

Newsletter

What is the Objective of ECLI-BG Project?



The main objective of ECLI-BG Project is to implement the European Case Law Identifier - ECLI in the established and maintained by the Supreme Judicial Council national portal for publication of judicial acts (CUBIPSA) and to establish interconnection between it and the ECLI Search Engine in the European e-Justice Portal.

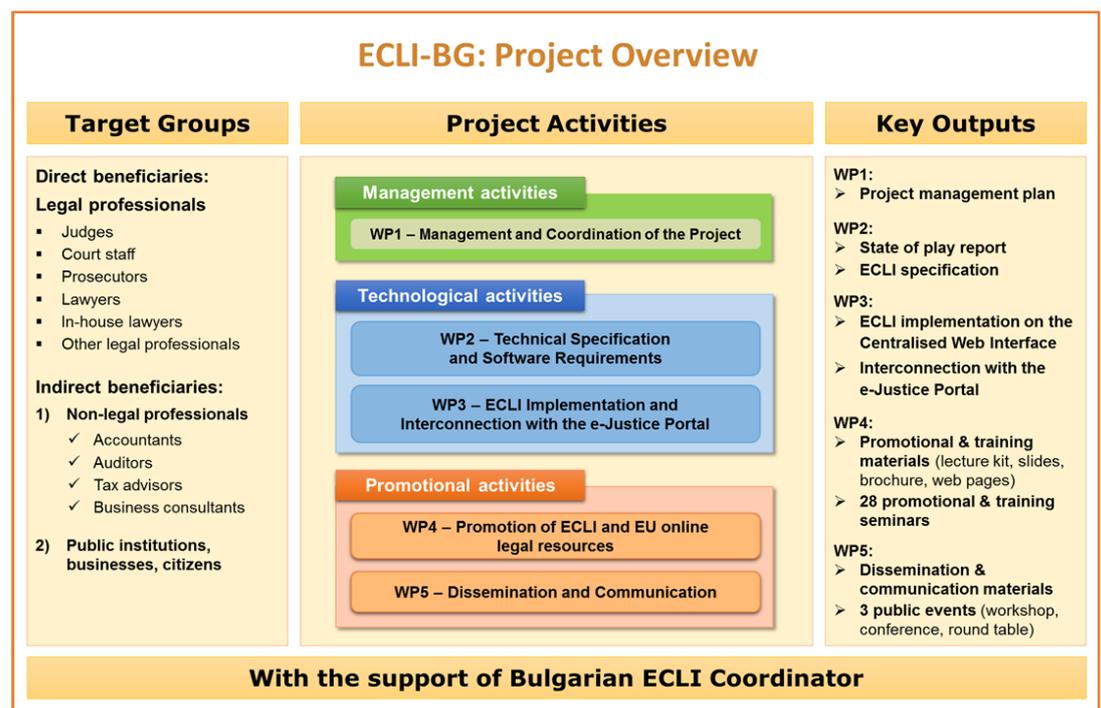
automated search and publishing in internet of case law. The ECLI standard is already implemented entirely or partly in the case law databases of 12 EU Member States as well as by the EU Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights and the European Patent Office.

The ECLI-BG Project is carried out by "Apis Europe" JSC in partnership with The Union of Bulgarian Jurists and with support of the Supreme Judicial Council national – the national ECLI coordinator. The Project is co-funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union.

In contrast to many of the other EU Member States, Bulgaria has no identification system of its own for its case law. The implementation of ECLI in Bulgaria will meet the critical necessity of establishing a national standard for unambiguous identification and correct citation of decisions of the Bulgarian courts. All practicing Bulgarian jurists – judges, prosecutors, lawyers, in-house lawyers and others will be able to use ECLI in legal citations and to find decisions of the courts of EU Member States in the e-Justice Portal.

ECLI is a semantic web standard developed to ease the correct and unambiguous citation of European or national case law and thus to improve the cross-border access to case law.

The figure below illustrates the main project activities as well as the results of main importance to which the latter are aimed. Additional information for the project and the ECLI standard can be found on the project's website - <http://ecli-bg.eu/proekt/pregled-na-proekta/>.



About

This is the first issue of the ECLI-BG project newsletter. After the start of the project in July 2017, a number of the foreseen activities were successfully carried out, that we wish to present in this first issue. Until the completion of the project, which duration is 18 months, we plan to issue several more newsletters in order to present the future project developments and the achieved results.



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More than 100 Lawyers and IT Specialists Participated in the ECLI-BG International Expert Workshop

More than 100 jurists (including judges, court staff, prosecutors, lawyers and legal experts) and IT professionals in the judicial system took part in the International expert workshop on "The introduction of ECLI in Bulgaria in the context of the implementation of e-Justice", which took place on 4 October 2017 in Sofia. The workshop was organised within the framework of the ECLI-BG project by the partners Apis Europe and The Union of Bulgarian Jurists.

Mr. Vladislav Slavov, Chairman of The Union of Bulgarian Jurists, opened the workshop. A special guest was Mrs. Desislava Achladova, Deputy Minister of Justice, who greeted the participants and wished success to the partners in the implementation of the project.

Deputy Managing Director of Apis Europe Mr. Hristo Konstantinov presented the ECLI-BG project objectives and the plans for the introduction of ECLI in 2018 within the Centralised Web Interface for Publication of Case Law created and supported by the Supreme Judicial Council and for establishing interconnection with the ECLI Search Engine on the European e-Justice Portal.

The workshop was attended by the international experts Mr. Marc van Opijnen, BO-ECLI Project Coordinator and member of the EU Council's Working Party on e-Law, who gave a presentation on "The European Case Law Identifier: Gaining Support all over Europe", and Mr. Tommaso Agnoloni, a leader of the project team implementing ECLI in Italy, who presented the



state of play in regard to ECLI implementation in Italy, as well as the work on the development of the BO-ECLI parser for multilingual extraction of legal links.

On behalf of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) as ECLI coordinator for Bulgaria, in the workshop took part Mrs. Elka Atanasova, member of the SJC (2012-2017) and manager of the project "Creation of a model for optimisation of the court map of the Bulgarian courts and prosecution offices and development of a Unified information system of the courts".

Mrs. Atanasova presented the status of the project work and the upcoming activities till the end of 2018. During the workshop, a presentation was made also on the Single e-Justice Portal, a project of the SJC. Presentation were given also on the updated system for case law search on the website of the Supreme Court of Cassation, the environment for data exchange and communication between the administrative courts in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Single court case management system, implemented in the administrative courts.

The presentations of the seminar are published in section "[Documents](#)" of ECLI-BG website.

FIRST RESULTS

Report on the Publication of Case Law in Bulgaria



The report observes the current state of the published online Bulgarian case law and outlines the opportunities and perspectives for implementing ECLI. See the [full text](#) of the report on the project website (28 p., PDF, 1.7 MB, EN).

Proposal for Specification of the Bulgarian ECLI Identifier

The ECLI-BG project partners Apis Europe JSC and the Union of Jurists in Bulgaria, with the assistance of IT experts from the Supreme Judicial Council, the Supreme Court of Cassation and the Supreme Administrative Court, prepared a proposal for the specification of the Bulgarian ECLI identifier. [The proposal](#) is now published on the ECLI-BG project website in section 'Documents'.

Once approved by the Supreme Judicial Council, the specification of the national format of the ECLI identifier of Bulgarian judicial acts will be published on the ECLI information page of the European e-Justice Portal.

Start of the Work on the Implementation of ECLI within the National Case Law Portal

On 21 December 2017, the ECLI-BG project coordinator 'Apis Europe' JSC entered into a subcontract to launch the actual work on the implementation of the European case law identifier ECLI within the national portal for publication of judicial acts established by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC): <https://legalacts.justice.bg/>. The portal is also known by the abbreviation CUBIPSA ('ЦУБИПСА' in Bulgarian), which stands for Centralised Web Based Interface for Publication of Judicial Acts.

The contract with the subcontractor 'Abbaty' JSC envisages two main tasks related to the implementation of ECLI within the CUBIPSA portal:

- 1) Development and putting into operation of an additional functionality of the portal, including:
 - Generation of ECLI identifier of all published

judicial acts;

- Adaptation of the judicial acts' metadata to the requirements of the ECLI standard;
- Visualization of the ECLI identifier, among other metadata of judicial acts.

2) Search by ECLI identifier;

3) Development and putting into operation of an Integration module linking the CUBIPSA portal to the European e-Justice Portal through a mechanism for automated retrieval of judicial acts' metadata by the ECLI Search Engine in the e-Justice portal.

The deadline for the development and putting into operation of the additional functionality of the CUBIPSA Portal is 20 April 2018, and for the development and putting into operation of the Integration module – 31 May 2018.

Subcontractor is the Bulgarian company 'Abbaty' JSC, which has considerable experience in the development and implementation of information systems in the field of e-Justice. In execution of a contract with the SJC, in the period 2015-2016 the company developed and put into operation the Single Electronic Justice Portal: <https://portal.justice.bg/>. Previously, in 2009, 'Abbaty' JSC developed specialised software for monitoring and control of expert witnesses, and in 2012 under a public procurement contract with the Ministry of Justice as a contracting authority, developed and implemented the Information system for the issuance of an electronic conviction status certificate. The company has an existing contract with the SJC for the maintenance of the CUBIPSA portal, which gives it the right to manage and access the information resources and the portal database, including making changes in the functionality due to regulatory changes.