European Commission

2016.38 Legislation Interoperability Tools -LegIT

ISA²

LEOS

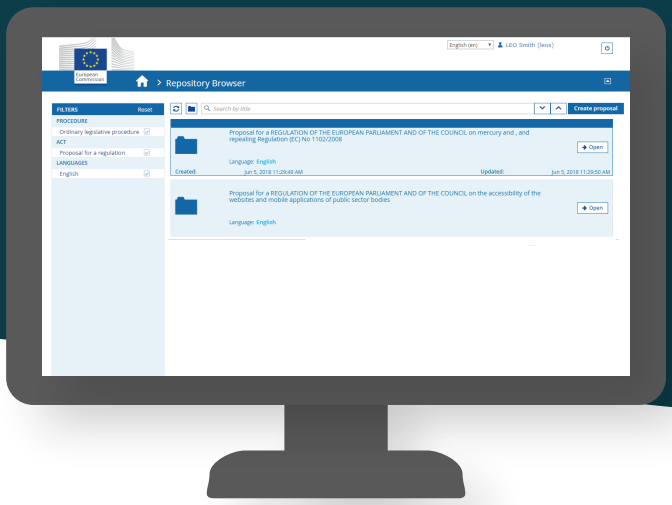
Does your organisation draft or edit legal texts?

Do you struggle with structuring, formatting, sharing or processing legislation?

Mr. Leo S. to the rescue!

Our mission is to make legislation drafting more efficient, so we created a software tool to **help people draft legal texts**.
The action (LegIT - 2016.38. Legislation Interoperability Tools) is led by Secretariat-General and Directorate-General for Informatics at the European Commission and funded by ISA2 programme.

LEOS is designed to help those involved in drafting legislation, which is usually part of a complex process, by **facilitating efficient online collaboration**. Comments, suggestions, version control, co-edition, everything is there. Regarding the structure, that is where we aim to be as restrictive as possible and this is not because we are conservative, but because this helps the drafters follow the rules and avoid mistakes.



Timeline

Q4 2015

First results under ISA

ISA Action 1.13 LEOS

In Q4 2015, the ISA Action 1.13 funded under the ISA Programme ends, delivering a study on existing solutions and various proof of concepts.

Q2 2016

LEOS action becomes LegIT

ISA² Action 2016.38 LegIT

LEOS action becomes LegIT under ISA² but keeping the name LEOS for the prototype and plans new reusable building blocks like Ref2Link and and an open implementation of CMIS.

Q3 2017

LEOS-Pilot

Major milestone achieved

Pilot launched across the Commission services. Council of the European Union selects LEOS for internal use.

Q3 2018

Continuous improvements

New building blocks to be added

CMIS implementation, Ref2Link (automatic links to Official Journal creation based on known text patterns) and Hypothes.is integration.

Features

Collaboration

Losing time exchanging and managing different versions with your drafting partners?
LEOS is built as an online authoring tool, a single online workspace for all contributors, offering simultaneous collaboration on one draft.

Structure

If the structure is your challenge, our solution deals with the creation of acts from a template, and has all further editions subject to predefined structure rules.

Additionally, there is no need to worry about the internal references, they are automatically created and updated.

Review / comments

Features for review, comments or suggestions which can be approved (or rejected) and merged directly in the text are also available. The solution includes also the track changes option.

Versioning

All versions are centrally stored and protected using role based access control rules.

With this feature, the users can have instant comparisons between successive versions and the timeline is visually displayed and easy to manage.

Rich text

If the text needs to be enriched with images, tables and mathematical formula, this is also possible.
The rich text can be added as-is and can be customized by adding plugins.

Import

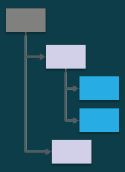
If you need to reuse some text from existing sources like the Official Journal of the European Union, you can use the import feature.
You can import some or all recitals and articles of an act.

Reuse options

COLLABORATION

Generic feature

Instead of a local software to edit documents, our solution enables online collaboration. This feature can be reused and integrate your own user management database.



STRUCTURE

Customisable feature

We use LegalDocumentML and we have implemented the structure rules agreed by the European institutions. The rules can be changed to support your legislative tradition.

REVIEW / COMMENTS

Generic feature

Each user that has access to a draft, depending on his/her role, can add comments and suggestions, search and filter comments.

VERSIONING

Generic feature

Version management becomes complicated especially when there is the case of several editors. The versioning feature, which can be reused as-is.

IMPORT

Customisable feature

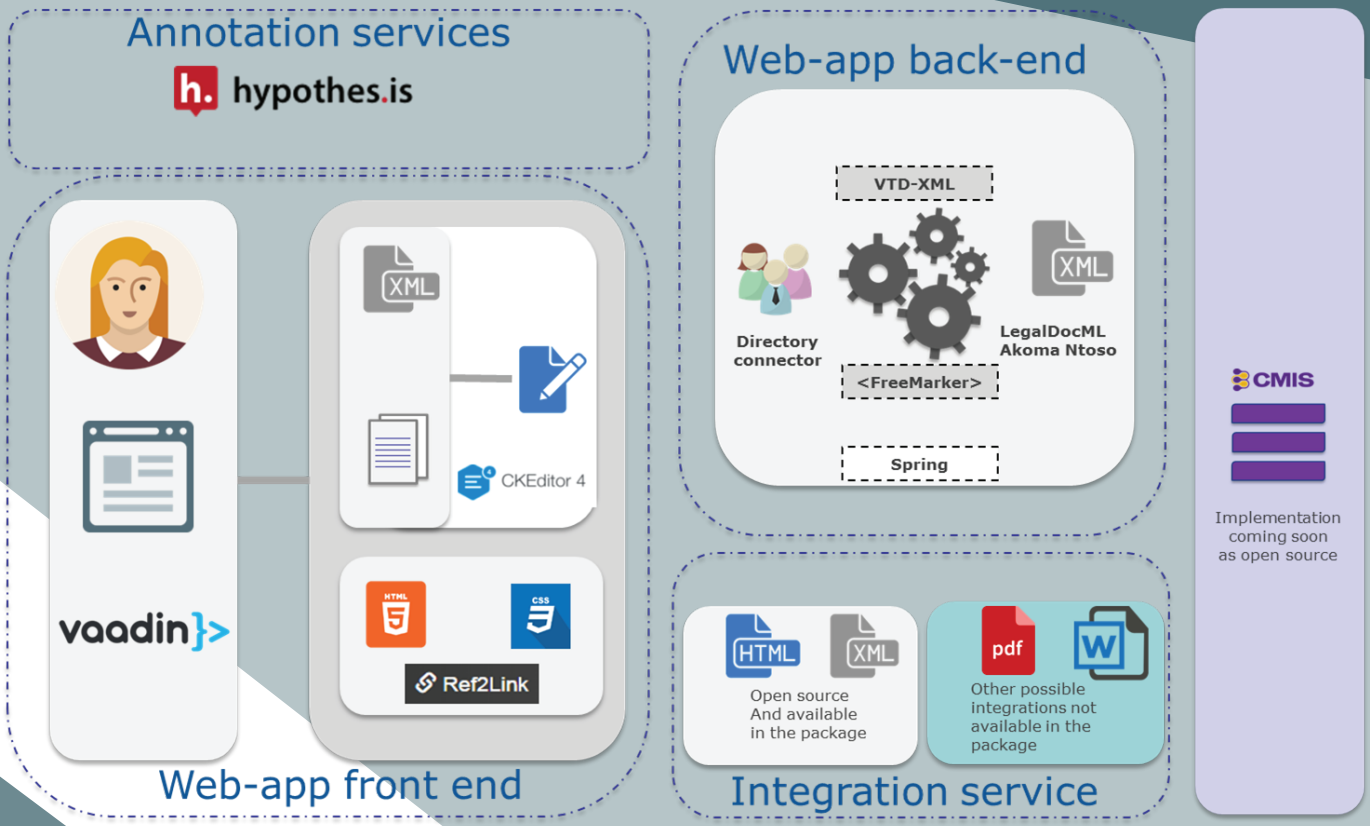
The import feature retrieves the text in XML from the source repository and transforms it into LegalDocumentML compatible with LEOS. If the imported source is already in this format, no change needs to be done. If not, a transformation routine will be required.

RICH TEXT

Configurable/ customizable

The current version allows the user to add pictures, tables, mathematical formulas.
The add image feature is enabled only for the annexes but it can be configured to be added in other elements of a draft.

Technologies used



Contact us!

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Links:

ISA - https://ec.europa.eu/isa2

https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/actions/open-source-software-editing-legislation_en

Joinup - https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/solution/leos-open-source-software-editing-legislation

Feedback:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/1b604641-cc22-9dc7-70bf-bc69724bf78f

References

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