Computerisation makes courts run more smoothly

Effective rule of law depends on all the components of the system of justice working smoothly – including efficient case management within the prosecution and penal systems. That is why the EU has helped Serbia to set up and use new dedicated hardware and software.

FILLING A GAP

A EUR 4.3 million grant has permitted procurement and installation of IT equipment for the Prosecutors' Office and the Prison Administration, under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice. This has filled a gap, since these services were both in need of integrated applications. The project has made it possible to design, develop, configure and implement a software solution for both the Prosecutors' Office and the Prison Administration, as well as for the publication of statistical data from both of them through a web site. The software speeds up and systemises the business processes of the two services. It has also created a pilot which allows for a direct link to the court system.

The project benefited not only the staff of the Ministry of Justice, of the Prosecutors Offices and of the Prison Administration. It also benefited the public, through the publication of statistical data, and through more efficient and transparent processes. It helped shorten the length of proceedings in cases and contributed to the reduction of the backlog of cases at court. It has also increased the institutional capacity to monitor the system and to evaluate how well it is working. The unified system of data collection allows measurement of the efficiency of prosecutors and a more efficient management for the prison administration.

BUILDING ON TECHNOLOGY WITH POLITICAL WILL

Parallel EU projects have provided assistance for other components of the judicial and penal system, ranging from support to court administrations to the supply of electronic monitoring equipment for offenders, and the reconstruction of a security fence at the prison of Niš. Success in the project depended not only on the provision of infrastructure (in terms of hardware, software and telephone lines), and on ancillary services such as a help desk, but above all on strong political support. The Ministry of Justice is now committing its own resources to the successful realisation of this project by securing enough adequately qualified

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Serbia

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN RULE OF LAW.

IT staff and administrators necessary for smooth functioning and proper maintenance of the system. The Ministry of Justice has undertaken the project to ensure that everyone involved in the project is in favour of changes that will improve everyday management within the prosecution offices and speed up the resolution of cases.

"Projects help increase the efficiency of public administration and contribute to simplifying procedures and reducing administrative costs, in line with the strategic priorities of public administration reform in Serbia", said State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration Gordana Stamenić in November 2013, shortly before this project reached completion.

PROJECT DETAILS –
Improvement of efficiency and transparency of judiciary system

Partners:
Uni Systems Information Technology S.A., Greece
ComTrade IT Solutions and Services d.o.o., Serbia
ComTrade programske reštive d.o.o., Slovenia
Assecco SEE d.o.o., Serbia

Total cost in €:
€4.3 million

EU Contribution in €:
100%

Start date:
May 2012

End date:
February 2014

Results:
24/7 accessible integrated and standardised software application
for pilot prosecutors' offices and prison administration;
Servers, storage and archiving systems, computers
and laptops procured, installed and tested

Techniques:
Provision of equipment, training

Project website:
www.rjt.gov.rs

GROWING TOGETHER