



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CEPEJ MALTA | 27, 28 JUNE 2022

**38<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> CEPEJ ANNIVERSARY**

**Intervention by Ms Veronica Mihailov-Moraru, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova**

**What are the challenges are faced by a digitalized justice system?**

*Your Excellencies,*

*Dear participants of European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice,*

I am delighted to greet you on behalf of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova today. We are very grateful to you for organizing this plenary meeting, where we could discuss directly and to inform you about the developments in the justice sector in Moldova.

Starting in July 2021, the current government has had as its key priority radical improvement of the justice sector. We all know how important is an effective and quality justice sector for the economy and security of a state.

Last year, our Parliament adopted the Strategy on ensuring the independence and integrity of the justice sector for the years 2022–2025. The Strategy sets out three directions for action: (1) the independence, accountability and integrity of key actors in the justice sector; (2) access to justice and quality of justice; and (3) efficient and modern administration of justice.

In line with the government goals we have already launched a number of key reforms. A very big attention is paid to the process of digitalization of justice, which also requires a cardinal change of mentality and legal culture.

**Digitization of justice** aims to facilitate access to justice, improve overall efficiency and ensure the resilience of justice systems in times of crisis.

**I would like to mention about the following developments in this segment in the Republic of Moldova:**

1. Implementation of the new Electronic Statistical Reporting Module (MRSE), from 2020 in all

courts in the Republic of Moldova. Thus, the Court Administration Agency, a subdivision of the Ministry of Justice, has the tool to extract data automatically through the Integrated File Management Program (PIGD) making it possible to extract data according to the 17 performance indicators recommended by CEPEJ within the Project “Increasing the Efficiency of Justice and Supporting the Law Profession in the Republic of Moldova”, which was part of the Programmatic Cooperation Framework between the Council of Europe and the European Union 2015-2017. Thus, the judicial system in Moldova makes an important leap in the direction of digitization and efficiency of judicial activity, and the recommendations of the CEPEJ and subsequent actions focused on improving the use of statistical data, the application of efficiency indicators.



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**2. The e-Judicial IT solution** is a computer application developed and made available to litigants for the purpose of training and administration of the judicial file in electronic format and is interconnected to the Integrated Case Management Program (PIGD), used by national courts for automated documentation and evidence procedural actions. The Judicial e-File application is a component part of the State Judicial Information System. It allows: *Automated registration and transmission in the PIGD of summonses, appeals / appeals (by lawyers), minutes and appeals (fact-finding agents); Receiving and quick viewing of court documents (decisions, conclusions) and documents generated from PIGD (action sheets, summonses), Access and Viewing the status of the application and the stage of examining the files, as well as the scheduled court hearings; payment of state tax online;*

In order to streamline the judicial information system and to exclude the intervention of the human factor from the administrative process of case management, it is planned that the e-Judicial file application will be implemented 100% in the courts by the end of 2023.

**3.** At the beginning of 2021 - so far, the Agency's team are members and observers of the JUSTAT project working group implemented by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) in partnership with the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, which supports the implementation of a national platform similar to the public instrument for exploring the CEPEJ-STAT database. Thus, actions are taken in development of the online tool (application) for consultation and analysis of statistical data in the judicial system of the Republic of Moldova and implementation at national level of the instrument CEPEJ-STAT, JUSTAT (which includes dashboards with statistical data, performance indicators and other useful information for evaluation results of the activity of the courts of the Republic of Moldova). I would like to stress that this activity among others is implemented with the support and in cooperation with the Project "Support to further strengthening the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the Republic of Moldova", funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe in their Partnership for Good Governance II 2019-2022. The Project offers valuable support in improving the IT infrastructure of both judicial and enforcement systems in our country to contribute to a better analysis of their performance and an improved judicial management.

**4. Other priorities** The aim is to strengthen an accessible, transparent sector of justice, to distribute the tasks fairly among the courts, to ensure the security of the judicial information system and to maintain it. And to implement these priorities it is necessary:

- *ensuring the maintenance of the judicial information system and updating it to ensure compliance with changes in legislation;*
- *development and gradual implementation of the Electronic Judicial Statistics Reporting Module and the Judicial Performance Measurement Module;*
- *adaptation of IS e-Judicial file to the requirements regarding the protection of personal data and gradual implementation at national level;*



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- *creating the conditions and ensuring the implementation of the plan for the construction of new buildings and / or the renovation of existing buildings, necessary for the proper functioning of the court system.*

### **5. Teleconferencing statistics:**

During 2021 of the total number of court hearings, (542,116 hearings-) - 6% were conducted by videoconference, and this number is increasing. The use of the videoconferencing service is also part of the new justice reform project. This, following some legislative changes, has allowed the examination by videoconference of all criminal cases with detainees and plans, by the beginning of 2025, a policy to expand the videoconferencing service in courts and penitentiary institutions. It will also expand the type of causes carried out by it and the continuous training of users. Currently, every court in the country has at least one videoconferencing system.

6. In addition to the information system within the courts, the authorities' efforts are also directed towards the development of information systems aimed at managing cases at the stage of criminal prosecution and enforcement of judgments, but also digitizing the activity of legal professions (such as notaries, lawyers, judicial experts and insolvency administrators).
7. Recently, the information system of "Management of Judicial Expertise Cases" was put into piloting procedure. Likewise, the implementation of the information system for the management of enforcement procedures (E-file) is to be extended, as well as the initiation of the e-power of attorney information system, the one intended for notarial procedures.
8. In order to facilitate access to justice, especially for vulnerable groups, requests for qualified legal aid guaranteed by the state can be submitted online (using the electronic signature) but also by e-mail.

Of course, there are difficulties, which we try to solve, namely: low level of computer use, internet access, low legal culture, i.e. lack of knowledge of the public judicial process; and so on. But the digitization process must be integrated and adapted to people's needs.

Finally, we believe that only by opening up, accepting the new, by quickly communicating between the units of the judiciary, by standardizing procedures, can the efficiency of the administration of the justice sector be increased, excluding certain risks and vulnerabilities but also increase the transparency and trust of citizens in services.

Thank you for your attention.