

Electronic Irish Statute Book goes live with ELI metadata serialisation in April 2017

Ireland is one of the first adopters of the European Legislation Identifier system since they deployed the first pillar of ELI, ie. URI references for all their legal instruments, back in September 2015.

Following the production of an ELI standard ontology for the electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB) in October of 2016, the eISB Project Team of the Office of the Attorney General began work on a pilot project to add RDFa metadata to 2016 legislation. It consisted in identifying ELI metadata properties that could be automatically generated from the production system. A process for capturing the data that required legal analysis was tested and refined as well as an efficient way of delivering this content to the production system.

In April 2017 the RDFa serialised metadata was implemented live on the eISB for the 22 Acts and 685 statutory instruments published in 2016. So far 5 Acts and 129 SIs have had ELI metadata added for 2017. 'This process will continue for all new legislation published' says Gerry Matthews, from the Office of the Attorney General. 'We will also investigate the production of ELI metadata for the entire legislation data repository (from 1922 to 2015)'. Documentation on the ELI implementation process is available at http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/ELI_URI_schema.pdf .