

Questions for the preparation of the 2022 Rule of Law Report

Ministry of Justice

8. Could you provide us with the state of play of projects to improve the digitalization of justice (central database of judgements, anonymization, e-file)?

- e-file: the Electronic Court File (eSpis) is the most important module of the eSIR project. This project is a basic pillar of future Czech eJustice, as it requires modules from the so-called eJustice Center - central systems and modular components that will provide shared functionality and digital services usable across eJustice. The eSpis module itself will provide shared functionalities for keeping electronic court (or general judicial) files using agenda components specific to individual agendas - within the eSIR project, extension modules for the insolvency and restructuring agenda will be delivered. The project is funded by a European grant. The system supplier has currently been selected for the public contract and the implementation phase is being prepared.

- central database of court decisions and anonymisation: The development of an information system for anonymisation and publication of court decisions stems, among other things, from the commitments made by the Government in the Action Plan against Corruption and Partnership for Open Governance back in 2018. An employee work consisting of both a public web database of district, regional and high court decisions and a custom-developed anonymizer application, which takes into account the specifics of the judicial environment, the structure and content of court decisions and the personal data protection requirements contained therein, is made available for pilot operation. From 1 July 2022, the scope of the types of published decisions will be legally extended. A public contract is currently being prepared to select an external supplier who will manage and further develop the application in the future.

10. Could you further elaborate on the framework of involvement of stakeholders in the legislative process, in particular as regards the establishment and functioning of the round table discussions and working groups as mentioned in your input:

The Czech Republic participates in the Open Government Partnership activities since 2011 and in 2021 it has been implementing already its fifth national action plan for the years 2020-2022. The specific commitment mentioned during the on-site is focused on development of methodology for the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes (e. g. in public consultation processes of ministries and other central administrative authorities) and further information on its nature and on the nature of the involvement of the Czech Republic in the Open Government Partnership can be found at: <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Action-Plan-of-the-Czech-Republic-Open-Government-Partnership-for-2020-to-2022.pdf>

Corruption prevention

9. Have you identified any specific corruption risks in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Similar information as in 2020 RoL Report: According to Control Results from Controlling Action No. 20/32, that were published by the Supreme Audit Office (<https://www.nku.cz/cz/pro-media/tiskove-zpravy/stat-podcenil-pripravu-na-pandemii--nakupy-ochrannych-pomucek-provazel-chaos--vyrazne-cenove-rozdily--nedostatky-v-jejich-kvalite-i-problemy-s-dopravo-id11735/>) and to information published in some media it seems that some actions and circumstances during COVID-19 pandemics may have led to decreased transparency of Government purchases of personal protective equipment and other relevant medical means.

The tasks on development of specific methodology and on tagging of pandemic-related public contracts were included in the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2021-2022 after an analysis of relevant recommendations of GRECO, OECD, and Open Government Partnership that were stressing that one of the important pillars of fight against COVID-related corruption risks is built on transparency alongside with establishment of clear crisis-related processes. Further information on implementation of the tasks will be included in the interim assessment of completion of the Government Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2021 and 2022 that is going to be discussed by the Government in April 2022 and subsequently published at the website [korupce.cz](https://www.korupce.cz).