

Cross-border Access to Law
and Access to EU law :
Possible common approaches

Two different requests

- Access to national law within the EU legal information system and vice versa
- Access to national legal systems

Access to national law within the EU legal system and vice versa

- Access to national legislation implementing EU law
 - references
 - linking: still an issue
- Access to directives to be implemented into national law
 - guarantee of stable linking

Access to national legal systems

- Access to legislation
 - Usually one official system with complete legislation
- Access to case law
 - Seldom one single system

The N-Lex experience

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex>

- A common search mask for national legislative databases
- Model of a federated system
 - With connectors on N-Lex
 - Or with connectors in the national system

Issues and challenge

- Technical
- Legal
- Documentary
- Linguistic

Where can
new technologies
help

XML

- Allows for web services
- More similarities could allow for
 - More common metadata
 - More common search criteria
- Better comparative study of legal drafting techniques

Mass digitalization (OCR and conversion into XML)

National databases

Could offer

More equivalent corpora

Thesauri / Ontologies Classification systems

- Could give first reliable information on legal texts in a foreign language
- Should be added at the level of drafting legislation (DALOS etc.)

When main national legislative texts are available in more than one language

Make them available

- In the same database as acts in the main language
- In parallel

Search engines

- More specific to the legal field ?
- Classification of results !

What about summaries ?

- EU experiencing “citizens summary” since Spring 2008
- Summaries requested by the GLIN
- Easier to have them in additional linguistic versions ?

Permanent identification

- Digital object identifier or similar ?
- CrossRef or similar ?

Cross border acces to law
As a justified request
Within the European Union
and beyond
With issues and challenges
which have to be faced