ACCESS TO BASE REGISTRIES (2016.28)

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

Type of Activity	Common frameworks
Service in charge	DG DIGIT.B6
Associated Services	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Communication on the Digital Single Market Strategy states that public services in Europe have embraced new technologies to varying degrees. However more can be done in order to modernise public administrations, achieve cross-border interoperability and facilitate easy interactions with citizens.

One way to achieve efficiency and increase user-friendliness is the once-only principle, meaning that instead of asking the citizen for information that they have already provided, public administrations will reuse the information they already have. The DSM states that only in 48% of cases do public administrations reuse information about citizens and businesses that they already possess.

This Action will contribute towards achieving the goals stated in the DSM Strategy and Action Plan. Base registries are authentic sources of data for public administrations. As such, they are one of the basic building blocks of public services and the key to making the once-only principle a reality.

The situation on access and interconnection of base registries is varied. Most Member States have realized the importance of interconnecting their base registries and are implementing interconnection infrastructures in order to achieve this.

On the European level,some important initiatives are in the process of being developed. The Directive on the Interconnection of Business Registries (**Directive 2012/17/EU)** mandates the interconnection of the business registries of all the Member States and also has a provision on the construction of an interconnecting infrastructure. Initial steps are being taken in order to build this interconnecting. The eJustice Portal also serves as an important point for the interconnection of different types of registries. An interconnection of the Insolvency Registries with the eJustice Portal has already been achieved and currently plans for the interconnection of other types of registries are proceeding. INSPIRE compliant catalogues are available (i.e. in the marine, atmosphere, climate, emergency and land data domains), that could contribute to the cataloguing of European public services at large.

Three main problems that hinder the work on the interconnection of base registries and the once-only principle have been identified.

1) There is a lack of an overview of solutions that have already been developed and could be reused in order to facilitate the interconnection and access to base registries. Reusing solutions could make the development of base registries and interconnecting infrastructures much faster and more cost-efficient.

2) The exchange and promotion of best practices among Member States could also help in speeding up development and overcome certain problems that are being faced by developers. Currently there is a lack of such guidelines.

3) There is no overview and detailed analysis of the current state of affairs on base registry interconnection and the once-only principle in the individual Member States. This overview is a pressing priority, as it is needed in order to develop the right policies on the European level and also to identify missing solutions.

The base registries Action will address these three challenges. The first two challenges have begun to be tackled under ISA and will continue to be tackled under ISA2. The third challenge will be the main priority for the beginning of the first phase of the Action under ISA2. This more detailed analysis of the state of affairs will serve as input for the tackling of the first two challenges, but also as input to the formulation of European Commission policies on the once only principle. Any policies that the EC enacts need to keep in mind the particular situations of the Member States and the subsidiarity principle. The ways to achieve the objective of interconnection and access to base registers and the information they contain, may differ depending on the particular institutional context of each Member State.

OBJECTIVES

- Create a Cartography of Reusable Solutions for Base Registry Interconnection
- Create Guidelines for Successful Base Registry Interconnection
- Map out the state of play for base registries in all 28 EU Member States, plus non-MS ISA countries and some relevant accession countries
- Continuously update the three previous objectives in order to keep them up to date and relevant

SCOPE

The current phases of Action will aim at the improvement and promotion of three important elements which have been delivered in the last phase and which will be further expanded in future phases:

1) Cartography of Reusable Solutions for Base Registry Interconnection
2) Guidelines for Successful Base Registry Interconnection
3) State of Play of Base Registry Interconnection in the EU and MS

These three deliverables will be displayed in a user-friendly way in order for interested parties to be able to get the information they seek as soon as possible without having to search for a long time.

ACTION PRIORITY

Contribution to the interoperability landscape

The contribution of the action to the interoperability landscape, measured by the importance and necessity of the action to complete the interoperability landscape across the Union

Question	Answer
Does the proposal directly contribute to implementing the European Interoperability Strategy, the European Interoperability Framework, or other EU policies with interoperability requirements, or needed cross-border or cross-sector interoperability initiatives? If yes, please indicate the EU initiative / policy and the nature of contribution.	According to the EIF, base registries are one of the key building blocks of public services.
Does the proposal fulfil an interoperability need for which no other alternative solution is available?	Base registries fulfil an interoperability role that cannot be carried out by any alternative solution. They contain the authentic and authoritative data needed to carry them out.

1.1.1.1 Cross-sector

The scope of the action, measured by its horizontal impact, once completed, across the sectors concerned

Question	Answer
*Will the proposal, **once completed** be useful, from the interoperability point of view, and utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? If yes, which are those?*	The data contained in base registries can be reused for any type of public service and it is very important for the once-only principle. In terms of the Action results, the Cartography of Reusable Solutions will map out different reusable solutions for base registries, which will allow the developers of base registries to reuse already existing solutions, instead of building new ones.
*For proposals or their parts **already in operational phase**: have they been utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? Which are they?*	Solutions developed under the Action on Base Registries are used in the Business Register Interconnection System.

1.1.1.2 Cross-border

The geographical reach of the action, measured by the number of Member States and of European public administrations involved.

Question	Answer
*Will the proposal, **once completed** be useful, from the interoperability point of view, and used by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?*	The results of the Action on Base Registries can be reused by any Member State or public administration.
*For proposals or their parts **already in operational phase**: have they been utilised by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?*	Some reusable elements delivered in past phases of the action, such as the search engine or the e-payment mechanism are in the process of being put into use by BRIS and are being considered for reuse by other interconnection initiatives.

1.1.1.3 Urgency

The urgency of the action, measured by its potential impact, taking into account the lack of other funding sources

Question	Answer
Is your action urgent? Is its implementation foreseen in an EU policy as priority, or in EU legislation?	Base Registries are seen as a priority in the EIS, EIF, as well as form a key pillar of the Once-Only Principle.
Does the ISA^2 scope and financial capacity better fit for the implementation of the proposal as opposed to other identified and currently available sources?	As one of the priorities in the EIS and the EIF, ISA2 is the best fit for the implementation of this proposal.

1.1.1.4 Reusability of action outputs

The re-usability of the action, measured by the extent to which its results can be re-used

Name of reusable solution	Cartography of Reusable Solutions
Description	This is a catalogue of existing reusable solutions for different phases of base registry projects.
Reference	

Target release date / Status	The initial Cartography should be up by the end of 2016. It will be continuously updated.
Critical part of target user base	
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	

Name of reusable solution	Guidelines for Base Registry Access and Interconnection
Description	The guidelines tackle different challenges and problems that projects on base registry access and interconnection come across and provide instructions on how to tackle them.
Reference	
Target release date / Status	The initial Guidelines should be released by the end of 2016. They will be continuously updated.
Critical part of target user base	
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	

Name of reusable solution	State of Affairs in the MS
Description	This is a state of affairs analysis for base registry access and interconnection in the MS. It will allow policymakers to have up to date information on what is happening in the MS and use that as input for the crafting of different policies on the MS and EU levels.
Reference	
Target release date / Status	An initial state of affairs analysis should be completed by the end of 2016. It will be continuously updated.
Critical part of target user base	
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	

Level of reuse by the proposal

The re-use by the action of existing common frameworks and elements of interoperability solutions.

Question	Answer
Does the proposal intend to make use of any ISA[2], ISA or other relevant interoperability solution(s)? Which ones?	The proposal makes use of several ISA interoperability solutions, including the Core Vocabularies and EIRA.
For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: has the action reused existing interoperability solutions? If yes, which ones?	

Interlinked

The link of the action with Union initiatives to be measured by the collaboration and contribution level of the action to Union initiatives such as the DSM.

Question	Answer
Does the proposal directly contribute to at least one of the Union's high political priorities such as the DSM? If yes, which ones? What is the level of contribution?	The Action contributes to the Once-Only Principle, which is one of the priorities of the DSM.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Currently most public administrations store their authentic data on citizens, businesses, properties, vehicles and other items in large databases called base registries. The problem is that this data is often duplicated in other databases as well and the different parts of the public administrations are not interconnected between each other.

This results in a subpar delivery of public services and higher costs. Citizens are often asked to provide their data multiple times to different entities within the public administration, which causes significant burden for them.

The solution to this problem is to interconnect the different base registries, which will allow the citizen to provide their data only once. The different public administration entities providing this data will then be able to access this data without having to ask the citizen for it again (provided there is user consent).

EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
Member States' public administrations	More efficient and effective access to information across borders when establishing European Public Services. - Improved cooperation and communication between base registers
European Commission Services	Development of a software toolset and accompanying blueprint on integration knowledge management will facilitate future automation and integration projects by providing loose blocks of reusable components.
Citizens and enterprises	Reduction of administrative burden - Easier cross-border access to Base Registries information (e.g. through the generic search engine, through open data services) - Increased transparency at EU level regarding companies

EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS

No outputs additional to outputs already mentioned under section 1.1.1.4

1.1.2 ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

1.1.2.1 Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives
ISA2 representatives	
European Commission DGs	

Communication plan

Governance approach

The entire action will be coordinated under the ISA2 Programme. A Steering Committee will be set up.

The Steering Committee will:
- Champion the project, raising awareness at senior level
- Guide and promote the successful execution of the project at a strategic level
- Provide high level monitoring and control of the project
- Adopt the project charter
- Follow timely delivery and quality of new developments delivered by the system supplier
- Set priorities, authorise plan deviations, scope changes with high project impact and decide on recommendations
- Arbitrate on conflicts and negotiate solutions to important problems
- Drive and manage change in the organisation
- Ensure adherence to organisation policies and directions
- Approve and sign-off all key management milestone artefacts (vision document, project plan, business case, etc.)

TECHNICAL APPROACH AND CURRENT STATUS

The technical approach will build upon the previous studies done under the Action on Base Registries and take advantage of synergies with other ISA Actions such as the Cartography and the European Interoperability Reference Architecture.

The Action is in the process of implementing a practical tool (dashboard) in JoinUp. This tool will allow different stakeholders to access the three main outputs of the current phases of the Action (Cartography of Reusable Solutions, Guidelines for Base Registry Interconnection, State of Play on Base Registry Interconnection in the MS) in an interactive way.

The three main deliverables are being converted into dashboards and interested parties will be able to click through to the relevant information they are looking for. In this way, they won't have to read through long word documents, but instead have all the relevant information be gathered in a user-friendly way on JoinUp. This dashboard will serve as the main hub of a community that will promote the interconnection and access to base registries.

The three studies will serve as main inputs to the dashboard. As such, these studies will be continuously updated in order to reflect the changing situation of base registry interconnection on the EU and MS levels.

The aim of this Action is to be of practical help to the different initiatives trying to interconnect base registries. The action should provide guidance to the different initiatives and some potentially reusable solutions. This will be done through three main deliverables: two on the lower level dealing with reusable solutions and guidelines to overcome common problems, and one on a higher level looking at the state of play of base registry access and interconnection in the Member States.

The current and future phases of the action will tackle several common problems that the different developers are facing. This part will be done through two of the three main deliverables of the action on the interconnection and access to base registries:

1) Cartography of Reusable Solutions for Base Registry Interconnection
2) Guidelines for Base Registry Interconnection

In the lifecycle of an interconnection of base registries initiatives, a set of requirements is gathered, which then translates into the definition of architectural building blocks (using TOGAF terminology) with different functionalities that the future system should have. The next challenge comes in trying to identify solutions in order to fulfill those functionalities. Often a new solution is developed in order to fulfill that functionality, when in reality an already existing reusable solution exists for that purpose. One problem that the interconnection initiatives face is that they might not be aware of the different solutions that they could reuse, or if they are aware of potential candidates, they are not sure whether that solution is in fact reusable and fulfills their requirements.

The current phases of the Action should help in that respect. A result of these phases is an initial Cartography of Reusable Solutions for the Interconnection and accessibility of Base Registries, together with guidelines on how to best interconnect and provide access to these base registries and how to use the Cartography of Reusable Solutions to find reusable solutions to fulfill needs. In order to do this, the study will use the EIRA as a basis for its mapping work. The entire work should then become a part of the EU Cartography at ISA.

There are several different problems that the interconnection of base registries faces. In order to help with this, best practices from the different Member States and the European level can be of great help. In order to share these best practices Guidelines for Base Registry Interconnection are being developed and will be further updated in future stages of the action.

However in order to identify the different problems that are being faced another important aspect needs to be looked at and that is the identification of the state of play of base registry interconnection in the different Member States.

Currently, this overview of what is happening in the individual Member States has been missing, which has hindering the process of selecting the right policies on the European level. Having this overview will also help in promoting best practices and reusable solutions across borders. This state of play has been identified as a priority and will form the bulk of the work to be done in the future phases. The result of this is described in a third major deliverable:

3) Analysis of the State of Play of Base Registry Interconnection on the EU and MS levels

This deliverable serves as the initial phase of a mechanism that will monitor the state of play of base registry interconnection in the Member States. This mechanism will not be a benchmarking, but instead serve as input for the European Commission to know what types of solutions and approaches are being developed in the Member States. In this way, it will be better able to take into account the varied approaches and states of development in the different Member States when developing a policy on the Once-Only Principle.

This deliverable will result in a more complete picture of the situation in the Member States in what concerns the base registers. It will look at whether the recommendations that have been identified in the past programme are being applied. It will also cover legal aspects of base registry access, interconnection and the exchange of data, identify the owners of the data, the different responsibilities of the actors, access rights, interfaces, semantics and also the different technical solutions that are implemented.

This state of play will also look at the base registries in a broader complex and identify ways that they could be used in order to achieve end-to-end services.

This analysis also serves as input for the previous two deliverables. From the completed picture, the obstacles that Member States face can be identified. This helps in identifying the ways that the European Commission can help be of assistance. The deliverable will keep in mind the subsidiarity principle and that the ways to achieve the objective of interconnection and access to base registers and the information they contain, may differ depending on the particular institutional context of each member state.

This state of play will also include a more detailed analysis of what is happening on the European level as well and produce recommendations what further steps can be taken in order to facilitate the cross-border interconnection of base registries and the once-only principle.

One challenge that this Action will need to address is how to disseminate this information. One way will be to create an interactive dashboard on JoinUp that will display all this information and where interested parties can click through to quickly get the information they need. A marketing and dissemination plan will be set up in order to promote this material and heighten the awareness of policy makers, developers and other interested parties.

COSTS AND MILESTONES

Breakdown of anticipated costs and related milestones

Phase: Initiation Planning Execution Closing/Final evaluation	Description of milestones reached or to be reached	Anticipated Allocations (KEUR)	Budget line ISA/ others (specify)	Start date (QX/YYYY)	End date (QX/YYYY)
Initiation	Update of actions' deliverables and dashboard creation and maintenance	250		Q4/2016	Q3/2017
Planning	Further steps	197		Q4/2017	Q3/2018
	Total				

Breakdown of ISA funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016	Initiation	250	
2017	Planning	197	
2018			
2019			
2020			