3C.1: Self-enforcing IP Law: Life after DRM

project aims

to inform the development of a new generation of computational representations of legal norms that realise the benefits of computational copyright protections without negative side effects

dates & contributors

1st October 2013 - 30th September 2015
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Creating CoReO
Computer Assisted Copyright Reform Observatory

highlighted output

Joint project with the Computer Science Department of the Technical University Tallin

aim

In the past, computational representations of copyright law were almost exclusively used for DRM technology applied within the consumer realm of the creative industry. The problems of this approach are well known - unhappy customers and widespread circumvention

methodology

This project explores more "creative" approaches to computational copyright law - instead of focussing on consumers, it aims to utilise "self-applying" law to reduce costs both for the legislative process and also for the management of licenses and contracts by the rights holders and their legal representatives

research questions

How can we translate empirical research such as that developed by CREATe into legislation with the lowest costs and the least disruption for industry, using advanced AI and natural language processing techniques?

How can we assist law firms identifying where law reform will disrupt current practices, or impact on "legacy" contracts or licenses using the same methods?

results

Proof of concept: we formalised the semantic connections in Estonian copyright law to show how changes in one part of the legal system can change aspects of copyright law in unforeseen ways, resulting in disruptive law reform and likely costs
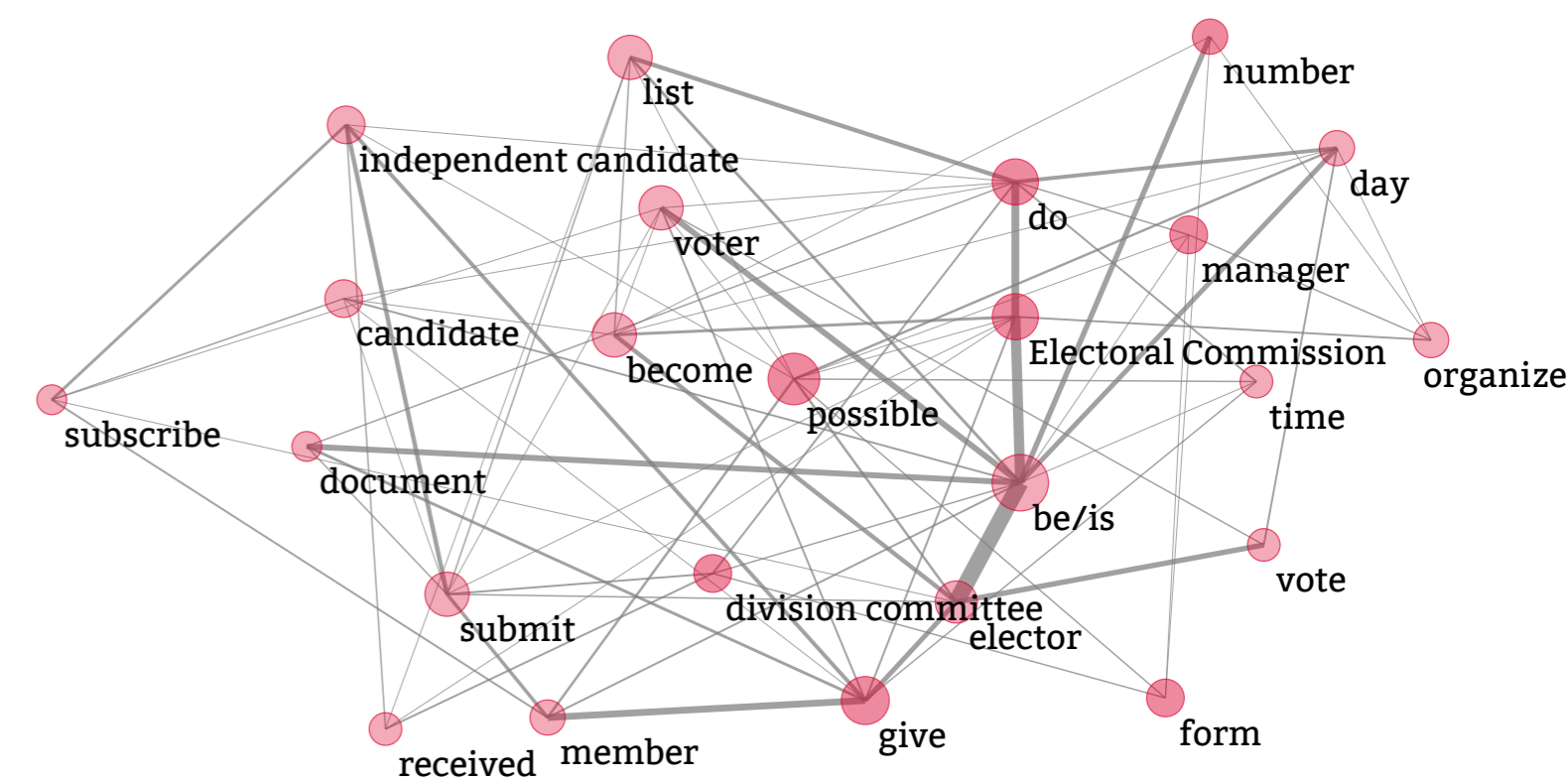
outputs

B Schafer, E Taks, A Rull: "Creating Coreo, the Computational Copyright Observatory" in M. Araszkiewicz et al (eds), *Logic in the Theory and Practice of Lawmaking*, (Springer 2015)

O Conetta, B Schafer: "LKIF in Commercial Legal Practice: Transaction Configuration from Eurobonds to Copyright" in Kevin Ashley (eds) *Legal Knowledge and Information Systems - JURIX 2013* (IOS Press, 2013) pp. 63 - 72
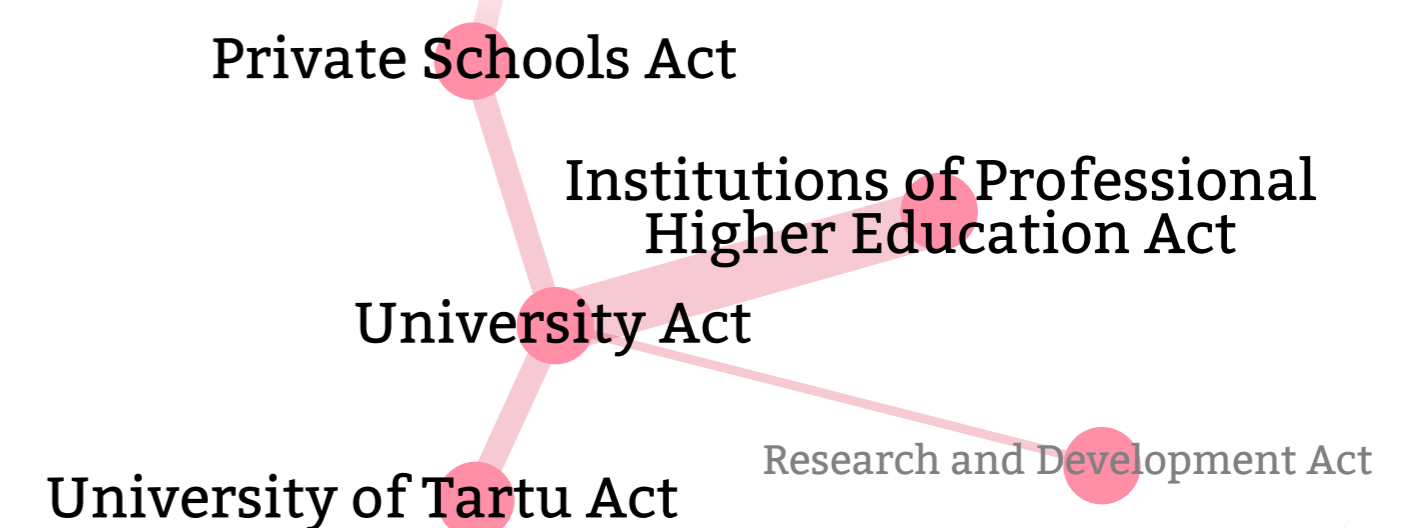
1 - identify legislative norms

if [regulated state of affairs] obtains
then [legal consequence]

2 - process norm vocabulary connections

3 - identify (unexpected or non-obvious) connections between legislative norms

Private Schools Act

Institutions of Professional Higher Education Act

University Act

University of Tartu Act

Research and Development Act

script