# The European Law Project on WorldLII

<**http://www.worldlii.org/int/special/europe/**>

The European Law Project is an initiative of the World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII) <http://www.worldlii.org>, a free access legal information portal operated by the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) in cooperation with many other free access legal information institutes (LIIs) around the world.

**Objectives** The aim of the European Law Project in WorldLII is to expand as far as possible the range of European legal information (legislation, treaties, cases, law reform materials and open legal scholarship) available through the WorldLII portal. All legal information included in the project's databases can be searched simultaneously with fast response times, with all search results ranked by relevance to the search, and by other ranking measures where possible. In order to achieve these objectives, databases are either located on collaborating European LIIs or on the WorldLII portal itself (as republication of data from other sources).

The project includes legal content from both multinational European institutions (eg Council of Europe, European Union), and European national institutions of member States. The result is to facilitate pan-European comparative searching of both multinational and national legal sources.

**Audience** The European Law Project is putting an initial emphasis on the inclusion of databases in English, due to its principal funding coming from an Australian Research Council (ARC) research infrastructure development grant (LIEF grant) for 2011-12, aimed to assist Australian researchers in European law to more efficiently find research resources. However, WorldLII already includes databases in European languages other than English, and these will continue to be expanded as part of the project. Researchers from eight Australian Universities are involved in the project.

The primary audience for the Project is those researchers in law and related disciplines, wherever located, who will find it useful to obtain, and compare, European legal materials in English. Legal practitioners, and law librarians servicing them, will from previous experience make up a significant part of this audience. So will the general public, who appreciate and benefit from well-organised legal materials available for free access.

**Available now** The initial version of the European Law Project is already available for free public access at <http://www.worldlii.org/int/special/europe/> - the interface is overleaf. As yet, the main sources of databases are the European Union; Council of Europe; decisions of international courts concerning European countries; the United Kingdom, and Ireland, with smaller databases available from other countries including Albania, Bosnia, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Romania, Spain and Sweden. The Project currently includes over 100,000 searchable items of legal content from European-wide institutions, over half a million searchable items of UK and Irish law (from BAILII), and a few thousand from other countries. The initial version also has an extensive Catalog of links to law-oriented websites from all European countries and pan-European institutions, and a 'Law on Google' search facility which assists researchers to find legal materials from any European country. The LawCite Citator, as part of the project, tracks citations of cases and journal articles within and across jurisdictions.

**Development plans** The initial priority is to add databases of legislation in English from as many European jurisdictions as possible (10 currently under development). This will be followed by collections of free access court decisions from the highest courts of European countries, particularly Constitutional courts, and decisions of national courts on matters of EU law (decisions from all countries are being added in both categories). The LawCite Citator should be particularly useful in

tracking cases cited across jurisdictions. We will include European legal scholarship, treaties and other key materials where possible.

## European Law Project
WorldLII

Australian Government
Australian Research Council

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Search: ⊙ Databases ○ Catalog & Websearch ○ Law on Google     [LawCite - Europe]

## Databases

### Case Law

- Court of Justice of the European Communities (including Court of First Instance Decisions) (EUECJ) 1954- (BAILII)
- Commission of the European Communities Decisions 2003- (WorldLII)
- European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) 1960- (BAILII)
- European Union Civil Service Tribunal (EUCivST) 2004- (WorldLII)
- International Court Decisions concerning European countries (WorldLII)

### Legislation

- European Union Legislation in Force (WorldLII)

### Treaties and International Agreements

- Council of Europe Treaty Series (COETS) 1949- (WorldLII)
- European Communities International Agreements (EUTSer) 1953- (WorldLII)
- Council of Europe Treaty Series - Explanatory Reports (COETSER) 1949- (WorldLII)
- Treaties and International Agreements involving European countries (WorldLII)

### Law Journals and Legal Scholarship

- Legal Scholarship Concerning European countries (WorldLII)

- Albania*
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus*
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland

- Andorra
- Belarus
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- England and Wales*
- Faroe Islands
- France*

*Extract from front page of the European Law Project in WorldLII as at July 2011*

**New collaborators sought** The European Law Project seeks collaborators from all European countries. Ideally, we seek to replicate data on the WorldLII servers for search efficiency purposes, with users finding the data via WorldLII but accessing it on the original source location. Where this is not possible, databases will be republished on WorldLII, and users will access it there. Both types of data will be seamlessly incorporated in all of the services WorldLII provides.

*AustLII Co-Directors, 8 August 2011*