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THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW ON NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS AS A RESOURCE FOR TEACHING LEGAL ENGLISH

The Impact of European Union Law on national legal systems is not only a significant topic of contemporary legal studies but also a valuable resource for teaching Legal English in higher education institutions. EU law plays a key role in shaping legal frameworks across member states and candidate countries, influencing constitutional, administrative, and judicial systems. The development of a common European legal order has introduced unified legal standards, strengthened democratic institutions, and enhanced the protection of fundamental rights. From an educational perspective, EU legal terminology and case law provide authentic material for developing students' professional communicative competence in English within law and law enforcement training programmes.

The rule of law sits at the heart of how the EU operates. According to this principle, EU law prevails over competing national law. This principle has been established in the case law of the European Court of Justice, in particular in the *Costa v. ENEL* (1964) case [3-4]. When EU law works well, it means legal standards are applied consistently, whether the person is in Germany or Greece, thereby strengthening European cohesion [1; 3-5].

There is also the crucial matter of making sure EU law actually works in practice. It allows private parties and legal entities to rely on certain EU laws before national courts without having to translate them into national law. The concept of influence was developed in the *Van Gend en Loos* case (1963). As a result, national courts have become important actors in the application of European law [2].

The impact of EU law can be observed in different branches of national legal systems. In constitutional law, many states amended their constitutions to recognise participation in the European Union and the transfer of certain sovereign powers to EU institutions. In administrative and criminal law, states adopted common standards regarding human rights protection, anti-corruption measures, and judicial cooperation.

Everybody can spot EU law's fingerprints all over different areas of how countries interact legally. Under constitutional law, many countries have amended their constitutions to recognise their membership of the European Union and to delegate certain powers to EU members.

At the administrative and legal level, countries have enacted laws promoting human rights, anti-corruption and judicial cooperation. For Ukraine, EU law is particularly important in the context of European integration and the implementation of the Ukraine-EU Partnership Agreement. Ukrainian law is gradually aligning with EU law in areas such as the judiciary, law enforcement, human rights and the economy. Harmonisation of national legislation with EU legislation contributes to regulatory reform and the strengthening of the rule of law in Ukraine [3].

However, this growing EU influence is not without its problems for national legal systems. Some countries express concerns about the limits of national sovereignty and the growing importance of international institutions. There are sometimes conflicts between constitutional courts and EU institutions over the interpretation of constitutional identity and the limits of European integration.

In conclusion, European Union law significantly influences the development and harmonisation of national legal systems and serves as an effective educational tool in Legal English instruction.

The principles of supremacy, direct effect, and judicial cooperation not only define the functioning of EU law but also form an essential part of legal terminology used in international professional communication. Integrating EU legal materials into ESP courses enables law students and future law enforcement officers to improve their ability to interpret, analyse, and apply complex legal texts in English. Therefore, EU law serves as both a mechanism of legal integration and a valuable resource for the development of professional language competence in law.

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