

Latvia

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1. What is the understanding or definition of AI in your jurisdiction?

There is no definition of artificial intelligence (AI) in domestic Latvian law. The definition of AI contained in the Artificial Intelligence Act (the 'AI Act'), an EU regulation on AI, will become binding in Latvia when the regulation enters into force.

2. In your jurisdiction, besides legal tech tools (ie, law firm or claim management, data platforms, etc), are there already actual AI tools or use cases in practice for legal services?

To our knowledge, AI tools have not been consistently deployed in the legal services sector. However, a well-known AI tool already in use in the public domain, and not solely within the legal services sector, is ChatGPT.

3. If yes, are these AI tools different regarding: • independent law firms; • international law firms; and • in-house counsel; and what are these differences?

To the extent of our knowledge, AI tools have not been implemented within the legal domain. Rather, tools that are accessible across various sectors are utilised.

4. What is the current or planned regulatory approach on AI in general?

Currently, the planned general regulatory approach on AI in Latvia will be the AI Act, the EU regulation on AI. Currently, there are no planned domestic law initiatives in the area of AI.

5. What are the current or planned regulations on the general use of AI or machine learning systems?

Currently, there is no current or planned legislation regarding AI besides the EU AI Act.

6. Is free data access an issue in relation to AI?

Access to data and their use will be governed by the AI Act.

7. Are there already actual court decisions on the provision of legal services using AI or decisions concerning other sectors that might be applicable to the use of AI in the provision of legal services?

As at the time of writing, there are no court decisions regarding the utilisation of AI.

8. What is the current status – planned, discussed or implemented – of the sectorial legislation in your jurisdiction on the use of AI in the legal profession or services that are traditionally provided by lawyers?

The utilisation of AI within the legal domain is presently a subject of discussion. Currently, AI is not extensively employed in the legal sector; thus, discussions regarding the necessity and specifics of regulation are not widely prevalent in the public sphere. It is conceivable that a more pronounced impact may ensue following the implementation of the EU AI Act.

9. What is the role of the national bar organisations or other official professional institutions?

We are not aware that the Latvian Bar Association has initiated any initiatives regarding the utilisation of AI in the legal profession.

However, the Council of Sworn Notaries of Latvia is contemplating the development of an IT (information technology) tool that may employ AI for the compilation of client data from various registers and databases.

According to public information on the Latvian Courts' web portal, representatives of the Court Administration, which is tasked with supporting the work of Latvian courts, recently exchanged opinions and practices with employees from the Supreme Court administration regarding the possibilities of AI.

The highlighted potential uses of AI in Latvian courts include:

- automated analysis of court decisions to identify inaccuracies, trends and patterns, such as the most frequently violated legal rules and the most common causes of disputes; and
- analysis of patterns and trends in large data sets, for example, analysis of similar cases and evaluation of the effectiveness of legal arguments.

One of the goals of AI-assisted analysis is the promotion of consistency of case law. No specific AI tools were highlighted for use in Latvian courts