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## PAPERLESS COMMERCIAL COURTS IN CROATIA

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18 months (1 August 2024 - 31 January 2026)

Croatia

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

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### GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The Project supports workflow digitalisation of Croatia's commercial courts to increase their overall efficiency. The Project will help optimise resources, reduce the length of proceedings and reduce backlogs, in line with Council of Europe standards, the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The Project supports Croatian commercial courts to increase use of fully digital workflows for judges and court staff.

The general objective of the Project is to support Croatia in its efforts to implement reforms, which could encourage investment, increase competitiveness, and assist in achieving sustainable economic and social convergence, resilience, and recovery.

The specific objective of the Project is to support Croatia to design, develop and implement reforms.

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### EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

- Report on analysis of the current situation in the legal, business process and IT related framework
- Peer-to-peer exchanges with EU Member States on the methodologies and approaches to fully digital case proceedings including best practices of data collection in digital format for the potential introduction of AI tools
- Recommendation report for further enhancement of the legal, business processes and IT related framework for enabling fully digital commercial courts
- Draft methodology for the full adoption of a digital case flow in Croatian commercial courts
- Capacity building in piloting phase of four selected fully digital commercial courts with the use of e-Communication and replacement of paper-based case files and workflows with existing electronic case and digital processes
- Change management training sessions and coaching for court presidents of commercial courts
- Final project PPT presentation report and fact sheet
- Project description summary
- Final report

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### KEY ACTIVITIES

- Draft the analysis on the current state of play of paper-based, hybrid and fully digitalised workflows in

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commercial courts from a legal, business process and IT related perspective

- Organise peer-to-peer exchanges with EU Member States on the methodologies and approaches to fully digital case proceedings including best practices of data collection in digital format for the potential introduction of AI tools
- Organise study visit(s) with the Council of Europe relevant departments and the European Court of Human Rights
- Draft a report with recommendations on the enhancement of the legal framework and business and IT processes in different judicial proceedings applicable to the commercial courts vis-a-vis digitalising the commercial court's case files and converting them to paperless case files
- Draft a methodology and a roadmap for the full adoption of a digital case flow in Croatian commercial courts
- Organise training sessions for piloted courts focused on the replacement of paper-based case files and workflows with existing electronic case files and digital processes
- Organise training sessions and coaching for commercial court presidents
- Provide a Project description summary and a final report of the Project

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## **PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES**

- Croatian Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation (key Project beneficiary)
- Judges of the High Commercial Court, and the nine commercial courts throughout Croatia (in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Bjelovar, Varaždin, Zadar, Pazin and Dubrovnik), with four pilot courts in Zagreb, Split, Varaždin, Dubrovnik (target groups)
- Judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, clerks, registrars, registry office of the above-mentioned courts, attorneys, as well as stakeholders outside the commercial courts, notably the business community and parties involved in the court hearings, witnesses, court interpreters etc. (other stakeholders)