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COUNCIL OF EUROPE · CEPEJ

Round table — Improving efficiency through the automation of judicial processes

Automate to gain efficiency, equip the judge without dispossessing them

The French experience — Ministry of Justice & Court of Cassation

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THE GUIDING THREAD

Two notions that must not be confused



AUTOMATION

Executes pre-defined rules

- Deterministic logic, validated by humans
- Same input → same output
- Predictable, traceable, auditable
- The system invents nothing



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Learns from data, produces an estimate

- Probabilistic result, based on correlations
- An inherent degree of uncertainty
- Issues: explainability, bias, training data
- Human control over the output

Not on the same level: automation is the most mature and least risky lever · AI is complementary, kept within the ethical framework and under the judge's control.

THE STARTING POINT

Considerable volumes, growing steadily



Administrative courts

377,000

decisions TA / CAA / CE (+6%/yr)

227,000

paid-parking tribunal (+11.2%/yr)

60,000

CNDA – asylum appeals (+6%/yr)



Judicial courts

1,887,171

civil & commercial decisions

4.3 M

new criminal cases registered

614,704

correctional decisions



Prison service & youth justice

68,000

release permits / yr (+3%)

53,741

youth socio-educational reports, 2025 (+5%)



A structural trend: every professional handles a growing number of cases, often complex, within tight deadlines.

QUESTION 1

What have we already tried?

Concrete examples drive the conversation forward — from the Court of Cassation (Judiciary supreme court) and the Ministry of Justice.

Court of Cassation · case routing & pseudonymisation

Ministry · generative assistants

Frugal, in-house AI on high-quality data



Automatic routing of appeal briefs

Pure automation · since 2020

- Before: an officer had to master ~200 subject-matter codes to route each case
- Built in-house in 2 months by a single data scientist
- Trained on 15 years of structured human routing decisions
- Unspectacular but extremely useful — the template for frugal AI

>90%

routing success rate



Pseudonymisation

In production since 2019

- Required to publish decisions as open data
- Automatically masks anything that could re-identify a person
- Natural-language processing, retrained regularly
- A second “reliability” model flags cases needing human review

Mon Assistant Justice (“My Justice Assistant”)



A sovereign generative assistant

- Origin: many staff already used public generative AI — “shadow AI” had reached the judicial world
- Yet judicial data is among the most sensitive the State holds
- The paradox: banning was unrealistic; public platforms were far too risky
- The third way: a sovereign assistant, in a secure environment — a daily intellectual-work tool, not a decision or legal-research tool

10,000+

pilot users today · drafts, summarises,
reformulates, structures ideas

Mon Assistant Pénal (“My Assistant for criminal cases”)



Synthesis of criminal proceedings

- Criminal files sometimes run to thousands of pages
- Identifying facts, actors, procedural acts and evidence is hugely time-consuming
- The tool produces a first structured synthesis of the file
- The real innovation is traceability: the judge can return to the source document at any moment

Traceability

an unsourced summary is not acceptable in court — trust rests on the ability to verify

Mon Assistant Civil (“My Assistant for civil cases”)



Identifying what is really in dispute

- The aim is not to draft a decision — it is deliberately modest
- It helps the judge quickly see convergences and divergences between the parties’ submissions
- What do the parties agree on? what is really contested? which grounds and claims?
- Less time on preparatory tasks — more energy for legal analysis itself

Focus

frees the judge’s time for the legal reasoning that only a human can do

Training: the condition for trustworthy AI



Just fAIr — European project, ENM as lead

Workshops with lawyers and justice professionals across several States · a pool of comparative good practice



Cafés IA-Justice — building a common culture

Informal sessions with expert guests · open exchange on uses, questions and reluctance, before any roll-out



AI training kit — delivered in the courts

For sitting judges, on the issues that matter: sensitive data, digital sovereignty, traceability, mandatory human supervision



Two dimensions, always together: the technical understanding of the tools — and the ethical, deontological stakes of using them.

QUESTION 2 · THE CENTRAL CASE

ARTJP – Automating routine tasks in mass litigation

Automation Of Routine Tasks In Judicial Proceedings

Supported by the European Union (Technical Support Instrument).

Use case: consumer credit litigation

High volume, strict formalism, difficult calculations, paper files.



Mass litigation: high volume, homogeneous situations, standardised procedures. *Exactly the home ground of automation.*

300,000+


unpaid-debt cases per year in France

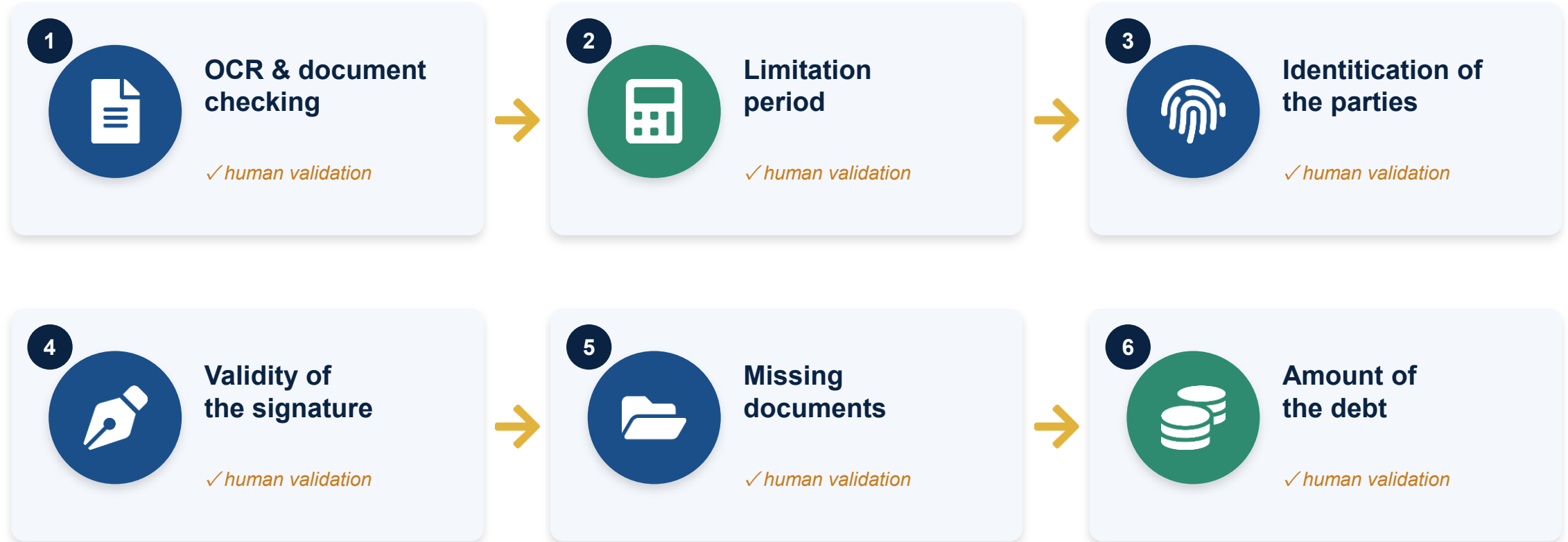
20–25%

of routine tasks targeted for automation by 2030

ARTJP · THE AGENTIC WORKFLOW

A chain of agents, with human validation

-  Analysis by AI (LLM)
-  Deterministic calculation



The decisive point: analysis is handled by AI, but calculation is entrusted to deterministic functions — never probabilistic. That is how hallucination is neutralised.

QUESTION

Does AI open up new possibilities?



Augmented document search

Court of Cassation (Cour de cassation)

- The shift: from struggling to obtain information to struggling to find the relevant information
- Prudent method: start with a single data type
- First use case: appeal briefs — 130,000 since 2010
- Aim: link related cases, detect emerging litigation, spot series

~3 M

decisions soon added via open data — no purely human response is possible



Maximum vigilance

AI surfaces links no explicit rule foresaw — a real opening, but here we touch legal reasoning itself.

Four tensions we are working through



Sovereignty vs performance

- The most powerful models are often built outside Europe
- But judicial data is sovereign data. Can it sit on infrastructure under foreign law?
- France favours sovereign infrastructure and SecNumCloud-compliant solutions
- The trade-off: slower deployment, less access to the most advanced models



Big programmes vs small projects

- Large administrations tend to design ambitious, all-encompassing projects
- Yet the most effective tools are often the most targeted
- A tool solving a real daily problem beats an ambitious but theoretical platform
- Hence the interest in “start-up d’État” approaches, built from field needs

Four tensions we are working through



Speed vs security

- Technology moves fast; professional expectations are high
- But justice cannot move at a private company's pace
- Each tool must be evaluated; each impact on fundamental rights analysed
- Sometimes seen as slowness. It is in fact a democratic requirement



Innovation vs trust

Most important

- An excellent answer with opaque reasoning is a problem in court
- Justice rests on motivation, adversarial debate, accountability
- The human must be able to understand, verify and contradict the output
- The CEPEJ Ethical Charter remains a reference, strikingly current 7 years on

Three deontological instruments framing AI use



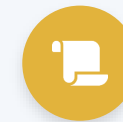
CSM

Judicial Conduct Charter (Dec. 2025) +
general AI provisions



Conseil d'État

Dedicated AI-use charter (Dec. 2025)



Cour de cassation

Own charter — imminent (principles below)

The future Cour de cassation charter — four axes



Human pre-eminence

- Freedom not to use AI
- Preserve autonomous analysis
- Exclude AI from certain fields
- AI only on a subsidiary basis



Human mastery

- Duty of vigilance in use
- Prior personal reflection
- Duty to verify AI “proposals”
- Mandatory training in AI use



Human responsibility

- The user owns the AI's output
- No duty to disclose that AI was used



Rights of others & public interest

- Protection of personal data
- Safeguard of confidential or legally privileged information



A shared backbone, inherited from CEPEJ: human pre-eminence and mastery, accountability for the output, and protection of data and protected secrets.

CONCLUSION · A GRADUATED MESSAGE

The essential question is not:

“How much of justice can be automated?”

The real question is:

“Which part of judicial activity must remain irreducibly human?”

Technology can assist justice, but it cannot replace the judge’s responsibility. The more powerful our tools, the more central this question becomes.



Our countries share the same difficulties. France is ready to share its experience and also wishes to learn from her partners’ experienc. Thank you.