

BACKGROUND:

Mapping the performance of East European member states in transposing and complying with EU law after their accession shows questionable success rates in certain fields, or even reform reversals in others. In the field of nature-conservation (left) the compliance record varies widely among CEE member states; regarding the democratic balance (right) several member states recently introduced legislation to dilute the rule of law. There is a need for longitudinal studies across policy fields and over longer periods of time to reveal existing patterns of legislative instability; this would open up the possibility to strengthen democracy and the rule of law and to identify de-Europeanization even before it happens.

QUESTION:

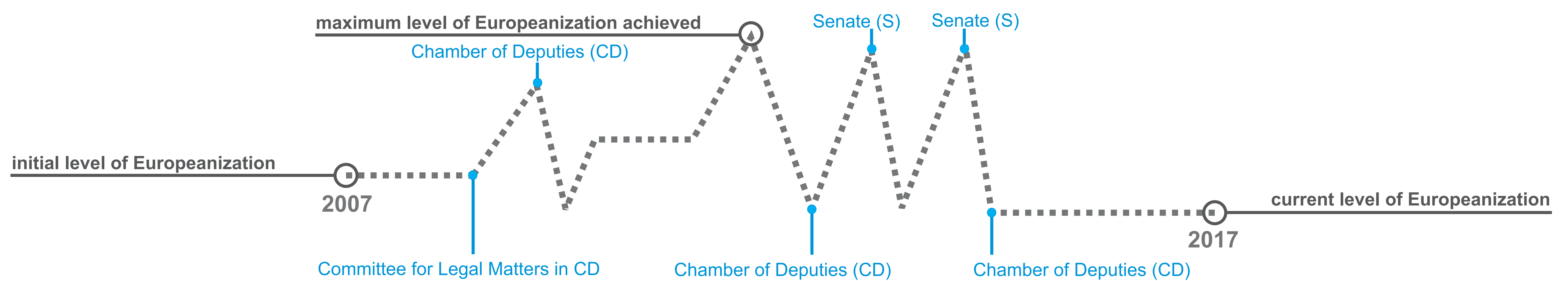
How can de-Europeanization be effectively measured?

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Using digital data analysis for measuring and preventing de-Europeanization

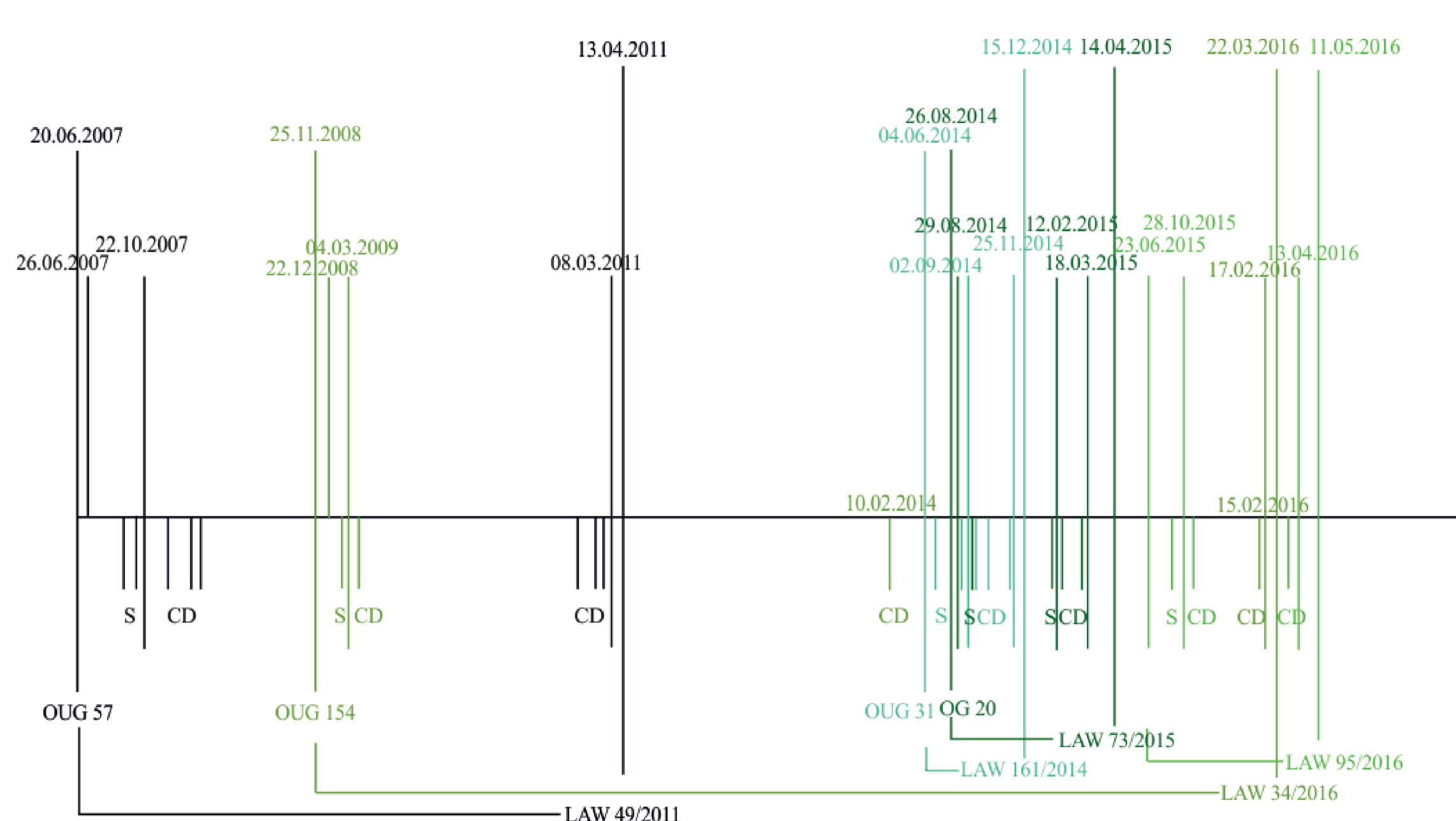
a computer-based method for checking compliance, drawing on Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithms using large amounts of public data retrieved from the websites of national parliaments, following decisions taken in committees or in the different parliamentary chambers.

The model tracks legislative changes, flags instances of reversal, and generates graphs illustrating the evolution of each law:

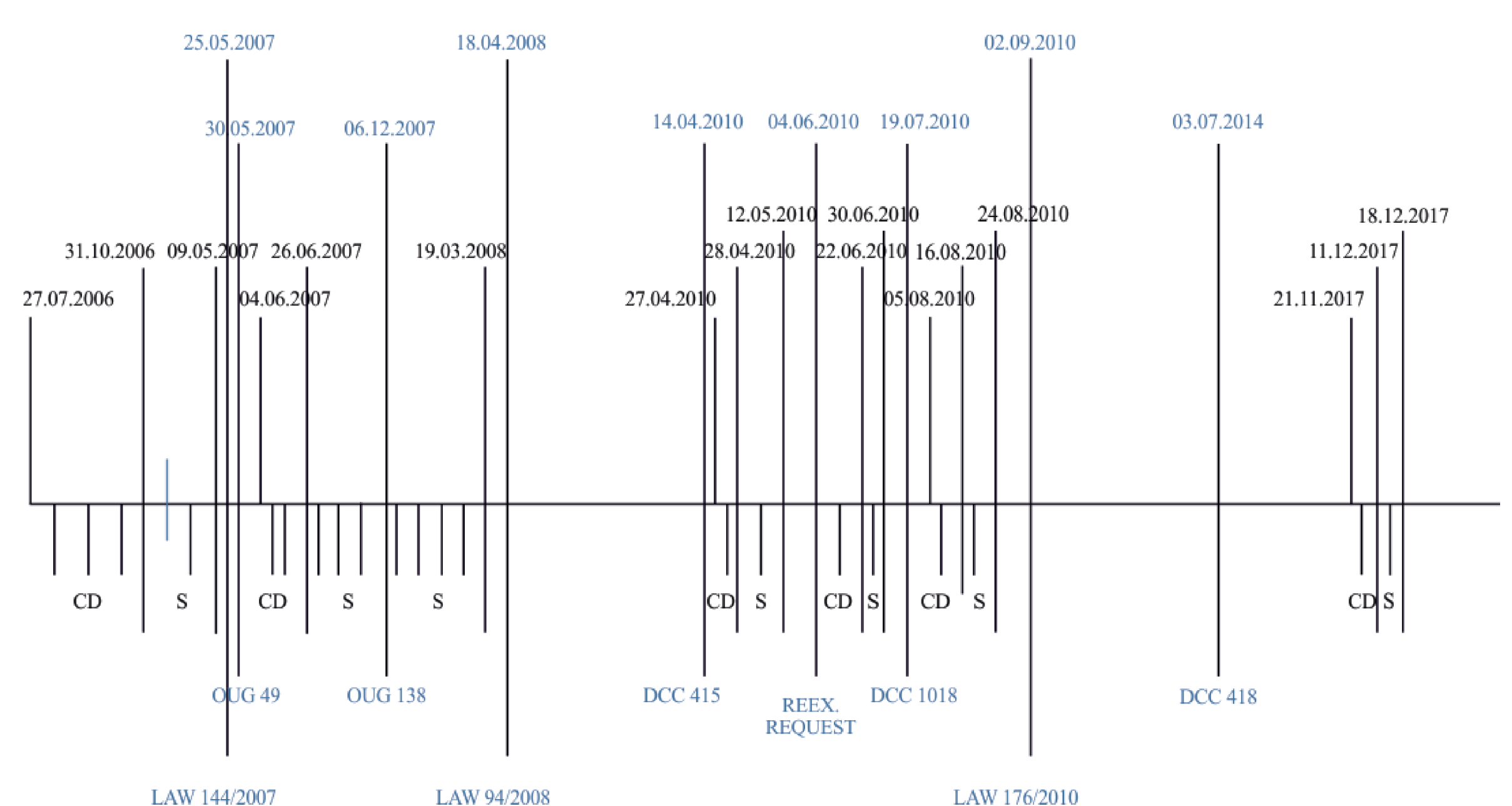


The proposed study draws on a pilot-project assessing Romanian legislation and observing its:

Procedural aspects – overlaps, legislative parallelisms, too hasty or slow decision-making, abusive use of procedural maneuvers



The Development of the Law Regulating the Establishment of Protected Areas (OUG 57/2007)



The Development of the Law Establishing a National Integrity Agency for Romania (L 144/2007)

Substantive aspects – patterns of moving away from a level of Europeanization already achieved (observed variation in the Sanctions chapters of laws)

