

## **„DATABASE FOR LEGAL PRACTITIONERS“**

One of the prerequisites for achieving rule of law is making laws and other binding regulations easily accessible, available to the general public and implemented in a fair, timely and efficient manner. The procedure for the passing of new regulations and court's practice are regulated by relevant laws in the Republic of Serbia. However, the lack of an updated and comprehensive official electronic legal database, comprising all valid legal acts and selected case law, that is readily available to the judiciary and state administration, was one of the biggest obstacles to an efficient and balanced implementation of the rule of law in the Republic of Serbia.

The „Database for Legal Practitioners“ Project commenced in December 2004 and was concluded on the June 30, 2006 with the official handover of the database to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia . The main objective of the Project was to improve the work quality and efficiency within the judiciary sector; ensure quick access to valid laws and relevant court's practice, as well as to obtain balanced court procedures.

The Legal database includes more than 2000 valid laws and regulations of the Republic of Serbia, repealed regulations which are important for the judiciary, ratified international agreements and other legally binding international acts, decisions and other legal acts of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia, selected court's practice of the Supreme Court of Serbia, Higher Commercial Court and other courts of Serbia and former State Union, as well as court's practice of the European Court for Human Rights, commentaries, opinions and other legal texts. The legal database is linked to the database of scanned documents in the Directorate for Common Services, which enables the acces to all officialy published original legal documents.

IT application has been developed on Microsoft tools and consists of the following components:

- Publisher, and
- Reader, in Web and Windows version.

Update of the database will be available through the Internet or on CD's.

The Legal database can be easily and efficiently searched by using the following search criteria:

- Full-text search;
- Search by title of the document;
- Combination of the aforesaid criteria;



- Keywords search;
- Advanced search;
- Meta-data search.

Some of the key features of the database are also multilingual support, as well as a User Manual - an integral part of the application.

The Legal Database will be available FREE OF CHARGE to the judiciary and state administration of the Republic of Serbia.

The Legal Database is one of the components in the comprehensive program of modernisation of IT sectors in the courts, financed by European Union and also one of the key elements in the process of justice reform in Serbia, in terms of harmonisation and integration with the European Union.

The project implementation relied on a close cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Serbia and the Directorate for Common Services.

The Project was implemented by a Consortium including: *Comarch S.A*, Poland and *Spinnaker New Technologies*, member of ComTrade Group, Serbia.

