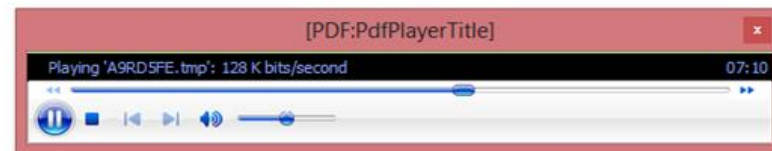
Audio information + Textual information = Audio information

# Finished protocol

- Standard form
- Easy to find essential information
- Marked procedural steps
- Synced with audio
- Structured data
- No need for adding remarks (audio)

**Date:** 07/05/2014  
**Protocol Name:** AUDIO PROTOCOL OF COURT SESSION  
**Court:** Riga's city's Kurzemes District Court  
**Address:** Riga, Daugavgrivas Str.58  
**Judge:** Aija Ormina  
**Registrar:** Zane Dalberga  
**Prosecutor:** Nadezda Gromova  
**Lawyer:** -  
**Case:** In A Klibanovas Prosecutions by the Criminal Law of Part 1 of Article 175.  
**Number of Case:** CKN-14/0541  
**Court session started at:** 11:30  
**Court session ended:** 12:35  
**Details:** Accused's Alla Klibanova is participating  
Victim Igors..... is participating  
Are co-opted interpreter's Šmatko A.

- [00:00:06] **COURT** : Court ascertained comment on the possibility of starting judicial inquiries.
- [00:02:12] **COURT** : Court hearing process members' view(s), decides to initiate an investigation of the Court of justice.
- [00:02:48] **COURT** : Unperformance the consequences of the evidence, the Court interprets ascertained participators view(s) unperformance on the evidence.
- [00:04:19] **COURT** : Court ascertained participators view(s) or you can finish the investigation and move on to the debate.
- [00:05:15] **COURT** : Court ascertained accused the treatment of charge.
- [00:06:05] **COURT** : Court hearing process members' view(s), decides not to take evidence check, check the file and data that describes the accused's personality.
- [00:06:36] **COURT** : The court hearing the comments of the process, decides to complete the investigation and move on to the debate.
- [00:07:07] **Nadezda Gromova (Prosecutor)**: A prosecutor says the debate.
- [00:09:48] **COURT** : The court goes to give a ruling and to declare that the judgment will be delivered in 2014 07 May, at 12: 35.



Tiesu administrācija

# Benefits of using audio protocols in courts

- No need to wait for protocol to start appealation
- Electronic availability – no need to visit court for protocol
  - Court does not have to prepare protocols in paper form
- Eliminated need to read through the whole protocol
- Can be used as an electronic document



Tiesu administrācija



# Time to prepare protocol for a 5 hour court hearing

- Audio protocol - less than **two hours**
- Paper protocol – up to **three days**



Tiesu administrācija