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“E-JUSTICE: INTEROPERABILITY OF SYSTEMS”**

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**National Report of Latvia**

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and

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## Context

During last two years usage of information technologies for state administration acquires more and more new aspects. From the same start it was concerned with creating of databases, data exchange between few different information systems, availability of those systems etc. Next step was done with development of different kind of portals with various functionalities. All those activities were aimed to the improvement of the efficiency of the governmental institutions and providing different services to the citizens.

At the moment technologies provides possibility for automation of nearly all functions, but more importance shall be appropriate to the administrative and legal procedures for providing services.

Conception on the e-government for the Republic of Latvia was developed in 2001 and at the moment adjudgements of all ministries have been received.

General goal of this conception was to develop governmental strategy plan for implementation of the e-government. Scope of this document contains two main sets of questions: one is concerning usage of IT and Internet for providing services for the general public and improvement of the routine work of different governmental institutions; other is concerned with fundamental changes in the state administration.

Document declared governmental position, understanding of the necessity of improvement of the e-government principles in the state administration, as well as general guidelines for implementation of those principles.

Together with National Programme "Informatics 1999-2005", Conception of e-government of Latvia provides ideological base for development of important normative regulations and IT projects.

## Policy Issues

In Latvia at the moment law on electronic document is in the progress. This law is key precondition for implementation of the great amount of new administrative procedures concerned e-government projects.

Several regulations for implementation of the principles of e-government were incorporated in the laws "On Companies register" and "Land book law". Pilot project for implementation of the e-government principles were realized on the basis of the Register of Movable Pledges. Procedure for fixation of pledge in the state register is possible automatically. Banks, notaries' offices and state register were involved in this project.

Besides that, e-government pilot project for Cabinet of Ministers were developed. Specialized software for Minister of Economics and Minister of Finance were developed, for the support of ministers during sittings of the Cabinet and different its committees.

Also municipalities take quite active part in the implementation of the e-government. Liepaja and Ventspils (two big cities in Latvia) have their own e-government projects.

## Redefining the Process Design

Administrative regulations and procedures as well as different platforms used in different state information systems make major part of problems concerned interoperability of systems.

Preconditions necessary for providing of interoperability of the systems:

- 1) **United classificatory and codifications.** In order to provide interoperability of systems, usage of united classification of data is necessary. Some information systems in Latvia are

using international classificatory. For example Companies' register is using Nomenclature of economic activities in the European Union (NACE). All state information systems are using united classificatory or economical information, but every system or group of systems have their specific information and specific classificatory of this information. Such classificatory for judicial system is developed by Ministry of Interior. It includes classificatory of different state institutions involved in the legal data processing. It is necessary to have regulation stated responsible authority (owner) of each classificatory, because they need actualisation and harmonisation with other local and also international classification of information.

- 2) **United principles for classification of information from viewpoint of risk management and confidentiality.** Security in the widest aspect of this concept, takes great importance in the interoperability of information systems. United classification of information from viewpoint of the risk management and confidentiality shall be developed and implemented in all information systems which have information exchange in state level and international level, if such necessity for information exchange is defined. In Latvia necessity to make classification of information is formulated by regulations "On information system security" given by Cabinet of Ministers. Unfortunately methodical guidelines for risk analysis, foreseen in regulations mentioned before are not approved yet.
- 3) **Development of data exchange procedures and responsibility about data and information quality.** An administrative procedure for data exchange is very important part for providing of the interoperability of information systems. At first owners of the information system, information resources and particular units of information shall be appointed. Necessity for owner of information system in Latvia is defined by regulations "On information system security" given by Cabinet of Ministers.

When responsible authorities and persons for data and information quality are defined, procedures for data exchange shall be developed. Normative acts gives regulation in principle, that one state register shall provide with information another registers, but development of the procedures for data exchange electronically shall develop between systems where data exchange is necessary.

- 4) **Development of data exchange modules for different state information systems.** Historically different information systems were developed on different platforms. Usually they were built for needs of one institution. Only later necessity for data exchange with other information systems was defined. For this reason now nearly all institutions are working on data exchange modules for information systems. Court information system at the moment have automated data exchange module with Companies register and it is planned to develop such modules also for data exchange with Register of population, Register of punishments, Computerized Land book and other information systems, which contains information necessary for court process.

## Changes in the Technical Architecture

Regulations given by Cabinet of Ministers "On technical requirements for state information systems" stated that all state information systems should use open architecture. For this reason different technical solutions can provide interoperability of state systems. The main problems are concerned with legal and administrative level of interoperability, neither with technical possibilities.

At the moment XML became quite often used data exchange standard. For example Computerized Land Book of the Republic of Latvia (IS which was implemented during last year) is using this standard.

## **Other activities**

In addition to above mentioned questions, some other activities concerned competence of the committee on Information Technology and Law should be mentioned. Since December of 2001 EC PHARE project "Prevention of Corruption within court system" is under development. The main idea of this project is to prevent corruption in the courts or impression that courts are corrupted through improvement of the transparency of the court procedures and disseminating of court information. Experts from France and Sweden developed model of transparent court system and suggestions for changes in the legislation of the Republic of Latvia in order to provide maximal transparency of the court system.

Next activities of this project will be concerned with economical analysis of the publishing of the court information (aspects of free or fee based access to information, resources necessary for providing publishing of information etc) and development of the court portal – place in the internet where court information will be available to the public, as well as development of the training programs for judges and mass media with the aim to improve communication between them.

Deadline of the project is November 2002.