



NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH  
MACEDONIA

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**ACCESS TO JUSTICE: RAISING THE EFFICIENCY OF COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE  
QUALITY OF COURT JUSTICE**

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The government and relevant institutions should expedite the development and full implementation of a comprehensive interoperability platform to connect courts with other key institutions. This platform will streamline data exchange, especially when information from institutions such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Public Revenue Authority is needed, ultimately reducing delays in judicial procedures and enhancing citizens' access to timely justice. A faster, integrated flow of information will not only improve efficiency in case handling but also contribute to a more transparent and accessible justice system, fostering greater public trust in institutional accountability.

**Implementing institutions:** Government, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information Society and Administration.

2. A streamlined mechanism should be established to ensure quick access to essential data to improve efficiency in court proceedings. This can be achieved by designating internal liaison officers within the courts with security clearances and privileged access to data from key institutions, such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Central Registry, the Cadastre Agency, and others relevant. These liaison officers would be authorized to access necessary information directly, bypassing the current formal request process, which is often slow and inefficient. This model, successfully implemented in the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Skopje, should also be adopted in the courts as an interim measure until the Interoperability Platform is fully operational. Furthermore, upgrading the ASPL system is essential to provide courts with real-time information about whether a person is detained in a penal institution, the causes for their detention, and their expected release date. This improvement would enhance transparency and expedite judicial procedures.

**Implementing institutions:** Government of RSM, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Judicial Council, courts.

3. The Government should prioritize financial support and allocate technical resources for comprehensive digitization in the judiciary. This entails developing advanced "e-court" systems, enabling electronic document submission and case management. Such systems will streamline case handling, expedite dispute resolution, and reduce costs, making the judiciary more accessible and efficient. Enhanced digital infrastructure will also improve transparency, accountability, and public trust in judicial processes.





**Implementing institutions:** Government of North Macedonia, the Ministry of Justice, the Judicial Council, and the courts.

4. To enhance transparency and build greater public confidence in the judiciary, mechanisms for public oversight of court proceedings should be established through digital platforms. These platforms should allow citizens and civil society organizations to track the progress of court cases in real-time. By enabling stakeholders to monitor case status and movement, this system will foster an open judicial process and ensure accountability, reinforcing trust in the justice system.

**Implementing institutions:** Government of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice.

5. The judicial administration and judges should receive adequate training to work with new digital systems and data protection security procedures. Trained personnel are essential for successfully implementing new technologies in the judicial system.

**Implementing institutions:** Ministry of Justice, MIOA, Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Directorate for Security of Classified Information, non-governmental organizations.

6. It is recommended to promote an initiative to organize workshops that analyze successful models for digitalization and interoperability from EU member states. Exchanging experiences in this way would support the development of a model tailored to national legal and technical requirements, facilitating more efficient implementation.

**Implementing institution:** Ministry of Justice.

7. The introduction of digital platforms in the judiciary enables better access to information, faster case resolution, and improved transparency. However, this transition also introduces risks related to data protection and potential misuse. To address these, it's essential to establish robust security protocols from the outset. Advanced data protection measures, including strong identity verification and encryption, are necessary to secure sensitive information and prevent unauthorized access. Additionally, systems must be resilient to cyber threats through regular updates, continuous monitoring, and rapid response to potential risks, ensuring a secure and reliable digital judiciary environment.

**Implementing institutions:** Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate for Security of Classified Information.

8. The digitization process within the judiciary, as outlined by EU e-CODEX<sup>1</sup> guidelines, must be continuously monitored and assessed using defined efficiency indicators. Key parameters to evaluate include case processing speed, transparency, user accessibility, and system reliability. Regular reviews and adaptations of digitization strategies are essential to align with the specific needs of the courts,

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2022/850 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on a computerised system for the cross-border electronic exchange of data in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (e-CODEX system), and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/172





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ensuring that reforms effectively address current challenges and enhance the overall efficiency of the justice system.

**Implementing institutions:** Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Digital Transformation.

9. The judiciary's capacity also influences the efficiency of court proceedings and the quality of justice. The unequal workload of judges and public prosecutors with cases impacts the speed of proceedings and the quality of judgments. It is also one of the factors for uniform judicial practice, a consistent policy of punishment, and judicial protection of citizens' rights. We recommend opening a new discussion about the need for reorganization and optimization of the court network and capacities in the judiciary.

Implementing institutions: Ministry of Justice, Judicial Council of North Macedonia.



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