

Strengthening Parliaments' Information Systems in Africa

Nairobi

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Normeinrete

a federative approach to on-line legislation access

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Summary

- Normative power and legislative sources in Italy
- Normeinrete (norms in the net) project description
- Issues addressed
 - Institutional cooperation
 - Technological interoperability
 - Documents standardization
 - Regulation

Normative powers at State level



- Parliament
 - Two-chambers system : Senate and Chamber of deputies
 - Primary legislation (laws, legislative decrees, ..)
- Ministries, Independent authorities (privacy, market,..)
 - Secondary legislation (decrees, regulations, ...)

Normative powers – regional level

Each region has normative powers on some matters within its territory



IT governance

- Ministry for innovation and technology
- CNIPA (National Centre for IT in Public Administration):
 - Promotes the spread of IT systems within Public Administration
 - Implements IT policies devised by the Minister for Innovation and Technologies
 - Develops framework rules and standards concerning the use of IT in Public Administration
 - Carries out cooperative e-Government projects

Normeinrete project's goals

IT to allow rights fulfilment

CITIZENS:

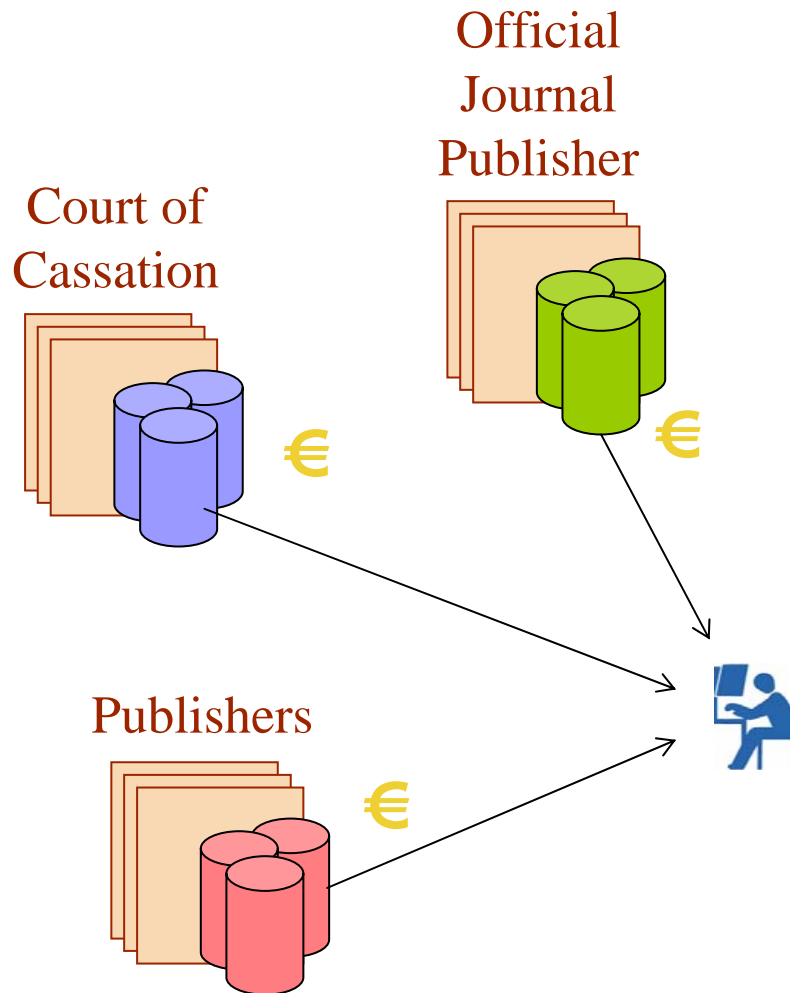
Provide free and simple access to laws on the web

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:

Supporting PA in managing legislative documentation life cycle and law consolidation by providing standardization, software tools and methodologies

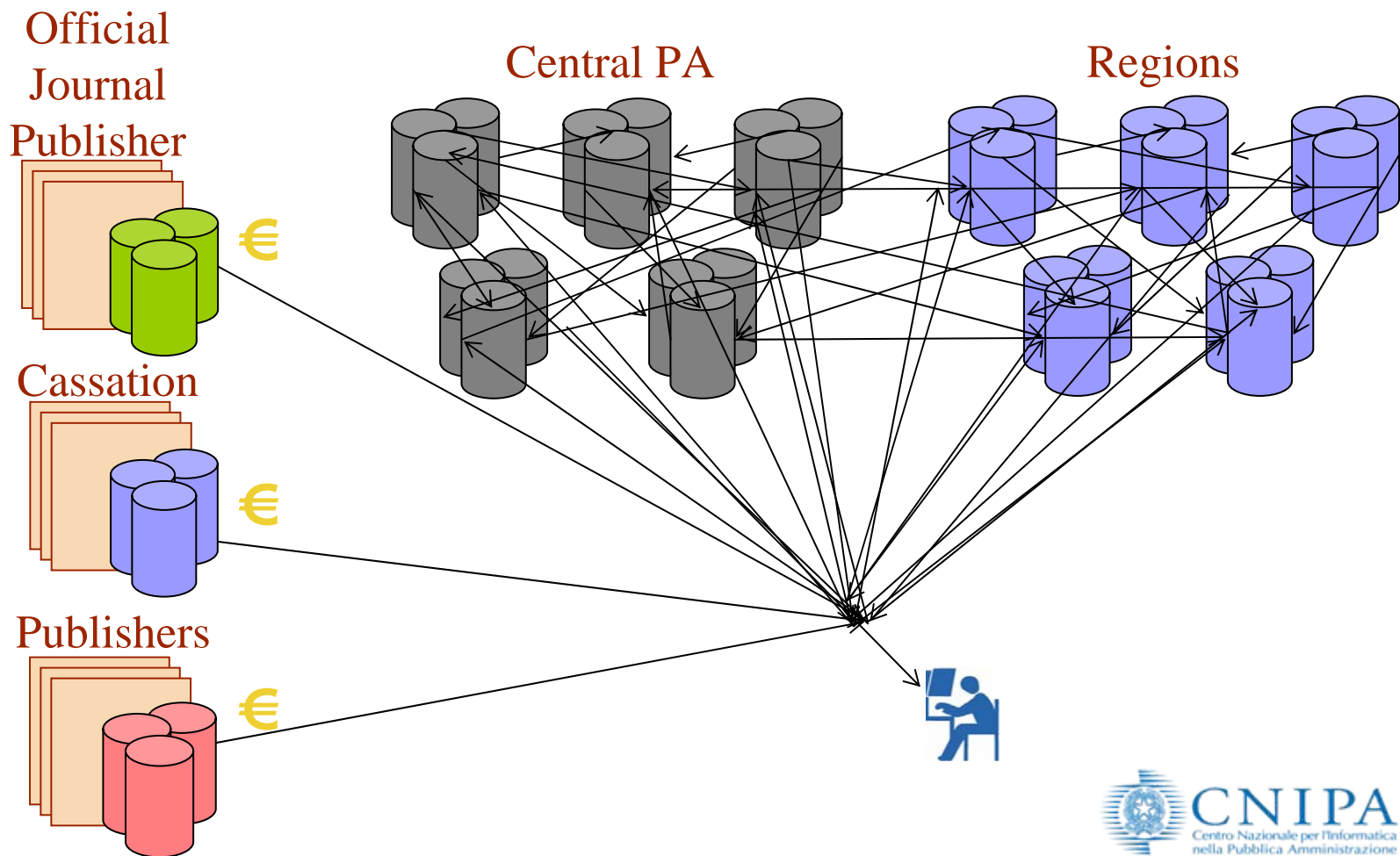
IT to increase efficiency

Scenario: IT in the beginning

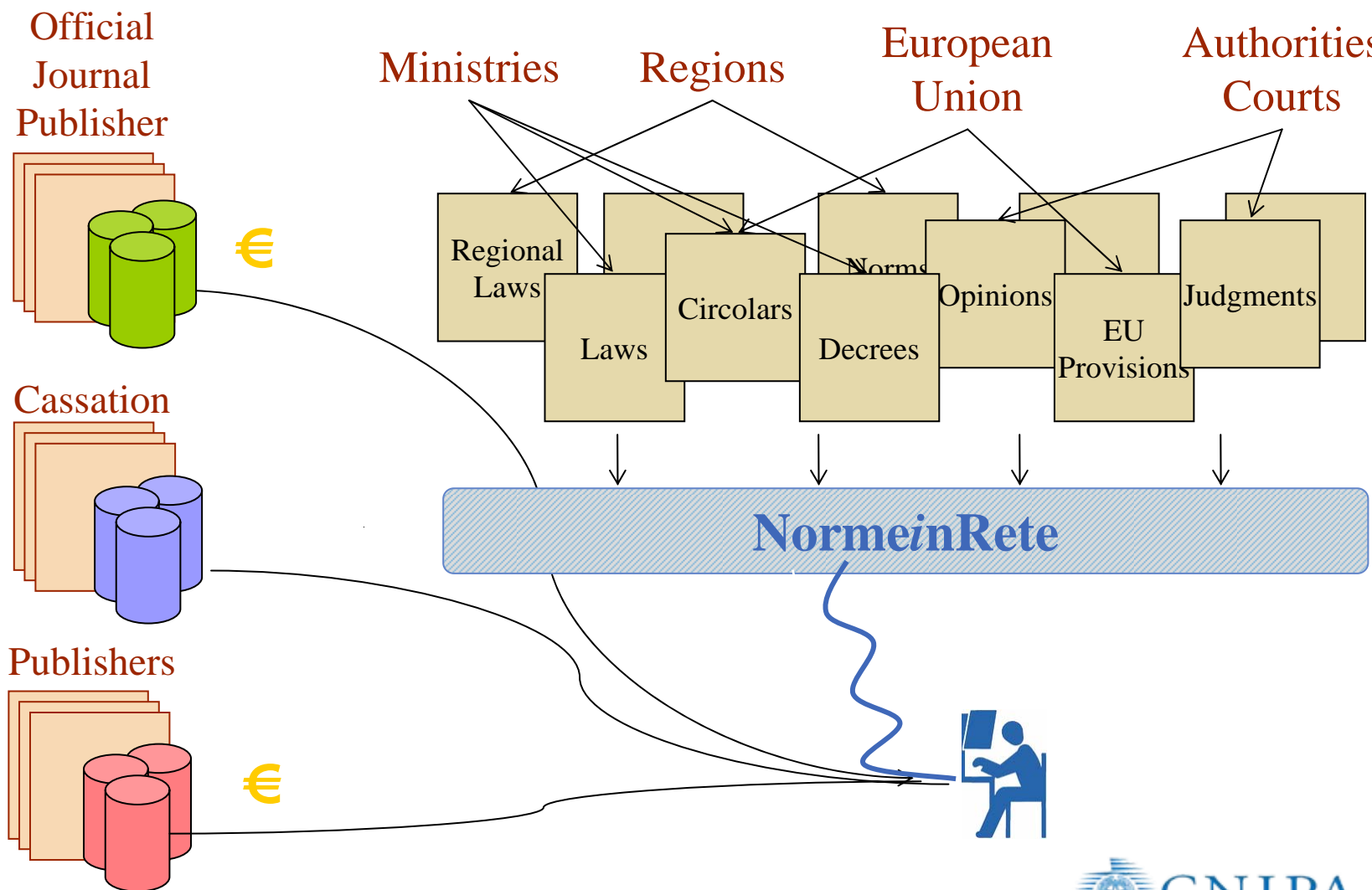


- Centralization
- Access by payment

Uncoordinated initiatives on web: more information but difficult to find



Normeinrete: an unique access point



NormeinRete: strategy

- **Specialized portal**
 - a specialized internet search engine to retrieve laws published on different Public Administration's web sites
- **Standard** definitions to allow interoperability
 - **Cooperation** without intrusion
 - Compliant to internet technologies
- Development and distribution of **open source** software to support legislative document management and publishing;
- Training and **knowledge sharing**

Implementation approach

- First experimental phase (1999-2003)
 - Funded by CNIPA
 - Technical working groups
 - Contributions from PA, Universities, research centers
 - Voluntary participation (very much like internet communities)
- Following phases: high level political commitment and fundings.

NormeinRete portal: results

- www.normeinrete.it
 - The whole Italian legislative corpus since 1948
 - More than 50.000 “logical” normative document indexed
 - More than 150.000 “physical” documents available
 - 195.000 accesses to search functions monthly
 - e-learning facilities
 - Software tools
 - Parser
 - Editor
 - 2 official standard definitions

Institutions involved

- Parliament and constitutional Boards
- Government and Ministries
- Authorities
- Local Autonomies
- Universities, research institutes, professional associations

Technological interoperability

- Based on data format standardization
- Each institution manages independently its own information system but ALL agree on a common document identification mechanism and standard format
- A cooperative layer assures the availability of common services and shared information



Italian standards for legislative digital documents

1. Mark-up vocabulary (based on XML) to represent legislative documents structure, semantics and metadata
2. Rules to build univocal document's identifiers (regardless of their physical location) based on URN standard
 - Defined within working groups (with contributions from Parliament, Ministries, Research institutes and CNIPA)
 - Issued by CNIPA and published on the Official Journal as technical norms

Legislative and regulatory acts

1. Documents with a well-defined structure

- laws, constitutional laws, regional laws

2. Partially structured documents

- regulation acts, decrees

3. Generic documents

- any kind of non-structured acts, annexes,...

According to drafting rules

jointly emanated in 2001 by parliament's and government's presidents

XML mark-up definition

- One Document type Definition (DTD) representing several types of documents with three versions (same vocabulary with different constraints):
 - Basic DTD: well structured simple documents
 - Strict DTD : well structured complex documents
 - Loose DTD: documents with irregular structure, exceptions (suitable for historical documents)
- Mark-up is only concerned with structure and semantics, presentation is delegated to external stylesheets
- Many of the elements defined are optional

DTD Elements

- Structural elements
 - heading, preamble, sections, articles, paragraphs...
- Special elements
 - references to other laws, formatted text-embedded relevant entities
- Metadata
 - subject-matter classification, publication data, preparatory iter
- Semantic elements
 - obligations, prohibitions, penalties, exceptions, modifications...

XML mark up: example

**<tipo>Legge </tipo> <data> 16 gennaio 2003 </data>
n. <num> 3 </num>
<titolo> Disposizioni ordinamentali in materia di pubblica amministrazione </titolo>
<articolato>
<articolo> <num> Art. 3. </num> <rubrica> Soppressione dell'Agencia per il servizio civile.
Modifica all'articolo 10 della legge n. 230 del 1998 </rubrica>
 <comma> <num> 1. </num>
 <corpo> I commi 7, 8 e 9 dell'articolo 10 del decreto legislativo 30 luglio 1999, n. 303, sono
abrogati. </corpo>
 </comma>
 <comma> <num> 2. </num>
 <corpo> L'articolo 10, comma 3, della legge 8 luglio 1998, n. 230, è sostituito dal seguente: «
 <virgolette> 3. La Consulta nazionale per il servizio civile è composta da dei volontari, delle
regioni e delle amministrazioni pubbliche coinvolte.....
 </virgolette> »**

Publication

Applying different styles, the same file can be used in different environments

```
<dataDoc> 16 gennaio 2003 </dataDoc>
<titoloDoc> Disposizioni ordinamentali in
materia di pubblica amministrazione
</titoloDoc>
<articolato>
<articolo> <num> Art. 3. </num> <rubrica>
Soppressione dell'Agencia per il servizio civile.
Modifica all'articolo 10 della legge n. 230 del
1998 </rubrica>
  <comma> <num> 1. </num>
  <corpo> I commi 7, 8 e 9 dell'articolo 10
del decreto legislativo 30 luglio 1999
abrogati.
  </corpo>
</comma>
<comma> <num> 2. </num>
<corpo> L'articolo 10, comma 3, della
legge n. 230 del 8 luglio 1998, n. 230, è sostituito dal seguente:
  <virgolette> 3. La Consulta nazionale
per il servizio civile è composta da dei v
regioni e delle amministrazioni pubbliche
coinvolte.....
  </virgolette> »
```

Print Style

WEB Style



Legge del 16 gennaio 2003 n. 3

Sommario

0

Art. 1. (omissis)
Art. 2. (omissis)
Art. 3. (Soppressione dell'Agencia per il servizio civile. Modifica all'articolo 10 della legge n. 230 del 1998)

Art. 1.
(omissis)

Art. 2.
(omissis)

Art. 3.
(Soppressione dell'Agencia per il servizio civile. Modifica all'articolo 10 della legge n. 230 del 1998)

I commi 7, 8 e 9 dell'articolo 10 del decreto legislativo 30 luglio 1999, n. 303, sono abrogati.
L'articolo 10, comma 3, della legge 8 luglio 1998, n. 230, è sostituito dal seguente: «

3. La Consulta nazionale per il servizio civile è composta da non più di quindici membri, nominati con decreto del Presidente del Consiglio dei ministri o del Ministro da lui delegato, scelti in maggioranza tra rappresentanti degli enti e delle organizzazioni, pubblici e privati, che impiegano obiettori di coscienza e volontari del servizio civile nazionale ovvero dei loro organismi rappresentativi, nonché tra rappresentanti degli obiettori di coscienza e dei volontari, delle regioni e delle amministrazioni pubbliche coinvolte

».

3. Dall'attuazione del comma 2 non devono derivare nuovi o maggiori oneri a carico della finanza pubblica.

Norme in rete standard: Uniform Resource Name (URN)

- Rules to build legislative document unambiguous identifiers
 - Properties: location independent, persistent and explicative
 - Elements are the ones usually adopted in citations

NID

Authority

Type

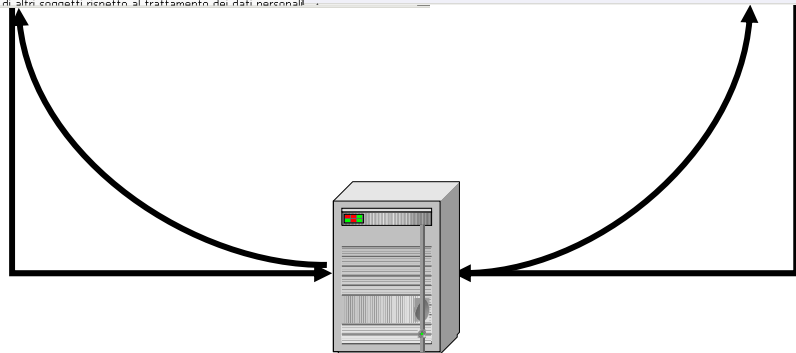
Terms

Annex

urn:nir:state:law:1992-07-24;358:annex.a

Hypertext creation mechanism

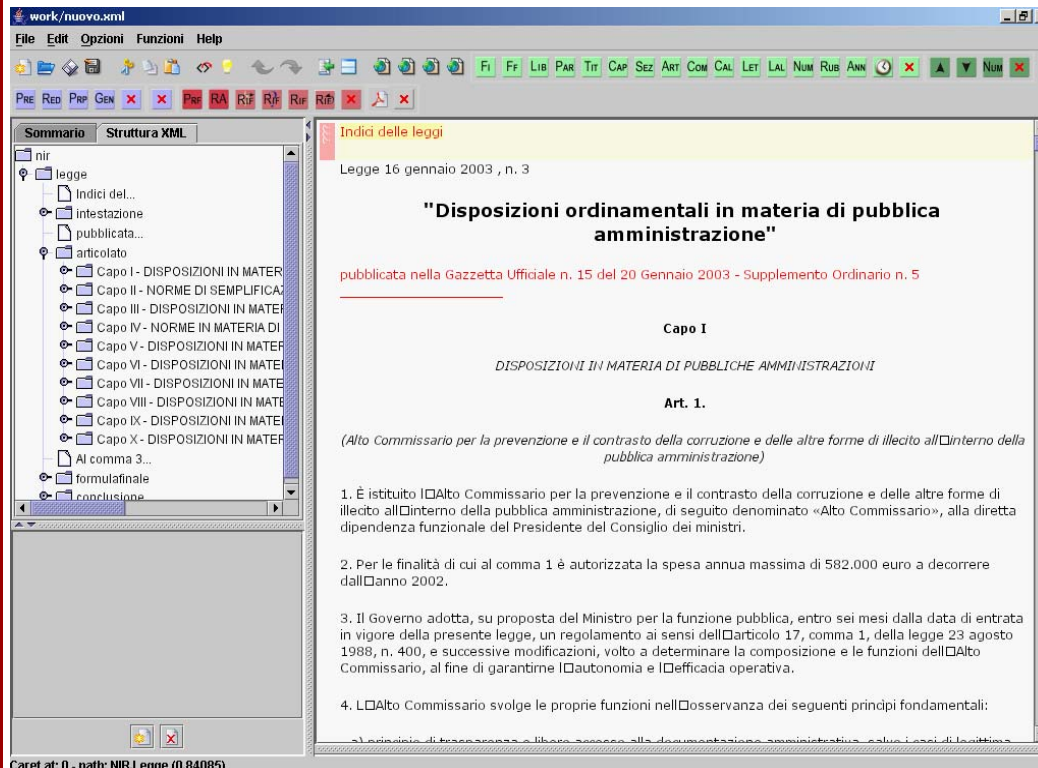
The image shows two side-by-side browser windows. The left window displays the text of 'Decreto Legislativo 23 gennaio 2002, n. 10' regarding the implementation of Directive 1999/93/CE. The right window displays 'DECRETO LEGISLATIVO del 1 SETTEMBRE 1993 n. 385' regarding banking and credit laws. Both windows include metadata such as the number of pages, points of law, and unique identifiers (URN).



Resolution module
(Element of the cooperative infrastructure)



Editing tools



Specialized features for:

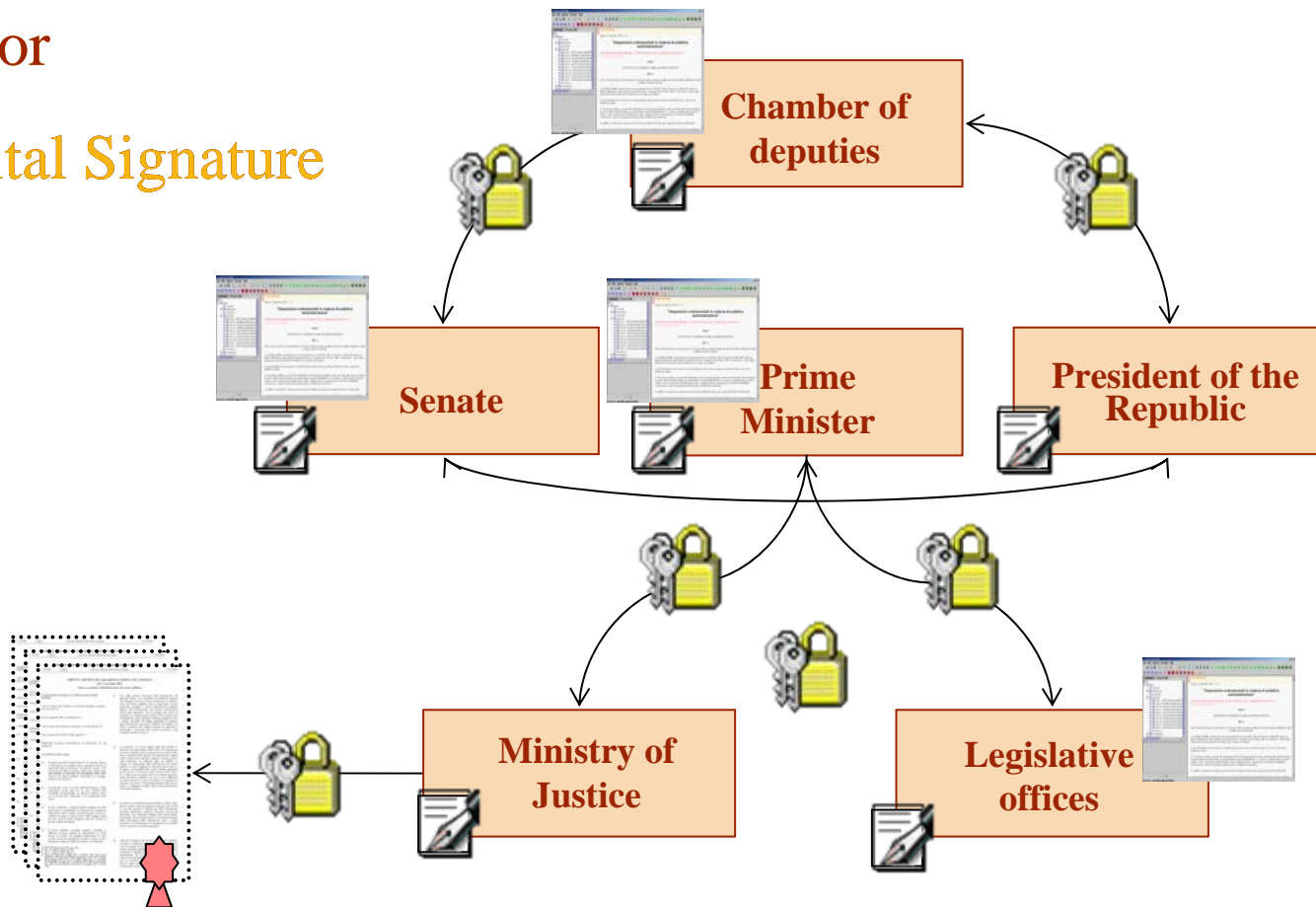
- ✓ Drafting
- ✓ Rules
- ✓ Numbering
- ✓ Mark up
- ✓ Consolidation
- ✓

Future developments

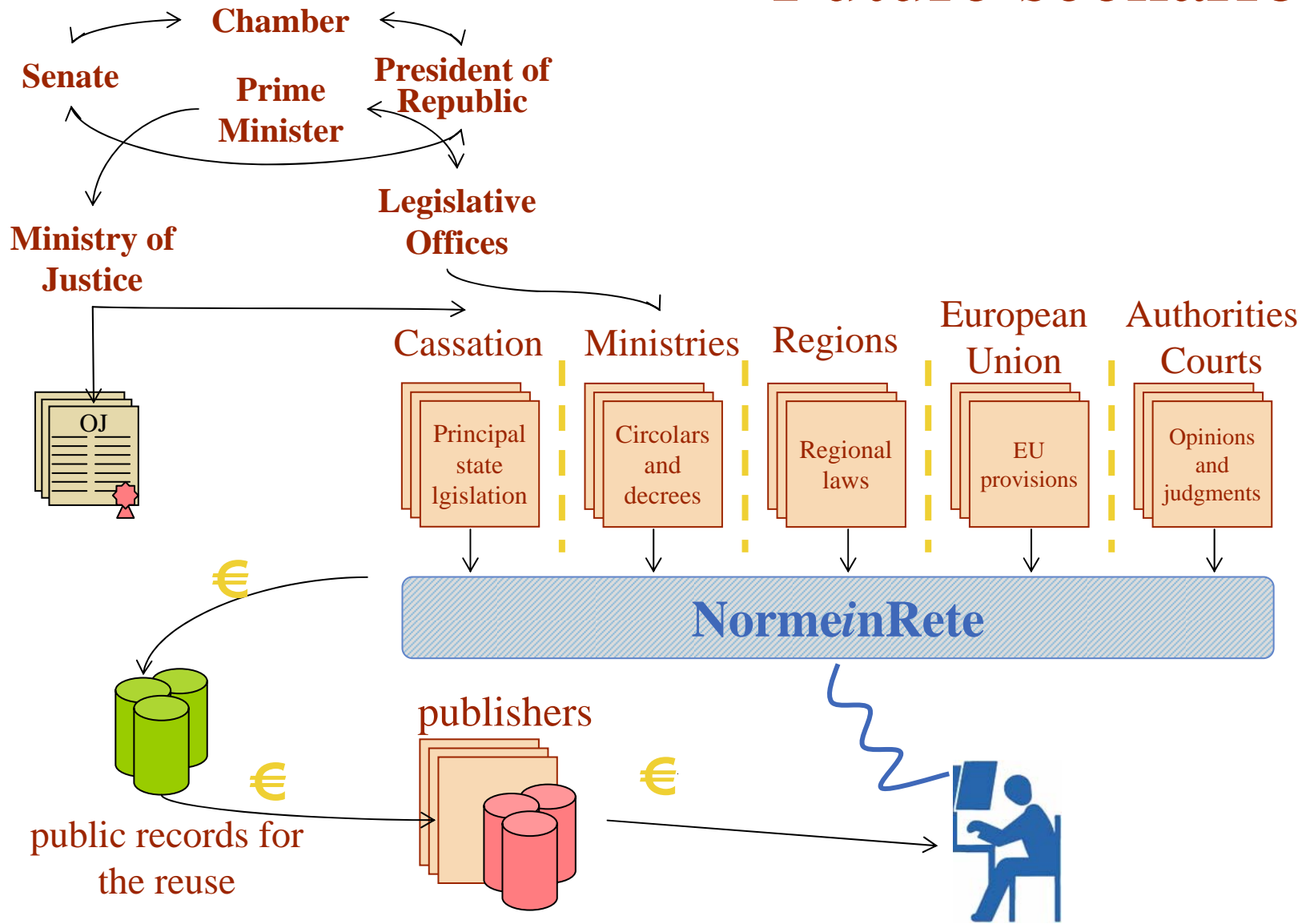
- Goals:
 - Allow free access to legislation **in force** through the internet
 - Support for **mark-up, classification, consolidation and codification**
 - **Legislative workflow** automation

Automating laws' workflow

- Network
- Editor
- Digital Signature



Future scenario



Conclusion

- Decentralization
 - Legislation: multiple sources at different levels
 - Distributed technologies
- Cooperation among institutions
- Standardization is a key-factor
 - Interoperability, automation
- Knowledge sharing