

DIGITALIZATION OF THE NOTARY SERVICE IN ALBANIA: INITIAL RESULTS OF THE SERVICE DIGITALIZATION

Agim Kasaj

Department of Information Technology, Statistics and Mathematics, European
University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania. E mail: agim.kasaj@uet.edu.al

Abstract

Notary service in Albania has been offered by the government since 1921, but private individuals started to offer this service only in June 1994. Till last year (2013), this service was offered to the citizens 100% paper based and suffered from many of the same constraints as other paper based services. There is an increasing need for notaries, citizens and Government of Albania for better efficiency, transparency, affordable monitoring, security and availability of notary services. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a proved way of a cost-effective and convenient means to move forward in this direction. The aim of this paper is to analyse the efforts undertaken by the Albanian Government to digitalise the notary service and to assess the impacts of this process. The use of ICTs to digitalise the notary service in Albania will contribute towards more openness and transparency, thus it can reduce corruption. This is done through the use of secondary data as well as primary data through interviews with key actors in this area. The analysis shows that there are many obstacles in this process like the legislation, scepticism, corruption, resistance to change that should be overcome. Finally the research conducts an analysis of the current notary legislation and provides adequate suggestions in law changes.

Keywords: *E-Notary, E-government, Public services, Ministry of Justice of Albania, Digitalization.*