



- 160 years from foundation -

Press information

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Supreme Court: from the file with rail to artificial intelligence

The High Court of Cassation and Justice wants to be closer to the citizens and has started an extensive digitalisation process within the institution. The transition of the judicial process to the digital environment was initially achieved in the difficult context of the COVID-19 pandemic, through the implementation of an IT system that allowed the development of the **electronic file** and the **electronic communication of procedural act**.

In the second stage of this ambitious process, which we are initiating with the new digitalisation strategy, we intend to further develop both applications and provide citizens with new facilities that will **make it easier** for them **to interact with the Supreme Court** and **relieve court staff as much as possible from administrative activities**, significantly increasing the time that can be allocated to jurisdictional activities.

By the implementation of the strategy, **parties and their lawyers will be able to enter the documents addressed to the court directly into the electronic file in digital format**, with the **certainty of instant transmission** to the panel of judges. Also, vital or urgent information on procedural steps and documents that can be accessed or become available online will be sent to parties and their representatives by SMS.

The physical file records will be reorganised by assigning QR codes which will facilitate access to the main information (location, chamber, panel of judges etc.) and documents (document type, document number and date, file number etc.) for better management, record keeping and archiving. Also, the strategy aims to create the necessary conditions for the future transition to **electronic archiving of files**.

Transcription of recordings of hearings and even of statements given during trials **will be able to be carried out automatically** by a computer application based on artificial intelligence and Machine Learning. This will convert audio into text with a minimum accuracy of 90% and will be developed with the support of the STS. The court clerks will thus benefit from real support for the rapid drafting of the minutes of the hearings, their accuracy will be ensured and the parties will have rapid access to court records.

The use of artificial intelligence algorithms will also ensure the **anonymization of the Supreme Court's decisions**, so that they can be made available as **soon** as possible, in **integral form** and **free of charge**, through the website of HCCJ. The **case law search engine**, integrated into the website, will be upgraded to facilitate the identification and systematisation of the case law of the High Court by **specific areas or questions of law**, with cross-references to synthetic materials elaborated by the new case law research department or from the content of HCCJ's own publications.



The **hearings** will be conducted through **secure videoconferencing sessions of appropriate quality**. The Criminal Chamber is already in the process of implementing secure equipment to guarantee the secrecy of the deliberations, from the end of the trial until the end of the considerations of the judgment, taking into account the new criminal procedure provisions according to which the judgment in its entirety must be available to the parties at the time of delivery.

HCCJ will be able to ensure a more efficient exchange of legal information with all courts of appeal through a **hub** to which all the other judicial authorities will be interconnected. In urgent cases, it will be easier to transmit files electronically, communications issued by the interconnected courts will reach the receiving court instantly, operations carried out by court staff in the ECRIS computer system will be faster and easier.

On the administrative side, HCCJ is already implementing an **IT document management system** that will reduce the use of paper in the internal document workflow, provide fast and secure administrative workflows and save time and costs on consumables.

For citizens and legal professionals, these technological changes will increasingly ensure free access to justice, without space and time constraints, and at the same time with reduced costs, saved time and rapid solution.

The results will be seen in reduced travel costs to the Supreme Court premises for the parties, their defendants and other persons involved in court proceedings, reduced costs for the summoning and communication of procedural acts by traditional means, **a reduction in the number of procedural incidents caused by the defective fulfilment of summoning/communication procedures**, as well as a **reduction of the time** taken to upload information to the file and, most importantly, a **reduction of the length of the trials**.

Starting with 9 July 2021, a modern and complex concept, entirely digital, has already become operational at the High Court, which will improve communication and access to institutional documents or documents of public interest both by judges and internal staff and by parties to proceedings or citizens. Specifically, the Supreme Court now has a **new visual identity** and a **new website** (<https://www.iccj.ro/>) with a **platform of digital services** such as the display of the calendar of court hearings or access to the electronic archive of cases, court hearings and judgments. The new website provides better **systematisation** and **diversification of information offered to the public**, is **optimised for both desktop and mobile browsers**, includes **accessibility facilities for persons with disabilities**, contains **social networking integration** functionalities and **live streaming facilities** for various events of public interest. Also, the new website aims to **develop the High Court's relationship with the media and the citizen**, **dedicated sections** being created to increase the transparency of the Supreme Court's activity.

We also aim to **ensure the dynamic and evolving nature of the content published on the website and to orient it towards the interests and concerns of the citizens that the High Court serves**. The integration of Google Analytics algorithms will allow us to know which areas generate the highest level of interest and to prioritise the development of content towards them.



A particularly important component of the necessary IT equipment and systems has been included, with the support of the Romanian Government, in the project form of the PNRR, and for most of the necessary IT applications it is planned to develop/customize in partnership, with significant cost reduction, with other courts (the contribution of the Arad Tribunal and the Galati Court of Appeal remains essential, since the implementation of the electronic file) or public institutions.

The strategy takes into account the current state of legislation, but also takes into account existing global trends in the digitalisation of public services, creating the conditions for the swift implementation of any possible legislative changes to further encourage the development of digital justice.

The entire digitalisation process follows the GDPR Regulation on the protection of personal data through the implementation of cryptographic mechanisms and the cybersecurity of IT systems is ensured technically and procedurally by STS.

The success of the digitalisation process will be due to inter-institutional collaboration, but also to feedback from magistrates with international experience, judges, lawyers, prosecutors, journalists, court clerks, IT specialists and, most importantly, citizens who use the public service of justice.

„We wanted to make the activity of the High Court of Cassation and Justice more efficient, so that it requires fewer resources, less time, fewer printed documents, but above all to support the judges and court staff and, equally, the citizens who address us. The solution identified is one word: digitalisation, but achieving it requires complex actions. This is a great commitment we have made, but I believe that digitalisation is essential in the citizen-state-justice relationship. We already made huge progress and we have managed to turn volumes of documents into electronic files that are available to both judges and people involved in the act of justice carried out within the High Court of Cassation and Justice. This is just the beginning of a major project that paves the way for the most successful concept of digital transformation of justice. Until now, document management was cumbersome, difficult to access and largely involved the employee. Now we implement step-by-step automated processes, information one click away, security and transparency. With the overload we face year after year, digitalisation is a vital issue for the High Court, both from the perspective of the staff of the Supreme Court and especially for the rapid and visible increase in the quality of the public service offered to the citizen”, **Corina-Alina CORBU, President of the High Court of Cassation and Justice (HCCJ).**

THE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE