

General introduction to e-CODEX

e-CODEX offers technical solutions for secure online cross-border communication in both criminal and civil law.

Why is e-CODEX needed?

About ten million people are currently involved in cross-border civil proceedings. e-CODEX provides them with easy access to legal means and boosts judicial cooperation by improving the interoperability between legal authorities within the European Union.

The judicial sector has been lagging behind in terms of digitalising procedures and cross-border cooperation. In an increasingly digital society, cross-border judicial cooperation relies on e-Justice solutions to facilitate the interaction between different national and European actors in legal procedures. e-CODEX offers a European digital infrastructure for secure cross-border communication and information exchange in criminal and civil law.

Modern information and communication technology will make the justice system more efficient and helps people assert their rights more quickly and easily.

Building bridges

e-CODEX offers technical solutions for secure online cross-border communication in the field of justice. The technical infrastructure connects different legal systems and ensures fast access to justice across borders.

The technical components of e-CODEX are building blocks that can be seen as bridges connecting online judicial services and information across Europe. The technical infrastructure consists of a connector and a gateway. The installation of the gateway ensures a secured connection with a gateway in another Member State. The connector carries out the adaptations required for receiving encrypted data by the corresponding service provider in another Member State.

Secure electronic information exchange between existing national solutions is facilitated by an interoperability layer for electronic signatures. This validation tool recognizes a person's signature using a certificate issued in his or her home country. Using existing systems for the authentication of users adds reliability to electronic legal proceedings and helps avoid malicious use of e-Justice services.

What types of services does e-CODEX offer?

Services provided by e-CODEX allow secure communication and information exchange between Member States in the field of justice. The broader vision of e-CODEX is that any citizen or legal professional in the European Union could communicate electronically with any legal authority, including communication of legal authorities with each other.

The e-CODEX system is presently being implemented for European investigation and payment orders, small claims procedures, the mutual recognition of financial penalties and for custodial sentences. In addition, experts are currently exploring e-CODEX as the transmission system for the secure exchange of electronic evidence between judicial authorities in criminal matters.

How do existing national initiatives on e-Justice benefit from e-CODEX?

By harmonising the different approaches within the EU countries e-CODEX will improve the efficiency of cross-border information exchange. The main benefits are increased security and reliability along with saving time in completing cross-border processes. This improved efficiency could also support innovations by legal authorities.

The final outcome of e-CODEX will be an interoperable environment building upon national systems and infrastructures supporting the e-Justice activities, especially the European e-Justice Portal and the activities of the e-Justice Action Plans.

How can my organisation cooperate with or contribute to e-CODEX?

The e-CODEX partners are continually looking for ways to achieve better results and to fulfil the mission of all e-CODEX related projects. In other words, we are looking for additional partners to gain full transparency, participation and collaboration for public services within the EU. In case you are interested please contact Martin Laufen (martin.laufen@jm.nrw.de) or Frank Woud (f.woud@minjenv.nl) to learn more about e-CODEX or to make an appointment.

For more information visit our website www.e-codex.eu or join via Twitter or LinkedIn.