



# Abstracts

submitted to the workshop on

## “The Status and Renewal of Legal-Administrative Language in the European States”

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**Prof. Dr. Ádám Rixer** (Full Professor, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Faculty of Law, Budapest): **The situation of the Hungarian legal-administrative language**

In 2022, the Lőrincz Lajos Research Centre for Public Law of the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary launched its research titled "Is there a need for legal-administrative language reform in Hungary? Developing a strategy for legal-administrative terminology". In the framework of the research – conducted in collaboration with lawyers, linguists, and terminologists – two major conferences were held in Hungarian, and the results were presented in a follow-up publication.

And within our English-language workshop, we would like to assess how developments in the legal and administrative field in Hungary coincide with similar developments in other languages. There are some processes that seem to be global, such as the pressure of English, both in legal terminology and in research. Similarly, the rise of artificial intelligence, the rise of large language models (like ChatGPT) and their medium-term impact on the legal and administrative languages of individual states and their legal life in general seem to be common problems.

In my presentation I would like to highlight the most important issues that determine the status of the Hungarian legal-administrative language, such as that the Hungarian legal-administrative vocabulary has started to be 'replenished' with words that had previously been deleted; that within the Hungarian higher education the conscious defence of legal language is a very Janus-faced phenomenon; and that the arenas for the renewal of the legal language have changed in the last two decades in Hungary.

**Prof. Dr. Dimitry Gegenava** (Vice Rector, Sulkhani-Saba Orbeliani University, Faculty of Law, Tbilisi): **Legislative Framework of the State Language in Georgia and Modern Challenges**

The Constitution of Georgia officially designates the Georgian language as the state language, with special recognition also granted to Abkhazian within the autonomous republic of Abkhazia. Georgia's organic law on the State Language provides the foundational legislative framework, complemented by various legislative acts and bylaws governing the use of the official language. However, historical factors such as Russian and Soviet occupation, as well as the influence of globalization, have significantly impacted the Georgian language, presenting numerous challenges for both legislative and executive bodies.

This paper examines the legal foundations of the state language in Georgia, identifies and analyzes key regulatory issues concerning its official use, and offers general recommendations and strategies for enhancing existing legislation.

**Dr. Tetiana Drakokhrust** (Associate Professor, West Ukrainian National University, Department of Theory of Law and Constitutionalism, Ternopil): **Preserving Clarity: Sustaining and Updating Legal-Administrative Language in Ukraine**

Maintaining and renewing the legal-administrative language in Ukraine is a vital endeavor in ensuring clarity, coherence, and accessibility in legal documentation and administrative processes. This paper explores the significance of preserving and updating the language used in legal and administrative contexts within Ukraine. It delves into the challenges faced in maintaining linguistic integrity amidst evolving societal, technological, and global dynamics. Strategies for linguistic preservation and adaptation are discussed, including the role of linguistic authorities, legislative measures, and professional training programs.

The paper highlights the importance of a dynamic and adaptable legal-administrative language to facilitate effective communication, uphold legal certainty, and foster inclusivity within Ukraine's diverse linguistic landscape. Efforts in this domain contribute to enhancing legal literacy, promoting transparency, and reinforcing the rule of law in Ukrainian society.

**Prof. JUDr. Filip Křepelka** (Masaryk University, Faculty of Law, Department of International and European Law, Brno): **Nonchalance concerning Czech as a national language**

There is chronic disinterest in linguistic aspects of law in Czechia. There are no constitutional provisions, only limited and dispersed provisions addressing – often naive, without sufficient reality tests. Concerning legal academia, the situation is similar. Pushing for internationalisation is omnipresent and frequently mutates in Anglicisation.

Most consider Czech for granted as the language of formulating and implementing law. Under these conditions, one may appreciate any attention, such as a handbook for plain and correct style prepared by the ombudsman's office and care for linguistic quality in law-making. The contribution will also map the efforts at stabilising and improving thesauri for translating into Czech in the European Union, as this structure is multilingual.

**Dr. Belkis Vural Çelenk** (Associate Professor, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University Law Faculty, Türkiye- Notary Sworn Translator) and **Dr. Aysun Bolaca** (Assistant Professor, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University Law Faculty, Türkiye): **Looking Closer at Legal Translation Through the Lens of Turkish Practice**

Our study aims to attract an attention for the prominence of the proper use of legal language by referring 3 main themes:

1. the need for being sensitive to legal jurisdictions having the very similar roots on the translation process,
2. a closer look at Turkish translation practice and its adverse impact, and
3. target-oriented recommendations within this context.

**Dr. Alvydas Umbrasas** (Senior Researcher, Terminology Center of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language, Vilnius): **Management of Legal Terminology in Lithuania**

The establishment of Lithuanian legal terminology commenced in 1918, coinciding with Lithuania's declaration of independence and the adoption of Lithuanian as the official language of law for the first time. Before that period, during Lithuania's inclusion in the Russian Empire, legislation and legal matters were conducted in Russian. By the time Lithuania lost its independence in 1940, significant progress had been made in establishing Lithuanian legal terminology. This included the drafting of a glossary of legal terms in 1920, though regrettably, the manuscript was never published. Additionally, there were translations of codes from Russian into Lithuanian, and legal acts were being published in Lithuanian. During the Soviet era, Russian had regained prominence in Lithuania, yet legal affairs were also conducted in Lithuanian. Notably, the first dictionary of legal terms was published in Lithuania during this period, in 1954. With Lithuania's regained independence in 1990, a new era of legal terminology management began. The transformation of the state system necessitated the creation of new legal terms, compounded by a shortage of dictionaries in the legal domain.

This scarcity prompted the publication of several glossaries of legal terms. Lithuania's accession to the European Union in 2004 signified a pivotal juncture in the evolution of legal terminology management. At the end of 2003, the Law on the Term Bank of the Republic of Lithuania was enacted, leading to the establishment of the Term Bank of the Republic of Lithuania. Administered by the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language, this database primarily focuses on managing legal terms, among its key objectives. In adherence with the mentioned Law, terminology commissions have been established within the most important state institutions.

Their responsibility lies in submitting terms from draft national legislation to the Term Bank. Since 2004, the Terminology Sub-Commission of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language has been convening regularly, nearly every week, to deliberate on these terms during its meetings. The database currently encompasses more than 19,000 entries of approved terms derived from legislation. The presentation will focus on the experience gained from 20 years of engaging in this terminological work.

**Prof. Dr. Tímea Drinóczi** (Visiting Professor, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Faculty of Law, Belo Horizonte) and **Prof. Dr. Ana Larissa Oliveira** (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Faculty of Humanities, Belo Horizonte): **Gender-inclusive language use in law-making: The Case of Brazil and the Portuguese language**

The idea of using gender-inclusive language is to promote gender equality and, in this way, it facilitates compliance and contributes to maintaining a healthy democracy. According to the UN, using gender-inclusive language means speaking and writing in a way that does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender, or gender identity and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes. The OSCE ODIHR guidelines on democratic lawmaking for Better Laws recommend using gender-sensitive language during the lawmaking process because the language of legislation should be appropriate to the audiences of the law and should avoid discriminatory, biased, or stereotypical language.

This conference presentation will try to answer the following two interrelated questions: How does the demand for gender-inclusive or gender-sensitive language appear in Brazil? How is this demand translated into the language of law?

To answer these questions, the presentation first contextualizes the linguistic challenges by reviewing some best practices of gender-inclusive/sensitive language in English and will briefly explain the linguistic characteristics of the Portuguese language. In the second part of the presentation, the social and academic discussion on the need for gender-inclusive/sensitive Portuguese language is explored with examples. The third part will address the issue of how this social demand and soft recommendations coming from the international sphere have been considered by Brazilian lawmakers in Congress in their communications and draft works. Some communication by the elected representatives is presented along with some formulations of the Brazilian Constitution of 1988 and some pieces of legislation from the 2020s.

The presentation concludes that even though there is a pressing social need and demand for gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive language, Brazilian lawmakers are lagging behind considerably.

**Dr. Tímea Palotai-Torzás** (Lawyer-linguist, Co-founder and counsel at Juremy EU Terminology Search): **The multilingual EU legal corpus as a terminological resource in institutional translation: introducing the Juremy search application**

Regulation no 1/1958 of the EEC Council laid down the principle of multilingualism in EU legal-administrative language by stipulating that regulations and other documents of general application shall be drafted in the official languages.

To implement this principle at the highest quality standards, translators and lawyer-linguists working for the EU institutions need to comply with stringent requirements like terminological consistency and accuracy.

To meet these challenges, linguists research the EU corpus thoroughly to find and annotate the resource of the equivalent of a given term or phrase that has already been translated into their target language.

Based on their first-hand research experience, the founders of Juremy created a method that offers fast and customizable online concordance search over the EU legal corpus and the IATE termbase in all 24 official EU languages, facilitating the workflow of linguists engaged in EU institutional translation.

**Prof. Dr. Ágota Fóris** (Full Professor, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Budapest): **Barrier-free communication. How to link legal-administrative terminology to the Hungarian terminology strategy?**

The aim of the presentation is to show what options are available to link legal-administrative terminology to the Hungarian terminology strategy. The starting point of the presentation is that an important tool for barrier-free communication is to ensure the comprehensibility of legal and other documents, which is both an ethical, communicative, and financial issue. Clear communication is accessible communication, and therefore the comprehensibility of documentation (legislation, technical documents, patient information leaflets, etc.) is the basis for effective official communication.

The comprehensibility of texts depends on many factors, one of which is terminology. The comprehensibility of terminology can be ensured either through intralingual translation or – according to terminology recommendations and standards – through definitions, which can be assisted by the creation of terminology databases.

In line with the UNESCO recommendations on terminology strategy, the development of the general Hungarian terminology strategy recommendations ("green paper") has been completed and their implementation has started. It would be particularly important to develop and implement a complementary strategy for legal and administrative terminology in the field of governance.