

# 2015 edition of the Crystal Scales of Justice Prize awarding ceremony Cérémonie de remise du Prix Balance de cristal 2015

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## **WINNER PROJECT – The Judicial Hub (Scotland)**

*The Judicial Institute for Scotland* had developed an innovative website designed in order to create a dynamic environment in which meeting the information, learning, collaboration and communication needs of the justice stakeholders in Scotland. This encompasses a user-friendly graphic interface and a significant number of menus to respond to the increasing needs of people that seek for help and support into the web before physically visiting the Courts.

**So the REASONS WHY WE HAD CHOSEN THIS PROJECT "The Judicial Hub" TO BE 1 OF 4 short-listed**, is that we appreciated that this Project has met all the elements necessary for a good Project, meaning: **EFFICIENCY, INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY, OPENNESS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT & APPLICABILITY IN OTHER SYSTEMS.**

### **EFFICIENCY**

*Increased quality of judicial expertise; reduced time for exchanging documentation, best practices, knowledge; Improved productivity*

### **INNOVATION**

*We are in the era of "social" internet, therefore modern websites are a central element of a communication and collaboration strategy*

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

*The future of justice, for a large part, passes through a web based communication and services from remote.*

### **OPENNESS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**

*The Judicial Hub is an platform open to many more applications and developments in the area of knowledge sharing, e-learning, cooperation and service.*

### **APPLICABILITY IN OTHER SYSTEMS**

*All European judicial systems should take the example of the Judicial Hub in order to improve the way courts and ministries of justices websites are designed and deployed.*

## **SHORT-LISTED PROJECTS**

*The **System for the recording of court hearing developed by the Court administration of Latvia** is an excellent example of advanced technology integrating the potential of IT with traditional recording equipment. In times where resources are limited there is the need to optimise time and reduce costs by avoiding the duplication of manual activity. The project meets all the characteristics requested by the CSoJ as it increases efficiency, is innovative and can be exported and reused in other countries.*

*The **Model court guideline for the basic and higher courts developed by the High Council in Serbia** focuses on a number of aspects like premises, logistics and optimal staffing that are key for the quality of the Justice as a service. Justice deals with the fundamental rights of citizens, nevertheless its administration must be conducted under the best-in-class managerial principles of efficiency and effectiveness. Premises and logistics are of paramount importance for good justice administration. This project aims at stimulating a reflection at international level on how to assure to justice the right level of resources required to deliver a high quality justice in a reasonable timeframe.*

*The **Rechtwijzer web platform developed by Raad voor Rechtsbijstand (Legal Aid Board) in the Netherlands** is a project anticipating the future of (a part) of justice. This platform empowers people to file, manage and monitor their proceedings when they face divorce and separation including online mediation, adjudication and neutral legal review). As it is an evident trend at European level to simplify procedural aspects of civil justice with a specific focus on separation and divorce, this projects appears a perfect example of the way forward in this field.*