

COPIUR

Coordination Office for the Electronic Publication of Legal Data
Federal Office of Justice, Bern, Switzerland.

<http://www.rechtsinformation.admin.ch/copiur/index.html>

COPIUR

Copiur, the coordination office for the electronic publication of legal data, started its work in October 1998. Initially attached to the Federal Chancellery, it later joined the Service of “Legal Data Processing and Computer Law” (Rechtsinformatik und Informatikrecht / Informatique juridique, droit et informatique / Informatica giuridica, diritto dell’informatica) at the Federal Office of Justice. The Service initiates and leads informatics and organizational projects of national importance in areas like registers, electronic exchange of legal documents and electronic publication of legislative data.

Copiur evaluates and promotes new information technologies in the legislative field. It deals principally with the elaboration of uniform norms, standards, and information structures. Its principal objective is to harmonize federal, cantonal as well as private sector publications, in order to give the public a rich, uniformly presented and simply accessible online-offer of legislative data. Copiur also represents the federal administration at the appropriate national and international coordination bodies.

RELEVANT PROJECTS

Copiur currently deals with two relevant projects.

The first one is CHLexML (www.chlexml.ch), or the establishment of a comprehensive XML schema to be used for the publication of all (federal, cantonal and even communal) legislative acts. The schema has been finalised by a working group of the Swiss association for juridical informatics led by Copiur and the Federal Chancellery. After an internal review, it will be adopted at the 5th seminar on law and informatics organised by Copiur on 30 June – 1st July 2005. The schema CHLexML will then be submitted to cantonal chancelleries and other interested players for consultation and to the eCH (the E-Government standards setting association) for normalisation.

The second project is named LexGo (www.lexgo.ch). Its main purpose is to align the 27 classification systems (all different) used by the 27 (federal and cantonal) systematic collections of law in order to simplify and improve search results. Based on the common systematic for the classification of legal acts elaborated by the Institute of Federalism of Fribourg, LexGo has created 27 matrix tables (Konkordanztabellen, tableaux de concordance) aligning all cantonal and federal legislative acts to the common systematic. Thanks also to a database of accurate links, LexGo allows users to find, for example, all federal and cantonal norms related to a given subject.

PERSONNEL

A law graduate of the University of Bern, Urs Paul Holenstein, joined the federal administration in 1992. He first worked as a scientific expert to the Secretariat General of the Department of Justice and Police. In 1998 he moved to the Federal Chancellery, where he directed the newly-created Coordination Office for the electronic publication of legal data (Copiur). As a member of the management of e-Government projects of the Federal Chancellery, he has been closely associated with the developments concerning Federal portal (www.ch.ch) and E-voting projects. Since 2002, Urs Paul Holenstein has been in charge of Copiur under the auspices of the Centre for Legal Data Processing and Computer Law, which is part of the Federal Office of Justice.

A law graduate of the University of Geneva, Ardita Driza Maurer joined Copiur in 2003. She has coordinated work with external experts, French speaking cantonal chancelleries and international experts in the field of legislative XML as well as in different projects (CHLexML, CH – Gesetzesdatenbank).