

2.2 SEMANTIC INTEROPERABILITY FOR REPRESENTATION POWERS AND MANDATES (2016.12)

2.2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

Type of Activity	Common frameworks and reusable generic tools
Service in charge	DIGIT B1, B6
Associated Services	CNECT.TFSEC-LEG.EIDAS

2.2.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STORK 2.0 project was initiated with the aim, among others, of developing an operational framework and infrastructure encompassing eID for secure electronic authentication of legal persons, including facilities for the management of representation powers and mandates.

In that sense, the project has achieved significant results, evolving STORK specifications to include attributes for legal persons and representation powers and mandates, and adapting the software building blocks to allow cross-border transfer of this kind of information. The feasibility of the developed solution has been verified by means of the STORK 2.0 pilots, in which use cases that require cross-border access to information about representation capabilities have been successfully tested.

However, the project has also found important barriers that currently hinder the adoption of an EU wide solution for cross-border transfer of representation information, one of the most relevant being the lack of a common semantic framework. Representation is complex and the national solutions are often too much focused on country specific details. Therefore, although there are some similarities among countries, there is not a shared European taxonomy about representation powers and mandates, what prevents powers/mandates information originated in one country from being directly machine processable in other.

Additionally, the need for service providers of having powers/mandates information together with the data regarding the represented and representing persons in order to properly assess the scope of the transactions that the representing person is allowed to perform on behalf of the represented one, has been steadily highlighted in the discussions of the eIDAS expert group.

Taking into account that the goal of the European Commission ISA² programme is the promotion of interoperable electronic public services, and that it includes specific actions about semantic interoperability like the ISA core vocabularies, there is an opportunity for continuing the work done in STORK 2.0 regarding representation powers/mandates under the scope of the ISA² programme and, that way, keep progressing towards the single digital market and the semantic harmonisation Europe-wide. In that sense, an evolution of the ISA Core Vocabularies to extend the Core Person and Core Business vocabularies with a common taxonomy for representation powers/mandates linked to legal entities may be one of the potential initiatives to be taken over by the ISA² programme.

2.2.3 OBJECTIVES

The main objective is **to create a shared European data model about representation powers and mandates**, which allows powers/mandates information originated in the information systems of one country to be directly processed automatically by the information systems in other country. The data model will be tested in real life through pilots with some MS and the technical specification will be put forward to the CEF eID Operational Management Board for endorsement and proposed to be incorporated in the CEF eID sample implementation and extension of the CEF eID technical specifications.

2.2.4 SCOPE

The action will provide a common data model for representation powers / mandates linked to legal entities, aligned with the Core Person and Core Business vocabularies, as well as some tools for integrating that data model into business applications.

2.2.5 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Representation powers and mandates are an essential element for businesses establishing relationships with other businesses, governments and customers, because legal persons can only act legally by means of natural persons. Currently, there are important barriers that hinder the adoption of an EU wide solution for cross-border transfer of representation information, being one of the most relevant the lack of a common semantic framework. Representation is complex, and electronic mandates schemes and policies are basically national and usually do not contemplate the possibility to use those mandates in cross-border scenarios.

2.2.6 EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
EU institutions and Member States	More efficient transmission of information about representation powers and mandates between governments Reduction of the administrative burden imposed to legal persons for performing transactions with the governments Creation of a trusted environment for performing fully online transactions between companies across Europe, fostering the single market
Citizens and business in Europe	Reduction of the transaction costs by automating identification processes for online interaction Prevention of fraud by having more reliable information about representation when conducting business

2.2.7 RELATED EU ACTIONS / POLICIES

Action / Policy	Description of relation, inputs / outputs
eIDAS regulation	The eIDAS regulation established the obligation of mutual recognition of eID for natural and legal among EU countries. However, in the case of legal persons, there is a need for service providers of having powers/mandates information together with the data regarding the represented and representing persons, in order to properly assess the scope of the transactions that the representing person is allowed to perform on behalf of the represented one.
CEF and the eID DSI	<p>The electronic identity (eID) building block helps public administrations and private online service providers to easily extend the use of their online services to citizens from other EU Member States. It allows cross-border authentication, in a secure, reliable and trusted way, by making existing national electronic identification systems interoperable.</p> <p>Once this building block is deployed in a Member State, the mutual recognition of nationally issued eIDs becomes possible between participating Member States, in line with the eIDAS (electronic Identification and Signature) legal framework and with the privacy requirements of all the participating countries.</p> <p>The eID solution provides a strong technical foundation for secure electronic interaction across borders and sectors.</p>
eSENS	<p>e-SENS (Electronic Simple European Networked Services) e-SENS is a large-scale project that embodies the idea of European Digital Market through innovative ICT solutions. It faces technical and legal challenges by providing solutions for seamless public service delivery across borders. e-SENS consolidates, improves and extends existing technical solutions to develop a coherent and sustainable European Interoperability Architecture. This will in turn affect the quality of public services in the EU making them easily accessible across borders.</p> <p>After the end of STORK 2.0, eSENS has taken over the outputs.</p>
Digital Agenda	<p>The proposed action is directly related to the Digital Single Market Strategy, impacting its three pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better access for consumers and businesses to digital goods and services across Europe, by increasing the scope of services that can be provided completely in digital form - Creating the right conditions and a level playing field for digital networks and innovative services to flourish, by enhancing trust in the online world - Maximising the growth potential of the digital economy, by establishing a foundation for developing new online services
eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015	The plan aims to optimise the conditions for the development of cross-border eGovernment services provided to citizens and businesses regardless of their country of origin. This includes the development of an environment which promotes interoperability of systems and key enablers such as

	eSignatures and eidentification. In that sense, interoperability of representation powers and mandates can be seen also as a key enabler directly linked to eID and eSignature, complementing identification information with the capacity of acting on behalf of a legal persona in a particular transaction
ISA Action 1.18	The action aims to extend federated authentication (i.e. verifying if the user is the one he claims to be) by using STORK for federated authorisation (i.e. verifying if the user is entitled to use the requested information or functionality). It allows users to log in to EC applications and to be granted access based on their role or position. For example in case the user is a public official and the application aims at usage by an administration.
Services Directive	The objective of the Services Directive is to realise the full potential of services markets in Europe by removing legal and administrative barriers to trade. By facilitating the electronic exchange of reliable information about representation powers and mandates, this goal can be more easily achieved.

2.2.8 REUSE OF SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED BY ISA, ISA² OR OTHER EU / NATIONAL INITIATIVES

The proposed action will build basically on the results achieved in the STORK 2.0 project, continuing the work the work done in STORK 2.0 regarding representation powers/mandates.

It will reuse also the work performed in other ISA actions related to interoperability, mainly action 1.1 Promoting Semantic Interoperability amongst the European Union Member States (as a general framework for interoperability and provider of the Core Vocabularies), and action 1.2 Access to Base Registries (since access to base registries is needed to obtain the source information about representation), of the ISA Work Programme 2015.

2.2.9 EXPECTED RE-USABLE OUTPUTS (solutions and instruments)

Output name	Shared European data model about representation powers and mandates
Description	Common semantic framework regarding representation powers and mandates, that allows to process automatically in one country information about representation coming from a different country
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q2 2018

2.2.10 ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

2.2.10.1 Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives
Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISA² Committee • ISA² Coordination Group (or ISA CG equivalent) • CEF governance: eID DSI Operational Management Board; eID DSI expert group • Persons/units in charge of National Interoperability Frameworks and/or metadata standards catalogues/repositories, etc. • o Persons/units in charge of business registers, public procurement and taxation applications, representation powers/mandates registries, etc.
Standardization bodies	W3C, OASIS, GS1, CEN , UN/CEFACT, etc.
European Commission	DG JUST, DG GROW, TAXUD, DG DIGIT Unit (s) responsible for promoting common specifications in new and existing system, DG CONNECT as building block owner for eID
End users	Citizens Representatives of companies

2.2.10.2 Communication plan

Due to the strong link of the proposed action with action 1.1 Promoting Semantic Interoperability amongst the European Union Member States and action 1.2 Access to Base Registries, it is suggested that the communication plan for the proposed action leverages the dissemination activities already foreseen in the actions current under execution.

2.2.10.3 Governance approach

Again, due to the link of the proposed action with the two mentioned actions, it is suggested to follow a similar approach to the one followed in those actions: Action run and coordinated by DG DIGIT B1, under the CEF governance for the eID DSI; i.e. Operational Management Board and the eID DSI expert group. Also with strong collaboration with other units of the Commission involved in managing information about representation (e.g. DG JUST as representation information is frequently managed by Business Registers; DG GROW for eProcurement applications; DG TAXUD in relation to the UUM&DS Project). DIGIT B6 will provide support for the development of the semantic data model.

2.2.11 TECHNICAL APPROACH

STORK 2.0 project has developed an operational framework and infrastructure encompassing eID for secure electronic authentication of legal persons, including facilities for the management of representation powers and mandates. In that sense, it has evolved STORK specifications to include attributes for legal persons and representation powers and mandates, and has adapted the SW building blocks to allow cross-border transfer of this kind of information.

The feasibility of the developed solution has been verified by means of the STORK 2.0 pilots, in which use cases that require cross-border access to information about representation capabilities have been successfully tested.

To support this use cases, the project has developed a set of tools, which include a basic taxonomy for powers and mandates, that allows to obtain information about representation in one country, map this information to a common semantic model, and transfer it to another country so that it can be interpreted by an electronic service provider that needs it in order to perform a transaction with a natural person acting on behalf of a legal person.

The aim of the action is therefore to generalise this basic data model and related tools, now oriented to solve the specific needs of the STORK 2.0 project, so that it can cover any potential cross-border transfer of information about representation.

To do so, the action proposes four different phases:

- An initial phase or feasibility study analysing the current situation on how electronic powers and mandates are managed in the individual Member States and also by other European-related projects like the UUM&DS Project from DG TAXUD, and their cross-border interoperability: The study will scope the work needed in order to develop a common data model that could be used across-sector and across-borders for the electronic identification of legal entities and the representation and mandates of those action on behalf of that legal entity. Alignment with the eIDAS Regulation and the CEF specs on the eID DS will be sought.
- A second phase of production of requirements and good practices like frameworks and solutions that could facilitate the interoperable interconnection of representation information across sectors and across borders.
- A third phase of designing and elaborating a generic technical specification for the interoperability of powers and mandates, including a common data model or vocabulary, with semantic metadata models and controlled vocabularies that can accommodate cross-domain and cross-border requirements. The action will consult with the CEF eID Expert Group in the context of phase 3.
- A fourth phase where some solutions for integrating that framework into business applications will be implemented and also where real-life pilots with the MS will be launched to test the specification.

- Finally, and as a result of the pilots the specification will be enhanced and presented to the CEF board for endorsement and proposed to be incorporated in the official specs of the CEF eID DS.

2.2.12 COSTS AND MILESTONES

2.2.12.1 Breakdown of anticipated costs and related milestones

Phase: Inception Execution Operational	Description of milestones reached or to be reached	Anticipated Allocations (KEUR)	Budget line ISA ² / others (specify)	Start date (QX/YYYY)	End date (QX/YYYY)
Study	Study about cross-border interoperability of powers and mandates	150	ISA ²	Q1/2016	Q3/2016
Study	Production of requirements and good practices	100	ISA ²	Q3/2016	Q1/2017
Inception	Elaboration of the technical specification for interoperability	100	ISA ²	Q1/2017	Q2/2017
Execution	Design of reusable specifications and solutions and launch of pilots	400	ISA ²	Q3/2017	Q1/2018
	Total	750			

2.2.12.2 Breakdown of ISA² funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016	Study	250	
2017	Inception + Execution	500	
2018			
2019			
2020			

2.2.13 ANNEX AND REFERENCES

Description	Reference link	Attached document
STORK 2.0 project website	https://www.eid-stork2.eu/	
STORK 2.0 Deliverable D3.3 Mandate/Attribute Management Report	https://www.eid-stork2.eu/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=file&id=7:d33-mandateattribute-management-report&Itemid=175	
STORK 2.0 Deliverable D3.5 Legal Entities Identification Report	https://www.eid-stork2.eu/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=file&id=8:d35-legal-entities-identification-report&Itemid=175	