



ICT-LSP STORK

What's missing?

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Since the successful start of the project in June 2008, the following issues have been identified as missing topics.

1. Sustainability

STORK is limited on the budget axis (20 Mio €) and on the time axis (three years). The EU Member States that are participating in this programme are committed to this three-year project. This requires no commitment for national eID programmes or cross-border services by the Member States beyond this project. Under these circumstances the sustainability of eID and the eID cross-border approach beyond and after STORK has not been defined. In our understanding, the STORK systems now running are being shut down in June 2011.

2. Missing EU Member States

In STORK, 17 EU Member States are organised. In the EU in total there are 27 Member States. Therefore 10 states are not represented in STORK. Some Member States might install an eID service programme in future. In this case the interoperability will not have been tested.

3. Electronic citizen cards issued by non-governmental bodies

In some Member States, eID programmes are being sponsored or supported by the government, but the eID documents issued are not sovereign eID documents.

Two examples (not part of STORK programme):

- a) Norway: 2 million BUYPASS cards have been issued by a company since 2002. Main functionality is eID / eSig / PKI for G2C and B2C.
- b) Switzerland: 300,000 SwissID cards are sponsored by the Swiss government. Four national certified trust centres will issue such cards. Main functionality is eID / eSig / PKI for B2B and G2C.

4. Legal framework

STORK is mainly focussing on technical interoperability aspects for cross-border services. One key challenge is the legal aspect for eID services in each EU Member State. Various national laws or different interpretations of national laws could be a barrier to real cross-border services.

Example: public tender on 20 metre road construction in Germany, close to Austria. A small Austrian building contractor would like to offer its services to a German authority. But typically the Austrian building contractor does not know about the legal framework in Germany for such a tender.

5. PEPS availability

The STORK pilot phase has shown the technical configuration of the PEPS (Pan-European Proxy Server) demonstrating the principles of ID management of citizens. In the real world such PEPS services must be available in 24/7-mode. Who will foster such an operational mode in all 27 Member States? What will happen if a PEPS breaks down, e.g. on Saturday evening from 20.00 to 22.00?

Therefore responsibility, administration and maintenance have to be defined and clarified.

6. Standard

The STORK pilot does not impose specific standards; the flexibility introduced in terms of standards could become a barrier to generic and useful interoperable solutions, and pave the way for complex and expensive bridges between national e-Government solutions.

7. Security

The security levels of solutions deployed in STORK differ from one Member State to another, potentially creating conflicts for interoperable eServices.

European mobility necessitates total interoperability everywhere in Europe, but harmonisation has not really been applied to security level requirements for concrete functions such as identification, authentication of digital signature, data memory protection or privacy management.

In future there must be common security requirements in order to guarantee a secure interoperability between MS.

8. Semantics

The eServices deployed in different European countries serve similar needs, being used for tax declarations, healthcare services, police declarations, secure private or public transactions, etc. However, the implementation of such eServices differs from one country to the next, and different semantics determine that different input data is required for similar fundamental eServices in different countries. This generates conflict in terms of interoperability.

For instance there is no standardised semantic rule for the date format in Europe (e.g. dd.mm.yy vs. yyyy-mm-dd).

The STORK consortium should have proposed and implemented a roadmap for further semantic definitions regarding eServices.



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