

e-Justice

Making justice digital impacts the whole economy leading to better public services, jobs for people and initiating business growth.



Justice procedures, the cornerstones of an economy, have to be fast. They need to be automated to achieve effective results that the whole country could benefit from. Over the past 20 years, Estonia has put a lot of effort into making justice systems digital. We are one of the most advanced countries in the world for using ICT solutions for the management of courts and communication between courts and other parties.

Estonian digital court-making

Estonia holds the second place in Europe regarding the speed of court proceedings. Our digitized court system consists of three cornerstone components – e-File central information system, KIS court information system, and a public portal for citizens and other parties.

The **e-File is the heart of Estonian judicial system**. It is a central information system that provides data to our court information system KIS2 as well as to the information systems of police, jails, prosecutors and criminal case management. The e-File saves time and money as data is only entered once. All communication between parties is electronic.

The **Estonian court information system KIS2** is a solution for managing all court processes. The solution has been implemented for Estonian courts under the Ministry of Justice, digital proceedings are being held since 2014.

The greatest pain of Estonian courts was making sure that significant documents reached the tied parties. **The public e-File portal** opens a virtual door to the courts.

In the portal, every party can start a case and access or send out documents. The initial claim can be entered

through the public portal 24/7. The workflow engine delivers the necessary data to the portal for the allocated judge.

History of ICT in Estonian Courts

2002 - 1st court information system - KOLA. Publication of court decisions and statistics.

2006 - 1st generation complex court information system KIS. Main functions of the document management system, automated notifications and invitations.

2009 - 1st Public Portal for digital communication between the participants of court proceedings (police, prosecutors, barristers, citizens etc.)

2013-2014 - 2nd generation court information system KIS2

2015 - Launch of paperless proceedings

2017 - Automated fines collection

2022 - Launch of Salme - Estonian courts' speech recognition assistant to simplify transcription of court sessions.

What are the key benefits of digitizing justice?

- **Save cost and time** by automating processes and eliminating unnecessary manual tasks;
- Raise **efficiency and transparency**;
- **Better overview** of cases and proceedings for every party;
- **Automatic generation** of documents;
- **Detailed allocation** of cases.

For more information:

rik.ee/en/international/court-information-system

rik.ee/en/international/public-e-file

helses.com/reference/e-estonia/

cgi-group.co.uk/health/integrated-digital-care-record

Facts and figures

- The average length of Estonian court civil proceedings has fallen from **156 days to 99 days** in just 5 years
- **Over 73,000 e-court cases** sent through the court information system in 2018.
- 2nd fastest court proceedings in Europe
- Ministry of Justice goal is to become **100% digital by 2024** - the court hearings will only include screens, Salme, and the court hearing transcripts, whether the court hearing is in the courtroom or remotely.