



# **Experiences with standardisation in Legal Informatics in Europe**

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# A Small Poll

- Who knows/works with Legislation?



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- Who knows XML?



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- Who understood all lectures so far?



# A Small Poll

- Who knows/works with Legislation?
- Who knows XML?
- Who understood all lectures so far?
- Who believes in Standardisation of Legislative XML?

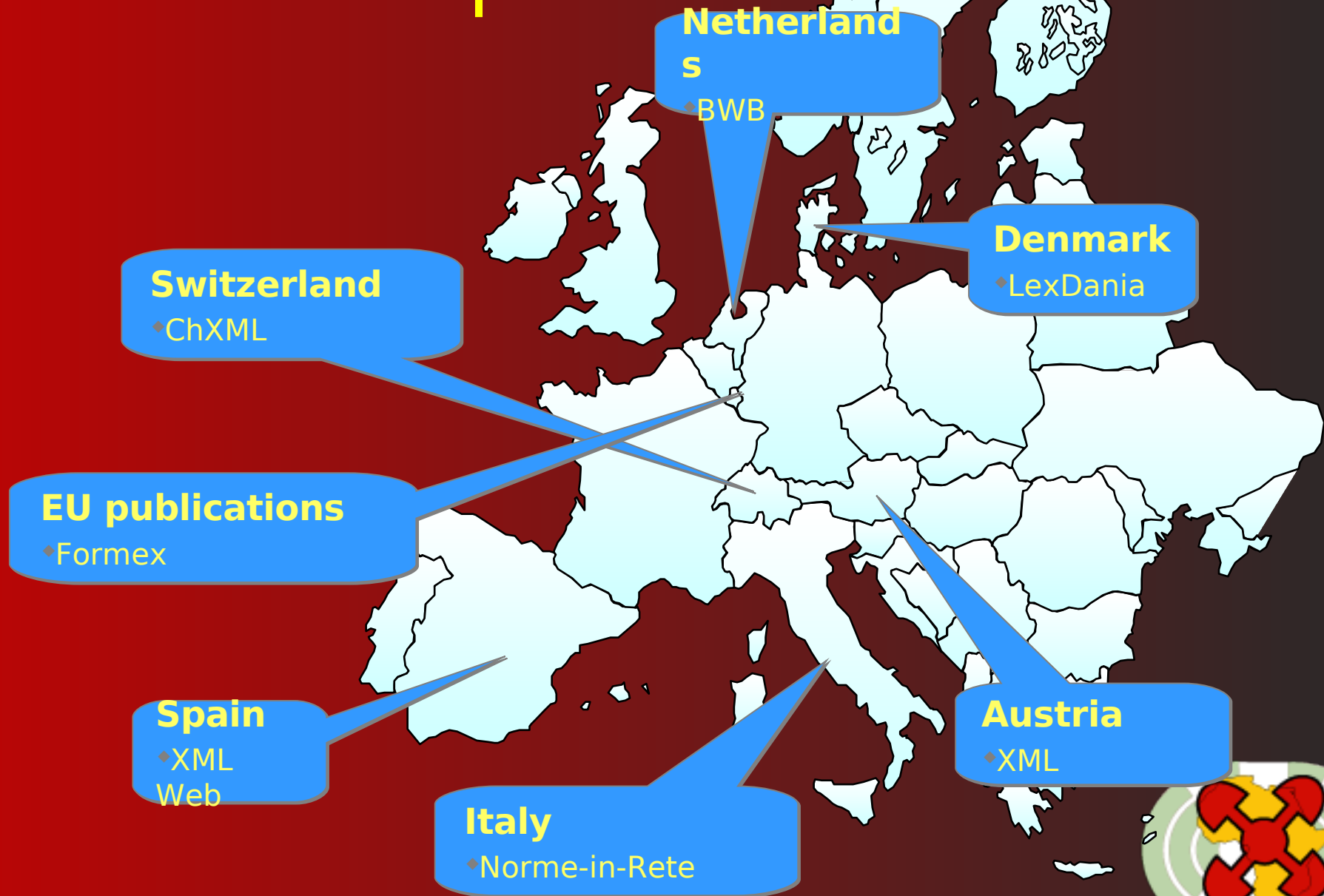


# The Problem

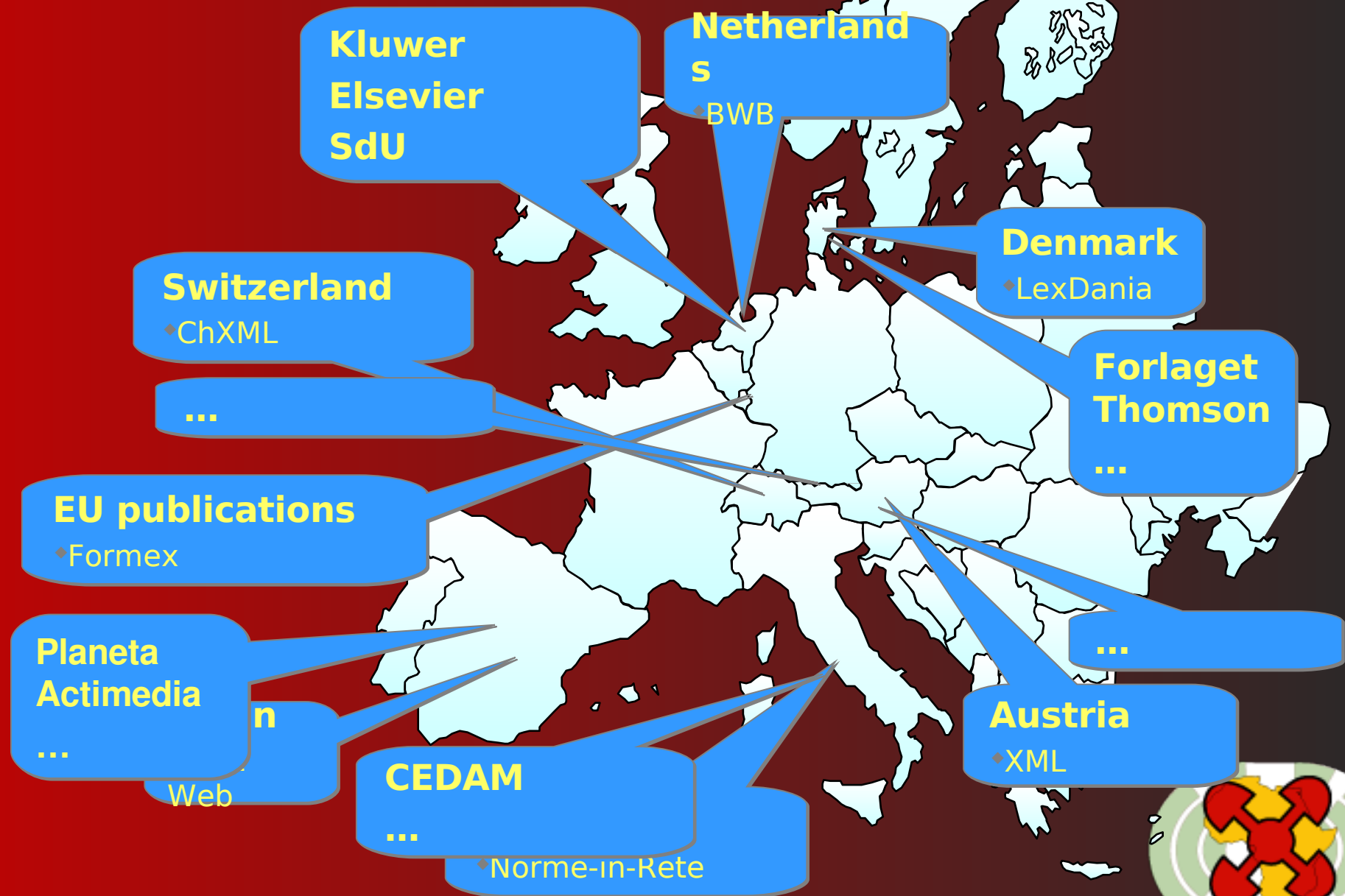
- Legal Sources come in many forms:
  - Different jurisdictions
  - Different levels of government
  - Different versions
  - Different language versions
- Many representations/media:
  - Paper or electronic (PDF, SGML, XML, ...)
  - From publishers, governments, ...



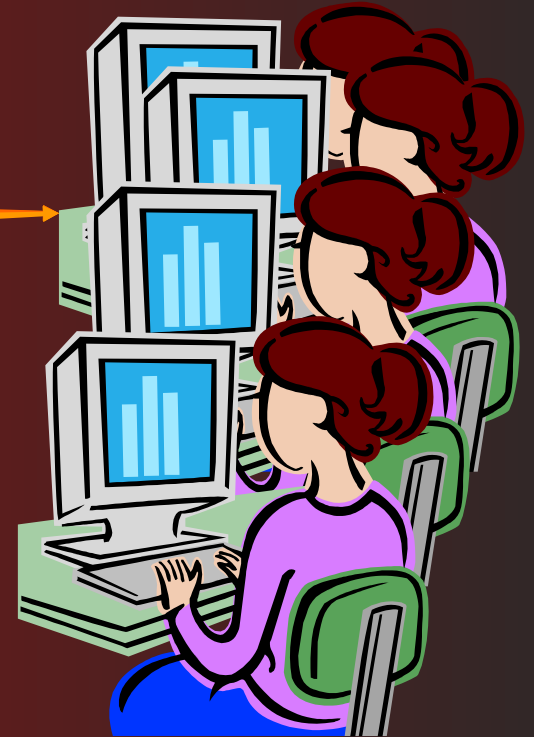
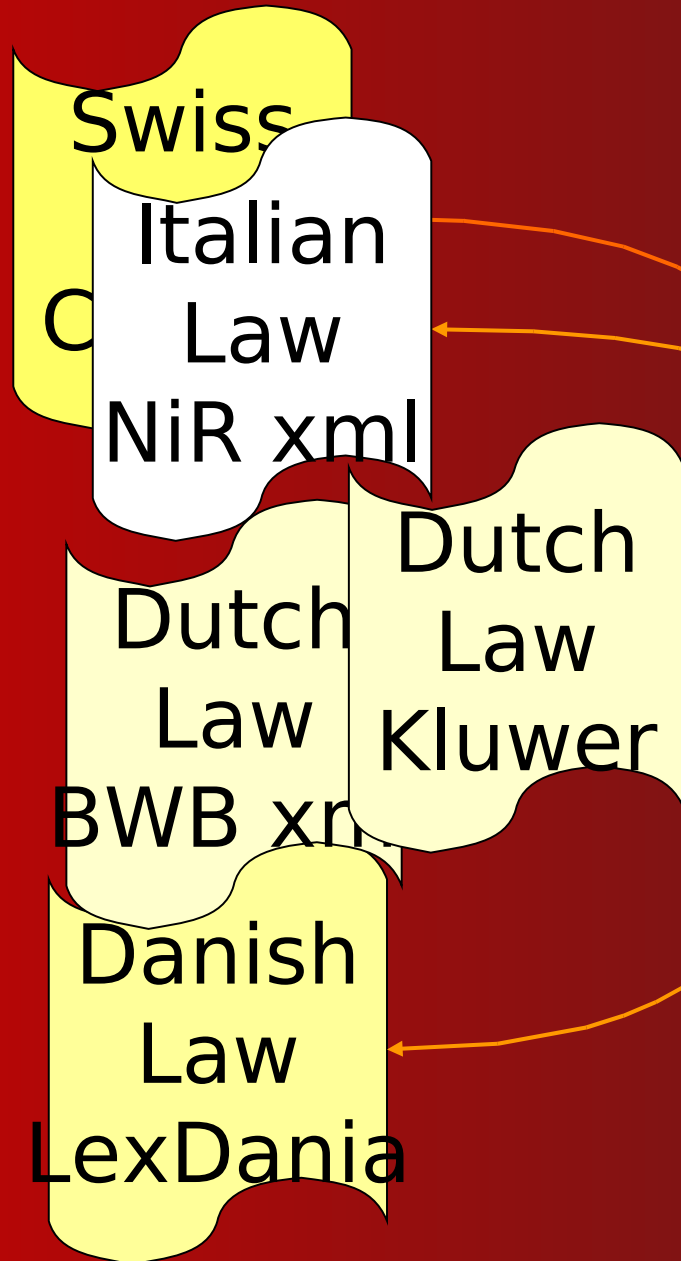
# Legislative XML in Europe



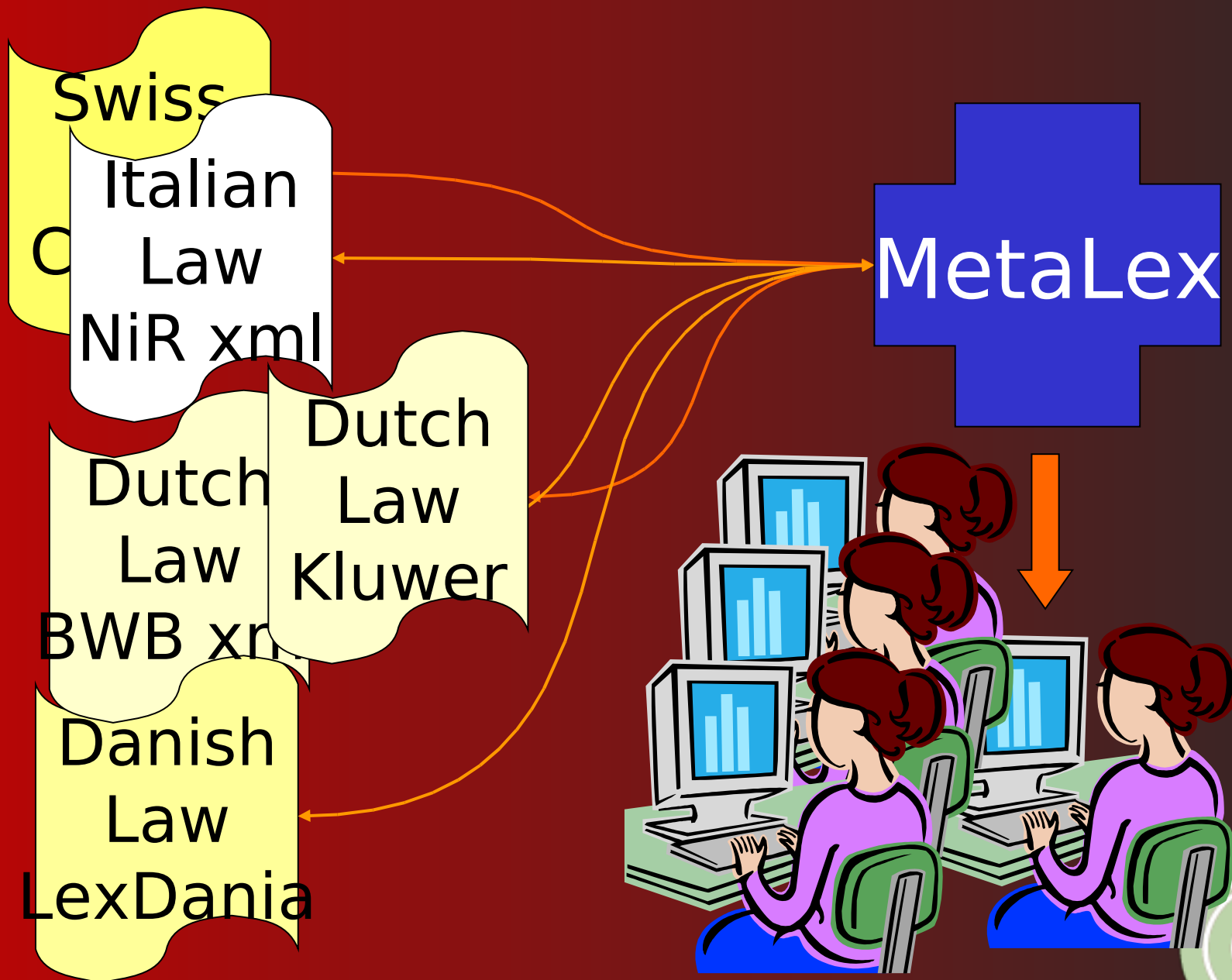
# Plus publishers...



# Building applications difficult



# Towards interchange format



# Why Standardisation?

- Easier and cheaper to provide services based on legal sources!!!
- For all users/stakeholders!
  - Parliament, judiciary, public administrations, citizens, companies, ...
- For all kinds of purposes
  - Publications
  - Search and retrieval
  - Legal comparison,
  - ...



# Standardisation of Legal Sources

- Structure and Referencing
- Identity
- Metadata



# Many initiatives in Europe

- Government
  - EU
  - Federal
  - National
  - Local
- Commercial companies
  - Publishers
  - others



# MetaLex

- Open Interchange Format for Legal Sources
- Jurisdiction independent
- Language independent
- Minimal provision for tagging legal sources
- Based on WWW standards



# The African Situation

- More or less green field situation
- Start with a standard: Akoma Ntoso
- Inspired by NiR and MetaLex
- Akoma Ntoso + MetaLex >> CEN/MetaLex



# Identity of Legal Sources

- The right law, case, commentary etc.
- The right version
- URNs or URIs
- Meaningful or not
  - Act-name & date & part...
  - Number



# MetaData -1

## In MetaLex/CEN:

- **Author:** legislator or decision maker that is responsible for creating the legal source
- **Authority:** legislative competence created and delegated by law
- **Procedure:** type of procedure that resulted in the legislation
- **Editor:** responsible for creating and managing the MetaLex encoding of the legal source
- **Region:** spatial entity in which the rules in the regulation can be applied



# MetaData -2

Time/version related:

- Date-publication
- Date-enacted
- Date-repealed
- Date-version: date the correctness of the content and other dates of the MetaLex element was last verified
- Extra:
  - date-start-efficacy; date-end-efficacy
  - Date-start-effect; date-end-effect



# Representation of Content of Legal Sources

- EU funded project ESTRELLA

[www.estrella-project.org](http://www.estrella-project.org)



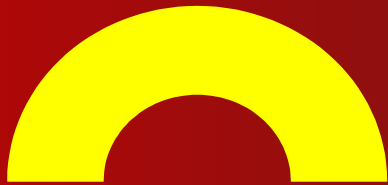


# Issues for Standardisation



# Open or Closed

- Can anybody contribute?
- Can it be used freely?
- For free?
- Are additions open as well?



# Flexible or Normative

- Cf. legacy



# Top-down or Bottom-up

- Involve who?



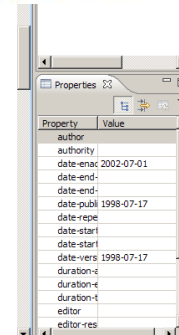
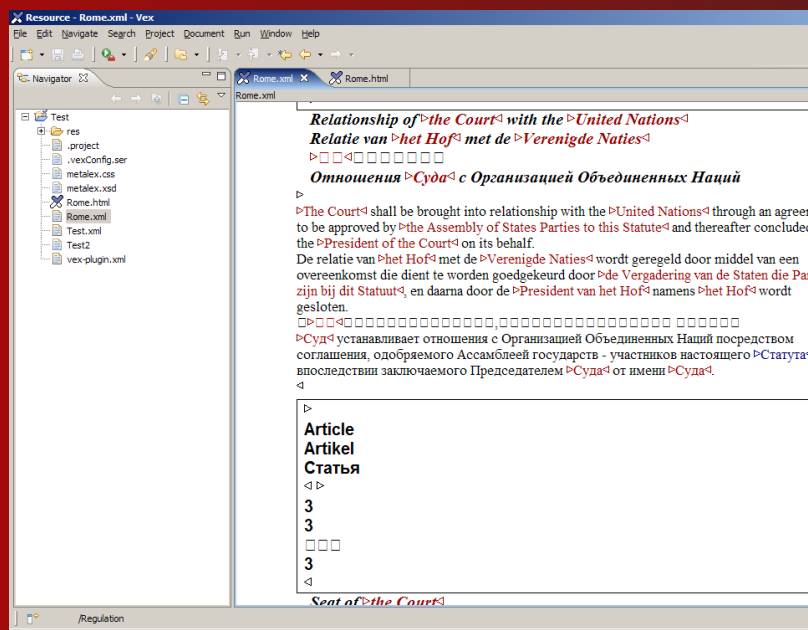
# Extensible or Fixed

- Fix what?



# Tools are Essential

- Open?
- Free?



# Organisation for Management and Maintenance

- Medium for publication, distribution, training
- Procedures for adaption and certification
  - Technical committee(s)
  - Steering Board
  - General assemblies/meetings

