



## **CEPEJ NETWORK OF PILOT COURTS 16<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

*Poland, Lublin  
30 March 2023*

### **Opening speech by Marcin Romanowski, Deputy Minister of Justice, Poland**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for the invitation. It is a pleasure to welcome you to the sixteenth meeting of the CEPEJ pilot courts network representatives. I am glad this year we have opportunity to meet in person, especially since we have gathered today at place with great traditions. The Catholic University of Lublin is the third oldest functioning university in Poland.

The development of new technologies and the ongoing digital transformation have accelerated during the COVID pandemic, during which the functioning of the justice system would not have been possible without quick implementation of innovative solutions.

In Poland, this was a time of revolutionary changes. We introduced:

- the e-delivery system,
- electronic land registers,
- online financial reporting system, and
- e-court payments.

We are also preparing many new improvements that will soon serve our citizens.

Moreover, number of cases being conducted every year was reduced by half a million, thanks to special algorithm available online accepting financial reports from entrepreneurs.

Despite the crises that have affected Europe in recent years, Poland is one of the countries that have significantly increased its budget for the justice system.

### **Challenges and hopes:**

There are no doubts new technologies can have beneficial impact on streamlining the operation of the justice system. Nonetheless, we must also be aware of numerous challenges and threats appearing on the horizon.

We are dangerously approaching times when it will be virtually impossible whether the decision is made by machine or human being, based solely on data generated by artificial intelligence.

The introduction of autonomous decision-making systems within judiciary, which is essential for the rule of law and democracy, involves many risks requiring due diligence during implementation process.

### **Threats to fundamental rights:**

AI systems cannot under any circumstances conflict with the Union's values and fundamental rights i.e. rule of law, democracy or data protection.

Respect for these rights is ensured in the upcoming Artificial Intelligence Act and the Directive on Artificial Intelligence Responsibility adopted in 2022 creating much-needed legal frameworks regulating the development of AI in the EU.

Only holistic approach can bring lasting benefits to citizens and combat potential threats to their rights. Thus, in cooperation with Polish universities, we are creating a technological and scientific background for development of digital tools for judiciary, next to high-class experts' training.

Our active participation in Commission's work, covering working groups focusing on formulating potential future experimental functions, proves we are moving towards moment where coordinated and safe use of AI solutions for the justice sector constitutes applied standard in the whole EU.

### **Project TJENI:**

We are pleased with our joint commitment to the TJENI project, which aims to create a central system for the publication and categorization of court judgments. For this purpose, a series of methodological and technological solutions in the field of anonymization (pseudonymization) and data standardization are being prepared.

Importantly, this project serves not only the principle of transparency of the justice system but also supports the concept of open data, which will enable the creation of new, complementary tools supporting the justice system.

### **Innovative CCTV Monitoring System for Prisons:**

It is worth mentioning that Poland is one of European pioneers in terms of AI use supporting prison monitoring system. The system, which is currently being implemented in the prison in the nearby Chelm, operates a very effective autonomous algorithm

detecting undesirable or dangerous behaviors in closed facilities like prisons, based on monitoring cameras (CCTV).

The system minimizes the number of incidents and unwanted behavior – carefully determined by experts when system was created. It significantly reduces the operating costs of the prison, making its employees more efficient in their work. Eventually, our system will support all closed institutions in the Polish justice system.

### **Artificial Intelligence in the Service of Citizens' Cybersecurity:**

Cybercrime is no longer just the domain of small frauds or dishonest entrepreneurs. Groups working for hostile intelligence and an ongoing information war are active on the Internet, making standard preventive measures not enough. Therefore, in the Ministry of Justice, the most advanced cybersecurity systems, supported with AI, were implemented to protect the IT systems.

One of them is a central system monitoring EDR, which operates on over ninety thousand computers. AI examines the standard behavior pattern of *circa* hundred thousand users and in case of anomaly detection reports the behavior as suspicious.

Moreover, recently established Cybersecurity Center, brings together specialists with the knowledge necessary to effectively combat cyber-attacks. The Center conducts 24-hour monitoring, responds in real-time to all incidents, and secures evidence.

We also undertake many activities to popularize cybersecurity among young people. One of many examples is the largest Polish cybersecurity competition in modern "Capture the Flag" format. Almost two thousand people participated in the first edition of the competition. The second included all Visegrad Group countries, drawing attention to the need to protect cyberspace on the international dimension.

### **Cooperation with CEPEJ:**

Finally, I would like to emphasize that as the Ministry of Justice, we highly value our cooperation with CEPEJ, not only in terms of implementing joint projects, exchanging knowledge and experience, but also in terms of regular coordination of data acquisition and transmission for the evaluation of tools under development.

We are open to further cooperation, and I am convinced that the initiatives we undertake will bring jointly established goals.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion at the workshops and a pleasant stay in such a beautiful city as Lublin.