Legislative monitor

Legislative footprint and use of legislation

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Legislative monitor

- Platform is being developed by Transparency International Slovenia, Jožef Stefan Institute and Virostatiq.com.
- The purpose is to show the complete “legislative path”:
  - legislative footprint from the first proposal, through legislative process in parliament, enriched with reported lobbying contacts;
  - visualisation of legislation and its' changes;
  - use of legislation in practice (in courts, inspection services and administrative decisions).
Platform is using the following data:

- database of proposed legislation (95-97% of legislation is proposed by the government)*;  
- database of adopted legislation;  
- reported lobbying contacts;  
- adoption of legislation process (legislative procedure phases), including parliamentary discussions and votings;  
- data about members of parliament;  
- court decisions*;  
- criminal statistics, inspection statistics*.

* in the process of obtaining
Data about lobbyists and lobbying contacts

- Some data (for example data about registered lobbying contacts) are not available in machine readable form...

- ... so our volunteers need to enter it into the database manually.
The platform currently consists of three parts:

- legislative footprint;
- members of parliament;
- reported lobbying contacts
Legislative footprint

- Legislative footprint consists of a list of laws, including their name, EPA registration number, the current phase in which the act is in legislative process and whether there has been a breach of Resolution on normative activities (this one represents a minimum standard of public consultation and openness of the legislative process, as it requires a minimum 30-day public debate on all new legislation).

- When user selects a single act, information about this act is displayed:
  - some basic information about the act;
  - timeline of legislation process and voting;
  - proposed amendments;
  - analysis of parliamentary discussions;
Legislative footprint - timeline

- The central visualisation is timeline of the single act. Currently we are showing timeline of legislation process (legislative procedure phases), but we plan to include data about timeline of act proposal.
Legislative footprint - voting

- Votes are displayed by single members of parliament and also by electoral units and political parties.
## Legislative footprint - amendments

- Proposed amendments are also included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Content of the amendment</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Proposer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K 25. člen</td>
<td>V tretjem odstavku se za besedo »cestnine« doda besedilo iz 20.b člena tega zakona.</td>
<td>approved</td>
<td>03 marec 2015</td>
<td>Poslanka skupina Stranke Mira Cerarja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>za nova 20.a in 20.b člen</td>
<td>Izhajajoč iz 27. člena Ustave Republike Slovenije, ki pravno opredeljuje domnevo nedoložnosti, ter iz nje izhajajočo ureditev v KZ-1, je potrebno črtati drugo alinejo drugega odstavka, ki kot pogoj za opravljanje nalog cestinskega nadzornika določa pogoj, da oseba ni v kazenskem postopku zaradi naklepnega kaznivega dejstva, ki se izvaja z upravni dolžnosti. Slednje iz razloga, ker lahko posledice obseže v smislu prepovedi pristojnosti posameznih pravic nastanejo šele s pravnim naporom sodbe. Popravki v četrtjem odstavku so nemotenične narave.</td>
<td>irrelevant</td>
<td>04 marec 2015</td>
<td>Poslanka skupina Stranke Mira Cerarja</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legislative footprint – parliamentary discussions

- Platform is also showing parliamentary discussions...
Legislative footprint – parliamentary discussions

- ...but different analyses of the discussions are also displayed.
The second part of the platform contains information about members of parliament.
It is easy to compare data about voting on the individual cases and reported lobbying contacts.
MEP's – parliamentary discussions

- For each MEP there is an analysis of his or her statements in the parliament.

Discussed topics

Activity during sessions
MEP's – similarity based on voting

- Data in standardised form allow us to do several analysis and visualisations. For instance, with data on MEP votes, it is possible to draw a similarity graph of members of parliament.
Reported lobbying contacts

- The third part of the platform contains visualisation of reported lobbying contacts.
Reported lobbying contacts

- Details about reported lobbying contacts for each organisation or person is also available.
Future plans: legislation overview

- Another part of the platform would consist of a tool for exploring the legislation.

Timeline of validity of an act will be displayed. User would be able to enter a specific date and get the version of the act valid that date.

All acts amending the selected acts will be shown, and all acts impacted by this act too.
Future plans: legislation overview

- Another part of the platform would consist of a tool for exploring the articles.

Acts are broken up to single articles, so we can compare different versions of the same article.

It would be possible to draw an impact graph – which acts influence the selected act/article and to which acts the selected article has impact.
Future plans: use of legislation

- Next part of the platform would display statistics of legislation use. Input data would be criminal statistics and offences registry (PN and ODL registers).
Future plans: court cases

- The final part of the platform will enable user to search through and explore court decisions. For each article there would be available a list of court cases mentioning it.
- User could refine search with AI tool similar to OntoGen (http://ontogen.ijs.si/) and SearchPoint (http://searchpoint.ijs.si/).
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- Slovenian legislation (full text) was obtained in HTML format and imported into the database with some additional metadata.
- Data were exported to “named-line documents format”: first word is the name of the document (act), after space/tab there is a full text of the document till the newline:
  \COPY (select replace(naslov_zakona, '\(', '_'), regexp_replace(vsebina_zakona, E'[
\r\n\u2028]+', '\', 'g') from zakonodaja_zakoni, zakonodaja_besedila where (zakonodaja_zakoni.sop = zakonodaja_besedila.sop) and (id ~* 'zak')) to 'slovenian_acts.txt' delimiter E'\t';

- Slovenian characters (čšž) were removed:
  sed 's/č/c/g' slovenian_acts.txt | sed 's/š/s/g' | sed 's/ž/z/g' | sed 's/Č/C/g' | sed 's/Š/S/g' | sed 's/Ž/z/g' > slovenian_acts_csz.txt

- OntoGen application is quite old and unfortunately does not use UTF-8 encoding, so file needs to be encoded in CP1250:
  iconv -c -f utf-8 -t cp1250 slovenian_acts_csz.txt > slovenian_acts_win.txt
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- Slovenian legislation is then imported into OntoGen...
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- OntoGen suggests us 8 subconcepts. We add subconcept named “tax”...
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- For this subconcept we can preview documents included into this concept. We can also add or remove documents...
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- Ontogen creates visualisation of the documents within the same concept...
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- We can view concept details...

Keywords, which separate the selected concept from other concepts most
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- We can zoom in the concept...
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- We can add new (sub)concept by learning...
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- We can add new (sub)concept by learning...
Example: text analysis of Slovenian legislation

- Documents from concept »tax« are automatically classified to subconcept »land«.
Questions?

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