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24HR02 - Paperless commercial courts in Croatia”¹

3 March 2025, 10:30-14:00

Concept Note and Draft Agenda

Activity 3.3 - Conference to inform key stakeholders on the findings of Output 3: Report on the current legal framework, business processes and IT related framework

Concept Note

The efficiency of the judiciary is one of the key elements of the Rule of Law. Consistent judicial practice, is essential, delivered by independent national courts within a reasonable timeframe, and properly enforced.

The project “Paperless commercial courts in Croatia” (Project) aims to support the Croatian authorities, in particular the key beneficiary Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation of the Republic of Croatia (MoJPADT), the High Commercial Court of the Republic of Croatia (HCCRC) and all commercial courts in transitioning to fully paperless workflows in commercial courts, which are the first in line to increasingly embrace this concept.

The introduction of paperless workflows in commercial courts will enhance the efficiency of justice, positively affect the work of judges by enabling them to devote more time to the quality and delivery of judgments and reduce the length of proceedings by aligning the work of courts with the reasonable time standard set by the European Court of Human Rights.

Additionally, the shift towards paperless case flow promotes accessibility and inclusivity, in particular for those who face geographical or logistical challenges in physically attending court proceedings. Further to the advantages that accessibility has for end users of justice services, it is also important for courts and court staff.

The Conference seeks to bring together representatives from the Croatian judiciary, with a particular focus on the five remaining commercial courts, to assess the progress achieved since

¹ The Project was co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission

the beginning of the Project in August 2024. Moreover, the Conference will provide an opportunity to exchange best practices from international and Croatian perspective vis-à-vis digitalisation and the use of AI in commercial courts, as these courts are at the forefront of innovation in this area.

The participants of the Conference are representatives and Project teams of the MoJPADT, SGREFORM and Council of Europe, as well as presidents and judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, the HCCRC, the nine commercial courts across Croatia and the Hellenic Council of State. Further, the conference has invited representatives of the IT and business community, the Croatian Bar Association and other parties involved in court proceedings. The Conference envisages participation up to 55 participants.

The working languages are English and Croatian, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

The Conference at the level of opening remarks may be open to media, subject to approval by the MoJPADT, SGREFORM and Council of Europe.

Agenda

Venue: Westin Hotel

Address: Krsnjavoga 1, 10000, Zagreb, Croatia

3 March 2025, 10:30-14:00

10.00 – 10.30 Welcoming coffee and registration

10.30 – 11.10 Opening and welcome remarks (8 minutes per speaker)

- **Mr Damir Habijan**, Minister, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation
- **Mr Damir Kontrec**, President of Civil Department, Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia
- **Mr Ivica Omazić**, President, High Commercial Court of the Republic of Croatia
- **Mr Florian Hauser**, Deputy Head of Unit, Governance and Public Administration, SGREFORM
- **Ms Lilja Gretarsdottir**, Head of Department for Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

Moderator: Ms Sanja Moharić Hehet, Head of Public Relations Service,
Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation

11.10 – 11.40 Presentation of the Report on analysis of the current situation in the legal, IT and business-related framework (Output 3)

- **Mr Mladen Prka**, Legal Consultant, Council of Europe
- **Ms Suzana Hudin**, Business Consultant, Council of Europe

Questions and Answers

Moderator: Ms Sanja Moharić Hehet, Head of Public Relations Service,
Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation

11.40– 12.20 Paperless courts and digital advancements in the justice sector: impact on the end users and judges

- **Mr Konstantinos Koussoulis**, Vice President of the Hellenic Council of State
- **Ms Irina Orsich**, Head of Sector for AI Act Governance and Regulatory Policy, European Commission
- **Ms Anamarija Mladinić**, Vice President in Committee of Convention 108, Council of Europe and Head of Sector for EU, International Cooperation and Legal Affairs, Croatian Data Protection Authority

Questions and Answers

Moderator: Ms Sanja Moharić Hehet, Head of Public Relations Service,
Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation

12.20 – 12.40 Coffee Break

12.40 – 13.30 Panel discussion: Addressing obstacles and identifying key areas for improvement – Legal, IT and business aspects of paperless commercial courts

Panelists:

- **Mr Ivan Čulić**, President of the Commercial Court in Split
- **Mr Srđan Gavranić**, President of the Commercial Court in Dubrovnik
- **Ms Marija Levanić Škerbić**, President of the Commercial Court in Varaždin
- **Mr Marko Sever**, IT Consultant, Council of Europe

Questions and Answers

Moderator: Ms Maja Praljak, Vice President of the Commercial Court in Zagreb

13.30 – 13.45 Key insights and takeaways from study visit to European Court of Human Rights and Council of Europe

- **Ms Renata Diankov**, Project team leader, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation

13.45 – 14.00 Conclusions

- **Ms Rima Joujou-Deljkić**, Resident Country Coordinator Croatia, SGREFORM
- **Ms Milica Vesovic**, Programme Manager, Cooperation Programmes Division, Council of Europe

14.00 Buffet lunch offered by the Project