CULTEXP – Advanced data analytics for cultural expertise
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Artificial Intelligence to provide expertise in a judicial context?
Convened by Maria Giuliana Civinini

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Understanding Cultural Expertise

Have you ever heard of **cultural expertise**? While the practice of seeking expert insights on cultural and social matters has been around for centuries, only in recent years has it been developed into a structured and comprehensive concept. Thanks to funding from the **European Research Council (ERC)**, we have been able to refine and advance this field, making it a crucial tool for legal and policy decision-making.

Between **2016 and 2023**, our team led **EURO-EXPERT**, a research project aimed at understanding how cultural expertise is used across Europe and what makes it effective. We asked important questions, such as:

• **What are the costs, terms, and conditions of cultural expertise?**

• **How can we measure its impact?**

• **How often is cultural expertise used in legal cases?**

• **How can we train future cultural experts?**

• **What policies can help integrate cultural expertise into legal systems?**

To answer these questions, we conducted **extensive research across 16 European countries**, gathering data through surveys, case law analysis, expert interviews, and field studies.
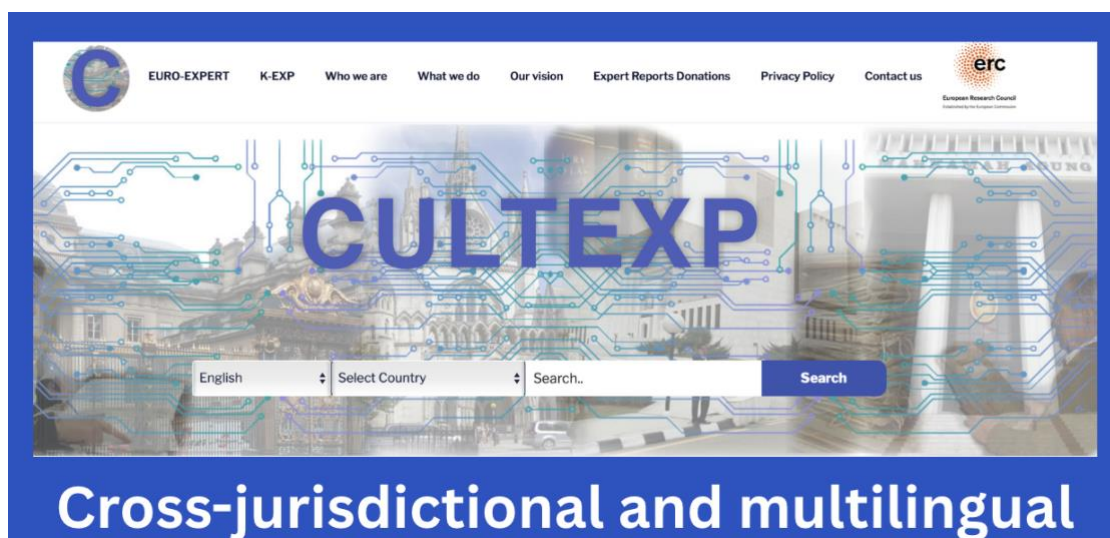
Why Cultural Expertise Matters

Legal and policy decisions often require insights beyond laws and regulations—they need **cultural context**. Cultural expertise helps decision-makers understand how cultural and social backgrounds influence cases. For example:

For instance, in cases involving climate change, a cultural expert might:

✔ Explain how environmental changes impact a specific community.

✔ Provide data on climate disasters affecting the region.

✔ Assess the government's capacity to protect vulnerable people.

✔ Evaluate the **real risk** of harm for a person being deported.

Introducing CULTEXP: The First Cultural Expertise Database

One of the most significant outcomes of **EURO-EXPERT** is **CULTEXP**, the first **open-access, multilingual, cross-jurisdictional database** for cultural expertise. It provides:

✔ **Expert reports** and **case law** from **16 European countries**.

✔ A **searchable platform** that connects legal professionals with relevant expertise.

✔ A **unique cross-jurisdictional approach**, unlike most legal databases that focus only on single legal systems.

Why does this matter? Most legal databases **only allow searches within specific jurisdictions** (e.g., a country's legal system). However, CULTEXP's **interdisciplinary and international structure** makes it highly relevant for **AI development** in law, ensuring that legal technologies remain **inclusive and culturally aware**.

CULTEXP in Action: Training, Certification, and AI Development

CULTEXP is **more than just a database**—it also supports expert **training and certification** through two **online learning platforms**:

• **CULTEXP Training Platform** (in French), developed in collaboration with the **University of Paris Nanterre** for a **Diploma for Cultural Experts**.

• **K-Peritia Training Platform** (in English, open access), funded by **COST Action 22101**.

Additionally, **K-EXP**, a dedicated **expert community within CULTEXP**, allows professionals to:

✔ Subscribe and undergo **training & certification**.

✔ Contribute to the **assessment of expert reports**.

✔ Collaborate on **developing new cultural expertise standards**.

Policy Innovation: Shaping the Future of Cultural Expertise

Beyond research and training, CULTEXP contributes to **policy-making**. We have developed three key policy frameworks:

1 **The Six Milestones for Cultural Expertise (AAIIDD)** – A roadmap for implementing cultural expertise based on **Awareness, Accessibility, Implementation/Innovation, Integrity of Experts, Development, and Digitalization**.

2 **EURO-EXPERT Guidelines for Legal Document Anonymization** – To ensure compliance with **GDPR** while preserving data for research.

3 **A Guide for Inclusive Language in Legal Documents** – Encouraging legal systems to adopt **inclusive and non-discriminatory language** while respecting historical legal texts.

CULTEXP: A Women-Led, International, and Inclusive Initiative

CULTEXP is the product of a **diverse, women-led, international, and interdisciplinary team**. We believe that **ethical AI, cultural expertise, and legal innovation** must prioritize **inclusion, accessibility, and fairness**. As we continue to develop CULTEXP, we remain committed to ensuring that **AI-driven legal technologies serve justice in a responsible and culturally aware manner**.

What is CULTEXP AI

CULTEXP is the first AI model for cultural expertise.

It is comprehensive because it is based on rigorous data-collection including judgements and expert reports; innovative because of being multilingual and cross-jurisdictional and using an unprecedented AI model developed ad hoc

ethical by design; it contains customisable features regarding expert match, report's evaluation and development, and also the anonymisation of data. It is scalable because thanks to our guidelines concerning the adoption of cultural expertise, the anonymisation of legal documents, and inclusive language, we are able to incrementally add data. It is impactful because we address a real demand with a specific attention to inclusive justice.

On CULTEXP, users can just type their questions!

Members of the legal professions also including experts could for ex. ask an expert report on the risk of return to the country of origin of my client, likelihood of internal relocation, and capacity of the country to provide adequate protection.

CULTEXP will prepare in minutes an expert report on the requested topic, in a format that is compatible with most common direction practices of European legal systems (i.e. addressing the questions of the instructions, developing an analysis and reaching conclusions), including quantitative, qualitative data, listing reliable sources, and human expert verification.

But what if members of the legal professions wanted to contact a human expert?

CULTEXP finds the right human expert for every case!

Either on CULTEXP register, or through CULTEXP expert matching.

And if members of the legal professions wanted an assessment of the prospective impact of an expert report?

CULTEXP offers a detailed scoring system based on specific impact criteria developed through EURO-EXPERT, a collaborative effort between scientists and legal professionals validated at a series of collaborative workshops held in Oxford between 2018 and 2020. This system is continuously monitored by the CULTEXP network and includes both an aggregated score and an evaluation by a human expert.

CULTEXP has other uses to. Social scientists and some members of the legal professions may like to be trained as cultural experts. CULTEXP can design an ad hoc curriculum, tailored to the users' schedule, and offering a final certification.

CULTEXP Validation

CULTEXP was awarded funding from the European Research Council to test its real potential through CULTEXP Proof of Concept 2023-2024.

We started by looking at the outcome of cases in which cultural expertise would be potentially required but not used. We found that without cultural expertise litigants would cope with prolonged uncertainty, likely appeals, and procedural delays; and increased costs that are likely to weight on the taxpayers.

The users of cultural expertise identified as judges, lawyers, and experts, are positive about the usefulness of cultural expertise.

However, time and cost are of essence and a potential barrier to access this crucial service.

We found that 3 million expert reports are requested yearly at a global level but not produced because they are too costly or because time constraints do not allow its appointment.

CULTEXP could reach out to the people who would benefit from appointing an expert but can't because of time and cost.

CULTEXP in comparison with other AI models

The legal tech analytics sector, fuelled by advancements in AI, big data, and increasing legal tech adoption, is experiencing significant growth. This expansion reflects the increasing reliance on data-driven insights and automation in the legal industry.

At present CULTEXP's is unique in key areas such as cultural expertise, multilingual support, and cross-jurisdictional functionality, where competitors fall short.

AI in legal tech can generally be categorized into two main areas:
1. Clerical and Administrative AI – This includes tools like chatbots and automated document management systems that assist with routine tasks such as client intake, scheduling, and basic legal inquiries.
2. Legal Reasoning and Analytical AI – This involves more advanced AI applications that analyze case law, predict legal outcomes, assist in contract review, and provide data-driven legal insights.

Both types of AI play a crucial role in enhancing efficiency, reducing costs, and improving decision-making within the legal industry.

Compared to CULTEXP, both types of AI are more limited in scope—they are tied to specific regions, confined by traditional legal categories, and require significant computing power, which can compromise document sovereignty and drive-up costs. The principle of document sovereignty ensures that legal texts remain independent, traceable, and free from undue external influence, maintaining their authenticity and integrity within a legal system.

CULTEXP is uniquely positioned due to the reputation of its data and reliable document curation. **Unlike many AI models prone to hallucinations, CULTEXP minimises this risk through a multi-layered verification system that integrates expert curation, rigorous data validation, and ethical AI principles**.

Notwithstanding our partnerships, we maintain full independence by using partners' cloud infrastructure only for controlled development and testing, not for deployment. To ensure top-level legal data privacy compliance, we have established groundbreaking guidelines aligned with GDPR. Additionally, **our innovation includes Elydor, an advanced AI tool designed to automatically redact personal data from legal documents while staying fully compliant with GDPR regulations**.

CULTEXP is multilingual and applicable to any jurisdiction.

CULTEXP has the potential to assist experts (either appointed by the parties or by the court) to provide reliable cultural expertise at a fraction of the cost and time and reach to the ones who benefit most from the appointment of an expert but cannot appoint one due time and cost.

In January 2025 we received the Seal of Excellence from the European Innovation Council.

Standards for AI legal tech

I promised to share our standards for AI legal tech: **VIRTUE – Ensuring Responsible AI in Legal Tech**

- **V – Vigilance** → Proactively identifying risks, ensuring AI safety, robust cybersecurity, and mitigating bias.

- **I – Impact** → Driving positive societal, legal, and technological transformation.

- **R – Reliability** → Prioritizing scientifically rigorous, high-quality, and non-hallucinatory data.

- **T – Transparency** → Ensuring explainability, openness, and traceability in AI decisions.

- **U – Utility** → Balancing cost-effectiveness, agile technology, and human-centered efficiency.

- **E – Ethics** → Embedding fairness, inclusivity, and responsibility by design.

CULTEXP is uniquely positioned to meet these criteria, not only by fulfilling them at present but by continuously striving for improvement. As a result, it has the potential to significantly enhance the reliability and efficiency of legal professionals while also driving meaningful social impact by making cultural expertise accessible to all.

Join us for a more inclusive justice at K-Peritia and CULTEXP Foundation within the CNRS Foundation.

Would you like to know more?

Frequent Asked Questions (FAQ) about Cultural Expertise and CULTEXP AI

CULTEXP database

K-EXP

K-Peritia

CULTEXP AI

Elydor

Publications on cultural expertise

Holden, Livia 2025, *Cultural Expertise: Theories, Law, and Practices*, Abington: Routledge. Open Access

Policies and Reports

[Podcast about cultural expertise](#)

Social Media
[Linkedin](#)
[Youtube](#)
[Newsletter](#)

See also :

[Donnée et intelligence artificielle](#)

[Méthodes de droit comparé et expertise culturelle](#)

BIO: Livia Holden is Director of Research at the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) in France, based at Sorbonne Panthéon Paris 1, within the Institut des Sciences Juridique et Philosophique at the Faculty of Law. She is also Senior Fellow at the Royal Anthropological Institute of the United Kingdom and Ireland and the Chair K-Peritia.

Dina Haddad is a research fellow at the Centre d'Histoire et Anthropologie du Droit, Paris 10 Nanterre. She is a specialist in international law and has a significant involvement with research and a first-hand knowledge of socio-legal and political complexities of the Arab Middle East World. She is the Vice-Chair of K-Peritia.

Special thanks go to the European Union and COST, which are currently funding K-Peritia— a network of over 100 researchers dedicated to expanding the theoretical framework of cultural expertise, identifying use cases for CULTEXP, designing an accreditation process for cultural experts, and facilitating communication with policymakers.

From 2016 to 2023, our work was supported by the European Research Council (ERC). Currently it continues to be funded by the European Community though COST. We are particularly proud that CULTEXP has now become a foundation hosted by the CNRS Foundation, a development that has been instrumental in ensuring the continuation of our work beyond the completion of the ERC-funded EURO-EXPERT project. Additionally, we are proud partners of Intel Liftoff, and I will share more about this exciting collaboration during my presentation.