



Sudska praksa Vrhovni sud Republike Hrvatske

SuPra

At the beginning of 2003, within the European Union programme called CARRDS/OBNOVA (01-0041: Croatia Judiciary and Law Faculties), a project aimed at establishing the system for publishing court cases (case law), was initiated. The project was intended to ensure availability of the rulings and decisions of the Supreme Court and other courts on the Internet, not only to legal community, but also to general public. The company BCC Services d.o.o. (Fujitsu Services d.o.o. at the time) was selected as supplier of equipment and design and implementation of the SuPra solution, based on **Meridio eDRM** (electronic Document and Records Management) system.

What is SuPra and who is it intended for?

SuPra is a software solution which enables courts to register court decisions, to index them and publish them on intranet and Internet, to prepare for printing a serial publication "Izbor odluka" with pre-selected and indexed text of most important cases, as well as viewing and searching the court decisions database.

SuPra is intended for any court that intends to archive their court case decisions and that can enable judges and judicial counsellors to quickly find relevant decisions, needed as reference and information in their daily work with court cases. Via Internet, anonymized text of the court decisions is available to broad legal and general public.

What does SuPra offer to its users?

Court Decisions Publishing

SuPra enables complete control and insight in the work of user groups, assigned to business processes of: entry and input of court decision, registration of legally binding time delivery to parties, anonymisation of text, indexing and control as well as publishing of the court decisions. User groups which participate in the process of decision publishing have at their disposal interface for a group, that allows each group to have an insight to data and texts of the decisions on which they currently work or that have been prepared for further processing. Anonymised text of all court decisions is published on the Internet. Full text court decisions in their original form are only available on the intranet.



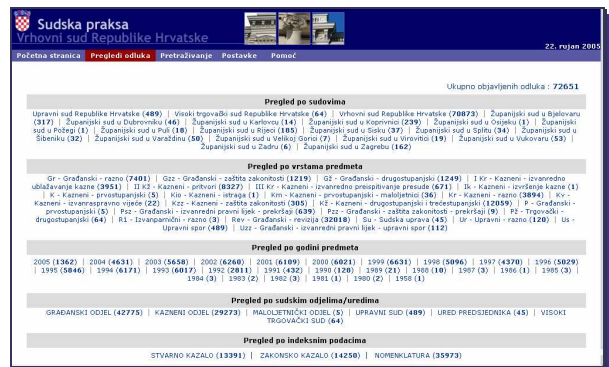
Preparation of the publication Selection of Decisions

In addition to publishing decisions on internet and Intranet, SuPra enables preparation of the hard copy publication called "Izbor odluka". Content of "Izbor odluka" is a selection of legally most important decisions, that have text of the legal standpoints from legal experts (so called 'sentences'), attached, together with relevant part of the short text and attributed with key descriptors from Subject and Law index, metadata of SuPra. Editors of the book

"Izbor odluka" have at their disposal special options in the process of proposing and reviewing of selected court decisions, that enables them in addition to the insight in the complete decisions publishing process, to control, update and add all necessary data. After the selection and control have been carried out, the final version of the hard copy of the serial publication "Izbor odluka" is automatically generated in MS Word format, prepared for publisher. Data and texts published in the hard copy is also available on the Internet for general public.

Browsing and searches of the decisions

The court case decisions found in the system can be accessed by personalised views, created for court employees according to the role(s) they have in the whole processes. Views display predefined lists of the decisions according to the role in the processes. General views present court decisions grouped by the predefined metadata, or list of the decision retrieved by the search functionality of the SuPra. Decisions can be searched by the associated metadata, Subject and Law indexes and by free search through the entire text of decision.



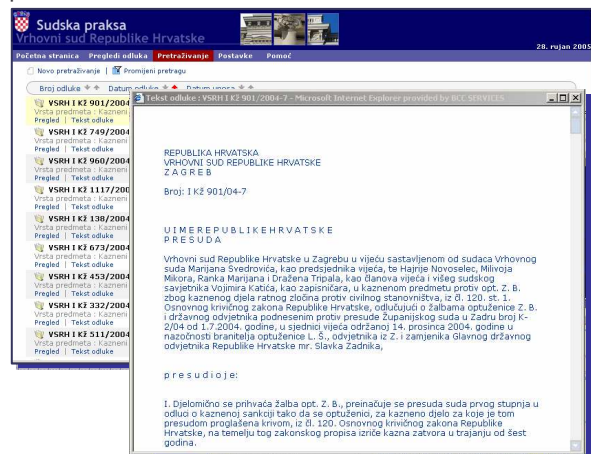
Three search forms have been defined. They are differing in the number of metadata items which can be set as criteria for one search. An additional "expert" search has been defined for retrieving court decisions in which users define their own query for the content of the database. Searches can be stored with an appropriate name and comment, for later re-use. That way the application user in a court can over time, create a group of searches relevant to his needs. Display list of results can also be personalised, i.e. with the number of displayed results on the screen, sorting order and by some other parameters like predefined court department. In addition, judges have options in the insight of their own versions of texts of decisions while in preparation and in process of legal coordination at the Department level Every judge can permanently access court decisions through quick search for a certain period that he/she took part in as a reporting judge, or as a member of the court council.



Ovaj projekt podržan je sredstvima
Europske unije

Displaying the decisions

Valid court decision is stored in the system in two formats of the text, full text and anonymised text of decision. Every decision is attributed with metadata. Detailed metadata can be displayed only to users from the court, while the view of the metadata relevant to the general public is presented via Internet.



Every court decision is visible to the user in three formats: unformatted text (fastest access), Word file (only for users in court) and PDF format. Certain users of the system also have insight in the history of work on the decision in which all activities of various users have been recorded, including the time and date of action.

SuPra – IT technologies used

SuPra solution is based on Meridio eDRM system and on Microsoft SQL Server database. The user's interface is entirely in the Web format, which additionally alleviates access from remote locations and allows a centralised administration of the application.

Meridio eDRM system enables an integrated and reliable document and records management during their entire life cycle: from their creation, through storage to deletion. The latest, improved version Meridio 4.3 system is focused on key requirements of government bodies and large business systems as well as requirement for observation

of the new European laws and standards (Freedom of Information Act, Access to Information Act, Electronic Document Act). As indicated by the recommendations made by EU, users from the public sector can introduce only certified Records Management systems. Meridio possesses the following certificates: **MoReq** (Model Requirements for Electronic Records Management), **PRO 2002** (certificate issued by the National Archives of the Great Britain), **DoD5015.2**, **Sarbanes-Oxley Act**, etc.

Meridio is transparently integrated with Microsoft products: Windows operating systems and SQL database, MS Office tools, SharePoint Portal server, etc. which all together facilitate a safe document and records storage in a structured and systematised manner, at the same time allowing the users an easy and simple use through the familiar tools and interfaces.

Conclusion

The total number of 253 courts is active in Croatia: 110 misdemeanour courts, 106 municipal and commercial courts, 21 county courts, High Misdemeanour Court, High Commercial Court, Administrative Court and Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia.

The SuPra database of the Supreme Court, (<http://sudskapraksa.vsrh.hr/SuPra/>), on the 8th September 2005. displayed 72.353 decisions and/or sentences for the following courts: Administrative Court of the Republic of Croatia (489), High Commercial Court of the Republic of Croatia (64), Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia (70579), County Court in Bjelovar (317), County Court in Dubrovnik (46), County Court in Karlovac (14), County Court in Koprivnica (239), County Court in Osijek (1), County Court in Požega (1), County Court in Pula (18), County Court in Rijeka (185), County Court in Sisak (37), County Court in Split (34), County Court in Šibenik (32), County Court in Varaždin (50), County Court in Velika Gorica (7), County Court in Virovitica (19), County Court in Vukovar (53), County Court in Zadar (6), County Court in Zagreb (162).

The results which have been achieved up to the present moment with the SuPra system demonstrate that all conditions have been fulfilled to considerably increase the number of decisions, both in the abovementioned courts and in the courts which have not yet used the SuPra system to date.

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