

IT AND LEADERSHIP IN ESTONIAN COURTS

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- ▶ Estonia's vision is to undergo a digital revolution and to become an e-government (e-state), that provides digital services in all areas
- ▶ E-voting, e-taxes, e-patient etc, based on a compulsory ID-card authentication
- ▶ Laws are published only in the Internet
- ▶ The population is used to digital public services

ESTONIAN E-GOVERNMENT



- ▶ Estonian courts are expected to follow other institutions in providing digital services to citizens
- ▶ Court information system (CIS) as a basis for 100% digital case file
- ▶ Court documents are signed digitally (using ID-card) and uploaded to CIS
- ▶ As of 2016 no paper file, only digital file?
Should provide for hyperlinks between documents and easier search options from the documents of the case file

IT IN ESTONIAN COURTS



- ▶ Documents are delivered to the parties via CIS or by e-mail
- ▶ Lawyers, public officials, companies and other professional actors are obliged to submit and receive documents only digitally
- ▶ Ordinary citizens may submit and receive documents on paper and by regular mail, but most opt voluntarily for digital

COMMUNICATION WITH PARTIES



- ▶ IT systems of courts, police, prosecutors' office, company registries etc are connected via e-file system
- ▶ Data between different systems is exchanged automatically
- ▶ Court judgments are published in the National Gazette after entry into force

INTEGRATED IT SYSTEMS



- ▶ Exact, up-to-date statistics in real time to monitor case load, judges' performance
- ▶ Easy detection of delays in court proceedings
- ▶ Automatic case allocation, taking into account the complexity and volume of cases in order to guarantee equal allocation btw judges
- ▶ CIS is integrated with calendars of the judges and staff and court rooms
- ▶ Recording of court sessions
- ▶ Video-conferencing

IT IN COURT ADMINISTRATION

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- ▶ Development of IT-system is partly central (in the Ministry of Justice) and partly out-sourced
- ▶ Court presidents, judges and court officials take part in the design and development of IT-systems
- ▶ „Hands-on“ approach by court presidents and directors, pilot courts
- ▶ Tip – find „activist“ presidents, judges and court officials
- ▶ Tip – don´t scare the judges with IT, explain a lot
- ▶ Tip – don´t create local, separate IT-systems for each courts. Delegate, leave it to the professionals

LEADERSHIP

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!

