List	of A	Autl	nors	XVII
Prefa	ace:	Th	ne Project	XXV
List	of A	Abb	reviations	XXIX
Cha	ap:	ter		
Judi	cia	lar	eport on the Application of Foreign Law by and Non-Judicial Authorities in Europe	
(Pro	jec	τJL	S/CJ/2007-1/03)	3
I.	Int	rod	uction	4
	1.	Intawa. law a. b. c. d. Th a.	ration of Foreign law by Judicial Authorities in Europe roduction: the factual/legal condition of foreign before national courts Legal nature of foreign law Factual nature of foreign law Hybrid nature of foreign law Conclusion: the lack of a valid and effective response introduction of foreign law in the case at stake The condition granted to choice-of-law rules and the application of foreign law The pleading of foreign law before national courts i) Countries endorsing the legal nature of foreign law ii) Countries endorsing the factual nature of foreign law iii) Countries endorsing the hybrid nature of foreign law iv) Conclusion: inconsistencies exist between the theoretical approach upheld and its practical implementation Application of foreign law by courts and the "iura novit curia" principle i) EU Member States endorsing the hybrid nature of foreign law iii) EU Member States endorsing the legal condition of	8 10 13 16 17 18 22 22 27 28 30 31 31
			iii) EU Member States endorsing the legal condition of foreign law	2.2
			Torcign law	32

37 38
38
38
39
45
47
48
w 49
law 53
law 55
56
ns as
56
57
w 58
dition
59
59
64
64
ntent
67
73
75
urope
79
81
83
ling
87
89
89
90
95

Chapter 2

Austria and Germany

1.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. Ex officio ascertainment of foreign law	IOI
	a. General rule	IOI
	b. Legal reality	102
	c. Gapfilling	103
	2. Modifications of the principle of iura novit curia	104
	3. Role of the parties	105
	4. Means of ascertainment used by the court	105
	5. Sufficient proof	107
	6. In case foreign law cannot be ascertained: application of the lex fori	108
	7. Review of judgments rendered on the basis of foreign law	IIO
	8. Costs	II2
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	113
III.	Evaluation of the Austrian/German rule	
	1. Broad acceptance of the ex officio approach	113
	2. Remaining questions	114
Balt	tic Countries	
I.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	119
	2. Nature of foreign law	120
	3. The role of the court and parties regarding the pleading and	
	proof of foreign law	121
	4. When and how foreign law is deemed proved	123
	5. Grounds for rejecting the application of foreign law	124
	6. Possibilities to review judgment rendered on the basis of foreign law	125
	7. Conventions regarding the application of foreign law	127
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	127
n 1		
Belg	gium	
I.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. Nature of foreign law in Belgium	129
	2. Pleading and proof of foreign law: role of the parties and the judge	131
	3. Means of ascertainment of foreign law	133

	4. When and how foreign law is deemed established in time?	134
	5. How does a court apply foreign law?	135
	6. How can gaps be filled and what happens in case of lack of	
	ascertainment of foreign law?	136
	7. When and how may the application of foreign law be	
	rejected by the court?	137
	8. Review of the judgment rendered on the basis of foreign law	137
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial authorities	139
Bul	garia	
I.	Introduction	145
II.	Legal Rules on Application of Foreign Law	
	1. Code of Private International Law	146
	2. International Conventions on proof of foreign law	147
III.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. Legal nature of foreign law	147
	2. The principle "iura novit curia"	148
	3. Pleading and proof of foreign law	149
	4. Lack of proof of foreign law	151
	5. Costs for ascertainment of the foreign law	152
	6. Appeal based on the insufficient or incorrect application/	
	interpretation of foreign law	153
	7. Rejection of application of foreign law	154
IV.	Main Features of the Application of	
	Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
	1. Non-judicial authorities applying foreign law	154
	2. Application of foreign law by non-judicial authorities	154
	3. Pleading and proof of foreign law by non-judicial authorities	159
V.	Conclusion	159
		•
Cyp	orus	
I.	General Overview	161
II.	Pleading Foreign Law	162
III.	Proving Foreign Law	164

IV.	The Role of the Trial Judge	166
V.	Failure to Prove Foreign Law	168
VI.	The Right to Review Foreign Law	170
VII	Review of Foreign Law on Appeal	170
VIII	. Concluding Remarks	171
Cze	ech Republic and Slovak Republic	
I.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. General introduction	173
	2. Brief history of legal regulation	174
	3. Fundamental principles of the current legal regulation	
	regarding the application of foreign law	175
	a. Duty to apply foreign law	175
	b. Foreign law is treated as law	175
	c. The principle "iura novit curia" and the duty to ascertain	
	the content of foreign law	176
	d. Application of foreign law	176
	e. Exceptions	176
	4. Ascertaining of the content of foreign law	177
	5. Application of the lex fori instead of foreign law	179
	6. Review of the judgment rendered on the basis of foreign law	181
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
	1. General introduction	181
	2. Review of the decision rendered on the basis of foreign law	182
Frai	nce	
I.	Introduction	185
II.	The Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
TT.	1. The introduction of foreign law in the case	186
	a. The ubiquitous distinction of available and unavailable rights	187
	b. The mandatory character of the choice of law rule when	107
	unavailable rights are involved	188
	c. The optional application of the choice of law rule when	100
	available rights are involved	188
	2. The ascertainment of foreign law	189
	a. The burden of proof	190
		190

	b. The available modes of proof	190
	c. The interpretation of foreign sources	192
	d. Failure to establish foreign law	192
	3. The exclusion of foreign law on the ground of public policy	193
	a. The French doctrine of "ordre public international"	193
	b. The activation of the public policy mechanism	194
	4. Wrongful application of foreign law	195
	a. The theory of equivalence	195
	b. The grounds of the review of appellate decisions by	
	the Cour de cassation	195
III.	The Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
	1. The introduction of foreign law in the case	197
	2. The ascertainment of foreign law	197
	3. The exclusion of foreign law	198
Gre	ece	
T	T	0 O T
1.	Introduction	201
II.	Historical Background: The Treatment of	
	Foreign Law Under the Code of Civil Procedure of 1834	201
III.	Legal Nature of Foreign Law	203
IV.	The Judicial Treatment of Foreign Law	203
W 7		
V.	Proof of Foreign Law	205
TIT	The Consequences of the Failure to Prove Foreign Law	207
V I.	The Consequences of the Famure to Frove Poreign Law	207
VII.	Judicial Control	209
V LA	Judicial Collector	
VIII	. Public Policy	210
Hur	ngary	
T		
I.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	213
	 Legal nature of foreign law in Hungary The role played by the judge and by the parties as regards proof of 	214
	foreign law and the ascertainment of the content of foreign law	215
	4. When and how is foreign law deemed proved?	217
	5. How is foreign law applied by the court and how are gaps filled?	217

	6. When and how may the application of foreign law	
	be rejected by the court?	217
	7. Possibilities of reviewing the judgment rendered on the basis	
	of foreign law by upper courts	220
	8. Is there any bilateral/multilateral convention as regards the proof	
	of foreign law applicable? How do they work in practice?	22I
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	223
	2. Specific features (differences and identities	,
	compared with judicial authorities)	225
	a. Application of foreign law in notarial proceedings	225
	i) Probate proceedings	225
	ii) Drafting of wills	227
	b. Application of foreign law before court proceedings in family cases	227
	i) Proceedings of the registrar for contracting marriage	228
	ii) Registration of non-marital cohabitation	228
	iii) International adoption	229
	iv) Paternal recognition	229
Irel	and	
I.	Introduction	23I
II.	Legal or Factual Nature Granted to Foreign Law in Ireland	231
III.	The Role Played by the Judge and by the Parties as Regards the	
	Plea and/or proof of Foreign Law and the Means Referred to as Regards	
	the Ascertainment of its Content	232
IV.	The Specific Case of Canon Law Before Irish Courts	234
V.	Final Remarks	235
Ital	y	
I.	General Overview	237
II.	The Nature of Foreign Law: Article 14 of the Italian Reform of PIL	239
III.	The Role Played by the Judge and by the Parties	242
IV.	The Ascertainment of the Content of Foreign Law	244

V.	The Proof of the Content of Foreign Law	245
VI.	Problems on the Application of Foreign Law	246
VII.	Reasons for Rejecting the Application of Foreign Law	248
VIII	. The Review of Judgements Rendered in Application of Foreign Law	249
IX.	International Conventions	249
Lux	embourg	
I.	Preliminary Remarks	255
	 Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities General overview Nature of foreign Law The role played by judges and parties concerning the pleading and proof of foreign law The proper moment to prove foreign law, the object and means of proof Applying and rejecting the application of foreign law Possibilities of review by Upper Courts International conventions on proof of foreign law Application of Foreign Law by Non-judicial Authorities General overview Divergences among judicial and non-judicial systems Some Final Comments 	255 256 256 257 260 260 261 261
Ma	lta	
I.	Introduction	265
II.	Legal or Factual Nature Granted to Foreign Law	266
III.	Pleading Foreign Law and Ascertaining its Content	266
IV.	The Means Referred to by the Court and/or by the Parties as Regards the Ascertainment of the Content of Foreign Law	269
V.	Failure to Proof Foreign Law	270

VI.	Rejection of the Application of Foreign Law by the Court	271
VII.	Possibilities of Review of the Judgment rendered on the basis of Foreign Law by Courts of Second Instance Superior Courts	272
VIII	. Bilateral/Multilateral Conventions Regarding the Proof of Foreign Law	273
IX.	Final Remarks	273
Pola	and	
I.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities 1. General overview	275
	 Legal nature attributed to foreign law The role played by the judge and by the parties as regards 	276
	the plea and proof of foreign law 4. The means by which the content of foreign law may be ascertained.	279
	Cooperation between the court and the parties 5. The sufficient determination of the content of foreign law in a	283
	reasonable time 6. Rejecting the application of foreign law 7. Describilities of review of the independent rendered on the basis of foreign	286 287
	 7. Possibilities of review of the judgment rendered on the basis of foreign law 8. Multilateral and bilateral conventions as regards the proof of foreign 	289
	law	290
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities 1. General overview 2. Similarities and differences between the system of application of	291
	foreign law by judicial and non-judicial authorities	292
III.	Final Comments and Conclusions	294
Por	tugal	
I.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	 General overview Legal or factual nature granted to foreign law in the specific 	301
	3. The role played by the judge and by the parties as regards the	302
	plea and/or proof of foreign law and the possibility/obligation of cooperation between them as regards these two issues The means referred to by the court and/or by the parties as regards	303
	4. The means referred to by the court and/or by the parties as regards the ascertainment of the content of foreign law	303

	5. When and how is foreign law deemed proved? Meaning of	
	proof in a reasonable time	304
	6. How is foreign law applied by the court? How are gaps filled?	306
	7. When and how may the application of foreign law	
	be rejected by the court?	307
	a. Public policy (ordre public)	307
	b. Mandatory rules	309
	c. Unconstitutionality	310
	8. Possibilities of review of the judgment rendered on the	
	basis of foreign law by Upper Courts	311
	9. Is there any Bilateral/Multilateral convention as regards the proof	
	of foreign law applicable? How do they work in practice?	311
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	312
	2. In case any specific system exists as regards this issue, which are the	
	main similarities/differences in relation with the system of application	1
	of foreign law by judicial authorities	313
Ror	nania	
I.	Short Introduction	317
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. Legal nature granted to foreign law in Romania	318
	2. The role played by the judge and the parties as regards the	
	pleading and/or proof of foreign law and the possibility/obligation	
	of cooperation between them as regards these two issues	319
	a. Application	319
	b. Ascertainment of the content of foreign law	319
	3. The means referred to by the court and/or the parties as regards	
	the ascertainment of the content of foreign law	320
	4. When and how foreign law is deemed proved in a reasonable time?	321
	5. How is foreign law applied by the court? How are gaps filled?	321
	6. When and how may the application of foreign law be rejected	
	by the court?	322
	7. Possibilities of review of the judgment rendered on the basis of	
	foreign law by Upper Courts	322
	8. Existing bilateral/multilateral conventions as regards the proof of	
	foreign law and the way they work	323
III.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	324
	2. Which are the main similarities/differences regarding the system of	
	application of foreign law by judicial authorities?	324

Scandinavian Countries

I.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	327
	2. Legal and factual nature of foreign law	329
	3. The role played by the judge or the parties	330
	4. The means referred to by the court and/or by the parties as regards the	
	ascertainment of the content of foreign law	33I
	5. When and how is foreign law deemed proved?	
	Meaning of proof in a reasonable time	332
	6. How is foreign law applied by the court? How are gaps filled?	334
	7. When and how may the application of foreign law be	331
	rejected by the court?	335
	8. Possibilities of review of the judgment rendered on the	
	basis of foreign law by Upper Courts	337
	9. Bilateral and multilateral agreements	227
	7. Difateral and multifateral agreements	331
TT	Application of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
TIO	1. General overview	227
	2. Special characteristics	337
	a. Ombudsman institution	341
	b. Appeal procedure	341
	D. Appear procedure	342
Slo	venia	
	VCITIC	
T	Introduction	215
1.	Introduction	345
TT	Foreign Law – Legal Nature and Main Features	215
TT.	Torcigir Law - Legar Pature and Want Peatures	345
TTT	Pleading, Proving and Applying Foreign Law	
TTT.	1. Pleading and proving foreign law before judicial and	
	non-judicial authorities	217
	2. The nature of the conflict of laws rules	347
	3. The role of the parties	349
		349
	4. Costs concerning the application of the foreign law	350
	5. Assistance on the application of foreign law by the Ministry of Justice	350
	6. Legal remedies in case of non-application or misapplication	
	of the foreign law	351
	7. The foreign law and provisions which effects are contrary to the	
	domestic public order	352
T T 7	International Commitments on the Basis of International Conventions	252
I V •	International Commitments on the Dasis of International Conventions	353
V.	Conclusion	353

Spain

I.	Introduction	355
II.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	356
	2. The "hybrid" character granted to foreign law	357
	3. The role played by judges and parties concerning the pleading and	
	proof of foreign law	358
	4. The proper moment to prove foreign law, means and object of proof	360
	a. The proper moment to prove foreign law	361
	b. Means of proof of foreign law	361
	c. The object of proof	362
	5. Assessing the final application or rejection of foreign law	363
	6. Possibilities of review by upper courts	364
	7. International conventions on proof of foreign law	366
III.	Application of Foreign Law by Non-judicial Authorities	
	1. General overview	368
	2. Divergences between judicial and non-judicial authorities	
	regarding the application of foreign law	369
	3. The consequences of the lack of proof of foreign law	371
IV.	Some Final Remarks	372
The	e Netherlands	
I.	Introduction	377
II.	The Dutch Approach towards the Application of Foreign Law	
	1. General overview – the legal nature of foreign law	377
	2. The role played by the judge and the parties and the means as	
	regards the ascertainment of the content of foreign law	380
	3. The application of foreign law and the consequences of the	
	lack of proof of foreign law	383
	4. Conventions	384
	5. Application controls	386
III.	The Future – the Process of Codification of	
	Dutch Private International Law	388

United Kingdom

1.	Application of Foreign Law by Judicial Authorities		
	1.	General overview	391
	2.	Legal or factual nature granted to foreign law in	
		the specific country dealt with	392
	3.	The role played by the judge and by the parties as regards	
		the plea and/or proof of foreign law and the possibility/obligation	
		of co-operation between them as regards these two issues	393
		a. Role of the parties	393
		b. Role of the judge	395
	4.	The means referred to by the court and/or by the parties as	
		regards the ascertainment of the content of foreign law	397
	5.	When and how foreign law is deemed proved?	
		Meaning of proof in a reasonable time	398
	6.	How is foreign law applied by the court? How are gaps filled?	400
		a. England and Wales	400
		b. Scotland	401
	Sec. Sec. Sec. Sec. Sec. Sec. Sec. Sec.	c. Northern Ireland	402
		Failure to prove foreign law	402
	8.	When and how may the application of foreign law be rejected by the	
	0	court?	404
	9.	Possibilities of review of the judgment rendered on the basis of foreign	
	1.0	law by Upper Courts	404
	10	. Is there any bilateral/multilateral convention as regards the proof of	
		foreign law applicable? How do they work in practice?	405
II.	Ar	plication of Foreign Law by Non-Judicial Authorities	
	1.	The notary public	406
	2.	General Register Office	407
III.	Su	mmary	407