ELI-DL: European Legislation Identifier for Draft Legislation

## What is ELI-DL?

The ELI ontology for draft legislation (ELI-DL), [available as a Joinup solution](https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/solution/eli-ontology-draft-legislation-eli-dl) is an independent extension of the [core ELI ontology](https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/eli); it enables the **semantic annotation of bills, or legislative projects pages** published in the portals of Official Journals or Parliaments.

ELI-DL enables users and applications to understand in which phase/stage a legislative draft is, and what are the related documents. There are several use cases where professionals, civil servants, or citizens are interested to consult past legislative work and related documents when they access to a law. Several Official Journals give information about the preparation of the law. One of the richest example is given by Eur-Lex, with access to documents and descriptions of the steps of the European procedures. Another use case is to offer to users a service that let them anticipate changes of existing laws with links to laws that will be impacted by the new legislation, or EU Directive that will be transposed.

Thus, the extension enables to provide stable URIs for preparatory documents and legislative activities, which can be cited in further events and documents, and to semantically annotate web pages describing draft legislation.

At a glance, ELI-DL allows the structured description of:

* A *LegislativeProcess*, with its title, description, ids, type, status, keywords, and links to input documents and the final legislation published as an outcome of the project;
* A serie of *LegislativeActivities*, taking place during the drafting; each activity is an event with start and end date, participant and responsible persons (“rapporteur”) or organizations (“commitees”); each activity can produce or be based on *LegislativeProcessWorks*;
* The *LegislativeProcessWorks*, all the documents produced during the projects, in particular related opinions, impact analysis, etc.; these can be refined into:
  + *DraftLegislationWork*: successive versions of the drafted legislation text;
  + *AmendmentToDraftLegislationWork*: amendments on the draft legislation;

A key feature of ELI-DL is its ability to state the foreseeable impacts of a draft legislation on existing legislation, thus providing data consumers a way to get early alerts on potential impacts of a legislative project.

ELI-DL, as ELI, is based on the [FRBRoo ontology](http://www.cidoc-crm.org/frbroo/).

## What does the package contains?

* ELI-DL-README: This document, an introduction to ELI-DL
* ELI-DL-diagrams-examples: Diagrams of the model and of implementation examples
* ELI-DL-URI-components: Specifications and guidelines for ELI-DL URI components
* ELI-DL-final1-feedbacks-and-answers : Feedbacks received and how they were answered;
* ELI-DL-documentation-table: a table of the definition of all the terms defined in ELI-DL, automatically generated from the OWL file;
* ELI-DL-OWL: The formal encoding of ELI-DL in OWL;

## Version “final1”: What is this new version?

This new version if ELI-DL tagged “**final1**” integrates 15 feedbacks received on the [draft version published one year ago](https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/release/eli-dl/draft1). The feedbacks originated from Poland, Office of Publications, Switzerland. They were all very helpful in adapting the model to real-world use-cases and making it easier to understand and implement.

This version is **not backward-compatible** with the previous draft version.

Roughly from the most important changes to the least important:

* *URI template components* : this is not exactly part of the ELI-DL ontology, but a companion document to the ontology specifies new URI templates for ELI-DL entities, as well as guidelines on how to use these templates to create identifiers. An important requirement is that all URIs of ELI-DL entities must start with “/eli/dl/”;
* *Naming change* : A major change in the model is the renaming of main classes to make them more consistent, precise and hopefully easier to understand :
  + LegalActivity becomes **LegislativeActivity**
  + LegislativeProject becomes **LegislativeProcess**
  + LegislativeProjectWork becomes **LegislativeProcessWork**
  + LegalDraftWork becomes **DraftLegislationWork**
  + LegalDraftAmendmentWork becomes **AmendmentToDraftLegislationWork**

Corresponding properties are renamed accordingly (e.g. legislative\_project\_description becomes legislative\_process\_description, etc.)

* *Class removal* : the class LegalDraftRelatedWork is removed from the model. The generic super-class LegislativeProcessWork should be used instead.
* *Improved description of the legislative process* : the description of the legislation process can be enhanced with
  + “who submitted it”;
  + “what is the foreseen type of legislation” that will be the outcome of the process;
  + “what is the current stage” of the process;
  + Improvement on the status of the legislative process : Ongoing / Successful / Abandonned;
* *Preparatory vs. Final version of any document* : it is now possible to specify the version of any work/document, with 2 values provided : Preparatory, and Final. The list of possible version values can be extended in each implementation;
* *Other new properties :*
  + “activity date” on a legislative activity;
  + “label of responsible/participant person or organization” on a legislative activity;

The complete list of the 15 provided feedbacks as well as how they were integrated is given as a companion document in this release.