

## **Remote procedural acts in the criminal process**

The aim of the project is to analyze the concept of conducting procedural acts remotely using information systems, for example by hearing a witness or suspect by videoconference or by remote participation in the trial of participants of criminal proceedings. The importance and novelty of the issue makes it significant.

Legal requirements will be examined in the light of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, ratified international agreements and statutes. A survey of practitioners on this topic will be carried out, as well as research into the functioning of distance activities in other countries.

The reason for undertaking the research is the paralysis of the judiciary in Poland and abroad as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic and the desire to minimize costs and speed up proceedings. The Covid-19 epidemic has paralyzed the justice system in most countries, making it impossible to benefit from judicial protection. In this context, carrying out procedural acts at a distance prevents the impunity of perpetrators who, as a result of the suspension of functioning of criminal justice, could not be held criminally responsible within a reasonable time.

The most important result expected will be a proposal of legal model of carrying out remote procedural acts. The project is also intended to answer the question whether conducting procedural acts remotely can always be an alternative to conducting procedural acts in the traditional form, or whether it should be limited or even treated as an exception. The results will identify legal and remote-related problems and provide a new perspective on the functioning of justice system. In addition, they will identify alternative ways of participation of members of the adjudication panel, representatives, parties and personal sources of evidence in the procedural acts. The lack of relevant regulations in the Polish legal system (and in many other systems) enabling remote acts led to the need to suspend the vast majority of proceedings in 2020.

The issue also has an important transnational aspect. In particular, carrying out activities remotely may be a catalyst for the integration of the judicial systems of EU countries, contributing to the concept of the area of freedom, security and justice (Article 67 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). There is therefore no doubt that the design is of great theoretical and practical importance.