



# **THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTRONIC APOSTILLE PROGRAM (e-APP)**

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## Introduction

- The Dominican Republic acceded to the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 in 2008.
- The Convention entered into force for the Dominican Republic on 30 August 2009.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) was designated as the Competent Authority for the implementation of the Apostille Convention.



## Institutional Vision

- The Dominican Republic recognized the need to modernize Apostille services in response to the evolving digital environment.
- The implementation of the e-APP became part of a broader strategy aimed at improving accessibility, transparency, efficiency, and legal certainty.



## Implementation of the e-APP

- On 3 August 2020, the Dominican Republic formally launched its Online Apostille and Legalization System.
- The platform allows citizens to request and receive Apostilles remotely through a secure and efficient digital process.
- The system contributes to reducing fraud risks and strengthening public confidence.



## Legal and Regulatory Framework

- Law No. 126-02 on Electronic Commerce, Documents and Digital Signatures provided the legal basis for the recognition of electronic documents and digital signatures.
- Electronic signatures are recognized as legally equivalent to handwritten signatures within the Dominican legal system.



## Institutional Preparation and Coordination

- Prior to implementation, extensive institutional coordination was carried out with diplomatic missions, public institutions, and authorized entities.
- Online signature registration modules and verification protocols were established to ensure the integrity and authenticity of documents.



## Citizen Assistance and Accessibility

- The Ministry developed guides, tutorials, and support channels to facilitate public access to the system.
- Citizens receive assistance through telephone, email, WhatsApp, and in-person support modules.
- Special attention is provided to elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and emergency cases.



## Security and Verification Mechanisms

- Dominican electronic Apostilles include QR codes, barcodes, electronic verification mechanisms, and digital watermarks.
- The electronic registry records essential information regarding the Apostille and the underlying public document.



## International Recognition and Cooperation

- Dominican electronic Apostilles are recognized in more than 125 Contracting Parties to the Hague Convention.
- MIREX maintains active cooperation with foreign authorities and diplomatic missions to ensure the effective recognition of Dominican e-Apostilles abroad.



## Results and Achievements

- More than 1.6 million Apostille certificates have been issued between 2020 and 2026.
- Average processing time has been reduced to approximately four hours.
- Citizen satisfaction indicators range between 99.94% and 100%.



## Lessons Learned

- Successful digital transformation requires a robust legal framework, institutional commitment, and citizen-centered policies.
- Continuous technical improvement and international cooperation remain essential to strengthening the e-APP system.



## Commitment to International Cooperation

- Open to technical cooperation
- Available to share best practices
- Ready to support Member States implementing the e-APP
- Promoting modern and secure Apostille services worldwide



## Conclusion

- The Dominican Republic remains firmly committed to the modernization of public services through secure, transparent, and efficient digital solutions.
- We reiterate our willingness to cooperate with Member States interested in implementing and strengthening the Electronic Apostille Program.