



RECOMMENDATIONS

15th Session of Working Group 3, Judiciary and Fundamental Rights

6 November 2024 (Wednesday), 09:30-13:30 hrs.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND THE QUALITY OF JUDICIAL JUSTICE

1. The Government and relevant institutions should accelerate the process of development and full implementation of the Interoperability Platform between courts and other relevant institutions. This will allow for faster exchange of data, especially in cases where cooperation with institutions such as the Ministry of Interior, the Public Revenue Office (PRO) and the Central Registry is required. The implementation of this platform will shorten the time of court proceedings and improve access to justice. Implementing institutions: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information Society and Administration.
2. A system of internal contact officers with security certificates and privileged access to relevant institutions such as the Ministry of Interior, Central Registry, Cadaster and PRO should be introduced in the courts. These individuals will be able to directly obtain information about court proceedings, rather than submitting formal requests, which will significantly speed up the exchange of data. This model has already been implemented in the Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO) Skopje and should be extended in the courts as a temporary solution until the full implementation of the Interoperability Platform. An update to the ASPL system is needed to provide insight into whether a particular person is in a correctional facility and under what conditions. Implementing institutions: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Judicial Council, courts.
3. Financial support and technical resources for digitization should be a priority for the Government. This includes the development of modern e-court systems that will allow for electronic filing and case management, which will improve the efficient resolution of court disputes. Implementing institutions: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice, Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia, courts.
4. It is necessary to establish mechanisms for public oversight of judicial processes through digital platforms, allowing citizens and NGOs to monitor how court cases are progressing. This will increase transparency and contribute to greater trust in the judiciary. Implementing institutions: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice.
5. Court administration and judges should receive proper training in working with new digital systems and security procedures for data protection. Trained staff is key to the successful implementation of new technologies in the court system. Implementing institutions: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Directorate for Security of Classified Information, non-governmental organizations.
6. It is recommended that North Macedonia consider successful models of digitalization and interoperability by EU Member States. Sharing experiences and knowledge can help in quickly and effectively adapting to new technologies, as well as the legal basis for their implementation. Institution of implementation: Ministry of Justice.





7. With the introduction of new digital platforms, sophisticated security measures need to be put in place to reduce the risk of data misuse and corruption. Systems need to be resilient to cyber-attacks and abuse. Implementing institutions: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Ministry of Interior, Directorate for Security of Classified Information.
8. The process of digitization and reform should have continuous oversight through specific performance indicators, for which it is necessary to revise strategies according to the needs of the judicial system. Implementing institutions: Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice.
9. The efficiency of judicial proceedings and the quality of justice are also influenced by the capacity of the judiciary. The unequal case burden on judges and public prosecutors has an impact on the speed of proceedings and the quality of judgments. This is one of the factors for uniform case law and consistent policy of punishment and judicial protection of citizens' rights. It is necessary to reopen the discussion on the reorganization and optimization of the judicial network and capacities in the judiciary. Implementation institution: Ministry of Justice, Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia.