



Brussels, 11 March 2013

Summary report of the 25th Experts group meeting European e-Justice Portal

BRUSSELS – 26 FEBRUARY 2013

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

25 Member States (+Croatia) were present – all apart from DK and CY.

2. EUROPEAN E-JUSTICE PORTAL STATE OF PLAY

The Commission informed the participants on the state of play of the current projects.

The **Insolvency Registers Interconnection** has been recently patched to address certain enhancements requested by the project participants, and the system will go live as soon as the Data Protection decision is adopted.

The **Find a Lawyer/Find a Notary** project is underway and the design phase is about to be finished. It was recalled that participation in FAN is not strictly limited to membership in CNUE. The project is expected go live in the summer.

For the **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)** project, the contract is ready and waiting to be signed.

On the **ATLAS migration** side, forms migration is in progress and will be available at the end of April. The forms are currently being tested by the stakeholders.

The short-term future projects are the following:

1. Migration of the remaining parts of the ATLAS;
2. Integration of the Portal's back office with DGT's submission services (translations);
3. Switch from Word documents to HTML for translations (does not change anything in the way MS content managers work);
4. Use of responsive web design in the Portal to accommodate mobile devices.

3. NEW VISUAL IDENTITY

The Commission presented screenshots of the future changes in the front office and back office, the former being required to comply with the new inter-institutional guidelines.

4. CONTENT ISSUES

The **Commission** commenced this point with a summary of the content revision exercise: **11 MS were done** with their content, **8 MS have just started**, **2 have not started** yet and the **other MS are quite advanced** but not done yet. **The Commission** recalled that the user manual is available on every page of the Content Management System (CMS) and that a demonstration environment is fully available to test content management related activities. **The Commission** also announced that there will be a **workshop** concerning the Portal's CMS on **the 29th of April**, targeted mainly at the EJM content managers, but other representatives of the MS willing to get training are welcome. **LU** asked if there is one CMS for MS and the EJM, to which the Commission answered positively.

Before starting a tour de table, **the Commission** raised the following points:

- it is extremely important to clearly mark **if content changes require translation or not** (last step in the publishing workflow). In this regard, the Commission invited Member States to consult the relevant chapters of the user manual;

- **a new feature** was recently implemented in the Portal – a banner informing users about the up-to-dateness of the translations compared with the original content. It was clarified that this solution supports also the Member States which update their content in more than one language;

- the currently disabled content expiration notifications **will be soon enabled**. As a result, each and every CMS administrator will receive an email notification one month before a page in his/her remit expires. One month later, in case the content was not amended/re-published, the application will issue daily reminders in the form of a mail aggregating all the topics that should be updated. **The Commission** recalled that the update of the content is a crucial exercise for the success of the Portal;

- based on the feedback from some of the Member States, **a publishing notification** will be amended to be more informative.

The Commission then started a tour de table to gather information on the status of the revision exercise in each MS, asking for general feedback and issues encountered. All the Member States provided information concerning the update of the regular content pages, cost studies subpages and three topics which were to be amended together with the EJM representatives. Some issues concerning the CMS were reported, especially the one pertaining to Internet Explorer crashes and a misleading behaviour of the "copy from Word" button. Some Member States suggested implementation of the auto save option prior to the session expiration. **The Commission** confirmed that such a feature will be implemented in the next release.

As for the other content related items, **the Commission:**

- called on MS to provide more **news** to be published on the Portal;
- informed that new MS pages concerning **criminal records** were published;
- recalled that the update of **the victims' factsheets** is still to be verified and validated by 6 MS;
- informed that once the MS are done with the content revision exercise, a migration of the **PREJUS** website will commence. In practise, there will be two pages of content to be validated by the MS. For some MS there is no content at all, so pages will have to be created from scratch - an extended deadline will apply;
- informed that **migration of the EJN** content into the Portal, planned for February, is delayed due to unavailability of the content pertaining to 12 MS. In this regard, reminders were sent recently to the respective EJN contact points;
- announced that the **reorganisation of content**, initially planned to be carried out together with the migration of the EJN content, was moved and will be implemented together with the migration of the Judicial ATLAS's content.

5. MACHINE TRANSLATION

The Commission presented the proposed use cases for the machine translation functionality in the Portal. MS were then asked to provide their feedback on the translated documents they received prior to the meeting.

7 Member States (SE, SK, AT, HU, LV, EE and CZ) would prefer not to use this technology, at least in its current state, on the Portal.

15 Member States (UK, FI, SI, RO, PT, PL, DE, NL, MT, LU, FR, ES, BE, IT and BG) are in favour of having this feature on the Portal as it provides added value, on the condition that it is clearly indicated that translations were carried out by a machine translation system.

3 Member States (LT, IE and EL) had no position.

In general, all the MS raised some quality related concerns (e.g. French delegation raised an issue of the incorrect translation of negation) which were varying depending on the provided sample.

The Commission concluded the discussion, provided information concerning sources of the five sample documents which were distributed to the MS and promised to come back to the Member States with possible follow up scenarios.

6. COURT DATABASE

The Commission announced that the detailed planning discussed during the last meeting was followed and, as the result, the project's terms of reference were drafted and the contract is currently in the signature procedure. The contract will cover a study (implementation analysis) and is foreseen to last for 5 months.

Subsequently, **the Commission** went through the main points of the terms of reference and explained in details the main deliverables.

It was underlined that progress on many items, will depend on the Member States' commitment, especially in the area of business rules, common interface specification and multilingual authority tables. Concerning the latter, **the Publications Office** (OP) confirmed its planned involvement and rectified that translations of the authority tables cannot be carried out by them.

The Commission asked **each MS to provide a contact point(s)** that the contractor could get in touch with for technical and legal questions.

AT expressed its satisfaction with the ToR but stated that it did not emphasise enough the business side of the problem. **AT** also raised the point of the costs on the MS side, which according to their estimations **would amount to between 100.000€ and 150.000€ per MS**. **The Commission** replied that the business side was to be addressed in the analysis.

Per request of **NL**, **the Commission** invited MS to comment on the ToR within two weeks' time.

7. E-CODEX

DE briefly described the latest developments concerning the e-CODEX project.

The Commission gave a presentation of the state of play of e-CODEX integration and showed some screenshots of the digital signature applet that will be added to the Portal.

AT expressed their satisfaction with the results so far, but mentioned that consolidation would be needed between Small Claims and EPO formats as some common terms, such as "Claimant", were represented with different data models in the current e-CODEX schemas.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RO announced that there will be a **Commercial Register forum** in Bucharest and that it could be a good opportunity to promote the Portal.

Annex: MT@EC presentation, e-CODEX presentation, Court Database ToR.

CC: Meeting participants, Ms Lotte Knudsen (Just Director B), JUST A1, Council Secretariat.