

DIGIT

Directorate-General
for Informatics



“Preliminary study on mutual recognition of
eSignatures for eGovernment applications”

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- **The context**
- **The IDABC Programme**
- **“Preliminary study on mutual recognition of eSignatures”**

The context

- **Manchester Ministerial Declaration – Electronic Identity Management**
 - eIDM: By 2010: Secure means of electronic identification recognised across the EU
 - eDoc: By 2010: Framework for the use of authenticated electronic documents across the EU
- **i2010 eGovernment Action Plan**
- **Related European Commission initiatives**
- **Single Market Review Action Plan**

Manchester Ministerial Declaration 24 Nov 2005

- No citizen left behind – inclusion by design
 - By 2010 all citizens become major beneficiaries
 - By 2010 innovative ICT, trust, awareness, skills for inclusion
- ICT for efficient and effective government
 - By 2010 high user satisfaction
 - By 2010 adm. burden reduction, efficiency, transparency, accountability
- Delivering high impact services
 - By 2010 100% e-procurement available, 50% take-up
 - By 2010 deliver other high impact services for growth and jobs
- Trusted access by means of eIDM across the EU
 - By 2010 interoperable eIDM for public services across the EU
 - By 2010 electronic document recognition framework

i2010 Action Plan: interoperable eSignature, eIDM

- 2006: Roadmap setting measurable objectives and milestones for a European eIDM framework by 2010 based on interoperability and mutual recognition of national eIDM (adopted on 25 April 2006).
- 2007: Agree common specifications for interoperable eIDM in the EU.
- **2008: Large scale pilots of interoperable eIDMs in cross-border services and implementing commonly agreed specifications.**
- **2009: eSignatures in eGovernment: Undertake review of take-up in public services.**
- **2010: Review the uptake by the Member States of the European eIDM framework for interoperable eIDMs.**

Related European Commission initiatives

- ICT Policy Support Programme –Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme
- Theme 1 : Efficient and interoperable eGovernment services
- **Instrument: Pilot Type A (Large Scale Pilot or LSP) - building on initiatives in Member States or associated countries;**
 - **Enabling EU-wide public eProcurement** (i.a. Cross-border recognition of eSignatures)
 - **E-ID**: The objective is the implementation of an **EU wide interoperable system for recognition of eID and authentication.**
- 2007 study: “Standardisation aspects of e-signatures”

Single Market Review

- A single market for 21st century Europe **COM(2007) 724 final**
- ICT is essential for the good functioning of the "e-Internal Market", creating interoperable services such as e-invoicing, e-procurement and e-customs. With the rapid development of these technologies, **there is the risk that Member States opt for different or incompatible solutions, and that new "e-barriers" would emerge for the end users.** The Member States and the Commission, working together, need to redouble their efforts to avoid market fragmentation and promote commonly agreed ICT solutions.
- Building on on-going work in the field of e-government, **the Commission will present in 2008 a specific Action Plan to further promote the implementation of mutually recognised and interoperable electronic signatures and e-authentication (electronic identity) between the Member States, thereby facilitating the provision of cross-border public services.**

IDABC Programme

Objectives	Identifying, supporting and promoting the development and establishment of eGovernment services
Target groups	Administrations, Business and Citizens
History	Experience since 1995, IDABC is a follow-up to IDA and IDA II Programmes
Duration	5 years (2005-2009)
Global budget	148.7 million EUR
	Actions are Commission-driven and implemented via public procurement
Managed by	Directorate-General for Informatics

IDABC Programme

- **Projects of Common Interest (PCI):** support (budget and guidance) within the Commission services to sectoral projects that have legal base from an existing Community legislation (e.g. PLOTEUS, IMI, LISFLOOD, SANREF, TRACES)
- **Horizontal Measures (HM):** designed to support sectoral projects and eGovernment services generally by providing basic infrastructure (sTESTA, CIRCABC, PKI), security measures (eID, eSignatures), interoperability measures (European Interoperability Framework, XML Clearing house), spread of good practise (OSS repository, eGov observatory)

eSignatures study

- **Preliminary study on mutual recognition of eSignatures**
- **Studied a total of 127 eGovernment applications described in details in 29 country profiles (27 MS + 2 CC)**
- **Analyses the requirements in terms of interoperability of electronic signatures for different eGovernment applications, and to provide recommendations on how to improve interoperability**
- **Provides an overview of applications per Member State concentrating on:**
 - the type of electronic signature legally required
 - the applicable technical restrictions
- **Makes a proposal on how to publicise the results, e.g. through a mutual information mechanism on electronic signature requirements.**

eSignatures: analysis, issues (1)

- **127 eGovernment applications processed:**
 - 90 using eSignatures
 - 37 using electronic certificates as authentication means
- **Main sectors referenced:**
 - eTaxes: 29 applications
 - One-stop shop portal: 12 applications
 - eProcurement: 11 applications
 - eHealth: 4, eJustice: 3, Social Security: 3, ...
- **Regulations tend to remain technology neutral**
 - Administrations have large autonomy in choosing the 'right' solution for their applications
- Cross border interoperability is not considered to be a priority
- **Mutual recognition: application owners presently have no way of determining which signature solution providers meet the security and reliability requirements of their applications.**

eSignatures: analysis, issues (2)

Qualified signature	Qualified certificate	Advanced signature	Simple signature	Authentication
Austria	Bulgaria	Denmark	Ireland	Cyprus
Belgium	Croatia	Hungary	United Kingdom	Finland
Ireland	Czech Republic	Luxembourg		Ireland
Italy	Slovenia	Malta		Lithuania
Latvia	Finland	Poland		Luxembourg
Portugal	France	Portugal		Malta
Slovakia	Turkey	Slovakia		The Netherlands
Spain	Greece			Portugal
Sweden	Hungary			United Kingdom
Germany	Malta			
Estonia	The Netherlands			
	Romania			

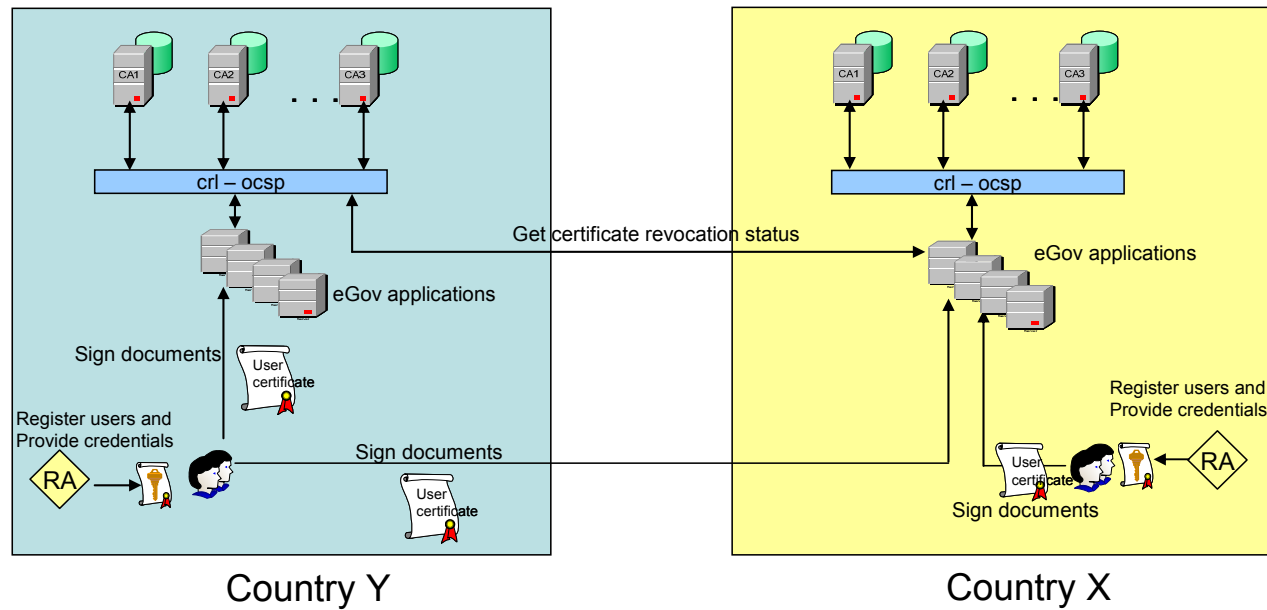
Conclusions of the eSignatures study

- **Dissemination of available information on national practices should be improved**
- **There is a link and sometimes confusion between the concepts and implementation of authentication and electronic signatures**
- **The trend is toward PKI solutions, hence this is where initiatives should focus**
- **A federated validation solution is needed to permit the validation and the establishment of trust for foreign signatures. Member States' opinions on EU involvement and the role of the private sector should be sought**
- **<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/6485>**
- **<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/chapter/5999>**

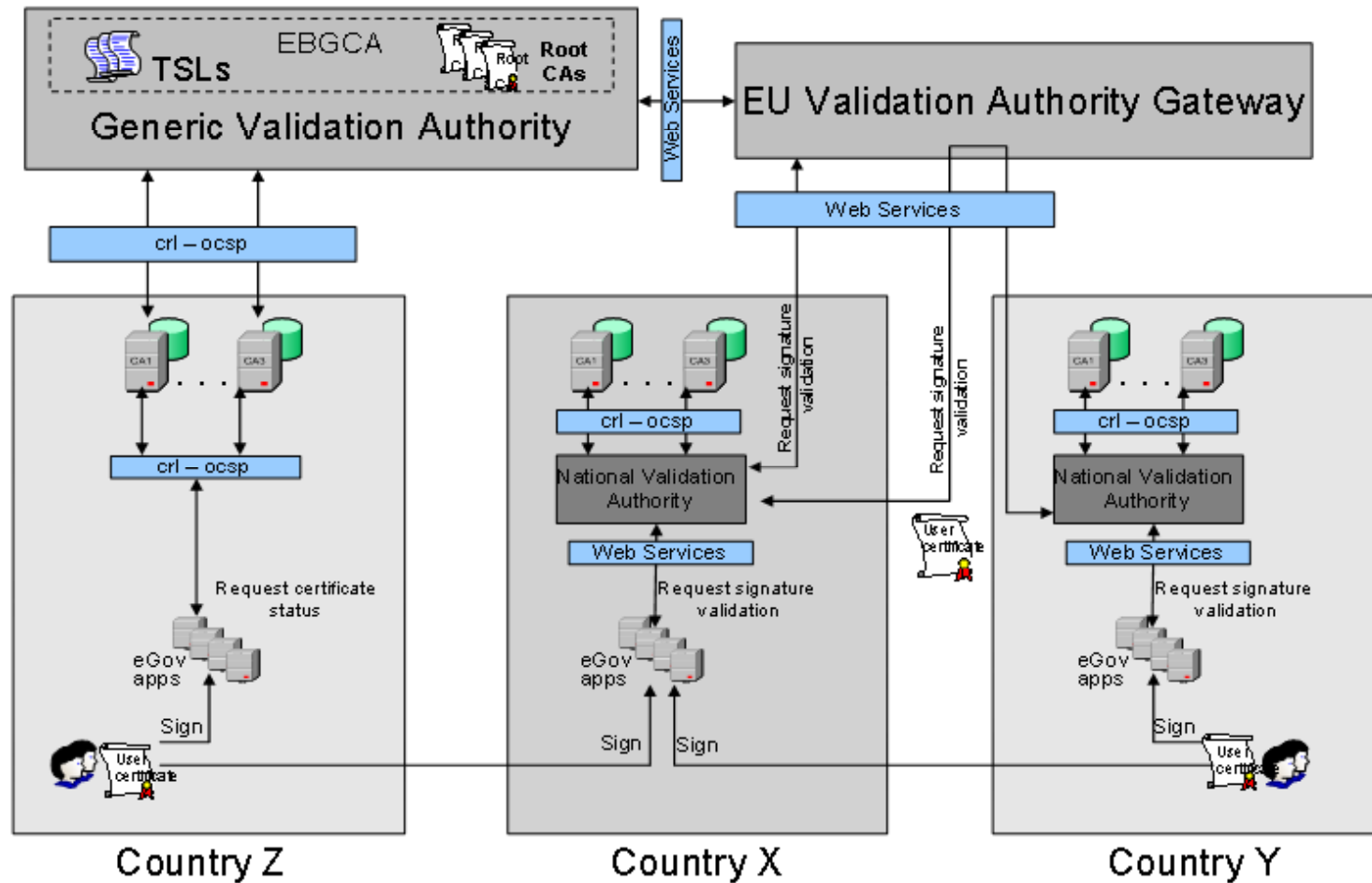
eSignatures: List of supervised CSPs

European Web site

Published List of supervised CSPs by country



eSignatures: Federated Validation



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**Thanks for your attention!
Questions or comments...?**

**More information :
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