

SEMANTIC INTEROPERABILITY FOR REPRESENTATION POWERS AND MANDATES (2016.12)

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

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 and other initiatives regarding representation powers/mandates under the scope of the ISA² programme and, by incorporating the results of this action in the eIDAS interoperability framework, 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.

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.

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.

ACTION PRIORITY

For the eIDAS Technical Specifications and the associated implementation under CEF eID, a solution for power and mandates is a top priority. Preliminary results of the study phase are already expected by the eIDAS Expert Group beginning of 2017.

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
<i>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.</i>	The proposal contributes to the implementation of REGULATION (EU) No 910/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1501 and REGULATION (EU) No 1316/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
<i>Does the proposal fulfil an interoperability need for which no other alternative solution is available?</i>	Yes, currently there is no technical specification on how to support power in mandates in the context of the eIDAS infrastructure.

Cross-sector

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

Question	Answer
<i>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?</i>	The solution could be implemented in the CEF eID Building block, pending Operational Management Board approval. Once integrated, the solution would be used in the same EU policy areas as the CEF eID Building Block. For more information see the CEF Reuse matrix .
<i>For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? Which are they?</i>	Nothing in operational phase.

Cross-border

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

Question	Answer
<i>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?</i>	Yes. As part of eIDAS interoperability framework.
<i>For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been utilised by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?</i>	Nothing in operational phase.

Urgency

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

Question	Answer
<i>Is your action urgent? Is its implementation foreseen in an EU policy as priority, or in EU legislation?</i>	The main stakeholder group for which this action is addressed are the users of the CEF eID Building Block. As there are already commitments made to re-use this Building Block, and the likelihood that the requirement for power and mandates is high, the action is very urgent.
<i>Does the ISA² scope and financial capacity better fit for the implementation of the proposal as opposed to other identified and currently available sources?</i>	As this action is about the design of a solution for powers and mandates, there are no other available sources under CEF.

Reusability of action outputs

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

Can the results of the proposal be re-used by a critical part of their target user base, as identified by the proposal maker? For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been re-used by a critical part of their target user base?

Name of reusable solution	Generic technical specification for the interoperability of powers and mandates
Description	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.
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q2/2017
Critical part of target user base	The DSIs that are committed to use CEF eID, for more information see the CEF Reuse matrix .
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	N/A

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?	Core Person and Core Business vocabularies
For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: has the action reused existing interoperability solutions? If yes, which ones?	Nothing in operational phase

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?	This proposal contributes to CEF eID Building Block. The CEF finances projects which fill the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone. It will also make Europe's economy greener by promoting cleaner transport modes, high speed broadband connections and facilitating the use of renewable energy in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy.

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 in most countries. 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.

EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

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

ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

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 and Cooperation Network • 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	<p>DG JUST, DG GROW, TAXUD, DG DIGIT</p> <p>Unit (s) responsible for promoting common specifications in new and existing system, DG CONNECT as building block owner for eID</p>
End users	<p>Citizens</p> <p>Representatives of companies</p>

Identified user groups

eIDAS interoperability framework and DSIs that are using or are committed to use CEF eID. For more information please see [CEF Reuse matrix](#).

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.

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.

TECHNICAL APPROACH AND CURRENT STATUS

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.

Other similar initiatives will be taken into account, especially those in a European context offering services in production. Alignment with the eIDAS Regulation and the CEF specs on the eID DSI 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 DSI.

COSTS AND MILESTONES

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	Q3/2016	Q4/2016
Study	Production of requirements and good practices	100	ISA ²	Q3/2016	Q1/2017
Inception	Elaboration of the technical specification for interoperability	74	ISA ²	Q1/2017	Q2/2017
Execution	Design of reusable specifications and solutions and launch of pilots	320	ISA ²	Q3/2017	Q4/2017
	Total	644			

Breakdown of ISA² funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016	Study	250	
2017	Inception + Execution	394	
2018			
2019			
2020			

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	