



Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union i.n.p.a.

Association des Conseils d'Etat et des Juridictions administratives suprêmes de l'Union européenne a.i.s.b.l.

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NACZELNY SĄD ADMINISTRACYJNY

With the collaboration of the Supreme Administrative Court of Poland

And the support of the task group "Access to national Case law" of the Council of the European Union

European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and meta-data: harmonisation of case law identification in the European Union

Questionnaire

Warsaw

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(Simultaneous interpretation English/French/Polish)

Conference organised with the support of the European Commission



Member State: Lithuania

Court: The Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania

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1. Are you aware of the ECLI system? If yes, how did you hear about it?

The idea of common identifier has been addressed repeatedly for the last few years during various conferences, seminars and colloquiums, e.g. during the ACA-Europe seminar “Update of the Tour and e-Justice” on 1 October 2009 in Istanbul (Turkey).

2. After reading the text of the [Council conclusions](#), are there items you do not understand or on which you would like further information? If so, please specify.

The language of certain provisions is not easily readable, presumably, because of the technical side of the issue, e.g. it is not quite clear what the wording “physical embodiments of the judgement” refers to (Paragraph 3 of Section 3.2. *Implementation* of the Annex).

3. Are there any barriers to the implementation of such a system in your court (or the courts of your Member State)?

Technical? Other? Please specify.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no barriers to the implementation inasmuch as it concerns the technical side of the system. However, one should note that there is research undergoing on the question of the ECLI in Lithuania (for more information please see answer to the Question No 8). In addition, no decision regarding the implementation of the system has been made by the competent bodies. It can be assumed that allocating funds necessary for the establishment of the system may also raise significant difficulties.

4. What adaptations are needed in your court (or the courts of your Member State) to implement the ECLI system requirements?

The necessary adaptations would concern the use of an additional identifier and meta-data in judicial decisions. This most likely would require certain adaptations to the Lithuanian Court Information System (LITEKO). For example, currently unique number of Lithuania's court judgment contains dashes ("-"), not dots (".") as mentioned in 1(1)(e) of the Annex to Council conclusions. The use of a new identifier shall be approved by the Judicial Council (an executive body of the self-governance of courts). Moreover, necessary training to judicial staff should be provided.

5. What meta-data (a) required or b) optional) for ECLI are already in place in your court (or the courts of your Member State)?

Almost all meta-data comparable to that laid down in Paragraph 2 of Section 2 *Metadata* of the Annex is in place in national courts. The exception applies only to Point F *dcterms: language*. As far as optional meta-data (Paragraph 3 of Section 2) is concerned the national system contains meta-data only on title (Point A) and contributor (Point E).

6. Are there any obstacles for your court (or the courts of your Member State) to extend the available metadata?

There are no obstacles for the court to extend the available meta-data, provided the difficulties and issues pointed out in Question 3 and 4 are solved.

7. Is there a national coordinating authority in your Member State? If yes, please provide coordinating entity's name and contact details.

If not, which organisation do you think should play this role?

There is no national authority appointed for the coordination of the ECLI system as yet. It can be assumed that the National Courts Administration which is responsible for forming and implementing the strategy of common court information system should be the one responsible for the establishment of the ECLI system.

8. Do judicial institutions in your Member State cooperate on implementation of ECLI standard metadata? Please specify, especially if you have examples of good practice.

Given the fact that there is no specific plan for the implementation of ECLI system the cooperation among judicial institutions has not extended further than the informal discussions. However, all national courts are bound by the same national rules on the meta-data, i.e. all documents prepared by judicial staff contain similar meta-data.

9. Are there interoperability problems between ECLI and standard metadata on the one hand and European or national semantic web initiatives on the other hand?

NA

10. In your Member State, are there already plans to implement ECLI? Please tick the relevant box.

- Implementation already underway (see next questions)
- Implementation to start in the short-term (within 1 year)
- Implementation to start in the medium-term (2-5 years)
- Implementation to start in the long-term (> 5 years)

X No specific plan

Additional comments:

NA

11. Are you planning to apply ECLI to all case law, retroactive / legacy, or will you limit its use to the new case law?

No decision regarding the use of and limitations on the ECLI system has been taken yet.

12. In case your court (or the courts of your Member State) is already implementing ECLI, to share information on best practices, please provide additional information on:

Preparations undertaken:

The National Courts Administration has engaged into a research regarding the possibility to connect the system to the Lithuanian Court Information System (LITEKO) and the resources needed for the establishment of the European identifier.

Timetable:

Preliminary results of the above mentioned research shall be prepared by the end of the year.

Financial costs:

Approximately EUR 45 000.

Other resources:

NA

Difficulties encountered:

NA

Other information:

NA