

Evaluation Summary Report

Proposal : 216986
Acronym : EGALITE
Program : FP7
Call : FP7-ICT-2007-1
Funding scheme : Small or medium-scale focused research project -STREP - CP-FP-INFOS
Duration : 36 months
Activity : ICT-1-4.1 - Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning

EGALITE NEXT GENERATION ACCESS TO MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL LIBRARIES OF LAW IN THE EU

Proposal submitted by :

N°	Proposer name	Country	Total cost (€)	%	Grant requested (€)	%
1	Università degli Studi di Torino	Italy	464,000	17.08	374,000	18.79
2	Autonomous University of Barcelona	Spain	499,200	18.38	374,400	18.81
3	Istituto di Teoria e Tecniche per l'Informazione Giuridica del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	Italy	484,400	17.83	367,300	18.45
4	WOLTERS KLUWER ESPAÑA, S.A.	Spain	318,000	11.71	159,000	7.99
5	Universite du Luxembourg	Luxembourg	136,000	5.01	102,000	5.12
6	Jozef Stefan Institute	Slovenia	265,000	9.76	200,000	10.05
7	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	Belgium	282,600	10.40	213,200	10.71
8	EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE (International Organization)	Italy	267,200	9.84	200,400	10.07
Total			2,716,400	100%	1,990,300	100%

Abstract :

EGALITE is a 3 year project for the development of new advanced ICT and its objective is improving access by citizens, professionals and EU and Member States Institutions to multilingual legal documents in digital libraries, in textual and multimedia format, by creating advanced legal knowledge resources like thesauri, terminologies and ontologies, usable by humans and machine alike, and thus also enabling people to better understand legal documents. The main objective will be achieved by the synergy of different advanced technologies, which interact to provide a new generation approach to the representation, construction and use of legal knowledge for retrieving documents. The specific objectives are: How to represent legal knowledge and its complex dynamic and dialectic character in a way that it is acceptable by legal specialists? How to deal with the huge amount of available legal documents in the different European and national laws and languages? How to extract knowledge in an automated way from multimedia documents so to access their content without having to watch all the video contained in them? How to deal with the legal issues raised by the availability of these services? A prototype will demonstrate that these objectives will be reached. The proposal aims to be funded within the Seventh Framework Programme's Objective ICT-2007.4.1 (ICT-2007.4.3) "Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning" and emphasizes the needs of legal professional, business organizations and institutions of accessing in a better way legal digital libraries. These needs have been recognized by the European Commission itself in several documents. The proposal is based on previous collaborations, experiences and partial implementations by the partners in previous EU projects. The project has a highly interdisciplinary character since it combines ICT issues with legal ones requiring both experience in computer science and knowledge of legal practitioners.

Evaluation :

1. Scientific and/or technological excellence (relevant to the topics addressed by the call) (<i>Threshold 3.0/5 ; Weight 1</i>)	Mark :
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The proposal addresses the need for multilingual access to legal information (including multimedia content). The concepts are relevant and the objectives significant. For example, the critical development work on ontologies is well supported within the workplan. There are, however, some scope and focus issues which need to be addressed. For instance, multimedia ontology semantic annotation is a very ambitious target given that it depends on currently immature technologies still being developed.	4.00
2. Quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management (Threshold 3.0/5 ; Weight 1)	Mark :
The management processes are well considered and appropriate for such a consortium, whose range of expertise is both high quality and broad. The Observatory Board is a valuable addition to the proposal but it would be helpful to have further information with particular respect to the proposed diversity of its membership. This could reveal the extent to which the tightly domain specific nature of the consortium is to be opened to attract broad input from the digital library community.	4.50
3. The potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results (Threshold 3.0/5 ; Weight 1)	Mark :
The impact of this proposal will be considerable within the identified domain. A plan for taking the work forward to a European wide exploitation, alerting other content domains to its value, both with regard to users and commercial software implementers, could have been explained in more detail. This will ensure that the generic value of the work is not overlooked.	4.50
4. Remarks (Threshold 10.0/15)	TOTAL :
The proposal is supported by a very high quality, primarily academic, consortium, whose intention is to make all the deliverables to be published. This is a very positive approach. It is suggested that, to ensure the outcome of the project envisaged by the proposal is widely adopted, the consortium partners ensure that emphasis in the dissemination plan is placed on the public value of the results. This will help to ensure that the “law for all” message in the proposal feeds through into exploitation.	13.00
Does this proposal have ethical issues that need further attention? (If yes, please complete an ethical issues report form (EIR))	N
0 -The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information 1 -Very poor. The criterion is addressed in a cursory and unsatisfactory manner. 2 -Poor. There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question. 3 -Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting. 4 -Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible. 5 -Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.	