



**Twinning of Lawyers**  
**Modern Technology as Part of a Sustainable Development**  
Odessa, 12 September 2020  
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## INNOVATION AND LEGAL SERVICES: THE NEW PRESENT

- ❑ The rise of legal technologies and legal tech companies is undeniable and unstoppable: no longer the «future»
  
- ❑ *What is legal tech?* Generally, the term refers to the economic compartment comprising all the companies producing legal services aimed at legal players (law firms, individual private practise lawyers, legal affairs departments, in-house lawyers, law enforcement etc.)
  
- ❑ *What areas are legal technologies mostly used in (so far)?*
  - IP protection
  - RegTech (i.e. the management of regulatory monitoring, reporting, and compliance within the financial industry through technology. Source of definition: investopedia.com)
  - GDPR compliance
  - Blockchain
  - Legal management
  - Digital ID certification
  
- ❑ Productivity legal technologies vs transformational legal technologies:
  - ❖ Short term process: increased use of already existing technologies, e.g. videocalls and virtual meetings, remote access to files, webinars
  - ❖ Mid to long term process: automation, AI, big data and predictive analytics, machine learning, blockchain, smart contracts and decision support tools (internally developed or externally provided)

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## HAS COVID-19 HAD ANY ROLE IN THIS?

- ❑ Process and trend already started prior to the coronavirus pandemic (2019 showed over a billion of investment in legal tech globally), but dramatically accelerated by it: a true STRESS TEST!
- ❑ Use of technology allowed continuity/avoided disruption in the provision of legal services
- ❑ Tribunals had to rethink quickly the administration of justice
- ❑ But not just technologies: leadership, a solid, flexible and agile organisation, transparent and well structured processes, collaboration and support culture are also key and proved the successful formula of those companies that reacted best in the pandemic

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## RESISTANCES VS A POSITIVE OUTLOOK: «HUMAN» LAWYER, ARE YOU READY FOR THE FUTURE?

- ❑ Fears, misgivings, sense of inadequacy and resistances to the use and implementation of legal technologies:
  - ❖ is it an investment worth making?
  - ❖ organisational limitations
  - ❖ lack of technical expertise, knowledge, skills, understanding
  - ❖ perceived difficulties and lack of preparation in managing change and new needs and demands
  
- ❑ Opportunities:
  - ❖ as routine, repetitive tasks get automated, more time is left for qualitative/more interesting/higher value work
  - ❖ additional level of control, traceability and removal of risks of human error (where high quantities and limited time are involved)
  - ❖ constant update of model documents (e.g. NDAs or most used contractual clauses)
  - ❖ more effective preservation, use of and access to valuable knowhow of a firm
  - ❖ impact on training of new resources
  - ❖ time and cost savings

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## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

- ❑ The main factor fuelling the advancement of legal tech is the increasing request from clients of more efficient services (i.e. higher productivity and effectiveness at lower prices): this is the direction we are going!

(This means that clients may (and do) also engage alternative legal services providers directly)

- ❑ The evolution of the legal sector is market-driven, and is happening right now, BUT it will be one of **integration** (legal knowledge and expertise contained to automated solutions) not **exclusion** (replacement of lawyers with robots is not seen as an option right now) as only a “human” lawyer can provide not just the most logical/rational solution/advice, but one that is also reasonable and truly tailored to the specific case or issue
- ❑ Lawyers will have to rise up to the challenge but may also use the innovation momentum to improve their lives, not just that of their clients, and perhaps return to their original, most authentic, irreplaceable role