Court Information System

The Court Information System (KIS) is a modern information management system for Estonian courts of the 1st and 2nd instance and Supreme Court offering one information system for all types of court cases. KIS enables the registration of court cases, hearings and judgments, automatic allocation of cases to judges, creation of summons, publication of judgments on the official website and collection of metadata. The information system also has a search engine for court documents, judgements, hearings and cases. Confidential data and cases can only be seen by the judge of the case and court staff bound up with the case.

If claims are sent using the Public E-File, all the necessary documents are automatically uploaded to KIS and the clerk can start a new case with a click of a few buttons.

If criminal cases are sent to the court from the prosecutor's office, all the necessary documents are also automatically uploaded to KIS and a case is again started with a click of a few buttons.

The latest generation KIS includes new classifiers based on courts' needs, for example types of cases (e.g. litigious and non-litigious), categories of cases (e.g. bankruptcy) and subcategories (e.g. initiation of bankruptcy proceedings against legal persons). As a tool for judges, the second generation KIS represents a valuable evolution, with searches based on phases of proceedings (e.g. acceptance of a civil action, assignment of a case, pending response of the defendant), issuing of reminders, and monitoring of the length of time spent on each phase.

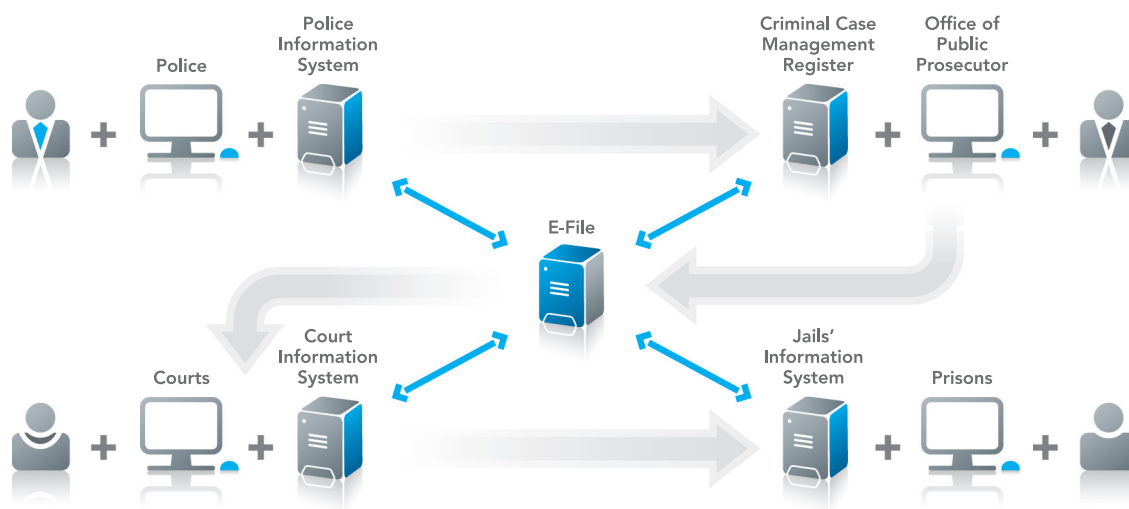## Why is it useful?

The Court Information System:

- ✔ Makes court proceedings faster
- ✔ Enables more complex allocation of cases
- ✔ Allows judges to manage their workload and to specialise
- ✔ Enables transfer of data into templates
- ✔ Reduced time spent on publication of judgments and court hearings
- ✔ Enables the automatic generation of documents: standard court orders, summonses etc.
- ✔ Provides a better overview of cases and proceedings
- ✔ Represents a single information system for the entire judiciary
- ✔ Automatic processing of incoming and outgoing e-mails

How does it work?

When a court uploads a document to KIS, it is then sent via the X-Road, the secure electronic layer for data exchange, to the e-File, a central database and case management system. The uploaded document is then automatically visible to the relevant addressees via the Public e-File, the web-based information system created for the public to exchange information with the courts. The addressee receives a notification to the e-mail. After the addressee accesses the Public e-File with his/hers ID-card and opens the document, the document is considered as legally received. KIS then receives a notification that the document has been viewed by the addressee or her/his representative. If the document is not received in the Public e-File during the concrete time-period – court uses other methods of service.

KIS was created using C# and .NET 4.0 framework together with ASP.NET MVC technologies. The system runs on a MSSQL 2008 database and is interfaced with other systems such as the E-File via the secure X-Road data exchange layer. Authentication and signatures are enabled by PKI solutions like mobile ID and ID cards. KIS also exchanges information with Microsoft Exchange to send and receive e-mails sent to the court to allow automatic processing of e-mails. Document templates are generated using the Microsoft Word 12.0 Object Library.

e-File and Court Information System

"Being a part of the matrix of information systems, KIS plays a vital role in the courts' every day work not only making it easy to keep track of all the ongoing cases but also connecting the courts with other institutions electronically and seamlessly",

Evar Sõmer, Head of Department for Law Enforcement Information Systems, Centre of Registers and Information Systems

More Information:
Centre of Registers and Information Systems (RIK)
Lõkke 4, 19081 Tallinn, Estonia
phone: +372 663 6300,
e-mail: rik@just.ee
www.rik.ee