

The Lexelerator and its potential impact on Europe's regions

Conclusions from the peardrop experience

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The peardrop context

- **An EU funded project**
- **Main focus of the project**
Accessible and practicable instruments for DBE deployment
- **Reasons for this focus**
Fragmented knowledge of ICT for networking, need for de-codification and dissemination.
European lateness in development of networking
DBE important in creation of employment and knowledge

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Project Activities

- Economic Impact and Regional Development (CSP)
- **Legal Issues and Challenges (AEC)**
- Technology Infrastructure and Support Systems (TCH)
- Business Models and Cultures (CM International)
- Financial Frameworks and Engineering (EPMA)

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Legal Issues and Challenges in **peardrop**

Three **levels of governance** for European Regions :

- The **EU** level (e.g. Directives)
- The **State** level, transcribing these directives, at its own pace, with its own respective modifications and “editor’s choices”, and consequently modifying the national legal landscape
- The **Regional** level, which, depending on the extent of devolution, creates rather different legal landscapes into which DBE may be deployed according to the level of legislative power, ability to experiment, the right for special dispensation, etc.

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Collaboration with LEKTOR

- A valuable source of information and an enriching exchange experience (Articles on liability of ISPs and use of hyperlinks and deep links for lexelerator.eu).
- Identification of legal issues for SMEs from different countries.
- Definition of areas of legal study and research
- Addition of themes of study specific to local cluster activities

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Common areas of concern

- Privacy and Identity Management
- Protection of Intellectual Property Rights
- Questions on Liability (ex. For Internet Service Providers)
- Open Source Software (OSS)
- Privacy and Data protection (Consumer and international transfer)

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Specific areas of concern for **peardrop** clusters

- Legal definition of the DBE (Legal Status, possible structures)
- Public funding and DBE
- Public –Private partnerships and DBE
- Competition regulations
- Confidentiality issues for DBE implementation
- Creative Commons Licences

Lexelerator for SMEs in European Regions

Advantages

- Access to free legal information for remote SMEs
- Unique counter compiling diversity of sources of information
- Familiarize with Web 2.0 practices (Wikipedia and flickr.com)
- A tool for Regional authorities and subsidiary organisations working towards the take-up of ICT in business processes by local SMEs and clusters.
- Enhance visibility and competitiveness of European SMEs and therefore, European Regions.

Lexelerator for SMEs in European Regions

Existing obstacles

- Language barrier
- Business cultures differences
- Complexity of the legal jargon

Possible solution

- Participation of intermediary organisations (associations, Chambers of Commerce)

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Link to project website:

www.peardrop.eu

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