

## SUMMARY OF THE INITIATIVE

### a. A description of the scheme

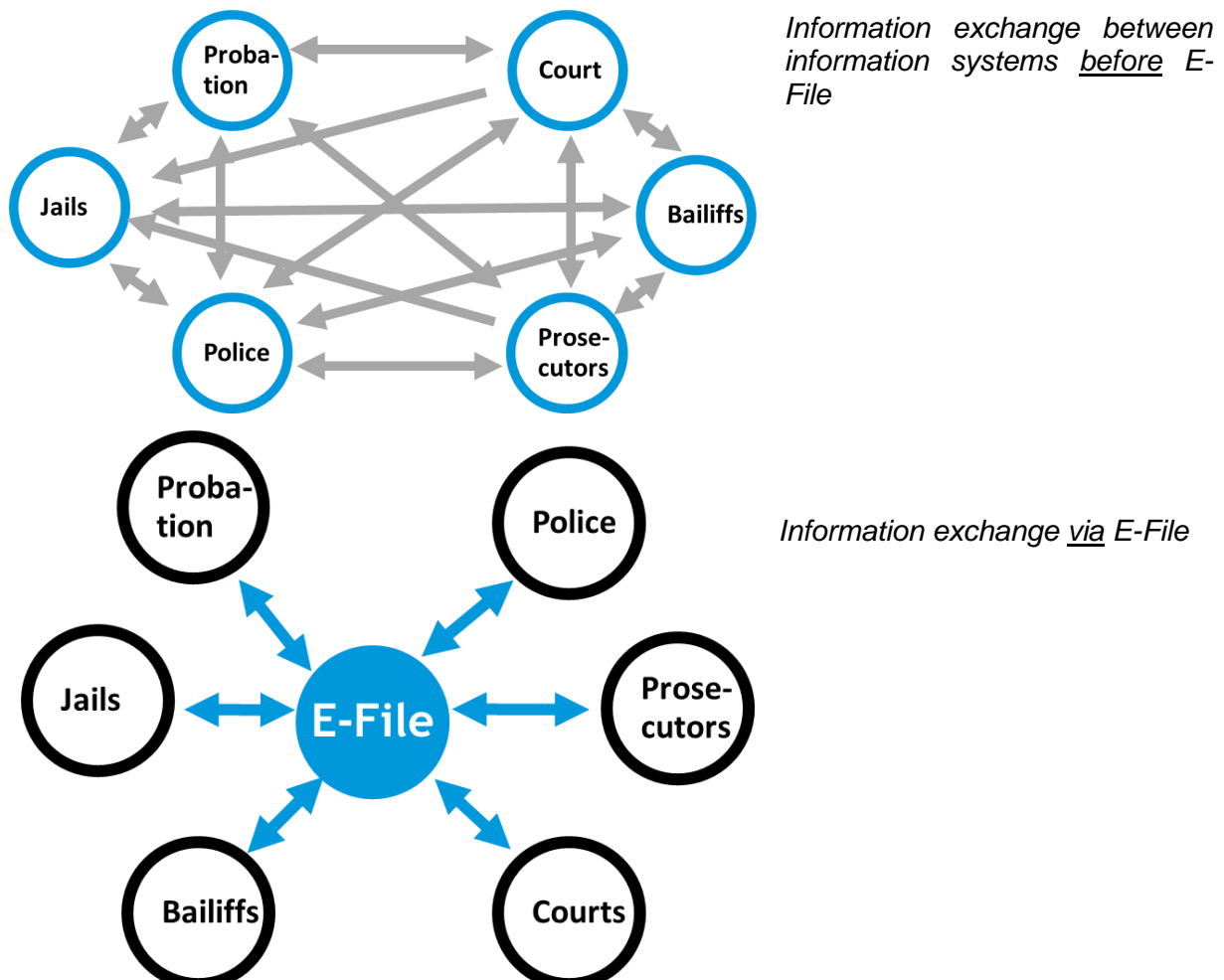
Central Database for Justice, E-File, is a backbone of all the information systems in justice sector and guarantees fast and safe electronic information exchange between all the authorities in the justice chain.

Police, prosecution offices, courts, prisons, probation supervision, bailiffs, legal aid system, tax and customs board, state share service centre – all these institutions use the same central information system as their own information systems are connected to E-File. The E-File can be seen, “touched” and used only through these information systems, like court information system, police information system, prosecutor’s information system etc. The citizens and their legal representatives can access to the E-File by Public Portal of E-File.

Technically, the E-File is a central storage of electronic documents and metadata that is inserted by the users of the information systems of different authorities in justice system. The storage of metadata related to all electronic documents, procedural operations and communication between information systems is the key of the simple electronic information exchange. The information exchange between these information systems and the E-File is based on X-Road, secure data exchange infrastructure established and supported by the state. The use of X-Road ensures complete security of the exchange of data and guarantees that the information is inviolate from the moment of inserting it until the moment when it is stored in E-File.

Standardised business rules of E-File firstly, store the data inserted by the users of the information systems of various authorities in a systematic way, and secondly, make the data available to the other users who have the legal right to see and use this information.

The information exchange between different authorities via E-File is demonstrated by following scheme:



b. A description of the effects of the scheme

The E-File has enabled:

- to insert the same information by authorities only once;
- to use the up-to-date and authentic data by all the authorities;
- to exchange the information between institutions in paper free, fast and secure way;
- to work through and clarify the process of all activities performed by authorities;
- to maintain the familiar working environment for all the users of the information systems of the authorities;
- to leave the track of every use of the data in E-File and to identify the misuse of data;
- to get reliable and consolidated statistics from the same source that cover all the institutions in the justice chain.

The use of E-File has resulted in:

- increase of transparency of the justice system as the activities of the authorities in justice system can be monitored and measured;
- optimising the work process in public authorities, especially in police and courts;
- improvement of collaboration between different authorities;
- increase equality of the parties to the proceeding as the access to the information is guaranteed to everyone in the same way;
- saving time for citizens as the information exchange with the authorities is electronic and fast;
- contribution of reducing court proceeding times, especially in criminal cases, as the same information is inserted only once and the information inserted becomes immediately available to all parties or authorities entitled to it.

The decrease of court proceeding times that are influenced the most by the use of E-File, can be illustrated by following statistics:

	average proceeding time in first instance courts in 2009	average proceeding time in first instance courts in 2013	change
criminal cases	451 days	262 days	- 42%
misdemeanour	75 days	62 days	-17%
civil cases	206 days	168 days	-18%

c. Any possible future additions which might improve the results of the scheme

Digital Court File is a future development of E-File that has already been initiated. It is part of the fully paper-free court proceeding project started in the end of 2013. While the Court Information System is a system for inserting data, collecting information and conducting the proceedings, Digital Court File will be an everyday tool for judges and court staff that will replace entirely the court file on paper. The Digital Court File will be a user-friendly and visually enjoyable application connected to E-File that enables to work with the court file based data that is saved in E-File, including both documents and metadata. Digital Court File will be usable with desktop computers, portable mobile devices and devices in the court room.

d. Any documents, press articles, evidence from members of the public etc. relating to the scheme (*with a brief summary in English or French*)

Integration and E-Services in Estonia's Police Information System:

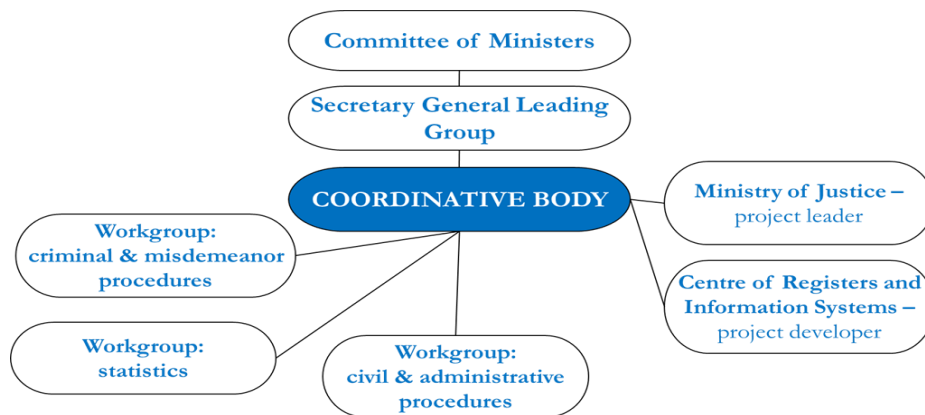
<http://www.ebaltics.com/00804621>

**1. Does the scheme have the support of the competent public authorities in your country? If so, please give details.**

The E-File system originates from a strategic analyses, prepared by Price Waterhouse Coopers in 2005. The analysis stated that the most purposeful approach would be a combined digital file making data accessible for various authorities.

The start of the E-File project was decided by the Government of the Republic in 2005. The main goal was to merge the information systems of institutions conducting proceedings of court cases, extra-judicial proceedings and pre-trial proceedings into a combined electronic procedural system.

Four ministries were involved in the project: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication. The Ministry of Justice had the leading role but the Committee of Ministers comprising of four ministries made the most important decisions regarding the E-File project. Under the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary Generals of the ministries involved led the development of the project. The Coordinative Body composed of representatives of every institution, whose information system was connected to E-File, managed the activities of various working groups. The Coordinative Body convenes regularly until now in order to resolve upcoming problems and develop the E-File when the legislative initiatives require it.



**2. Do you believe the scheme to be usable in other courts in European states? Give your reasons.**

The conception of E-File is easily usable in other countries. It is not important how many information systems of different authorities are connected to E-File or which kind of information systems they are.

The importance of the E-File lies in the fact that the same data is inserted only once by different authorities in justice systems, the data is collected and stored in one place, the same data can be used by all authorities whose information systems are connected to E-File and the information exchange is fast, secure and paper free. It forces to think through the work process of authorities and the collaboration between different authorities and as a result makes the work process more efficient.

The standardised business rules that have been accepted by all the stakeholders from one hand and the secure data exchange infrastructure (X-Road) that is guaranteed by the state on the second hand are the prerequisites for the successful and state-wide implementation of E-File.