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Glossaries and translations

This section provides a brief overview of existing glossaries and multilingual "thesaurus" at European level.

A "glossary" is an alphabetical list of terms in a particular domain of knowledge accompanied by the definitions of those terms. In case of a bilingual glossary, the terms in one language are defined in a second language or glossed by synonyms or near-synonyms in another language. A glossary may be understood as containing explanations of concepts relevant to a certain field of study or action. In the law field, the term "glossary" may refer to two different tools: on the one hand it is used for a list of expressions with translations provided for each country; on the other hand, it is also used for a list of definitions for terminology.

Glossaries

IATE

IATE (InterActive Terminology for Europe) is a **multilingual term database** used for translations within the European institutions.

It consists of a **search engine** for expressions and phrases used in all areas of European Union activity. It requires rather professional knowledge of the target language in order to be used properly. It is a very useful tool for professional translators while not being wholly suitable for the general public, judicial authorities or legal professionals. Therefore, the translations of expressions and phrases are entered by the translators themselves to create new references or supplement existing ones. Suggestions for translations are provided for several, but not in all, official languages of the European Union.

Access to this database is free of charge.

Dictionary of synonyms

EU Vocabularies

The **EU Vocabularies** website provides access to vocabularies managed by the EU institutions and bodies. This includes controlled vocabularies, schemas, ontologies, data models, etc. As part of the EU open data initiative, the EU Vocabularies site offers free public access to all of its content.

This thesaurus exists in 23 official languages of the European Union.

COMPARATIVE MULTILINGUAL LEGAL VOCABULARY (VJM)

VJM is a collection of multilingual terminological data records and multi-systems (more than 23 languages and 30 EU legal systems) resulting from comprehensive research work on comparative law done by the lawyer-linguists of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

It contains at present approx. 650 multilingual terminological data records (20.000 terms) pertaining to the domains of family law, immigration law and, in the near future, criminal law. All the data records are available through the terminological database **IATE**.

The VJM's terminological data records have very detailed information such as definitions (adapted to each legal system), notes on comparative law, legal references (legislation, case law, doctrine of national, EU and international legal systems), the different designations of a concept (in the same language and sometimes different according to the legal systems), a clear indication of the origin of a term (functional equivalent or formulation —paraphrase), warnings (false legal friends, risk of confusion, obsolete terms), concept trees allowing to see at a glance the semantic relationships between concepts, etc.

More information about the project:

[Project history](#)  (434 Kb) 

A leaflet [Comparative multilingual legal vocabulary](#)  (2520 Kb) 

List of multilingual terminological data records:

[Immigration Law](#)  (1747 Kb) 

[Family Law](#)  (1936 Kb) 

[Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice of the EU](#)  (1553 Kb) 

Concept trees:

Immigration law

Family Law: [Filiation](#) | [Matrimonial law](#) | [Family situation](#)

For more information, [contact the team](#) in charge of the project at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

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