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D5.5 International Conference

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Revision History, Status, Abstract, Keywords, Disclaimer

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Abstract (for dissemination)	This document provides a concise overview of the International conference “The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and the Introduction of Open Standards for Legal Documents in Europe” organised by the ECLI-BG project in Sofia on 24 April 2018.
Keywords	Case law, Legislation, Bulgaria, ECLI, ELI, e-Justice, Open standards

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1 Introduction

The organisation of the ECLI-BG International conference “The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and the Introduction of Open Standards for Legal Documents in Europe” is part of the project dissemination and communication activities in Work package 5. The main objective of the conference was to present the process of ECLI implementation in Bulgaria in the broader context of European-wide efforts aimed at creating the standards and interoperability framework for the future Pan-European legal semantic web. More specifically, the idea was to promote ECLI together with the European Legislation Identifier (ELI) since both standards have been introduced by the Council of the European Union with the aim to improve access to information about the EU and Member States’ legal systems.

The conference was used also for presentation and dissemination of the first major project result: the introduction of ECLI within the national case law portal of the Bulgarian judiciary – the Centralised web interface for publication of judicial acts (<https://legalacts.justice.bg>).

The following section provides a brief overview of the event.

2 Conference overview

The conference was held in Sofia on 24 April 2018.

The partners APIS EUROPE and SUB invited 6 renowned international and 5 national experts with background in the fields of law, legal informatics and information technologies to participate as speakers in the discussions:

- **Marc van Opijnen**, adviser legal Informatics at the Publications Office of the Netherlands (UBR|KOOP), project coordinator BO-ECLI and member of the Working Party on e-Law at the Council of the EU – presenter
- **Alexander Ivantchev**, head of sector, Unit JUST.B.4.001 – e-Justice Policy and Grant Management at Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission – presenter
- **Hristo Konstantinov**, managing director of “Apis Europe” JSC – presenter, moderator of the second and third sessions of the conference
- **John Dann**, director of the Central Legislation Service, Ministry of State, Luxembourg, head of ELI Taskforce – presenter
- **Carmen Malagon**, head of sector Budget & Interoperability, B.1 – Official Journals and Case Law, Directorate B – Official Journals and Publications Production, Publications Office of the European Union – presenter
- **Monica Palmirani**, associate professor at the Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna – presenter



- **Dessislava Krasteva**, representative of Directorate-General for Translation at the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria – presenter
- **Gergana Mutafova**, member of the Professional Qualification and Information Technologies Commission of the Supreme Judicial Council – presenter
- **Clemens Wass**, co-founder of openlaws GmbH – presenter
- **Boicho Georgiev**, director of “Development and International Projects” department of “Apis Europe” JSC – presenter
- **Krassimir Bozhanov**, director of Directorate “Modernisation of Administration” at the Council of Ministers.

The travel expenses to Sofia of four of the international experts – Marc van Opijnen, John Dann, Monica Palmirani and Clemens Wass, were covered by the project budget, whereas the travels of Alexander Ivantchev and Carmen Malagon by the institutions they are working for.

The program of the seminar (see the [Annex I](#)) was agreed with the speakers on 19 April. The presentation of the representative of the National Assembly on the online access to bills of the Bulgarian parliament and the publications in the “State Gazette”, was dropped out of the final program because of an unexpected illness of the speaker. Due to an important work commitment, the presentation of the director of Directorate “Modernisation of Administration” at the Council of Ministers Krassimir Bozhanov was delivered by Ralitsa Velitchkova, senior associate responsible for European programs and project management in the same directorate.

The ECLI-BG partners APIS EUROPE and SUB organised a massive information campaign to promote the conference. In the first half of April 2018, approximately 360 regular/postal mails and more than 800 electronic mails to stakeholders from the judiciary, public sector bodies, lawyers and other legal experts in the private sector as well as NGOs in the field of law were sent out inviting guest participation in the event. The invitation letter (see the template in [Annex II](#)) contained a brief presentation of the ECLI-BG project and referred to the attached program.

Regular mails were sent to the all Bulgarian courts (district and regional courts, administrative, courts of appeal and supreme courts), the General Prosecutor’s and the regional prosecutors’ offices, all ministries, the majority of state agencies, the municipalities in all district centres, the mayors of the regional cities and all regional governors. Electronic mails were sent to legal and IT experts in other public bodies as well as working for NGOs in the field of law, judges, prosecutors, lawyers at Sofia bar and the bar associations in the country, in-house legal counsel and legal consultants.

As a result of this campaign, 138 participants in total¹ attended the conference. Each participant received a folder containing the workshop program, the project leaflet and printouts of the Council conclusions on ECLI and ELI.

The attendees included representatives of the three main target groups as follows:

- 10 judges, court staff and other representatives of the judicial system
- 5 prosecutors and investigating police officers
- 63 lawyers, in-house lawyers and other legal experts.

¹ Including the speakers.



Most presentations were related to technical web standards, which explains the high interest by IT representatives - the number of IT experts and other specialists was significant – 60 out of 138 (i.e. about 43% of all attendees).

Although the interest with the Bulgarian judiciary representatives has been high (evidenced by numerous phone calls prior to the event and a continuous interest to receive further information on the conference and further materials) the number of those judges, prosecutors, court staff and supporting legal experts able to participate was lower than initially planned for. Due to non-availability of the speakers, the date could not be moved to e.g., a Friday as preferred by many judiciary representatives, which made it difficult for those who had to attend hearings in court. However, some sent their IT experts to participate on their behalf.

The conference was highly appreciated by the specialised audience and received a very positive response among the Bulgarian legal and IT communities. The forum was opened personally by the **Minister of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria Tsetska Tsatcheva** who welcomed the participants and wished success to the ECLI-BG project. The **representative member of the Supreme Judicial Council Boyan Magdalintchev** also gave a welcome speech on behalf of the Bulgarian ECLI coordinator. Among the participants were also a number of legal or IT experts of senior management positions in the public administration. The list of participants is attached in [Annex III](#).

All presentations given at the conference are published at the project website at the following address: <http://ecli-bg.eu/en/documents/>. The presentations of the national experts are available in Bulgarian language only, whereas the presentations of the international experts are published in English and will be translated in Bulgarian in project month 11 (May 2018).

Brief information about the conference with photos from the event is published in the “News” section of the project website (<http://ecli-bg.eu/en/2018/04/25/minister-tsatcheva-wished-success-of-the-ecli-bg-project/>) as well as on the websites of the partners Apis Europe and The Union of Bulgarian Jurists. The work of the conference was also reflected in two online media publications of the authoritative news agency Focus.²

The materials of the conference (in Bulgarian language only) will be published as a separate issue of the “Legal Tribune” magazine.

² [Publication 1](#): Министър Цецка Цачева: Благодарение на Европейския идентификатор за съдебна практика (ECLI) намирането на релевантната съдебна практика се улесни значително
[Publication 2](#): Владислав Славов, Съюз на юристите в България: Винаги за всеки юрист е било много важно да търси и да се позовава на съдебни решения на други държави членки



Annex I – Conference program

ECLI-BG INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and the Introduction of Open Standards for Legal Documents in Europe

24th April 2018, Sofia, 7 Pirotska Str.

PROGRAM

- 9.00 *Registration*
- 9.30 *Opening of the Conference and Welcome Addresses*
Vladislav Slavov, Chairperson of the Central Council of The Union of Bulgarian Jurists
Tsetska Tsacheva, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria
Boyan Magdalintchev, Representative Member of the Supreme Judicial Council
- 9.45 *The European Case Law Identifier: Past, Present and Future*
Marc van Opijnen, Adviser Legal Informatics, Publications Office of the Netherlands (UBR|KOOP), Project coordinator BO-ECLI, Member of the Working Party on e-Law at the Council of the EU
- 10.15 *The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI): EU Perspective and ECLI Search Engine*
Alexander Ivantchev, Head of Sector, Unit JUST.B.4.001 – e-Justice Policy and Grant Management, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- 10.45 *ECLI-BG Project and the First Steps towards ECLI Implementation in Bulgaria*
Hristo Konstantinov, Managing Director of Apis Europe JSC, ECLI-BG Project Manager
- 11.10 *Coffee Break*
- 11.30 *European Legislation Identifier (ELI) – Interconnecting and Facilitating Access to Legal Data*
John Dann, Director of Central Legislation Service, Ministry of State, Luxembourg; Head of ELI Taskforce
- 12.00 *The Publications Office of the European Union – Helping Pave the Way towards an Interoperable Europe with ELI*
Carmen Malagon, Head of Sector, Budget & Interoperability, B.1 – Official Journals and Case Law, Directorate B – Official Journals and Publications Production, Publications Office of the European Union
- 12.30 *Semantic Web Ecosystem for Legal Knowledge*
Monica Palmirani, Associate Professor, Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna
- 13.00 *Lunch*
- 13.40 *E-Translation – The Machine Translation Service of the European Commission*
Dessislava Krasteva, Representative of Directorate-General for Translation at the European Commission Representation in Bulgaria
- 14.00 *Presentation of the Project “Creation of a Model for the Optimisation of the Court Map of the Bulgarian Courts and Prosecutor’s Offices and Development of a Unified Information System of the Courts” implemented by the Supreme Judicial Council*



Gergana Mutafova, Member of the Professional Qualification and Information Technologies Commission of the Supreme Judicial Council and Project Manager

14.20 *LYNX - Building the Legal Knowledge Graph for Smart Compliance Services in Multilingual Europe*

Clemens Wass, Co-founder of openlaws GmbH

14.40 *The Use of Open Standards in the Example of EuroCases and Link Detector Online Services of Apis*

Boicho Georgiev, Director of “Development and International Projects” Department of Apis Europe JSC

15.00 *The Modernisation of the Bulgarian Public Administration and the Development of the Open Data Portal and the Portal for Public Consultations*

Krassimir Bozhanov, Director of Directorate “Modernisation of Administration” at the Council of Ministers

15.20 *Discussion*

15.40 *Close of the Conference*



Annex II – Invitation letter template

ДО

**ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ / ДИРЕКТОРА /
УПРАВИТЕЛЯ НА**

.....
Г-Н/Г-ЖА

УВАЖАЕМИ Г-Н/Г-ЖО ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛ / ДИРЕКТОР / УПРАВИТЕЛ,

Имаме честта и удоволствието да Ви поканим да участвате в организираната от Съюза на юристите в България в партньорство с „Апис Европа“ АД Международна конференция на тема: „Европейският идентификатор за съдебна практика (ECLI) и въвеждането на отворени стандарти за правни документи в Европа“. Събитието ще се проведе на 24 април 2018 г. от 9.30 ч. в залата на Съюза на юристите в България, гр. София, ул. „Пиротска“ № 7.

Отправляме също така покана и ще се радваме, ако във форума вземат участие и други съдии / експерти / представители на / от Вашия съд / организация.

Конференцията е част от проект, съфинансиран от Европейската комисия по Програма „Правосъдие“ на Европейския съюз, който се осъществява с подкрепата на Висшия съдебен съвет в качеството му на ECLI-координатор за България. Изпълнители на проекта са Съюзът на юристите в България и „Апис Европа“ АД.

Целта на проекта е да се внедри Европейският идентификатор за съдебна практика ECLI в изградения от Висшия съдебен съвет национален портал за съдебна практика, известен като Централен уеб базиран интерфейс за публикуване на съдебни актове (ЦУБИПСА), и да се изгради свързаност с Интерфейса за търсене по ECLI в Портала e-Justice на Европейската комисия.

С уважение,

Владислав Славов:

/Председател на ЦС на СЮБ/

Васил Христович:

/Изпълнителен директор на АПИС/



Annex III – List of participants

(The list of participants is removed by the project coordinator as it contains personal data.)

