

Concept for a Branch Automation Program for General Jurisdiction Courts and Other Judicial Bodies

Introduction

With the aim of creating appropriate conditions to provide citizens and society with relevant, reliable and complete information concerning court operations through the wide use of information technologies the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine (hereinafter – SJA) is taking measures to implement the state policy with regard to automation. This is done as well in order to ensure openness of, and provide logistics support to, the operations of general jurisdiction courts and other judicial bodies, one of the priority tasks of the SJA. These measures are pursuant of the Laws of Ukraine on the Judiciary and Status of Judges, on Access to Court Decisions, on the National Automation Program, the Regulation on the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine approved by the Decision of the Council of Judges of Ukraine of December 25, 2009 No 106 and the Regulation on the Automated Case Management System approved by the Decision of the Council of Judges of Ukraine of November 26, 2010 No 30.

The implementation of the Concept for a Branch Automation Program for General Jurisdiction Courts and Other Judicial Bodies (hereinafter – the Program) will allow addressing the above identified strategic issues, which will facilitate to increase the level of automation within the courts, the SJA, and other judicial bodies and institutions, and establish favorable conditions for the operations of the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine. This will also help to meet the ever increasing and specific demands of citizens for exposition to information about the operations of courts and judicial bodies.

The Status and Major Challenges of Court Automation

Since its inception, the powers of the SJA have included taking measures to ensure adequate conditions and material and technical resources to trial and appellate courts of general jurisdiction (Annex 1), 27 territorial branches of the SJA in Oblasts, cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol, and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Annex 2), and other judicial bodies. The mentioned courts make up the organizational structure for which automation is intended.

Statistics say, however, that the overwhelming majority of courts are still housed in facilities where it is impossible to create adequate conditions for the administration of justice due to lack of space.

Courts do not have enough courtrooms, deliberation rooms, rooms for law enforcement escorts and defendants, bailiffs, prosecutors, lawyers, and witnesses, i.e. there are no facilities envisaged by procedural legislation, therefore, it is impossible to adjudicate cases appropriately.

As of January 1, 2013, only 15% of 763 SJA-supported trial and appellate courts are housed in facilities that meet the requirements for the administration of justice. The rest of the courthouses (about 85%) require reconstruction, completion of construction or new construction.

The situation with regard to hardware and office equipment that are available in trial and appellate courts is no better. Taking into account that courts have procured most of their equipment during different time periods, and a large part of the equipment is already outdated, hardware and peripheral equipment will require replacement or thorough repair due to the exceeding of the standard load limits. Thus, as of January 1, 2013, the total need for hardware is 14,500 units, and 12,000 units of office equipment.

To ensure that courts are equipped at a level that ensures the operations of the Integrated Court Information System, the SJA has taken measures to build local area networks within courts.

Under the European Union/Council of Europe Joint Program, “Transparency and efficiency of the judicial system”, activities intending to create a corporate network were performed, namely: building certified local area networks (LANs) in 403 courts.

About 2,717 units were procured to provide courts with hardware and office equipment in 2012. As of early 2013, the overall need for this equipment was about 43%.

The SJA ensures the maintenance of the Unified Registry of Court Decisions in pursuant of the Law of Ukraine on Access to Court Decisions. Under its existence – six and a half years – about 27,137,706 court decisions have been added there.

Amendments to the Procedure of Maintaining the Unified Registry of Court Decisions approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of May 25, 2006 No 740 authorized sending copies of court decisions to the Registry in electronic form only, using an electronic signature key. This change in procedure made the cost of processing and adding copies of court decisions three times less, from 11 hryvnias 25 kopecks to 4 hryvnias 15 kopecks.

A Unified Database of Electronic Addresses and Fax (Telefax) Numbers of Government Entities (hereinafter – the Unified Database) was launched in 2011. The SJA shall be the holder of the Unified Database and ensure its maintenance, according to the Regulation on the Unified Database approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of January 5, 2011 No 5. Efficient operations of the Unified Database will facilitate state budget savings by limiting costs spent on postal services.

Pursuant to Article 336 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, the SJA has begun to introduce video conference systems in order to interrogate defendants in specially equipped rooms located at pre-trial detention centers. As of January 1, 2013, video conference systems were installed in 27 general appellate courts and 22 general trial courts. In the near future, video conference systems will be installed in another 128

general trial courts. In general, there is a plan to install video conference systems in all 764 trial and appellate courts.

Major aim

By improving the courts' information and telecommunications systems, the Program will: improve the level of judicial protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens and legal entities; enhance the accessibility and increase the level of public trust in judicial bodies; improve the public perception of courts, their role and social importance; form a positive image of the judiciary in general; and raise public awareness of legal issues, public pro-activeness in protecting their rights, freedoms and legitimate interests in court.

Program objectives and components

The main objectives of the Program are:

reducing case disposition time and increasing access to justice through the comprehensive use of innovative information technology (video conference, internet technology, electronic case management technology, and electronic data processing and storage);

complete shift to electronic case management in courts, increasing the efficiency of court case management and judicial statistics data;

increasing the timeliness and accuracy of court decisions;

increasing the efficiency of cooperation between courts and state bodies and institutions with regards to information;

ensuring comprehensive information security and information protection in the Integrated Court Information System;

modernizing and developing the information and telecommunications infrastructure of courts;

increasing the level of qualifications of judges and court staff through the use of up-to-date information technology, distance learning.

Structure of the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine

By achieving the above mentioned objectives and implementing the Program components, a functional structure of the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine (Fig. 1) can be modernized.

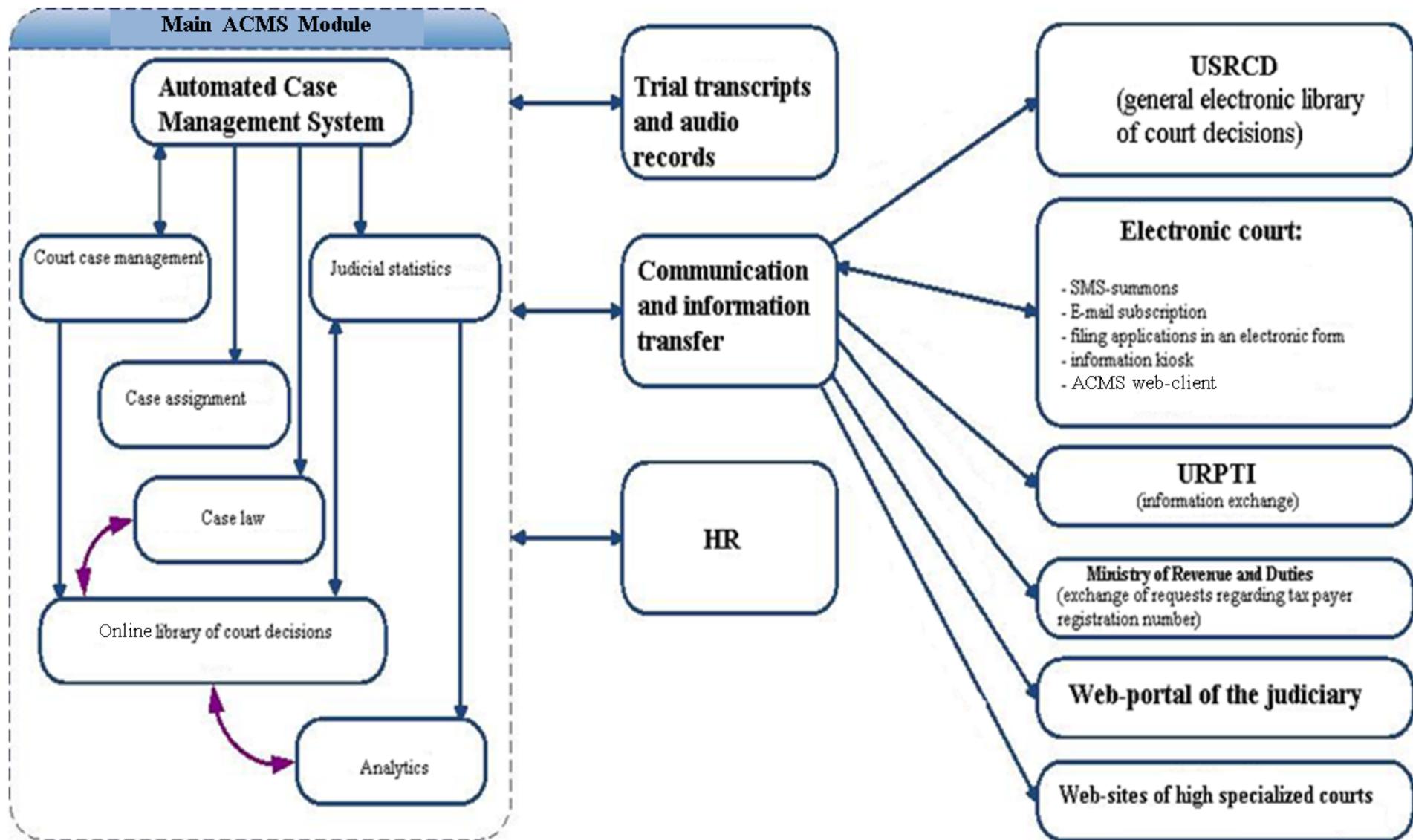


Figure 1. Functional structure of the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine (conceptual flow chart)

Communications and information transfer

In order to create an information space for the judiciary, it is necessary to connect information and telecommunications systems of courts to high-speed data transmission channels.

In addition connecting courthouses to high-speed data transmission channels will allow, among the other things, transmitting video signal to broadcast trials and conduct video conferences between courts and other institutions and organizations.

The result of the Program implementation will be an up-to-date telecommunications environment intended to ensure accurate, reliable and prompt transmission of data between the information and telecommunications systems of courts, as well as an exchange of different types of information (digital, voice, facsimile, and video) between recipients.

System administration

The system shall be installed at the Administrator of the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine, and some of its blocks at territorial branches of the SJA and courts. It is designed to support the operations of the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine.

Court case management

Maintenance and improvement of the automated electronic case management system introduced in all Ukrainian courts of general jurisdiction will, on the one hand, ensure the transparency of court operations, increase performance, reduce caseload on judges and court staff, make public access to information easier, and substantially reduce the expenses related to paper case management; and on the other hand, it will provide a possibility for centralized storage of all procedural documents in electronic form. Only an introduction of an integrated automated system of electronic case management in all Ukrainian courts will be a guarantee of successful implementation of an E-Court project.

Case assignment

Using a subsystem of automated case assignment within the automated case management system allows not only avoiding corruption during case assignment, but also overseeing the work of judges and making it more transparent.

It is necessary to improve the mechanism of calculating case weights to increase the efficiency of automated case assignment. Rules of case assignment should be posted on the webpage of the court for access of litigants and other court users.

Application of the rules of automated case assignment in general jurisdiction courts will facilitate the transparency of court operations, help to ensure judicial independence, and reduce corruption in the justice sector, and is one of the factors increasing the level of public trust in the judiciary.

Judicial statistics

Judicial statistics are aimed at evaluating the quality of justice through collecting statistical indicators. The posting on the Internet of statistical data related to cases that are pending and adjudicated in each court is another step towards the transparency of judicial caseload (number of pending cases).

Case law

Introduction of a case law subsystem and filling it with full and up-to-date information will allow everyone who is interested in case law to obtain generalized information about all court decisions and as well as new court decisions, especially in those fields of law which are developing.

The development of this subsystem will facilitate the uniformity of case law (generalization of case law and adjudication in compliance with the uniform approaches to law application), allow legislators to analyze law application practice, make research in the field of law easier and provide a possibility to obtain information for statistical purposes.

Court online library

The creation of an online library for a court will ensure continuous access to legislative and regulatory frameworks, case law, legal materials and periodicals for judges and court staff.

It will be possible to access the online library of a court not only from computer, but also from smart phones and personal e-books.

HR

The subsystem shall be installed at the HR departments of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, High Qualifications Commission of Judges of Ukraine, councils of judges and courts. It is designed for keeping records of judicial staff and HR-related work concerning other categories of employees.

Analytics

This subsystem will allow automating the information processing to develop statistical reports based on any criteria for any time period. It will also help to develop information and analytical reports on physical facilities, HR, and other issues, as well as generalize performance evaluation of courts, judges, and other judicial bodies in order to identify problem areas in court operations and support policy decisions.

Material and technical support

This subsystem is designed to keep records and organize the management of the real estate of courts and the SJA, physical facilities, intellectual and other resources that require record-keeping, and the organization of maintenance and supplies.

Legislative and regulatory framework

This subsystem is designed to provide prompt and user-friendly access for judges and court staff to legislation and other regulatory and legal acts in electronic form.

Trial transcripts and audio records

The maintenance and improvement of a Trial Transcripts and Audio Records subsystem (Fig. 2) will ensure better audio recordings of trials, better access to trial audio records and making transcriptions if needed. The subsystem will involve the procurement of new (30% more of the currently available trial record systems) and the modernization of outdated audio recording systems to ensure trouble-free trial recording and allow court users to listen to trial audio records in specially equipped court facilities.

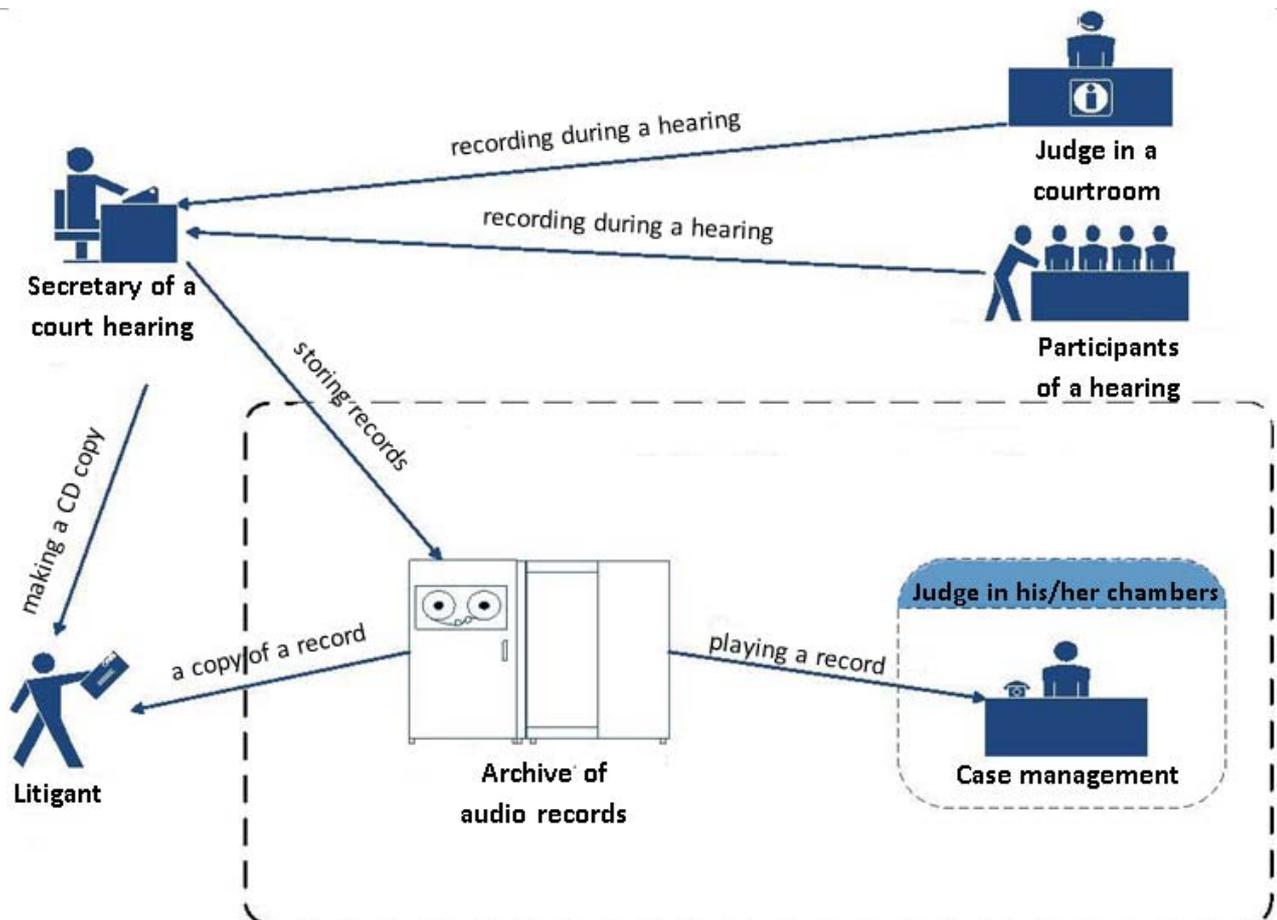


Figure 2. Trial transcription and audio recording (conceptual flow chart)

Video conferencing

The use of video conference systems in courts and other bodies and institutions during trials (Fig. 3) will allow:

- the reduction of case disposition time;

- the implementing of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine concerning the compliance with timelines for consideration of cassational appeals of the convicted;
- the holding of court hearings with the remote participation of the convicted and witnesses;
- the ensuring of security and the reduction of the risk of violating the rules of transportation of the convicted to court;
- the saving of budget funds spent on the transportation and detention of the convicted;
- time saving and the avoidance of court expenses related to the transportation of litigants, their accommodation and other additional expenses related to staying outside their place of residence.

Components of the general structure of video conference system:

1. Switching center for video conference system.
2. Video conference systems for courtrooms.
3. Mobile video conference systems.
4. Network infrastructure.

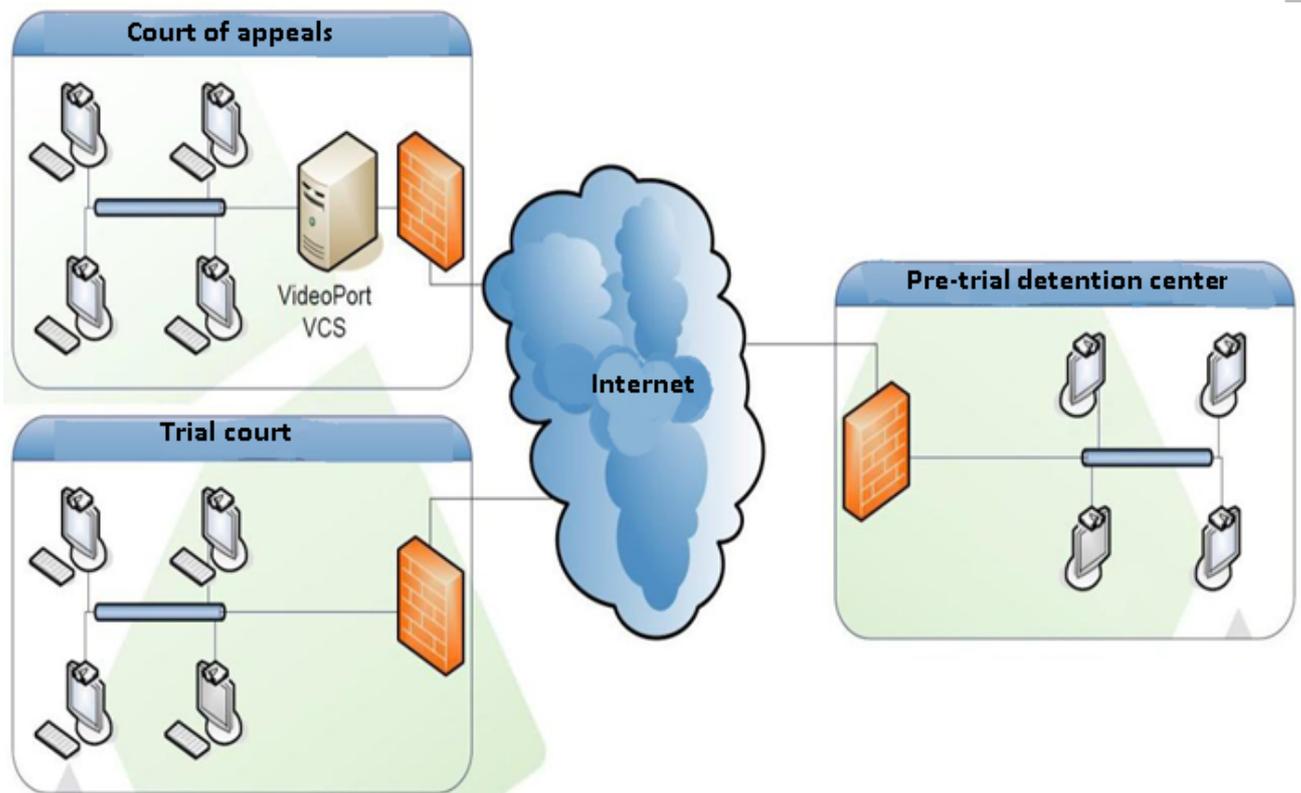


Figure 3. Using video conference systems (conceptual flow chart).

Unified State Registry of Court Decisions

It is necessary for the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions to determine the procedure for access to court decisions in order to ensure the transparency of the operations of general jurisdiction courts, the predictability of court decisions and uniform law application.

The improvement of the software of the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions is aimed, first of all, at updating its content in a complete and timely manner, and ensuring prompt processing of information requests and information storage.

Optimization of a search engine for the Registry by using a more up-to-date and efficient means of full-text search and more powerful hardware will allow for increasing the efficiency of its operations.

Effective interoperation with the Unified State Registry of Persons who Committed Corruption Offences and the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions has been established. The sending electronic copies of court decisions regarding persons who have been convicted of criminal offences to the Prosecutor General' Office has also been established. There is a plan to establish cooperation with the Ministry of Revenue and Duties of Ukraine, Central Election Commission and State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine.

Unified Database of Electronic Addresses and Fax (Telefax) Numbers of Government Entities

The Unified Database is designed to collect and store information about electronic addresses and fax (telefax) numbers of government entities, which are used by courts to send subpoenas to government entities according to Article 38 of the Code of Administrative Proceedings of Ukraine.

In order to increase the efficiency of the use of the Unified Database during administrative proceedings, the SJA has developed a new Regulation on the Unified Database which determines another procedure for forming, maintaining, and accessing the Unified Database. This includes registering a government entity in the Unified Database using information obtained from the Unified State Registry of Legal and Natural Entities-Entrepreneurs and providing a government entity with an e-mail account created at the e-mail server of the SJA.

The proposed mechanism for collecting and accumulating information about government entities will not only help to update the database with full information in a timely manner, but will also allow due delivery of electronic subpoenas to government entities after their e-mail accounts are created at the e-mail server of the SJA. A government entity shall be provided with an e-mail account free of charge.

The new mechanism for creating and using electronic accounts can in addition be used to exchange procedural documents between courts and government entities, other organizations, institutions, enterprises and natural entities at any stage of trials of civil,

criminal, commercial, administrative cases and cases concerning administrative misdemeanors.

This will result in substantial budget savings due to the removal costs for postal services.

E-court

The E-Court subsystem is required, firstly, to ensure that subpoenas and notifications of case adjudication are received in a timely manner, and secondly, to save money spent on postal services.

Only with the introduction of this subsystem can the continuity of court proceedings be ensured. This is done by the use of up-to-date information technology. The introduction of this subsystem will also implement the full cycle of electronic case management within the judiciary (from drafting to signing and sending documents to litigants, other courts and state bodies and institutions). In particular, this will allow for: initiating proceedings by electronic means, the performance of further procedural actions through an electronic case management system, obtaining information about the progress of case by getting access to the court information system, and obtaining information about the outcome of proceedings in electronic form.

This subsystem includes the following components:

1. ensuring full automation of court case management, forming a unified electronic archive of court documents;
2. ensuring open access of litigants to information by creating relevant online services and installing information kiosks in courthouses;
3. introducing a system of electronic deliverance of procedural documents using an electronic signature key; and
4. integrating the electronic information exchange system with databases of other state bodies and institutions.

Web-portal and social network “Femida”

The web-portal of the Ukrainian judiciary ensures free access for citizens and state bodies and institutions to the information about court operations.

Further improvement and development of the web-portal of the judiciary will allow not only for better informing the public about the location and jurisdiction of courts, the procedures for applying to the courts or the protection of their interests in court, but will also allow people with impaired vision to get familiarized with information materials and templates of procedural documents, allow finding information about the progress of cases, getting access to the schedule of hearings, sending a request for public information and receiving other online services.

After the introduction of the E-Court in Ukraine, the web-portal of the Ukrainian judiciary will become one of its major components.

In addition, the web-portal of the Ukrainian judiciary will ensure more efficient access to justice for indigent people.

Social network “Femida” is an online resource for communication with judges and court staff. Further development and improvement of the network will allow every user to discuss the issues related to court operations online. Figure 4 shows more detailed information about the web-portal of the Ukrainian judiciary.

Conceptual Model of the Architecture of the Web-Portal of the Ukrainian Judiciary

Model of System Architecture

Software level
Data level
Hardware (physical) level

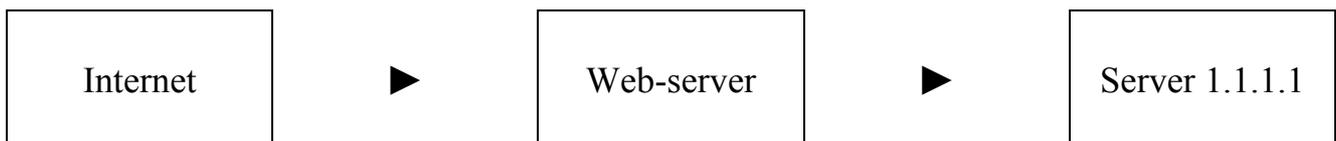
Hardware (physical) level. This level is basic, i.e. it reflects the interaction between physical objects (computers, physical servers and, possibly, other additional devices). The components of the system architecture at this level are physical devices. The chart of the hardware level shows physical location of hardware that is directly or indirectly involved in the process.



Firewall is a means of protecting servers and networks working online from unauthorized access.

Data level. This is a logical access to data from different physical structures. The components of system architecture at this level are data packages.

Software level. This level reflects the structure of software interaction when run (i.e. interaction between software processes). Here, the components of system architecture are applications ran at servers and client’s computers.



Overall architecture. The overall architecture of web-content systems can be reflected as follows:

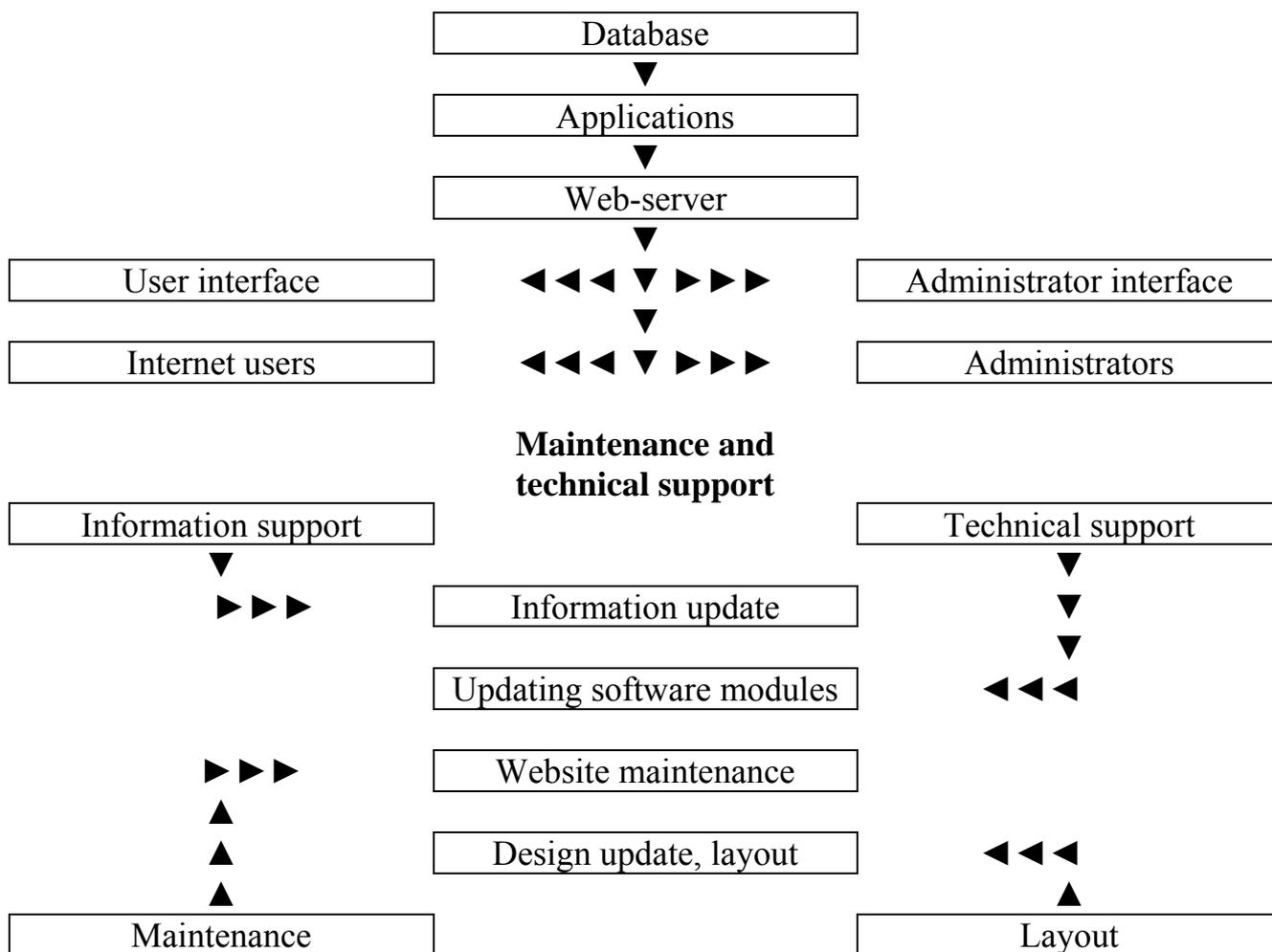


Figure 4. Conceptual Model of the Architecture of the Web-Portal of the Ukrainian Judiciary

The web-portal of the Ukrainian judiciary provides free access for citizens and state bodies and institutions to information about court operations.

Information kiosk

One of the indicators of a level of accessibility to a court is the availability of information kiosks in the courthouse. Their usage will not only reduce the load on court intake offices, but will also give court users a possibility to work with case files in quiet settings.

With the help of information kiosks (Fig. 5), court users can obtain information about the progress of a case, schedule of hearings, access texts of court decisions, and find information about court operations.

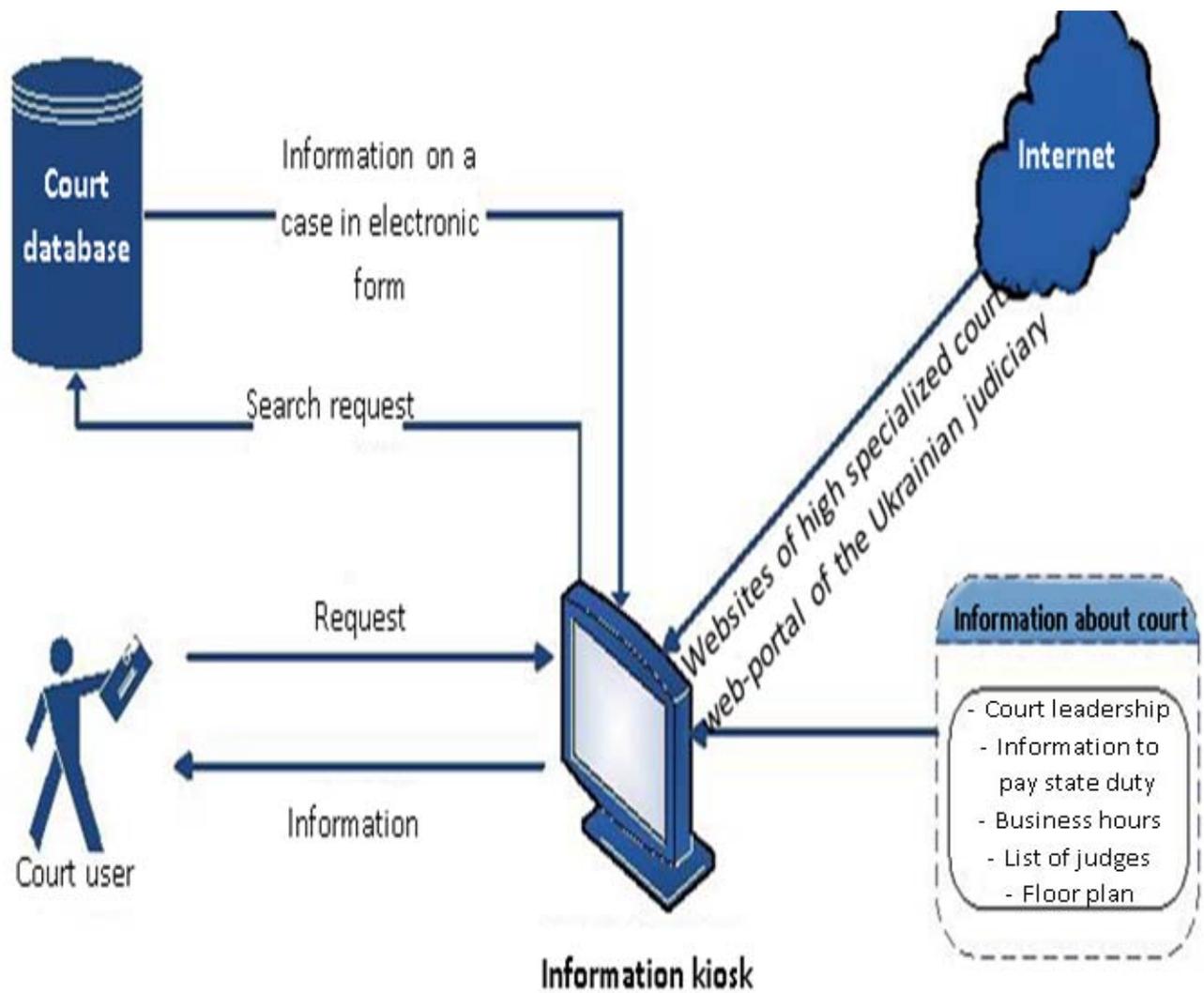


Figure 5. Using an information kiosk in court (conceptual flow chart).

Integrated information protection system (IIPS)

With the transition to electronic case management in courts, the issue of information security and data storage has become extremely important.

To implement the transition it is necessary to develop a framework of security measures to protect the information and telecommunications systems of courts. It will also be necessary to complete the creation of base sections and integrated information protection systems with confirmed compatibility for protecting the processing of ICIS information by trial and appellate courts. The creation of the IIPS will ensure the protection of information and telecommunications systems of courts and control the processing of classified information within the ICIS. Using encryption will prevent unauthorized access to classified information during its transfer via open communication channels.

The creation of the integrated information protection system will lead to the increase of data reliability and information security. It will introduce protected technology for processing classified information and provide for the protection of information resources during the integration with automated systems of other bodies and institutions, and be supported by an antivirus system.

Regulatory documents in the field of technical protection of information and the Order of the state enterprise “Information Court Systems” No 10/1-OD of January 24, 2013, Annex 2, points 2, 3 and 4, dictate that information contained within the system is to be classified and falls within the purview of section 7 of the Annex. The description of the subsystem Integrated Information Protection System (IIPS) mentioned in the concept is sufficient to get a general understanding about the IIPS and does not require more detailed descriptions and flow charts, since system configurations, trends of development and the application of various methods and approaches may bring forth certain changes.

Data processing center (data center)

A data storage and processing center (Fig. 6) will be created in the SJA building in order to ensure the reliable operation of the web-portal of the Ukrainian judiciary, the E-Court subsystem, the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions, and the switching center of the video conference system.

An electronic archive of the documents of the Ukrainian judiciary will later be stored on the data center server.

Centralized storage of information in the data center will not only ensure its security, but will also allow for a reduction in the expenses when installing and updating powerful servers in each court.

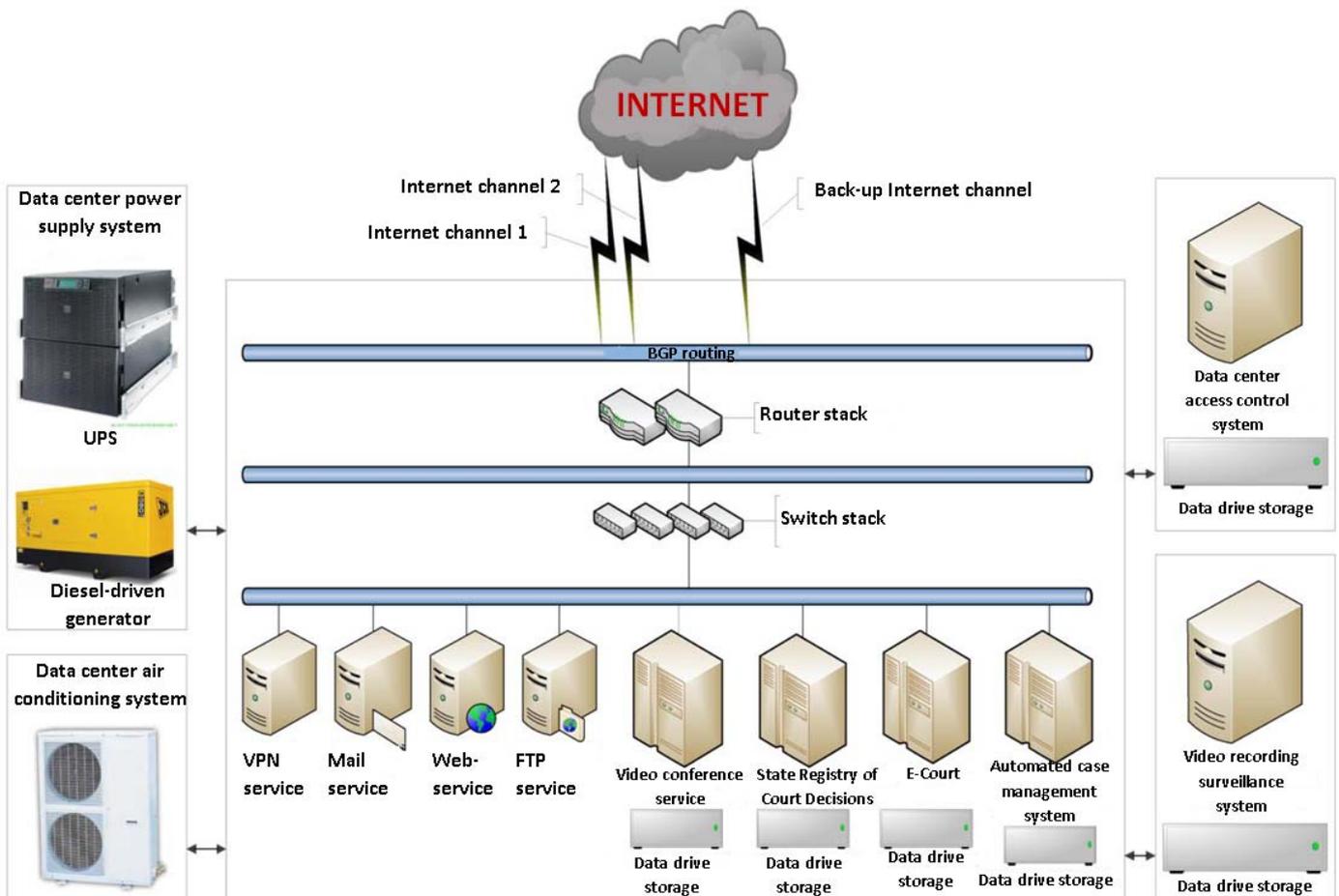


Figure 6. Data processing center flowchart (conceptual flow chart).

Modernization and development of the local area networks of the SJA and courts, development of a corporate network

One of the key issues related to the automation of the judiciary will be the modernization and development of local area networks of the SJA and courts.

While creating information space, it is necessary to ensure the development of a set of active network equipment, computers and application servers since information flows are increasing and information has to be transmitted faster. In order to improve the reliability of network operations, it is necessary to modernize and upgrade network equipment available in the local area networks of the SJA and courts.

Upgrading active network equipment, increasing the level of user control, improving data flow management, and ensuring the possibilities of further development and extension of networks are aimed at increasing the reliability, failover, security, controllability and efficiency of the local area networks of the SJA and courts. Improving these will ensure not only stable and uninterrupted operations of all automated and application systems within local networks, but also reliable connection with external systems that are located a considerable distance away.

To build the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine for trial and appellate courts, it is necessary to procure hardware and office equipment, server equipment, switches, etc.; provide technical support and maintenance of court automated case management system; modernize it to be compatible with new subsystems and empower it to take into account continuous improvements and development of modern automation-related technology, and the already existing subsystems; and introduce new subsystems, such as E-Court and Information Kiosks.

Development and Implementation Phases

Taking into account the complexity and scope of work related to the Program development and implementation, it is proposed to gradually address the issues related to improving and modernizing the existing information and local systems and introducing new subsystems.

Phase I (2013)

- Introduce the Information Kiosk subsystem
- Introduce the E-Court subsystem
- Provide technical support to and improve the HR subsystem
- Provide technical support to and improve the Analytics subsystem
- Provide technical support to and improve the Video conferencing subsystem
- Develop and improve the Integrated Information Protection System
- Provide technical support to and improve the Court Case Management subsystem
- Maintain the Trial Transcripts and Audio Records subsystem
- Maintain the Judicial Statistics subsystem
- Maintain the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions subsystem
- Maintain the Unified Database of Electronic Addresses and Fax (Telefax) Numbers of Government Entities subsystem
- Maintain the Web-Portal and Social Network “Femida” subsystem
- Maintain the Communication and Information Transfer subsystem
- Maintain the System Administration subsystem
- Maintain the Material and Technical Support subsystem
- Maintain the Legislative and Regulatory Framework subsystem
- Modernize and develop local area networks of the SJA and courts, develop a corporate network

Phase II (2014)

- Provide technical support to and improve the Video conferencing subsystem
- Provide technical support to and improve the E-Court subsystem
- Provide technical support to and improve the Court Case Management subsystem
- Maintain the Trial Transcripts and Audio Records subsystem
- Maintain the Judicial Statistics subsystem
- Maintain the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions subsystem
- Maintain the Unified Database of Electronic Addresses and Fax (Telefax) Numbers of Government Entities subsystem
- Maintain the Integrated Information Protection System
- Maintain the Web-Portal and Social Network “Femida” subsystem
- Maintain the Communication and Information Transfer subsystem
- Maintain the System Administration subsystem
- Maintain the Material and Technical Support subsystem
- Maintain the HR subsystem
- Maintain the Analytics subsystem
- Maintain the Legislative and Regulatory Framework subsystem
- Modernize and develop local area networks of the SJA and courts, develop a corporate network

Phase III (2015)

- Provide technical support to and improve the Video conferencing subsystem
- Provide technical support to and improve the Court Case Management subsystem
- Maintain the Trial Transcripts and Audio Records subsystem
- Maintain the Judicial Statistics subsystem
- Maintain the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions subsystem
- Maintain the Unified Database of Electronic Addresses and Fax (Telefax) Numbers of Government Entities subsystem
- Maintain the Integrated Information Protection System
- Maintain the Web-Portal and Social Network “Femida” subsystem
- Maintain the Information Kiosk subsystem
- Maintain the Communication and Information Transfer subsystem
- Maintain the System Administration subsystem
- Maintain the Material and Technical Support subsystem
- Maintain the HR subsystem
- Maintain the Analytics subsystem

- Maintain the Legislative and Regulatory Framework subsystem
- Modernize and develop local area networks of the SJA and courts, develop a corporate network

Principles of Program development and implementation

The key principles of Program development and implementation are as follows:

Legacy – rational use of available information and technical, telecommunications and organizational structure, human resources and accumulated experience.

Consistency and continuity – the Program is a project that requires considerable inputs; therefore, it must be implemented in a phased yet steady and uninterrupted way in coordination with different agencies and levels of authorities to embrace new areas of the sector.

Economic efficiency – efficient financial, material, HR and managerial investments to implement the Program within a reasonable time period and with consideration for internal and external circumstances.

Predictability – preference for utilization of recognized information technologies, software solutions, database management systems, document templates, and certified hardware.

Transparency – involvement of users in the strategic decision making to meet their needs and priorities.

Regulatory Framework of the Program

Regulatory acts were developed establishing the procedure for the use of the internet, working with e-mail, using personal computers, using software applications, and posting and updating information on the web portal “The judiciary of Ukraine”. Instructions were developed for the procedure for working with trial record devices, and for the procedure for working with video records made during (criminal) trial via video conferencing. The Regulation on the Integrated Court Information System of Ukraine, approved by the Decision of the Council of Judges of Ukraine of December 25, 2009 No 106, was amended. The Regulation on the Automated Court Case Management System, approved by the decision of the Council of Judges of Ukraine of November 26, 2010 No 30, was developed. Specifications of hardware and office equipment were developed.

At the same time, it is necessary to develop legal and regulatory acts that would determine the procedure for working with the Integrated Court Information System which would take into account modern technology that facilitates the use of the existing and new equipment. In developing legal and regulatory acts, a mandatory requirement is

to take into consideration the need for integration and efficient coordination of hardware and software with system users and technical support service providers.

The hardware needs shall be determined based on the actual operations of the existing equipment, since, for the most part, it is impossible to identify many requirements before the software is actually used.

The process of software unification starts with the organization of a data exchange. The integration of systems aimed at forming a unified information space should include the creation of universal interfaces for interactions between different judicial bodies of Ukraine.

Implementation of the Program activities shall be coordinated by the IT Division of the Court Case Management Department of the SJA of Ukraine.

According to current legislation, the Program may be annually revised and approved within the established procedure.

All projects of the Program must be implemented as a part of the National Automation Program and agreed upon with the General Customer of the National Automation Program according to the requirements of the legal and regulatory framework in the field of automation.

The State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, being a State Customer, agrees with the General Customer – State Agency for Research, Innovation and Automation of Ukraine – upon the concept and scope of work for one year and for three years, and submits to the General Customer an annual report on court automation.

The State Customer ensures timely cooperation, coordination, efficient information exchange, and Program management which must be aimed at analyzing the current situation, identifying major activities under each component, action planning, and Program implementation in general.

In addition, the State Customer will perform monitoring, reporting, and organize training and technical support. The main aim of monitoring will be to ensure fulfillment of tasks in a timely manner, budget performance, adequate quality of work, and efficient allocation and use of resources.

The main task of reporting is the due notification of all stakeholders of the status of implementation of the Program with the aim of ensuring a due decision-making process and suspending or refocusing the Program in case if the objectives set by the Program have been changed or are not relevant any more due to external or internal factors.

Financial support

Trial and appellate courts of general jurisdiction, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, territorial branches of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine and other judicial bodies shall implement the subsystems within the budget allocated for

automation purposes. About UAH 770 million is required to implement the Program activities.

The budget for major subsystems is the following:

1. The Unified State Registry of Court Decisions – about UAH 21.5 million annually.
Annually, about 7.2 million electronic copies of court decisions are sent to the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions and processed by the Registry administrator. After court decisions are processed and entered to the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions, they can be accessed 24/7 at the official web-portal of the judiciary;
2. The Unified Database of Electronic Addresses and Fax (Telefax) Numbers of Government Entities – about UAH 54,000 annually;
3. Services of the web-portal “The judiciary of Ukraine” – about UAH 46,000 annually;
4. Development of an integrated video conference system – the cost depends on technical conditions in trial and appellate courts of general jurisdiction and funding;
5. The video conference systems to be installed and serviced in trial and appellate courts are introduced according to procedural law and assignment of the President of Ukraine. The work has already started, and about UAH 240 million is required in order to complete the activities in 2013-2015.
6. Electronic signature keys will allow judges to sign and send electronic copies of court decisions with the help of the court automated case management system and can be used for electronic case management with other executive bodies and making electronic requests to them.
7. Administration of justice by trial and appellate courts which involves providing courts with necessary technical equipment, performing organizational and regulatory measures to implement automation activities in the regions.

Subsystems that are not mentioned in the Program will be implemented at the expense of the technical administrator of the Integrated Information Court System of Ukraine within maintenance and technical support of the automated case management system.

Financial support to the Program implementation shall be provided from the state budget, local budgets, investments and other sources not prohibited by the law.

Expected results

The expected results of the Program implementation are the following:

- Business processes of judicial bodies, the SJA and other judicial bodies and institutions are unified and streamlined;
- The operations of the integrated database and search engine through cases and documents, including the maintenance of the Unified State Registry of Court decisions, are ensured;
- Efficient information cooperation of judicial bodies with other state bodies and institutions is established;
- Flexible system for forming the statistical reporting based on primary data is created;
- Electronic systems of case management and assignment control allowing the automated flow of documents and control over the progress and full execution of documents are created, which will significantly reduce the time of decision making;
- Public awareness of legal issues is raised, and pro-activeness of citizens in protecting their rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests in court is increased;
- Accessibility of justice is enhanced, the level of public trust in the judiciary is increased, and public perception of courts is improved.

Automated processes of transcribing and audio recording trials, case management, statistics, planning, and allocation of court expenses, maintenance of the Unified State Registry of Court Decisions, material and technical support of general jurisdiction courts and other Ukrainian judicial bodies and institutions will be significantly improved. This will have a positive impact on the work of judges and court staff and will facilitate the achievement of strategic goals on establishing independent courts in Ukraine in line with European standards. Modernization, technical support, and regular organizational and technical measures on improving the corporate network will help to eliminate the low capacity and limited scalability of the information system. It will also ensure a qualitatively new level of information interaction and allow the SJA to properly fulfill its functions with regard to providing organizational support to the operations of general jurisdiction courts and other judicial bodies and institutions under the Law of Ukraine on the Judiciary and Status of Judges.

Throughout the Program implementation the SJA shall submit to the General Customer of the National Automation Program annual reports on the status of Program implementation according to the requirements of legal and regulatory acts related to automation.