

Access to legislation in force: a question of democracy. A view from an European Union Region: Catalonia.

Traineeship at EUR-Lex Section
Publications Office of the European Union
September 23th- October 23th 2015

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*2015 Award in recognition of Librarianship
professional career*



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I. Introduction

I.1 Traineeship work plan

Goal of the traineeship:

To improve access of Catalonia citizens to European Union legislation in force.

Objectives

- 1- To acquire knowledge about:
 - Consolidation process of EU Law
 - EUR-Lex
 - EuroVoc
 - N-Lex The common gateway to National Law

- 2- To elaborate a proposal on how EU Law which belongs to competence areas of Regional Government of Catalonia could be automatically integrated into *Catalonia Legislation Website*.

Results

The traineeship results will consist in the following documents written in English and Catalan:

- 1) Proposal on how EU Law which is competence of Catalonia Regional Government could be automatically integrated into *Catalonia Legislation Website*.
Aimed to: Autonomous Entity of the Official Journal and Publications, Catalonia Government (Competent for *Catalonia Legislation Website*)

- 2) Documentation (large compilation) about EUR-Lex.
Aimed to: *Catalonia Legislation Website* consolidation team.

- 3) Summary about EUR-Lex.
Aimed to: Catalonia Government Departments which worked together with *Catalonia Legislation Website*.

- 4) Documentation about EUROVOC.
Aimed to: Official Journal of Catalonia and *Catalonia Legislation Website* indexation team.
Aimed at: Official Journal of Catalonia and Catalonia Legislation Website indexation team. This part will also be shared within Parliament of Catalonia and Catalonia Legislation Website working group.

- 5) Documentation about N-lex
Aimed to: *Catalonia Legislation Website* consolidation team.

In addition to the Publications Office of the EU, these documents could also be delivered to Secretariat for Foreign and European Union Affairs, Catalonia Government.

Work plan proposal

The work plan proposal consists in planning several meetings for every week. The rest of the time I would work on traineeship results.

First week meetings:

- 1) Publications Office of the EU
 - General presentation: functions and goals of the Publications Office of the European Union.
- 2) EUR-Lex:
 - Team organization and methodology
 - Particularly, consolidation methodology (including which EU legislation acts are taken into account)
 - Directory of European Union consolidated acts
 - The specific objective would be to analyze if we could use this metadata to automatically select and integrate documents into *Catalonia Legislation Website*.
 - How are managed the changes when competences are modified (in case of modification of EU Treaties)?
 - How is it decided the classification of each document?
 - Can a document be related to more than one Directory subjects?
 - Special reference to EU Case-law database
 - How Publications Office of the EU gets information about the measures adopted by Member States to transpose EU directives
 - Open Data (<http://open-data.europa.eu/en/data/>):
 - Possibility to suggest a dataset about EU Legislation to be published at European Union Open Data Portal
 - Which output formats are possible (e.g. XML Metalex or other XML model)?
- 3) *Catalonia Legislation Website* Project [<http://portaljuridic.gencat.cat/ca/>]
(Presentation by Míriam Sort):
 - Objectives, contents and, particularly, how EU Law is actually being incorporated to *Catalonia Legislation Website*.

Second week meetings:

- 1) EUROVOC:
 - Team methodology
 - Procedure to add new terms

- Relation between EUROVOC terms, Subject matter and Directory terms

2) N-Lex The common gateway to National Law.

- How Publications Office of the EU access to legislation in force of the Member States. Does the Publications Office of the UE need it?

3) Other projects of EU-Lex

Third week

To work on traineeship results.

Fourth week

To work on traineeship results.

To deliver traineeship results.

Through the whole process, the progress of the traineeship will be reported to the tutor.

I.2.Attended meetings

23/09/2015 *Accessibility of OJ of the EU*, Support Sites de Diffusion
(EUR-Lex et TED C.2)

EU Law Consolidation/1, Head of Sector Consolidation
(Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4)

24/09/2015 *Introduction to OP*, Contenu Éditorial EUR-Lex
(EUR-Lex et TED C.2)

28/09/2015 *Access EUR-Lex via API/1*, Support Sites de Diffusion
(EUR-Lex et TED C.2)

29/09/2015 *ELI TaskForce Meeting*, Representation from OP, Luxembourg, France, UK
and Denmark

01/10/2015 *web@OP*, Portail Commun et Sites OP (Portail Commun et

Portail des données Publiques C.1)

OP IT system: publication chain/1, Support Technique
(Réception Post-Production, Validation et Gestion Cellar A2)

ELI URI and reusing metadata from the cellar, Head of Sector, Stockage et
Archive Électronique (Réception Post-Production, Validation et Gestion
Cellar A2)

02/10/2015 *Ted Accessibility Study Presentation*, Project Management Office,
ILUNION (Madrid)

05/10/2015 *Test usability*, Contenu Éditorial EUR-Lex (EUR-Lex et TED C.2)

Legal analysis and Directory of European Union consolidated legislation,
Gestion Documentaire et Analyse Juridique (Gestion Documentaire et
Métadonnées C.4)

06/10/2015 User training for EU Institution members: *Make your search for EU law a
success!*, Contenu Éditorial EUR-Lex (EUR-Lex et TED C.2)

N-Lex, Contenu Éditorial EUR-Lex (EUR-Lex et TED C.2)

07/10/2015 *EuroVoc*, Normalisation et Registre de Métadonnées
(Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4)

Case-law publication, Head of Sector Jurisprudence (Journaux Officiels et
Jurisprudence B.1)

08/10/2015 *Légilux*, Service central de législation, Ministère d'État, Gouvernement du
Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

OP IT system: publication chain/2, Support Technique
(Réception Post-Production, Validation et Gestion Cellar A.2)

13/10/2015 *EUR-Lex Helpdesk and statistics*, Contenu Éditorial EUR-Lex
(EUR-Lex et TED C.2)

Traineeship check point, Head of Section Contenu Éditorial EUR-Lex (EUR-

Lex et TED C.2)

- 14/10/2015 *Access EUR-Lex via API/2*, Support Sites de Diffusion (EUR-Lex et TED C.2)
- National Implementing Measures*, Gestion Documentaire et Analyse Juridique (Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4)
- Le acquis communautaire*, Head of Sector, JO L ET C (Journaux Officiels et Jurisprudence B.1)
- Multilingual search*, Entrepôt des Données (Projets Informatiques A.3)
- 15/10/2015 *OP Helpdesk*. Follow-up meeting with the contractor.
- OJ Production*.
- Open Data*, Portail des Données Publiques (Portail Commun et Portail des Données Publiques C.1)
- Copyright*, Head of Section Copyright et Questions Juridiques (Appels d'Offres, Contrats et Copyright R.2)
- 16/10/2015 *EU Publications, cataloguing and indexing*, Métadonnées des Publications (Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4)
- 19/10/2015 *OP Survey Tool Presentation*, Whoiswho et Contact Management (Portail Commun et Portail des Données Publiques C.1)
- Consolidation/2*, Head of Section Consolidation (Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4)
- 20/10/2015 *Re-use TED Open Data*, Diffusion TED (EUR-LEX ET TED C.2)
- 21/10/2015 *Public audience*, European Court of Justice.
- PDF Accessible*, Contenu Éditorial EUR-Lex (EUR-Lex et TED C.2)
- EU Legislation acts indexation*, Head of Section Gestion Documentaire et

Analyse Juridique (Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4)

- 22/10/2015 *Personal data*, Head of Unit Contrôle Interne et Évaluation Unité 01.
- ELI and XML Format*, Formats et informatique linguistique, Formats, Informatique, Linguistique et Métadonnées (Architecture d'Enterprise, Méthodes et Formats A.1)
- Web accessibility*, Portail Commun et Sites OP
(Portail Commun et Portail des données Publiques C.1)
- 05/10/2015 Presentation of *Catalonia Legislation Website* at the OP, by Míriam Sort.

II. Documentation (large compilation) about EUR-Lex.

II.1. Publications Office of the European Union. EUR-Lex and TED Unit.

The Publications Office (OP) of the EU is a General Direction of the EU Commission.

EUR-Lex et TED Unit belongs to the Direction C Diffusion and Reutilization of the OP.

The aim of EUR-Lex et TED Unit is to assure user-friendly online access to EU law and EU public procurement documents.

EUR-Lex is responsible for the electronic dissemination of EU law. This includes legal procedures, the Official Journal and the acts published therein, the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice, other types of documents issued by EU institutions and bodies. The service also manages N-Lex the gateway to national law of the EU Member States.

The TED online service provides free access to business opportunities. It is updated five times a week with approximately 8000 new public procurement notices per week. The service also manages the SIMAP portal, providing specific information on public procurement addressed both to contracting authorities/entities and to economic operators, including a web-based tool — eNotices — which simplifies and speeds up transmission, preparation and publication of tender notices. In addition, the eSenders service allows qualified organizations to submit notices directly as XML files.

The data of the two websites are also made available in bulk for commercial or non-commercial reuse (see EUR-Lex copyright notice: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/editorial/legal_notice.htm#droits).

The unit deals with documents and metadata. The unit does not produce the official documents, they received it from the OJ, they processed them adding metadata and producing the consolidated versions.

EUR-Lex Section is in charge maintaining EUR-Lex interface (search forms, maintaining information up to dated when new collections are added) and all no legal information published in EUR-Lex; this Sections also offers training sessions on demand and they are very active dissemination EUR-Lex information through social media, particularly Twitter.

II.2. EUR-Lex contents

EUR-Lex contains texts produced mostly by the institutions of the EU, but also by Member States, EFTA, etc. A detailed list of the specific type of documents can be obtain at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/tools/TableOfSectors/types_of_documents_in_eurlex.html?locale=es

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/tools/TableOfSectors/types_of_documents_in_eurlex.html?locale=en

Most relevant resources for the legislation in force:

- Access to Official Journal Legislation, OJ L
 - o Treaties
 - o International Agreements
 - o Secondary legislation
 - Directives
 - Regulations
 - DecisionsOffering the consolidated versions of these documents.
- Case-Law
- National Implementing Measures
- Case-law at national level linked to EU Law

It is also important to note that:

- EP Questions (these are no longer published in OJ since 2015)
- EUR-Lex will close its previous version at <http://old.eur-lex.europa.eu/es/index.htm> in December 23rd 2015.

II.2.1. OJ Publication chain

OP receives documents in all official languages (24 when Gallic is included) from authors, which are EU Institutions.

After a general validation of each document, from a legal and format points of view, necessary marks are added to facilitate quality control of proofs readers. This general validation includes a very precisely work: it is during this process, for example, that dates are specified in the text (date of effect, date of applicability, dateline transposition) taking into account the expected publication date. Quality control is assisted by powerful software of automatic revision.

After, documents are sent to the printer which returns the full OJ pdf and table of contents, which is signed, XML Formex and pdf format of each document and metadata files (IMMC file); all files in all languages.

Files are charge into the OP Cellar and documents can be retrieved:

- Via EUR-Lex through the indexation tool IDOL
- Via API using SPARQL query directly to the cellar

An OJ publication chain is a complex process, particularly because it is needed to get a set of documents into an OJ before they can be published. More flexibility in this sense could be welcomed, for example, if documents were published individually.

II.2.2. Legal analysis of legislation acts

When documents are published in the EU OJ a pre-notice is automatically published which includes data that can be automatically obtained from the database.

After that, a detailed legal analysis, which is done by a contractor, is published in EU OJ is done in maximum 48 hours. To manage the 24 languages, this work is mainly based in translation tables.

Legal analysis process includes EuroVoc, Subject matter and Directory of legislation indexation. Then a quality control is conducted by Gestion Documentaire et Analyse Juridique (Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4).

I would like to point out Directory of legislation, a numerical classification tool that offers access to EU Law by subject. But different Directories are offered depending on the type of documents. We will see afterwards.

A project is being developed in order to adapt Directory classification to Treaties competences. So, we have to be aware of changes coming.

It is relevant to remark that this legal analysis is done exclusively for the documents that are published at L and C OJ. This means legal analysis and, consequently the metadata, are different for case-law documents not published in the OJ. This is an important note for searching the information.

II.2.3. Consolidation of legislation acts

Consolidated texts are non-official documents integrating acts of sector 3 with their amendments and corrections. These documents have the same CELEX number, except that the sector is 0 instead of 3. At present Treaties (sector 1) and International agreements (sector 2) are also consolidated as we will see afterwards.

To consolidate EU Law is a huge task: in 2015 consolidation will produce two million pages, including all languages.

***Type of consolidated documents**

Treaties

International Agreements

Directives (Directive, Implementing directive, Delegated directive)

Regulations (Regulation, Implementing regulation, Delegated regulation)

Decisions (Decision, Implementing decision, Delegated decision)

. Treaties

Consolidation of Treaties has been responsibility of the Council. Last version was published on Official Journal C 326 , 26/10/2012 P. 0001-0390. At present, this is a function of the Publications Office, Section Consolidation (Gestion Documentaire et Métadonnées C.4).

. International Agreements

They are consolidated since 2012. Most of them are already consolidated.

. Directives, Regulations and Decisions

The Publications Office start to consolidated this legislation acts in the '90s; they were consolidated the ones who were in force at that moment.

***The procedure**

. Consolidation team receives the XML (Formex version4) of the published version, which already contains legislation acts divided "in pieces"; at least each article it is a separated metadata.

. As consolidation is done based on the original published version, it is not necessary to have a process of translation. Even though, the procedure requires staff with linguistic skills, because linguistic revision is sometimes necessary during the consolidation process, in case it is needed to apply grammatical corrections.

. The consolidation is done by external contractors.

. The contractor gives back an XML which contains the consolidated version and the pdf version.

. It is important to figure out that each pdf version in each language has the same contents in each page in order to facilitate, for example, automatic quality revision.

. If a mistake is detected in the amendment text, author is notified in order to decide if a corrigenda has to be published, otherwise the consolidation has to reproduce the mistake.

. Proposal of improvement: when an amendment is published the XML can not be readable by machine to know which article is affected and which kind of amendment is done. It is necessary at this point human intervention, because all the information it is in the same metadata or label.

***Direct access to consolidated versions**

There different ways to link to the consolidated versions. A clear explanation can be found at:

<<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/help/faq/intro.html#help16>>

The Publications Office is working on the implementation of ELI - European Legislation Identifier, e.g.:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/1253>

This option seems the most convenient for the *Catalonia Legislation Website* to link the EU legislation acts in EUR-Lex, because it is constructed in an international standard basis. ELI

would allow to link both the published version (including OJ at the end of ELI URL), to a specific consolidated version (including the date at the end of ELI URL), or to the latest version.

ELI it is not implemented yet in EUR-Lex. Meanwhile, one of the best options for Catalonia Legislation Website should be to link the published version with CELEX number and the latest version as shown in the following this URL example:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009R1005:LATEST:ES:HTML> – for HTML.

***Publication of consolidation versions**

Consolidated versions are usually published when they are in force or, maximum, one month in advance. Nowadays system doesn't offer future versions. It could in the near future.

***Legal value of consolidated versions**

It is a fact that if persons who have to prepare amendments to legislation acts could base their work on official consolidated versions, that would reduce mistakes on these amendment processes. This kind of mistakes are common in a legal system where consolidated versions have no legal value.

At present, consolidated versions are meant purely as a documentation tool and the institutions do not assume any liability for its contents, but it could be that in the near future European Union regulates the official value these versions.

***Directory of EU consolidated acts**

Consolidated versions are automatically included in this Directory when they are published because the published version have already its code assigned.

@Tip for EUR-Lex:

. From my point of view legal analysis and consolidation should be two parts of the same process. Otherwise inconsistency of data can be produced.

. In my opinion access to *Directory of legislation in force* should be clarified. EUR-Lex offers:

LEGISLATION Tap. As it is informed in the site, *Directory of European Union legislation* contains EU legislation currently in force, and also contains consolidated texts.

CONSOLIDATED LEGISLATION Tap. *Directory of European Union consolidated legislation* contains, apparently, the same documents; in fact, it would have no sense to offer a Directory only for consolidated versions.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS Tap. *Directory of international agreements*.

International agreements are part of EU Legislation so in my opinion it does not either make sense to offer it separately. User have to know that to gather all the legislation in force have to look in different Directories. This is not so obvious if you are not an expert.

It is for that reason that it could be an improvement to offer a unique Directory under the title *Directory of legislation in force* at LEGISLATION tap including only the legislation in force:

<<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/legislation/recent.html>>

For example:

Search in legislation (includes International agreements and consolidated versions)

Search only International agreements (includes consolidated versions)

Search only in consolidated versions

Directory of legislation in force (includes International agreements and consolidated versions)

Recently published: Official published versions / International agreements / Consolidated versions

II.2.4. Treaties currently in force

There to pages in EUR-Lex under the title *Treaties currently in force*:

- 1) TREATIES tap. Treaties currently in force

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties.html>

- . Treaty of Lisbon is included in this page
- . It contains an advertising linking to Council for latest version
- . In this page, each Treaty links to Eur-Lex and displays the consolidated versions published on the OJ in 2012; each register displays the complete HTML OJ, but the pdf only contains only the linked Treaty, so ALL tap contains the dates of publication, validity...corresponding to each Treaty.

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

- Date of document: 26/10/2012; Date of publication
- Date of effect: 01/01/1958; Entry into force See 11957E247
- Date of signature: 25/03/1957; Rome
- Date of end of validity: 31/12/9999; See 11957E240

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union

- Date of document: 26/10/2012; Date of publication
- Date of effect: 01/11/1993; Entry into force See Art 54.2 And OJ L 293/93 P. 61
- Date of signature: 07/02/1992; Maastricht
- Date of end of validity: 31/12/9999

Consolidated version of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community

- Date of document: 26/10/2012; Date of publication
- Date of effect: 01/01/1958; Entry into force See 11957A224
- Date of signature: 25/03/1957; Rome
- Date of end of validity: 31/12/9999; See 11957A208

- 2) Treaties currently in force, included at the bottom of the paged displayed from TREATIES Tap.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties-force.html>

. Treaty of Lisbon is not included in this list; this could be already confusing for user because it is included in the page mention above

. It contains an advertising linking to Council for latest version

. links to consolidated versions of 2012 published in the OJ

Here the information about dates is:

- Date of document: 26/10/2012

. Offers the possibility to link to a part of its contents. This possibility to link to a part of the document is very useful, but when you access to one of these parts you find still another information about dates, which some kind of different from the ones mentioned before:

- Date of document: 26/10/2012; Date of publication
- Date of effect: 01/01/1958; Entry into force See 11957E247
- Date of end of validity: 31/12/9999; See 11957E240

As the consolidated versions published in the OJ in 2012 include the amendments of the Treaty of Lisbon, in my understanding, the entry into force should be December 12nd 2009 (for this consolidated version).

And for the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union there is at least an amendment of article 136 done in 2011 that it is no reflected in this consolidation. I think this amendment came into force May 1st 2013, so the end of validity of this version should be Mars 31st 2013, as long as I could verify.

The period of validity of each version it is neither informed clearly in the consolidated versions published by the Council.

@Tip for EUR-Lex:

- . These comments have been sent to Legal Analysis Section. I might be wrong.
- . From my point of view, each consolidate version should include the validity period, no matter when it has been published in the OJ.
- . It has to be highlighted that Consolidation Section (C.4) is working on the consolidation of Treaties. In my opinion this work will clarify the information about the different versions and each validity period of Treaties currently in force. Meanwhile, may be EUR-Lex should offer a single page under the title *Treaties currently in force* including all the available information.

II.2.5. EU International Agreements

Complementary information on EU International agreements. As explained at Treaties Office website:

The Treaties Office of DG External Relations of the European Commission, has two main roles: to advice on practice and procedural matters relating to the different stages of negotiation of treaties to which the European Community is a party and to provide information on those treaties.

These Treaties, with a very few exceptions, have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ). Both, bilateral agreements entered by the EC with individual Third countries and multilateral agreements to which the European Community is a party, are covered by this Database.

Unlike the Treaty Section or Division of Member States or other international organisations, the European Commission Treaties Office is not responsible for the preparation of treaty texts, or for Instruments of Ratification and Full Powers. The Treaties Office does not act as depositary of the treaties concluded by the European Community.

The Treaties Office is responsible for developing and maintaining an electronic database and information system to facilitate access to treaty information: the Treaties Office Database. This database is regularly updated:

<http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/default.home.do>

The Database contains all the bilateral and multilateral international treaties or agreements concluded by the European Union (EU), the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) and the former European Communities (EC, EEC, ECSC).

The Database does not include the “founding treaties” of the European Community and European Union or other agreements concluded between the Member States of the European Union.

The database has a summary and the full text of each international treaty/agreement, and it is re-using data from EUR-Lex.

II.2.6 Case-law

***EUR-Lex contents**

EUR-Lex gives access to the complete case-law collection of the Court of Justice of the European Union (just few acts are not published in EUR-Lex by decision of the Court; it might be found in the Curia database).

***Publication chain**

At present, publication chain of case-law is publishing a monthly package and it is only a gap of 6-9 months. Good improvement from last years. Moreover, a huge project on *Document by document production* is being implemented nowadays in order to publish as soon as possible a document delivered by the Court of Justice. It is provided the publication of the original version can take two days, and ten days the translations, in 2016. In this process, the Court will be in charge of sending to the publication chain the definitive version of the original version of the document, which will be in the language of the procedure, and which would not be modified afterwards in the publication chain. This publication will give the citizen the PUBLICATION DATE of the document.

*** Publication date**

From a legal point of view it is important to identify the metadata that indicates the date of publication of a sentence of the Court.

In EUR-Lex this metadata is *Date of document*, which can not be so obvious.

For example, in this case:

Judgment of the Court (Seventh Chamber) of 1 October 2015.
OKG AB v Skatteverket.
Reference for a preliminary ruling: Kammarrätten i Sundsvall - Sweden.

Reference for a preliminary ruling - Directive 2003/96/EC - Articles 4 and 21 - Directive 2008/118/EC - Directive 92/12/EEC - Article 3(1) - Scope - Rules of a Member State - Levying of a tax on the thermal power of nuclear reactors. Case C-606/13.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:62013CJ0606&qid=1445346666051>

- Date of document: 01/10/2015
- Date lodged: 25/11/2013

Date of document is the date of the sentence.

Data lodged the day which the document was published in EUR-Lex.

***Legal analysis**

In this chapter we have to distinguish:

1) Documents published in the OJ (communications)

The first set of documents is submitted to the same legal analysis process already explained for documents published in the OJ.

2) Documents that are not published in the OJ (sector 6)

In this case, the legal analysis is run by the Court of Justice. So it is important to keep in mind that these documents have:

- ECLI European Case Law Identifier.
- Directory of European Union case law (note it is a Directory specific for case-law).
- Subject matter: this classification is a bit different from the one which is assigned to documents published in the OJ; the Court of Justice has develop a part of the Subject matter classification that is used for documents published in the OJ, so it might be different terms.
- Do not have EuroVoc terms.

This means that it can not be used EuroVoc metadata for re-use case-law data as we might use for legislation acts. In fact, there is not common subject metadata between legislation acts and case-law. Just to know. In fact, metadata that links both type of documents is, from my point of view, legislation acts that have been applied in a case-law, so there we have already a liaison point.

***Retrieving case-law by subject matter**

I developed this brief explanation to answer a request of a lawyer searching case-law by subject.

In advanced search:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/advanced-search-form.html>

Selection: *EU Case-Law*. Then the form is refreshed.

At the bottom of the page, you can choose:

- EuroVoc: it has to be reminded that only documents published in the OJ have this metadata. So you can find the summary published in the OJ and then you can search the complete judgement.
- Subject matters and Directory of case-law are metadata exclusive for case-law documents not published in the OJ and that are added by the Court.

***Celex number**

Another advantage of searching case-law in EUR-Lex is to search by CELEX number which can also be used for case-law.

***Curia database**

As complementary information on case-law:

Database of the EU Court of Justice:

http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/j_6/accueil

Répertoire de jurisprudence (disponible en français)

http://curia.europa.eu/common/recdoc/repertoire_jurisp/bull_home/index.htm

This *Répertoire* is been progressively substituted by the digital publication of the case-law in Eur-Lex.

National decisions

This database contains some 28,700 references to national decisions concerning Community law from 1959 up to the present day.

At present the juridic analysis (keyword and references to the provisions concerned) is available in French, and in English for decisions before 8th November 2013. The national data are mentioned in the original language of the decision.

The database contains:

- 3) The national case law regarding European Union law.
- 4) The reference to annotations and comments in books and articles related to national decisions and judgements delivered under the preliminary ruled procedure by the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning those matters.

http://www.juradmin.eu/fr/jurisprudence/jurisprudence_fr.lasso

@Tips for EUR-Lex:

. It might be useful to make more visible for users that case-law documents have no EuroVoc terms assigned. May be a note can be added in the information button of the field.

. It could be of interest to make more visible for user the meaning of some metadata. It is not always so obvious. For example, if I am not wrong:

- In case-law: publication date is Date of document
- In consolidated versions Date of document doesn't make really sense in my opinion; might an unnecessary data.

II.2.7. *Le aquis communautaire*

When a State becomes a new member of the EU, a special edition of secondary law in force on the date of accession is published. The State is responsible for the translation. This is a huge task that can take many years, and EU Institutions have a process set out to review and publish it. Acts are grouped in volumes corresponding to the chapters of the Directory of EU legislation.

Special editions:

<<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eu-enlargement/special.html>>

II.2.8. NIMs - National Implementing Measures

On behalf of the Treaties it is mandatory for the States to notify the Commission the implementing measures adopted. States communicate this information via online and it is their responsibility to fill metadata in correctly, which includes the transposed Directive. These metadata are sent to EUR-Lex.

The full text of the NIMs:

- Commission could ask in the near future for the complete text of the transposed acts to verify the transposition.
- Maybe this information could be accessible for user through EUR-Lex to access the full text (but maybe in this point it is important to offer a link to the user which always retrieves the current version of the document, not the first version sent to the Commission).

Team in charge of NIMs is working to improve metadata:

- A NIM can implement more than Directive; this information is already in the system; it is only needed to adapt the system to display it.
- When dates are not filled by Member States you will find 1001

In order to re-use data it is important to point out that NIMs data are not in the Branch notice, so it will be necessary to retrieve them directly from the Cellar.

Examples for searching NIMs via Celex number:

- 7* retrieve all the NIMs
- 7*L*ESP retrieve all NIMs for Spain (but via API there is a limit of documents)

Data is up to date weekly. In two or three days, since they are published in a national OJ, NIMs can be found in EUR-Lex.

* *Catalonia Website Legislation*. Actions point proposal:

To re-use NIM data in order to link Catalan and Spanish implementing measures to the transposed Directive.

II.2.9. N-Lex – The common gateway to National Law

N-Lex is a gateway to find national legislation in every EU country – directly in the original national databases. It uses a standardised search form (in any official EU language).

This project is run by a Council working group called eLaw.

Concerning Spain, N-Lex offers only access to national database which contains a part of regional legislation, but legislation only published at regional level is missed.

II.2.10. Re-using data

OP is developing a project to store all its data in a unique database offering direct access to re-use data. Data can be retrieved directly from the Cellar which includes EUR-Lex contents:

- Via API through SPARQL queries at:
<<http://publications.europa.eu/webapi/rdf/sparql>>
- Via ELI (European Legislation Identifier):
<<http://data.europa.eu/eli/>>
ELI will be soon implemented in EUR-Lex in the sense that it will be possible to use ELI URI to retrieve EUR-Lex Branch notice of documents.
- OP is also developing some widgets that will allow display information from the Cellar in other websites. It is JavaScript-based.

EUR-Lex data can be retrieved also via API in order, for example, to get the Branch notice in XML format:

It is necessary to be a registered user. See **WEBSERVICE REGISTRATION**. Webservices allow registered users to search EUR-Lex databases directly, without having to perform a search via the website. They offer search options similar to those in the expert search, and deliver the data in XML format. The software system is designed to support interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network.

Among others, it is necessary to complete these data:

Used data. Data you want to get from the webservice, for further use.

Final use of data. What you intend to do with the data

Calling application. Name of the application you intend to use to query EUR-Lex

Days of use. Day of the week when you will use the webservice. One check box per day

Call frequency. Number of calls per day

For the number of calls, depending on the option chosen by *Catalonia Legislation Website*, maybe monthly statistics can be sent.

Find more about how to use the webservice at:

[<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/help/faq/intro.html#help18>](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/help/faq/intro.html#help18)

II.3. European Union Information

The network of European Documentation Centres was launched by the European Commission in 1963. Since 2001 the EDCs have been run and managed by DG Communication. In 2005 the EDC network became part of the Europe Direct information network, following the Communication from the European Commission (COM (2004)196) on the implementation of the information and communication strategy for the European Union. It was then decided to re-brand all the DG Communication information networks under the name Europe Direct.

There are around 400 European Documentation Centres in the EU Member States. The centres in the non-EU countries were originally under the management of DG External Relations and DG Enlargement and are now managed by EEAS. Since 1.1.2007 they have been called "EUi" (European Union Information).

EDCs's tasks and objectives

European Documentation Centres are located in higher education institutions or research centres and they are bound to the Commission by an agreement, signed by their host structure and the Head of the Commission Representation in the same country. The agreement stipulates the rights and obligations of both parties as regards the setting up and operation of the EDC.

The Centres are not awarded any grant by the European Commission, but they do receive support in the form of documentation which is distributed by OP. As members of the Europe Direct information network, EDCs have access to the different support services offered to the network, such as training, networking facilities, information services and the online communication platform.

The main tasks of the EDCs are to:

- promote and consolidate teaching and research in the field of European integration;

- make in-depth information and sources on the European Union and its policies available to the public, especially in the academic and university environment;
- participate in the debate on the European Union, when appropriate with other European information outlets and networks.

The Centres should also perform a series of other tasks such as cataloguing and indexing all Community publications in a single collection, providing access to, and enabling consultation of, publications and other material for at least 20 hours per week and informing the Commission of the events in which they participate.

III. Documentation about EuroVoc

Aimed at: Official Journal of Catalonia and Catalonia Legislation Website team in charge of indexation. This part will also be shared with the Parliament of Catalonia working group.

EuroVoc is a multi-lingual and multi-disciplinary thesaurus which covers the field of activity of the European Union. It was originally built up specifically for processing the documentary information of the EU institutions, but is largely used outside the EU institutions as well:

<<http://eurovoc.europa.eu/drupal/>>

This indexing tool is being developed by a working group integrated by a member from each EU Institutions.

At present, they are working to publish the 5th version.

Unfortunately, this group is not involved in EuroVoc guidelines applied by the contractor when indexing legislation acts.

We can easily contact them for proposal regarding EuroVoc through the Contribute form:

<<http://eurovoc.europa.eu/drupal/?q=maintenance&cl=en>>

As we work with the EuroVoc Catalan version, translated by Catalonia Parliament, it could be of interest to open the source in XML format. This would also help us to update it.

VocBench: web-based, multilingual, editing and workflow tool that manages thesauri, authority lists and glossaries using SKOS-XL

<<http://vocbench.uniroma2.it/>>

This tool can be very helpful to map list of terms with EuroVoc.

It has been also pointed out the existing Metadata Registry

<<http://publications.europa.eu/mdr/>> where can be found the Named Authority Lists.

Catalonia Legislation Website. Actions to be done:

- . Export Catalan version of EuroVoc into the same EuroVoc XML format published by the OP.

@Tips for EUR-Lex:

From my point of view, to involve the inter-institutional group which is building EuroVoc into the elaboration of EuroVoc guidelines, which are aimed at the contractor of the Legal analysis process, could be a positive input for these guidelines.

IV. Tips for *Catalonia Legislation Website*

IV.1. Proposal: How EU legislation acts can be automatically integrated into *Catalonia Legislation Website* database

- *Introduction
- *Procedure
- *Examples of SPAQL search and ELI URI
- *Actions needed

***Introduction**

Departments of Catalonia Government require showing in their websites legislation in force that applies to their competence areas. This is also a mandate of transparency legislation.

This means we have to be able to offer together Catalonia Law, Spanish Law, EU Law and International Agreements (when are not part or EU Law) and, it also means, it shall include consolidated versions of all these acts, when applicable.

Metadata system of *Catalonia Legislation Website* was already defined, since the beginning, to offer legal documents from other legislation levels. As a consequence, the option we are developing is to integrate Department websites with *Catalonia Legislation Website*.

So, at present, the incorporation of EU Treaties, International agreements and Legislation acts into *Catalonia Legislation Website* is needed to answer this request from Departments and to accomplish the transparency legislation mandate.

***Procedure**

For EU Law this is the procedure proposal to complete the integration:

- 1) Each Department will be responsible of setting the list of categories that shall appear in its website, under sectorial legislation.
- 2) *Catalonia Legislation Website* will:
 - a. Add this list of categories to Legislative Collections authority list, as a new Collection for each Department, so a code will be assigned to each category. This code will be the link between the Department website and *Catalonia Legislation Website*.
 - b. Map these categories with EuroVoc terms or with Directory of Legislation.

- c. Retrieve the list of legislation acts in force related to mapped terms from the OP Cellar via API-SPARQL (International agreements and Secondary legislation).
 - d. Results will include URI metadata to retrieve each document via Eur-Lex afterwards.
- 3) The resulting list will be sent to the Department in case a validation is wanted.
- 4) *Catalonia Legislation Website* will retrieve the metadata of each document via Eur-Lex:
 - a. Branch notice from Eur-Lex, in XML format, will be retrieve for each document.
 - b. Metadata will be automatically charged in *Catalonia Legislation Website* database (it will be necessary to map once Branch notice XML format with *Catalonia Legislation Website* metadata model).
 - c. According to EuroVoc mapping, each document will keep its Legislative Collection code link, because this will be the link between the Department website and *Catalonia Legislation Website*.
- 5) At this point, the Department will be able to technically develop the integration of its website with *Catalonia Legislation Website*. Once done:
 - a. The list of categories will be displayed in its website:

The screenshot shows the website of the Department of Territory and Sustainability (Departament de Territori i Sostenibilitat) of the Generalitat de Catalunya. The page features a navigation menu on the left with categories such as 'Normativa i documentació', 'Directori', 'Territori', 'Medi ambient', 'Habitatge / Millora urbana', and 'Transports / Mobilitat'. The main content area displays a search bar for 'Normativa' and a list of categories under 'Directori'.

Departament de Territori i Sostenibilitat

Normativa i documentació

Directori
Informació de la normativa catalana, estatal i internacional competència del Departament

Territori

- Urbanisme**
 - Ordenació del Territori
 - Planificació Territorial
 - Paisatge
 - Costes/Litoral
 - Muntanya
- Habitatge / Millora urbana**
 - Habitatge
 - Barris
 - Urbanitzacions
- Transports / Mobilitat**

Medi ambient

- Aigua (passa a la pag. de l'ACA)**
- Atmosfera**
 - Normativa general
 - Canvi climàtic
 - Odorífera
 - Luminosa
 - Acústica
- Educació i sostenibilitat. Informació ambiental i participació**
 - Sostenibilitat
 - Informació ambiental i participació
- Empresa i avaluació ambiental**
 - Prevençió i control activitats
 - REACH
 - Requisits ecològics de productes
 - Distintius. Ecoproducte i ecoserveis

- b. If a user will click in one of these categories a request will be send to *Catalonia Legislation Website* database and a list of legislation acts in force will be displayed in Department website:

The screenshot shows the website of the Department of Territori i Sostenibilitat. The search results for the query "transport escolar" are displayed under the heading "Resultats de la cerca". The search criteria are: "Text: 'transport escolar'" and "Àmbit competencial: DTES". The results list several decrees (DECRET) related to transport and mobility, such as "DECRET 262/1987, de 27 d'agost, de cessament del senyor Victor Fou i Serradell com a Director General d'Adequació a les Comunitats DOGC" and "DECRET 204/1987, de 27 d'agost, de nomenament del senyor Jaume Gimé i Dalí com a Director General d'Adequació a les Comunitats DOGC".

- c. If a user click on one of these titles the document will be display in *Catalonia Legislation Website*; in case the user choose a EU legislation act, *Catalonia Legislation Website* will display metadata only and a link to Eur-Lex:

The screenshot shows the "Portal Jurídic de Catalunya" website displaying the metadata for "Reglament (CE) 107/2009 de la Comissió de 4 de febrer de 2009, pel qual es desenvolupa la Directiva 2005/32/CE del Parlament Europeu i del Consell pel que fa als requisits de disseny ecològic aplicables als descodificadors simples". The metadata includes: "Títol del document: Reglament 107", "Organisme emissor: Comissió Europea", "Núm. de document: 107/2009", "Data del document: 04/02/2009", "Data de publicació: 04/02/2009", "Tipus d'actes: Decret", "Núm.: 107".

- i. Title
- ii. Author
- iii. OJ
- iv. OJ number
- v. OJ date
- vi. Document type
- vii. Date of document
- viii. Date of effect
- ix. EuroVoc terms
- x. CELEX number
- xi. URI of the published version
- xii. URI of the latest version
- xiii. *ELI to the latest/current version (when implemented)*

. Analyse options to retrieve the documents: mapping Departments categories with EuroVoc terms or with Directory of legislation.

It has to be studied the possibility to use tools like VocBench to map the terms. <<http://vocbench.uniroma2.it/>>.

. To analyse the possibility to re-use data from the Named Authority Lists <<http://publications.europa.eu/mdr/authority/index.html>> of the OP Metadata Registry <<http://publications.europa.eu/mdr/>> for some metadata.

. To map Branch notice XML format and *Catalonia Legislation Website* metadata system.

. To prepare a procedure to charge automatically metadata retrieved from Eur-lex to *Catalonia Legislation Website* database.

. To prepare SPARQL searches to retrieve the information from OP Cellar

. To update:

- When ELI will be completely implemented in Eur-Lex, it will be possible to link to the latest version of each document (it could be the published or the consolidated one). At present, URL can be constructed with CELEX number identifier to the latest version:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009R1005:LATEST:ES:PDF> – for PDF

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009R1005:LATEST:ES:HTML> – for HTML.

In case there is no consolidated version and the link is done to the published version, a piece of advice can be added telling how to access to Linked documents and consolidated versions, in case they are published meanwhile.

- This procedure should be executed daily in order to have data up to dated: to include new documents published and to erase the ones that are no more in force. It is necessary to keep in mind that the main objective is to offer the legislation in force.

@Tip for EUR-Lex:

About linking the current or the latest version:

- May be could be more visible in the website how to link the latest consolidation version.
- As far as I could know, when ELI will be implemented in Eur-Lex it is planned to define an ELI URI that links always to the latest version but. I would like just to point out that latest version not is necessarily the current version. It would be very useful to have an ELI URI that displays always the current version of a legislation act (which can be the published version or a consolidated one).

IV.2. Open linked data

Catalonia OJ website and *Catalonia Legislation Website* have the objective to offer its contents as Open Linked Data (OLD).

In order to achieve this goal, semantic web technology should be implemented, using Resource Description Framework (RDF) for web resources, which specify metadata and represent information using Uniform Resource Identifier (URI). Existing standard ontologies for metadata should be studied.

*** Action points proposal:**

. To review our XML format and enrich it semantically.

See Formex (OP):

<<http://formex.publications.europa.eu/>>

Akoma Ntoso:

<<http://www.akomantoso.org/>>

Metalex:

<<http://www.metalex.eu/>>

It is essential to take into account all type of documents stored in our database and consolidated versions of this documents, when exist, applying RDF, which appropriate ontologies, and Uniform Resource Identifier (URI).

- . To create new metadata in our database in order to archive documents in XML format.
- . As a result we should elaborate a list of all metadata specifying name, description, if mandatory, if multi-value. We have to build our own ontology, so we will be able to connect our ontology with any other. Three levels have to be defined: Legal resource, Legal expression, Format, and then each metadata are assigned to each level.
- . To review website presentation of data taking into consideration the new XML format with enriched information in order to improve accessibility for disabled people.
- . To modify our OJ publication chain in order to introduce the new XML format and to archive this XML format in the database.
- . To generate XML format for all documents already published, including metadata of consolidated versions.
- . To open access to the database via API-SPARQL

When these action points will be achieved our system will be able to interoperate with other systems.

See end-of-Master's project by Marina Vallès at Barcelona University:

Proposal for a linked data model: Catalonia Legislation Website, 2015 (Catalan language)

<http://portaljuridic.gencat.cat/ca/detalls/noticia/Estudi-Proposta_model_dades_enllasades_PJC>

Projects to follow: OP of the UE, Légilux, Legifrance, UK and Denmark.

IV.3. ELI URI implementation

In accordance with the Council conclusions inviting the introduction of the European Legislation Identifier (ELI) (2012/C 325/02), which say "the process of cooperation within the European Union has increased the need to identify and exchange legal information originating from regional and national authorities at the European level" and, following the same conclusions, "in order to facilitate the further development of interlinked national legislations and to serve legal professionals and citizens in their use of these databases", our Institution is planning to implement the European Legislation Identifier.

A Task Force has been set up under the auspices of the EU Council Working Party e-Law, to study the future developments of ELI standards. It is crucial to be aware of the results of this group.

Our Institution is responsible for the publication of Catalonia OJ, so we would be delighted if a Workshop on ELI is organised in Barcelona. We have officially proposed it.

We would really welcome the possibility to celebrate a Workshop of ELI in Barcelona, the General part and also the Technical, under the auspices of this European Union Project, so that would give us solid guidelines to adopt this standard.

***ELI URI proposal:**

"portaldogc" refers to Catalonia OJ official versions

"portaljuridic" refers to *Catalonia Legislation Website* which includes published versions with corrigenda and consolidated version

- *Legislation acts:*

PORTALJURIDIC.GENCAT.CAT/TYPE/YEAR/NUMBER

In our metadata system, date and year are in the same metadata label. It will be necessary to run an automatic process to separate them.

e.g. Statutory Law 2/2015:

portaljuridic.gencat.cat/leg/2015/2

(users should have the option to choose all stored versions, when exist)

portaldogc.gencat.cat/leg/2015/2

(it is necessary to stablish an ELI for published Spanish versions)

This would be main URI, called "canonical".

It is possible to establish an alias with date of publication:

PORTALJURIDIC.GENCAT.CAT/TYPE/YEAR/MONTH/DAY

PORTALDOGC.GENCAT.CAT/TYPE/YEAR/MONTH/DAY

e.g. Statutory law 2/2015, June 1st 2015

portaljuridic.gencat.cat/leg/2015/06/01

(users should have the option to choose all stored versions, when exist)

If more than one act are found with the same publication date, a list will be displayed to choose:

portaljuridic.gencat.cat/leg/2015/06/01/n1

portaljuridic.gencat.cat/leg/2015/06/01/n2

portaldogc.gencat.cat/leg/2015/06/01/n1

portaldogc.gencat.cat/leg/2015/06/01/n2

(it is necessary to stablish an ELI for published Spanish versions)

Another alias can be defined with Identification Number which is unique for each document in the system:

PORTALJURIDIC.GENCAT.CAT/YEAR/ID
PORTALDOGC.GENCAT.CAT/YEAR/ID

e.g.:
portaljuridic.gencat.cat/leg/2015/15279018
portaldogc.gencat.cat/leg/2015/15279018

It is also possible to define an ELI URI for each article of legislation acts.

- *Edicts*:

PORTALDOGC.GENCAT.CAT/TYPE/YEAR/MONTH/DATE

e.g. Edict published in Section 2 of the OJ, June 2nd 2015
portaldogc.gencat.cat/AN2/2015/06/02

If more than one act are found with the same publication date, a list will be displayed to choose:

portaldogc.gencat.cat/AN2/2015/06/02/n1
portaldogc.gencat.cat/AN2/2015/06/02/n2

Another alias can be defined with Identification Number which is unique for each document in the system:

PORTALDOGC.GENCAT.CAT/ID

e.g.: portaldogc.gencat.cat/an2/2015/15279017

The six Sections that compose the OJ could be codified as follows: AN1, AN2, AN3, AN4, AN5, AN6.

Once ELI URIs are determined, it is needed to associate each metadata defined in our system with ELI ontology.

Projects to follow: OP of the UE, Légilux, Legifrance, UK and Denmark.

IV.4. Improving search functionalities

Improving search functionalities of the Catalonia Legislation Website would add value to this site.

There are specific changes that could be implemented in order to do so:

- a) Metadata. To add *Legal basis* metadata on legislation acts. See EUR-Lex.
- b) Metadata. *Catalonia Legislation Website* metadata system has already a metadata field to link a document with the transposed Directive, but this information it is still empty. This metadata can be retrieved from OP Cellar, *National Implementing Measures* metadata. Search through SPARQL it is possible to retrieve Directive NIMs published exclusively in Spanish and Catalan OJ.
A study should be done in order to re-use these metadata.

e.g.:

<http://portaljuridic.gencat.cat/ca/pjur_ocults/pjur_resultats_fitxa/?action=fitxa&mode=single&documentId=692779&language=ca_ES>

The screenshot shows the 'Portal Juridic de Catalunya' website. The main content area displays the title 'Ordre FOM/1635/2013, de 10 de setembre, per la qual s'actualitza el document bàsic DB-HE "Estalvi d'energia", del Codi tècnic de l'edificació, aprovat pel Reial decret 314/2006, de 17 de març.' Below the title is a 'Dades bàsiques' sidebar with fields for 'Rang del document', 'Organisme emissor', 'Núm. del document', 'Data del document', 'Data de publicació', 'Diari oficial', and 'Núm.'. The main text area is labeled 'TEXT PUBLICAT' and contains the text 'Podeu consultar el text publicat en castellà al BOE núm. 219 de 12/09/2013.' To the right, there are three sidebars: 'Relació cronològica' with a 'Torna' button, 'Relació competencial' showing 'Dret de la Unió Europea' and a list of related directives, and 'Màtries relacionades' with a list of related topics like 'reglamentació de la construcció', 'calefacció', etc. An arrow points from the 'Relació competencial' sidebar to the 'Dret de la Unió Europea' section.

- c) Metadata. If EU legislation acts are being incorporated to the site it will be a good point to reconsider if new metadata should be added, e.g. CELEX number.
- d) Advanced search form. If new metadata are added, advanced search form should be modified. For example, search by CELEX number should be added. See EFTA Database as a model.
- e) Advanced search form. Search by EuroVoc terms: possibility to expand the search of an EuroVoc term including the terms in the levels below. See Eur-Lex Database as a model.
- f) Multilingual search:
- All codified metadata could be searchable under multilingual search (type of document, author, official journal, EuroVoc terms). The search is done by codes, the display in different languages could be done in the user interface, not in the index.
 - OP is working harder in this area due to 24 languages they have to manage. We can learn a lot from them also in this issue.

In Catalonia OJ website, a study should be done in how the system deals technically with the three languages that are published in the Catalonia OJ (Catalan, Spanish and Occitan) in order to verify the quality of a search results and the usability of the system actually implemented.

In Catalonia Legislation Website, a study should be done in order to make possible the search in other languages through the not codified metadata. See as a model N-Lex and its future improvements.

- g) Semantic web:
 - a. A study is needed in order to evaluate the implementation of the SPATIAL extension in our Oracle-based database to make semantic web possible in our site.
 - b. It has to be also analysed Oracle Text which we have implemented as indexation tool. It looks like we could have much better results with other indexation tools.

A part from these specific aspects, search functionalities should be improved in a more general sense. At this point, I would like to remind that the main objective of this traineeship is to determine how to improve access of citizens to legislation in force.

From my point of view, this goal would be accomplish when:

- a) Citizen will be able to access all legislation in force in an EU geographical area, no matter from which level this legislation comes from, through a unique system. That's why we are looking forward to implement a transversal tool that would make this possible.
- b) We will be able to determine which metadata offers information about the applicability of each legislation act. For EU legislation acts *Legal basis* metadata could be the information source.

In order to do so, a project will be developed within *Catalonia Legislation Website*. It is scheduled to go deeply on the details of this project on 2016. A working group it is already settled down.

Catalonia Legislation Website will contact ISA Programme (Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens) <<http://ec.europa.eu/isa/>>, in order to be aware of similar initiatives or to share our own experience.

Tip for EUR-Lex:

Just a hypothesis. It could be desirable OP, via EUR-Lex, lead a project to implement a transversal tool to search into EU, national and regional Law, taking into account that EUR-Lex offers already national legislation (via National Implementing Measures) and national case-law (related to EU Law). There is the same need at regional and national level in each Member State, so a common solution should be found. I am conscious each Institution has its own competence area, but this should not be an impediment to offer EU citizens a unique transversal tool for searching law.

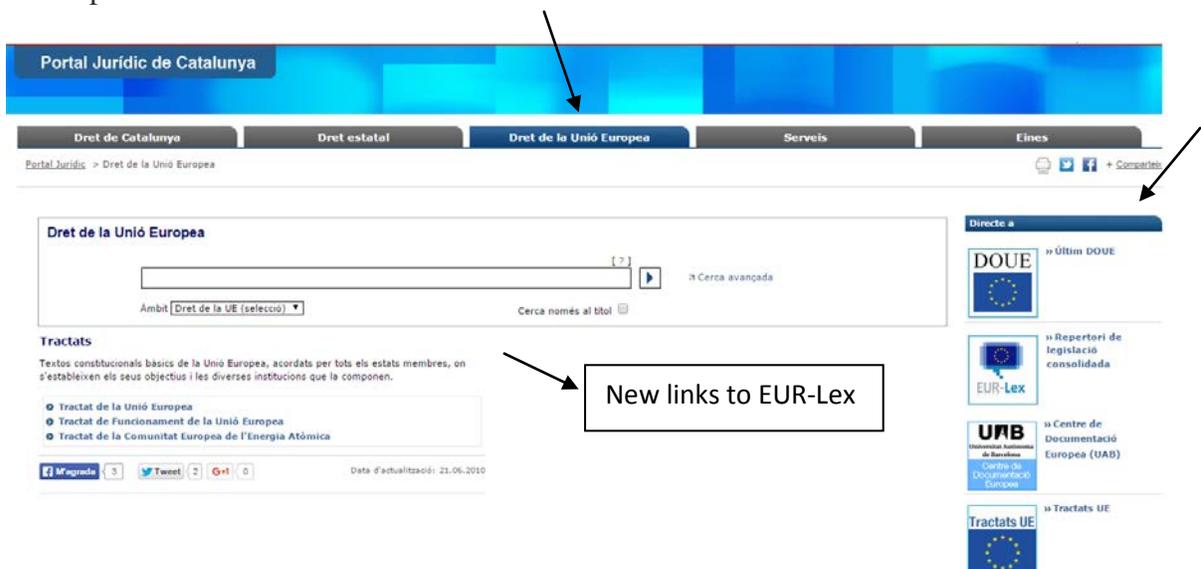
IV.5. Other improvements

- 4.1 Direct access to Eur-Lex resources on EU Law
- 4.2 To link documents to OJ
- 4.3 Quality control of main links
- 4.4 Web and pdf accessibility
- 4.5 User survey and usability test
- 4.6 Helpdesk
- 4.7 Statistics
- 4.8 Re-use and copyright

IV.5.1 Direct access to Eur-Lex resources on EU Law

* Action points proposal:

To improve access to EU Law, several links can be added in *Catalonia Legislation Website* EU Tap:



Links to Eur-Lex resources:

Right hand side under “Directe a”, general resources on EU Law:

- . Last DOUE <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html>>
- . EUR-Lex <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>>
- . EU Information (Documentation Centre at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) <<http://www.uab.cat/biblioteques/cde/>>

New links to EU Law, specific relevant resources for the applicability of EU Law:

- . Directory of European Union legislation (includes consolidated versions)

- <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/browse/directories/consleg.html>>
- . Directory of international agreements (includes consolidated versions)
 - <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/browse/directories/inter-agree.html>>
- . National implementing measures
 - <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/n-law/mne.html>>
- . EU case-law
 - <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/eu-case-law.html>>
- . National case-law
 - <<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/n-law/n-case-law.html>>

A brief summary of each link should be added for user information.

It has also to be noted the possibility to link parts of the Treaties:

<<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties-force.html>>

IV.5.2. To link documents to OJ

At *Catalonia Legislation Website*, each document should be linked to the OJ where it has been published. This metadata is already in the database, so it is only necessary to make it visible in each document register.

IV.5.3. Quality control of main links

An automatically system should be run every day to verify the main links of the site. This is could be of special interest for the Catalonia OJ website.

EUR-Lex runs a routine like this every day for the DOUE. A quality control procedure is applied to verify the accessibility of each OJ, e.g.:

- Home links
- OJ PDF and all links it contains (in all languages)
- OJ HTML and all links it contains (in all languages)
- Assignment of CELEX Number (in all languages)

IV.5.4. Web and pdf accessibility

Accessibility facilitates access to information and online services to everyone, with equal opportunities and with independence of technology being used, environment where the technology is being used and functional limitations of users.

OP has done a lot of word on this issue and it is still improving.

To make accessible our website could be difficult in a short term, but it looks like feasible to make pdfs accessible in the near future. EUR-Lex has implemented this functionality, even retrospectively.

Some tips:

- . To Meet WCAG 2.0 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 requirements)
<<http://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG20/quickref/>>
- . In order to make pdf accessible is necessary an internal tagging structure that represents the visual and structural components of the document.
- . Software that can be used: Microsoft Word, Adobe Indesign.
- . It is important to make sure the pdf has no access restrictions as passwords. In our case, it is important to take into account that there are also accessible captcha possibilities.
- . It is possible to choose the language for the all document or parts.
- . Bookmarks are necessary to navigate efficiently to different sections of the document, particularly in long documents.
- . Ensure the reading order of a pdf makes sense when Read out is activated, that all the content can be read in the right order.
- . Use semantically and correctly structured headings.

Information on PDF accessibility:

- <<http://webaim.org/techniques/word/>>
- <<http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/>>
- <<http://webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/>>

***Action points proposal:**

- . To audit our websites. First of all, we should check if Catalonia Government has specialized staff in this area.
- . The audit should include:
 - . web and documents
 - . list of best practices for the future
 - . HTML code to correct mistakes
 - . to assure compatibility of solutions with system which is already implemented
 - . to assure data representation in the website includes all the information contained in the XML format (see chapter Open Linked Data IV.2)

Accessibility refers to contents, as a consequence if our contents is represented in HTML it would be no necessary to transform PDFs retrospectively.

Given that accessibility requires well-structured contents, this will improve, at the same time, website usability.

IV.5.5. User survey and usability tests

It could be of interest to do user surveys and usability tests in relation of our sites. Even the definition of a new project should be accompanied by a user survey.

It is crucial to know about the success of user searches and if the audience is satisfied with the service. This could also help us to identify more clearly the type of users we have.

IV.5.6. Helpdesk

Catalonia Legislation Website helpdesk should be reviewed following EUR-Lex helpdesk organisation.

***Action points proposal:**

- . Define the specific function of the helpdesk
- . Elaborate a list of types of requests
- . Prepare possible layouts for standard replies
- . Complete FAQs in the website
- . Determine how to redirect request that are competence of other units
- . *Catalonia Legislation Website* receives regularly request about Law and it is not a function of this site answering this type of request. It is necessary to study, in particular, this issue.

In EU Law, this type of requests are answered by *Europe Direct*
<http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_es.htm>.

IV.5.7. Statistics

We already gather such an amount of statistics, but this information can still be improved.

***Action points proposal:**

- Website availability percentage. We have already a robot system that alert us when the website it is not available, so it is only necessary to express these data in percentage.
- Implement Google Webmaster Tools, particularly useful to get information about how people go from Google to your website.

IV.5.8 Re-use and copyright

Our Institution in charge of Catalonia OJ and *Catalonia Legislation Website* should follow the OP policy on open and linked data.

We have already taking into account personal data issue, but a study on copyright should be done also in order to identify items published in the OJ that are protected by copyright. Then,

we will be able to define our Linked Data system and establish a re-use policy to inform users.

See *Commission Decision of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents* (2011/833/EU) EU Council decision

<<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1445443286540&uri=CELEX%3A32011D0833>>

V. Summary about EUR-Lex.

Aimed at: Departments of Catalonia Government.

Nowadays, *Catalonia Legislation Website* is working to integrate Catalonia Departments Websites in order to offer legislation in force. As legislation in force in Catalonia includes EU Law, it is advisable to inform them about EUR-Lex resources and how we can integrate the data in our sites.

It will be developed a document to inform them, in particular, about the main points which have been extensively explained in the present document on this issues:

1. EUR-Lex contents
2. Legal analysis and consolidation of EU legislation acts
3. Re-using EUR-Lex data

VI. Tips for EUR-Lex

Aimed at: EUR-Lex.

Here below are listed tips for EUR-Lex that have been already mention along this document. Theses tips that have to be read, please, as positive feedback, and remember also that my point of view is focused on making easier the access to law in force, that's the reason why most of them are referred to the contents.

Legal analysis and consolidation:

. From my point of view legal analysis and consolidation should be two parts of the same process. Otherwise inconsistency of data can be produced.

. In my opinion access to *Directory of legislation in force* should be clarified. EUR-Lex offers:

LEGISLATION Tap. As it is informed in the site, *Directory of European Union legislation* contains EU legislation currently in force, and also contains consolidated texts.

CONSOLIDATED LEGISLATION Tap. *Directory of European Union consolidated legislation* contains, apparently, the same documents; in fact, it would have no sense to offer a Directory only for consolidated versions.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS Tap. *Directory of international agreements*.

International agreements are part of EU Legislation so in my opinion it does not either make sense to offer it separately. User have to know that to gather all the legislation in force have to look in different Directories. This is not so obvious if you are not an expert.

It is for that reason that it could be an improvement to offer a unique Directory under the title *Directory of legislation in force* at LEGISLATION tap including only the legislation in force:

<<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/legislation/recent.html>>

For example:

Search in legislation (includes International agreements and consolidated versions)

Search only International agreements (includes consolidated versions)

Search only in consolidated versions

Directory of legislation in force (includes International agreements and consolidated versions)

Recently published: Official published versions / International agreements / Consolidated versions

Treaties currently in force:

- . To review the validity period of consolidated versions published in the OJ.
 - . From my point of view, each consolidate version should include the validity period, no matter when it has been published in the OJ.
 - . It has to be highlighted that Consolidation Section (C.4) is working on the consolidation of Treaties. In my opinion this work will clarify the information about the different versions and each validity period of Treaties currently in force.
- Meanwhile, may be EUR-Lex should offer a single page under the title *Treaties currently in force* including all the available information.

EU case-law:

- . It might be useful to make more visible for users that case-law documents have no EuroVoc terms assigned. May be a note can be added in the information button of the field.
- . It could be of interest to make more visible for user the meaning of some metadata. It is not always so obvious. For example, if I am not wrong:
 - In case-law: publication date is Date of document

- In consolidated versions Date of document doesn't make really sense in my opinion; might an unnecessary data.

Eurovoc:

From my point of view, to involve the inter-institutional group which is building EuroVoc into the elaboration of EuroVoc guidelines, which are aimed at the contractor of the Legal analysis process, could be a positive input for these guidelines.

Linking current or latest version of documents:

- May be could be more visible in the website how to link the latest consolidation version.
- As far as I could know, when ELI will be implemented in Eur-Lex it is planned to define an ELI URI that links always to the latest version but. I would like just to point out that latest version not is necessarily the current version. It would be very useful to have an ELI URI that displays always the current version of a legislation act (which can be the published version or a consolidated one).

VII. Conclusions

Traineeship has been very valuable and objectives had been achieved. EUR-Lex team, and OP staff in general, has been very kind and open to assist me in questions and information requests. They are very well qualified professionals, concerned about their job and functions and, particularly, about disseminating their work all over the Union. In consequence, I have learnt both sides of EUR-Lex data: how to re-use its data depending on our needs, but also I found a model for our open and linked data policy at *Catalonia Legislation Website*. In conclusion, here we have a model to learn.

Finally, to close this document referring to its title, I just would like to call your attention back to the usefulness of a transversal search tool on legislation. Because of EU citizens have not their lives divided into parts -local, regional, national and EU-, a transversal tool to retrieved legislation in force in each geographic area, no matter where this legislation comes from, could be one of the pillars to reinforce our democracy.

At *Catalonia Legislation Website* we will try to start a project in this sense in the near future, but I guess it make no sense to make it by our own because it could be an objective of general interest. Any initiative or suggestion in this sense will be welcomed, as well as referring to any other issue covered by the present document.

Thank you.