



Members of the National Judiciary in the Digital Era

ERA | Advanced Training in EU Law/Tallinn 2024



Co-funded by the
European Union

Rauno Kiris, 02.10.2024



Digital Era

Phases of the digital era

- Offline era (1960-1990)
- Internet era (1990-2006)
- Mobile era (2007-2019)
- Pandemic era (2019-2022)
- Generative AI era (2022-...)

Fundamental changes in interaction

- Connectivity and digital communication
- Data explosion
- Accessibility of information
- Digitalization of private and public services
- Automation and artificial intelligence (AI)
- Change in behavior and expectations
- Rapid pace of further changes



Judiciary

- Input: cases that rely on disputes arising from daily life
- Goal: uphold the rule of law and deliver **justice** for those accessing the legal system



- Maintaining the outcome when the input changes requires changes in the process.



Input

- **Cases are getting more complex and voluminous**
 - A shift in the types of legal disputes: cybercrime, IP disputes, digital contracts, privacy concerns
 - New forms of evidence
 - „Finding a needle in a haystack“
- International services give rise to **jurisdictional issues** and increase need for **international legal cooperation**
 - Expectation that administration of justice is **24/7 accessible**
 - Legal landscape is always **one step behind**



Process

- **Processes**

- Digitalization, CMS and e-filing platforms
- Automation and machine translation
- Increased usability of existing information
- AI-driven research tools and assistants
- AI judge (?)
- Online Dispute Resolution systems
- Virtual hearings and remote participation
- Data-driven decision making

- **People**

- Adapt
 - Cultural shift
 - Training and development
- Lead and innovate
 - Embrace technology
 - Improve processes
 - Promote transparency and accessibility



Outcome

Efficiency

Routine tasks are automated (e.g., scheduling, prioritization, anonymization, transcription etc.)

Time is spent on substantive legal work

Streamlined communication

Lower administrative costs (minimized printing, postage, archiving)

Data-based decision making

Speed

Reduced errors and delays (e.g., missing documents, evasion of justice)

Faster case resolutions

Better effectiveness

Consistency

Fewer administrative errors

Standardized processes

Reduced inconsistencies in decision-making

Continuity of justice

Accessibility

Judiciary can reach more people

Accessible 24/7

Reduced logistical barriers (e.g., travel, cost, health)

Self-service legal tools and better support for self-representation

Reduced legal fees

Transparency

Digital records and unalterable trail of documentation and Public access to court records

Possibility to monitor statistical judicial performance



Conclusions

- Digital era is a **significant shift** in how society functions
- Plenty of challenges for the judiciary, but even more **opportunities**
- It's our chance to bring administration of justice to a new level

Adapt, lead and innovate



THANK YOU



Drive.