Enabling Participation of the Youth in the Public Debate of Legislation among Parliaments, Citizens and Businesses in the European Union

“Assisting Legislation Drafting through the use of the LEX-IS Platform

Workshop on eParticipation Research Projects: From Theory to Practice
3 September, 2008
The vision of the LEX-IS Project is to improve the legislative process in National Parliaments through enhancing public participation in the preparatory stages (legislation formation and debate) with the use of state-of-the-art information technology tools and methodologies.
Establishing the LEX-IS network
Consisting of National Parliaments, Ministries, Local Authorities, NGOs, collective and representative bodies, Universities and citizens

Bringing together the ‘core players’
Facilitating the participation of all stakeholders (citizens, businesses, Parliamentarians, NGOs, professional and business associations, other authorities) in order to participate effectively in the legislation preparation and debate phases

Increasing awareness
Make key stakeholders aware of LEXIS results using available practices and tools. Share experiences and create liaisons with existing related initiatives

Manage the complex legislative frameworks and legal structures with state-of-the-art tools
Provide best paradigm of usage of existing technology for streamlining parliamentary processes in a manner that is practical, effective and sustainable.
Modelling & representation of legal elements (directives, laws)
Ontology based metadata schemas have been developed for the semantic annotation of legal elements, so that all involved parties can easily locate the necessary information with the use of internet-based retrieval tools.

Modeling of the exact process followed during the preparatory legislative phases (legislation preparation, debate, draft legislation formation):
With the use of workflow management technologies.

Argumentation Support & Argument Visualization:
The ability to view the argumentation structure of a law that is under formation, using argument visualization techniques.

Web based content management system that will allow the stakeholders / policy makers to capture, store and manage digital content in any format:
Offering a secure electronic environment for storage, management, & delivery of information.
LEX-IS Consortium

- **Project Co-ordinator**
  - ATHENS TECHNOLOGY CENTER S.A. (ATC) – (GREECE)

- **Academic Partners**
  - NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS (Greece)
  - AEGEAN UNIVERSITY (Greece)
  - UNIVERSITAET KOBLENZ-LANDAU (Germany)
  - KAUNO TECHNOLOGIJOS UNIVERSITETAS (Lithuania)

- **National Parliaments**
  - AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT
  - HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

- **Other Governmental Organisations & Parliaments Supporting LEX-IS initiative**
  - LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT
  - INFORMATION SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
  - MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOUNDATION (Netherlands)
Providing Parliaments, Ministries, Local Authorities, NGOs, collective and representative bodies, citizens with

- **The ability to query and view** the legal structure of a law that is under formation
- **The ability to view the argumentation structure** of a law that is under formation, by creating corresponding visualisations and presenting them to the LEX-IS platform front end
- **The ability to express opinions** around legal arguments that are presented by the participating organisations, or opinions of other parties, in a structured way that promotes participative decision-making
The LEX-IS System Context

- Parliament Back-office
- Other Sources Of Legal Information
- LEXIS System
- Parliament Portal
- MPs, PAs, NGOs, Enterprises, Citizens

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Date: 3rd of September, 2008
The LEX-IS Architectural Approach

- Document Management System (DocASSET)
- Legal Ontology through metadata Tags
- Argument Extraction
- Argument Visualization Tool (Compendium)
- Argument Front End (iBOX Portal Builder)
- Other Content/Workflow Management Systems
Basic Features

- Storage and retrieval of legislations and legislative documentation
- Classification and interrelation of the legal documentation through the LEX-IS ontology (ontology based metadata)
- Structured forums for exchanging opinions and providing arguments following a specific structure on the debating
- Opinion Polls for voting on specific issues
- Reporting Tools
A structured forum platform based on an underlying legislative process ontology in order to facilitate organised discussions across the legislative process lifecycle.
Legal Documents Interrelation

Date: 3rd of September, 2008
At the top level there are Topics, which are the major discussion units.

Each topic contains one or more Threads, which are more specific discussions.

Under each Thread, a user can create a discussion-tree, where any register user can post comments/opinions and attach files.

## Forum

**Open Discussions:** express your opinion by taking part to a public open discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Name</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Opened Date</th>
<th>Threads</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H Ενεργειακή Πολιτική στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση (Ενεργεια)</td>
<td>Test User</td>
<td>7/16/2008</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Η διαμόρφωση της Ενεργειακής Πολιτικής στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση για στον 21ο αιώνα</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-state Universities in Greece (Παύσια)</td>
<td>administrator administrator</td>
<td>9/2/2006</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>The establishment or not of Non-state Universities in Greece</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It contains 5 Posting categories with specific relation between them

- Issue, Alternative, Con-Argument, -Pro-Argument and comment

Under each posting category there are constraints about the next posting

- At the root level there is only an Issue
- For every posted issue the user can post an Alternative or a comment
- For every posted Alternative the user can post a Pro/Con Argument
- For every posted comment the user can post a comment
- For every Pro/Con_Argument the user can post a Pro_argument or a Con_Argument
Structure Forum Type I

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-- Turin
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Documentable Legal Element of Non-State Universities in Greece
Option on the establishment of the NON-State Universities by the Technical University of Athens

- The establishment or not of non-state universities in Greece
  - Non-State Profit Universities
  - Non-State Non Profit Universities
  - Independent from state authorities & enterprises
  - They will be characterised by poor level of organisation
  - Low Level of Studies
  - They can attract financial support from the EU
  - Indirectly they will become institutions creating profit to some persons
  - State Non-Profit Universities in Greece
    - Tradition of High-level of Studies
    - Fair and socially accepted admission system
    - Too many students
      - Very often inefficient spending of taxpayers money
        - Not True - on the contrary suboptimal finance of universities

Draft Legislation Non-state Universities in Greece

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Vote on the establishment or not of non-state universities in Greece
- Against
- Neutral
- In Favor

Vote Now!
It contains 3 Posting categories with specific relation between them

- Question, Answer and Comment

Under each posting category there are constraints about the next posting

- For every posted Question the user can post an Answer or a comment
- For every posted Answer the user can post a Comment
- For every posted Comment the user can post a Comment

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Date: 3rd of September, 2008
Report 1: All posting on issue (items per category)
Report 2: Postings per category, pet time
Report 3: On an issue, printing of all the postings tree (with titles only)
Report 4: Printing of all the postings filtering on branches (display titles or number of posting only)
Next steps

- **Pilots Execution**
  - The LEX-IS Platform will be tested in the Hellenic Parliament & Austrian Parliament
  - The Evaluation Period for the project starts in September 08 – ends in December 08
  - Updated version of the platform will be available at the end of December 08 based on the end users’ comments
  - Evaluation Results and Lessons learnt will be also delivered as main results of the project (end of December 08)
Thank you for your attention!