EUROPEAN LEGISLATION IDENTIFIER “ELI”

Brussels 12 June 2014
John Dann
- Citizens believe legislation is too complex and often incomprehensible
  - Expectations are not met
  - Difficult to find in its context
- Public participation: only experts find their ways
- Experts: dispersed information and not detailed enough
Observations

For Governments and Institutions:

- Possible limitations of current systems
- Information flow is increasing - performance?
- Disparate knowledge on the current state of legislation
- Legislative work flow often complex and on paper
- Time consuming analysis
Opportunities

- Facilitate the accessibility and participation
  - Access to public Information - PSI Directive
  - Citizens and businesses

- Further digitalisation of public services
  - Enrichment of analysis for better decision making
  - Exchange and interconnection of data

- Research, Innovation and Development
  - Towards an ”Legislative Open Data“

- Increase transparency and efficiency
  - Promote participatory democracy
  - Better reflect the needs of users
ELI

European Legislation Identifier
Work started in “European Forum of Official Gazettes”

Conclusions of the EU Council

“European Legislation Identifier (ELI)” Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 26 October 2012, “2012/C 325/02”

- « ELI Task Force » of the EU Council
  - France, Luxembourg, United Kingdom and Office of Publications EU

- EU funding for the project starting 2014
- Easy access to legislation (user-friendly)
- Practical / flexible system for naming and sharing metadata
- Interoperability within a flexible common framework
- Automatic exchange of information
- Human and machine readable
ELI components

1. Unique Resource Identifier - URI
2. Metadata catalogues
3. Structured information linking to other documents – e.g. RDFa
Structure of the URI:

- **Unique Identifier** – **HTTP URI**
- Few constraints
- **Natural hierarchisation**
- Semantic data
- Possibility to « guess » the URI

### Structure of the URI:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Eli</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Country</td>
<td>Use of DCTERMS.IS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Agent</td>
<td>Administrative hierarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Sub_agent</td>
<td>Administrative hierarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Year</td>
<td>YYYY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month</td>
<td>MM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Day</td>
<td>DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Type</td>
<td>Nature of the act (law, various interpretation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Sub-type</td>
<td>Sub-category of an act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ELI – URI
Construction of a semantic URI

- Citation of legislative acts by?
  - Professionals
  - Citizens

- Data available?
  - Written by?
  - Signed by?
  - Dates?
  - Types?
  - Date of Publication?
  - Structure: section, subsection ...
  - Various publishing formats
Build your own unique URI

/el/{country}/

{agent}/

{sub-agent}/

{year}/

{month}/

{day}/

{Natural Identifier}/

{Point in time}/

/\{Version}\ /

/\{language\} /

{Level 1...}/

{Level 2 ...}/

{Level 3...}/
URI structure Luxembourg:

http://eli.legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/{type}/{année}/{mois}/{jour}/{id}

Next steps:

– {art.1}
– {consolide}
Règlement grand-ducal du 10 décembre 2009 concernant le rapprochement des législations ...
ADDING MORE INFORMATION

Integration of consolidated version
ELI – METADATA
Pillar 2: Metadata

- Description of the essential characteristics of a legislative act
- Set of predefined components
- Shared syntax
Pillar 3: Ontology - RDFa

- Description of the relationships between objects
- Machine readable
- Founded on the FRBR model
ELI – TOWARDS A LEGISLATIVE OPEN DATA

Structured information
Impacts and forecasts
Use case
Transposition use case - current situation

Transposition Directive

- Expert research needed
- Long and time consuming work:
  - Manual analysis of transpositions
  - Manual analysis of the correspondence table article by article...
Current OJ often not machine readable
Possibility with structured information

**Machine readable**

**Human readable**

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**Supplementary information**

**Document Classification**
- Category: Secondary
- Status: Final
- Type: Regulation

**Date**
- Version: 2013
- Effective Date: 2013-03-05
- Supersedes: 2013/02/28

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**Legal Basis**

Article 2 of the directive imposes a minimum period of parental leave to be granted by Member States. This legal basis is crucial for ensuring the implementation and enforcement of the regulations at the national level.

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**Analogous documents**

- Maternity and Parental Leave (Revised Framework Agreement) Regulations 1997
- Parental Leave (EU Directive) Regulations 2013
Human and Machine readable with ELI RDFa

Adding ELI RDF pilot projects to start soon
Possibility with structured information

- Possibility to view links
- Computerized impact analysis
- Information available to the needs of the audience:
  - Public: consolidated acts in force
  - Experts: detailed information
  - Government
  - ...
Interconnection and impact analysis with structured data

Complexity of legislative interconnections:

- Impact analysis - the only efficient possibility is by computers
- Possibility to connect with other data e.g.
  - Statistics
  - ...
Possibility with structured information
Exchange of information
Directive transposition at national level
Exchange of information

- Data provided by the EU Publications Office and displayed on national OJ

OPUE “Cellar” Base de données de l’OPUE
Goal: exchange of information between different systems
Never again “Lost in Legislation”
ADVANTAGES
ELI enables a far greater degree of semantic interoperability:

- between EU/national legislation systems
- between legislation systems of different Member States
- between legislation systems and many other systems containing data that relates to legislation
Conclusions

- ELI ... develops the Semantic Web
- ELI ... flexible for all national OJ
- ELI ... easy implementation - small steps
- ELI ... interconnected OJ
- ELI ... helps to find legislation easier
- ELI ... human and machine readable
- ELI ... prepares the future
MERCI

john.dann@eco.etat.lu