



Argumentation in the legislation process: the LEXIS project

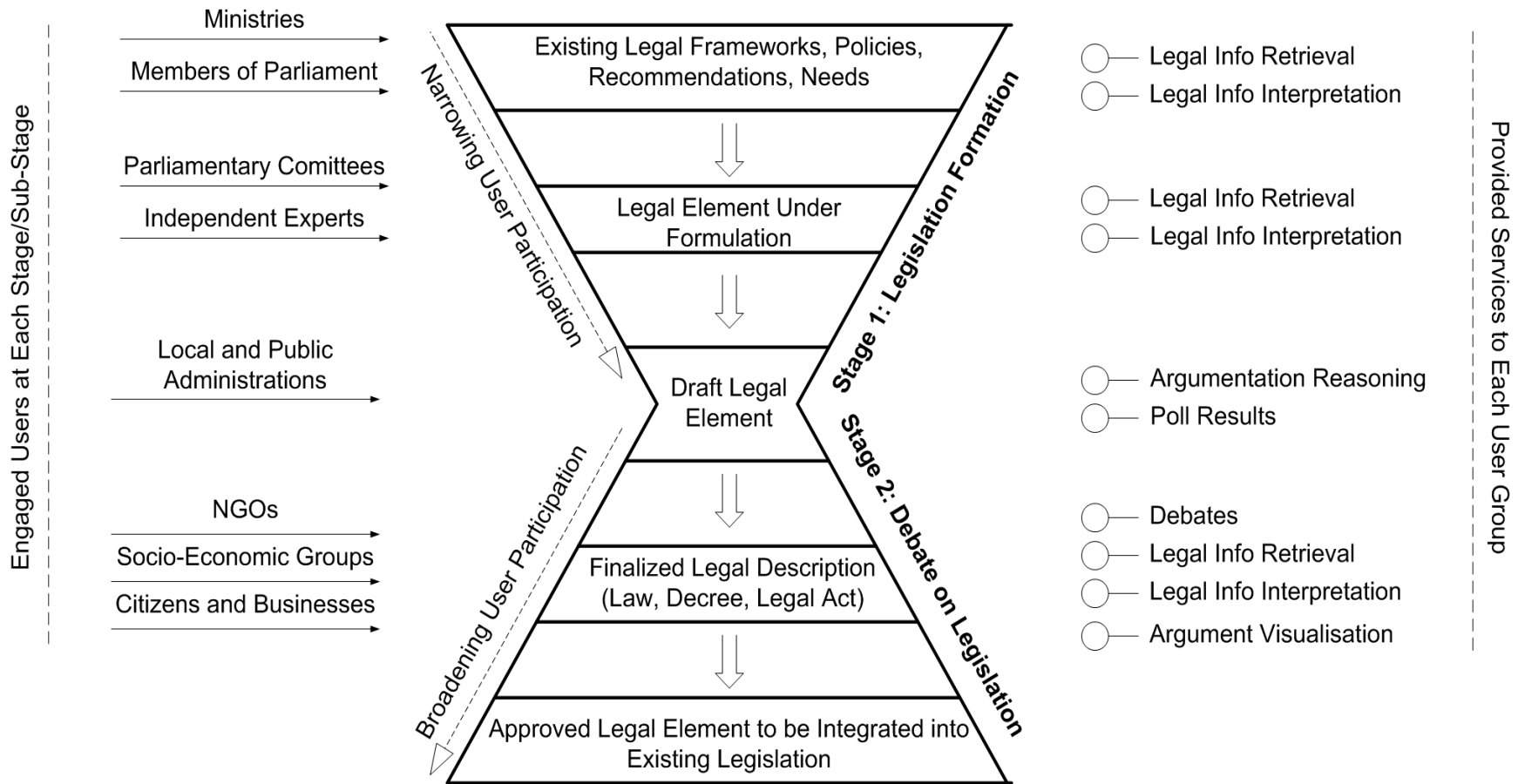
Euripidis N. Loukis
University of the Aegean



LEXIS Project

- to improve the legislative process in National Parliaments
- through enhancing public participation in the preparatory stages:
 - legislation proposal formation
 - and debate on draft legislation
- with the use of state-of-the-art ICT-based tools and methodologies
- one of them is argumentation systems

Legislation Process complexity





I. Using one existing AS

- Such as the HERMES system:
 - issues,
 - alternatives,
 - positions,
 - preferences
- Positive experience from a pilot use of it
- Argumentation concerning the establishment or not of non-state Universities

HERMES Argumentation

Agora Discussion - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media

Administrative Actions View Tools Help

Discussion: The establishment or not of 'non-state' universities :: [This is an ongoing discussion](#)

Closing date: None

- [-] The establishment or not of 'non-state universities' in Greece :: Priv1
 - [-] Non-state profit universities :: Priv1
 - [-] **Students fees will finance high quality education** :: Priv2
 - [-] High student fees may lead to high profits and not high level education :: Min1
 - [-] They will attract foreign students and income for the national economy :: Min2
 - [-] **Highly dependent on sponsors** :: Chamb1
 - [-] The only sponsors will be the students :: Priv4
 - [-] **Finally big enterprises will be the main sponsors** :: Chamb3
 - [-] No enterprises will sponsor these universities :: Priv4
 - [-] **Professors' salaries will be from the students' money** :: UnProf1
 - [-] This is not bad: Students' fees will be a good source for paying proper salaries to the Professors :: Priv3
 - [-] There will be many cases where students will 'buy' their degrees :: Chamb3
 - [-] These private universities will be predominantly companies and not educational Institutions :: UnProf2
 - [-] Low level of studies :: Chamb1
 - [-] High level of competition will result in higher level of studies :: Priv2
 - [-] More options will be offered concerning subjects and specializations :: Priv1
 - [-] It will be the 'easy solution' for those who can succeed in the state university entry exams :: UnProf3
 - [-] **This is not bad - they will offer them a solution** :: Priv1
 - [-] More effort would be required and not 'easy solutions' :: Chamb3
 - [-] Non-state non-profit universities :: Chamb2
 - [-] **State non-profit universities** :: UnProf1
 - [-] Preferences
 - [-] Low level of studies is more important than They can attract financial support from the EU :: UnProf2
 - [-] Low level of studies is more important than Very often poor level of organization :: UnProf1



Advantages

- it organises the discussion efficiently
- it stimulates creativity and discussion
- high level of interaction among participants (63% of the elements were associated with another element)
- easy to learn its basic functionality



Disadvantages

- the right association of a new element (with another element) is difficult
- it is difficult to express a discussion element in a few words only
- it is also difficult to understand the meaning of a discussion element expressed by another participant in a few words
- is quite demanding and requires a high level of concentration and mental effort



Characteristics of Approach I

- proven and mature systems
- concerning the types of elements they propose and the associations among them
- it should be simple
- but do they offer to the participants complete expression capabilities?
- can they cover the semantic richness of the legislation process?



II. Using 'simple' forum

Position1 (USER1)

Position11 (USER8)

Position111 (USER5)

Position12 (USER6)

Position2 (USER3)

Position21 (USER2)

Position22 (USER1)

Position221 (USER3)



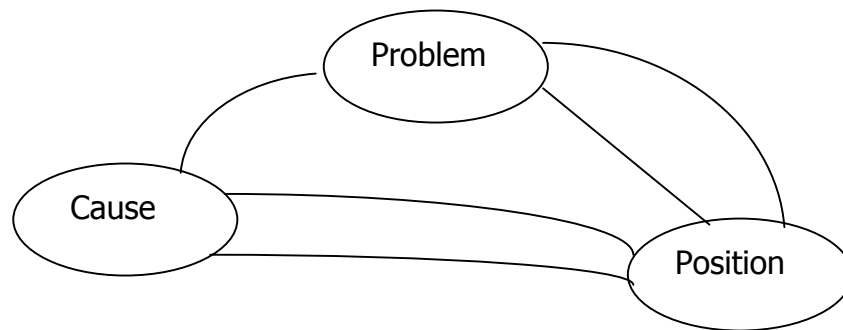
Characteristics of Approach II

- simplicity
- but it does not help the participants to structure their thoughts
- it cannot structure the discussion sufficiently
- it does not support 'collective knowledge management'



III. Using 'structured' forum

Based on a predefined discussion ontology





structured forum

Problem1 (USER5)

 Cause11 (USER3)

 Position111(-) (USER4)

 Position112(+) (USER5)

 Cause12 (USER2)

Problem2 (USER1)

 Cause21 (USER4)

 Position211(+) (USER5)

 Cause22 (USER3)



Design of an ontology

- Inspirational approach
- Inductive approach
- Deductive approach
- Synthetic approach
- Collaborative approach
- Use of an existing ontology design methodology
(during requirements analysis)



Characteristics of Approach III

- appropriate for Parliaments context
- more capabilities for expression
- covering semantic richness of the legislation process
- better support of collective knowledge management
- not proven and mature
- less simple? (→ split in a number of stages)

References



- Karacapilidis, N., Loukis, E. and Dimopoulos, S., 'Computer-supported G2G collaboration for public policy and decision making', *Journal of Enterprise Information Management*, Vol. 18, No 5, 2005, pp. 602-624.
- Loukis, E., 'Electronic Government-to-Government (G2G) Collaboration', chapter of the 'Encyclopedia of Digital Government', Anttiroiko, A., Malkia, M. (editors), Idea Group Publishing, July 2006.
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