

Digital Transformation of the Prosecutor's Office and Its Impact on Criminal Proceedings

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the digital transformation of the Prosecutor's office of the Russian Federation, which is planned in three priority areas: high-tech surveillance, digital infrastructure, the environment of trust. Digital transformation of Prosecutor's offices will significantly affect the quality of law enforcement in criminal proceedings. The use of the achievements of technical progress, including the widespread use of digital technologies, significantly optimizes the criminal procedural activities of prosecutors, will ensure the formation of an environment of citizens' trust in the activities of law enforcement agencies. As part of the transition to high-tech supervision of the Prosecutor, it is planned to create a single secure digital online platform for interaction between the Prosecutor's offices among themselves and with other state bodies and the population. Functional requirements for this platform are proposed, as well as technologies that can be applied during its development are analysed. In particular, two-factor authentication, machine learning (semantic neural networks, computer vision), data clustering, and blockchain technology.

Keywords: *Prosecutor, prosecutor's supervision, high-tech supervision, digital transformation, digital online platform, machine learning, neural networks, digital infrastructure, the environment of trust.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The digital transformation of state bodies is a prerequisite for the development of a modern state. In order to implement the breakthrough development of Russia, improve the standard of living of citizens, create comfortable conditions for their living, the President of the Russian Federation has defined the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030 [1] including digital transformation. The Russian Prosecutor's office is no exception and needs to be digitally transformed, which is aimed at improving the efficiency of prosecutors' activities, including in criminal proceedings.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The development of law in the light of digital technologies is a pressing issue and is being studied by many scientists. In criminal proceedings, the impact of digital technologies is considered in different contexts.

A number of works are devoted to possible scenarios of digitalization of criminal proceedings [2-7]. Other studies touch on specific issues, including evidentiary law [8], [9], forensic support for the investigation of criminal cases [10]. A lot of research concerns specific

issues of optimizing criminal procedural activity in the context of digital technologies: regulation [11], the use of artificial intelligence in justice [12] and others [13]. The issues of the prosecutor's participation in criminal proceedings are also widely discussed in science [14-17].

3. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

The modern world is complex and multifaceted, and most importantly, it does not stand still. Technology is developing at a rapid pace, which significantly affects the life of society. Information has become particularly valuable. Digital law has become relevant. The study of the problems of the application of digital technologies in law, as well as the possibility of digital transformation of public authorities, is impossible in isolation from information science, and therefore requires an interdisciplinary approach.

In this case, interdisciplinary research combines criminal-procedural and information sciences. Predictive, integral, systemic methods of research are also used. The work is based on general scientific, special and interdisciplinary research methods. However, to limit the scientific specialty, criminal procedure science is singled out as a primary discipline. The research results will be taken from the position of criminal procedural science.

4. THE CONCEPT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Prosecutor's office of Russia has entered the path of digital transformation. The Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation approved the Concept of digital transformation of bodies and organizations of the Prosecutor's office of the Russian Federation until 2025 [18]. The implementation of the Concept involves the formation of a new technological framework that is aimed at using data primarily in digital form, creating an environment for electronic interaction between the Prosecutor's office and other entities, and improving the digital infrastructure.

Digitalization developing at a great speed, will allow optimizing the Prosecutor's Supervisory activities in criminal proceedings. The concept envisages the digital transformation of the prosecutor's office in three priority areas: high-tech supervision, digital infrastructure, the environment of trust. The transition to high-tech supervision will open up new opportunities for the execution of powers by the Prosecutor's office.

5. TRANSITION TO HIGH-TECH SUPERVISION AND ITS IMPACT ON CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

High-tech supervision is related to the development of digital infrastructure, which should ensure the interaction of Prosecutor's offices with citizens, organizations, and state bodies on the basis of creating a universal digital environment. At the same time, the new universal digital environment should support interaction not only within the system of Prosecutor's offices, but also with other systems of state bodies, as well as with citizens.

The concept plans to create a single interdepartmental digital online platform for interaction between prosecutors and heads of state bodies, investigators to work with a single electronic case. The introduction of an online platform will allow for rapid and unhindered interdepartmental interaction, which significantly optimizes criminal procedure activities.

The benefits of working with a single digital online platform can hardly be overestimated. Its implementation will provide an opportunity to move away from repeated interdepartmental accounting by maintaining a unified information accounting system. The function of tracking all procedural decisions from the registration of a report of a crime to a verdict will be important for the criminal process.

The creation of a single interdepartmental digital online platform is necessary for the prompt implementation of supervision by the Prosecutor, in real time.

In this regard, when developing the platform, it is necessary to provide for the possibility of online verification by prosecutors of the legality and validity of procedural decisions taken. This will allow prosecutors to obtain materials justifying the decision for review without sending requests to investigators and inquirers.

Prosecutors will exercise the powers provided for in paragraph 12 of Part 2 of Art. 37 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation, automatically, by transferring criminal cases or materials of verification of a crime report online.

Also, at the end of the investigation, the prosecutor will receive a criminal case with an indictment or closing indictment online, which will make it possible to refuse to deliver multivolume materials. If it is necessary to redraft the indictment by the investigator, the changes can be made in electronic form, without reprinting paper carriers. And when the prosecutor approves the indictment, a copy with attachments will be handed over to the accused, the defence lawyer and the victim in electronic form.

A prerequisite for the operation of a unified interdepartmental digital online platform will be the ability of the population to contact the investigating authorities with a report about a crime, as well as with a complaint about procedural actions (inaction) and procedural decisions taken. This will help eliminate unlawful refusals to accept and register statements of crime, red tape in working with appeals, as well as ensure timely notification of applicants in automatic mode. As a result, this functionality will increase access to justice.

Also, when developing this online platform, the possibility of interaction between the Prosecutor's office and the investigating authorities and the court should be provided in order to maintain a legally significant electronic document flow.

When developing a single interagency digital online platform, it will be necessary to take into account a number of technical features. These features include user authentication and authorization, which should eliminate manipulation when working with an online platform. In particular, two-factor authentication can be used. The most important area will be protection against spam and fraud in the components of the digital online platform. It is also possible to use blockchain technology to prevent unscrupulous actions by persons admitted to this system.

The development of this online platform will make it possible to use the achievements of information science for functional capabilities. Such technologies include machine learning (semantic neural networks, computer

vision), the use of cluster analysis methods, which will optimize the work of law enforcement agencies, improving search technologies that allow to identify any trends and deviations from the norm in a new way, and will also provide generalization statistics and monitoring of the effectiveness of the investigation bodies themselves.

The technologies described above are widespread in the information sphere, but they are new to criminal proceedings. The transition to their use as part of the digital transformation of the Prosecutor's office will optimize criminal proceedings.

6. IMPROVING THE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

According to the Concept (Order of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation from 2017-09-14 No. 627), the digital infrastructure should be aimed at ensuring the implementation of a new quality of electronic interaction between Prosecutor's offices with citizens, organizations and state bodies by creating a high-tech digital environment.

As follows from the Concept, the following departmental information systems have been introduced in the Prosecutor's office:

- Automated information complex "Supervision", which provides in electronic form departmental office work and document flow and includes the "Scan" module for document scanning;
- Automated information system "Archival Case OP," designed to automate activities related to archival storage of cases;
- Automated information complex "Personnel-OP," designed to work on the accounting of personnel and their personal data, as well as on accounting for changes in the staffing table;
- Automated information system "Sail", focused on automation of tasks in the field of accounting and support of financial and economic activities;
- Automated information system "Pension", designed to support the pension provision of former employees of the Prosecutor's office and their family members.

According to the Concept, as of 2017, the users of these systems were 1,700 employees, which is about 4 % of the full-time staff of the Prosecutor's office.

In addition, to work with statistical reporting in the Prosecutor's office, special software "Automated workplace "Statistics" is used. The Prosecutor General's office of the Russian Federation is the operator of the Federal state information system "Unified register of inspections". There is an information and analytical resource

"Portal of legal statistics", and the official website of the Prosecutor General's office of the Russian Federation is operating. The prosecutor's office has a connection to the services of the interdepartmental electronic communication system, however, the deficit of connection at the time of adoption of the Concept was 98%.

Nevertheless, the Concept notes that most departmental information systems used in the Prosecutor's office were created more than 10 years ago, are outdated and do not meet the modern development of the digital economy.

Work with the main information resources necessary for the implementation of Supervisory activities is carried out by various Prosecutor's offices and other state bodies within their competence, using their own software solutions that interact poorly with each other.

Currently, the digital infrastructure of the Prosecutor's office is being improved as part of the digital transformation.

The main objectives of this area are the comprehensive optimization and interconnected digitization of the activities of the prosecution bodies; improvement of legal, organizational and other foundations for the development, implementation, operation and development of components of the digital environment of the prosecution authorities; creation and development of a secure information and telecommunication infrastructure; development and implementation in the activities of the prosecutor's office of mechanisms for ensuring remote interaction; development of management systems, to reduce the risk of errors related to human factor; continuous professional training of Prosecutor's office employees in the implementation of their powers in the digital economy.

7. BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENT OF TRUST

The Concept (Order of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation from 2017-09-14 No. 627) is aimed at creating an environment of trust, which involves ensuring the protection of the interests of citizens, businesses and the state when interacting in the digital ecosystem of the Prosecutor's office.

In this regard, the main tasks of the prosecutor's office in this area have been identified: improving the legal framework for the formation of a single digital environment of trust; creation of a system of interaction with the population that uses modern communication channels; development and implementation of mechanisms for monitoring the satisfaction of the population with the degree of protection of their rights and interests; ensuring the availability and reliability of statistical data for citizens; ensuring citizens have access to public information

on the activities of the Prosecutor's office. In general, the tasks are reduced to the main one - increasing the level of citizens' confidence in the activities of the prosecutor's office.

8. SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS

A successful digital transformation of the Prosecutor's office should have a positive impact on criminal proceedings and law enforcement in general, which will be reflected in the main indicators according to the Concept.

The share of citizens and legal entities satisfied with the quality of interaction with the Prosecutor's office should be at least 90% by 2025. At the same time, the time for working with appeals should be significantly reduced: the share of appeals considered without extension for that period will become at least 90%.

For the Prosecutor's office, this will mean a reduction in the time it takes for appeals to reach the executor by at least 50%. The availability of information systems for prosecutors will be at least 99.95%. At the same time, the share of appeals considered in electronic form will reach 100%. These expected results require retraining of employees of the Prosecutor's office and improvement of the digital infrastructure.

In this regard, the share of employees who have undergone retraining in the framework of additional education by 2025 will be at least 70%. The share of the information systems of the prosecution authorities transferred to the state unified platform should be at least 80%.

The most important issue will be security, so the share of Prosecutor's offices using standards for secure electronic interaction will be 100%. Thus, the digital transformation of the Prosecutor's office significantly optimizes the activities of law enforcement agencies, which will have a positive impact on criminal proceedings.

9. CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study describe the current state of the information systems of the Russian Prosecutor's office and confirm the need for digital transformation of the prosecutor's office in three main areas: the transition to high-tech supervision, the improvement of digital infrastructure and the formation of an environment of trust. The further development of digital relations with the participation of the Prosecutor's office is seen in the framework of the updated digital ecosystem of the prosecution authorities.

The digital transformation of the prosecutor's office will significantly affect the quality of law enforcement in criminal proceedings. The use of the achievements of technical progress, including the widespread use of digital technologies, significantly optimizes the criminal procedural activities of prosecutors, will ensure the formation of an environment of trust of citizens in the activities of law enforcement agencies.

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