

Module 3 European Studies through Digital European Law

Practical workshop No. 3

Topic 3: Understanding the Structure of EU Legal Document

Part 1: Types and Hierarchy of EU Legal Documents

1. **EU Treaties: The Foundation of European Law**
 - Definition and significance of treaties in EU law.
 - Key examples: **Treaty of Rome (1957)**, **Maastricht Treaty (1992)**, **Lisbon Treaty (2007)**.
 - How treaties establish the legal framework for EU institutions and policies.
2. **EU Regulations: Binding Legal Acts**
 - Definition: Directly applicable laws in all EU member states.
 - Key examples: **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, **Digital Markets Act (DMA)**.
 - How regulations ensure uniformity across the EU.
3. **EU Directives: Framework for National Implementation**
 - Definition: Laws that require transposition into national legal systems.
 - Key examples: **Copyright Directive**, **Renewable Energy Directive**.
 - The role of directives in allowing flexibility while ensuring common objectives.
4. **Decisions, Recommendations, and Opinions**
 - **Decisions**: Legally binding for specific entities (e.g., competition law cases).
 - **Recommendations and Opinions**: Non-binding guidelines influencing policy direction.

Part 2: Practical Application and Interpretation of EU Legal Documents

1. **Accessing and Navigating EU Legal Texts**
 - How to use **EUR-Lex**, the **Official Journal of the EU**, and national legal portals.
 - Understanding document references (CELEX numbers, article structure).
2. **Case Study Analysis: The Implementation of EU Directives**
 - How different member states implement the same directive differently.
 - Example: **The GDPR's impact on national privacy laws**.
3. **The Role of EU Institutions in Lawmaking**
 - The roles of the **European Parliament**, **European Commission**, and **Council of the EU** in drafting and adopting laws.
 - The legislative process: From proposals to adoption and enforcement.
4. **Future Challenges in EU Legal Frameworks**
 - The complexity of harmonizing laws across 27 member states.
 - Legal responses to emerging challenges like AI, cybersecurity, and digital governance.

