



Publications Office

# ELI > EUROPEAN LEGISLATION IDENTIFIER



# What is ELI?

Nowadays legislation is widely available online and accessible in various digital formats. However, the way in which legal information is organised and classified varies across different legal systems of EU Member States, a fact that tends to hinder the discovery, exchange and reuse of this information.

The European Legislation Identifier (ELI) is a solution which aims to address this issue by providing a way to uniquely identify national and EU legislation online.

## It consists of three elements:



- ★ an ELI identifier based on HTTP URIs



- ★ ELI metadata based on a common ontology



- ★ publication of ELI metadata in a semantic web format so that it can be reused

ELI has been designed in such a way that it is sufficiently standardised to provide interoperability of legal data, but at the same time it respects each EU Member State's legislative and legal uniqueness.

# What are the advantages of ELI?

Deploying the ELI identifier and structured metadata to reference and classify legislation published in Official Journals and Legal Gazettes guarantees easier **access** to legal information and facilitates its **exchange** and **reuse**. In particular, the ELI system:

- ★ promotes **interoperability** between legal systems, thus facilitating **cooperation** on legal matters between national administrations and **contributing** to the creation of the **European Union's area of freedom, security and justice**;
- ★ acts as a driver for **transparency** and **openness**, reinforcing the legitimacy and accountability of the Member States that use it;
- ★ allows users to manually **compose** ELI URIs, providing them with a **faster** and **easier** way to **access** the legislation they are looking for;
- ★ makes **searching** across legislation in different legal systems **more efficient** for citizens and legal professionals;
- ★ improves **effectiveness** of legal publishing workflows, thus leading to **better quality** and **reliability** of legislation as well as **cost savings** for legal publishers;
- ★ allows the **smart reuse of legal data** and creates opportunities for the development of **new services** by the private sector, thus contributing to the development of the **Digital Single Market**.

## ELI as a joint project of EU institutions and EU Member States

Born in the framework of the Forum of Official Gazettes ([www.forum-official-gazettes.eu](http://www.forum-official-gazettes.eu)), the ELI project was officially endorsed by the Council of the European Union in its conclusions inviting the introduction of the European Legislation Identifier ([http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52012XG1026\(01\)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52012XG1026(01))).

The ELI initiative is being coordinated by the Publications Office of the European Union, together with a group of EU Member States driving the project forward. A dedicated taskforce, chaired by Luxembourg, shares expertise and helps EU Member States implement the new identifier.

The members of the ELI Taskforce, the list of national ELI coordinators, as well as information and useful resources about ELI can be found on EUR-Lex: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/eli-register/about.html>.

## ELI at the Publications Office

Implementation of ELI is part of a wider effort led by the Publications Office in the area of standardisation of metadata and development of common vocabularies. The overall objective is to ensure that various information systems, both on the EU level and beyond, use the same 'language' to exchange information.

In this context, the Publications Office has developed a number of specialised information management tools, accessible via the Metadata Registry (<http://publications.europa.eu/mdr/>). The registry contains standardised metadata and other reference data assets, such as Authority Tables and EuroVoc, alongside the reference version of the ELI ontology. All of these resources, which are maintained centrally, are used to facilitate the discovery and retrieval of digital resources managed by EU institutions, EU Member State public administrations and many other organisations.

## More information about ELI

- ★ Visit the ELI register at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli-register/about.html>
- ★ Contact: [OP-ELI-MAILBOX@publications.europa.eu](mailto:OP-ELI-MAILBOX@publications.europa.eu)

