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### Disclaimer:

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## 2 Executive Summary

openlaws is an ambitious legal information project that is built on open data, open innovation and open source software. openlaws will help you find legal information more easily, organize it the way you want and share it with others. The Internet platform is adding a “social layer” to the existing “institutional layer” of legal information systems. Together with the different stakeholders we will create a network between legislation, case law, legal literature and legal experts - both on a national and a European level, leading to better access to legal information. The openlaws core team will also create a “BOLD“ Vision 2020 about what Big Open Legal Data (BOLD) can do in the future and propose a roadmap to the European Commission. The openlaws mission can be found on the project website:

[www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu)

This handbook provides information for the different stakeholder groups of the openlaws project. It will outline the background of the different actors and draw a broader picture of the “Big Open Legal Data” environment. This publication is listing a few – certainly not all – arguments, why people have an interest in openlaws, how they can use it for their own purposes, and how they can contribute to it.

The following matrix is a model approach to categorize the stakeholders by their legal expertise and by their individual/institutional size. The matrix should provide a general classification; in specific cases this general classification might not apply to one or the other individual or institution and it make no claim to be complete.

<b>legal expertise (lower to higher)</b>	judges lawyers notaries general counsels legal scholars	judiciary legislative authorities large law firms	Vision: BIG OPEN LEGAL DATA
	small enterprises law students semi-professionals	medium enterprises gov. administrations legal publishers	large enterprises
	citizen (individual)	citizens (groups/associations/etc.)	society (as a whole) Member States
	<b>individual/institutional size (smaller to larger)</b>		

### 3 Method

We have chosen a few stakeholder groups in the area of law, trying to outline the challenges each of these groups is facing, and showing the potential benefits that the openlaws project may bring.

Note that the categorizations are initial hypotheses, which are aiming at showing the big picture and often are generalizing. A categorization of a stakeholder group in general may not always apply to each and every individual within this group. For example, while it is assumed that legal professionals are in general adopting new technologies rather late, certain individuals may even be early adopters. These hypotheses may therefore be verified or falsified during the duration of the openlaws project.

Please note further that the professions are not entirely equal in each and every member state of the EU. For example, the tasks of a “lawyer” in the UK are not in all aspects equal to the tasks of a “lawyer” in Austria.

The initial hypotheses are based on the activities of Workstreams 1 (Mapping Open Law: Resources and Institutional Partners) and Workstream 2 (Socio-Economic and Technical Analysis) of the openlaws project, the openlaws survey (n= >200), focus groups, and individual interviews. Respondents are mostly from UK, Austria and the Netherlands, i.e. the member states on which the openlaws project is focussing primarily for the initial phase.

A “SLEPT” framework is an instrument to cover macro-economic factors in strategic management. It includes social, legal, economic, political and technological factors. This framework, which is originally intended for businesses, may be borrowed, adapted and applied to the stakeholder groups of openlaws – recognizing the fact that a stakeholder group is not a business. Still, for the purpose of this stakeholder handbook, such SLEPT framework may help to highlight the challenges that each stakeholder group is facing, showing differences to other stakeholder groups, and eventually revealing opportunities where groups can interact in a meaningful way.

The different factors explained in short, as used for the purpose of the openlaws stakeholder analysis (which are slightly different compared to a traditional SLEPT analysis), are:

- **Social** factors include reputation of the stakeholder group, career opportunities, social security, the work environment, collaboration with peers and also demographic factors;
- **Legal** factors include mainly the legal expertise of this stakeholder group (please note the difference to a traditional SLEPT analysis, which refers to the legal framework that affects a specific business, such as consumer law, employment law, antitrust law, etc.);
- **Economic** factors include the financial setting for the stakeholder groups, including their income or revenue, their cost structure, etc.;
- **Political** factors cover the degree to which the government interferes in the stakeholder group and includes public policies with respect to the free movement of persons and goods as well as possible restrictions to (legal) data and the protection/openness of legal information;
- **Technological** factors include research and development possibilities, the degree of automation, the adoption rate of new technology etc.

## 4 Stakeholders

### 4.1 Legal Professionals

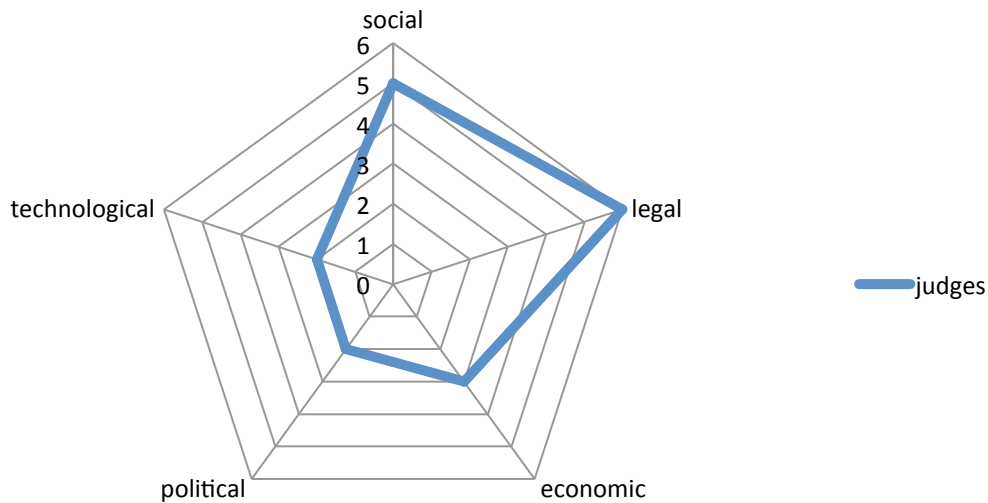
#### 4.1.1 Introduction

There are several different groups of legal professionals and practitioners. These professionals have typically one thing in common: a very high level of legal expertise. This expert knowledge is gained through a special legal education in combination with practical experience. For the purpose of this document, legal professionals will be categorized in the following groups: Lawyers, notaries, judges, general counsels, legal scholars, law students, and semi-professionals.

#### Hypotheses:

- **Gatekeepers to law.** Due to the complexity of law a non-professional will have to contact a professional rather soon to answer legal questions appropriately.
- **Highly specialized.** Again, based on the complexity of law even legal professional have to specialize on one area (e.g. an IP lawyer), even if there are generalists with a broader background (who might have to consult a specialist for very specific questions; e.g. an in-house counsel consulting a privacy expert).
- **No right or wrong.** Often experts will answer a question with: “It depends.” Legal professionals are trained to find arguments for either position. Typically the world is not black and white.
- **A consulting business.** Legal professionals are in a consulting business in which effort is measured in time. Automated services that can be reproduced (like for example standard contracts) are still the exception.
- **Late technology adopters.** Legal professionals often are rather ‘laggards’ with respect to new technologies. Early adopters can rather be found in other markets.
- **Good reputation.** Legal professional often enjoy a very good reputation and high standing in society, acknowledging the importance of law.
- **Professional and correct interaction.** Usually there are good relations within the group(s) of legal professionals. People often know each other, refer to each other, and keep the professional level high within their group.
- **Moderate level of competition.** The entry level for third parties to the legal market is relatively high due the high level of required expertise. In combination with gatekeeper role and a continuing demand of non-professionals, the competition within the group is rather low.

### 4.1.2 Judges



A judge, or arbiter of justice, is a lead official who presides over a court of law, either alone or as part of a panel of judges. The powers, functions, method of appointment, discipline, and training of judges vary widely across different jurisdictions. The judge is like an umpire in a game and conducts the trial impartially and in an open court. The judge hears all the witnesses and any other evidence presented by the parties of the case, assesses the credibility of the parties, and then issues a ruling on the matter at hand based on his or her interpretation of the law and his or her own personal judgment.<sup>1</sup>

Hypotheses:	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judges typically enjoy a high reputation in society</li> <li>• They are independent to ensure neutrality</li> <li>• Their position is secure, so that they cannot be removed from their offices</li> <li>• Judges often face a high workload due to limited financial resources of the Member States</li> <li>• A panel of judges is rather the exception, typically judges work on their own</li> <li>• Their judgements may be reviewed by upper courts and judges will use reasonable efforts to rule in line with such upper courts</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> e-Justice Portal, [https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_legal\\_professions-29-en.do](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_legal_professions-29-en.do)



<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Latin principle ‘iura novit curia’, meaning ‘the court knows the law’ applies</li> <li>• Accordingly, judges are the ultimate decision makers in our legal system</li> <li>• With their decisions they take part in specifying and developing the law</li> <li>• On a European level, judges play an important role in harmonizing the law between Member States</li> <li>• Like other legal professionals, judges face the challenge to stay informed and to review the latest legislative acts, new cases and new commentaries</li> <li>• In order to be able to rule in line with other cases, they have to know such cases</li> <li>• Judges may publish cases themselves (in whatever form) to inform others, but usually this is not their responsibility</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judges are independent and hold secure positions</li> <li>• The personal income of judges is usually fair, though often not as high as that of other legal professionals in the private sector</li> <li>• Financial constraints of courts limit the tools and trainings of judges</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are high requirements for becoming a judge</li> <li>• Judges are independent</li> <li>• Judges are organized and represented Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)<sup>2</sup>, European Judges and Prosecutors Association (EJPA)<sup>3</sup>, International Association of Judges (in particular the European section)<sup>4</sup> and European Judges for Democracy and Liberty (MEDEL)<sup>5</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judges are typically late adopters of new technologies</li> <li>• New generations of judges are more familiar with the Internet and new electronic devices</li> <li>• Formal legal requirements often lead to ‘written documents’, i.e. paper</li> <li>• Limited financial resources make it even more difficult to acquire new technological solutions</li> </ul>

**openlaws will help judges to reduce search efforts and to find related cases to ensure that their decisions are in line with prior decisions. The collaboration features will foster the exchange between judges from different regions in order to learn from each other.**

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.aeaj.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.amue-ejpa.org/>

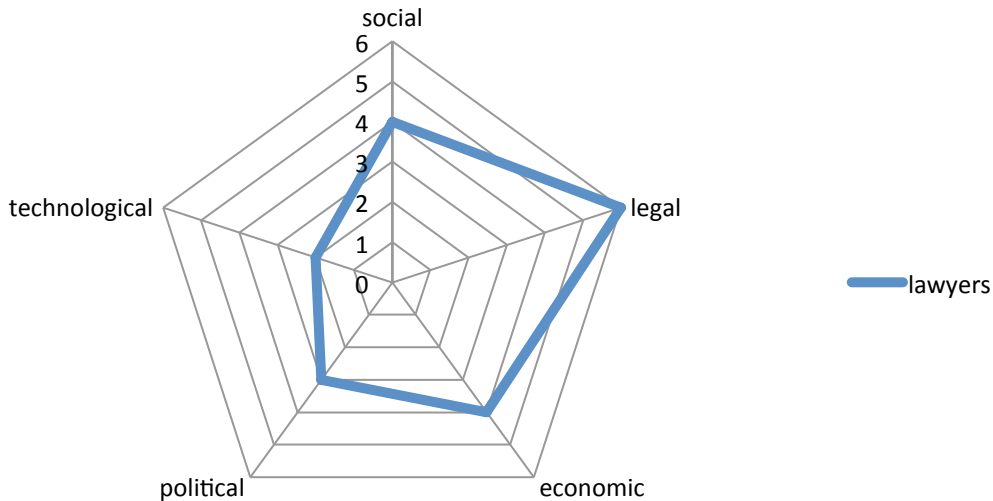
<sup>4</sup> <http://www.iaj-uim.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.medelnet.org/>

### How to contribute to openlaws?

- Use the platform (www.openlaws.eu)
- Search for legislation, case law and colleagues
- Upload cases
- Link content, tag content, comment on content, share content
- Invite others

#### 4.1.3 Lawyers



The lawyer’s role, whether retained by an individual, a corporation or the state, is as the client’s trusted adviser and representative, as a professional respected by third parties, and as an indispensable participant in the fair administration of justice.<sup>6</sup> There are over 500,000 enterprises active in the area of law according to Eurostat.<sup>7</sup>

This stakeholder group is governed by professional organisations or authorities within the different EU Member States – the bars and law societies. At a European level, lawyers are represented by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE). The CCBE is operating a European database to find a lawyer.<sup>8</sup>

Hypotheses:	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawyers enjoy a very good reputation</li> <li>• There are good relations between lawyers</li> <li>• On average approx. 60% of lawyers are men, 40% are women<sup>9</sup></li> <li>• Lawyers are experts who often work autonomously and sometimes in teams for even more complex challenges</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> e-Justice Portal, [https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_legal\\_professions-29-en.do](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_legal_professions-29-en.do)

<sup>7</sup> Eurostat, Annual detailed enterprise statistics for services (NACE Rev. 2 H-N and S95)

[sbs\_na\_1a\_se\_r2], M691, <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ccbe.eu>, [https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_find\\_a\\_lawyer-114-en.do](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_find_a_lawyer-114-en.do)

<sup>9</sup> According to CCBE Annual Report 2013, <http://www.ccbe.eu/index.php?id=31>

<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawyers need to know and handle a huge amount of legal information, not only on a national level, but also on a European level</li> <li>• Comprehensive overview about legislation, case law and literature is hardly possible, even for lawyers</li> <li>• They need updates and regular training to stay current (through trainings and seminars, reading books and articles, following legislative changes and new cases, exchange with peers)</li> <li>• Lawyers are either very specialized or looking at the broader picture, but without specialization</li> <li>• Access to legal information is often too complicated</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal information is valuable</li> <li>• (Good and established) lawyers have an existing client base and there is enough demand for legal services</li> <li>• Accordingly, established lawyers can charge high hourly rates, while starting a legal career as a junior is hard until a certain reputation and client base is established</li> <li>• Established lawyers are usually found via word of mouth. They hardly need any advertising (and often advertising for lawyers is restricted)</li> <li>• Lawyers charge for their time and usually have no ‘scalable’ products. This means more revenue requires more employees.</li> <li>• There is a certain pressure coming from the client side to reduce billable hours time (or to offer flat rates)</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal market is a regulated by Member States. High entry barriers restrict but also protect the business of lawyers</li> <li>• EU directives help that lawyers can work in other EU Member States<sup>10</sup>, but going abroad is still difficult due to the national character of law</li> <li>• Lawyers have a relatively strong lobby within Member States</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> Reference is made to the following directives: Directive 2005/36/EC, Directive 77/249/EEC, Directive 98/5/EC.

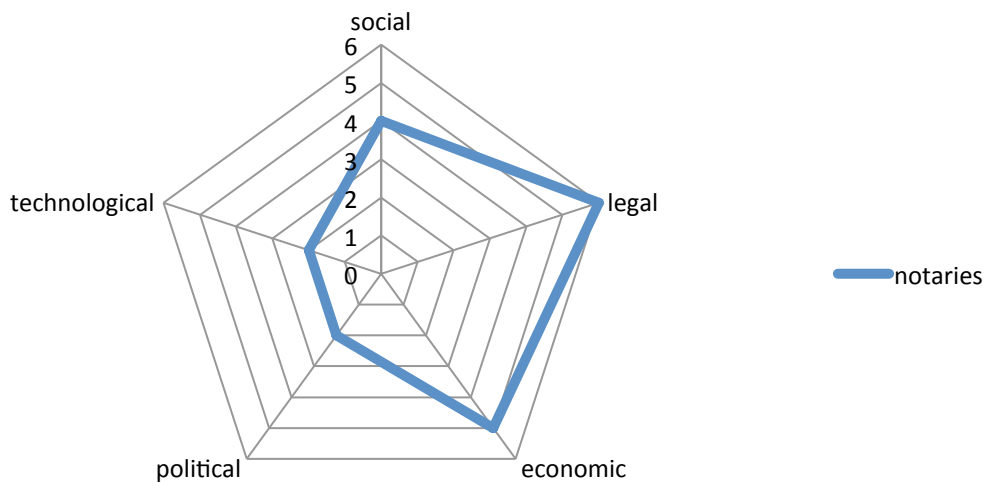
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional lawyers adopt new technology rather late. New generations that grew up with a computer (digital natives) feel more comfortable when using IT services for their legal work</li> <li>• Knowledge management is an issue for lawyers – not only for themselves but also within a law firm or when working together with clients</li> <li>• Expert databases for law are offered by different governmental and private providers. Access to legislation and case law is sometime available free of charge and sometimes a paid service. Access to legal literature is mostly a paid service</li> <li>• Thanks to their economic background, lawyers can afford IT services such as database access, productivity tools and their own websites – if they want to.</li> </ul>
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**The openlaws.eu project can help lawyers to save time by accessing legal information faster through a simple meta search. Knowledge-management and productivity can be increased with the collaboration features of openlaws. The visibility of lawyers and their expertise (e.g. for clients abroad but also for other lawyer who want to build a partner network) can be increased since openlaws will display qualified legal professionals next to legal search results.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

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**4.1.4 Notaries**



Notaries are legal practitioners specialised and authorised to act in certain legal matters. By virtue of their tasks and responsibilities, notaries play an important role in

the State legislature in the 21 Member States where the legal order is based on Latin civil law. Common Law Jurisdictions of the European Union also have a notarial profession whose practice extends across a wide range of legal services and whose functions and authority are principally exercised in relation to legal acts and instruments to be used in overseas jurisdictions.<sup>11</sup>

There are approximately 35,000 notaries, throughout Latin civil law Member States, represented by the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE)<sup>12</sup>, and over 1,000 notaries in the Common Law member States of the United Kingdom and Ireland, represented by the UK and Ireland Notarial Forum. It is possible to consult the European Directory of Notaries to find a notary in a Member State.<sup>13</sup>

	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to the points mentioned for lawyers, notaries sometimes have certain privileges as a result of their public office. Such privileges can be an exclusive territory or an exclusive right to sign off on complex and high value transactions</li> <li>• Accordingly, the number of notaries is often smaller and they are well known in their regions</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notaries are experts similar to lawyers (see above)</li> <li>• They are specialists in their field. For example, notaries draw up private agreements and advise the parties fairly and impartially.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a result of their privileges, their economic situation may be even better than the situation of lawyers (see above)</li> <li>• In some areas notaries and lawyers may be competing</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activities of notaries are highly regulated, there are high entry barriers that restrict but also protect the business of notaries</li> <li>• Notaries have good networks within the Member States</li> <li>• Notaries are represented on a EU level by the CNUE</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The technological framework for notaries and lawyers is similar (see above)</li> </ul>

**Just like lawyers, notaries require legal search tools and need to organize legal information. openlaws can provide these and help to create a network between notaries to exchange experiences within this relatively small community. Nota-**

<sup>11</sup> e-Justice Portal, [https://e-justice.europa.eu/content\\_legal\\_professions-29-en.do](https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_legal_professions-29-en.do)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cnue.be>

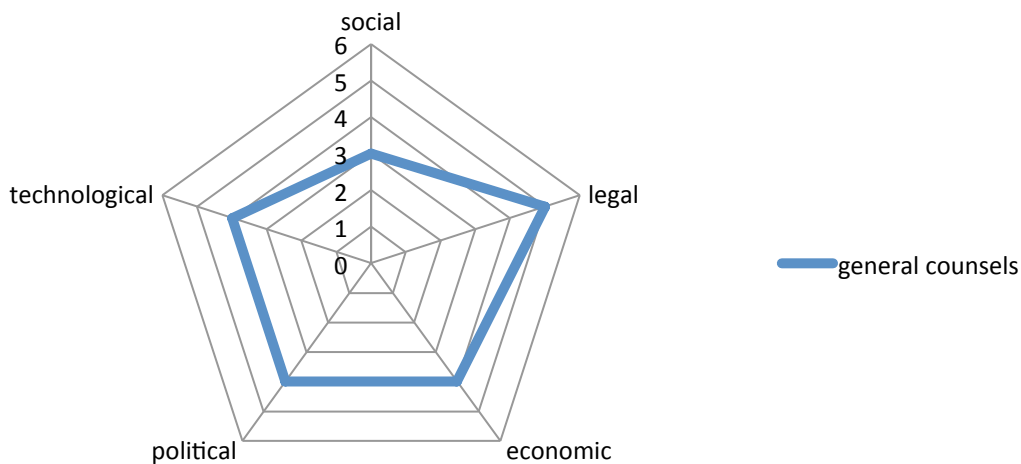
<sup>13</sup> <http://www.notaries-directory.eu>

**ries will also be able to present themselves online.**

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#### **4.1.5 General Counsels**



General counsels, in-house counsels or chief legal officers are heading the legal department of a company or a governmental department. In a company, the position typically reports directly to the CEO, and the tasks and responsibilities involve overseeing and identifying the legal issues in all departments and their interrelation, including engineering, design, marketing, sales, distribution, credit, finance, human resources, production, as well as corporate governance and business policy.

Accordingly, the situation of a general counsel is different to the situation of a lawyer in private practice. While a lawyer has many different clients, a general counsel has only one ‘client’, namely the company. Instead of handling different cases that are not related, the general counsel is required to see and handle the entire legal framework of the company, leading to close cooperation with other departments on an on-going basis. As a result, general counsels are more generalists and all-rounders, who will consult specialised lawyers in different jurisdictions for more detailed legal analysis or for handling cases.

	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like other legal professionals general counsels enjoy a good reputation in society, even though they are not as visible as judges, lawyers or notaries</li> <li>• They are integrated in a larger organisation</li> <li>• They collaborate with many colleagues</li> <li>• As all-rounders they manage external specialised lawyers in multiple jurisdictions</li> <li>• General counsels report to a superior (often the CEO of an organisation)</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General counsels have a good legal education, often they have worked in private practice before joining an organisation</li> <li>• As all-rounders they have to see the big legal picture and therefore are less specialised</li> <li>• They co-ordinate external legal professionals</li> <li>• Compared to lawyers, they are more ‘managers’</li> <li>• They have to take care of the legal compliance of the company and to inform the CEO and employees of the latest legal developments inside and outside the organisation</li> <li>• Depending on the activity of the organisation, a general counsel often needs to cover multiple jurisdictions, while lawyers are usually only experts in their Member State</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General counsels are employed and have a fixed monthly income (eventually combined with bonus payments)</li> <li>• Unlike lawyers, they do not have to acquire clients</li> <li>• Unlike lawyers, they do not charge on an hourly basis</li> <li>• Within their organisation, they have to manage a legal budget, which is part of the overall budget of the organisation</li> <li>• General counsels are responsible for increasing efficiency and effectiveness</li> <li>• ‘Insourcing’ of tasks to legal departments puts general counsels into competition with lawyers with respect to general tasks</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The profession of general counsels is less regulated than that of judges, lawyers or notaries</li> <li>• General counsels do not have a similar professional network like judges, lawyers or notaries<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> Associations for corporate counsels are the European Company Lawyers Association (<http://www.ecla.org>) or the Association of Corporate Counsels, <http://www.acc.com/chapters/euro/>

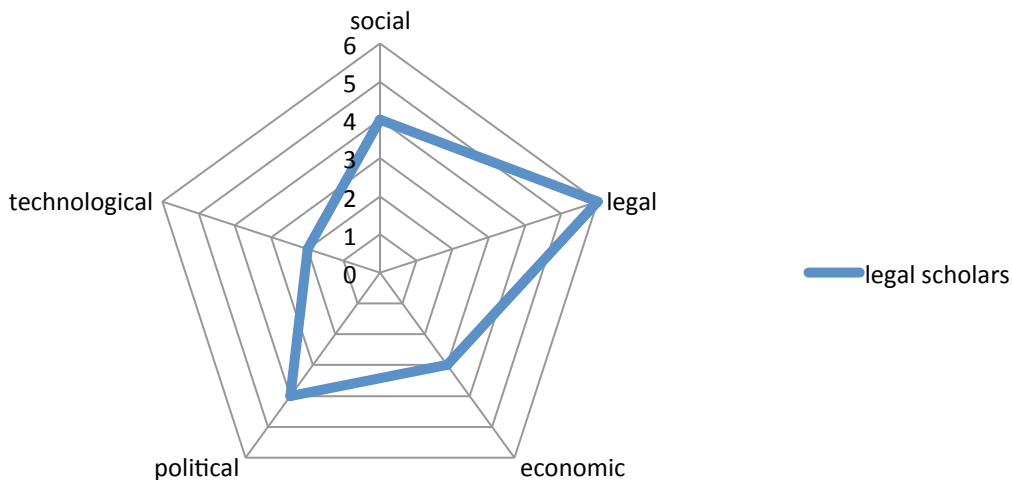
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General counsels can often benefit from the support of IT departments in larger organisations</li> <li>• This includes access to more sophisticated (internal) IT solutions</li> <li>• Messaging and collaboration tools are of high importance for general counsel for coordination with other departments</li> </ul>
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**For general counsels openlaws will be a tool to find legal information and legal professionals in different jurisdictions. openlaws will help general counsels to ensure the legal compliance of their organisation and to inform the CEO and colleagues about the latest legal developments that affect the organisation. Furthermore, openlaws will enable general counsels to build a professional network within this stakeholder group to exchange best practices.**

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**4.1.6 Legal Scholars**



Legal scholars study and teach the theory of law. They are typically academics working at universities or at private research institutes. They do not practice law like a judge, a lawyer, a notary or a general counsel, but their analyses are very important to interpret law and to reflect on case law. Commentaries and studies of legal scholars help other legal professionals to solve legal questions in practice and shape the legal framework in society.



	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal scholars often work at universities or research institutes as professors, assistant professors or research fellows</li> <li>• Generally speaking, they enjoy a high reputation like other academics</li> <li>• Their reputation and ‘success’ is based on their qualification and commentaries, which is often measured by the number of publications (and the amount of citations of such publications)</li> <li>• There is a scientific community and legal scholars within a certain field of expertise often know each other well</li> <li>• Communities are still rather national and not European wide as a result of the national character of law</li> <li>• Legal scholars have a good contact to younger generations due to their teaching activities</li> <li>• They perform their research rather on their own, real team work is the exception</li> <li>• The work environment for legal scholar is rather flexible compared to other legal professions</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal scholars are highly specialized in one legal domain.</li> <li>• They follow a scientific approach and do not have to manage a large number of day-to-day legal questions</li> <li>• Occasionally they will be asked by other legal professionals for an expert opinion, e.g. in form of a report</li> <li>• Their research is supposed to be comprehensive, accordingly good research tools are important for them to find legislation, case law, literature and potentially other experts and their works</li> <li>• Focus is put rather on national legal research (unless the expert field is international law), but there is more and more influence from European laws</li> <li>• With their commentaries, legal scholars can significantly influence case law but also new legislative acts</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal scholars have a fixed income, which is fair but often considerably lower than that of lawyers or notaries</li> <li>• They may receive additional income from publications, but the earned fees are often low unless the publication is a best-seller</li> <li>• In some cases they even have to take over parts of the publication cost, if they want to publish a book or a journal article</li> <li>• Sometimes they will be asked for expert reports for governments, businesses or lawyers</li> </ul>

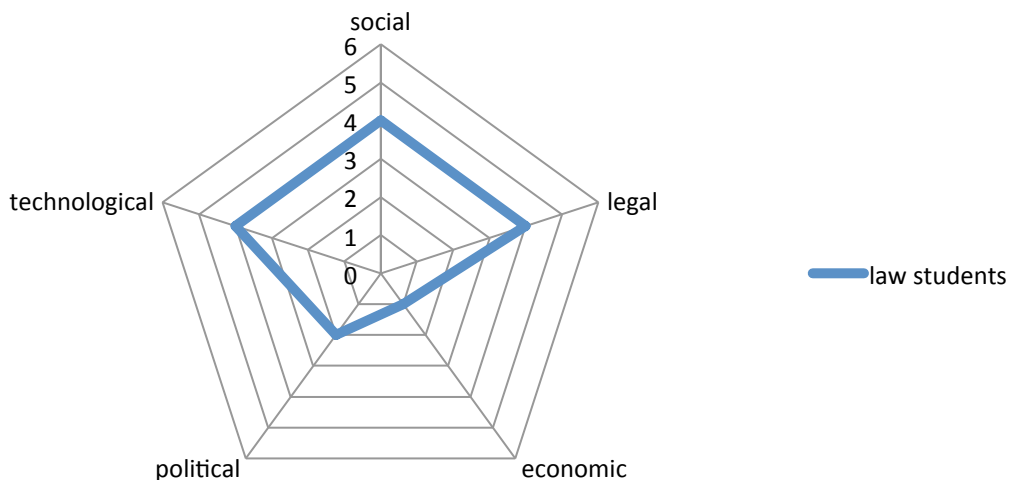
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universities are often regulated by special national laws and are often subject to political changes</li> <li>• Legal scholars with a top-reputation may be consulted for new legislative acts in Member States and may have a strong influence on case law</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like many other legal professionals legal scholars adopt new technologies rather late, even though this is changing with younger academics entering the scientific community</li> <li>• Universities often have excellent access to legal databases from several providers</li> <li>• Access to such databases is usually free of charge (at least for the scholar, not necessarily for the university)</li> <li>• IT equipment is sometimes out-dated at universities due to their financial restrictions</li> <li>• Legal scholar may often use their own devices and/or work at home</li> </ul>

**openlaws can help legal scholars to receive comprehensive search results, also on a European level. Other academics in the expert field can be identified more easily and national and European-wide legal expert networks can be set up.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and other legal experts
- Upload cases
- Link content, tag content, comment on content, share content
- Invite others

**4.1.7 Law Students**



Law students are studying law in order to become fully qualified legal professionals and to receive their law degree. Even though their expertise is not yet on the same

level as that of legal professionals with a completed education and practical experience, their legal knowledge is already above the level of a typical citizen. They still have to build their networks and their reputation within the legal community.

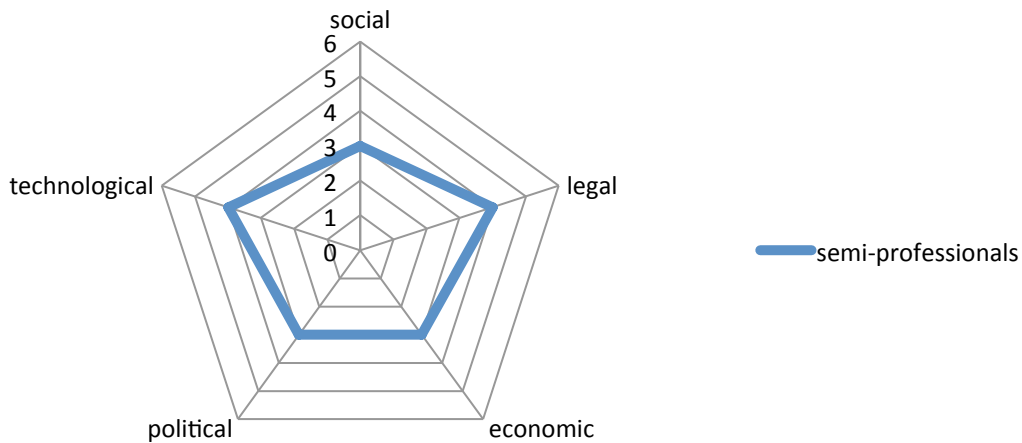
	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law students need to master exams on their own, but they will often study and collaborate with peers before taking an exam, e.g. to discuss potential questions</li> <li>• Students today are mostly digital natives, meaning that they have grown up with computers and the Internet and that they are familiar with it</li> <li>• They are used to share and exchange information in social networks</li> <li>• They are used to use mobile devices and to access information virtually anywhere</li> <li>• Sooner or later law students will prepare for their professional career after their studies</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law students have not finished their education, they are still building up their legal knowledge</li> <li>• During their education law students will be required to study the theory of law and to solve cases</li> <li>• They gain their knowledge mainly from legal scholars</li> <li>• They usually have to write theses for obtaining their degree</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law students are investing their time and effort in a legal education that is the requirement for a professional legal career, which is promising a relatively high income (compared to many other professions)</li> <li>• Since they often have no or very limited income, their resources are limited (e.g. affording expensive professional legal tools is hard for them)</li> <li>• Sometimes law students work for a law firms or other legal professionals during their studies to gain practical insights</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The influence of law students on a political level is relatively low</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law students are rather skilled with new (standard) technologies</li> <li>• Expert tools for legal professionals may still be hard to understand, even for ‘digital natives’</li> <li>• They will usually have their own devices like smartphones or tablet PCs</li> <li>• Law students need to work with legal databases for writing their theses</li> </ul>

**openlaws will help students to find relevant legal information for their exams and for their theses. Students will be enabled to create individual lists with legislation and case law and share it with peers, who are preparing for the same module or exam. They will be able to organize the knowledge that they have gained during their studies and carry it with them for their professional career.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
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- Invite others

**4.1.8 Semi-Professionals**



There is a large number of persons working with the law, who have not studied the law as their primary subject at a university or law school. Such people often have gained substantial knowledge in a particular legal field as a result of their work in a related area. Professions where law plays an important role are for example controlling, auditing, tax advising, human resources and work in public administrations and services. For the purpose of this stakeholder handbook, we are referring to these groups as semi-professionals, acknowledging that this groups sometimes have an even better legal knowledge in certain areas than legal professionals (and in particular better than non-specialised legal professionals).

	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Semi-professionals’ are a very diverse group (and would often not even see themselves as a group)</li> <li>• They might not always have the reputation of a full legal professional, but they might have excellent legal expert-knowledge nonetheless</li> <li>• They collaborate with others more often than legal professionals and share legal information rather generously, since their legal knowledge is not necessarily their core-knowledge</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal expertise of semi-professionals is a ‘side effect’ of their work in another domain</li> <li>• They will often collaborate with legal professionals, e.g. a general counsel with the HR department or a tax advisor with a lawyer</li> <li>• Semi-professionals are interested in legal information just like legal professionals, even if such information will be presented during education and during trainings in a slightly different (possibly digested/value added) format</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-professionals often do not earn as much as legal professionals with a law degree</li> <li>• They are often employees with a fixed income</li> <li>• They may often work in a corporate or governmental environment</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The political framework for semi-professionals will depend heavily on the area of activity</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People in other professions are often better trained in IT systems, simply because they have to use IT systems for their core activities (e.g. if you think of an accountant, a tax advisor or a controller)</li> <li>• They often use IT tools in a corporate environment</li> <li>• They do not always have access to professional legal databases</li> </ul>

**For semi-professionals openlaws can be a simple entry point for legal search, even if there is no professional legal database available in their usual work environment. They can create groups where they can share legal information that is related to their core activities, e.g. folders containing all relevant information for human resources or for compliance.**

#### **How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts
- Upload cases
- Link content, tag content, comment on content, share content
- Invite others

## 4.2 Businesses

### 4.2.1 Introduction

Companies are the drivers of our economy. From the formation of a company until its liquidation, each and every company is subject to the law of one or several EU Member States and to European legislation and case law.

With an increasing amount of legal information it is hard for companies to stay well-informed. This is in particular true for micro enterprises and small enterprises who have no legal department within the organisation and who have to afford external legal professionals. Micro enterprises and small enterprises are the large majority of companies within the EU.<sup>15</sup>

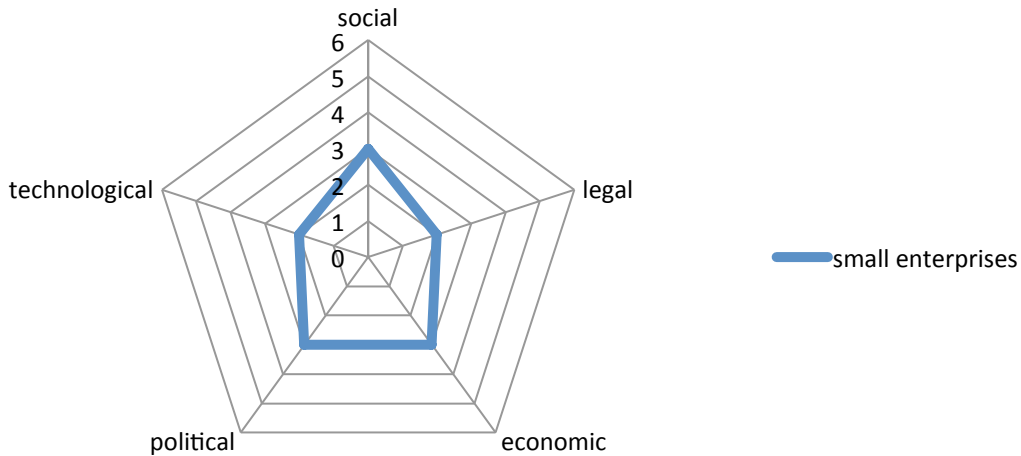
Company category	Employees	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total	Total number of companies in the EU
Large	above				43,454
Medium	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m	222,628
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m	1,349,730
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m	18,783,480

#### Hypotheses:

- **Subject to the law.** Each and every company is affected by the law, regardless of its size.
- **Requirement of legal professionals.** All companies require advice from legal professionals (either internal or external), e.g. for the formation of the company, for setting up contracts, for reviewing compliance with applicable laws, for representation in legal disputes, etc.
- **Legal compliance.** All companies have to comply with legal obligations – otherwise the company will be liable, in certain cases even the directors and board members will be personally liable
- **Legal risk assessment.** All companies assess legal risks in one way or another, some in a professional and explicit way, others in a more tacit and implicit way. For example, a company will have to decide if their own legal expert has to review a contract written by another party before the CEO is signing it.
- **Legal costs.** Maximising revenues and reducing costs is a target of every profit-oriented company and the very nature of doing business. Costs for legal advice are often high and companies try to reduce these costs in different ways (e.g. through insourcing or through negotiating flat rates and fixed fees)

<sup>15</sup> European Commission, Annual Report on European SMEs 2012/2013, [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/performance-review/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/performance-review/index_en.htm)

### 4.2.2 Small Enterprises



Small enterprises including micro enterprises outnumber medium and large companies in the EU. The vast majority are companies with less than 10 employees. Such companies will hardly ever afford an internal legal professional and have to consult external experts.

Dealing with legal questions and risks is highly important for small enterprises even if it is cumbersome. A lawsuit (e.g. based on the infringement of intellectual property or competition law) or violations of public law (e.g. for the protection of the environment or workers) can be costly and even threaten the whole business.

Hypotheses:	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Micro enterprises and small enterprises are the majority of companies in our society</li> <li>• They are drivers of innovation<sup>16</sup></li> <li>• Almost 50% of all employees in the EU work in this stakeholder group</li> <li>• Employees know each other and work closely together</li> <li>• They are typically active in only one Member State (or a limited number of Member States)</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is typically only a minimum level of legal expertise within the company</li> <li>• They collaborate with external legal professionals</li> <li>• Often they will have a long-term business relationship with a lawyer and a notary</li> <li>• They often do not have sophisticated legal procedures and processes</li> </ul>

<sup>16</sup> See European Commission, Annual Report on European SMEs 2012/2013 above.

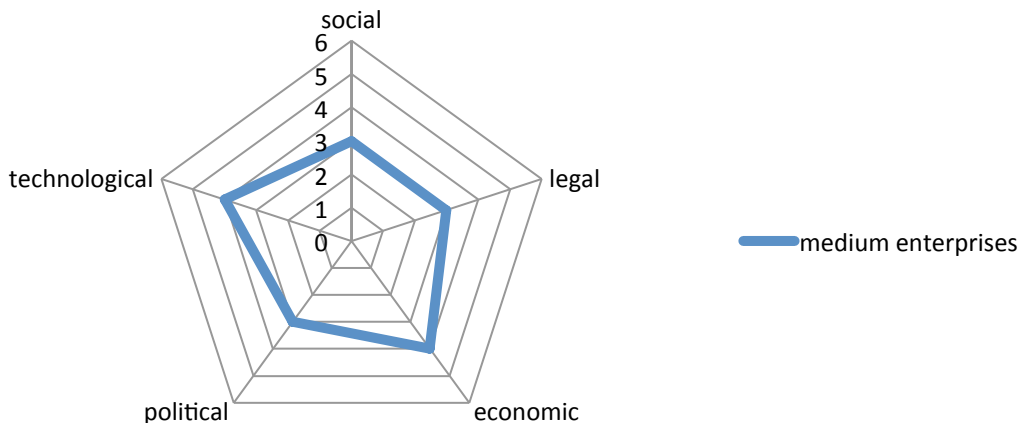
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue of micro enterprises and small enterprises are limited</li> <li>• Compared to their revenues, legal costs can be considerably high</li> <li>• Companies will try to reduce legal expenses, depending on their own legal risk assessment (e.g. looking for standard contracts, consulting the chamber of commerce, doing internet research)</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In total this stakeholder group, but they are not organized as a whole</li> <li>• Chambers of commerce will represent their interests</li> <li>• There are several SME initiatives at an EU level</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often there will be only a basic IT infrastructure for this stakeholder group</li> <li>• Complex communication, collaboration and knowledge management tools will often not be necessary due to the small company size and the close collaboration of employees in ‘real life’</li> <li>• They will use standard Internet search tools and free legal databases</li> </ul>

**Micro enterprises and small enterprises can benefit from the openlaws meta search engine to find legal information that is available for free on the Internet and save results for the future. They will also find legal professionals that are experts with respect to their particular question. In addition, they can use openlaws to collaborate with their external lawyer or notary.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts
- Invite others

**4.2.3 Medium Enterprises**



With a maximum of 250 employees and higher financial thresholds, medium sized enterprises may already be considerably larger than micro enterprises or small



enterprises. On this level companies may start to insource legal expertise and to introduce more formal processes to limit their legal risks. It is also more likely that they expand their business to different countries, meaning that they will be active in different jurisdictions where they have to deal with different national laws and several local legal professionals.

	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are over 220,000 medium sized companies within the EU</li> <li>• The larger company size compared to small enterprises leads to a need of more organization within the company, both on a functional and a geographic level</li> <li>• Employees may work in different departments or at different locations and they might not always know each other personally anymore</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher transaction volumes and higher complexity of the business of medium enterprises increase the legal risk</li> <li>• Compared to small enterprises, they are more likely to be confronted with cross-boarder transactions and multiple jurisdictions</li> <li>• High revenues make professional legal services more affordable compared to small enterprises (economies of scale)</li> <li>• They will consult at least one lawyer in each country where they are active on a regular basis</li> <li>• They have to align legal activities and lawyer in different countries</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium enterprises have higher revenue than small enterprises</li> <li>• They may afford to contact a legal professional more frequently in order to mitigate legal risks</li> <li>• They will still try to minimize legal costs as far as possible</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even though they are larger than small enterprises, they will have to rely on chambers of commerce and other organisations to represent their interests</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium enterprises will usually have more sophisticated IT solutions compared to small enterprises, such as for example customized customer relationship management systems (CRMs), enterprise resource planning systems (ERPs), etc.</li> <li>• They might have internal IT departments to set up an IT infrastructure on their own.</li> <li>• In addition to free search tool, they may afford premium legal search tools (e.g. databases or compliance tools), in particular if they have an internal legal department</li> </ul>

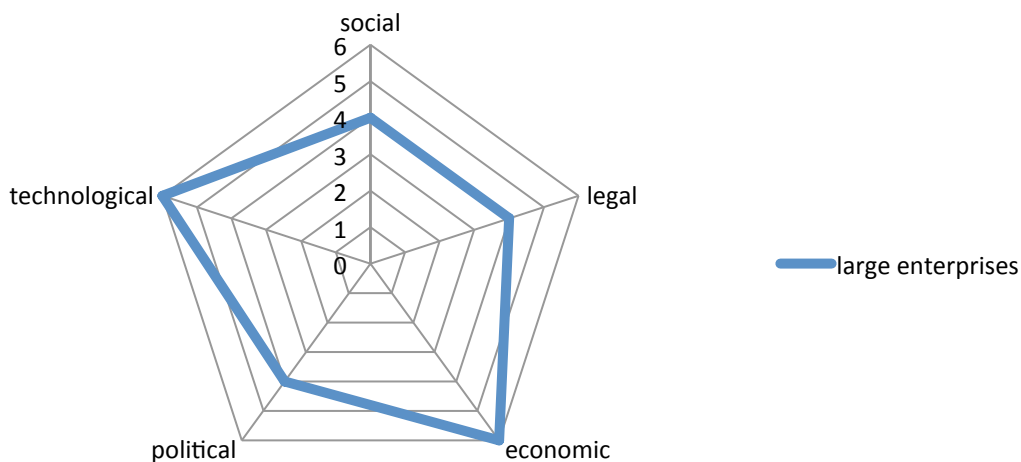
**Medium enterprises can use openlaws to find legislation, case law and**

**commentaries from different countries with one simple search, rather than having to access many different databases. They can use the sharing and collaboration tools to align the activities of their external lawyers and to inform employees with which rules and regulations they have to comply in order to minimize the risk of the company.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts
- Invite others

**4.2.4 Large Enterprises**



Only 0.2% of the companies within the EU are large enterprises. However, 33.5% of all employed persons within the EU are working for them. They have high revenues and it is quite common that they are active in many different countries.

They can typically afford a legal department with a general counsel, which helps them to reduce legal expenditures and the legal risk at the same time. In addition, they will coordinate several external lawyers in different jurisdictions. At audits they have to show that they are compliant with several regulations, not only on a financial level, but also on a legal level.

<b>Hypotheses:</b>	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even though there are only few large enterprises, they employ over 43 million persons in the EU</li> <li>• They are typically active in more than one country, facing different languages, different cultures and different legal systems</li> <li>• They are internally organized in different units and departments, each of them specialised in one area</li> </ul>

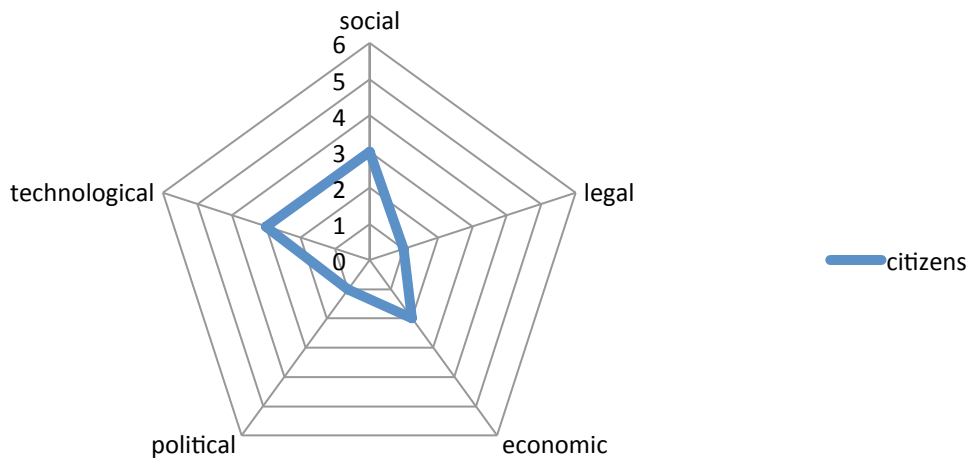
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large enterprises often have their own legal department with a general counsel</li> <li>• They have many semi-legal professionals as well, such as for example accountants, controllers or persons working the human resources department</li> <li>• They have to manage several external legal professionals to support them, in particular with respect to jurisdictions where they have no expertise and with respect to highly specialized legal issues</li> <li>• They are internationally active in different legislations</li> <li>• They need to assess and minimize legal risks</li> <li>• They need to ensure compliance with laws and regulations in order to avoid liability or fines</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large enterprises often have a strong revenue and profit orientation</li> <li>• They have to reduce costs in order to maximise profits</li> <li>• The legal department and external legal professionals are cost centers for them, (usually) they do not generate revenues (in certain cases licensing of intellectual property may lead to a profitable legal department)</li> <li>• Legal disputes can become very costly, especially in the area of competition law or where fines are calculated on basis of the revenues of a company</li> <li>• Large enterprises in the EU are more and more asking for alternative payment models for legal services (e.g. flat rates instead of hourly rates) – a trend coming from the USA</li> <li>• Since they are usually large customers, they have an enormous purchasing power, also with respect to legal services</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large enterprises do not only have to rely on chambers of commerce and other organisations to represent their interests, they may even be big enough to influence decision makers themselves</li> <li>• As a result of their size and economic power, they have also political power</li> <li>• A few large enterprises may have the power to influence legislative processes</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large enterprises have highly sophisticated and customized IT solutions and IT departments, including CRM, ERP, knowledge management and intranet solutions</li> <li>• They will have dedicated IT solutions for different administrative challenges with the company</li> <li>• They will use the Internet, free legal databases as well as paid services to search for legal information</li> </ul>

**Large enterprises will use openlaws to search in different jurisdictions at once. It will help them to find experts in a specific Member State or experts with a high specialisation faster. With openlaws they can exchange legal information between their internal and external networks of legal professionals. Furthermore they can inform employees of their legal duties so that the company complies with laws and regulations in different jurisdictions.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts
- Invite others

**4.3 Citizens**



There are over 500 million citizens living in 28 Member States of the EU, speaking 24 official languages. At any time of our lives, we have rights and obligations according to national and European laws. In many cases the law is so normal for us that we do not even think about it anymore, for example when we respect property of another person or when we drive a car and have to comply with traffic regulations. Sometimes we are more aware of the law and it’s consequences, for example when we sign a contract to acquire property or when we receive a ticket because we were driving too fast.

We are surrounded by many legislative acts and a huge amount of case law. Not knowing the law is no excuse for breaching the law. Unfortunately, knowing and understanding the law has become more complicated, even for legal professionals. So the challenge is to make access to law easier for European citizens.

	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are over 500 million of EU citizens</li> <li>• This stakeholder group is highly diverse, there is not the ‘one’ citizen</li> <li>• There are many different demographic groups, for example based on age, nationality, profession, etc.</li> <li>• One thing that citizens have ‘in common’ is the law. For example, all car drivers in a certain Member State have to comply with the same laws and regulations.</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law affects everybody without exception</li> <li>• Often citizens will not be aware of all the laws and regulations that surround us all at every moment</li> <li>• Citizens are often not fully aware of their rights and obligation (e.g. in their role as employee, consumer or patient) and often this is not part of their education</li> <li>• They will often search the Internet for answers to their legal questions before consulting a legal professional</li> <li>• Finding relevant and correct legal information is typically hard for citizens</li> <li>• Even if relevant legal information can be found, citizens will often not know if such information is complete and still valid</li> <li>• Often legal information will be hard to understand</li> <li>• From time to time, citizens have to find and consult a legal professional</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal advice from legal professional is usually expensive for a citizen with an average income</li> <li>• Sometimes citizens may have an insurance for legal issues</li> <li>• Depending on the legal area, citizens may sometimes get legal advice from unions, consumer protection agencies or similar organisations</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interests of citizens are represented by the political parties they elect during national and EU elections</li> <li>• It is often argued that Member States and the EU should foster direct democracy</li> <li>• Citizens (including workers and consumers) often have less political influence compared to businesses, especially when compared to large corporations</li> </ul>

<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet access and smartphones are becoming common for EU citizens, in particular for younger generations</li> <li>• Citizens are sharing more and more information online, for example in social networks</li> <li>• There is often free access to legal databases, but often these are expert systems</li> </ul>
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**openlaws will enable citizens to search for legal information in a very uncomplicated way, just as they are used from commonly used search engines on the Internet. Acknowledging the fact that legal information is often hard to understand, openlaws will suggest qualified legal professionals that the citizen can contact or the specific question. Furthermore, openlaws will help citizens to organize legal information in different user-generated groups. For example a directory with all consumer protection regulations could be set up.**

#### **How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts
- Invite others

## **4.4 Government**

### **4.4.1 Introduction**

The rule of law is the legal principle that law should govern a nation. It implies that every citizen is subject to the law, including law makers themselves. Under a broad definition of the term ‘government’, there are

- legislative authorities to enact and amend laws,
- the judiciary to interpret and apply the law, and
- administrations to execute the law.

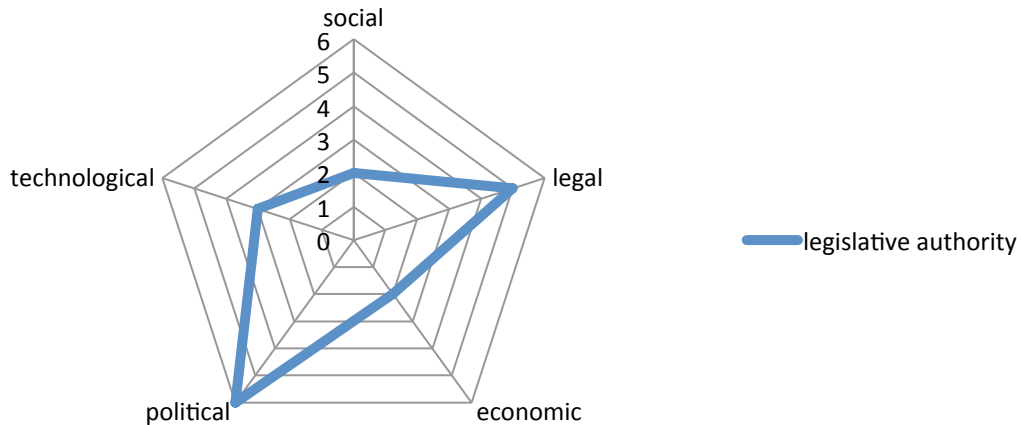
National legislation and case law are more and more influenced by European law. For example, legislative authorities have to implement EU directives and courts and tribunals have to apply European laws (which precedes law of the Member States).

Laws have to be officially published to enter into force and effect. Today, governments use electronic publishing in addition to traditional publishing on paper. In a further step, government can make legislation and case law available as ‘open data’ so that it can be used by the community. The public sector information (PSI) directive<sup>17</sup> encourages the Member States to make as much information available for re-use as possible.

Once legal information is available as open data, new value-added services can be created, such as apps, visualization or projects like openlaws that will make access to law easier for citizens – at no additional cost for governments.

<sup>17</sup> DIRECTIVE 2013/37/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 June 2013 amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information.

### 4.4.2 Legislative authorities



Legislatures have the power to enact, amend and repeal laws. They need to have an excellent legal qualification to do that. Accordingly, they have a strong political influence.

According to the PSI directive, documents held by public bodies shall be made available for re-use. Legislative acts are such documents and have always been meant to be available for everybody so that people know the law. This is also one reason why laws are often exempt from copyright protection in many Member States.

<b>Hypotheses:</b>	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 28 Member States in the EU, all of them have one or several legislative authorities (on a national level and sometimes also on a regional level)</li> <li>• Legislative processes have long traditions in Member States, changing such processes is usually complicated</li> <li>• Legislative authorities receive formal feedback during the law-making-process</li> <li>• Collecting feedback on an on-going basis (e.g. from the community) is rather complicated</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative authorities have a high legal expertise</li> <li>• They have to align their national activities with the European legal framework</li> <li>• They have to keep the quality of legislative acts high</li> <li>• They have to publish legislative acts in their national Official Journals and Legal Gazettes</li> <li>• They are supposed to comply with the PSI directive</li> </ul>

<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial resources are often limited for governmental institutions</li> <li>• Making (legislative) data available as ‘open data’ requires some initial investment</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens have to be informed adequately</li> <li>• Direct democracy should be fostered on a national and on a European level</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative authorities often use legacy solutions for making and publishing laws</li> <li>• There are new open source solutions available to governments to publish data as open data (e.g. CKAN from the Open Knowledge Foundation), but they have to be implemented</li> <li>• The European Legislation Identifier (ELI) is a new European initiative to develop standards for the identification of legislation and should be implemented by governments<sup>18</sup></li> </ul>

**Legislative authorities and openlaws are the perfect match. Once national authorities make national legislation available as open data, such data can be connected – either automatically or manually via crowd sourcing – with EU law. The community can provide valuable feedback and metadata, which can then be re-used by national authorities again. As a result, openlaws will foster transparency and increase direct democracy. At no additional costs for the government.**

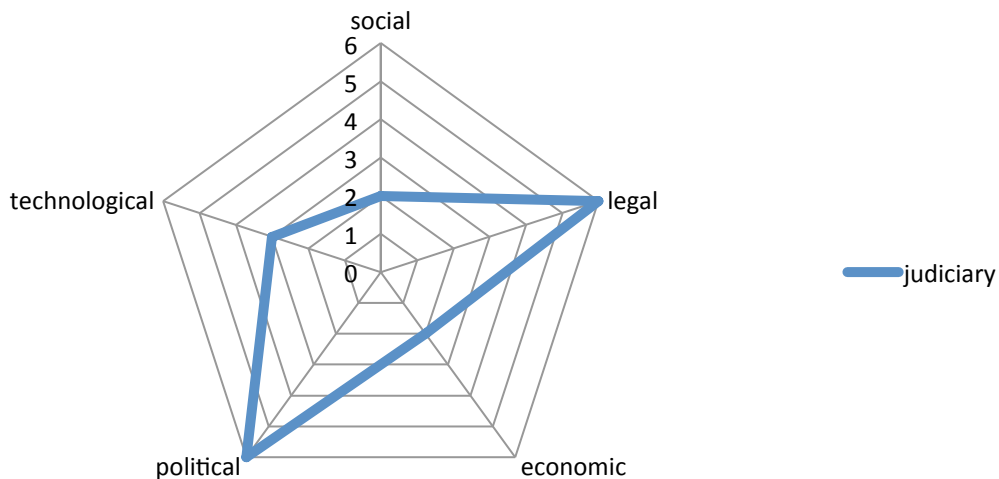
#### **How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts
- Add data sources, e.g.
  - Federal and state laws
  - Enactments
  - Parliamentary material and documentation
- Invite others

<sup>18</sup> Council conclusions inviting the introduction of the European Legislation Identifier (ELI), 2012/C 325/02.



### 4.4.3 Judiciary



The court system interprets and applies the law in the name of the Member State. The combined knowledge of legal professionals in such organisations is extremely high. The court system as part of a government needs to be distinguished from the individual judge, though. While the interests of the court system and judges should be aligned, there may be conflicts nonetheless. For example, a court may want to publish case law as recommended by the public sector information directive, but judges might simply not have enough time to do so due to their high workload. Sharing information in such organisations will also be useful in order to increase productivity, but this requires the right user-friendly infrastructure, which might also be costly.

National courts play also an important role in harmonization of European law. All national courts or tribunals may request a preliminary ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) concerning the interpretation of EU law, if it considers that a decision on that question is necessary to enable it to give judgement. Courts or tribunals of last national instance even have to bring it before the ECJ. Therefore it falls to the national judge to determine whether a question has a European relevance. With reference to the CILFIT case of the ECJ<sup>19</sup> and the acte clair doctrine, the role of EU wide cross-boarder legal information systems becomes more and more important.

<sup>19</sup> Judgment of the Court of 6 October 1982, Case 283/81: “The correct application of Community law may be so obvious as to leave no scope for any reasonable doubt as to the manner in which the question raised is to be resolved. Before it comes to the conclusion that such is the case, the national court or tribunal must be convinced that the matter is equally obvious to the courts of the other member states...”

	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts are well established institutions in the Member States</li> <li>• They are the ultimate decision makers in case of legal disputes (with a few exceptions, for example when arbitration was agreed)</li> <li>• Judges working at courts are independent</li> <li>• Courts are a place where many legal professional meet on a regular basis</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts as an institution have a very high legal knowledge, especially on an aggregated level</li> <li>• National courts need to apply EU law and to be aware of cases of European relevance in other Member States</li> <li>• Courts are supposed to publish case law in accordance with the PSI directive</li> <li>• See ‘judges’ above</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of national governments, courts face financial restrictions, which may lead i.a. to long durations of proceedings</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts themselves (in particular high courts) are strong policy makers by making decisions and interpreting the law</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a result of limited financial capacities, courts may often have old IT systems</li> <li>• Courts will typically have access to premium legal databases, in addition to free legal databases that are available via the Internet</li> <li>• The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) is a new European initiative to develop standards for the identification of case law and should be implemented by governments<sup>20</sup></li> </ul>

**Courts will benefit from the search functionalities of openlaws, and in particular from the integration of EU law in national search results. Furthermore, courts can use the collaboration features of openlaws to build networks between judges so that legal information can be shared. The publication tools will make it possible that courts can easily publish cases that are of public interest, leading to compliance with the recommendations of the PSI directive.**

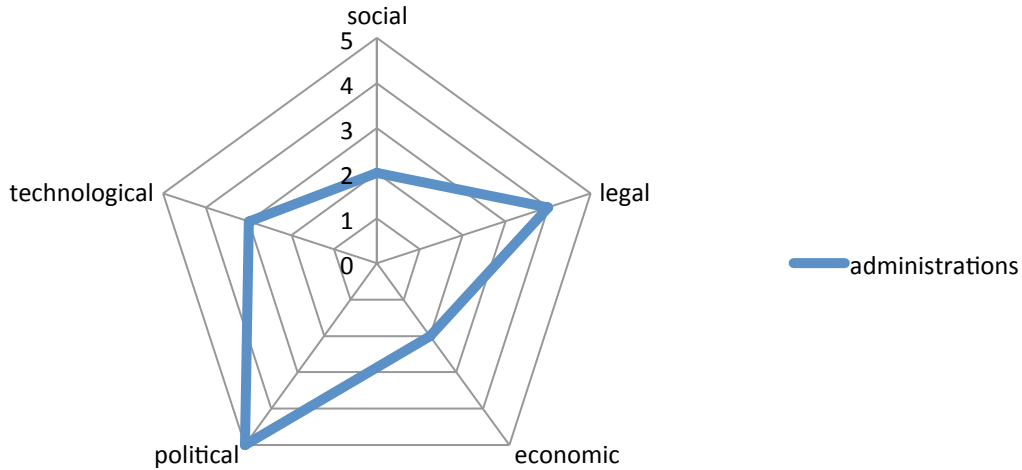
#### **How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts

<sup>20</sup> Council conclusions inviting the introduction of the European Legislation Identifier (ELI), 2012/C 325/02

- Add data sources, e.g. case law databases
- Invite others

#### 4.4.4 Administrations – executive authority



National public administrations implement governmental policy and manage the Member States every day. There are many legal professionals working in administrations, often specialised in a certain legal topic, for example labour law, tax law, environmental law, data protection law, consumer protection law, etc.

Here again, the aggregated legal knowledge is enormous. Sharing such knowledge with colleagues, citizens and businesses in an open way will foster transparency and increase productivity.

<b>Hypotheses:</b>	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public administrations are often large organisations</li> <li>• They employ many people, including legal professionals</li> <li>• Team work and collaboration</li> <li>• Collaboration throughout the whole administration may be burdensome due to the size of the administration</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrations have a very high legal knowledge, especially on an aggregated level</li> <li>• They employ many legal professionals</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial resources for administrations are limited</li> <li>• Making documents available as open data may cost money</li> <li>• Providing access to value-added legal information from third party suppliers can be very costly</li> <li>• Implementing new IT solutions within the administration is very costly (even on a unit or on a department level)</li> </ul>

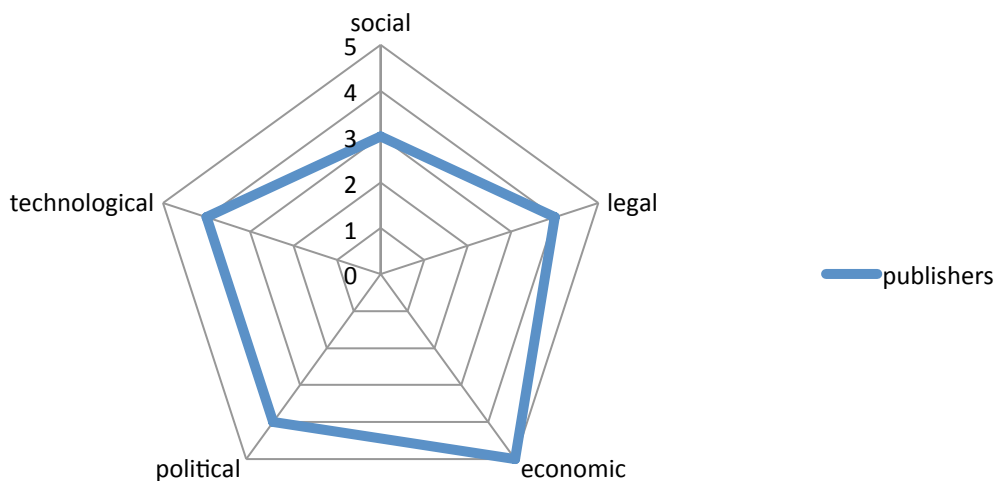
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrations are strong policy makers as they are often suggesting new legislative acts</li> <li>• There is a growing demand that administration become more transparent</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For administrations it is often hard to introduce new IT systems in the legacy environment</li> </ul>

**Administrations will benefit from the collaboration tools of openlaws. Legal professionals within the organisation can share legal knowledge with colleagues and inform citizens and businesses at the same time. This will reduce costs and increase transparency at the same time. In addition, EU law will be included in national search results.**

#### How to contribute to openlaws?

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Search for legislation, case law and legal experts
- Add data sources, e.g. documentations on laws to help citizens
- Invite others

#### 4.5 Publishers



In the legal area publishing is the process of production and dissemination of value-added legal information like literature and commentaries, but includes also the publication of ‘primary sources’ like legislation and case law.

Legal professionals work mainly with text; graphics are rather the exception (e.g. traffic signs). Traditionally, publishers have been selling books, printed journals and legal text collections. But even if legal professionals still like hard copies, there is a clear transition phase towards electronic publication and distribution of legal

information via the Internet.

Having legal information in an electronic format has many advantages. Finding and sharing has become a lot easier. However, this is also a threat to traditional commercial publishers. They need to find new ways to distribute their premium content.

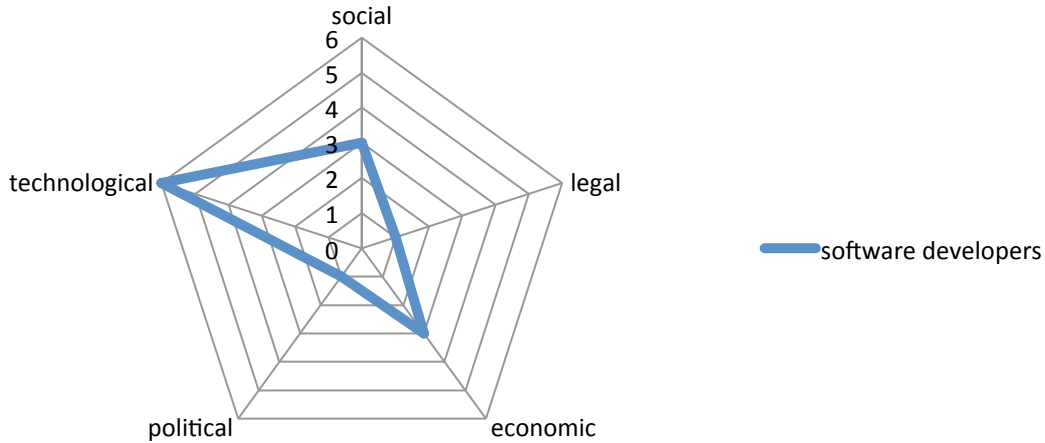
	<b>Hypotheses:</b>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a few very large publishers on a global level as well as many smaller publishers in different Member States</li> <li>• A high reputation of the publisher will attract legal professionals; legal scholars will want to publish in a journal with a high reputation and readers will order journals or books from a publisher with a high reputation</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even if legal publishers may not have legal knowledge themselves, they ‘own’ huge amounts of legal knowledge in terms of intellectual property (exploitation) rights</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditionally, legal publishers sell legal information in printed format, like for example books, journals and legal text collections</li> <li>• Selling access to legal databases and to premium content is becoming increasingly important for them</li> <li>• Their reputation is a high economic value</li> <li>• Copyright infringements in a digital world are an economic challenge for publishers</li> <li>• They have to find innovative business models to sell their premium content</li> </ul>
<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large publishers are in a strong position, because they are in control of the exploitation rights for secondary legal information</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publishers have high technological skills and the financial means to make access to premium content easy</li> <li>• They have a long tradition and a lot of experience with respect to publishing of legal information</li> </ul>

**openlaws is no alternative to the products and solution of legal publishers. Legal professionals will still need value-added premium legal content that is made available through publishers. openlaws will ensure that the premium content of publishers can be found, for example in openlaws search results. For example, if a lawyer is looking for ‘privacy’, openlaws may not only return results from public open data sources, but also links to content offered by legal publishers.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Add (links) to premium content
- Add abstracts of premium content

#### 4.6 Software Developers



Software developers and the open source community are a special stakeholder group for openlaws. They are quite different to the other groups mentioned before.

Software developers are persons who ‘make’ software so that it can be used by others. They may be designing, programming or testing the software. Since openlaws is an open source project, software developers play an important role for the project.

Hypotheses:	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software developers can be virtually everywhere</li> <li>• Some software developers contribute to open source developing projects (for various reasons)</li> </ul>
<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are only few legal professionals who are software developers and vice versa</li> <li>• The connection between law and software development is ‘legal informatics’ on a technological level and ‘information law’ on a legal level</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to develop software is a valuable skill</li> <li>• Software developers can come up with new innovative solutions by using open source software and open data</li> <li>• Based on such new solutions, they may develop new business models</li> </ul>

<b>Political</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software developers have several communities online</li> <li>• On a national level they are often represented by the chambers of commerce</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software developers are the most technologically advanced stakeholder group within the openlaws project</li> <li>• They can take advantage of the trend towards big data and open data</li> </ul>

**openlaws is a project that is based upon open data, open innovation and open source software. Software developers are invited to join the initiative and support the project with their design, programming or testing skills. The open interfaces of openlaws will enable developers to create their own solutions based on the openlaws framework.**

**How to contribute to openlaws?**

- Use the platform ([www.openlaws.eu](http://www.openlaws.eu))
- Connect additional legal databases that are available as open data
- Develop additional modules for the platform