



Interchange of **D**ata between **A**ministrations



From **Interchange** of **Data** between **Administrations**
to **Pan-European eGovernment Services**:

the way forward



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

INTERCHANGE OF DATA BETWEEN
ADMINISTRATIONS PROGRAMME

Foreword

by *Erkki Liikanen*

Member of the European Commission,
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Since its initiation, the IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrations) Programme has pioneered the use of innovative information technology (IT) solutions for the interchange of information between Europe's public administrations. In doing so it has helped the management of the single market and the implementation of a broad range of Community policies. In addition, it has laid the groundwork for the type of pan-European eGovernment services that are increasingly needed by Europe's citizens and enterprises, particularly those that wish to relocate or trade across Europe's borders. In this manner IDA's actions have followed the Lisbon Strategy's priorities for completing the Internal Market and preparing the transition to a knowledge-based economy by better policies for the information society.

Building on the positive experiences gathered since its beginning in 1995, IDA has contributed significantly to the achievement of the goals of the eEurope 2002 Action Plan and is now supporting the implementation of the new eEurope 2005 Action Plan.

IDA, in particular, is active in the area of interoperability between IT systems and administrative processes across Member States' borders. Whereas interoperability is key to the development of seamless eGovernment services, the provision of these services entails huge challenges. Above all, eGovernment generates expectations and increasing demands from citizens and businesses. It is much more than the mere interconnection of networks and information systems. eGovernment also requires the re-organisation of administrations

themselves and an enhanced coordination effort for the provision of electronic services to citizens and enterprises, and the effective use of electronic ways of working both within and between public administrations.

It is now time to extend to European citizens and businesses the benefits of the interchange of data between the administrations, to develop eGovernment services at the pan-European level, notably services that can facilitate the mobility of citizens and businesses across borders and eventually reinforce European citizenship. This was one of the objectives stressed at the Ministerial eGovernment Conference, held in Como under the Italian Presidency of the European Council.

The Commission has just adopted a Proposal to the Council and the European Parliament on the third phase of the IDA Programme that will promote and facilitate the delivery of pan-European eGovernment services. The experience gathered over the past years through the IDA Programme and the commitment of the people behind it (from the Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament) make us well prepared to meet the challenges ahead. I am proud, therefore, to present this publication that offers a sample of the projects and actions that have been implemented by IDA. I look forward to seeing the achievements detailed here widely known throughout Europe and also widely used by an increasing number of Europeans.

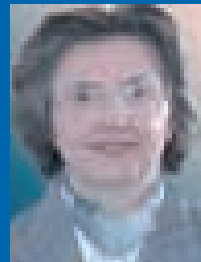
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erkki Liikanen'.

Introduction

by *Manuela Finetti, IDA Head of Unit*



FROM INTERCHANGE OF DATA BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIONS TO PAN-EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT SERVICES: THE WAY FORWARD



In 2002, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the completion of the Internal Market, the benefits of the Internal Market for European enterprises and citizens were widely recognised. Today, Europeans can live, study, work or retire wherever they like in Europe, consumers have a wider choice of high quality products and companies have access to much wider markets. However, to manage the Internal Market, it is indispensable that administrative data can be exchanged between the Member States and the European Commission.

In the same way, the exchange of administrative data has a key role in supporting the implementation of policies in areas such as food safety, health protection, immigration, environment and civil protection, and statistics. Increasingly, the use of modern IT in a coordinated way across Europe has made these exchanges more efficient and effective.

The IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrations) Programme is managed by the Enterprise DG of the European Commission. IDA has promoted the use of IT for the interchange of administrative data since 1995. It also pro-

vides a coordination forum called the 'TAC', the Telematics between Administrations Committee. Here all Member States, EEA, and Acceding and Candidate Countries are represented. The second phase of the Programme (IDA) started in 1999 and will end in December 2004. The legislative steps for the adoption of the legal basis for a third phase of the programme are currently underway.

The IDA Programme has contributed significantly to the management of the Internal Market and to the execution of a broad range of Community sectoral policies. Currently, it also supports the Acceding Countries in getting ready for the implementation of the 'acquis communautaire'. However, as the programme has traditionally focused on back-office processes, the vast majority of the public may not be aware of its successes. This publication intends to reverse this situation by explaining the functions and achievements of the IDA Programme. It provides a description of a number of projects and actions supported by the programme, explains in an accessible manner how they work, what their aims are and which services they provide.

However, the IDA Programme is not static and is constantly evolving to reflect wider policy priorities. In the context of the eEurope initiative, which aims to make Europe the world's 'most dynamic knowledge-based economy', the Programme is increasingly putting greater emphasis on the provision of pan-European eGovernment services to citizens and businesses.

This publication intends to illustrate both. In the first part, you will find a representative sample of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs), funded by the IDA Programme. PCIs put in place pan-European eGovernment services to administrations, citizens and businesses and provide their underlying networks. The second part contains the HAMs (Horizontal Actions

and Measures) which include 'off-the-shelf' generic solutions and business applications developed to facilitate roll-out and interoperability within and across networks and services.

It is expected that the new IDA Programme, currently under preparation, will strengthen further the orientation towards pan-European eGovernment services to citizens and businesses, while remaining faithful to IDA's core, traditional 'administration to administration' activities. In this way, the Programme will also be able to contribute to the establishment of a reinforced European Union citizenship and the on-going processes on which European public administrations have embarked to become more transparent, productive, accountable and responsive to the needs of the people.

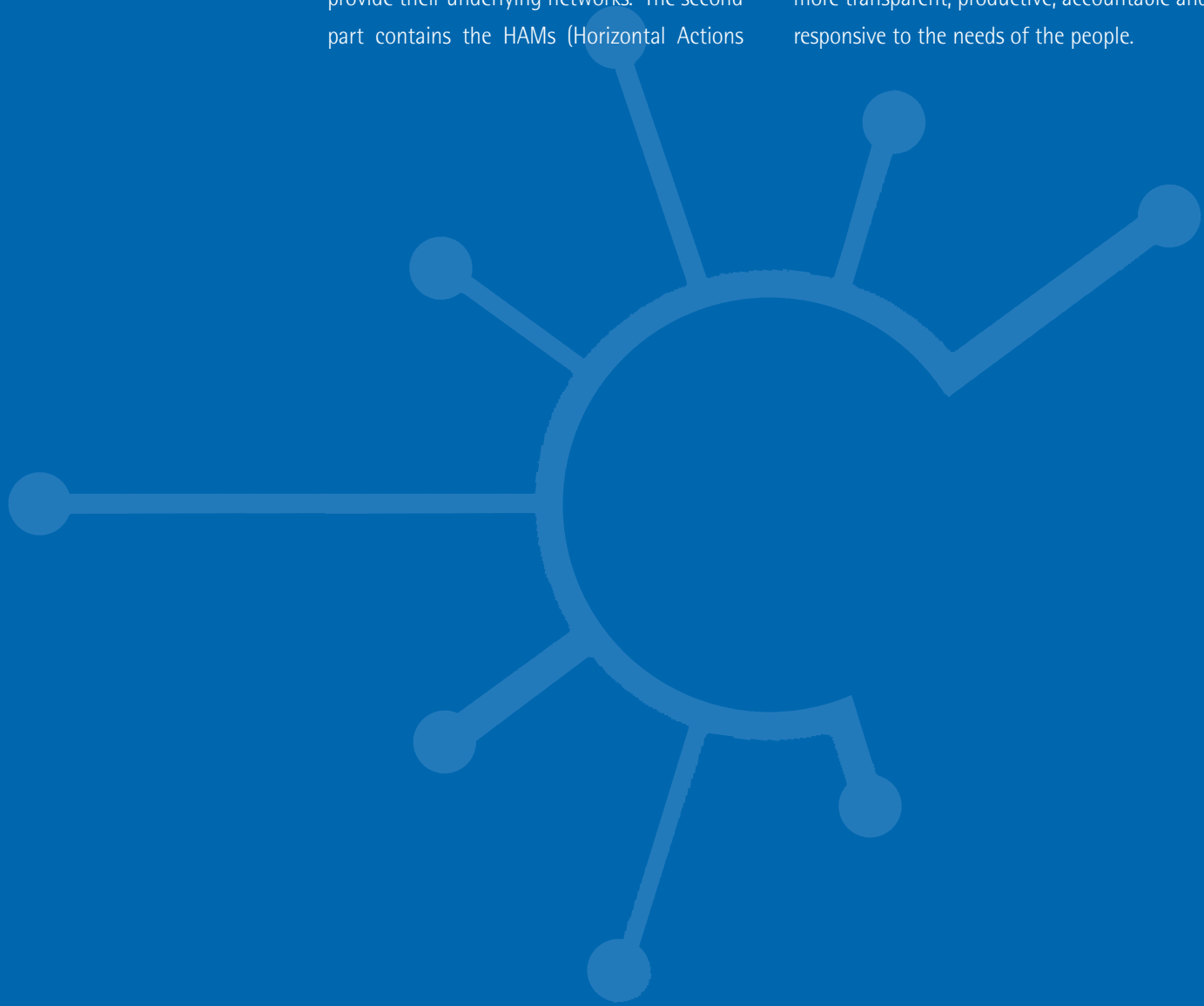


Table of contents



Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) 11

SERVICES TO EUROPE'S CITIZENS AND ENTERPRISES

• EDUCATION

PLOTEUS: A Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout Europe 13

• EMPLOYMENT

COWEBS: Coordination of Websites 15

EURES: European Employment Services 17

• INTERNAL MARKET

SYSEX: Système expert informatisé pour la reconnaissance des diplômes européens des professions de santé (Computer Expert System for the Recognition of European Health Profession Qualifications) 19

SOLVIT: Effective Problem Solving in the Internal Market 21

• STATISTICS

SERT STIPES: Statistiques d'Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques (Company Statistics and Telematic Networks) 23

• TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

TRIS: Technical Regulations Information System 25

SERVICES TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY POLICIES

• AGRICULTURE

CAP-ED: Electronic Dictionary 27

CAP-IDIM: Rural Development Monitoring Indicators 29

CIRCA-IDES: Interactive Data Entry System 31

FADN-RICA: Farm Accountancy Data Network 33

OFIS: Organic Farming Information System 35

• ENERGY

eSAFEGUARDS: On-line Nuclear Materials' Accountancy Reporting and Evaluation System 37

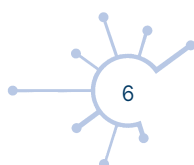
• ENVIRONMENT

ECB-NET: European Chemicals Bureau Network 39

EC-CHM: European Community Clearing-House Mechanism 41

PROCIV-NET: Civil Protection and Environmental Emergencies European Network(s) 43

• FISHERIES	
FIDES: Fishery Data Exchange System	45
• HEALTH	
ADNS: Animal Disease Notification System	47
EUDAMED: European Database on Medical Devices	49
EUPHIN: European Union Public Health Information Network	51
EUROPHYT: European Network of Plant Health Information Systems	53
IMP: Information on Medicinal Products	55
NF-NET: Novel Foods and Food Ingredients Network	57
PHYSAN: PHYto-SANitary Controls	59
• HUMANITARIAN AID	
ECHO 14 POINTS: Humanitarian Aid Reporting System for Member States	61
• STATISTICS	
DSIS: Distributed Statistical Information Services	63
• TRADE	
SIGL: Système Intégré de Gestion des Licences à l'exportation et à l'importation (Integrated System for Managing Export and Import Licences)	65
• TRANSPORT	
CARE: Common Road Accident Database	67
SAFESEANET: Safe Sea Network	69
TACHONET: Telematics Network for the Exchange of Information Concerning the Issuing of Tachograph Cards	71
COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES	
• EUROPEAN AGENCIES	
EIONET: European Environmental Information and Observation Network (EEA)	73
EFSA-NET: European Food Safety Authority Network (EFSA)	77
EUDRANET: European Telecommunication Network in Pharmaceuticals (EMA)	79
EUDRAVIGILANCE: Pharmacovigilance System (EMA)	81
• INTER-INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS	
DOCS: Communication and Management of Official Documents	83
• TRANSLATION SERVICES	
IATE: Inter-Agency Terminology Exchange	85



Horizontal Actions and Measures (HAMs) 87

• BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

CIRCA: Communication and Information Resource Centre Administrator	89
ePROCUREMENT	91
IDA-MT: Machine Translation	93
IPM: Interactive Policy Making	95
PORTAL OF THE EU ADMINISTRATION	97

• PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

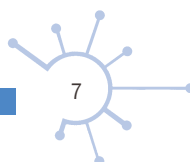
QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROJECT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION	99
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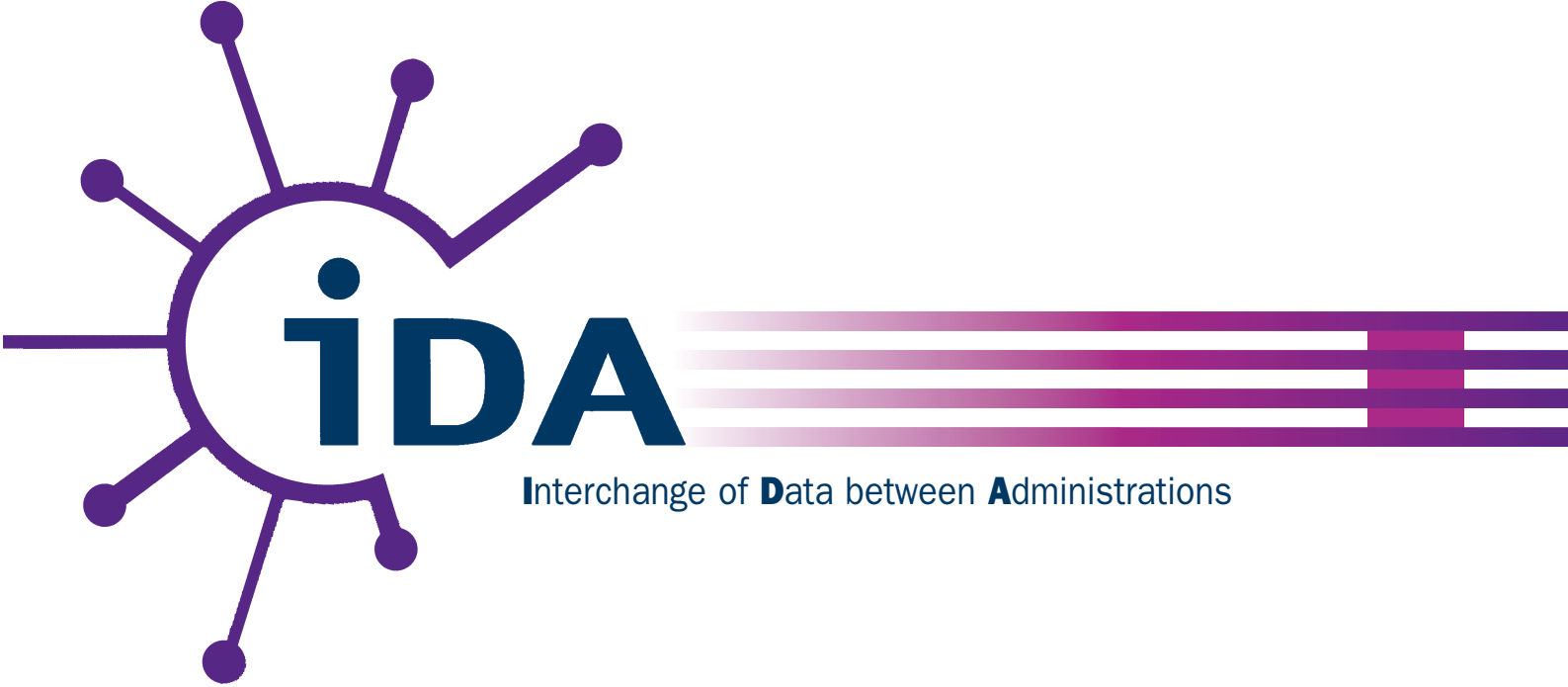
• SPREAD OF GOOD PRACTICE

eOBSERVATORY: eGovernment Observatory	101
--	-----

• TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES	103
BRIDGE (CA): Gateway Certification Authority	105
EUROPEAN INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR PAN-EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT SERVICES	107
IDA eLINK	109
MIDDLEWARE XML	111
MOREQ: Model Requirements for the Management of Electronic Records	113
PKI: Public Key Infrastructure	115
SECURITY STUDIES	117
STATTEL: Data Collection Tools	119
TESTA: Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations	121





Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)



PLOTEUS

A PORTAL ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE



The eEurope action plan aims to make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, helping its workforce acquire the skills they need. PLOTEUS takes a significant step in this direction by creating an Internet portal that provides access to information systems and services on learning opportunities across Europe.

»» What is PLOTEUS?

PLOTEUS is an Internet portal that provides access to national and regional information systems and services on learning opportunities. In this respect, the portal may be seen as a central database containing links to relevant national and regional databases.

»» Objectives

- PLOTEUS shares its key objective with the European Community's European Employment Services (EURES) project to build a learning opportunities portal that provides a single point of access to all existing resources at national and regional levels. In addition, PLOTEUS also promotes the creation of relevant databases in those Member States where they do not already exist.
- Furthermore, by encouraging the harmonisation of these national databases, PLOTEUS contributes for their eventual interoperability at European level.

»» How does it work?

Let us take a concrete scenario:

Walter, a German national, decides to exercise his right to freedom of movement and apply to study Business Administration in another European State.

The National Resource Centres for Vocational Guidance (Euroguidance or NRCVG), funded by the Community's Leonardo da Vinci programme and the Member States, are a network of 65 resource and information centres that promote citizens' mobility throughout the EU and EEA. Walter visits his local NRCVG to find out if they can help him fulfil his wish to study in a foreign country.

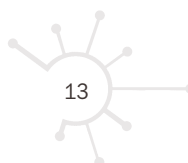
The NRCVG, which exist in all EU and EEA countries and in all Acceding and Candidate Countries, provide links between the national guidance services and exchange information about work, study and training opportunities. Once in contact with his local NRCVG, Walter is informed about the options available within the countries he is interested in.

In addition, NRCVG provide the content for the PLOTEUS portal. The updating of the central database is thus a decentralised procedure, as each centre is responsible for providing the links to the relevant resources in their country or region. The NRCVG advisor recommends that Walter also go to the PLOTEUS web portal in order to download the list of possible universities and consider them at his leisure.

The portal not only offers access to learning opportunities across Europe but also supplies links to information on national education and training systems, guidance resources, and legal and institutional matters related to mobility. Walter has never lived abroad before and is concerned about fitting into a new social security system as



EDUCATION



well as basic issues of accommodation, student finance etc. Once on the PLOTEUS website, he discovers that not only is all this information readily available for each of the countries but he can also find information on:

- Taxation;
- Cost of living;
- Tuition fees; and
- Recognition of foreign diplomas and qualifications.

Whilst surfing the website, Walter is particularly pleased to find a chat forum where he can meet with other students to discuss experiences.

»» Achievements

- PLOTEUS aims to satisfy part of the Conclusions of the Lisbon Council to "improve employability and reduce skill gaps, in particular by providing employment services with a Europe-wide database on jobs and learning opportunities".
- PLOTEUS was officially launched on 5th March 2003 and is already on the way to becoming the European reference portal on learning opportunities. Access by users and the level of their satisfaction will be the main measure of its achievements. At the moment, it is used by about 1,500 visitors a day.
- The service which guides users to existing information resources is available in the 11 official EU languages and in some Acceding Candidate Countries' languages.
- The work is ongoing. The Commission and the relevant national authorities are working together to define a common protocol that will allow the interconnection at a European level of national and regional databases. This will provide citizens with unified, direct access to any such tools.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: This is the largest group that stands to benefit from the easy access to resources on learning opportunities in Europe that PLOTEUS offers.

Public Administrations and educational institutions: This project will also prove particularly useful to administrations and educational institutions by facilitating comparisons of learning provisions in each country and enhancing the visibility of investments in the area of education.

»» The role of IDA

The development of this portal, which has been funded by IDA, has taken into account the experiences of other IDA-funded projects, such as the portal ToolKit, as well as the general principles on interoperability standards laid out in the IDA Architecture Guidelines. Access to this portal is also possible via the Portal of the EU Administration, one of IDA's Horizontal Actions and Measures (see page 97).

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	Officially launched in March 2003.
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	2001 € 489,000 2003 € 450,000

Responsible service:
DG Education and Culture (in cooperation with
DG Employment and Social Affairs)

Project coordinator:

Laura Cassio

Contact:

laura.cassio@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States
Acceding and Candidate Countries

Public websites:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html
<http://www.ploteus.net/>

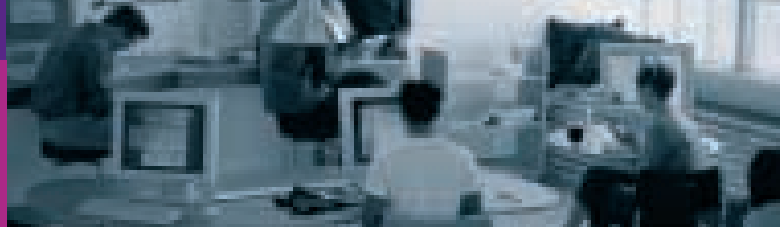
Background documents:

European portal on learning opportunities -
Global Implementation Plan v1.0 (EN)
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1141.doc>



COWEBS

COORDINATION OF WEBSITES



The 'effective maintenance' of social security rights for workers going to live in a different Member State and the creation of portable supplementary pension rights are key priorities of the European Commission Action Plan on Skills and Mobility, adopted on 13 February 2002. As the social security schemes vary considerably from one country to another, an access to the financial implications of their employment rights and obligations is of key value to migrant workers. COWEBS will be implemented by DG Employment and Social Affairs in response to this need. It is a web portal that provides comprehensive information on social security issues across the European Union. COWEBS is designed to help migrant workers gain easy access to crucial information by providing a non-stop centralised system.

»» What is COWEBS?

COWEBS will be a multilingual Internet portal, pooling social security information for migrant workers from national and European sources. The project will also provide best practices and recommendations for social security website content development in EU Member States.

»» Objectives

The main objective of COWEBS is to provide a single Internet access point for European migrant workers who are seeking social security information.

They will be able to access relevant content more easily, disseminated through a web portal. The portal will link national and European information sources related to the rights that come from Community provisions for coordinating Social Security.



»» How will it work?

A pilot version of the portal, limited to the pensions sector and to seven Member States (France, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom) is under development. The group of administrations in charge of the portal is currently evaluating how the COWEBS portal could be integrated into the one-stop European mobility portal aimed at providing comprehensive and easily accessible information to citizens on key aspects of jobs, mobility and learning opportunities in Europe. COWEBS' results are expected to complement existing information on the 'Dialogue with Citizens' site by providing "practical" information to the EU migrant workers. To take a concrete scenario:

Bob is a 58-year-old UK national who has worked in a number of EU Member States over the course of his working life. He is planning to retire in two year's time on his 60th birthday. However, he has a number of concerns regarding collecting pensions he has paid into over the years in three different countries of residence.

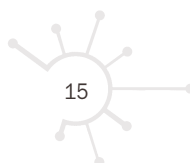
In a few months, Bob could find the answers to the following questions within the COWEBS project website.

- Where should I apply for my pension?
- How can I get the required documents for my pension application?
- From what age am I entitled to a retirement pension in each of the countries I've worked?
- Is the entitlement lost in my country of origin – UK – once I started working in another EU Member State?
- How can I have my periods of unemployment regularised?
- Is there any complementary benefit for my wife and children?

The website will provide the exact answer in relation to the country(ies) concerned and the personal profile of the user.

COWEBS will help Bob and all migrant workers:

- To find the Competent Institutions in the pension sector for claiming his pension;



- To access online social security services: it will explain to Bob that some social security services are nationally available online and it will give him the corresponding URLs. (i.e. online pension calculator, etc.);
- To access national Call Centres: Bob could directly raise questions at national level;
- To search in national Websites: it should, for instance, be possible to specify the social security sector in which Bob is interested as well as the Member States and therefore guide the search.
- To access a list of links: to main competent institutions (such as National Pension Websites; National Healthcare Websites; European social organisations and relevant European Commission websites). It is planned that any visitor like Bob should be in the position to propose/suggest a new link, which will go online after formal approval.

»» Achievements

- A feasibility study launched at the end of 2001 resulted in a preliminary report on the creation of a model multilingual web portal coordinating social security information for migrant workers.
- A pilot has started, building on the preparatory work performed by France, Germany and Italy. It contains first level information for citizens and guides users to the appropriate sections in national and/or European Social Security websites.
- A call for tenders has been launched for the development of a pilot portal limited to the pension sector and to the following Member States - Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Greece, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

»» Who will benefit?

Citizens: They stand to gain the most benefit once the COWEBS portal comes fully online. It will point them either directly to relevant information, or to a reference point. Providing multilingual content will also increase its accessibility.

Public Administrations: The system will lighten the national administrations' and EU institutions' tasks (finding the correct information, providing a reply for the user, translating the reply etc.) and therefore contribute to speed up and ease the access

to the correct information. Greater cooperation between Community institutions and national and regional administrations is also foreseen. Being a one-entry point for social security in Europe, COWEBS will play the role of guiding the users to the relevant national services and links.

»» The role of IDA

Apart from receiving funds, the COWEBS project will work closely with related IDA initiatives, such as the Portal of the EU Administration (see page 97).

»» Technical information

Project start date:	Feasibility Study: 2002 Development: 2003
Project completion date:	Feasibility Study: 2002 Development: 2004
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	2002 € 84,000 2003-2004 € 750,000

Responsible service:

DG Employment and Social Affairs

Project coordinator:

Liana Silva Garrido

Contact:

liana.silva-garrido@cec.eu.in
eric.bruyneel@euronet.be

Countries involved:

France, Germany and Italy in the pilot phase.
United Kingdom, Greece, Netherlands, Estonia for the development phase.

Public website:

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>



Freedom of movement of workers was one of the key objectives of the Amsterdam Treaty which entered into force in 1999. However, having the right to live and work anywhere within the European Union does not make the reality of finding a job in another Member State any easier. EURES helps workers find jobs by linking European employment services with vacancy notices and useful information for living and working abroad. EURES thus helps turn the principles of the Amsterdam Treaty into a positive reality for citizens across the EU.

»» What is EURES ?

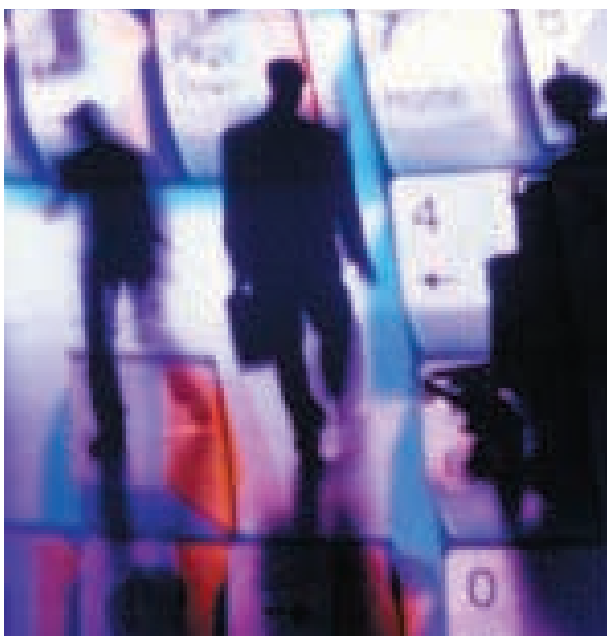
EURES provides a trans-European telematics and human network linking employment services across Europe. The EURES website delivers information and online services on the following: Job-Search, CV-Search, Labour Market Information, Living and Working Conditions, European Public Employment Services.

»» Objectives

EURES aims to facilitate the free movement of workers within the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA). Partners in the network include State employment agencies, trade unions and employer organisations.

»» How does it work?

EURES is coordinated by the European Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs. More than 500 EURES advisers throughout the EEA act as its driving force.



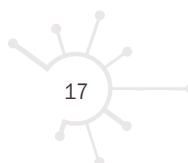
To take a concrete scenario: Anna – a Dutch national who has just graduated from university – has decided to move to Spain to pursue her professional career in hotel management. Although she has spent many summers on holiday there, she has never worked there and does not understand the social security and employment system. She is advised by her career counsellor to contact her local EURES advisor.

This human network has access to a web-based database of job vacancies in Europe and general information on living and working conditions in the EEA. Anna contacts her local EURES office that has access to the pan-EEA EURES database.

This network allows all EURES users to receive up-to-date information in their home countries before taking up, or considering, a job in another country. The EURES advisor provides Anna with information on:

- Spanish social legislation and taxation;
- Education and healthcare;
- Training opportunities;
- Comparability of qualifications;
- Cost of living and accommodation; and
- Useful addresses and contacts for more specialised information.

The advisor suggests that Anna update her CV and post it on the EURES website. In this way, potential employers can see her profile. The advisor also points out that she can always use the website to get the most up-to-date information on job opportunities.



»» Achievements

- The November 1994 Employment Week saw the launch of EURES with just over 2,000 job offers in the database.
- Since 1994, the volume of cross-border and international vacancies has now increased to 180,000.
- The database was made directly accessible to citizens via the Internet in 1998, providing links to national and local employment databases, and online information on living and working conditions in all Member States.
- Currently 22 employment services in 15 Member States and two EFTA countries are active partners in the EURES network.
- Work is underway to expand the human and telematics network by improving and extending the integration of national employment databases to include all EURES partners during the course of 2003.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: Citizens have access to employment opportunities across Europe and to a wide range of assistance from Euroadvisers.

Businesses: EURES helps European industry by providing it with a platform to publicise vacancies throughout the EU and providing additional support in finding the right human resources, regardless of the employees' location.

»» The role of IDA

IDA's coordination role ensured that national employment ministries became aware of the benefits of EURES and created the political will to invest in the project. EURES employed the IDA architecture guidelines and TESTA in its previous phase of development.

»» Background information

For the benefit of job seekers and workers, the new Commission Decision of 23.12.2002, (implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68) Art 2, states that EURES should contribute to promote "a) the development of European labour markets open and accessible for all; b) the transnational, interregional and cross-border exchange of vacancies and job applications; c) transparency and information exchange on the European labour markets, including on living conditions and on the opportunities for acquisition of skills; d) the development of methodologies and indicators for this purpose".

»» Technical information

Project start date: 1993

Project completion date: 1994

Project status: Operational

Responsible service:
DG Employment and Social Affairs

Contact:
henric.stjernquist@cec.eu.int
ida-central@cec.eu.int
(for organisational and technical aspects)

Countries involved:
All EU Member States and 2 EFTA Countries

Background documents:
New Commission Decision of 23 December 2002 implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 as regards the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment
http://europa.eu.int/eures/docs/Decision2003_8_EC_en.pdf

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/eures/index.jsp>



SYSEX

SYSTÈME EXPERT INFORMATISÉ POUR LA RECONNAISSANCE DES DIPLÔMES EUROPÉENS DES PROFESSIONS DE SANTÉ

(COMPUTER EXPERT SYSTEM FOR THE RECOGNITION OF EUROPEAN HEALTH PROFESSION QUALIFICATIONS)

The legal right of all European Union citizens to move and work freely within any Member State is one of the basic foundations on which the EU has been built. However, in key sectors such as healthcare, which is stringently regulated in all countries, healthcare professionals from one Member State must obtain recognition to practise their profession in another. The EU policy on skills mobility motivates the development of measures that improve access to information on relevant rules and procedures and facilitates exchanges between competent authorities. SYSEX was designed by the Belgian Government in order to fulfil these objectives at a national level and is currently being developed into a tool for EU-wide application.

»» What is SYSEX ?

Developed by the Medical Practice Division of the Belgian Federal Health Ministry, SYSEX is an online interactive computerised intelligent aid to a decision-making databank, designed to facilitate information provision to citizens and administrative cooperation in the area of free movement of healthcare professionals based on more than 30 EU Directives.

»» Objectives

SYSEX aims to provide online information to citizens concerning the rights and procedures for recognition of specific qualifications and enable the competent authorities to exchange information confidentially. SYSEX will also result in greater transparency and availability of useful information related to applications for recognition of diplomas.



»» How does it work?

SYSEX allows citizens to access a website through which they can enter information about their professional status. The site provides access to various levels of information on:

- their rights;
- the procedures they are required to follow;
- necessary documentation; and
- the authorities concerned.

It also enables competent authorities to exchange information on specific applications or related matters, thereby facilitating and speeding up recognition processes. The system also has the ability to provide access to online applications for recognition and allows users to track the progress of their applications confidentially.

»» Achievements

- Part of SYSEX is currently being used by the Belgian administration for the internal treatment of applications while another part is still under development.
- The project to develop SYSEX into an online pan-European system is in preparation and is expected to ensure better conditions for freedom of movement under the general system and the different sectoral directives.

»» Who benefits?

Professionals: SYSEX will greatly assist professionals moving throughout Europe by speeding up decision-making procedures. Information will be more readily available and the work of competent authorities will be facilitated. While SYSEX was developed specifically for healthcare professionals, the implementation of a Europe-wide project aims to benefit all professions covered by Community rules on professional recognition.

»» The role of IDA

IDA is responsible for providing both financial and technical support.

»» Technical information

Project start date: 2002

Project completion date: 2007

Project status: Preparatory, feasibility

IDA budget: 2003 € 65,000

Responsible service:

DG Internal Market,
Belgian Federal Ministry of Health

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Project coordinator:

Philippe Vanlangendonck

Contact:

philippe.vanlangendonck@health.fgov.be

Public website:

<http://www.health.fgov.be/AGP/sysex/index.htm>

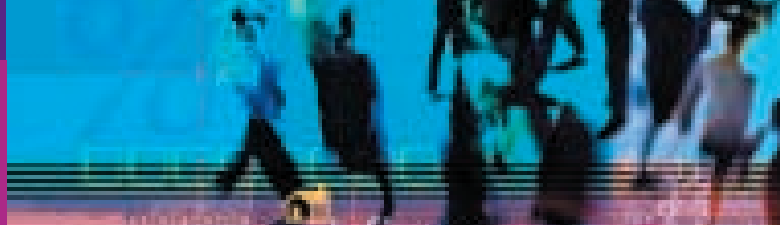
A project presentation is now available in all MS languages (to select, click on the correspondent national flag).

Background documents:

IDA Work Programme 2003

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1201.pdf>

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/doc.jsp?1403>



Europe's Internal Market offers many exciting opportunities to citizens who wish to live and work in another Member State and to companies seeking to expand their markets. Whilst the Internal Market generally works well, problems can sometimes arise due to the misapplication of European Union laws by national administrations. SOLVIT provides the means for citizens and businesses to resolve such problems without resorting to legal action.

»» What is SOLVIT?

SOLVIT is an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism that has been set up to help EU citizens and businesses who have been denied the possibility to exercise their European Internal Market rights because a public administration in another Member State has misapplied Internal Market legislation.

»» Objectives

SOLVIT aims to tackle these issues quickly and pragmatically, without the need for legal action.

SOLVIT is not available via the Internet as cases can only be entered into the Database by SOLVIT centres. Users can find the relevant information on "How to contact your local SOLVIT centre" by consulting the following web page: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/centres_en.htm.



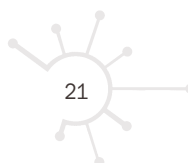
»» How does it work?

The system operates through a network of SOLVIT Centres based in the national administration of each Member State. Applicants should initially contact their local SOLVIT Centre (the "Home" SOLVIT Centre), where the details of their complaint will be fully analysed. The Home SOLVIT Centre will then enter the case into an online database system, allowing it to be forwarded automatically to the SOLVIT Centre in the Member State where the problem has occurred (the "Lead" SOLVIT Centre). The Lead SOLVIT Centre should confirm within one week whether or not it will accept the case. The target deadline for finding a solution to the problem is ten weeks. The two SOLVIT Centres liaise with each other during the period of investigation and the Home SOLVIT Centre keeps the complainant informed of any progress and proposed solution.

The proposed solution is non-binding on the applicant and cannot be challenged. However, if a problem remains unresolved, or if an applicant considers a proposed solution unacceptable, they of course have the right to instigate formal legal proceedings.

»» Achievements

- Initial success has been remarkable. In the first six months of its existence, 90% of the cases that were closed had been successfully resolved. Two cases exemplify the type of success that SOLVIT has had (please see the Success Stories section on the SOLVIT website). In one, a company from country A had been prevented from selling fire extinguishers in country B, even though the product conformed to the European standard. The SOLVIT Centre in country B managed to help to lift the barrier. In another example, a citizen from country C who had worked in country D and retired to his native country was prevented from obtaining his full pension rights because of red tape in the authorities from country D. Within a month of the intervention by SOLVIT, the client had obtained the necessary documentation.



- The SOLVIT problem-solving network has already begun to work using a first version of software. This version includes much of the basic functionality required, but significant development is still needed in order to meet the specifications asked for by Member States. These specifications include notably, the possibility of having online registration of complaints by Intermediary bodies such as Euro Info Centres, Citizens Signpost Service, MEPs, etc and the provision of training to end users on both the technical operation of the system and the operational case handling procedures.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens and businesses: These two groups stand to gain from SOLVIT thanks to the improvement of the problem-solving processes between national administrations. SOLVIT can tackle problems related to all Internal Market aspects, including the recognition of professional qualifications, market access for products and for services, social security rights, the free movement of capital, motor vehicle registration and the establishment of a business.

»» The role of IDA

IDA provides financial support, both for the technical development of the system and for end-user training within national administrations.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	2002
Project status:	Ongoing development
IDA budget:	2002 € 355,000 2003 € 320,000

Responsible service:

DG Internal Market

Involved countries:

All EU Member States and EFTA countries

Project coordinator:

Nicholas Leapman

Contact:

raymond.hill@cec.eu.int

Public website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/

Latest news:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/news_en.htm

Background documents:

Communication COM(2001) 702 final, Effective Problem Solving in the Internal Market ("SOLVIT"),

<http://europa.eu.int/eurlex/en/com/pdf/2001/act0702en02/1.pdf>

and annex <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/act0702en02/2.pdf>

Contact a SOLVIT Centre:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/centres_en.htm

SERT STIPES

STATISTIQUES D'ENTREPRISES ET RÉSEAUX TÉLÉMATIQUES
(COMPANY STATISTICS AND TELEMATIC NETWORKS)

Collecting company statistics is necessary to paint an accurate picture of European Union economic activity. In addition, the Community needs a high quality statistical information service in order to fulfill its mission. Statistics provide an essential infrastructure for the sound and efficient functioning of democracy and a modern economy. Many data types are useful: employment, working conditions, investment, etc. Due to the rapid increase in use of technology by enterprises, STIPES (one of the SERT projects) is being developed to facilitate collection of data from commercial software, by converting the output files to formats as required by statistical offices.

»» What is SERT?

SERT involves the development of software modules to automate the production of statistical enquiries. It is a program of coherent and efficient actions which aims to progressively put into place bi-directional exchanges of information between enterprises and NSIs (National Statistic Institutes), with the help of data that are managed by the enterprises or their intermediaries (accountants, professional associations etc.).

»» Objectives

SERT has three overall key objectives:

- To improve the quality and timeliness of statistical declarations;
- To increase the percentage of respondents (enterprises) using automatic means (software);
- To extend the impact of statistical surveys for which automatic means are available to respondents and the range of categories of enterprises able to use automatic means.

By meeting these objectives, financial burdens on enterprises and administrations will fall.



The SERT project, STIPES (Statistical Inquiries from Popular European Software), is developing software to convert output files from commercial software to required XML formats for statistical offices.

»» How does it work?

Therefore a good example to understand how SERT works is to follow the development phases of the STIPES project.

In this case a prototype was initially developed using EDIS-ENT (a module, a piece of computer software which translates business information into information required by the statistical institute) to automate the process of extracting the data from enterprise IT systems, complete questionnaires and generate the required format for the resulting data to be sent electronically.

In phase 2 a prototype translator was developed for the conversion of structured data files, from a selected commercial software and a selected enterprise, to XML documents as required by e-Quest, the Austrian data collection system.

During 2003, phase 3, the final phase, will see the development of a generic translator for the conversion of structured data files to user defined XML documents. The tool will be implemented as a stand-alone application, but integration will also be possible and during this phase it will be integrated with e-Quest, using the input-output interfaces within the software.

»» Achievements

- STIPES has successfully developed a prototype software to convert an output file format, from a particular commercial software to an XML format as required by the Austrian data collection system.
- Phase 3 will see further development of the software to an extensible generic application which could be stand-alone or be integrated with a data collection system.

STATISTICS

»» Who benefits?

Businesses: STIPES is a concrete software product assisting the completion of statistical enquiries by different types of enterprises. Enterprises will not have the burden of having to produce output file formats which are specific to the needs of statistical offices.

Public Administrations: The provision of an application to automate conversion of output files will encourage enterprises to produce electronic data, resulting in the collection of more accurate and timely data.

»» The role of IDA

SERT relies heavily on EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) standardisation which is the subject of DSIS, another IDA project (see page 63). The development of this project is being financed by a yearly contribution from IDA.

»» Background information

Eurostat, the Community authority in the field of statistics, has manifold tasks, two of which are to collect from national statistical authorities and from secretariats of international organizations the data required for Community statistical purposes and to make Community statistics accessible, in accordance with the principles regarding dissemination, to the Community bodies, governments of the Member States, social and economic operators, academic circles and the public in general, in view of the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Community policies.

"Article 130 of the EC Treaty states that the Community and the Member States shall ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Community's industry exist. This

implies the need at Community level for a range of harmonised industrial statistics in order to assess levels and trends in competitiveness" [Council Decision of 22/12/98 on the Community Statistical Programme 1998- 2002 (1999/126/EC)].

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1998
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	1999 € 58,000
	2001 € 63,000
	2002 € 65,000

Responsible service:

Eurostat

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Project coordinator:

Brendan McAvinue

Contact:

brendan.mcavinue@cec.eu.int

Public website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/
Public/datashop/print-catalogue/EN?catalogue
=Eurostat](http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-catalogue/EN?catalogue=Eurostat)

Background documents:

CIRCA Interest Group "STIPES" is currently being updated



At a time when technology is evolving rapidly, it is important to ensure that national technical regulations adopted by European Union Member States do not impede the free movement of goods and services within the EU. TRIS, a tool within the framework of the 98/34 procedure, enables EU Member States to inform each other and the European Commission of planned regulations and resolve Internal Market issues before laws are passed. In this way, Europe's citizens and companies can reap the full benefit of the EU's Internal Market.

»» What is TRIS?

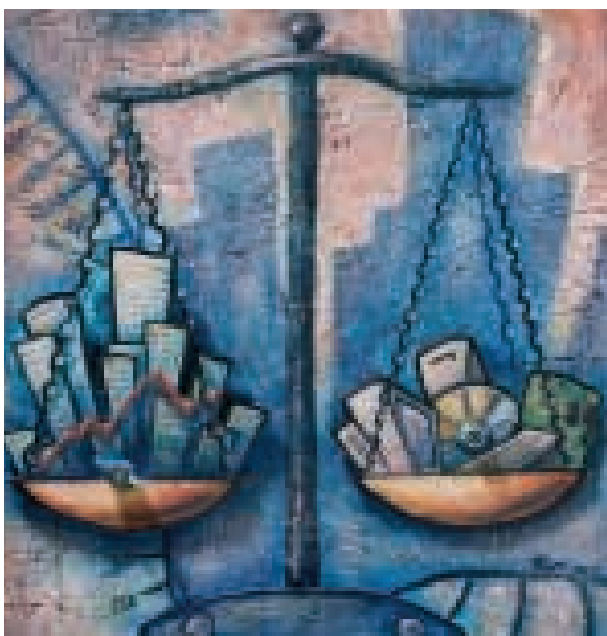
TRIS is a web-based information system which facilitates data exchange concerning technical regulations between national public administrations and the European Commission.

»» Objectives

The main objective of the TRIS project is to facilitate the management of the 98/34/EC Directive.

This Directive obliges Member States to notify the European Commission, and each other, of all draft technical regulations concerning all industrial and agricultural products and information society services before they are adopted at national level. Their adoption could create barriers to trade and impede the proper functioning of the Internal Market.

This procedure provides a solution, forcing Member States to avoid problems early, rather than being forced to solve them once national laws have been enacted. Moreover, it increases transparency, since national draft regulations are brought to the attention of the authorities and interested parties in good time.



»» How does it work?

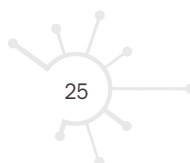
The database automates effective and reliable communication between Units in the Member States and the European Commission. Within the Commission, the system ensures that all services are continuously informed on new draft regulations in the fields of their competence.

In addition, the database allows the storage and retrieval of full textual information to and from the database. Custom-built applications also permit consulting and reporting functions.

A substantial proportion of the content handled by the procedure is public information, accessed via a public website. The system is being further developed to provide a better integrated environment (Notifications portal). According to a user's specific and predefined rights of access, they will be presented with various types of information, eliminating the need for the current two or three different components.

Notifications from all Member States can be sorted by number, country date and key word. TRIS provides the submission date and the standstill period (date) of each notification text. A feed-back feature is also available on the website to allow the public to submit comments and opinions.

The technical regulations database was redesigned to support current and future needs, i.e. joining of the Acceding and Candidate Countries, whilst fully exploiting recent technical possibilities.



»» Achievements

- The TRIS system is at present fully operational and exchanges 8–10,000 messages per month.
- The project also provides maintenance and helpdesk services. The online helpdesk provides technical and background information to end users about TRIS and the 98/34 procedure.
- Both the internal and external applications were enhanced, particularly with the objective of including Candidate Countries in the message flow of the procedure.
- In the near future, enterprises will be allowed to subscribe to an automatic alerting system on new notifications.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens and Businesses: Access by citizens and enterprises has been facilitated by the creation of the public PISA (Public Information System Administration) website. This enables businesses to take part in the procedure, by expressing their opinions on national legislation before it is finally adopted.

Public Administrations: TRIS has enhanced the level of cooperation among Commission services and between Commission and Member State Administrations. The exchange of information tangibly contributes to improving national law-making and avoiding litigation. Both Member States administrations and the Commission use the procedure to influence national and community legislation through the identification of areas where harmonisation is necessary or where national legislation needs modifications. The use of formats enables greater transparency and re-use of information by automated tools that collate, analyse and abstract meaningful information from data.

The good performance of the TRIS system explains why the Council of Europe considers it as a model for its information exchange system, which will be set up as a tool within the Convention No 180 on information and legal cooperation on information society services.

»» The role of IDA

IDA funded TRIS between December 1997–January 2002.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1997
Project completion date:	2002
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	1999 € 335,000
Responsible service:	DG Enterprise
Project coordinator:	Jacques Degrèves
Contact:	jacques.degreves@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States
Public website:	http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/tris/





The European Union currently has 11 official languages for its existing 15 Member States. However, with the accession of a further 10 countries by May 2004, an already complicated linguistic situation will become even more so. The Common Agricultural Policy Electronic Dictionary (CAP-ED) is designed to help resolve problems resulting from linguistic diversity in relation to the CAP. It will become the definitive common electronic data dictionary containing up-to-date code lists and data structures to be used in electronic data exchange. In this way, the European Commission, and DG Agriculture in particular, will be able to speak the same electronic language as all existing and new Member States. Consequently, the transfer of large amounts of data between DG Agriculture and the EU Member State administrations will be greatly facilitated.

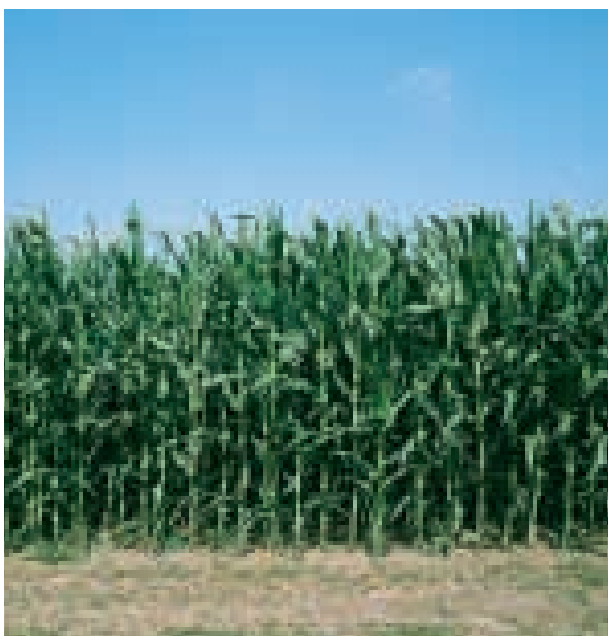
»» What is CAP-ED?

CAP-ED is a web-based common interactive electronic data dictionary for CAP. This extranet is due to come fully online in the third quarter of 2003. It will include all common CAP code lists and data structures which have been specifically developed for electronic data exchanges between Commission-approved users within the network of institutional partners.

»» Objectives

In any large Administration, there is always a high volume of two-way data transfer. For DG Agriculture of the European Commission and EU Member State administrations, this comes, amongst others, in the form of:

- Numerous reports;
- Monthly European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) expense declarations;
- Agricultural product import/ export licences;
- Market price data.



At the same time, DG Agriculture regularly communicates information to relevant national ministries or public bodies and publishes information intended for EU citizens. Most of these data exchanges:

- Are based on several diverse codes (e.g. agricultural products, EAGGF budget items, geographical entities, currencies, etc);
- Must respect a specific data structure format; and
- Are transmitted using varying media formats: electronic files, faxes, e-mails, etc.

The primary objective of the CAP-ED extranet is therefore to simplify and facilitate electronic data exchanges between CAP actors i.e.:

- DG Agriculture, other Commission DGs or European institutions; and
- Member State organisations: paying agencies, coordination bodies and liaison agencies.

This will allow for the improvement of interoperability between the IT systems of both DG Agriculture and its counterparts in other EU and national administrations.

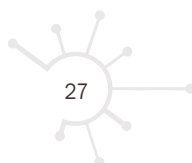
»» How does it work?

The CAP-ED extranet system will act as a repository for:

- All the common code lists;
- Correspondences between codes; and
- Data structures which are relevant to the implementation of electronic data exchanges concerning the CAP.

To take a concrete scenario:

Bjørn, a Swedish civil servant dealing with CAP, regularly has to communicate financial reports to DG Agriculture. His counterpart in Brussels is a non-Swedish-speaking Italian – Angelica. Prior to CAP-ED, Bjørn and Angelica would have found it difficult to communicate with each other effectively and concisely. However, both Bjørn and Angelica have been authorised to use CAP-ED by the Commission and have been issued with individual usernames and passwords to enter the extranet service. The result is:



Bjørn searches through the regularly updated CAP-ED database system for the codes he needs to complete his report, which he will send to Angelica. [The system will be regularly updated by DG Agriculture, to be in line with changing reference data.]

Bjørn can decide whether to access the web interface via TESTA (see page 121) or the Internet. [The web interface - accessible both through TESTA and through the Internet - will allow DG Agriculture partners to easily consult or retrieve the information needed to facilitate their CAP-related electronic data transmissions.]

Bjørn is able to search for the required codes using their Swedish descriptions, thanks to the multilingual functionality of CAP-ED. On her side, Angelica is able to understand the meaning of the various codes by using the CAP-ED extranet in Italian. [CAP-ED will provide a linguistically personalised user interface and code content to each authorised user.]

Bjørn and Angelica should be able to communicate more effectively and more efficiently in the future through the use of standardised templates which they will both access via the CAP-ED extranet. [In the short to medium term, CAP-ED will enhance information sharing between civil servants within DG Agriculture and their counterparts across the EU Member States. Ultimately, it should result in code harmonisation as well as an increase in structured communications.]

Bjørn downloads directly the budget code nomenclature in his IT system, avoiding the need for staff to retype the codes from paper. [CAP-ED has in fact been designed to allow either online consultation or local download.]

» Achievements

- A feasibility study was successfully concluded in October 2001. Achievements included a proposed high-level Functional Model, a system Architecture, an application prototype and a cost estimation of the global system.
- The development and validation stage started in December 2001. Detailed functional and technical analyses have been completed. The development of the first release has been completed. System internal validation was completed end 2002.
- Implementation: started in December 2002. The development is currently finished and the system has entered into production in the second quarter 2003.

» Who will benefit?

Public Administrations: National civil servants across the EU Member States and European Commission administrators. In the past many data exchanges with the European Commission were still carried out in an unstructured way via paper, faxes, and e-mail. The absence of easily accessible unique code lists was a major obstacle when trying to encourage structured data exchanges. The CAP-ED system represents a major step towards removing this obstacle. It provides the means for efficiently and accurately transmitting the necessary information alongside multilingual explanations of all terms.

The whole CAP-related communication process will therefore benefit from CAP-ED, since the shared use of this system will:

- Reduce the time needed for information transmission;
- Reduce the workload required for handling the transmitted data; and
- Improve the accuracy and reliability of the transmitted data.

» The role of IDA

The development of the CAP-ED system is completely funded by the IDA Programme and makes use, where appropriate, of IDA generic services such as TESTA.

» Technical information

Project start date:	2000
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Implementation
IDA budget:	2000 € 88,000
	2001 € 282,000
	2003 € 60,000

Responsible service:
DG Agriculture

Project coordinator:
Petros Kosmetatos

Contact:
petros.kosmetatos@cec.eu.int
agri-caped-support@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture>

Background documents:
Common Agricultural Policy - Electronic Dictionary- GIP <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1143.pdf> (EN)
IDA decision annex reference:- b7: Decision No. 1719/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 1999

CAP-IDIM

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MONITORING INDICATORS



Eighty per cent of the European Union land mass is made up of rural areas. These areas continue to face a series of challenges, such as declining population, and the need for both the diversification by the agricultural sector and the protection of natural landscapes. The European Community provides support to all rural areas through a set of programmes managed by the Member States and regions. Monitoring these diverse programmes, and shaping effective policy for rural areas on a pan-European scale, call for reliable and up-to-date information. CAP-IDIM will provide the information decision-makers need to help rural areas realise their full potential.

»» What is CAP-IDIM?

CAP-IDIM stands for Common Agricultural Policy - Improved Data and Indicators Management. It is a web-based common repository and management tool which has been designed for the transfer, storage and processing of the rural development monitoring data submitted by national and regional authorities across the EU Member States.

Once fully operational, this tool will assist the European Commission and Member States to fulfil the legal requirement expressed in the relevant European Council Regulation, namely to 'ensure effective monitoring of implementation of rural development programming'.

This monitoring must:

- Include information on the progress of measures and priorities, with respect to their operational and specific objectives;
- Be expressed through quantitative (financial and physical) indicators, based on a common framework recommended by the Commission; and
- Be updated annually through the submission of data to the Commission by the national and regional authorities.



»» Objectives

The main objectives of the CAP-IDIM system are:

- To ease the transmission of monitoring information from the regional and national authorities of the Member States to DG Agriculture of the European Commission;
- To create a common database to store this extensive information; and
- To allow DG Agriculture, together with the Member States, to monitor and analyse the implementation of European Community rural development policy better and to disseminate the information externally to other interested parties.

»» How will it work?

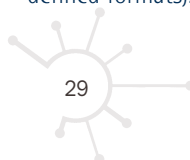
EU rural development policy is the 'second pillar' of the Common Agricultural Policy. It covers a wide range of on- and off-farm activities, ranging from physical, social and economic infrastructure to agri-environmental schemes.

Currently, 156 reports must be submitted to DG Agriculture each year for mainstream programmes containing rural development measures financed by the EAGGF (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) - Guidance or Guarantee Sections. A further 73 annual reports will be submitted for LEADER+ programmes (Links between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy).

The above-mentioned figures underline the need for a system which can be sensitive to and can promote local strategies. They also suggest the need for a system that not only can handle requirements from the current Member States but can also incorporate data from the new Member States in an enlarged EU.

Under the CAP-IDIM system, such information will be housed within a web-based relational database. A key challenge is ensuring sufficient levels of indicator formulation and data formats, and user-friendly methods of data exchange.

The CAP-IDIM system will provide alternative and complementary methods for national and regional authorities to provide their indicator data (web interface, files with pre-defined formats).



A reporting system will allow the production of report templates, as well as the possibility to formulate ad-hoc queries against the monitoring data. The reports generated will be used:

- As a key input for the reporting requirements to the Council and other European Institutions on implementation of rural development policy at Community level;
- For answering queries (from MEPs, Court of Auditors, rural development stakeholders etc); and
- For other, general publications.

»» Achievements

- A feasibility study was successfully completed in January 2002. It delivered the high-level Functional Model of the future system as well as its Global Implementation Plan (GIP) and a prototype. The feasibility study also made recommendations in order to enhance the data quality of the collected monitoring indicators.
- The development phase was launched in December 2002.
- The main objective for 2003 is the development of the system. Its implementation is scheduled for early 2004.

»» Who will benefit?

Citizens: Taxpayers will benefit from an efficient and transparent monitoring of the use of funds for rural development. In addition, some aggregated data could also be disseminated to the general public through the Europa website.

Public Administrations: Thanks to CAP-IDIM, the Commission and Member States will be able to monitor progress on the policy implementation in physical and financial terms within the Member States and at EU-level.

Policy makers: The system will help those responsible for implementation of the current generation of rural development programmes to identify where adjustments are required to improve programme performance. Looking ahead, it will assist policy makers draw lessons to shape future rural development policy post-2006.

At the same time, national authorities and the Commission will be able to use this effective tool to facilitate the encoding, storage and processing of the extensive rural development monitoring information available. The preparation of national level aggregate data (for Member States with a regional pro-

gramming approach) and EU-level reporting facilities within pre-defined parameters are also possible and thus help to inform the policy-making process.

Electronic submission of monitoring information will enable more rapid and efficient transfer of monitoring data on European Commission rural development policy. Standardising the input recorded in the database will also lead to an overall improvement in the quality, accuracy and pertinence of the information. This will allow predefined reports to be produced at any time, using the latest data.

»» The role of IDA

The development of the CAP-IDIM system is funded by the IDA budget. The system also makes use of IDA generic services such as TESTA.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2000
Project completion date:	2003-2004
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	2000 € 64,000
	2002 € 386,000
	2003 € 60,000

Responsible service:

DG Agriculture

Project coordinator:

Helen Williams (for functional aspects)

Chantal Gillain (for technical aspects)

Contact:

helen.williams@cec.eu.int

chantal.gillain@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/index_en.htm

Background documents:

CAP-IDIM project - Global Implementation Plan (EN)

CIRCA-IDES

INTERACTIVE DATA ENTRY SYSTEM



"The strengthening and redevelopment of strategic information systems are vital for the functioning of the agricultural markets and the financial mechanism" [COM(2003) 64 final]. In view of the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy reform (proposed in January 2003 by the European Commission), the transfer of information becomes crucial to ensure consistency between national administrations and the European Commission. The IDES software package has been created for the secure transmission of electronic data files from Member States to DG Agriculture and should therefore prove a suitable tool to support administrators in their daily work. The CIRCA system delivered by IDA has become DG Agriculture's standard dissemination tool.

»» What is CIRCA-IDES?

CIRCA-IDES provides the software tool through which Member State administrations can share knowledge, resources and data with DG Agriculture of the European Commission in a secure environment. By using CIRCA-IDES DG Agriculture provides a facility for the distribution of standardised information to and from EU Member States.

»» Objectives

The IDES system (currently known as NewIDES since its new version was developed in 2001), aims to facilitate and promote effective cooperation between DG Agriculture and EU Member States. Its automatic data reception, validation and dispatching function allows relevant information to reach the correct service securely and more speedily than in the past. For instance DG Agriculture Unit C4 (Fruits and Vegetables) received approximately 5,000 data files during 2002.



IDES is capable of processing several types of data originating from Member States and relating to the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy). It handles information from the fruit and vegetables, meat products, cereals and dairy produce sectors. In parallel, it manages marketing information (e.g. market prices, import and export licences, etc.).

The European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund's (EAGGF) monthly expense declarations are also processed by IDES.

»» How does it work?

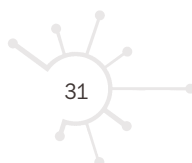
The IDES software package processes data files electronically transmitted from EU Member States to DG Agriculture in a watertight digital environment.

"Processing" the IDES way means:

- File originator and data type recognition;
- Basic data validation;
- Data transformation in cases where the file has not been sent in one of the three accepted data formats (X-400 - like, XML or CSV);
- Data delivery to the relevant Unit or service in DG Agriculture; and
- Automatic forwarding of delivery receipt to the original sender.

The data files, which are text files following a predetermined format, can be transmitted via two channels. The first channel - which is primarily used for testing purposes only - is via simple e-mail (electronic mail box). The second and primary channel is via the Web Upload Secure Interface (WUSI) - a secure Internet application developed by DG Agriculture and accessible via their Applications portal (AWAI). WUSI is particularly encouraged since its security features are equivalent to those used by websites on which financial transactions are carried out, such as online banks and Internet shopping malls.

AGRICULTURE



»» Achievements

- Since IDES came fully online in mid-2001, it has established itself as the standard electronic data exchange tool used both by DG Agriculture and by public administrators across the EU Member States dealing with CAP;
- As a direct result, there has been a significant increase in the volume of electronic data transmission between the EU Member States and DG Agriculture.
- The quality and reliability of data has seen a sharp rise over the same time period.
- CIRCA has become the most frequently used electronic data dissemination tool in DG Agriculture.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: End users can be confident in the knowledge that their communications are confidential. State-of-the-art technology has been made sufficiently user friendly to add value to, rather than hamper, their work.

CIRCA-IDES allows DG Agriculture to meet its objective of promoting and supporting better communication and information exchange between Member States and the European Commission on CAP issues.

»» The role of IDA

IDA funded the development of the IDES system. The generic Web Upload Secure Interface (WUSI), interfaced with IDES, is also available through the TESTA network (IDA generic service).

IDA also delivers the CIRCA system which has been used by DG Agriculture since 1999 as the replacement for the previous partly IDA-financed dissemination tools specific to the agricultural sector.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1997
Project completion date:	2001
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	1997 € 207,000
	1998 € 207,000
	1999 € 207,000

Responsible service:
DG Agriculture

Project coordinator:
Petros Kosmetatos

Contact:
petros.kosmetatos@cec.eu.int
noella.lemoine@cec.eu.int
agri-ides-support@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/jrc/agri/agri-ides/info/data/agri-ides.htm>

Background documents:
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/jrc/agri/agri-ides/info/data/Basics.pdf>



Farming is an important sector to the European Union (EU) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is one of its policy cornerstones. This is reflected in FADN, a system that conducts annual surveys of farm accountancy data. Its scope has contributed to the shape of today's CAP, helping policy makers sustain Europe's farming community in an increasingly demanding world market.

»» What is FADN-RICA?

Established in 1965, the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) is a data analysis tool designed to evaluate the income of agricultural holdings or farms and the impact of the CAP. The network's evaluation activities consist of annual surveys carried out by the Member States.

Farms producing little output do not warrant inclusion in the FADN sample. Thus, in defining the FADN field of observation, the Commission follows the guidelines specified in Regulation 79/65/EEC of 15/06/1965 and subsequent amendments and adopts a pragmatic approach by including only those farms deemed to be commercial. In order to be classified as commercial, a farm must exceed a minimum economic size.

»» Objectives

The key objective of FADN-RICA is to collect accountancy data from farms across the EU Member States for an annual determination of incomes and business analyses of agricultural holdings.



»» How does it work?

Every year, the European Commission services responsible for the operation of the FADN collect accountancy data from a sample of the agricultural holdings across the European Union.

Holdings are selected to take part in national surveys on the basis of sampling plans established at the regional level.

FADN-RICA is the only harmonised source of micro-economic data of agricultural holdings in the EU. The book-keeping principles, for example, are the same in all countries.

The methodology applied aims to provide representative data on three levels:

- Region;
- Economic size; and
- Type of farming.

The standard results are made available on the web in a public database.

»» Achievements

- Currently, the annual sample covers:
 - Approximately 60,000 farms (which in statistical terms represent a population of about 4,000,000 farms in the EU's 15 Member States),
 - Approximately 90% of the total utilised agricultural area (UAA); and
 - More than 90% of the total agricultural production of the Union.
- Some 1,000 variables are collected from each sample farm and submitted by liaison agencies to the Commission.

- The FADN-RICA website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rica/index_en.cfm) is also a success with an increasing number of visits per month. For the moment it acts as an information channel from the FADN Unit to the outside world, liaison agencies and the general public. However, it is also rapidly becoming a connection point for liaison agencies to deliver their data.

»» Who benefits?

Policy makers: These are the primary beneficiaries of FADN-RICA. The technical and economic data made available has proved very useful in characterising different production systems and in appraising the different effects of the proposal for CAP reform presented by the European Commission.

Businesses: FADN-RICA also assists farmers and other professionals. The FADN-RICA survey not only covers the entire range of agricultural activities on farms but also collects data on some non-agricultural farming activities (such as tourism and forestry). The analysis of the technical data collected through FADN-RICA influences the differentiated way in which public funds are allocated to farms.

The standard results are also available to all in a Public Database (http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rica/dwh/index_en.cfm). Anyone interested in agriculture and farming can also consult these results, which describe the economic situation of different groups of farmers in considerable detail.

»» The role of IDA

The IDA Programme provides support to activities related to the connectivity of the Member States' Administration partners. However, direct financial contribution has been minor.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1965
Project completion date:	2001
IDA budget:	1999 € 159,000
Responsible service:	DG Agriculture
Project coordinator:	Patrick Van Driessche
Contact:	rica@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States and EFTA countries
Public website:	http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rica
Background documents:	Agriculture in the European Union Statistical and economic information 2001 The statistical information presented here covers a wide range of subjects: the economic situation in agriculture, structures, trade, markets, financial aspects and rural development. An introductory chapter gives an overview of the 2001 agricultural year (January 2002). http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/agrista/2001/table_en/index.htm



In 1999, the European Union-15 was ranked the second largest organic farming area in the world (3.8 million ha). Organic farming is one of the most dynamic agricultural sectors in the European Union with organic land increasing from 0.7 million hectares in 1993 to 3.3 million hectares in 1999. One of the reasons for the growth appears to be an upsurge of interest among both consumers and farmers in farming practices that respect the environment. It is therefore important that organic certification, inspections and import authorisations are properly regulated. OFIS is a key tool used by the EU Member States and the European Commission to exchange agricultural data on organic products and provide up-to-date information to the general public.

»» What is OFIS?

OFIS is a telematics network that supports the implementation of organic farming policies. It provides a system that allows for the electronic exchange of organic farming data between the EU Member States and the European Commission and supports the management of related business procedures. OFIS also facilitates the dissemination of information to European citizens and operators through the provision of public data on the EUROPA website.

»» Objectives

OFIS aims to facilitate the work of the EU Member States, the European Commission and the delegations of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming.

This Committee - made up of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a Commission representative - has been set up to ensure a close collaboration among responsible parties and to guarantee a uniform application of EU legislation.



OFIS also seeks to improve communication between the EU Member States and the European Commission in the area of organic farming by providing an efficient means for gathering and disseminating relevant information.

The legal basis of Organic Farming, and OFIS in particular, is laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 of 24 June 1991 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs.

»» How does it work?

OFIS allows EU Member States to use a web-based information system to notify the European Commission and, when required, other EU Member States of information related to organic farming policy implementation. Electronic notifications will replace the more traditional notification letters that are currently sent.

The information exchanged through OFIS includes:

- Non-organic ingredients provisionally authorised by the Member States (see background information);
- Authorisations granted by MS on equivalency for imports from third countries;
- List of approved inspection bodies or authorities;
- Statistical data on organic farming production.

All information will be housed centrally in a database. Administrations in the EU Member States and the Commission will be able to query the database to obtain detailed and consolidated lists. Once fully online, the application will be fully multilingual.

»» Achievements

- The feasibility study for OFIS was concluded in July 2001 and a high-level functional model, the system architecture and an application prototype were proposed. A global cost estimation was also provided.
- The development and validation of OFIS began in December 2001. Detailed functional and technical analyses have now been completed and the first version of the system has been released.



- Testing and user-training have been finalised in the first quarter 2003. The application for restricted access (Member States and the Commission) has entered into the pre-production phase and it is scheduled to be operational mid-May. At that stage the traditional notification system (writing) will definitely cease and be replaced by the electronic one.
- As for the public website, this is still under development (e.g. content is translated in all the official EU languages) and is foreseen to go online by 2003.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: The Commission, the Member States' delegations in the Standing Committee on Organic Farming and their working groups will be the main beneficiaries of the OFIS system. For example, approximately 17,700 notification letters will be replaced by electronic distribution. OFIS also promises an overall improvement in the quality, the accuracy and the relevance of the information.

Businesses: Farmers, organic food producers and consumers. These groups will also benefit from transparent and accessible information. As soon as the website is online, there will be a nightly transfer of data (e.g. the import notifications from third countries) to the public site, and producers as well as consumers will be able to access information in the form of reports and queries.

»» The role of IDA

IDA provides funding and guidelines for the development of OFIS. This project will also use the TESTA network and some of the information provided by the OFIS system may also be disseminated using CIRCA.

»» Background information

Article 11 of the Council Regulation (EEC) 2092/91 is the basis for import notifications: "Where a Member State has received sufficient evidence from an importer, it shall forthwith notify the Commission and the other Member States the third country from which products are imported and supply detailed information on the production and inspection arrangements and the guarantees that they will be permanently and effectively applied."

According to the Commission Regulation (EEC) 207/93 Article 3.2, the Member State should notify the other Member States and the Commission about the authorisation of the use of ingredients that cannot be found in organic production.

Art. 15 of the Council Regulation (EEC) 2092/91 stipulates the reporting obligations: "Before 1 July each year, Member States shall inform the Commission of measures taken in the preceding year for the implementation of this Regulation and shall communicate in particular a) a list of the operators who, on 31 December of the previous year, had given notification and are subject to the inspection system; b) a report on supervision". In

addition: "By 31 March each year, Member States shall inform the Commission of the list of inspection bodies approved on 31 December of the previous year, their legal and operational structure, their standard inspection procedure, their penalty arrangements and, where appropriate, their mark". The lists of approved bodies notified to the Commission within the deadlines will be published in the 'C' series of the Official Journal of the European Communities.

»» Technical information

Project start date: 2000
Project completion date: 2003
Project status: Development and implementation
IDA budget: 2000 € 70,000
 2001-2002 € 350,000

Estimated maintenance costs: € 60,000/year

Responsible service:

DG Agriculture

Project coordinator:

Pirjo Pennanen (functional aspects)

Els Oliviers (technical aspects)

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agri-ofis-support@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public websites:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/index_en.htm (information on organic farming policy)

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/ofis_public/index.cfm (from second half 2003)

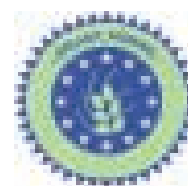
Background documents:

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 of 24 June 1991 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs

http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/main/1991/en_1991R2092_index.html
 Global Implementation Plan (EN)

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1147.doc> and Organic farming Guide to Community rules:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/brochure/abio_en.pdf



eSAFEGUARDS

ON-LINE NUCLEAR MATERIALS ACCOUNTANCY REPORTING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

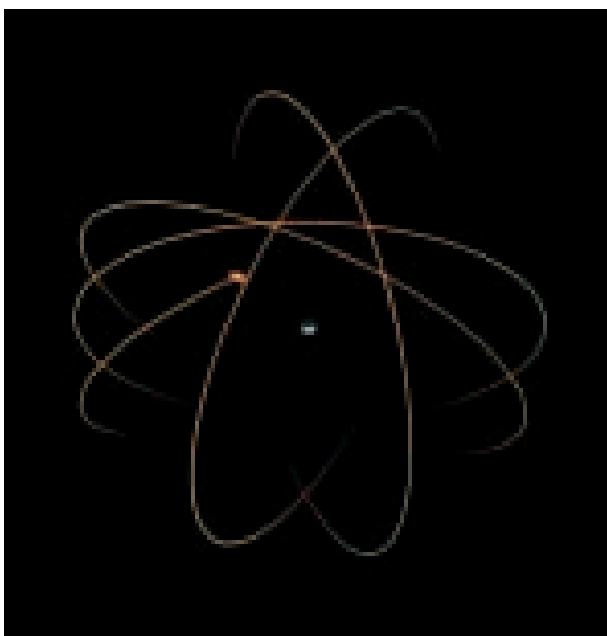
The EURATOM Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community is one of the European Union's founding treaties. Under the Treaty, the European Commission acquired the status of a supranational regulatory authority for radiological protection, supply of nuclear fuel materials and nuclear safeguards. eSAFEGUARDS will make it easier for the responsible authorities to keep track of nuclear materials in the EU.

»» What is eSAFEGUARDS?

When fully operational, eSAFEGUARDS will be a state-of-the-art nuclear materials accountancy system. It will facilitate the collection of different types of nuclear materials accountancy reports submitted to the European Commission at regular intervals by all users of nuclear materials in the EU.

»» Objectives

Euratom Treaty articles 77-79 and its implementing regulation, Commission Regulation 3227/76 (Euratom), require all users of nuclear materials in the union to register with the Commission, to establish a state-of-technology nuclear materials accountancy system and to submit different types of nuclear materials accountancy reports to the Commission at regular intervals. These reports include accounting and operating records and, in particular, information on the quantities, nature, form and composition of nuclear materials, their location, their safeguarding obligation and the way in which the materials are intended to be used, as well as the relevant information on shipper or recipient when materials are transferred.



ENERGY

The project's key objective is to provide the European Commission, Member States and nuclear installations operators under Euratom Safeguards with a state-of-the-art and secure service to exchange nuclear materials accountancy data electronically.

»» How will it work?

The European Commission currently receives approximately 1.5 million transactions per year from nuclear operators:

- 70% on diskettes;
- 25% through encrypted electronic mail; and
- 5% as hard copies.

With the expected ratification of the Additional Protocols in 2003, the total volume of transactions will increase substantially.

The operators also send copies of the transactions to the relevant authority in their Member State, where such an authority exists. In future, all reporting should be electronic.

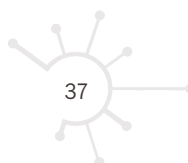
The new system will allow secure data exchange, including electronic workflow, electronic workgroup and PKI CUG services (see page 115). The system could become an online nuclear materials' accountancy system similar to an online banking system, if Member States agree.

»» Achievements

The project is still in its preparatory stage, although the concept and objectives have been defined.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: eSAFEGUARDS will contribute to the safe management of nuclear material (including transport and waste) in all Member States as well as in the Acceding and Candidate Countries, increasing the transparency of the relevant information and the cooperation in this sector.



Public Administrations: eSAFEGUARDS will greatly facilitate the exchange of nuclear materials accountancy data between the Commission, Member States and operators of nuclear installations.

The project will also provide the backbone for electronic exchanges in the context of the Applicant Countries Cooperation with the Euratom Safeguards System (ACCESS project).

»» The role of IDA

IDA finances the implementation of eSAFEGUARDS. The project plans to use the IDA's generic service PKI.

»» Technical information

Project start date: 2003

Project completion date: 2005

Project status: Feasibility

IDA budget: 2003 € 175,000

Responsible service:

DG Energy and Transport

Project coordinator:

Ilmo Kalkas

Contact:

ilmo.kalkas@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries

Public website:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/energy/nuclear/nuclearsafety.htm>

Background documents:

Proposal for a Council Decision approving a Commission Regulation on the application of Euratom safeguards COM/2002/0099 final Official Journal C 227 E , 24/09/2002 P. 0224 - 029

ECB-NET

EUROPEAN CHEMICALS BUREAU NETWORK



For a great number of chemicals on the European Union market, the information available to licensing authorities and to the public is often insufficient to be able to estimate the risk related to the use of these chemicals. In order to improve this situation the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB) in collaboration with national authorities and the chemical industry collects data on industrial chemicals. The amount of data collected will grow substantially during the next few years. The ECB-Net is being built to increase the speed of communication between the parties. The ECB-NET will give industries and the public easier access to the central databases, facilitating data submission for the industries and increasing transparency for the public.

»» What is ECB-NET?

ECB-NET is a web-based network designed for information and data transfer concerning chemical substances. Once fully online, it will be used by the European Commission, national administrations and authorities, the chemical industry and eventually, the public.

The ECB, which is a Unit in the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and located at the JRC's site in Ispra, Italy, is responsible for the technical implementation of the EU's chemical legislation. Its main work areas are:

Biocides: responsibility for the scientific and technical issues arising from the approval of active substances in biocidal products (Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market);

Classification and Labelling: this involves an evaluation of the hazard of a substance or preparation in accordance with EU directives and a communication of that hazard via the label;

Existing chemicals: responsibility for data collection, priority setting, risk assessment of existing chemicals;

Import-Export: responsibility for information exchange with the Member States, third countries and the UNEP/FAO, and for the monitoring of export and import of chemicals which are subject to restrictions in their use and applications because of their potential hazard;

New Chemicals: this includes coordination of EU notification scheme and risk assessment for new chemical substances; management of the New Chemicals Database (NCD) maintained in a security area with authorised access only; preparation of a European List of New Chemical Substances (ELINCS); supervision of Technical and Scientific Meetings (TSMs) and Working Group Meetings allowing Member State Competent Authorities to discuss issues arising related to the implementation of Directives;

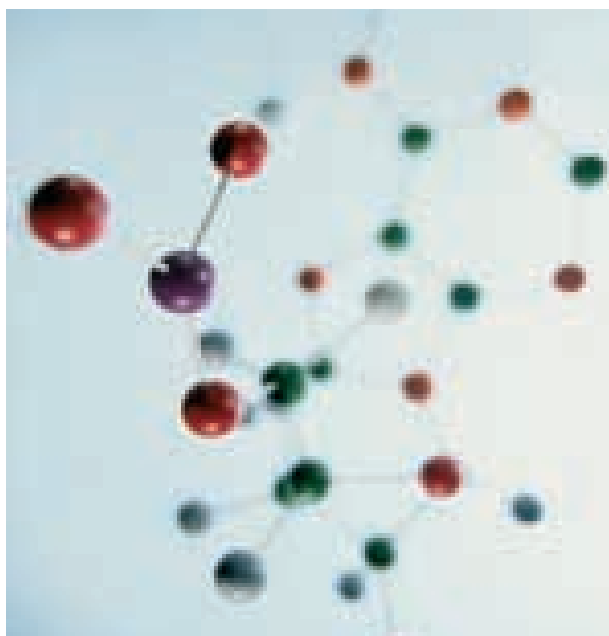
Testing Methods: ensuring the implementation and harmonisation of test methods on chemical substances in the European Union, in close collaboration with the OECD and other international organisations.

»» Objectives

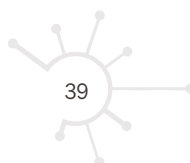
ECB-NET's over-arching objective is to construct a network for the exchange of data and information on industrial chemicals between national administrations and European Commission services. The need for a rapid exchange of information among the authorities is due to the increasing demand for the chemical legislation to respect the environment and the health of the general public. In this sense ECB-NET is also aiming at informing citizens about the properties and risks of potentially dangerous chemicals used in their everyday lives.

»» How does it work?

Once complete, the network will include a system for document management and information workflow control. It will allow transmission of confidential information and data between the network partners, and give them all access to the central database operated by the ECB.



ENVIRONMENT



The network structure will be available for submission of data from the chemical industry to the ECB and for public access to the non-confidential areas of the ECB databases. The tools developed will also be available for data transmission between the ECB and international organisations as well as other bodies outside the EU. Helpdesk services for external contributors of information are also available.

»» Achievements

- At present, document handling and remote database access features are being developed.
- A feasibility study on use of an XML format for data transfer is in progress. The feasibility study will result in a General Implementation Plan (GIP) for the data transfer.

»» Who benefits?

Businesses: Chemical Industry and NGOs. The network will facilitate data input from the chemical industry to authorities, and the subsequent distribution of data and information to authorities, industry, NGOs and the general public. Under the New Chemicals Policy, which will require a greater effort from the industry, the network will ease the burden on small and medium enterprises which will be able to use the network's tools for easy data entry and data transfer.

Citizens: The direct access to the central non-confidential databases for the public will increase the safety of chemicals and the transparency of their registration and assessment under the New Chemicals Policy.

Public Administrations: European Commission and National Authorities. Presently all participants typically use floppy disks for data transmission. Direct data transfer between the involved parties will result in significant time-saving. The network will also provide direct access to the central database maintained by the ECB. As an added advantage, a coherent system for document handling will make the organisation and management of meetings simpler.

The network will eliminate the current delay in the risk assessment procedure due to slow transfer of data between the parties. This will be a benefit not only for the involved administrations but also for industry which produces the chemicals and the public who are exposed to the potentially dangerous chemicals.

»» The role of IDA

IDA finances the research and the development of the project and provides the generic services for its implementation (TESTA, PKI and XML).

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2000
Project completion date:	2004
Project status:	Feasibility for the data transfer and development of a procedure for document exchange
IDA budget:	2000 € 237,000 2002 € 441,000 2003 € 750,000

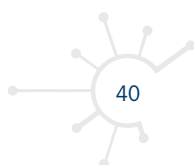
Responsible service:
DG Joint Research Centre, DG Taxation and Customs, DG Environment, DG Enterprise

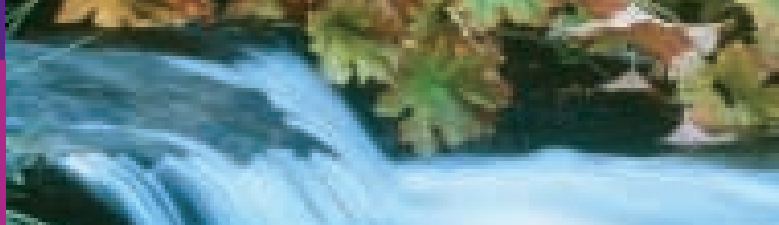
Project coordinator:
Ole Nørager

Contact:
ole.norager@jrc.it

Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://ecb.jrc.it/>





Biodiversity is much more complex than just 'nature' or 'environment' as it refers to all varieties and forms of life. Biodiversity breaks down into three levels: diversity of ecosystems, species and genes. It is essential to maintain biodiversity since it has important social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values. In 1992, biodiversity was a key element of the Earth Summit which led to a United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It remains just as important now as species and ecosystems continue to disappear at a high rate. EC-CHM is part of Europe's contribution, acting as a regional one-stop shop for information on biodiversity resources and progress in fighting its decline.

»» What is EC-CHM?

The European Community Clearing-House Mechanism (EC-CHM) is a web portal designed and managed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) bringing together biodiversity information from across the EU. It is the European Community's contribution to the global portal being developed under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The CBD was one of the key agreements adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 'sustainable development'. It is a 'framework for action' involving the vast majority of the world's governments committed to maintaining the world's ecological underpinnings in a continuing era of economic development.

Some of the many issues dealt with under the Convention include:

- Measures and incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Regulated access to genetic resources.
- Access to and transfer of technology, including biotechnology.
- Technical and scientific cooperation.
- Impact assessment.
- Education and public awareness.
- Provision of financial resources.
- National reporting on efforts to implement treaty commitments.

»» Objectives

As expertise in managing information and technology varies enormously from country to country, the Convention has established a "clearing-house mechanism" to ensure that all governments have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity (Art 18). The EC-CHM is one of the focal points of this worldwide network.

- EC-CHM's key objective is therefore to provide a valuable tool to promote scientific and technical cooperation across the EU Member States in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity mainly through the development and implementation of national policies.
- It also aims to provide access to information on European Community progress on implementing CBD's goals which

are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the sharing of the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.

- At the same time, it contributes to education and raising public awareness of biodiversity.
- The provision of information by the EC-CHM is of particular importance for the compilation of national and Community reports, and for information on progress in implementing concrete measures for biodiversity.

»» How does it work?

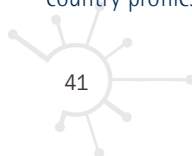
The ongoing development of the EC-CHM project is based on global guidelines set by the CBD Secretariat and uses the facilities of the EEA website (including the eEIONET network – see page 73) and its standardised document handling.

A steering committee (open to all interested Member States) and a task force (consisting of representatives appointed by EEA from countries with special interest in collaboration) advise on its development. Observers from the CBD Secretariat (permanent), United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office Europe (UNEP-ROE) and the Council of Europe are invited to ensure collaboration also with EEA's non-EU member countries as well as with other countries and organisations in Europe.

The EC-CHM web portal has become the entry point to a huge network of institutions and organisations working on biodiversity. It links to other institutions and organisations (governmental, private and NGOs) that house useful information in Europe and elsewhere.

Through search facilities, users can find information from different perspectives according to their needs. The website either already provides or will soon provide the following structured information:

- Convention and Policy including policies, legislation, conventions and reports;
- Cooperation funding, research programmes, case studies, partnering and twinning, best practice;
- Information on selected groups of species; list of available databases, thesaurus, indicators (membership only), country profiles etc;



- Organisations and Networks, the who's who, organisation and networks; and
- Services such as search engine, news, meetings and events.

In order to guarantee the integrity of data and information, the material found on EC-CHM is kept and maintained by the original sources of information. The public can have access to most areas of the web portal with the exception of certain sensitive areas reserved for members only. These include a section on biodiversity indicators.

»» Achievements

- After two years of planning and development, the EC-CHM portal began life in the spring of 2001. The website was further implemented to suit the EEA website and the use of Dublin core meta-data rules (XML).
- Whilst the portal is online, its interoperability functionalities are still being enhanced. Contents (including web links) are constantly under expansion.
- The EC-CHM is now being actively used by the Commission to post news on Biodiversity reports to CBD.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: Through the strengthening of the international cooperation the EC-CHM is contributing to the protection of the living world for the future generations. It helps to raise public awareness; citizens can access the EC-CHM website to find information on biodiversity related to policies, legislation, funding opportunities, databases, sources of expertise, etc. and understand better the implications of our daily actions on the ecosystem.

Public Administrations: The EC-CHM can contribute to a better, more cost-effective decision-making process by helping the competent authorities to implement biodiversity-related initiatives through the access to readily available information.

Businesses: Biodiversity is essential for the long-term sustainability of agriculture and fisheries, and it is the basis for many industrial processes and the production of new medicines. EC-CHM aims at supporting the cooperation in the field of research and technology for a sustainable development.

There is a large community of scientific experts worldwide working in the biodiversity field. Thanks to the data and information available, the EC-CHM helps promote and facilitate scientific and technological cooperation not just within Europe but also with the other countries around the world who are signatories to the UN CBD. This concerns training, education, research, information and expertise. The EC-CHM helps reduce the duplication of related efforts and therefore improves the efficiency of these groups of experts.

»» The role of IDA

The EC-CHM is financed by the IDA Programme. It makes use of CIRCA application and was developed according to the IDA Architecture Guidelines. In addition its portal has been built

using a reusable software package for portal websites. This package, called the EC-CHM portal Tool Kit (PTK) is now available to other users.

»» Background information

The Commission presented the Community Biodiversity Strategy in 1998 and in 2001 adopted a series of action plans to integrate the protection of biodiversity into EU agricultural, fishery, environment, development, and cooperation policies. The aim of the action plans was to stop losses in wildlife, ecosystems, varieties of crops, domestic animals and fish. As traditional natural conservation policies are not enough to preserve the world's biodiversity, specific protection measures for key species and habitats are essential but are not, by themselves, a satisfactory response to the problem of biodiversity loss.

The Sixth Environmental Action Plan (EAP), 'Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice', highlights nature and biodiversity as a top priority. It states that responses must be found to the pressures from human activities on nature and the biodiversity it supports.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Implementation
IDA budget:	2000 € 330,000
	2001 € 850,000
	2002 € 699,000

Responsible service:

European Environment Agency (EEA),
DG Environment

Project coordinator:

Nicholas Hanley (policy issues)
Ulla Pinborg (technical issues)

Contact:

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ulla.pinborg@eea.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public website:

<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/>

Background documents:

http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/convention/cbd_ec

And <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/information/document/404010>

European Environment Agency:
<http://www.eea.eu.int/>

PROCIV-NET

CIVIL PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES
EUROPEAN NETWORK(S)



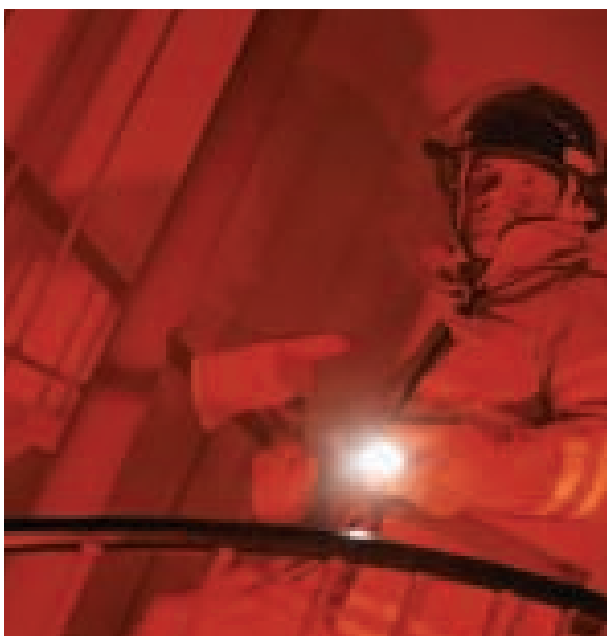
At some point in our lives an environmental or civil protection emergency of a natural or technological nature – oil spills, chemical or nuclear accidents, floods, earthquakes, avalanches, storms – may affect us. PROCIV-NET makes it possible for those who deal with the management of emergency situations to take more efficient decisions thanks to the inter-connection of national contact points and the sharing and exchange of information.

»» What is PROCIV-NET?

PROCIV-NET is a network, which interconnects designated national contact points and other available resources that deal with environmental and civil protection emergencies.

It is a reliable common emergency notification system that enables communication, mutual assistance and sharing of multilingual information between the monitoring and information centre of the European Commission and the operational contact points of the Member States (e.g. authorities responsible for Civil Protection and Accidental Marine Pollution).

The legal base for the establishment and management of PROCIV-NET is laid down in the Council Decision EC 2001/792 of 23/07/2001.



»» Objectives

The main objective of PROCIV-NET is to electronically link the national authorities responsible for protecting citizens from natural and technological hazards. PROCIV-NET assists in improving the interoperability among the relevant authorities and ensures their permanent vigilance therefore providing immediate follow-up to requests for help.

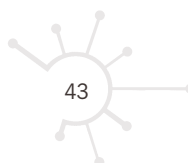
PROCIV-NET's mission is thus to ensure better protection, primarily of people but also the environment and property, including cultural heritage, in the event of major emergencies. These can be natural, technological, radiological or environmental accidents occurring inside or outside the European Union, including accidental marine pollution.

In the medium term, PROCIV-NET will be based on a best practice approach.

»» How does it work?

The project consists of both a network layer (information system based upon a central database accessible through a common web browser, over a private TCP/IP network) and an application layer.

- **Network layer**, i.e. the physical network connecting the competent authorities and the contact points in the Member States and the Monitoring and Information Centre.
- **Application layer**, i.e. the multilingual databases and other information systems necessary for the functioning of the mechanism and more particularly:
 - to communicate notifications,
 - to ensure communication and information sharing between the monitoring and information centre and the contact points,
 - to compile information on serums and vaccines or other medical resources and on stocks,
 - to disseminate lessons learnt from interventions. This function includes notification of emergencies, early warnings and subsequent information messages as well as follow-up of requests for assistance in emergencies.



- **Security layer**, i.e. the set of systems, rules and procedures necessary for ensuring the integrity, authenticity and confidentiality of the data stored and exchanged.

»» Achievements

- Certain elements of the project are still under development whilst others are in the implementation phase.
- A preparatory report was adopted in 2000, a feasibility study was completed in 2001 and a call for tenders was successfully completed in 2002.
- The project has been divided into three stages namely the construction of the network and the basic information system (stage I), the enhancement of the information content (stage II – feasibility study in progress) and the implementation of additional advanced functions mainly for improving security and robustness (stage III – feasibility study in progress).

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: Such a system safeguards everyone in Europe as a citizen depends on the ability of emergency services to be more effective in every aspect. PROCIV-NET will ensure the optimisation of future disaster procedures and management as well as the sharing of best practices.

Relevant Civil Protection and Environmental Organisations: The new system enables the relevant organisations to promptly react, take decisions, plan and coordinate necessary activities to effectively manage emergency situations.

Public Administrations: The Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) established within the European Commission will be able to exchange operational and other information in a secure and reliable way with National Competent Authorities.

»» The role of IDA

The new network will be implemented re-using existing infrastructure and generic services from IDA such as the TESTA, PKI and the CIRCA system. IDA is co-funding PROCIV-NET's development.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	end 2004
Project status:	Feasibility, development
IDA budget:	1999 € 142,000
	2000 € 95,000
	2001 € 20,000
	2002 € 1,175,000
	2003 € 80,000

Responsible service:

DG Environment

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Project coordinator:

Regis Elbez

Contact:

regis.elbez@cec.eu.int

civil-protection@cec.eu.int

Public website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/>

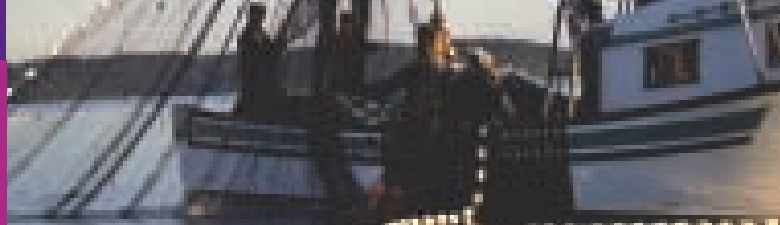
Background documents:

Vademecum of Civil-Protection in the European Union

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/pdf-docs/vademec.pdf>

FIDES

FISHERIES DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM



FISHERIES

With worldwide fish stocks declining, the European Commission's DG Fisheries and relevant administrations in the European Union face the challenge of striking a sustainable balance between available marine resources and their exploitation through the Common Fishery Policy. FIDES provides the communication network between the European Commission and EU Member States, as they put this policy into practice, safeguarding fish stocks and the fishery sector.

»» What is FIDES ?

FIDES is a one-stop shop which automates the management of fishery data using Internet technologies, accessible by national administrations in the EU Member States and the European Commission. It offers a wide range of alternatives such as web, e-mail and file transfer.

»» Objectives

Overall, FIDES aims to improve the operation of the Community's Common Fishery Policy through a technology-enhanced communications infrastructure linking DG Fisheries and corresponding administrations in the EU Member States. There is also the possibility of expanding the system to other countries in the future.



»» How does it work?

Member States can send and retrieve data to and from the FIDES application through several communication channels (e-mail, HTTP etc.).

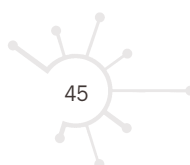
The FIDES system acts as an enabler, providing the link between Member State business processes and DG Fisheries. It does not store the actual information in a database but rather provides a reference link connecting the user with the data. It automatically acknowledges, archives and logs each information exchange (called "transaction").

Different authorised users can submit or request statistical reports on transactions from the system, but the available action and information depends on the user's access level within the system.

The configuration requirement for FIDES is minimal in order to take away the added cost in time and financial resources of installing DG Fisheries software or hardware on the premises of EU Member State administrations.

»» Achievements

- All reports to and from the European Commission, as required by fishery regulations, should be sent electronically via FIDES. FIDES currently supports 86 kinds of automated messages which implement data transmission for 11 EU Regulations.
- Each month between 100 and 200 reports are sent and the trend is increasing. The type of reports includes catch reports, fleet register declarations, fishing effort declarations, fishing authorisations, market reports, management of fishing quotas and total allowable catches.
- 2001 and 2002 saw FIDES become fully operational and more data flows, such as those related to Fisheries Market, including import reports, Internal Market reports for price follow-up etc., have been integrated.



- At present FIDES is fully maintained and supported by DG Fisheries.
- Since the building of FIDES, new regulations requiring complex workflow have been published. Therefore a revamping of FIDES has started (a new version that will benefit from the new technology such as Java application server, Web Services, XML and Workflow engine) and should be operational in 2004. A Global Implementation Plan for this new version of FIDES has been presented to the Telematics for Administrations Committee (TAC) as well as the FIDES Sectoral Committee and has been formally approved.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: They indirectly benefit from the FIDES system as a result of the improved communication between administration and the implementation of fishery regulations.

Public Administrations: This improved communication network is a great aid for Member States as it provides access to databases managed by DG Fisheries and offers an effective and reliable means of communication between officials in national administrations and the Commission.

»» The role of IDA

So far, IDA has entirely funded FIDES, which was implemented using IDA generic services. The new FIDES will also be implemented through the IDA budget.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1998
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	1999 € 264,000
	2000 € 73,000
	2001 € 459,000
	2002 € 297,000
	2003 € 285,000

Responsible service:

DG Fisheries

Contact:

fish-fidesinfo@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public website:

<http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/ida/fides/info/data/usman/howto.html>

Restricted websites:

<https://fides2.cec.eu-admin.net>

<https://fides2.cec.eu.int>

<http://fides2.fish.cec.eu.int>

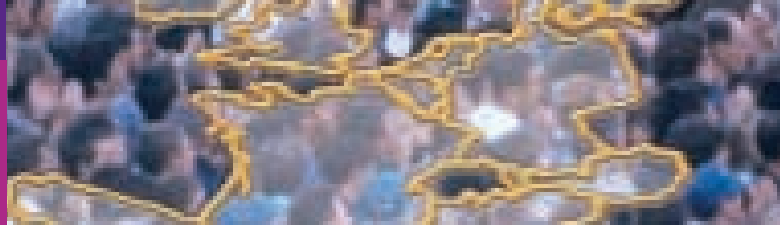
Background documents:

FIDES GIP Management summary (EN)

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1156.doc>

ADNS

ANIMAL DISEASE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



Recent years have seen a number of animal disease outbreaks cause widespread damage across the European Union such as the high-profile cases of BSE, foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, and swine fever. Early detection of disease is fundamental to preventing its spread and bringing it under control. ADNS is a key software tool for urgently notifying veterinary services throughout Europe of outbreaks of serious farm animal diseases.

»» What is ADNS?

The Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) automates animal disease outbreak notifications between Member States and is routed through the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection.

»» Objectives

The key objective of ADNS is to reduce future occurrences by facilitating the timely provision of the right information to the appropriate authorities. In this way, the national authorities concerned can evaluate a situation better and take appropriate and swift action where necessary.

Another key objective for ADNS is to minimise the number of unnecessarily restrictive measures taken by individual EU Member States. ADNS aims to facilitate localised strategies for disease prevention and control. Ultimately, the system should help to shape future EU veterinary policy.



»» How does it work?

Operational since 1985, the ADNS system enables the central veterinary authority of each EU Member State, as well as Andorra, Norway and Switzerland to directly notify both the European Commission and the other EU Member States of new outbreaks of specified notifiable diseases (please see Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 for further details such as list of diseases and type of information to be given under notification). The European Commission then sends out weekly digests of all outbreaks received during that week to public administrations in participating countries. Reports are also available to EU Member State public administrations. ADNS has recently been updated to allow restricted access to statistical reports to the veterinary services of the member countries via the Internet.

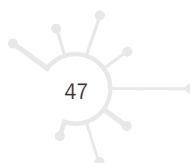
To avoid misunderstandings caused by language difficulties between members of the network, specific procedures and codes are used. These cover:

- Region concerned;
- Disease;
- Number of animals on the holding including dead and infected animals;
- Dates of the outbreak and measures taken;
- Origin and control measures taken.

Since some of the information contained in the notification is considered commercially sensitive, a number of security features have been built into the ADNS access and data transmission processes.

»» Achievements

- In 2002, about 5,000 messages were received and 52 sent out by the Commission. And the network is still growing - countries such as Switzerland and the EU Acceding and Candidate Countries have been added this year.
- The possibility of mapping disease outbreaks by region was also included in 2002.



»» Who benefits?

Citizens: By facilitating information exchange between Member States and the scientific expert community, the system helps to protect the health of consumers.

Businesses: It also avoids unnecessarily restrictive measures being taken unilaterally by any Member State. Under ADNS, each national administration has the opportunity to view the situation from a European rather than a national perspective. Action can be taken in collaboration with neighbouring countries or with those who directly border an infected or "at risk" region. In this way, livestock farmers throughout the network can feel reassured that they are being treated fairly and in line with their counterparts in other Member States. The ADNS system also provides them with a much-needed "early warning system". They can increasingly protect their livestock from the threat of disease.

Public Administrations: Consumer confidence in commercial agriculture has been considerably damaged in recent years following a number of livestock disease outbreaks. However, it is important to note that if the ADNS system had not been in place, the effects of recent livestock disease outbreaks would certainly have been even more catastrophic to the European farming sector. In the future, ADNS can play an important role in restoring consumer trust by improving the communication flow between the European Commission and the Member States. Ultimately, ADNS will help them to find the most appropriate measures to fight disease as and when outbreaks occur.

Professionals: As speed is paramount, harmonising, simplifying and automating the system greatly quickens the information exchange while minimising translation and transcription errors. Standardised information also helps researchers understand the mechanics of disease outbreaks and provides the statistics so central to forecasting and learning from earlier outbreaks.

»» The role of IDA

IDA provides funding for the development of the new system. As the system first started in 1985, IDA is currently supporting the modernisation and updating of the telecommunications and interface methods, and the training needs of the users.

»» Background information

A certain number of legislative measures have been introduced or amended following the outbreaks of diseases. In addition, a new Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002 laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption has been agreed in order to respond more effectively to consumer needs and to eliminate disparities between Member States concerning health rules affecting meat and meat products coming from a Member State where an animal disease has appeared.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1965
Project completion date:	2002
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	2001 € 199,000 2002 € 150,000 2003 € 100,000

Responsible service:
DG Health and Consumer Protection

Project coordinator:
Howard Batho
Bernard Van Goethem

Contact:
ian.mcconnell@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

Background documents:
Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS)-
Global Implementation Plan [version no 1.0]
(EN)

Decision No 1719/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 1999
OJ L 203 of 3.8.1999

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 82/894/EEC of 21
December 1982 on the notification of animal
diseases within the Community (OJ L 37,
31.12.1982, p. 58) as last amended by
Commission Decision 2002/788/EC (OJ No. L
274, 11.10.2002, p. 33).

COMMISSION DECISION 2000/807/EC laying
down the codified form and the codes for the
notification of animal diseases pursuant to
Council Directive 82/894/EEC (OJ L 326, 22. 12.
2000, p. 80) as last amended by Decision
2002/807/EC (OJ No. L 279, 17.10.2002, p. 50).



Medical devices are in constant evolution. In the healthcare sector, citizens and society in general can benefit directly from technological progress and innovation. At the same time, the speed of change and the degree of sophistication obtained also create new challenges. EUDAMED will help to ensure that patients receive good quality health care, and a high level of health protection, making sure that incompatible national rules or regulations do not compromise the free circulation of medical devices in the Internal Market.

»» What is EUDAMED ?

EUDAMED will be a database and telecommunications system for exchanging legal information on the application of European Union Directives on medical devices between the European Commission's Enterprise Directorate General and the Competent Authorities in the European Union Member States. Its legal basis is laid down in Directives 90/385/EEC, 93/42/EEC, 98/79/EC and 2000/70/EC.

»» Objectives

EUDAMED aims to help European authorities conduct market surveillance on medical devices through information exchange. The market surveillance on medical devices is part of the 'full quality assurance system' established by the Medical Device Directive 93/42/EEC. Under this Directive, Member States need to ensure that medical devices that are put into service comply with norms on users' safety and health protection, and that no obstacles are encountered for the free movement of approved devices. The Directive also requires that data be forwarded to a database in a standardised format.



The EUDAMED project aims to contribute to the effective implementation of the Directive. The creation of a unique central database in a standardised format and the inter-service/inter-authority telecommunications system will prevent Member States refusing equipment coming onto the market or being put into service due to national design and manufacturing rules.

EUDAMED will also develop a vigilance module. This vigilance module will inform Member States on incidents or near-incidents in relation to certain devices on the market.

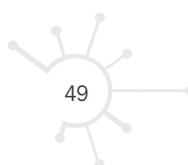
»» How will it work?

EUDAMED will be a secure web-based portal acting as a central repository for information exchange between national Competent Authorities and EU authorities. It will comprise a database with high quality operational data loaded in accordance with the specifications set out in the medical devices Directives and a telecommunication network that will act as the driver between the relevant bodies in the European Commission services and Member States.

The EUDAMED system will be split into different, interconnected subsystems. The focus will be placed on ensuring the effective collection and visualisation of all relevant information concerning medical devices. In case of problems with a device, the vigilance module will collect vigilance information relative to that device. This will give an overview to every Member State of the incident history of a device present on the market.

Data contained within the database will include:

- Data related to registry of manufacturers, authorised representatives and devices;
- Data related to certificates issued, modified, supplemented, suspended, withdrawn or refused according to established procedures; and
- Data obtained in accordance with the vigilance procedure on incidents or near-incidents which occur during the use of the medical device.



The vigilance module will report to EU Member States on incidents and near-incidents using electronic mail.

Users of the EUDAMED system will be able to load, extract and modify data, and to make reports and queries on the EUDAMED database. The system will use already existing components, and will be modular so that its components can be reused for similar purposes linked to Directives covering other domains.

»» Achievements

- Between 1997-1999 the Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information (DIMDI) has carried out a feasibility study and an overall assessment of EUDAMED. During the feasibility phase the contractor has developed, installed and made accessible a database system for the exchange of regulatory data on medical devices.
- A web-based interface has now been developed to enable direct input from Competent Authorities. Rules for data exchange have also been defined for Competent Authorities which wish to upload data from their own national system into Eudamed directly.
- Currently only public data is planned to be processed. However, it is envisaged that in a later phase, data on initial reports will be stored in the EUDAMED system for vigilance purposes.
- The next stage will therefore see the Member States network being adapted and sufficiently secured to be able to treat 'vigilance cases' related to defective devices.

»» Who will benefit?

Citizens: By publishing and immediately distributing vigilance reports to all Member States EUDAMED will increase the safety of patients across Europe.

Public Administrations: A common European database will be a great asset for National Competent Authorities, especially when trying to remain vigilant or in conducting Europe-wide investigations or issuing warnings.

Businesses: (Medical Device Manufacturers) Launching new products on the market will become easier avoiding the negative impact of regulation on new innovations.

Professionals: A complete list of manufacturers of groups of products will ensure alternative products are available allowing doctors to find replacements lessening interference with clinical practice.

A central database will guarantee the control and transparency of the European medical device market.

»» The role of IDA

The application to be hosted in the European Commission's Data Centre is financed by the IDA Programme.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	2001 € 284,000 2002 € 200,000 2003 € 244,000

Responsible service:

DG Enterprise

Project coordinators:

Hannu Seitsonen

Isabelle Neale-Besson

Contact:

hannu.seitsonen@cec.eu.int

isabelle.neale@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

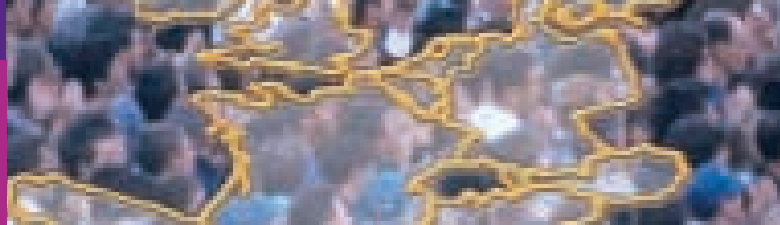
Public website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/medical_devices/

Background documents:

IDA - EUDAMED Global Implementation Plan (EN) -

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1142.doc>



Advancing good public health policy requires reliable, compatible and comparable data. EUPHIN is a key facilitator, allowing authorities to collect, monitor, survey and share information on a wide variety of public health issues ranging from communicable diseases to home and leisure injuries. From this basis, health authorities are better equipped to protect Europe's public health.

»» What is EUPHIN?

The EU Public Health Information Network (EUPHIN) provides the telematic support to the EU human health information and knowledge system.

»» Objectives

The main objective of EUPHIN is to support the collection and sharing of objective, reliable, compatible and comparable information on human health at European Community level. The analysis of such information allows the Commission and Member States to improve public information and formulate appropriate strategies, policies and actions.

»» How does it work?

EUPHIN involves many authorities and research institutes. A good example is the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) on communicable diseases that links the competent

authorities in all EU Member States. When there is a case of a serious communicable disease, or a threat (such as SARS – Severe Acute Respiration Syndrome), in the EU or beyond, a warning message is sent through a dedicated system. That enables the authorities to react promptly and coherently to health threats. As the messages and warnings are saved into a database the institutes and researchers can later analyse them in detail.

EUPHIN consists of centrally stored components, including the application itself, a number of remote databases and distributed sites in different Member States. They are all connected through the TESTA network (see page 121).

Due to the nature of the information, confidentiality and data security play an important role in the design and working of the system.

EUPHIN is currently built around three subsystems:

- Health information exchange and monitoring system;
- Health surveillance system for communicable diseases; and
- Injury surveillance system.

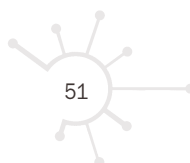
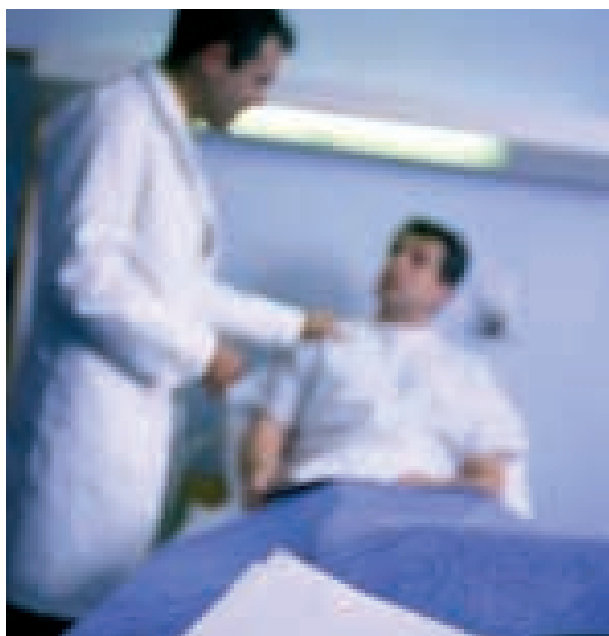
EUPHIN enables the daily operation of an early warning system on communicable diseases and databases as a part of the Health Surveillance System for Communicable Diseases (HSSCD).

The Health Information Exchange and Monitoring System (HIEMS) makes structured health data available through a sophisticated telematics system that allows the data to reside physically in different countries.

The Injury Surveillance System (ISS) is used to monitor and analyse the status, trends and causes of injuries in the EU. A EUPHIN newsletter highlights the latest developments in the system.

»» Achievements

- EUPHIN is now in its implementation phase. In 2002, the system was migrated to the Commission's Data Centre with security improvements.



- Ongoing developments in the area of public health and health telematics have made it necessary to plan for next steps in the system's operation. An analysis of the needs under the new action programme on public health for 2003-2008 is currently underway. The analysis is based on evaluations of the early warning and response system, of the benefits of the health monitoring system and a global project analysis.

- A feasibility study on a public health portal that will include a public user interface to EU health data is to be developed.

»» Who benefits?

Policy makers and Professionals needing timely and reliable information on human health in the EU.

Public Administrations: to support the implementation of EU legislation, such as directives on blood and tobacco.

EUPHIN is currently used by selected European experts. However, an informal estimate says that 3,000 experts across Europe could benefit from the system's information on communicable diseases and 1,600-2,000 from the monitoring of data (estimate from 2001). Due to the sensitive nature of the data, most parts of the current system will not be opened to a wider audience. The results of analyses will in the future be made available through the public health portal.

»» The role of IDA

The development of EUPHIN started in December 1996 and makes use of TESTA and CIRCA. The IDA Programme has been the main IT driving force in its development. IDA contributed decisively to the financing of the EUPHIN database development.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1996
Project completion date:	2002
Project status:	Implementation
IDA budget:	1999 € 1,183,000
	2000 € 1,570,000
	2001 € 1,032,000
Estimated maintenance cost:	€ 240,000/year

Responsible service:
DG Health and Consumer Protection

Project coordinator:
Tapani Piha

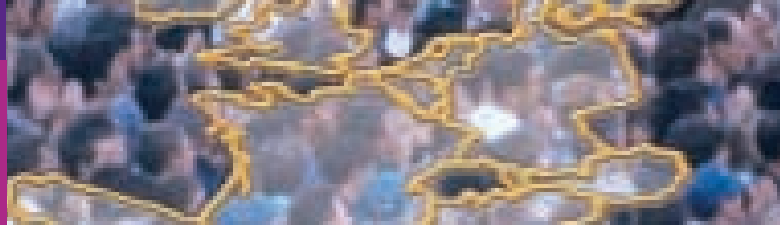
Contact:
For general matters: euphin@cec.eu.int
For HSSCD-related matters: hsscd@cec.eu.int
For Hiems-related matters: hiems@cec.eu.int
For ISS-related matters: iss@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States and EFTA countries, as well as the Acceding and Candidate Countries progressively from 2003

Restricted websites:
HSSCD: <https://hsscd.euphin.cec.eu-admin.net>
ISS: <https://iss.euphin.cec.eu-admin.net>
HIEMS: <https://hiems.euphin.cec.eu-admin.net>

EUPHIN CIRCA site:
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Members/irc/sanco/euphin/home.htm>

Background documents:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_information/documents/euphin_08_en.pdf



The effective control of imported plants and plant products is essential to ensure that the Community is not exposed to harmful pests and diseases. Europe's plant health services need to remain alert and be able to respond quickly to new risks. EUROPHYT is a key tool in this fight allowing rapid notification across Europe and fast exchange of relevant information between national services and the Commission.

»» What is EUROPHYT?

EUROPHYT is a web-based network supporting the protection of human, animal and plant life and health by the European Commission and Member States. Launched by DG Health and Consumers Protection, it is a sub-project of PHYSAN (Phyto-Sanitary Controls - see page 59) specifically concerned with plant health information.

»» Objectives

The main objective of EUROPHYT is to improve the exchange of official information between plant health services of the EU Member States and the European Commission.



»» How does it work?

EUROPHYT is made up of two parts: EUROPHYT-PHY and EUROPHYT-CIRCA.

The EUROPHYT-PHY database manages notifications of interceptions of plants or plant products that do not comply with EU legislation.

The system allows users to enter, modify or consult notifications using either the interactive interface or the message exchange facility. Notifications are distributed to all Member States by e-mail in real-time, and may be printed in a prescribed format.

Users can be authorised to perform different roles:

- Consultation,
- Data entry,
- Approval at national and Community levels.

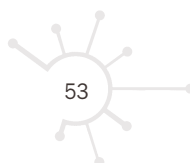
The system may be used for both third country and intra-Community notifications and also allows for the preparation of statistical information on these notifications. In addition, users can work in different Community languages.

The EUROPHYT-(FIS) CIRCA database acts as a notice board for the Member States and contains data such as:

- Technical and biological information;
- Plant health legislation; and
- The Vademecums for plant health inspectors.

»» Achievements

- EUROPHYT-CIRCA is operational and has been used by Member States and the Commission since September 2001. It has increased the availability of information to Member States and eases the burden of distributing information, especially prior to meetings of the Regulatory Committees. The greater availability of information also increases its transparency – for example, the results of surveys by a Member State are now readily available to all other Member States and the Commission.



- EUROPHYT-PHY is operational and has been used by two Member States and the Commission for entering and distributing notifications of interceptions. The rapid dissemination of notifications greatly supports the work of the national services in targeting high risk consignments.
- The system report options allow easy analysis of data. This is essential for the timely development of legislation and to provide the necessary information to support the new legislation at the World Trade Organisation.
- The Commission is also able to provide an annual summary of notifications which is used as an indication of the effectiveness of current import controls.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: EUROPHYT projects were developed to improve the efficiency of the phytosanitary control and monitoring systems, with the result of strengthening biosecurity measures, enhancing food and environmental security, and therefore the protection of consumers.



Policy Makers: EUROPHYT supports decision-making processes by providing a better quality of electronic data.

Public Administrations: The alert mechanism also allows Member States and Commission services to rapidly take appropriate measures when needed.

»» The role of IDA

The EUROPHYT network was developed with the financial contribution of the IDA Programme. It made use of the IDA generic service TESTA and security service PKI in its development.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1992
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Implementation
IDA budget:	1999 € 300,000
	2001 € 300,000
	2002 € 150,000
	2003 € 100,000

Responsible service:
DG Health and Consumer Protection

Project coordinator:
Lars Christoffersen

Contact:
lars.christoffersen@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States,
Acceding and Candidate Countries

Public website:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/rc/scph/rap13_en.html

Background documents:
Europhyt Global Implementation Plan (EN)
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1152.doc>



The health of Europe's citizens relies on high quality medicinal products. Ensuring and maintaining that high quality is a constant challenge. The European Union promotes pharmaceutical trade and guarantees the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products on the market in Member States through a legislative backbone. IMP helps ensure that information governing the regulation and use of medical products is available to the relevant bodies. In this way patients receive the best health care and a high level of health protection.

»» What is IMP?

IMP provides data processing and dissemination of medicinal products authorised by the European Commission for use within the EU to national authorities, the companies concerned, and the public. IMP manages and tracks all legal procedures related to pharmaceutical products (e.g. authorisations). It is a back-office database mainly for internal use of the European Commission, notably for the Enterprise Directorate General, Pharmaceuticals Unit.

»» Objectives

- IMP aims to facilitate the efficient and rapid exchange and sharing of information between the Commission and the other competent authorities and industries concerning the pharmaceutical products and their authorisation.
- It is designed to electronically perform the regulatory procedures regarding marketing authorisation of medicinal products and their follow-up, as well as residue evaluations of veterinary medicinal products.
- It tracks and monitors the procedures with a generic tracking system that may be applicable to other regulatory sectors.



- Finally, IMP aims to promote the harmonisation of electronic information on medicinal products and the adoption of internationally agreed medical dictionaries.

»» How does it work?

IMP automatically generates regulatory documents, both Decisions and Regulations, for authorising the marketing of medicinal products.

It manages the information related to the status of:

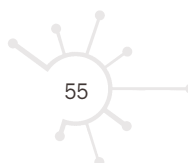
- Medicinal products;
- Presentations;
- Maximum residue limits authorised in Europe;
- Specialities;
- Substances.

For instance, when a new authorisation is requested:

- IMP automatically gathers information from EMEA – European Medicines Evaluation Agency – which is in charge of the scientific evaluation;
- Through its tracking system IMP prepares a complete file including background information and all relevant information on a product (annexes);
- The complete file is automatically translated by IMP allowing the dissemination of the information in all the 11 official EU languages plus those of the Acceding Countries;
- The file is then sent to the Member States which are requested to react by a given time. Being of a highly confidential nature, the transfer of the information is made through the secure network EUDRANET (see page 79);
- After the deadline, IMP automatically generates the final decision.

Information about regulatory procedures and centrally approved medicinal products is made available electronically to EMEA, the relevant authorities in the Member States, the laboratories and the public.

The type and amount of information shown to the different target groups depends on the level of confidentiality (e.g. before an authorisation is approved, the information is *strictly confidential*). This is why IMP is not only used for



"internal" purposes, but interacts with the public pharmacos website, where 80% of the information is generated automatically from IMP.

<http://pharmacos.eudra.org/> provides a wide range of information such as the Community register of medicinal products or Eudralex, the collection of the "Rules Governing Medicinal Products in the European Union".

» Achievements

- The IMP system currently operates on a local area network (LAN) using stand-alone architecture. All products, procedures and document definitions are available.
- Work is now continuing on the maintenance of the IMP system. Particular attention is being paid to the use of interoperable building blocks and to the delivery of generic solutions, which may have applications in other sectors.

» Who benefits?

Citizens: The IMP project refers to the principles of freedom of information based on dissemination of information to the public, industry and stakeholders; citizens will therefore benefit from the transparency of information on the market of medicinal products.

Public Administrations: The European Commission, the EMEA and National Authorities. IMP is the strategic tool for supporting the rapid and efficient decision-making process of the European Commission. The IMP electronic communication system supplies these organisations and technical services with the relevant information for the authorisation procedure.

Policy makers: They enjoy improved efficiency in authorising the marketing of centralised medicinal products as well as greater control of centrally approved medicines on the European market.

Businesses: The IMP system allows better collaboration in pre-marketing and post-marketing activities in the pharmaceutical sector in the European Union.

» The role of IDA

IDA co-finances the implementation of the project. Special emphasis is placed on the use and production of common tools for the generation of multilingual official documents and the tracking of regulatory procedures.

» Background information

In the last decade the EU has developed legislation to govern the pharmaceutical sector in the dual interest of protecting public health while completing the single market for pharmaceuticals. Particularly two Directives (75/318/EEC2 and 75/319/EEC3) sought to bring the benefits of innovative pharmaceuticals to patients across the European Community, by

introducing a procedure for the mutual recognition by Member States of their respective national marketing authorisations.

In addition, in 1995 a new European system for authorising medicinal products was set up. This consists of two main procedures:

- A "centralised" procedure for authorising biotechnology-derived and high technology medicines, as laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2309/936 and Directive 93/41/EEC7. Applications are made directly to the EMEA leading to the grant of a European marketing authorisation by the Commission.
- A "mutual recognition" procedure. To be eligible for this procedure, a medicinal product must already have been authorised for marketing in one Member State, and sufficient data on it must be available. Applications are made to the Member States selected by the applicant and the procedure operates by mutual recognition of national marketing authorisations. The mutual recognition has been compulsory since 1998 for the EU Member States.

» Technical information

Project start date:	1995
Project completion date:	1999
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	1999 € 462,000 2000 € 300,000

Responsible service:

DG Enterprise

Project coordinator:

Rochus de Raat

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Member States involved:

All EU Member States

Public website:

<http://pharmacos.eudra.org>

Background documents:

IMP Global Implementation Plan (EN)

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1146.doc>



How safe is the food we eat when science and technology are increasingly providing the market with novel food and novel food ingredients? Since 1997, novel foods all need to be assessed and approved before being sold in a supermarket, according to the European Union regulation EC N° 258/97, which appraises their novelty and their safety in relation to human health. NF-NET has an important role in ensuring a high level of protection of human health by enabling discussion by Member States whether to object to a given foodstuff through the availability of all relevant information that will help them shape their decision. NF-NET is a supportive tool for competent authorities to ensure a maximum level of hygiene in the entire food production chain without prejudice for the free circulation of goods.

»» What is NF-NET?

Novel food is defined as foods and ingredients that have not been used for human consumption to a significant degree within the EU before 15 May 1997. NF-NET, an IP-based network, connects Member States and the European Commission as they discuss whether novel foods can enter the European market.

Regulation EC N° 258/97 of 27 January 1997 of the European Parliament and the Council lays out detailed rules for the authorisation of novel foods and novel food ingredients. Foods commercialised in at least one Member State before the entry into force of the Regulation on Novel Foods on 15 May 1997 are on the EU market under the "principle of mutual recognition". In order to ensure the highest level of protection of human health, novel foods must undergo a safety assessment before being placed on the EU market. Only those products considered to be safe for human consumption are authorised for marketing. NF-NET is contributing to this quick assessment of novel food and hence plays a key role in the protection of consumers.



»» Objectives

- NF-NET aims to provide a telematics network between EU Member States and the European Commission for the fast exchange of large data files.
- The network aims to allow both the secure handling of confidential information and access to some data by the public.
- Procedures should be open, easy to work with and no extra burden to the user. Its aim is to provide a common structure for handling requests about novel foods and responding to its particular needs.

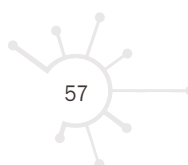
»» How will it work?

Once fully operational, NF-NET will work as a communication and administration system. Member State Novel Foods Authorities (NFAs) will receive a remainder of the days left to submit their potential evaluators' comments or objections to the application for a novel food entering the European market.

All NFAs are connected to DG Health and Consumer Protection via TESTA (see page 121) through their national network. The NF-NET archiving system will create an information set (dossier package) that will include all the information regarding the case.

Each NFA will be able to consult previous evaluations, the dossier under evaluation or package, according to their information needs and their own criteria.

NF-NET's flexible structure will allow the development of an efficient interface with the European Food Authority once they are asked to provide scientific advice on questions related to novel foods.



»» Achievements

- The application is currently being developed based on functional specifications written in collaboration with the Member States.
- Since February 2003, the first parts of the application are being tested by Member States and the Commission.
- From the second half of 2003, Member States will start to be connected via TESTA.
- By the end of the year, the application is expected to be complete and running without bugs.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: NF-NET contributes to an increased efficiency of the control mechanism on novel food by the competent authorities, without prejudging the principles of the Internal Market. Consumers can consequently be reassured that the novel food, circulating in the market, respects their health. In addition, the public will be able to access some information relevant to novel food via the NF-NET.

Public Administrations: NFAs in the EU Member States will be the main beneficiaries as they will be able to consult the information according to their own specific needs and be automatically reminded how much time is left to formulate their response. Having direct access to all necessary relevant information will allow them to make better-informed decisions and compose their considered responses in a more timely manner helping the Commission consider the case for the introduction of the novel food in question. Better-informed and timely decisions will therefore avoid the application of inappropriate measures, thus creating unjustified obstacles to the circulation of goods.

»» The role of IDA

IDA co-finances the project and is providing its PKI security tools that govern access to NF-NET and the transmission of data. TESTA network will provide users with more secure and higher performance access to the NF-NET application.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	2000 € 117,000
	2001 € 550,000
	2002 € 150,000

Responsible service:
DG Health and Consumer Protection

Project coordinator :
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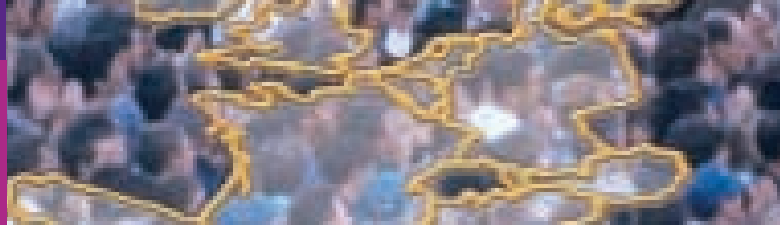
Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/novel_food/nf_index_en.html

Background documents:
NF-net GIP (EN)
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1151.doc>
Decision No 1719/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 1999, OJ L 203 of 3.8.1999
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/doc.jsp?6>
Regulation EC N° 258/97 of 27 January 1997
http://www.europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&n umdoc=31997R0258&model=guichett

PHYSAN

PHYTO-SANITARY CONTROLS



The movement of plants and plant products across European borders has unfortunately led to an increased risk of pest infestation, and the spread of diseases. The vast body of European Union legislation which focuses on both the risks and control measures to be taken reminds us that prevention is indeed better than cure. The PHYSAN database framework facilitates the implementation of plant health legislation, protecting consumers and industry alike, ultimately guaranteeing the quality and safety of Europe's food.

»» What is PHYSAN?

PHYSAN is a database framework which consolidates and enhances existing databases. It is primarily concerned with the implementation of legislation related to EU controls on crops, crop products, seeds (including plant varieties) and phytopharmaceutical products.

PHYSAN may be understood as an umbrella for a number of sub-projects:

- The European Network of Plant Health Information Systems (EUROPHYT) provides information on plant health (see page 53);
- PEST (I, II, III, IV and V) - Physan Pesticides - handles pesticides and pesticide residue notifications by the European Commission and Member State administrations;
- CAT (I and II) - Physan Catalogue - updates catalogues of freely marketed seed products; and
- FEED (I and II) - Physan Feedingstuff - centres on the use and marketing of feed additives in animal nutrition.

»» Objectives

PHYSAN is being developed with the key objective of improving the efficiency of information exchanges between EU Member



States and the European Commission. Each of its sub-divisions targets more specific areas of plant health, including pesticides, seed products and feed additives.

Each has its individual objective:

- EUROPHYT, for example, is designed to improve the exchange of official information between plant health services of the EU Member States and the European Commission.
- PEST - Physan Pesticides - aims to consolidate and harmonise the database of maximum pesticide residue levels for agricultural commodities by taking into account all of the key datasets used in consumer risk assessments.
- CAT's - Physan Catalogue - objective is to provide the Commission with the reliable information required for the management and publication of the Common Catalogues.
- FEED - Physan Feedingstuff - strives to facilitate the monitoring of authorised feed additives and to help the members of the Standing Committee on Animal Nutrition review the feed-additive dossiers.

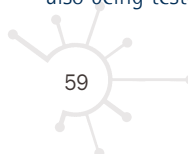
»» How does it work?

A centralised information system increases transparency by providing access to consolidated information through an easy-to-use interface. The database's query tools allow quick responses to possible questions in the various domains covered by PHYSAN. It also allows the electronic generation of HTML drafts to be sent to the Member States and of final SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) proofs to be transmitted electronically to the OPOCE, enabling the publication of supplements and complete editions of the catalogues on a regular basis.

»» Achievements

- Central databases have been created for EUROPHYT, CAT and PEST.
- A database for FEED is currently under development.
- A structured message-based interface, used by the national administrations for input and local querying, is also being tested.

HEALTH



»» Who benefits?

Citizens: They benefit from increased food safety.

Public Administrations: The use of a centralised information system will reduce costs for all Member States and enhance the accuracy and standardisation of lists and reports. Member States have direct access to updated information on, for example, the evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products without having to request this information from the Commission. The electronic exchange of information leads to a harmonisation of the datasets in terms of content and codification systems used. By providing an up-to-date database and the possibility of exchanging messages electronically, PHYSAN facilitates communication between Member States and the Official Publications Office, thereby reducing the publication time.

»» The role of IDA

IDA funds the implementation of the project. The PHYSAN sub-projects made use of the IDA generic services and Architectural Guidelines.

»» Background information

For better understanding, PHYSAN must be seen in the light of the existing legal framework. A few examples are listed below:

- Directive 91/414 on the authorisation, use and control of plant protection products - insecticides, fungicides, herbicides etc. - adopted in 1991. This directive sets up a harmonised authorisation system for the active substances used in plant protection products at EU level. Member States may then approve products containing such EU-agreed substances for use on their territory. The 1991 rules make EU authorisations of active substances subject to a positive outcome of safety evaluations, for which producers must present data. This aims to improve safeguards to ensure that all such products in use are safe for the environment and human health.
- The EU Plant Health Regime was established in 1992; Council Directive 2000/29/EC details the measures and actions to be taken to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the European Union of organisms harmful to plants or plant products. This Directive was amended in November 2002 in order to improve the harmonisation and transparency of import procedures for plants and plant products and further adjust the EU Plant Health Regime in response to interceptions of harmful organisms on imported plants and plant products.
- The White Paper on Food Safety adopted in 2000, setting up the basis for a new legal framework for animal feed as the safety of food from animal origin begins with safe animal feed. It refers to the feed manufacturing industry's responsibility, and the need to subject the industry to the same rigorous requirements and controls as the food producing sector.
- Legislation on the pesticide Maximum Residual Levels (MRLs). In March 2003, the Commission adopted a proposal Regulation aiming to harmonise at a European level the MRLs of pesticides permitted in products of plant and animal origin.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1993
Project completion date:	2002
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	1999 € 789,000
	2000 € 700,000
	2001 € 199,000
	2002 € 250,000

Responsible service:

DG Health and Consumer Protection

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

EUROPHYT Project coordinator:

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CATALOG Project coordinator:

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PEST Project coordinator:

Canice Nolan

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FEED Project coordinator:

Corrado Pampaloni

Contact:

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Public website:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

Background documents:

PHYSAN - FEED-Global Implementation Plan V1.0 <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1159.doc>

Physan Catalogues-Global Implementation Plan [version no 1.0] <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1162.doc>

Physan Pesticides-Global Implementation Plan version no 3 <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1161.doc>

ECHO ^{14 POINTS}

HUMANITARIAN AID REPORTING SYSTEM FOR MEMBER STATES



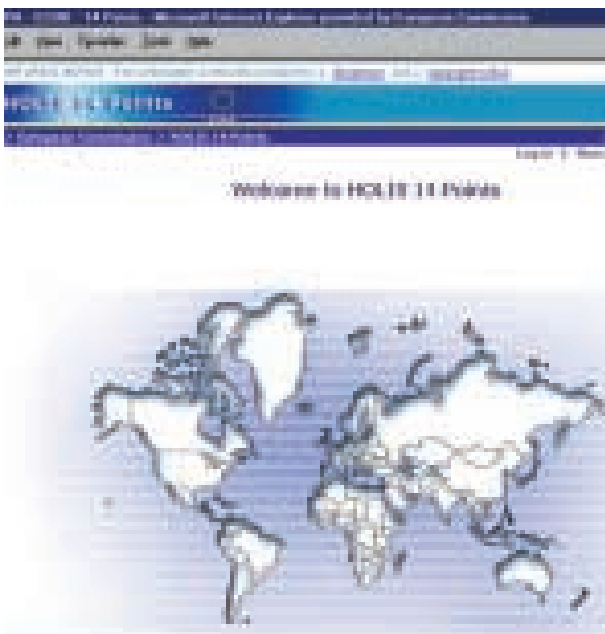
With mounting humanitarian crises around the world, any system which aids relief efforts reach those who are suffering quicker is a blessing. ECHO ^{14 POINTS} is one such system. It supports the electronic information exchange on humanitarian aid funding decisions, helping governments come to a decision sooner.

»» What is ECHO ^{14 POINTS} ?

ECHO ^{14 POINTS} is a web-based telematic network which supports the electronic exchange of information between the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and European Union Member States, concerning governments' funding decisions in the humanitarian aid sector. The need to develop such a system is due to the notable increase in the frequency of serious crises in the world. It also reflects the EU's willingness to play an integral coordination role in international humanitarian actions. It is against this background that the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) was established in 1992.

»» Objectives

The ECHO ^{14 POINTS} system has been developed with the key objective of answering the need for better coordination of humanitarian aid decisions between ECHO and EU Member States. An added benefit aims to be better communication between these bodies and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) through a web-based network.



Also, in a second phase, the project will aim to develop a secure module for exchange of confidential information on the planning of humanitarian assistance.

»» How does it work?

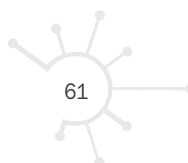
The ECHO ^{14 POINTS} system allows remote data entry directly by the Member States, via a telematic network. Using web technologies Member States can directly enter and modify data remotely. This allows rapid dissemination through the Internet as soon as the information is posted by a Member State, meeting the operational coordination requirements of other Member States and interested parties.

A password protected module allows Member States to exchange information on their plans using generic Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) environment and tools which provide protection by server certificates and the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol.

A feasibility study completed in 2001 confirmed that IDA's Communication and Information Resource Centre Administrator (CIRCA), a generic web-based environment, would be used for building an electronic bulletin board facility and a messaging facility for coordinating humanitarian activities, particularly during a sudden crisis.

The system is compatible with the reporting system of the United Nations - OCHA - to which EU Member States also submit reports on their financing decisions. ECHO is ready to assume the responsibility of ensuring automatic transmission of Member States' input to OCHA's consolidated international database, further reducing manual data entry by each public administration.

HUMANITARIAN AID



»» Achievements

- ECHO 14 POINTS enhances the shared European Community facilities encompassing shared humanitarian aid plans, thus strengthening the cooperation between the different actors.
- Approximately 100 records are exchanged on a monthly basis.
- Online consultations now take place on a regular basis (a search option to extract information is available on the Internet) and live data can be downloaded in XML or flat file format.
- The ECHO system is already operational. The system automatically sends the confirmed reports to OCHA via e-mail in an electronic format (XML). The system periodically sends updated information to OCHA using FTP (file transfer protocol).

»» Who benefits?

Citizens and Businesses: Access has been facilitated by sharing a common database and publication of information on the ECHO website.

Public Administrations: Humanitarian authorities in Member States and in the Commission (ECHO) are the main beneficiaries. ECHO 14 POINTS makes their actions more effective, especially during crises, and so provides faster and better relief to victims of humanitarian disasters.

Whilst not quantifiable, the availability of electronic data and the quality improvement:

- Provide advanced and coordinated notice of developing problems that may indicate a need for political action at European, national or regional level;
- Accelerate decision-making/policy processes;
- Improve a common follow-up of the progress achieved; and
- Guarantee a more simultaneous delivery to all recipients.

The use of standards/formats enables greater transparency and re-use of information by automated tools that collate, analyse and abstract meaningful information from data.

»» The role of IDA

IDA funds the development of the ECHO system, which makes use of IDA generic services such as PKI. In addition, TESTA is used to support the connection to the application (even though it is also possible to connect via Internet) and CIRCA will be used to exchange documents and to plan future actions.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	2003 (second phase)
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	2001 € 175,000
	2002 € 75,000
	2003 € 35,000

Responsible service:

European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)

Project coordinator:

Luis Angel Nieto Moreda

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Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public websites:

<https://hac.cec.eu.int>

http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/index_fr.htm

Background documents:

System of information exchange on humanitarian assistance GIP (EN) –
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1148.doc>

Statistics can not only clarify and make sense of mass information, but are often used to inform decision-making processes the world over. Obtaining clear and indisputable statistics requires quality data on which to base calculations. DSIS ensures that meaningful facts and figures are generated from information received and fed back quickly to those who need it across the European Union institutions and Member States.

»» What is DSIS?

Eurostat is responsible for the gathering and dissemination of EU Statistics on a myriad of topics. This is based on input from the Member States, mainly from the corresponding national statistical offices. DSIS is a telematic database network designed to electronically coordinate statistic collection activities.

»» Objectives

DSIS aims to ensure the monitored, secure, electronic collection of statistics from national statistical offices bearing in mind the high importance of interoperability as members of the Community Statistical System work in a variety of different IT environments.

»» How does it work?

The DSIS project has four components:

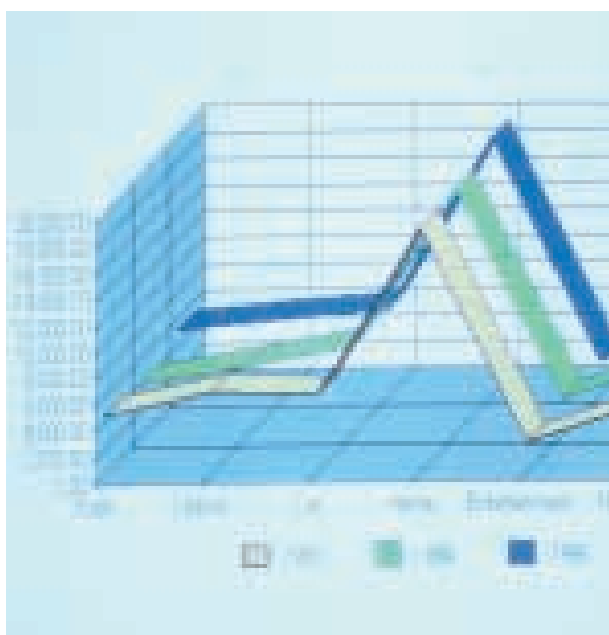
- STADIUM (Statistical Data Interchange Universal monitor) is a general service that collects statistical data submitted to

Eurostat and distributes it to the Units in charge of processing.

- EDIFLOW identifies all dataflows and all partners involved at the level of the individual sender and receiver whether from Eurostat or national administrations. It promotes the use of telematic tools in coordination with other IDA projects like Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations TESTA (see page 121), Data Collection Tools, Statistical Telecommunication interface STATEL (see page 119), STADIUM, and Generic Statistical Message (GESMES). It may serve as an alert system for overdue data.
- EDI-Standardisation comprises the development, maintenance and adaptation of standardised EDI-messages, making non-proprietary formats available for the exchange of micro-data, aggregated data and classifications.
- EDI implementation aims at the use of a unique non-proprietary data exchange format by as many partners as possible helping those national partners who are currently forced to send their data in a variety of formats depending on the individual Eurostat user requesting the data.

»» Achievements

- The project began in 1992 and is expected to become fully operational during the course of 2004-2005.
- All elements of DSIS project are already operational. The implementation of the tools is not yet complete due to the number of partners increasing following the enlargement of the EU. The Stadium system is also used by DG Agriculture, which provides an indication of its success and an example of best practice.



»» Who will benefit?

Public Administrations: They benefit from automated feedback of successful data transmission. Information is now received, administrated and dispatched by a central service. This has led to a reduction in delays for interchanging data and faster, more reliable and cheaper publication of data.

Eurostat benefits through quicker and higher quality data transmission thanks to integrated validation procedures, assured integrity of transferred files, automated archiving and less dependence on local data collection environments.

Standardised formats enforce a greater level of harmonisation of metadata between national and international statistical organisations resulting in a higher level of comparability and better facilities for meaningful interpretation and analysis of the statistical information.

Policy makers: This group benefits from the availability of high quality electronic data as it allows for improved efficiency and follow-up of the progress.

Citizens and businesses: They receive data of higher quality within a shorter time.

»» The role of IDA

IDA finances the implementation of this project which will be made according to the Architecture Guidelines and with the use of the other IDA generic services such as TESTA, CIRCA and PKI.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1995
Project completion date:	2005
Project status:	Implementation
IDA budget:	1999 € 2,307,000
	2000 € 1,168,000
	2001 € 1,538,000
	2002 € 1,217,000
	2003 € 240,000

Responsible service:

Eurostat

Project coordinator:

Wolfgang Knüppel

Contact:

michel.vlietinck@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>

In 2001, the European Union accounted for over € 350 billion of trade in textiles and clothing worldwide. In the EU alone, the sector directly employs over 2.1 million people, with an annual turnover of € 200 billion, and its exports represent € 45 billion – the world's second largest exporter after China. The EU is also the world's largest steel producer with 159 million tonnes of crude steel (19% of world production) in 2001. For the import of textiles and steel products some controls are in place, which in the vast majority of cases result from agreements between the EU and third countries. These controls come in the form of quotas–restrictions, double checking or automatic licensing. SIGL helps Europe manage its textile and steel imports in accordance with the EU commitments to the World Trade Organisation and other international agreements.

»» What is SIGL?

SIGL, an Internet-based system run by the European Commission's DG Trade, assists the management of EU textile and clothing licences, and steel imports. Its website provides information on the quota levels applied in the European Community. However, SIGL is not just about management systems. The creation of such a system also highlights the importance of smooth cooperation between administrations, importers and suppliers.

»» Objectives

SIGL aims to help the European Commission and the EU Member States manage at Community level the authorisation of textile and steel product imports. These imports are subject to quantitative restrictions (quotas) or to surveillance measures.



»» How does it work?

The use of textile, clothing and steel quotas depends on both the established quantitative limits for each respective product and the authorisation of the licensing authorities in each of the EU Member States.

The SIGL network creates an electronic link between the European Commission and the various Government Departments in the EU Member States that authorise imports; thereby facilitating effortless transactions and verifications. In this manner, SIGL acts as both a reference for the national licensing authorities and as a monitoring system to ensure full compliance with trade requirements and regulations.

Information on the use of quotas is made available on the SIGL website and is updated every two hours. Its user-friendly presentation makes it accessible to public administrators and the general public alike. Users can retrieve information:

- Sorted by country; or
- On the quotas used each year for textiles and steel.

In addition, users can access specific information such as a Direct Import Goods Report which will inform them of:

- Working levels;
- Amounts licensed; and
- Amounts pending.

For instance, at 16:00 on 17 February 2003 in India, for cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale (in Kilos), there is a working level of 43,146,850; 4,042,140 of amount licensed and 0 pending.

However, SIGL is an administrative tool and, whilst providing quota information to the public, it does not supply transactional data for commercial purposes.

The import licensing offices in each EU Member State are also provided with intranet facilities that enable them to access electronic versions of export licences for textile products supplied by countries that have bilateral textile trade agreements, that is to say, countries with which, for example, levels of textile exports are limited.

»» Achievements

- SIGL is operational around the clock and currently processes around 1.5 million import authorisations per year.
- In addition to covering all EU Member States, SIGL also networks with 21 other countries that have bilateral textile agreements with the EU, including China, Vietnam, Pakistan and India. Of these countries 16 now issue electronic export licences thus facilitating faster clearance of goods through EC customs.
- SIGL is accessible via a website. The information provided allows all interested persons to see the results of the Commission's management of the quotas at any given point in time.

»» Who benefits?

Businesses: European importers are the main beneficiaries. Prior to 1993, individual Member States managed the European Community quotas in these fields. This invariably led to blockages in some countries, whilst in others quotas would still be available. In many cases importers would have to wait for weeks before unused quotas could be transferred between the Member States. By introducing a central control system that administrates the quotas, SIGL has eradicated such regional blockages and facilitated transactions.

Establishing links with countries that have bilateral textile agreements (and in close cooperation with OLAF, the Commission Anti-Fraud Office) has also proven advantageous, reducing the levels of fraud and thereby benefiting the entire European Community. These links have also fostered the development of an electronic export licensing system that benefits importers by minimising delays in customs clearance.

Public Administrations: The administrative transparency that SIGL provides benefits all parties involved. The different Government Departments responsible for the authorisation of

imports are able to liaise efficiently with the European Commission.

Citizens: Anyone who is interested in the results of the Commission's management of the quotas can access this information online.

»» The role of IDA

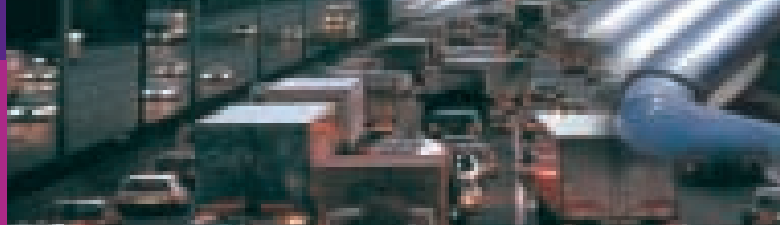
Currently 12 EU Member States make use of TESTA for their SIGL exchanges. The remaining three, as well as the Acceding Countries plan to use TESTA in the future.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1993
Project completion date:	End 2004
Project status:	Operational
Responsible service:	DG Trade
Project coordinator:	Philippe Ruys
Contact:	bob@sigl.cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States and 20 other countries through bilateral agreements
Public website:	http://sigl.cec.eu.int/
Background documents:	Council Regulation (EC) No. 3030/93(1), Council Regulation (EC) No. 517/94(2) Council Regulation (EC) No. 3060/95(3)

CARE

COMMUNITY ROAD ACCIDENT DATABASE



In an area where road safety standards as well as rules and regulations vary widely, the European Union sees more than 40,000 fatalities and 1.7 million injuries from road accidents each year. The European Road Safety Programme is part of Europe's answer to help to resolve this problem. The programme focuses on information, prevention and damage limitation. CARE helps further improve road safety through the provision of key information on European road accidents, allowing useful analyses to be made.

What is CARE?

CARE is the European centralised database on road accidents which result in death or injury across the EU. CARE provides Member States access to this central database which is hosted by the European Commission at the Luxembourg data centre. The CARE system is a powerful tool that makes it possible to identify and quantify road safety problems throughout Europe's roads. Users can evaluate the efficiency of road safety measures, determine the relevance of Community actions and as exchange studies.

Objectives

The key objectives of CARE are to enable:

- Identification and quantification of road safety problems;
- Evaluation of the efficiency of road safety measures; and
- Analyses to determine the relevance of Community actions and facilitate the exchange of experience in this field.



How does it work?

To take a concrete scenario:

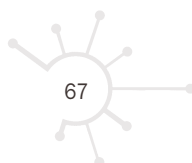
Each country produces its own road accident statistics. CARE pulls together non-confidential data from across the EU Member States into one central database. Each year, each country is responsible for producing road safety statistics, which it then submits in the form of a report to the European Commission. The reports exclude confidential information like the precise location of the accident and the brand of car.

Each participating Member State has its own standards to adhere to as well as statistical formats. In addition to the report mentioned above, each country sends to the European Commission the structure of the data and their own definitions.

CARE has developed a framework of transformation rules from an analysis of the original structure and definitions to ensure the compatibility of data variables and values. In order to harmonise statistics from across the EU Member States, CARE applies the necessary transformation rules to standardise the information. Harmonising the data contained inside the database allows international comparisons and exchange of experiences.

In addition, a CARE website has been created on Europa and some reports are available to the public. This site also includes a glossary of definitions concerning the categories of information required to build statistics on road traffic accidents. These include:

- Person Class;
- Gender;
- Age group;
- Vehicle group;
- Area type;
- Motorways;
- Junctions;
- Collision type;
- Lighting conditions;
- Weather conditions; and
- Day of the week.



»» Achievements

- Comparing national data sets and definition rules, a set of 38 variables containing 488 common-definition values were identified.
- The CARE website was made available on the Internet in July 2002. The information provided concerns data related to accidents that have occurred since 1991.
- The number of statistics and graphs available is being gradually increased.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: Thanks to the participation of Member State Administrations, the European Commission can produce detailed multi-dimensional reports through a user-friendly web interface.

Citizens: Ultimately CARE allows decision-makers to produce better road safety policies aimed to reduce road accidents across Europe.

»» The role of IDA

The IDA Programme has financed CARE over a number of years. The database was developed in line with the IDA Architecture Guidelines and uses TESTA as its backbone infrastructure.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1988
Project completion date:	1999
Responsible service:	DG Transport and Energies
Project coordinator:	Jean-Paul Repussard
Contact:	jean-paul.repussard@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States
Public website:	http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/home/care/index_en.htm

SAFESEANET

SAFE SEA NETWORK



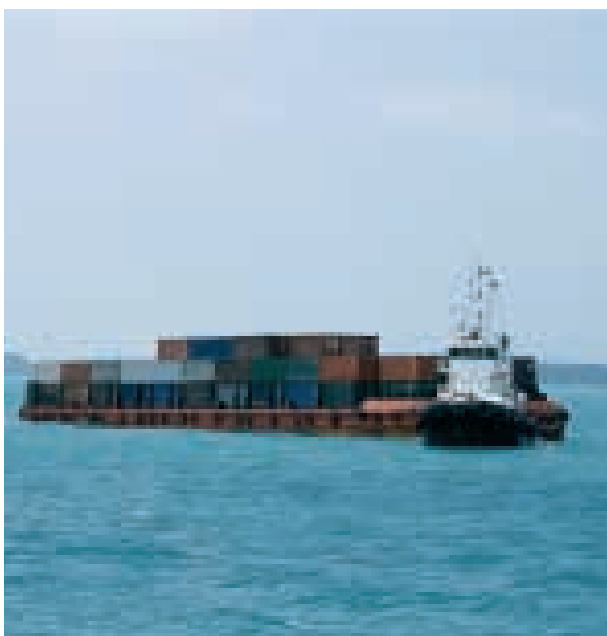
The effects of the oil spill from the tanker "Prestige" off Spain's coast make the threats posed from accidents at sea all too clear. With the slick affecting the coastlines of France and Portugal, Europe needs to act as one. SAFESEANET aims to provide the means to do so, allowing rapid and efficient exchange of maritime information, so helping to keep Europe's seas clean and safe.

»» What is SAFESEANET?

Prevention of accidents at sea and marine pollution is an essential component of the European Union's transport policy. Since 1993, the Commission has initiated over 15 proposed Directives or Regulations concerning passenger vessels' safety, prevention of pollution, port state control, requirements for seafarers, etc. Their implementation includes the collection and dissemination of maritime data which SAFESEANET supports.

»» Objectives

SAFESEANET's main objective is the development of a European Platform for Maritime Data Exchange between Member States' maritime authorities. This will be achieved by setting up a pan-European maritime telematics network which aids the collection, dissemination and harmonised exchange of maritime data. The network will assist communication between authorities at local/regional level and central authorities. It is therefore expected that the improved level of communication will contribute to preventing accidents at sea and, by extension, marine pollution, and that the implementation of EU maritime safety legislation will be made more efficient.



»» How will it work?

The SAFESEANET network will involve many maritime authorities across Europe, each with their own IT infrastructure and objectives. This invariably leads to varying data formats distributed across different systems throughout Europe.

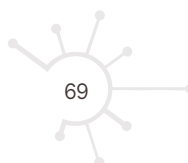
Consequently SAFESEANET will implement a Central Index System that will store only references to the data locations and not the actual data itself. It will function as a central hub for all communication between data requesters and data providers – somewhat like a telephone switchboard. The Central Index will need to know what information each data provider holds. Data providers connected within the SAFESEANET network send information by means of a notification mechanism. The data provider, upon receiving queries from the data requester routed through the Central Index, retrieves the data from their local database. In this way the Central Index acts as the sole point of contact.

SAFESEANET will develop the necessary IT network for the implementation of Directive 2002/59/EC concerning the setting up of a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system. In addition, it will incorporate data exchange requirements from other EU Directives such as those relating to:

- Port reception facilities for ship waste and
- Port state control inspections in ports of the European Union.

SAFESEANET will cover EU Member States and involve a number of different authorities per country, both at local and central level. The system will use new IT technologies, but will be flexible enough to cope with possible future technological developments as well as new categories of users.

TRANSPORT



»» Achievements

- Although SAFESEANET is not yet fully operational, it has made many technical achievements during its developmental phases. In 1995, the European Commission's DG Transport and Energy set up a first pilot project – Memorandum of Understanding Hazmat – for exchange of data between five maritime administrations on hazardous and polluting goods. It was based on Edifact/X400.
- In view of the implementation of the Directive establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system, the SAFESEANET project was launched early 2002.
- From January – September 2002, a feasibility study was carried out under the supervision of a Pilot-Group of MS experts (Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom). As a result, a general overview of the proposed solution, an architecture specification, a user requirements document and a Prototypes Guide were prepared.
- The following phase of SAFESEANET was carried out between January and April 2003. It consists of a complementary feasibility study (interconnection, messages and security) based on the final specifications of the SAFESEANET system – Implementation and Deployment of the project, Integration and Assistance phase, and Hosting and Help Desk.
- The development phase started afterwards and is underway.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: Through the use of SAFESEANET, and its linked legislation, maritime authorities will be able to improve controls of vessels in ports and produce statistics for the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), Member States and the European Commission. In addition, the once-only data collection process and a 'one-stop shop' for data provision could simplify procedures and, consequently, increase the overall competitiveness of European ports by minimizing their administrative overheads.

Navigation survey services: This group is set to benefit by being able to increase efficiency of port logistics such as accurate Expected Times of Arrival, waste handling etc.

Search and rescue services: This group will be able to react better in case of threat to maritime safety and the environment.

Anti-pollution services: These agencies aim to improve emergency responses in case of incidents or pollution at sea.

Others: Information contained in the SAFESEANET system and mandated by the control and safety at sea legislation, is often similar or even identical to information requested by other authorities. This could lead to a broadening of the SAFESEANET scope which could include information of interest to other bodies or administrations such as Customs and Border Police.

»» The role of IDA

The information on SAFESEANET should be constantly available, reliable and confidential. IDA will ensure that access to the Central Index is restricted and secure yet available 24/7 on TESTA. Confidentiality will be guaranteed by the use of PKI.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2002
Completion date:	Estimated in 2004
IDA budget:	2002 € 134,000
Responsible service:	DG Transport and Energy
Project coordinators:	Gilles Bergot Aymeric De Marcellus Yves Hardy
Contact:	gilles.bergot@cec.eu.int aymeric.demarcellus@cec.eu.int yves.hardy@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States

TACHONET

TELEMATICS NETWORK FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE ISSUING OF TACHOGRAPH CARDS



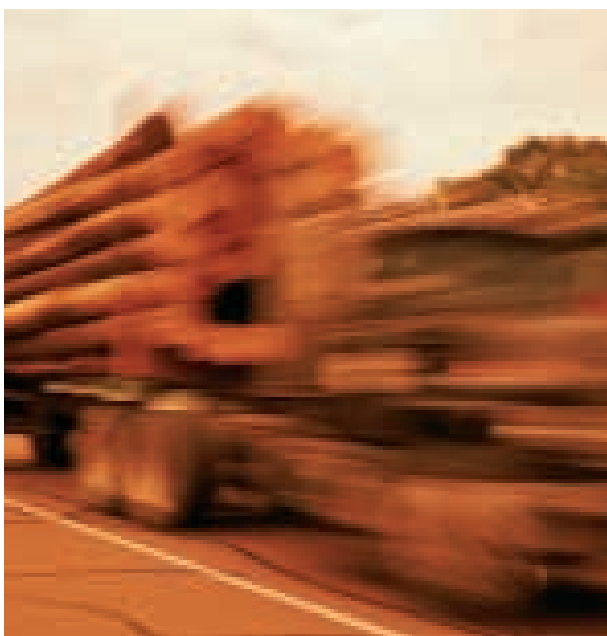
Long-distance driving has become one of the most dangerous forms of transport in Europe today. As the number of vehicles on the road increases each year, so too does the number of accidents. Although laws exist to ensure that professional drivers take proper rest periods and do not drive for too long, there is no room for complacency. Thanks to TACHONET, national administrations can keep roads safer across the European Union by sharing information on Smart Cards and the digital tachograph with each other.

»» What is TACHONET?

TACHONET is a telematic network in operation across the EU. It acts as a central hub for the exchange of information between the national administrations responsible for issuing tachographs (in-vehicle recording equipment) to enforce rest periods and monitor the driving times of professional drivers.

In order to contribute to the successful implementation of new road regulations, a new electronic device called the digital tachograph is used in conjunction with smart cards. Tachographs are recording instruments that measure speed, miles travelled and the number and duration of stops.

TACHONET minimises duplication of work across the Member States and maximises efficient tracking of drivers.



»» Objectives

TACHONET was created with two key objectives:

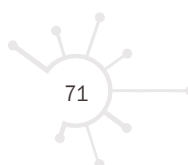
- To ensure fair competition between drivers, hauliers and other modes of transport; and
- To enhance road safety by avoiding driver fatigue and controlling compliance with the legislation on speed limits.

»» How does it work?

TACHONET is based on a system of message-exchanges between the EU Member States. The new system comprises a smart card and an electronic on-board tachograph. The digital tachograph guarantees better compliance with rules on driving times, rest periods and road safety and puts an end to the most common abuses of the present mechanical system (accident risk data demonstrates that after an 11-hour work span the risk of being involved in an accident doubles).

To take a concrete scenario: John is a long-distance lorry driver based in the UK. He regularly drives from Newcastle to Lyon in France. Although he is aware of the dangers of driving when fatigued, he decides to make an application for a tachograph and smart card both in the UK and in France. In this way, he hopes to bypass the system and not be caught driving for too long periods without a rest.

- Member States are responsible for issuing the smart cards on time and in a reliable and secure manner. Therefore, when John goes to register in either France or the UK, the Administrator will automatically enter the request details into the card issuing software application developed by the UK/ France.
- The local software application will in turn "notify" the central TACHONET application which acts as a "hub and spoke" for sending requests and receiving responses from other Member States.



- When the central TACHONET application receives a request from a the local software application in the UK/ France it will validate it, store it and return an acknowledgment of receipt to the original administrator dealing with John's request.
- It is also able to broadcast the request to all Member States, receive responses and provide a consolidated response to the original requester. The TACHONET system ensures that these transactions take place efficiently and securely. It is at this point that John's attempt to misuse the system will be detected. He cannot make more than one application within the EU.
- The Administrator will not only refuse his application, but will also follow proceeds against him for attempt to defraud the system. However, if John has only made one application, then he will be cleared to receive his card and tachograph.

»» Achievements

- The feasibility study has been successfully completed and both the functional and non-functional requirements of the initiative have been identified. These include:
 - The ability to automatically transmit alert messages
 - The ability to allow the authorities in the Member States to track the status of a card in case it is lost or stolen - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Furthermore, it was determined that the system structure should pose no restrictions on its users; it should have the capacity to support other types of message structures (for example, for the development of a driving licence network) and each Member State should be able to organise its data with no constraints on operating systems or technology used.
- In October 2002 a complementary study, entitled Planning and Design Phase, was launched.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: By enforcing road safety regulations and ensuring fair competition, TACHONET will make roads safer for professional drivers and the general public alike.

Public Administrations: All EU Governments dealing with transport and road safety will benefit from the harmonised exchange of information on Smart Cards, resulting in more rapid and efficient communication.

»» The role of IDA

IDA co-finances TACHONET's development which makes use of TESTA.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	2004
Project status:	Feasibility, development, implementation
IDA budget:	2000 € 101,000
Responsible service:	DG Energy and Transport
Project coordinator:	Leo Huberts Yves Hardy
Contact:	leo.huberts@cec.eu.int yves.hardy@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States
Public website:	http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html
Background documents:	Legal basis: Decision 1719/1999/EC http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/78.pdf Council Regulation (EEC) n° 821/85 http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/tren/digtacho/library?l=/tachonet&tvm=detailed&sb=Title



EIONET

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND OBSERVATION NETWORK (EEA)

Great strides have been made in European environmental policy over the years. Significant improvements have led to cleaner air and safer drinking water. However, a lot of work remains to be done. Improving, maintaining and protecting the environment calls for impartial and reliable information. EIONET allows public administrators across the European Union to exchange this information easily, using the latest technologies and ultimately helping to safeguard the environment.

»» What is EIONET?

EIONET is a collaborative telematics network collecting and sharing environmental information between the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the relevant organisations in its member countries. EIONET consists of four main categories of connection points:

- **National Focal Points (NFP)**: small units in Member States environmental administrations coordinating European activities (present in all EU, EFTA, and Acceding Countries);
- **National Reference Centres (NRC)**: major research institutes collaborating with the NFP to provide the information for Europe-wide databases;
- **European Topic Centres (ETC)**: special contractors to the EEA coordinating activities in thematic areas. Currently there are ETCs for air and climate change, inland and marine waters, nature and biodiversity, waste and material flows and terrestrial environment;



- In the EU Acceding Countries, **Phare Topic Links** provided the same function and extend the NFPs. Since January 2002 these countries have joined the EEA as full member countries and so fall under the NFPs category.

TERESA builds on this network and supports the development of applications for eEIONET – the electronic component of the network.

»» Objectives

EIONET was established thanks to the same Council regulation (1290/90) that laid foundation to the European Environment Agency (EEA). The network responds to one of the EEA key objectives, which is to provide the information necessary to help decision-makers improve the state of the environment in Europe and make EU environment policies more effective, hence contributing to the "protection of the environment and to support sustainable development". The role of EIONET is therefore that of an 'observation network' which also ensures "that the public is properly informed about the state of the environment".

Reflecting the mandate of the EEA, eEIONET participates in gathering the information necessary to describe the present and foreseeable state of the environment from the following points of view:

- The driving forces causing environmental problems;
- The pressures on the environment;
- The quality of the environment;
- The impacts of it (e.g. on human health and ecosystems); and
- The political targets and responses to it.

Priority areas in environmental issues and related sectors are therefore:

- Air pollution
- Climate change
- Water Stress
- Nature/Biodiversity
- Terrestrial environment
- Waste/material flows
- Households
- Technological/natural risks
- Chemicals
- Transport
- Energy
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Fisheries
- Industry

»» How does it work?

The EIONET network exists both offline, as a network of organisations, and online as an electronic network (eEIONET). eEIONET links 35 sites in the EU Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries and topic centres into one collaborative network on the Internet. eEIONET provides extranet management and integration with national and other networks using generic application services for sharing environmental information between national and international agencies and administrations. It is a new platform with an easy and practical user interface for reporting and providing public access to environmental data.

The EEA has recently launched three new services – the first of the so-called **Reportnet Services** – for its 31 European member countries and other interested parties. They form an integrated set of services for the EIONET community and other institutions wanting to participate in a shared European Environment Information System (EIS). An example of how it works can be summarised as follows:

- A member country intending to fulfil its reporting obligations (falling under the EEA and other international conventions) can directly consult the Web service **ROD** – the **Reporting Obligations Database** (<http://rod.eionet.eu.int>). From the homepage the user selects a specific issue such as "Nature Conservation and Biodiversity loss". It finds that among others, according to Council Resolution of 2 April 1979 concerning Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, a *National report on derogations* needs to be handed in to the European Commission on an annual basis.
- To deliver the *National report on derogations*, the responsible organisation will make use of **CDR** – the **Central Data Repository** (<http://cdr.eionet.eu.int>). Once completed, the data reports within each country collection are arranged under the relevant reporting obligations or agreements.
- Ultimately, when responsible organisations need to monitor and/or search deliveries available on CDR, they consult **CR** – the **Content Registry** (<http://cr.eionet.eu.int>), which is a sort of metadata providing several search options.

»» Achievements

- The past few years have seen the adoption of a new information architecture for eEIONET. It consists of generic services based on open source and common tools for data management, group collaboration and portal services.
- This led to the new reporting modules, the EIONET portal toolkit and a workflow tool. From these components applications began to be built.
- Services of the network management centre were expanded: from being a closed network. EIONET is increasingly opening up to new partners.

- Reportnet, as part of the eEIONET, is in an ongoing implementation phase as far as contents, upload and update are concerned.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: Easier access to documents and reported data by citizens is one of the priorities of the Environment Policy (see also 'Background information'). EIONET contributes to raising public awareness and encourages citizens to become more involved and informed on environmental issues so as to pro-actively participate in the protection of the environment. Access to all EEA products is possible through <http://www.eea.eu.int>

Public Administrations: The Member States directly benefit from increased efficiency when reporting.

Policy makers: They are enabled to find easily accessible information, which is accurate and up to date.

»» The role of IDA

IDA co-finances the implementation of this project. IDA's CIRCA tool allows approximately 300 interest groups involved in European Environment Agency/EIONET projects at European and national level to collaborate. Open source tools are built, following IDA Architecture Guidelines where possible, to ensure wide distribution and maintenance.

»» Background information

The Global Assessment of the 5th Environment Action Programme (1992-1999), concluded that while progress was being made in cutting pollution levels in some areas, problems remained. The environment would continue to deteriorate unless more progress was made in the implementation of environmental legislation in Member States, there was better integration of environment with the economic and social policies, and stakeholders and citizens took more ownership of efforts to protect the environment.

For this reason, 'Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice', the 6th programme (EAP), stresses the need for Member States to implement existing environmental laws more thoroughly.

One of its objectives is tackling climate change, i.e. to stabilise the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a level that will not cause unnatural variations in the earth's climate.

The scientific consensus is that climate change is happening and that human activity is causing increases in concentrations of greenhouse gases that are the cause of the

problem. The key priority for the 6th Programme will be the ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol to cut 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 8% by 2008-12. This must be considered as a first step to the long-term target of a 70% cut.

This is only one example of many through which the EEA work and EIONET reporting links to the policy targets provided by the 6th EAP of the European Union.

The eEIONET will play an important role in the achievement of the above objective, being the repository of crucial information such as the yearly emission of gases in the EU and neighbouring countries. eEIONET is the main 'instrument' monitoring future developments and achievements.

►► Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Implementation
IDA budget:	1999 € 903,000
	2000 € 1,180,000
	2001 € 950,000
	2002 € 600,000

Responsible service:
European Environment Agency (EEA) and
DG Environment

Project coordinator:
Hans Stielstra
Stefan Jensen

Contact:
stefan.jensen@eea.eu.int

Countries involved:
EU Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein,
Norway and Switzerland, all 10 Acceding Countries
plus Turkey

Public websites:
<http://www.eionet.eu.int/>
<http://rod.eionet.eu.int>
<http://cdr.eionet.eu.int>
<http://cr.eionet.eu.int>

Background documents:
eEIONET - Global Implementation Plan (EN)
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1153.doc>;

TERESA GIP - Management Summary (EN)
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1160.doc>

BSE and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are but two of many high-profile cases of consumer concern over food safety. They have influenced public confidence in the EU food supply and also in the system designed to protect consumers. The European Food Safety Authority, one of the key components of the Commission's food safety strategy, was formally adopted on 28 January 2002 with the primary purpose of providing independent scientific advice on food safety covering all stages of food production and supply. EFSa-Net provides a network that helps to ensure high quality food is delivered from Europe's farms to citizens' tables.

»» What is EFSa-Net?

EFSa-Net is a telematics network and IT support mechanism that will assist the recently created European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to meet its goals. The creation of EFSA and the establishment of a corpus of legislation covering all aspects of food products from 'farm to table' were the top priorities of the White Paper on Food Safety.

According to Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002, the Authority is primarily a scientific risk assessment body. EFSA responsibilities are:

- The scientific evaluation of risks,
- The collection and analysis of scientific data,
- Safety evaluations of dossiers put forward by industry for Community level approval of substances or processes,
- Identification of emerging risks,
- Scientific support to the Commission particularly in the case of a food safety crisis,



- Direct communication to the public and other interested parties of information concerning matters of safety of the food chain.

The work of EFSA covers all stages of production and supply, from primary production, animal feed, right through to the supply of food to consumers. It deals with all issues having a direct or indirect impact on the safety of the food and feed supply chains, plant health, and animal health and welfare.

»» Objectives

The network's main objective is to ensure and increase the efficiency of EFSA in providing independent scientific food safety advice and performing risk assessments. To do this, it is examining the existing and/or planned IT practices of EC and relevant Member State's food safety administrations, and will propose key procedures and a suitable telematics network.

»» How will it work?

The Authority will gather information from all parts of the globe and will ensure awareness of new scientific developments. It will then share its findings and listen to the views of others through a vast telematics network that will be developed over time.

Once fully online, EFSa-Net will provide the telematics network solution for the different stakeholders involved in EFSA.

The network will be complemented by a web-based collaboration tool for the exchange of documents needed by the committees, panels and workgroups of the EFSA and the participants to its work.

Both the Internet and TESTA (see page 121) will enable collaboration. High-level security tools will secure the EFSA applications, EFSA documents and data transmission.

»» Achievements

- The project is still under development. News on the latest developments can be found at <http://www.efsa.eu.int/>
- The development of the EFSA web portal has been completed. This provides EFSA with a web production environment where content is easy to manage and maintain.
- A kick-off meeting took place to:
 - Fine-tune the process of generating scientific opinions within EFSA and DG Health and Consumer Protection Directorate C;
 - Identify common elements,
 - Introduce quality management,
 - Assemble a backbone and build a pilot for four different opinion generating processes.
- Training started to increase the use of CIRCA.

»» Who will benefit?

Citizens: Since provision is being made to have access to some of the EFSA information by the general public, citizens will be able to have first-hand information on matters that affect their health.

Public Administrations, businesses and professionals: EFSA, European institutions, relevant national bodies and administrations Applicants for Dossiers Authorisations and independent scientist working in the Scientific Committees and panels will certainly gain a collaborative environment for information exchange.

»» The role of IDA

IDA is funding the development of the network. EFSA will also use IDA's TESTA network for the exchange of information between European administrations.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	2005
Project status:	Implementation, development
IDA budget:	2000 € 178,000 2001 € 433,000 2002 € 530,000
Estimated maintenance cost:	€ 280,000/year
Responsible service:	DG Health and Consumer Protection
Project coordinator:	Jochen Brodersen
Contact:	jochen.brodersen@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States
Public websites:	http://www.efsa.eu.int/ http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm
Background documents:	2002 EFSA management plan http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/mang_plan2002_en.pdf

EUDRANET

EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK IN PHARMACEUTICALS (EMEA)

Europe is the world's largest pharmaceutical producer. For this reason, the pharmaceutical sector is extensively regulated with the dual objective of protecting public health and meeting the demands of the Internal Market. EUDRANET helps pharmaceutical authorities in all stages of their business processes through its successful telecommunications network and blend of network services.

»» What is EUDRANET?

EUDRANET is a European human and veterinary pharmaceuticals telecommunication network offering Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services that allows scientific experts, those working on pharmaceutical business processes and policy makers to have a secure and well structured electronic environment to "meet", exchange information and work together on a pan-European scale.

Although managed by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA), the Eudra "family" of applications (such as EUDRAVIGILANCE and EudraTrack) comes under the overall responsibility of the Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Unit within the European Commission's DG Enterprise. These applications are provided in collaboration with the EMA and the national authorities responsible for pharmaceuticals, which make 28 organisations in total.

»» Objectives

EUDRANET aims to provide appropriate secure services for inter-Administration data interchange and for exchanges between Administrations and industry.

- One of EUDRANET's main objectives is to enable the electronic exchange of information between the European Commission, EMA and the national regulatory authorities responsible for pharmaceuticals across the EU Member States. It aims to achieve this through the use of TESTA as its backbone (see page 121).
- A second key objective is to provide a service for secure and managed communication over the Internet between European Administrations and pharmaceutical companies. This has been achieved through the implementation of EudraLink, a software tool designed to facilitate the secure transmission of information or documents between the EU Member States, the European Commission and the pharmaceutical industry. Thanks to EudraLink, elements of the marketing authorisation procedures can now be carried out over the Internet. EudraLink seeks to ensure the confidential and rapid granting of these authorisations.

- Thirdly, EUDRANET exists to host and provide access to Community databases in pharmaceuticals. This includes the European Experts Database and Pharmacovigilance database (EUDRAVIGILANCE) (see page 81).
- Finally, and most importantly, EUDRANET aims to provide a collaborative group work environment and business cooperation tools such as desktop video conference.

»» How does it work?

Resting on the TESTA backbone infrastructure provided by the IDA Programme, EUDRANET acts as an electronic platform, bringing together a wide range of functions and activities which facilitate collaborative pharmaceutical business processes. These processes include:

- The submission and evaluation of marketing authorisation applications by pharmaceutical companies;
- The pharmacovigilance of products on the market to ensure the maintenance of high standards of quality as well as adhering to European national and regional regulations; and
- The dissemination of relevant information to industry, scientific experts and regulators.

The implementation, operation, monitoring, maintenance and development of EUDRANET services enable this efficient collaboration. These consist of:

- EUDRANET's network services: e-mail, directories, web services, document repositories, cooperative group work, discussion fora, desktop video
- Conferences, access to common databases and the hosting of public websites (750 functional e-mail addresses).
- EUDRANET application services: Eudra website of the European Commission in pharmaceuticals (which is also available to the public), the Experts database, functional mailboxes, the EUDRAVIGILANCE database and EudraTrack.
- Support services: Helpdesk and security – support to Certification Authority and digital signatures.

In addition, EudraLink provides a secure mechanism for document transfer with the pharmaceutical industry.

EMA intends, in the near future, to implement a pilot PKI (see page 115) to ensure authentication and the protection of information exchanges between the pharmaceutical industry, the national regulators and EMA.

» Achievements

- Since coming fully online in 1998 EUDRANET has been used on a daily basis by many Community committees (e.g. Committee for Human Medicinal Products, Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products) and working groups (ICH M2 ESTRI Working Group) in an increasing number of scientific and regulatory fields. In 2000, it was also extended to Norway and Iceland.
- EUDRANET has had a profound influence on the way that regulatory business is conducted between national authorities and the EMA. Many business procedures have now been adapted or converted to the electronic data interchange framework, promoting the rapid and efficient flow of information.
- The relevant authorities from various Acceding and Candidate Countries have also requested connection to EUDRANET. An implementation plan for this extension has been produced and the legal possibilities are currently being evaluated.

» Who benefits ?

Public Administrations: EMA, EU Regulatory Authorities and the European Commission. EUDRANET has improved the dissemination of information related to medicinal products as well as the transparency of the procedures, thereby enhancing the speed and efficiency of decision-making in this area and strengthening the protection of confidential information.

Businesses: With the use of EudraLink, pharmaceutical companies are now able to transmit information electronically in an entirely secure manner, ensuring the precision and harmonisation of the information transmitted and speeding up authorisation processes. EUDRANET in fact contributes to establishing a regulatory and legislative framework that favours the competitiveness of European industry.

Citizens: Citizens in the EU Member States and Acceding Candidate Countries also benefit from access to the specialised websites supported by EMA. One of the key aims of the EMA is to assure a high level of public health protection, notably by making safe, innovative products available to patients as quickly as possible. Citizens now have access to websites whose

content has benefited from increased supervision of the market through the strengthening of inspection procedures and of pharmacovigilance.

» The role of IDA

The IDA Programme has financed EUDRANET over a number of years. In addition, EUDRANET was developed in line with the IDA Architecture Guidelines and uses the TESTA network as its backbone infrastructure for exchanges between the Administrations.

EMA has taken over the responsibility for managing and providing operational support for EUDRANET since 1st January 2003.

» Technical information

Project start date:	1997
Project completion date:	2002
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	1999 € 533,000
	2000 € 1,100,000
	2001 € 1,350,000

Responsible service:

European Medicines Evaluation Agency

Project Coordinator:

David Drakeford

Countries involved:

All EU Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries

Contact:

david.drakeford@emea.eu.int
eudranet@emea.eu.int

Public websites:

<http://pharmacos.eudra.org/>
<http://www.emea.eu.int/>

Background documents:

Global Implementation Plan (EN)
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1140.doc>
And COM(2002) 735 final - 10.12.2002

EUDRA- VIGILANCE

PHARMACOVIGILANCE SYSTEM (EMEA)



The impressive array of pharmaceuticals on the European market and the need to guarantee their safety require a system that can make this task easier. EUDRAVIGILANCE is a European monitoring system that is intended to support European regulators in their role of supervising the safety of all medicinal products authorised in the European Economic Area (EEA) in line with other initiatives worldwide. EUDRAVIGILANCE helps regulators to both inform and warn patients in Europe about the effects of medicines so that they can benefit from the best treatment. In the medium term, it will also have a great impact on how pharmacovigilance works in the European Union and radically change the way in which EU-authorised medicinal products are supervised.

»» What is EUDRAVIGILANCE?

EUDRAVIGILANCE is the new pan-European data-processing network and database management system for the exchange, processing and evaluation of adverse drug reactions that may result following the use of one or several medicinal products. Particularly it is designed for the electronic transmission of Individual Case Safety Reports (ICSRs) related to medicinal products authorised in the Community plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The reporting of such adverse drug reactions is defined in EU legislation - Council Regulation EEC/2309/93, Directive 75/319/EEC and Commission Regulation 540/95. The ongoing supervision of the safety in use of medicines is described as pharmacovigilance.

»» Objectives

The objective of EUDRAVIGILANCE is to support pharmacovigilance activities and responsibilities, which are shared between marketing authorisation holders and Competent Authorities in



the EEA such as the Irish Medicines Board in Ireland, the Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin in Germany and the Instituto Nacional da Farmacia e do Medicamento in Portugal.

It also aims to improve pharmacovigilance on a European scale, providing more consistent and detailed data and faster access to the relevant information to the above authorities.

»» How does it work?

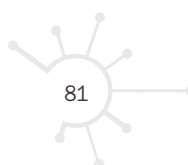
The EUDRAVIGILANCE tool is implemented according to requirements mainly based on Community legislation and the results of the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) between the European Union, the United States and Japan.

The ultimate goal is that Competent Authorities of Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and pharmaceutical companies extract ICSR data from their locally established pharmacovigilance database and transmit this data electronically in the internationally agreed format to one or many receivers, where the information can be automatically processed and evaluated.

In order to do that, EUDRAVIGILANCE works through the following main functional components:

- The EUDRAVIGILANCE Gateway provides a single point of contact between the parties for the secure transmission of ICSRs in the European Union. It allows the pharmaceutical industry to report to a common reporting point within the European Union from where the transactions are re-routed to the addressed Competent Authorities and the EMEA (and vice-versa);

EUROPEAN AGENCIES



- The EUDRAVIGILANCE Database Management System (DBMS) is a web-based information system designed to handle the safety report information, such as acknowledgement message exchange, routing and loading mechanisms, query mechanisms, the guided ICSR creation procedure, the user management and security mechanisms. The DBMS is offering currently remote access to administrative and scientific users in the European Commission, the EMEA and the Competent Authorities via the established secure network EUDRANET (see page 79).

- The EUDRAVIGILANCE Standard Terminology (the internationally agreed medical terminology) is designed to support the classification, retrieval, presentation and communication of medical information, with the main focus on the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA) and a Medicinal Product Dictionary. Strict data standardisation is a precondition for a fully automated data transfer.

The data collected by EUDRAVIGILANCE is currently only accessible to Competent Authorities in the EEA. The new website, accessible by the general public, is intended to provide the user with an overview of the legal and technical requirements for the development and implementation of EUDRAVIGILANCE in the European Union. In addition, the specifications and user guidance for providing the EMEA with structured information on medicinal products authorised within and outside the Community are available online.

»» Achievements

- After a pilot phase was started in 1999, the implementation of the electronic transmission of ICSRs in the European Union began in December 2001.
- EUDRAVIGILANCE acts as a central access point to pharmacovigilance data collected from within and outside the EEA, and reported electronically to the EMEA.
- It is a crucial component that time allows all Competent Authorities in the EEA to share data for the first on serious adverse drug reactions.
- It provides the necessary evaluation tools to support the supervision of the use of medicinal products.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: EUDRAVIGILANCE contributes to strengthening the protection of public health at EU- and national levels.

Public Administrations and Businesses: EUDRAVIGILANCE work benefits public administrations and businesses in the EEA. The implementation of the ICH standards by all parties involved, and with the support of EUDRAVIGILANCE, will result

in the replacement of paper reporting by a more efficient and rapid electronic exchange of information.

Policy makers: Advanced and coordinated notice of potential problems that may indicate a need for regulatory action by the relevant authorities at European or national level, in particular in relation to public and animal health, will accelerate decision-making and lead to more effective actions.

All stakeholders can concentrate their efforts in providing better supervision of the safety of medicinal products thanks to the more rapid exchange of information and the automated processing of data ensured by EUDRAVIGILANCE.

The role of IDA

IDA co-finances the development of the EUDRAVIGILANCE system which makes use of TESTA to support the connection to the application.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	2004
Project status:	Development and implementation
IDA budget:	1999 € 650,000
	2000 € 286,000
	2001 € 1,428,000
	2002 - 2003 € 2,431,000

Responsible service:

DG Enterprise

Project coordinator:

Sabine Brosch

Contact:

sabine.brosch@emea.eu.int

Countries involved:

EEA, Acceding and Candidate Countries

Public websites:

<http://eudravigilance.org>

<http://pharmacos.eudra.org/>

<http://www.emea.eu.int/>

Background documents:

The EUDRAVIGILANCE Brochure is available on the website – homepage – together with other background documentation.

DOCS

COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

An enlarged European Union is expected to lead to a greater number of documents generated by its institutions. Thanks to the DOCS project, the right official information will reach the right people seamlessly and effortlessly, no matter when and where they need it. DOCS contributes to the efficiency of Community decision-making processes.

»» What is DOCS?

DOCS is a set of software applications, office automation tools, exchange formats and harmonisation activities developed within the framework of the IDA Programme. They are designed to modernise the exchange of official (e.g. legislative) documents between the EU institutions on the one hand, and between the institutions and national administrations on the other. Due to its highly inter-institutional nature, the project is managed with the assistance of a group made up of EU institutions representatives, the so-called "e-doc" group. Member States are informed of progress and results of direct interest to them.

»» Objectives

The capacity to exchange official documents in a timely and efficient manner is pivotal to the workings of the EU and national administrations. There is also a need to improve the whole circulation of - and access to - official Community information. This need is not limited to inter-institutional lines of communication, but extends to relations with the Member State Representations, Governments and National Parliaments.



The modernisation and simplification of inter-institutional procedures is also a key prerequisite to improving access by citizens and business operators to EU law and other official documents to make the whole decision-making system more transparent.

»» How does it work?

The process of improving electronic interchanges of official documents started in the mid-Nineties, at a time when the EU institutions were initiating a first process of internal administrative reform. Since then, work undertaken is closely coordinated with the parallel modernisation processes being carried out within the EU institutions. As part of these processes, consolidated inter-institutional procedures and management systems are being set up and electronically interconnected.

Reliable and stable document formats are being defined and regularly updated. This also includes harmonising the metadata describing legislative texts and their structures through the definition of common principles and languages, bearing in mind the specific needs of multilingualism, establishing links between community and national legislative databases and harmonising document referencing. More recently, appropriate mechanisms are being taken into account to guarantee authenticity and legal validity by using electronic signatures.

»» Achievements

- Within DOCS, a number of sub-projects involved in improving official document management processes have been developed. These include:
 - LegisWrite - advanced OA (Office Automation) tool assisting legal drafting, linguistic synchronisation, structure and quality check, text consolidation and providing models for all types of Community texts;
 - Greffe 2000 (application): the Commission's electronic document register for transmitting Commission initiatives. An example of a working e-procedure involving all Directorates General and other institutions in the legislative domain;

- Parliamentary Questions (application): another example of full electronic procedures between the European Parliament and the Commission;
- Trusted exchanges of official documents and e-signatures;
- Institutions websites metadata and link management, Uniform document locators;
- EULEX, a demonstrator to liaise EU legislation and related national legislation.

- Several of these projects are now complete for a growing number of documents types and have resulted in revised information flows from paper to electronic formats. This has in turn increased quality, decreased delays and radically improved transmission times.
- During 2001 and 2002 more than 400,000 pages were transmitted to the EU Office of Official Publications via Greffe 2000. The estimated saving is around € 3 million annually. Similarly, each receiving institution made considerable savings due to the suppression of millions of paper copies and thousands of retyping hours.
- A cost-benefit analysis has recently been launched, covering the 1999-2002 period, in order to provide more accurate figures about quantitative savings and qualitative benefits.

» Who benefits?

Citizens: For Europe to be more transparent and closer to its citizens, Community legislation must be understandable to those it is intended for. Tools such as DOCS contribute to making text clear and coherent, indirectly ensuring that legislation is applied uniformly in all the Member States.

Public Administrations: (Administrators) Besides the European Commission, the main beneficiaries are the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

Electronic data exchange improves the whole circulation of (and access to) official Community information. It ensures greater transparency and re-use of information by automated tools that collate, analyse and abstract meaningful information from documents. National governments also benefit as it allows for interconnectivity of databases assisting the Community directive's implementation. Systems such as EUR-Lex (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>) or PRELEX (<http://europa.eu.int/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en>) are direct beneficiaries due to the availability of reliable electronic versions of legal texts.

» The role of IDA

IDA funds the inter-institutional elements of the projects (e.g. defining exchange formats and developing / adapting local systems for importing or exporting data) and the specific interfaces or gateways resulting from IDA developments. Initial studies, extended coverage of more document types are also financed by IDA, as well as some training and support for new tools.

» Technical information

Project start date:	1997
Project completion date:	2004
Project status:	Development, post-implementation
IDA budget:	1999 € 1,155,000
	2000 € 1,537,000
	2001 € 1,481,000
	2002 € 1,889,000
	2003 € 1,940,000

Responsible service:

General Secretariat of the Commission;
Informatics Directorate of the Commission
(LegisWrite);

Project coordinator:

François Kodeck

Contact:

francois.kodeck@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public websites:

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

EUR-Lex

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>

PRELEX

<http://europa.eu.int/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en>

Background documents:

Global Implementation Plan available on the IDA website (under Project of Common Interest)



Newcomers to any organisation may be forgiven for thinking that their colleagues are speaking their own made-up language when in-house jargon is freely used in conversation and internal communications. Multiply the number of jargon terms by the number of organisations and official languages in Europe, and the extent of the problem becomes clear. Help is now at hand with IATE, a centralised system for all European Union terminology resources with a single access point, demystifying jargon for all users within the European Union's Institutions and, in time, all EU citizens.

»» What is IATE?

IATE is the EU inter-institutional terminology database system. Once fully online, it will be used for the collection, dissemination and shared management of EU-specific terminology. This system will be multilingual and will be available to EU agencies and institutions, freelance translators and European citizens.

»» Objectives

- IATE aims to provide a web-based infrastructure for all EU terminology resources, enhancing the availability and standardisation of the information. These resources will include any existing data compiled by the participating organisations and the three major existing databases (EURODICAUTOM: the European Commission's multilingual term bank born from two existing lexicographic tools, the Dicautom and the Euroterm; TIS: Terminological Information System of The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and

EUTERPE: Exploitation Unifiée de la Terminologie au Parlement Européen or "European Parliament one-stop terminology management system").

- IATE is also being developed to serve as a vehicle for the application of advanced language processing technology to multi-lingual terminology management.
- It aims to support interactivity through the provision of:
 - The possibility for a user to carry out modifications and add entries directly to the central database;
 - In-built validation procedures to ensure quality;
 - The development of management and reporting tools; and
 - A messaging system to be used as a communication mechanism between the actors in the terminology workflow.

»» How will it work?

IATE will provide a web-based interactive working environment that enables cooperation between the European Institutions and the relevant terminology bodies in the Member States.

The network will be made up of:

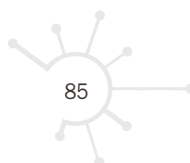
- A central terminology database;
- A Web server for remote consultation, data inputting and editing; and
- An application server for the management of access rights, data administration, validation workflow and messaging.

Online access in a read and write mode will make new terms available to all database users immediately.

Let us take a concrete scenario: Camille is a French to Italian translator within the European Commission's Translation Service. Her specialist subject is European employment policy.



Pictures by Jean-Luc Peysen, SCIC Info/Web/Media European Commission.



IATE provides a simple search interface that allows users to retrieve information from the database. Camille has been asked to translate a text on EMPLOI, the Community Employment initiative. As this is a new topic for her, she has to familiarise herself with topic-specific terminology.

The user can specify the language of the word(s) in question and the language(s) required. Camille specifies that her starter language will be French and the target language will be Italian.

The user may also indicate additional search criteria like the subject domain a term belongs to or the Institution that introduced the concept. In order to get a more global perspective on vocabulary, Camille can select a subject domain code like "Social Affairs".

Based on this information the system will provide a "hit-list" of the search term in the requested languages. From this list the user can - by a simple mouse click - retrieve additional information, like definition or examples of the usage of a term. Having retrieved her hit-list in Italian and French, Camille is not only able to understand the basic meaning of the terms she requested, but also read an overview of the background. In this way, she is able to produce a far more informed and precise piece of work.

» Achievements

- Besides the backbone of the system - the database - several versions of the user interfaces for retrieval, data entry and administrative tasks have already been designed and implemented.
- User tests were carried out using a prototype and in two pilot test phases. A final version of the IATE system was delivered to the Commission in December 2002. It is currently undergoing final testing.
- The system will eventually incorporate all of the existing terminology databases into one new, highly interactive and accessible inter-institutional relational database. So far the following legacy databases have been imported into IATE which now contains approximately 1.4 million multilingual entries:
 - Eurodicautom (Commission),
 - TIS (Council),
 - Euterpe (EP),
 - Euroterms (Translation Centre),
 - CDCTERM (Court of Auditors), and
 - A thesaurus from the Court of Justice.

» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: This will be the primary group of beneficiaries of IATE. Their improved administration, management and coordination will lead to financial, manpower and resource savings.

Professionals, businesses and citizens: Those who are not EU civil servants but who need to have access to the most up-to-date terminology for professional and personal reasons, also stand to gain from a single point of access to EU terminology resources.

» The role of IDA

IDA provides funding for the development of IATE. In addition, IDA's generic services are being used, including TESTA for tele-communication aspects and CIRCA for the coordination of the various expert groups.

» Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	1999 € 844,000
	2001 € 232,000
	2002 € 252,000
	2003 € 90,000

Responsible service:

DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator:

Dieter Rummel

Christian Devillers

Contact:

dieter.rummel@cdt.eu.int

christian.devillers@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:

Sweden, France, Germany

Public website:

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

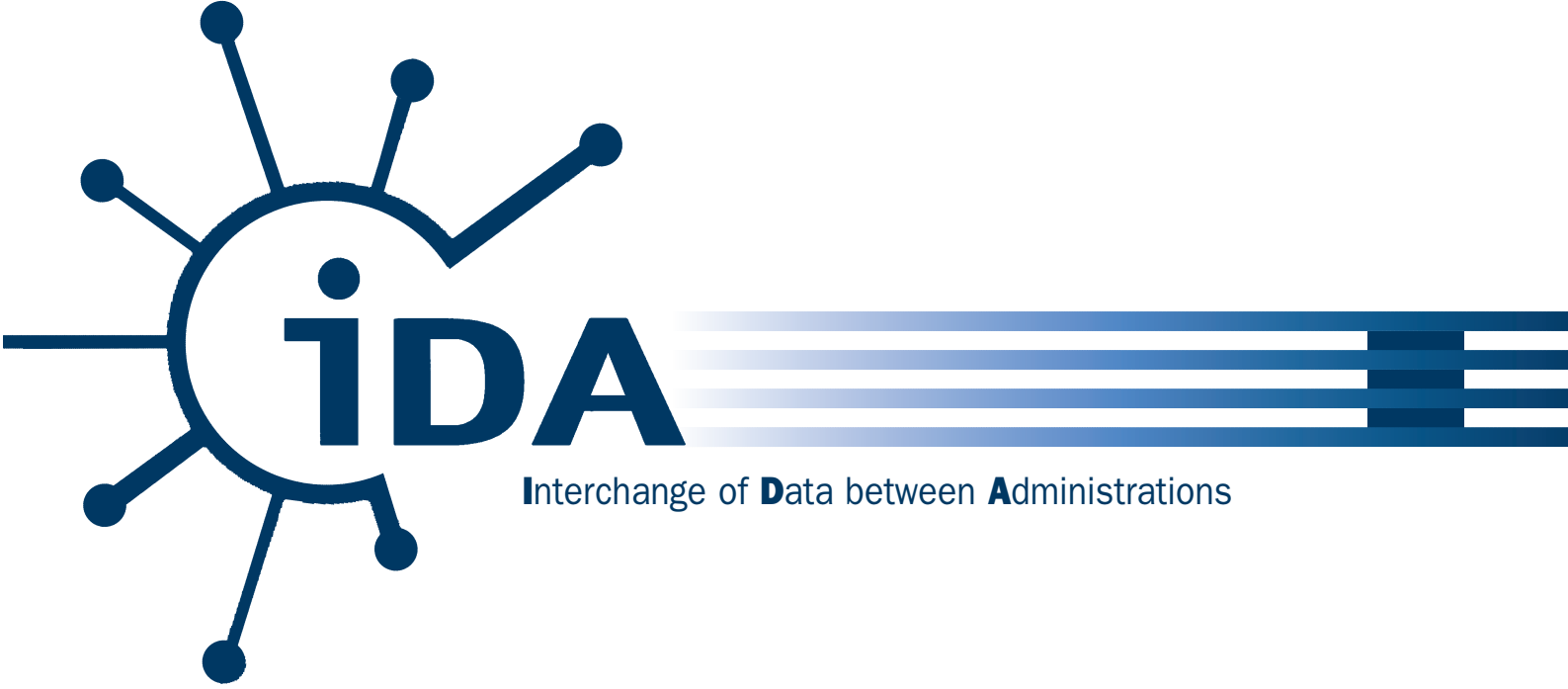
Background documents:

IATE Global Implementation Plan (EN)

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1164.doc>

<http://europa.eu.int/eurodicautom/> Controller

<http://tis.consilium.eu.int/utfwebtis/frames/introfsEN.htm>



Horizontal Actions and Measures (HAMs)

Posting information online, while useful, does not harness the true potential of the Internet. It is the ability to form communities, collaborate and interact that gives added value. CIRCA provides this service for Europe's administrators by allowing interest groups to build closed collaborative workspaces where they can share resources and work together remotely over the Internet or other networks.

»» What is CIRCA?

CIRCA (Communication and Information Resource Centre Administrator) is a simple and effective Internet-based groupware application, developed by the European Commission under the IDA Programme. It is a web-based software framework providing online services that offer a common virtual space for Workgroups, enabling the effective and secure sharing of resources and documents. It is offered as a common tool to the EU public administrations, with free licences, its architecture being based on Open Source Software. It is also a generic service operated by IDA (including help desk, assistance and training services), to support the work of the numerous EU committees.

»» Objectives

CIRCA's key objective is to be a collaborative software solution for the IDA community. It aims to provide management, groupwork and customer support services and it is constantly developed further to meet growing user requirements.



»» How does it work?

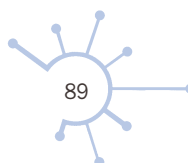
CIRCA provides interest groups with a private web workspace to collaborate on common objectives and tasks. These Interest Groups can access the same set of functionalities, but only members of that specific group can reach the information and functionalities in the private workspace to which they have authorised access. CIRCA services cover:

- Information pages;
- Document library;
- News groups;
- Users directory;
- Contact services;
- Meeting space; and
- e-mail.

Any given group can fully customise the collaborative environment and profit from its linguistic features. The user interface currently is available in three languages (German, English, French); other languages can easily be added thanks to the translation editor provided by CIRCA.

»» Achievements

- CIRCA has been running for several years (since 1999) as an IDA generic service and it is used by the majority of IDA sectors and by more than 30 Directorates General of the Commission. This represents a population of more than 22,000 active users spread over at least 600 interest groups.
- Several national administrations have received a free licence and use it for their own needs.
- CIRCA has been adopted by the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme, as the tool for contracts management; this will represent up to 15,000 interest groups and 150,000 users.



»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: EU committees that are established for the implementation of EU policies; IDA PCs.

Free licences may be obtained by European Institutions and Agencies, and any public administrations of the Member States and the Acceding and Candidate Countries which wish to install and use the tool in their own premises.

»» The role of IDA

CIRCA is managed and financed by the IDA Programme. IDA relies upon a steering committee which comprises the main European Commission's Services involved in the CIRCA service: EUROSTAT (for development), the Informatics Directorate (for the hosting of the application), the Directorate General for Enterprises (for help desk and support), and the Office for Official Publications (for additional support services).

CIRCA is further described in the CIRCA brochure available from the IDA website¹. See also the IDA catalogue of generic services and the catalogue of common tools.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1995
Project status:	Development, post-implementation (operational as a generic service)
IDA budget:	1999 € 446,000
	2000 € 827,000
	2001 € 1,153,000
	2003 € 750,000

Responsible service:
Steering Committee, chaired by EUROSTAT

Project coordinator:
Wolfgang Kneueppel

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christian.devillers@cec.eu.int
ida-central@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

CIRCA Forum:
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/ida/ircforum/home>

Background documents:
CIRCA Catalogue
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1238.pdf>
Catalogue of Generic Services
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1434.pdf>
Catalogue of Common Tools and Techniques
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1227.pdf>



¹<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida>

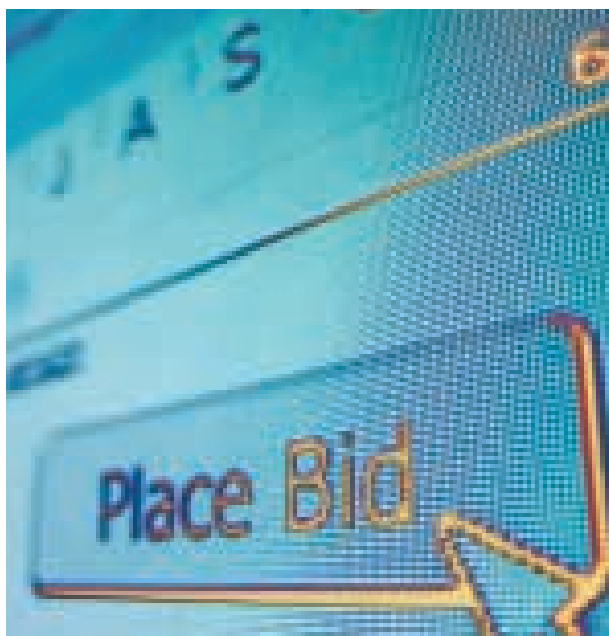
Public procurement is identified in the eEurope initiative as one of the key areas where the use of electronic ways of working can greatly improve and simplify the way government procurement operates. This will make it easier for enterprises to identify contract opportunities and to supply their goods and services across Europe's Internal Market, thus contributing to the strengthening of Europe's competitiveness and economic growth. This double benefit and the pervasiveness of government procurement activities throughout the European Union economy provides IDA with a major opportunity to contribute to the achievement of eEurope objectives.

A legislative framework for electronic public procurement in the EU is underway and should be adopted in 2003. It should enter into force by early 2005. By this date, procurement entities in Europe should be ready to perform procurement procedures electronically.

»» Objectives

With the aim of facilitating the efficient introduction of ePROCUREMENT solutions in compliance with the forthcoming European public procurement regulatory framework, the objective of IDA in line with Community policy is to contribute to:

- Achieving a high degree of interoperability in electronic public procurement and supporting efforts for developing concrete measures to overcome potential obstacles to the smooth functioning of electronic procurement across Europe;
- Facilitating electronic public procurement by providing common specifications, common tools or generic services for the contracting authorities to enable easy access to public procurement opportunities in the Member States;
- Promoting the use of ePROCUREMENT in Europe by creating awareness of transborder ePROCUREMENT benefits and opportunities.



»» How will it work?

An IDA ePROCUREMENT experts working group is following several actions contributing to the above-mentioned objectives.

In the field of interoperability in 2003-2004, IDA will focus on:

- Elaborating common functional specifications for developing ePROCUREMENT systems or services in line with the forthcoming legislative framework,
- Improving the common procurement vocabulary codes (CPV) in order to take advantage of e-technologies and integration with eCatalogues,
- Studying the identification and definition of common data formats (XML) for exchanging information and enabling effective communication between buyers and suppliers using electronic procurement systems.

In order to help contracting authorities in Europe to develop ePROCUREMENT systems for their own needs, IDA plans to perform learning demonstrations on how to implement the new legislation. These demonstrators will complete the functional common specifications in showing how new features could be put in place in the near future.

In addition, the Publications Office will set up an eTendering service pilot for demonstrations and learning both for European Institutions and Member States.

Finally, IDA will organise a workshop in 2003 for administrations and the enterprise sector to disseminate results of ongoing works, to present best practices, to collect cost/benefit information on operational ePROCUREMENT systems and to learn from private sector initiatives.

»» Achievements

- In 2001 and 2002, three workshops took place in Brussels (Dec. 2001, Feb and June 2002) for information dissemination and discussions on ePROCUREMENT activities at European level.
- A study on transborder ePROCUREMENT barriers and enablers was carried out in 2001 – 2002 which provided a list of recommendations.
- One of the recommendations of the transborder study was to examine the feasibility of making a German ePROCUREMENT system more widely available and to provide specifications for generally available and commonplace tools for ePROCUREMENT for public administrations across the Member States.

This feasibility study was launched in November 2002 and the assessment of the German system has indicated that generalisation of electronic procurement platforms designed prior to publication of the new legislative framework appears to be costly and inefficient. Additionally, several technical and legal barriers were identified. Reusability of proprietary ePROCUREMENT solutions is not recommended, taking into account the licensing costs resulting from the use of software, the effort for eliminating barriers and re-engineering of existing systems, in order to support new procurement types and procedures, as prescribed by the forthcoming legislation.

The study made recommendations to go ahead with the elaboration of common specifications taking into account the state of the art in learning from operational systems in Member States and in performing learning demonstrators to illustrate the implementation of the forthcoming legislation.

- An eNotices service is under development by the Publications Office (OPOCE) that will collect public procurement notices for publication in the Supplement of the Official Journal.

»» Who will benefit?

Public Administrations: IDA's ePROCUREMENT work will benefit Member States and contracting authorities (at pan-European, national, regional, and local levels) through the provision of useful information on eProcurement and its implementation. It should minimise the amount of time and effort expended by administrations and contracting authorities for organising public procurement competitions, support the different awarding procedures (i.e. open, restricted, negotiated, framework agreement, etc) and automate the tender publication and opening procedures.

Businesses: It will also benefit enterprises keen to trade across borders, by giving them improved and easier access to public procurement opportunities across Europe.

Citizens: Making procurement procedures available to a larger audience of suppliers enables the public sector to purchase goods and services at lower or more economically advantageous prices. This will benefit citizens and consumers since they will have more reassurance that their administrations are spending tax-payers money in a more cost-effective manner.

»» The role of IDA

Besides providing funds to the relevant activities, IDA works in close cooperation with other Commission services such as the Internal Market Directorate General and the OPOCE to coordinate the management of these activities.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	2004
Project status:	Pilot, implementation
IDA budget:	2001 € 120,000
	2002 € 330,000
	2003 € 1,200,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator:
Serge Novaretti

Contact:
serge.novaretti@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

Background documents:
ePROCUREMENT literature
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showChapter&tchapterID=139&preChapterID=0-17>
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showChapter&tchapterID=359&preChapterID=0-140-194-349>

1. At present EC Systran. A machine translation system is a software application which translates texts or documents automatically from one language into another whilst respecting grammar, syntax and idioms.

The accessibility of the European Union and the transparency of its policies depend to a large extent on respect for the principle of multilingualism. That is one of the reasons why EU legislation must be published in all of the Union's official languages: because it becomes national law and thus directly binding on all EU citizens, the latter must be able to read and understand it in their own languages. But well before that point, proposals must be aired for the widest possible debate at all levels - European, national and local - in forms accessible to non-linguists and non-diplomats. It is a question of openness and democracy.

That is where machine translation (MT) comes in. More than just an electronic dictionary, MT can facilitate multilingual written communication by offering a fast and cost-effective means of obtaining raw translations of texts such as reports, minutes and e-mails. As a result, not only can it benefit administrators in their day-to-day exchanges of information, but it can also be useful to professional translators as a basis for producing high-quality translations.

»» What is IDA-MT?

IDA-MT, or "Machine Translation for IDA networks", covers a series of projects aimed at providing effective and user-friendly access to the European Commission's machine translation (MT) system¹ for the interchange of multilingual data between European public administrations.

The Commission's MT system currently offers 18 language pairs combining English, French, Dutch, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Work is ongoing to add pairs from Danish, Finnish and Swedish into English.

The first of these projects was a feasibility study carried out in 2002, the main components of which were:

- a survey on MT needs in the 15 EU Member States; and
- a cost analysis of the solutions best suited to satisfying those needs.



Following a proposal from the IDA Telematics between Administrations Committee (TAC), the European Commission's Translation Service (SDT) conducted the study with a view to determining how MT services could be improved for Member State public administrations.

»» Objectives

The purpose of the feasibility study was to collect information on the principal MT needs of European public administrations and to define the most appropriate and cost-effective ways of satisfying those needs in terms of:

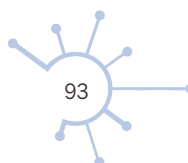
- MT access,
- language and terminology coverage, and
- translation quality.

It was assumed that widespread access to a common tool such as the Commission's MT system would help the European administrative world (Member State public administrations and EU institutions and bodies) overcome language barriers when exchanging data. It was also assumed that it would reduce the overall costs associated with multilingual communication.

»» How does it work?

IDA-MT is still in the development stage. Consequently, comments here are confined to the workings of the feasibility study. The study comprised five tasks:

- An overview of how the Commission's MT system, EC Systran, is used (MT Usage Report);
- Establishment of survey methodology (Preliminary Survey Report);
- A survey in the 15 EU Member States and EU institutions and bodies on the principal MT needs of European public administrations, with a detailed analysis of the results (Survey Report);



- Possible scenarios for responding to the needs expressed and for enhancing MT services (Implementation Analysis Report); and
- A presentation of the technical and linguistic solutions best suited to IDA networks, with an estimate of the financial and human resources required for their implementation (Final Report).

»» Achievements

- The feasibility study has been completed.
- The MT System Usage Report, Preliminary Survey Report and Survey Report can already be viewed on the IDA Website.
- The Implementation Analysis Report and Final Report will be available in the near future.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: Machine-produced translations are less reliable than human translations, but they can be of great help to administrators for understanding the gist of texts (such as e-mails, reports, and minutes) written in languages they have not mastered. Moreover, some officials use MT as a drafting tool, writing a text in their own language first, then requesting a machine translation and correcting the output.

Professionals: MT results can also be useful to translators as a rough basis for providing formal translations, although careful editing is then required.

»» The role of IDA

The IDA-MT feasibility study was an IDA initiative funded under the 2002 IDA Work Programme.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2002
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Feasibility
IDA budget:	2002 € 318,000
Responsible service:	DG Enterprise IDA Unit
Project coordinator:	Francine Braun-Chen
Contact:	francine.braun-chen@cec.eu.int ida-central@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States
Public website:	http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida
Background documents:	MT System Usage Report, Preliminary Survey Report, Survey Report on MT Needs. http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/doc.jsp?559 IDA WP 2003 http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1498.pdf Catalogue of Common Tools & Techniques http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1227.pdf

1. At present EC Systran. A machine translation system is a software application which translates texts or documents automatically from one language into another whilst respecting grammar, syntax and idioms.

Have you ever wished you could give your views on European Union policies which affect you and know that you are being heard? IPM provides that listening ear which will give Member State administrations and EU Institutions insight into the reactions and opinions of citizens and enterprises to EU policies. Policy makers across Europe will be able to share relevant information, target concerns through new initiatives and assess the impact of existing policies.

»» What is IPM?

In April 2001, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Interactive Policy Making [IPM - C(2001)1014] which aims to improve governance by using the Internet to collect and analyse reactions of citizens and enterprises across the European Union (EU) Member States. This initiative is used by the European Commission to evaluate existing EU policies and to facilitate open consultations on new initiatives.

»» Objectives

The objective of the Interactive Policy Making (IPM) initiative is to use modern technologies, particularly the Internet, to allow both Member State administrations and EU institutions to understand the needs of citizens and enterprises better. It is intended to assist policy development by allowing more rapid and targeted responses to emerging issues and problems, improving the assessment of the impact of policies (or the absence of them) and providing greater accountability to citizens.



»» How does it work?

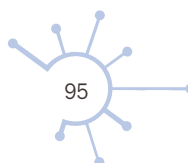
The development of customisable web-applications, employed either for the collection of spontaneous reactions from across the Member States (feedback mechanism) or for consultations of stakeholders (consultation mechanism), is planned.

The development of a web interface will also allow the joint collection of data that can then be disseminated and shared by the Member States and the European Commission. The IPM feedback mechanisms also allow for an in-built alert system that highlights problems related to the application of EU policies in the Member States.

This approach has been developed in cooperation with national representatives in the Internal Market Advisory Council (IMAC) and is in line with the objective of the eEurope Action Plan. ESTAT and OPOCE will provide expertise on data analysis as well as data presentation and communication.

»» Achievements

- The use of the IPM consultation mechanism has allowed the creation of a new web portal ("Your voice in Europe", <http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice>) a single access point for European Commission consultations. Citizens, enterprises and all other stakeholders will be able to tell the Commission what they think about new policy initiatives.
- The availability of the consultations' results through the portal as soon as the consultations are closed, will contribute to more transparency and accountability in the EU policy-making process.
- It is currently planned to use the IPM consultation mechanism for the European Business Test Panel, a joint project between the European Commission and Member States aimed at evaluating the impact of new proposals on business. Enterprises will be able to become more involved in the consultation process by being given the opportunity to provide input on new initiatives and feedback on the application of existing legislation.



- The results collected via the IPM feedback mechanism will be analysed by the European Commission and then discussed with Member States. These results will help to identify where there are problems, as well as to which sector or policy area they relate.
- The prototype of the feedback mechanism is already used by local intermediaries (i.e. Chambers of Commerce) together with EU Member State Administrations for local policy making.
- Several Member States have also signalled their interest in linking national initiatives with IPM.

»» Who will benefit?

Citizens and businesses: The participation of citizens, consumers and enterprises in open consultations will allow a fresh perspective for new initiatives, as well as feedback on the implementation of existing legislation. As a result, the policy-making process becomes more democratic and can better serve the needs of the different stakeholders.

Public Administrations: The IPM initiative will help the European Commission respond more quickly and accurately to the demands of citizens, consumers and enterprises, with a view to making EU policy-making more transparent, comprehensive and effective. The Internet will help the Commission gather people's opinions in a transparent and accessible manner, so that everybody can see and benefit from the results of their input. Other European institutions and national public administrations will be able to propose new and more effective policy initiatives based on practical experience from across the EU Member States (introducing new legislation or amending the existing).

»» The role of IDA

IPM is one of the initiatives of the IDA Programme in the field of 'business applications' and the development of IPM is financed with IDA support.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	2002 € 619,000 2003 € 300,000

Responsible service:
 DG Internal Market
 DG Informatics Directorate and
 DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator:
 Jobst von Kirchmann

Contact:
 michel.robort@cec.eu.int
 ida-central@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
 All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

Background documents:
 IDA 2003 WP
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1498.pdf>
 IDA Catalogue of Common Tools and Technique
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1227.pdf>

Administrations, whether national or European, operate differently. For those unaccustomed to the administrative procedures of different countries, this can prove a real obstacle. The portal of the EU Administration is contributing to breaking down this barrier by pooling all this information into one single entry-point online, targeting explicitly the cross-border dimension. This supports a continuously increasing mobility for citizens and enterprises, ultimately contributing to better integration across Europe.

In 2000, following the adoption of the eEurope Action Plan (including a chapter on Government online) at the Feira European Council, IDA initiated a horizontal action to facilitate the creation of a portal providing access to public service information at a pan-European level. This action received the political support of the European public service and administration ministers at their meeting on 7 November 2000 in Strasbourg. The Sandhamn conference in May 2001 under the Swedish Presidency and the Ministerial Conference under the Belgian Presidency and related Declaration of November 2001 confirmed this as a major political objective. This action was referred to in the eEurope 2005 Action Plan, adopted in May 2002, placing it in the wider context of the provision of pan-European eGovernment services.

»» What is the PORTAL OF THE EU ADMINISTRATION?

The portal provides information and services for both citizens and enterprises which intend to carry out cross-border activities. Examples of the services provided include: for citizens

moving to a new country, information on schooling, social security and finding employment; and for enterprises, details on accounting regulations, public procurement opportunities and taxation laws, etc.

In the near future, the portal will integrate with existing Commission sites, such as Dialogue with Citizens and Dialogue with Business. In addition, customised services in support of both citizens and enterprises like the Citizen's signpost offered under the Europa server and the SOLVIT network (see page 21) will be made available through the portal.

»» Objectives

The portal aims at providing information and services online to assist Europe's citizens and enterprises carry out cross-border activities by offering a multilingual single point of access within Europe.

»» How does it work?

The portal is a one-stop shop for information for EU citizens and enterprises from the EU's public administrations. In this sense, it acts as a single entry-point, guiding users to relevant information on other national or pan-European sites. Both the European Institutions and national governments supply the content. The portal has been developed to provide two-tiered information and services: on the one hand, users are given access to information of a pan-European nature; on the other, they have details on cross-border issues in individual Members States. The portal has also been divided into two sections: one for citizens and the other for enterprises. It is planned to provide information from all EU Member States, as well as from EEA and Acceding and Candidate Countries.



The development of the portal is based on a two-step approach: in the medium term, the effort is concentrated on establishing a coherent European framework for the provision of a multilingual public information service; in the long run, (after 2004) this service is expected to be extended by making use of several channels, like call-centres, kiosks and mobile technologies. Users' profiles are also to be introduced in the portal thus allowing a more customised use of this tool by different groups (for instance SMEs, families, students, or self-employed persons).

»» Achievements

Information is available for most topics at EU level and selected topics at country levels. The portal - which is currently in its pilot phase - had over 14,000 visitors already by October 2002. It will be regularly updated with content provided by the European Commission and by national administrations and is planned to be fully operational by the end of 2004.

A strategy paper has been produced with the active involvement of the Member States. An evaluation of the pilot phase (including a usability assessment) has been carried out by external consultants at the beginning of 2003. This has resulted in a number of recommendations for the future development of the site, like the establishment of a common European portal framework, a user-centred design, the use of profiling techniques, the wider involvement of the end-users and some criteria for the prioritisation of the information to be provided.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens and businesses: from a single entry-point, they can access relevant information and interact with national administrations other than their own, overcoming barriers to mobility and integration in Europe.

»» The role of IDA

The portal is an IDA Programme initiative. It is one of the Horizontal Actions and Measures and is currently entirely financed by IDA. The work is done in close cooperation with national experts from Member States and with the participation of Acceding and Candidate Countries.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2002
Project completion date:	End 2004
Project status:	Pilot Phase
IDA budget:	2001 € 292,000
	2002 € 336,000
	2003 € 200,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit, in collaboration with
DG Internal Market

Project coordinator:
Gavino Murgia

Contact:
gavino.murgia@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States, except Ireland and
Portugal plus Iceland

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/public-Services/>

The ultimate success of IDA projects is determined by the effectiveness of their results for the beneficiaries, namely administrations, citizens and enterprises. For this purpose, the IDA Programme is defining, implementing and continuously updating an integrated quality programme, applicable both to the Horizontal Actions and Measures and to the Projects of Common Interest. In addition, an evaluation of the whole programme is regularly carried out in accordance with the standards and recommendations laid down by the Commission.

»» What is QUALITY ASSURANCE?

The QUALITY ASSURANCE project includes four types of activities:

- Development of Quality Guidelines and Generic Tools for the whole set of IDA Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and Horizontal Actions Measure (HAMs);
- Development of guidelines for Cost Benefit assessment of individual projects and horizontal measures;
- Evaluation of the IDA Programme and selected projects, including Cost Benefit analysis.
- The dissemination of the results throughout the IDA community.

These activities aim to provide monitoring and advice during project implementation, as well as ex-post evaluations. The results are made available to the sectors/projects concerned and also to other administrative sectors. In this way, all participants in the IDA Programme are informed of the lessons learned and mistakes to be avoided.

»» Objectives

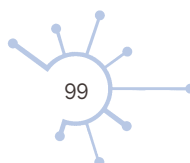
The QUALITY ASSURANCE activity aims to improve the manner in which project objectives and requirements are specified, and how individual projects are carried out, as well as the quality of the final project deliverables. It also evaluates key Projects of Common Interest and Horizontal Actions and Measures and the results of the IDA Programme as a whole.

At the level of the individual projects, the results of these evaluations should lead to corrective actions. At the level of the programme, the assessment of the programme has informed the debate on the continuation of IDA actions after the expiry of the current phase of IDA at the end of 2004.

»» How does it work?

QUALITY ASSURANCE Guidelines are meant to be an ongoing, centralised, implementation activity aimed at facilitating a common understanding and agreement of key project issues such as the formulation of user requirements, the definition of project objectives, roles and responsibilities, critical success factors, risks, constraints and organisational impact.

Framework contracts are established to provide quality control services to sectors and the central IDA Unit on a "call-off" basis. In this way, project managers have assistance in assessing the project quality plans and monitoring their execution, for measuring user satisfaction, determining the acceptance criteria for project deliverables and assessing deliverables against these criteria. Overall assessments of specific projects by means of cost-benefit analysis and end-user satisfaction measurement are also possible.



»» Achievements

QUALITY ASSURANCE Guidelines have been developed. They consist in a self-evaluation tool in combination with short guides to the different phases of IDA projects (Preparatory, Feasibility, Development and Validation, Implementation). Each of these short guides refers to a number of templates and checklists that can be used in each phase, such as for the project management and quality plan, user requirements, system requirements and guidance on metrics (for more details, please consult the IDA website)¹.

»» Who benefits?

The IDA community: The first direct impact of the QUALITY ASSURANCE will be the improvement of the quality of project deliverables of projects funded by IDA, both in terms of compliance with project specifications and in terms of satisfaction of user expectations.

By providing transparency and accountability with regard to the programme management, it is also possible to say that the beneficiaries are more than just those directly involved in the IDA Programme.

»» The role of IDA

The work is carried out under the responsibility of the IDA Unit which ensures that experiences from all the IDA projects are taken into account and that the results are disseminated accordingly.

»» Background information

To ensure transparency and accountability, IDA legal decisions have set down requirements for programme evaluations to be carried out every two years. In addition to these requests, the European Commission's Sound and Efficient Management 2000 initiative (known as SEM 2000) includes the use of eval-

uation as a key element in improving the management culture of the Commission itself. A key innovation of SEM 2000 is the requirement that systematic evaluation be introduced for all EU programmes.

The first evaluation of the second phase of the IDA Programme was completed in 2000, the second in 2002. A new evaluation is planned to be completed in 2004. That evaluation will focus on the impact of the IDA Programme through a thorough analysis of the following five issues: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, utility and sustainability.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2001
Project completion date:	2004
IDA budget:	1999 € 133,000
	2001 € 412,000
	2002 € 219,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit

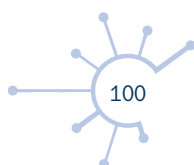
Project coordinator:
Vemund Riiser

Contact:
vemund.riiser@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States, Acceding, Candidate and EEA countries

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida>

Background documents :
QUALITY ASSURANCE Guidelines; Interoperability decision: Decision No 1720/199/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 1999.



¹ <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida>

On 13–14 June 2001, an IDA conference entitled "eGovernment in the service of European citizens and enterprises – what is required at the European level" was held in Sandhamn, Sweden. For the first time Europe's senior civil servants, from European Union Member States, European Economic Area (EEA) countries, EU Candidate Countries and the European institutions, gathered to discuss the requirements to open up national eGovernment services to citizens and enterprises from other countries and share good practices. A few months later, on 29 November 2001, the Ministerial Declaration concluding the conference "eGovernment: from policy to practice" held in Brussels confirmed the need to establish a European "eGovernment Observatory" supported by the IDA Programme.

»» What is the eOBSERVATORY?

The eOBSERVATORY is a project to collect and analyze information concerning the main initiatives and developments in the field of eGovernment, in Europe and beyond, and to disseminate this information through the IDA website and other media. Its target audience includes eGovernment decision-makers and professionals in public administrations, as well as in the private and voluntary sectors.

»» Objectives

The primary aim of the eOBSERVATORY is to proactively support IDA in the identification and understanding of eGovernment areas where IDA shall play a role, complemented by a better identification of best practices in the field. Its outputs should contribute to the identification of priorities for pan-European eGovernment services and the emergence of related strategies. Its dissemination activities should be coordinated with other EU initiatives in the context of the Information Society and eEurope/eGovernment.



»» How does it work?

In order to achieve the objectives above, the eOBSERVATORY covers three areas:

- eGovernment Watch: monitoring of ongoing activities, trends, relevant technologies as well as developments in the private sector and information of relevance for the eGovernment domain.
- Studies and surveys on topics of particular interest.
- Benchmarking of electronic service delivery in public administrations.

The IDA Unit, in cooperation with the Member States' experts in the IDA Committee and the project's Steering Committee identifies the specific areas subject to studies and surveys (or to benchmarking activities). This is made on the basis of the expected benefits for the administrations and decision makers for the execution of the IDA Programme and related actions.

The "products" delivered through the eOBSERVATORY website are intended to widely disseminate information about eGovernment activities.

They currently include:

- eGovernment News: daily news from across Europe;
- eGovernment Factsheets : a synopsis of the eGovernment situation and progress in European countries;
- Publications: A quarterly newsletter, In-depth articles, Case Studies;
- eGovernment Resources: access to essential eGovernment literature and information sources: policy papers, official and independent reports and surveys, official and independent information services, Studies and surveys;
- eGovernment Events: a comprehensive list of eGovernment-related events in Europe and beyond.

In addition, a weekly e-mail newsletter has been introduced, called the "European eGovernment News Roundup", enabling subscribers to receive information about the latest eGovernment developments, initiatives and insight from across Europe.

The main target audience for these products comprises

eGovernment decision-makers and professionals in public administrations, private companies, associations, the media and others organisations involved in the eGovernment domain.

In order to produce these information "products", the eOBSERVATORY team gathers information on existing eGovernment initiatives and emerging trends in terms of applications, R&D technologies and commercial solutions which could have an impact to enable the effective deployment of the expectations raised by eGovernment. The work involves the identification of relevant information, contributing to create synergies with complementary initiatives at the EU level or in the Member States – at both national and regional level, packaging the information in the appropriate multimedia format(s), raising awareness and disseminating the information (web, information network with the Member States Administrations, meetings, documents, etc.).

»» Achievements

The first year of work has allowed to build the foundations of the eOBSERVATORY by gathering the main data and information on eGovernment initiatives in the EU Member States, as well as to create the necessary tools to monitor their developments and related events. A website to make available the findings of the eOBSERVATORY went live in May 2002 and was officially launched in July 2002.

The eOBSERVATORY is now in its second phase of implementation. During 2003 the website has been revamped and improved with new functionalities enabling an easier navigation. The contents has been significantly enriched and re-organised in order to better meet the needs of the target audience.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens: the eOBSERVATORY website enables citizens to access the latest information on eGovernment achievements and developments in Europe. In this respect, the eOBSERVATORY contributes to bringing the initiatives of the public administrations closer to citizens.

Public Administrations: At a time when Europe is rapidly moving online, the eOBSERVATORY helps public administra-

tions assess and monitor their progress against other developments across the continent. It gives them access to information about innovative projects and best practices and therefore helps them in the design and delivery of their own initiatives.

Businesses: the eOBSERVATORY provides input to organisations involved in eGovernment to understand the essential market requirements and trends better.

»» The role of IDA

The eOBSERVATORY is one of the initiatives of the IDA Programme in the area of 'spread of good practice'. It is financed by IDA and is hosted on the IDA website on the Europa server.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	January 2002
Project status:	Ongoing
IDA budget:	2001 € 546,000
	2002 € 266,000
	2003 € 60,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator:
Emilio Castrillejo

Contact:
emilio.castrillejo@cec.eu.int
ida-central@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States, Norway and Iceland,
Acceding Countries

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/egovo>

Background documents :
eGovernment Newsletter:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

Building interoperable trans-European services is no easy task when the necessary components are frequently subject to change, as is the case in the world of ICTs. Help is at hand, with IDA's regularly updated Architecture Guidelines. They assist administrations by supplying relevant information and guidance in an appropriate framework for ensuring interoperability between services.

»» What are ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES?

The Architecture Guidelines are an IDA generic service offering a framework for the establishment of other IDA generic services, namely TESTA, CIRCA and PKI, and for users who wish to interoperate with IDA networks. It also offers general advice on issues related to interoperability between these services and with national applications of the Member States.

»» Objectives

The primary aim is to contribute to technical convergence of European network infrastructures for administrations and achieve interoperability through harmonisation of design.

»» How do they work?

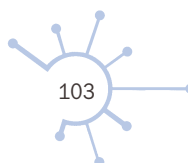
The IDA Architecture Guidelines describe concepts and references to standards and specifications for a trans-European telematics service built on a well-defined common architecture. This architecture is the basis for a trans-European infrastructure that will enable easy and reliable interchange of data and achieve a high interoperability within and across different administrative sectors and, also, with the private sector and the citizens.

The guidelines are regularly updated changing along with the constantly evolving architecture and its components.

The current version offers a large amount of new information on middleware technologies, an area that will be further extended in the next version. As a central platform and publishing tool, the guidelines offer access to a variety of information sources and documents that are related to the architecture. As HTML and PDF formats, these references are facilitated by hyperlinks. Divided into a number of sections, part 1 contains general guidance, part 2 is the technical handbook and part 3, the annex consisting of a list of references, a glossary of terms and a list of abbreviations.

»» Achievements

In 2001 and 2002, two different releases were produced, replacing the outdated 1999 version. The new releases are now more focused on the real business requirements of IDA projects and actions; in particular version 6.1 has introduced detailed roadmaps covering areas from the analysis of business requirements to the implementation of the applications.



»» Who benefits?

The guidelines address those responsible for planning, design and procurement tasks for horizontal actions and measures of a trans-European nature, in particular generic services and common tools. They may use this document to base the development of specific, detailed requirements for the necessary network services supporting IDA projects. The guidelines are also aimed at those who develop specific, sectoral projects for interchanging data between administrations. The architecture concepts and associated references in the guidelines may help define the specific project architecture, and integrate these technical specifications into the projects.

»» The role of IDA

The IDA Programme funds the Architecture Guidelines as one of its horizontal actions designed to support interoperability. They represent the current IDA roadmap on how to build pan-European telematic networks and are included as a technical annex to the European Interoperability Framework (see page 107).

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	Ongoing
IDA budget:	2000 € 98,000
	2001 € 99,000
	2003 € 100,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator:
Gavino Murgia

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gavino.murgia@cec.eu.int
ida-central@cec.eu.int

Countries involved:
All EU Member States

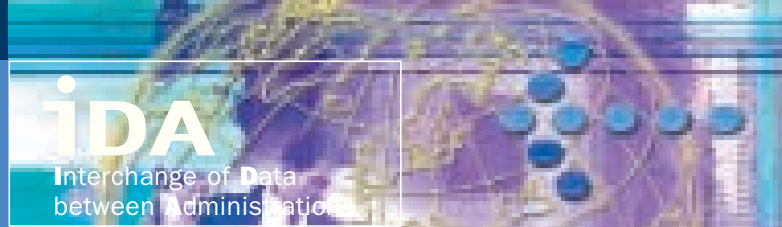
Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

Background documents:
The Guidelines are divided into three documents:

General Guidance
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1194.doc>

Technical Handbook
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1197.doc>

Glossary
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1199.doc>



Now that EU public administrations increasingly use electronic certificates to support secure e-mail and electronic signature, there is a parallel need to establish trust relations between the certification services providers used by national public administrations. This is to allow civil servants in the Member States that participate in IDA networks to use the electronic certificates issued by their national certification authorities in IDA's pan-European administrative networks. Hence, a 'bridge certification authority' (Bridge CA) could provide the necessary degree of trust and confidence required to allow the Member States' public administrations to use their electronic certificates in both national and pan-European secure e-mail exchange and for electronic signature

»» What is Bridge CA?

At present, civil servants in national public administrations that participate in IDA networks must use electronic certificates from the IDA PKI (see page 115) for security of communications, encryption and electronic signature.

There are two main reasons for this. The first is due to interoperability problems. The second is that there is no way, at present, for trust to be established in an electronic certificate from a certification authority other than one's own. The traditional PKI model assumes that this would be solved by 'cross-certification' and mutual recognition, but, by and large, these have not occurred.

For national public administrations to use electronic certificates, issued by their national CAs (i.e. the CAs contracted to provide certification services to their national public administrations) in IDA networks or in trans-European (i.e. cross-border) communications with other Member States' administrations, a mechanism must be found whereby trust and confidence can be established between these CAs. Such a mechanism is a 'bridge' or 'gateway CA'.



IDA was charged, at the request of the Member States, to carry out a feasibility study, (an action of the 2001 work programme) to examine the feasibility of establishing a bridge or gateway CA to act as an intermediate trust infrastructure between the PKIs of Europe's national public administrations.

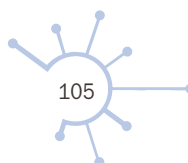
»» Objectives

The basic issues of the mutual recognition and the establishment of trust between the CAs of Europe's public administrations have yet to be adequately addressed. If achieved there would be two main benefits. First, civil servants could use their nationally-issued electronic certificates in pan-European administrative networks, and also for secure communications and electronic signature with other public administrations in Europe. Secondly, it would support the establishment of pan-European interactive services open to enterprises and citizens that possess electronic certificates issued by the CAs of other national administrations.

The overall objective of the action is to take the results from the feasibility study, and, with the participation of the Member States, to examine fully the implications of a bridge CA and carry out an interoperability pilot.

»» How does it work?

The feasibility study examines the policy, organisational and technical issues for the establishment of an intermediate trust infrastructure between the CAs used by the Member States' public administrations. It addresses the main policy issues, the equivalence of certificate policies, provides model technical architectures (e.g. web trust model, bridge model, etc.), discusses the organisation and governance of the bridge CA, and the requirements for interoperability. To achieve this, meetings were conducted with eight voluntary Member States that have already set up certification services for their national public administrations or are well advanced in their planning in this area. The first results suggest how the work of achieving interoperable PKIs should be carried forward.



»» Achievements

In July 2002 IDA produced a report 'A bridge CA for Europe's public administrations – feasibility study' (available online on the IDA website). The report examined the feasibility of establishing an intermediate trust infrastructure.

One of the recommendations of the feasibility study was that trust relationships could be established by the distribution of CTLs (certificate trust lists) electronically signed by a bridge CA and that a pilot should be carried out to provide a proof of concept of the bridge CA and methods of working as proposed in the feasibility study.

It must be emphasised that the bridge CA would in no way cross-certify, authenticate or otherwise control or authorise the certification authorities of the Member States' public administrations. It would simply act as a gateway between the national CAs.

However, there are certain organisational and administrative issues that will need to be agreed among the Member States before any kind of physical bridge CA could be implemented. These include agreement on a common authentication policy, certificate policy, a memorandum of understanding on acceptance of electronic certificates signed by other Member States' certification authorities and communicated to the Member States administrations by the bridge CA.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: They will be the main users/beneficiaries of an IDA bridge CA. They will be able to use electronic certificates issued by their national CAs for authentication of

identity and for the secure exchange of information at the pan-European level.

»» The role of IDA

The Bridge CA is one of the Security actions developed by IDA.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2002
Project completion date:	2004
IDA budget:	2001 € 90,000 2002 € 70,000

Responsible service:

DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator:

Paul Murphy

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Countries involved:

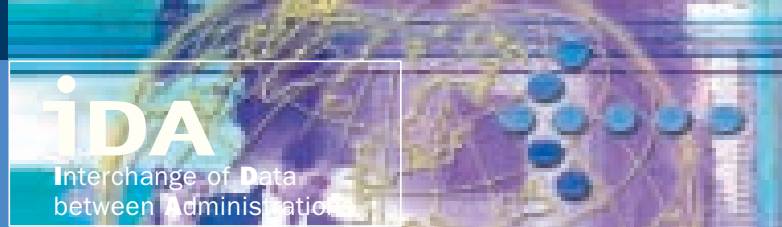
All EU Member States

Public website:

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

Background documents:

A Bridge CA for Europe's public administrations
- Feasibility study and Technical report
(<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsp/doc.jsp?1567>)



Today's Information Age offers the possibility of communication across borders. The need to standardise and allow for interoperability is growing. National administrations have developed (or are in the process of developing) Governmental Interoperability Frameworks for efficient communication between themselves as well as with citizens and businesses. IDA is complementing this work by adding the pan-European dimension.

»» What is the European Interoperability Framework?

Interoperability means working together – collaboration of systems, services and people.

When people work together, they need to communicate and make agreements. They need to agree on the tasks they will perform and how they will exchange results. If their nationality is different, they also need to agree on the language in which they will communicate. Moreover, they need to overcome cultural and legal differences.

An Interoperability Framework can be defined as the overarching set of policies, standards and guidelines which describe the way in which organisations have agreed, or should agree, to do business with each other. An Interoperability Framework is, therefore, not a static document and may have to be adapted over time as technologies, standards and administrative requirements change.

Administrations that provide electronic services (e-services) are faced with the same situation, they need to elaborate a set of agreements on a large number of issues, considering organisational, semantic and technical aspects. For example, when administrations exchange data, they must ensure that each party shares the same meaning of the data (semantic inter-

operability): for instance, when referring to "price", do we mean the actual price or the price per item?

The European Interoperability Framework addresses these issues in order to facilitate the interoperability of eGovernment services at pan-European level.

»» Objectives

The European Interoperability Framework supports the European Union's strategy of providing user centred eGovernment services by facilitating, at a pan-European level, the interoperability of services and systems between public administrations, as well as between administrations and the public (citizens, businesses). It is an action of the eEurope 2005 Action Plan, under the eGovernment heading.

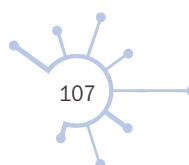
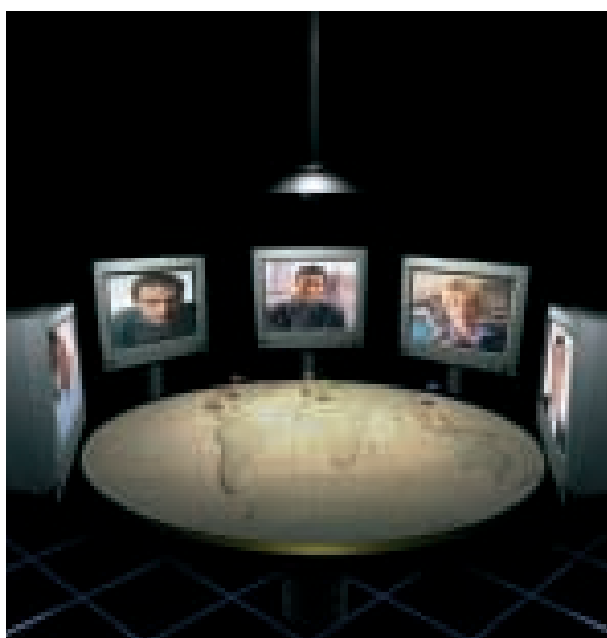
»» How does it work?

During the last eGovernment conference held at Como (Italy) on 7-8 July 2003 under the Italian Presidency, the Ministers recognised that interoperability is the key condition to developing pan-European eGovernment services, and that, to reach such interoperability, an agreed European Interoperability Framework is a necessary condition.

The European Interoperability Framework is based on the premise that each Member State has, or is in the process of developing, its national Government Interoperability Framework (GIF). Consequently, the European Interoperability Framework focuses on supplementing rather than replacing, National Interoperability Frameworks by adding the pan-European dimension.

The European Interoperability Framework comprises two parts:

Part I focuses on strategies for bringing about the actual interoperability of systems, data and services. It provides guidance of a general and conceptual nature. It addresses interoperability at an organisational, semantic and technical level.



Part II provides further details at the technical level, i.e. the level of interoperability between systems. Part II will consist of the next version of the IDA Architecture Guidelines (see page 103).

Considering the rapid rate of developments in technology, the National Interoperability Frameworks need to be updated promptly and regularly. This also holds for the European Interoperability Framework. Because part I of this framework is more general and policy oriented and part II accommodates the technological trends, a realistic timetable should ensure that part I is updated once a year, whereas an updated version of part II comes into force every six months.

»» Achievements

The final draft of the European Interoperability Framework has been prepared by the Commission in collaboration with a group of experts from the Member States and Acceding Countries.

The next step is the launch of an open consultation on the Internet, opened to the market at large (administrations, citizens and businesses), to collect the initial comments and suggestions on the document before it is finalised and released. Results from the consultation should be ready in January 2004.

»» Who benefits?

The European Interoperability Framework covers the exchange of information at a pan-European level between:

- administrations, citizens and businesses;
- administrations and other administrations.

Member States that wish to interoperate at a multilateral, pan-European level and make their services available to citizens and businesses in other Member States should use the guidance and recommendations provided by this Framework and incorporate the relevant aspects in their National Framework.

As a consequence, the ultimate beneficiaries will be citizens and businesses who need the provision of such e-services from governments at a pan-European level.

»» The role of IDA

IDA is directly responsible for the funding and execution of this action, for which the IDA unit works in close collaboration with several Member States and Acceding Countries.

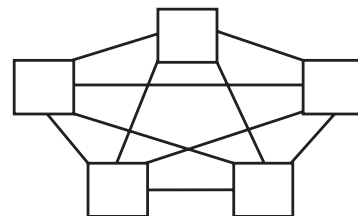
»» Technical information

Project start date:	2003
Project completion date:	2003
Project status:	Ongoing
IDA budget:	2002 € 141,000
Responsible service:	DG Enterprise IDA Unit
Project coordinator:	Christian Devillers
Contact:	christian.devillers@cec.eu.int ida-central@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States
Public website:	http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida

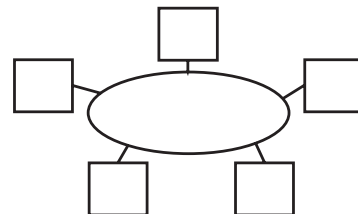
NB useful schemas:

Using the European Interoperability frameworks should avoid the proliferation of bilateral agreements and lead to a uniform environment composed of multilateral agreements at a pan-European level

Bilateral agreements



Multilateral agreements





To communicate and provide services, public administrations must have the necessary links for exchanging information. These must be both secure and interoperable. The eLink specifications developed in Sweden offer this possibility. IDA eLink is investigating the applicability of integrating eLink into IDA's package of common telematic tools and generic services to add another dimension to what IDA already offers.

»» What is eLink?

eLink is a middleware solution developed by IDA which provides a range of services for information exchange primarily between public sector authorities. It also caters for data exchange between citizens and the public sector, and enterprises and the public sector. In short, eLink allows government bodies to cooperate and offer services online to businesses and citizens.

The middleware's role is to mediate between distributed and heterogeneous applications while providing them with a set of generic services (messaging, directories, security, authentication, transaction, etc.).

»» Objectives

The key objective of the current pilot project is to determine IDA eLink specifications, and identify common tools to be used by IDA sectors and Member State administrations. The final project should specifically meet government requirements for online services.



Compared to existing IDA tools, eLink should be able to support the three communication types (A2A, B2A and C2A), the two connectivity types (peer-to-peer and one-to-many), and also to offer the two required information flows (request/reply and file transfer).

»» How does it work?

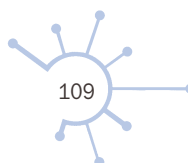
eLink compatible solutions, operating as middleware between various administration back-offices, ensure a wide margin of interoperability. The product types that can be exchanged between different actors are described in the agreements in a bi-lateral, decentralized way. The yellow pages are global directory service(s) containing information about the actors (organisations), the products (services) available and corresponding addressing information. Their role is especially important in back-office exchanges, where – according to a specific agreement – the data of an application must be directly sent to the web address of another application (no interactive "website").

Through a range of specific agreements and a yellow page directory service, e-link is able to control the processing of business information. This is particularly important, as in many cases the yellow pages identify directly the applications corresponding to an eLink data exchange agreement (these applications are not websites or portals that may be found through search engines such as Google etc.).

eLink provides a bundle of functionalities to address the eGovernment requirement services:

- C2A and B2A communication types;
- Request-reply and File transfer information flows;
- Integrating all security aspects (confidentiality, integrity, authentication, non-repudiation, time stamp);
- Full tracking of messages; and
- Automatic message routing.

In addition, eLink, as an Internet standards-based concept, is compatible with the use of the Internet network, as it is compatible with any other IP network, such as TESTA (see page 121).



»» Achievements

- IDA activities on eLink originated from a Swedish national set of generic specifications for exchange, dissemination and collection of data, primarily between authorities in the public sector, but also between Swedish citizens and the public sector, and Swedish enterprises and the public sector.
- In 2002, a feasibility study was carried out by IDA to consider the possibility to apply the Swedish concept in a pan-European context as part of the IDA Programme.
- On the basis of the positive results of the eLink study, it is now envisaged to apply these concepts into detailed IDA eLink specifications, IDA common tools and pilot projects. The estimated duration of the pilot is 12 months and will be followed by a full-scale deployment.
- A specific section on the IDA website will be dedicated to the eLink project in the near future, providing extensive information of its developments and achievements.

»» Who benefits?

Citizens and businesses: eLink will be able to respond to their demand to access one-stop shop and permanent 24/7 eGovernment services through the Internet, thereby reducing administrative costs.

Public Administrations: They will operate more efficiently and therefore will be able to offer a better and more comprehensive service to citizens and enterprises.

»» The role of IDA

As is the case for other generic services and tools, IDA has launched and is progressing this initiative in close cooperation with the Member States.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	2002
Project completion date:	2004
Project status:	Feasibility
IDA budget:	2001 € 128,000 2002 € 504,000

Responsible service:

DG Enterprise

Project coordinator:

Christian Devillers

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Countries involved:

All EU Member States

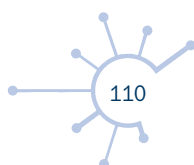
Public website:

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida>

Background documents:

"The IDA Catalogue of COMMON TOOLS and TECHNIQUES"

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1227.pdf>



Building a government-wide middleware layer and the supporting infrastructure is the best way to deliver joined-up eGovernment services across Europe. However, although several e-business models have been developed to allow enterprises to carry out business transactions over the Internet using eXtensible Mark-up Language (XML), it is not yet clear how this would be the right solution for IDA networks. This is why IDA has launched a consultancy exercise in the area of B2B (business to business) electronic business frameworks and XML-compliant methodologies and technologies. The result will help to evaluate how these technologies can be used to enable IDA networks to exchange structured information.

»» What is MIDDLEWARE XML?

IDA MIDDLEWARE XML will provide recommendations on how to use XML and related middleware technologies for the exchange of business data between the IDA participants. A key part of this action is to investigate the ebXML framework and examine its feasibility as a standard way for the implementation of message-oriented middleware solutions. Typically, middleware solutions provide either messaging or remote procedure call services to allow separate applications to communicate.

»» Objectives

The objective is to develop a consistent approach for the use of middleware technologies in support of IDA networks. While XML is the key technology to be investigated the project should not be regarded as restricted to the use of XML. Remote procedure call solutions and Web-Services will also be investigated and used in IDA networks if appropriate. In fact, all middle-

ware solutions could be regarded as potentially coming within the scope of this project, – provided they are based on open standards and specifications and can be used to provide generalised, replicable and portable solutions for the transport of data in IDA networks.

The first action is a feasibility study that will:

- provide an analysis of the middleware solutions and business models currently in use in the enterprise sector;
- determine the feasibility of the ebXML¹ specifications as a standard business method for IDA and the use of message-oriented middleware as the technology of choice for those IDA sectoral networks that follow the data collection, data exchange, data dissemination and data sharing models of the IDA Architectural Guidelines (see page 103);
- determine the suitability of B2B business models for A2A information exchanges.

The project will also provide consultancy and advice on the use of XML and other middleware solutions to IDA sectoral networks and development assistance if required.

»» How does it work?

The interoperability aspect of eGovernment is a major issue addressed by IDA. XML MIDDLEWARE allows the achievement of application interoperability and semantic interoperability because it facilitates the exchange of data interpretable between applications.

XML-related technologies allow application interoperability by defining distributed applications issues, as the remote procedure call method invocation mechanisms and the public interface exportation/binding.

XML-related technologies also allow semantic interoperability by easing data interpretation, by means of XML schemas, and the knowledge representation and exploitation, by means of ontologies and repositories.

IDA is analysing the wide range of XML-technologies available to produce specific guidelines for the IDA networks.



»» Achievements

- IDA launched a Call for Tender in the summer of 2002 in order to set up MIDDLEWARE XML, one of the interoperability measures, in support of IDA sectoral networks.
- The successful contractor is currently examining the various XML-based models for B2B (business to business) activities over the Internet with a view to making concrete recommendations on their possible use as the data exchange standard across IDA networks.
- A final report on the use of XML-based eBusiness frameworks for IDA and sectoral networks is expected to be delivered in September 2003.

»» Who benefits?

IDA Networks: New IDA networks will have a specific guide to deal with XML in a coherent way. This way, they save time analyzing what the recommended principles to implement XML are.

Existing IDA networks can profit from the analysis to tailor the evolution of their implementations in line with the market and technology trends.

Public Administrations: European Commission and national administrations can also take advantage of the study for their own XML-related implementations regardless of whether they are linked to the IDA Programme.

The use of XML frameworks is a key subject for any officer with IT responsibility. As the study will be made public, any other organization willing to use XML will profit from this investigation made by the IDA Programme.

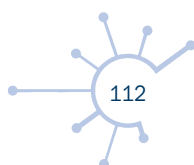
»» The role of IDA

By launching this action in its Work Programme 2003, IDA intends to determine the feasibility of the XML frameworks as a standard business method for IDA. IDA also intends to explore the possibility of using the message-oriented middleware as the chosen technology for IDA sectoral networks that follow the data collection, data exchange, data dissemination and data sharing models of the IDA Architectural Guidelines.

»» Technical information

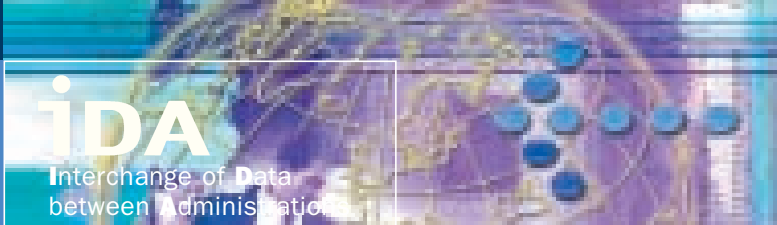
Project start date:	2002
Project status:	Feasibility
Project completion date:	2003
IDA budget:	2002 € 138,000
Responsible service:	DG Enterprise IDA Unit
Project coordinator:	Emilio Castrillejo
Contact:	emilio.castrillejo@cec.eu.int ida-central@cec.eu.int
Countries involved:	All EU Member States
Public website:	http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/

1. ebXML is designed to enable a global electronic marketplace in which enterprises of any size, and in any location, could safely and securely transact business through the exchange of XML-based messages.



MOREQ

MODEL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS



Many organisations, both large and small, and in both the public and private sectors need guidance on how to specify their requirements for the management of electronic records. The IDA specification MOREQ does this and can also be used when providing records management training.

»» What is IDA MOREQ?

Model Requirements (MOREQ) is a comprehensive specification of the functional requirements for the management of electronic records. MOREQ specifies a model of how file classifications, records, documents, retention schedules, etc. relate to each other. It is applicable to both electronic and hybrid files (i.e. files containing both electronic and paper records). MOREQ assumes that all of these will be managed by a system called an ERMS - Electronic Records Management System. But it is not a technical specification for an ERMS - only for what the ERMS should do. MOREQ supports the management of electronic records with the desired levels of confidence and integrity, by combining both the advantages of electronic ways of working with traditional records management principles. Its pragmatic approach also includes non-functional requirements, such as document management, workflow, digital preservation and other related issues. The requirements also take into account European public procurement regulations.



While designed with expertise from several European countries MOREQ is applicable in all countries and sectors where there is a requirement to manage electronic record holdings or provide training in records management.

»» Objectives

MOREQ is written to help those, whether in the public or private sectors, who wish to procure or develop an electronic records management system, or otherwise manage their electronic records holdings.

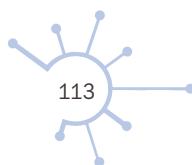
The MOREQ specification is intended to be used by:

- Potential ERMS users: as a basis for preparing an invitation to tender;
- ERMS users: as a basis for auditing or checking an existing ERMS;
- Training organisations: as a reference document for preparing records management training, and as course material;
- Academic institutions: as a teaching resource;
- ERMS suppliers and developers: to guide product development by highlighting functionality required;
- Record management service providers: to guide the nature of the services to be provided;
- Potential users of outsourced record management services: as an aid in specifying the services to be procured.

»» How does it work?

MOREQ is a generic and modular specification. This means that you can add additional functionality relevant to your particular situation or, remove, as required, the optional aspects from MOREQ. Essentially, the text of MOREQ provides a list of records management requirements by function. These are indicated as either 'mandatory' or 'desirable'. Readers are free to take the text and remove from it those requirements that are not relevant to their situation and to add additional requirements applicable to their specific needs.

MOREQ also includes a comprehensive metadata model for managing records.



»» Achievements

MOREQ was launched following a request from the DLM-Forum¹ ("Données lisibles par machine", in English: "Machine-readable data"). The DLM-Forum is managed by the Historical Archives² of the European Commission and was set up following the conclusions of the European Council (94/C 235/03) of 17 June 1994 concerning greater cooperation in the field of archives. The MOREQ project was launched in 1999 and finalised in 2001.

Since their preparation in 2001 the requirements (i.e. 390 requirements and a 127 element metadata model in a 100-page document) are available in English, and have been translated into Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, with more translations planned. MOREQ is freely available for download from the IDA website and has been published in paper format by OPOCE, the EU publications office. In addition, MOREQ has been widely promoted both in Europe and abroad.

»» Who benefits?

Potential and actual ERMS users: Those in the public and private sectors that need to procure or develop an electronic records management system, or provide training or guidance on electronic records.

»» The role of IDA

MOREQ is a technology solution developed and financed by the IDA Programme.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1999
Project completion date:	2001
Project status:	Available
IDA budget:	1999 € 148,000 2003 € 75,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit

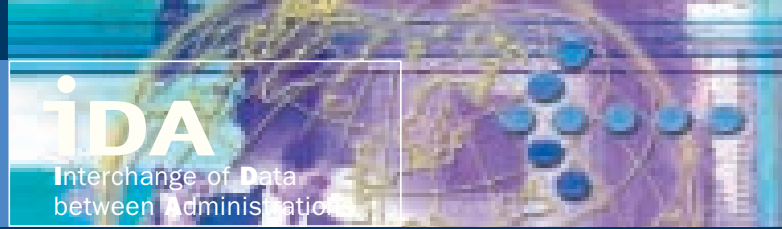
Project coordinator:
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Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/doc.jsp?310>

Background documents:
MOREQ Specifications
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/635.pdf>



Security is increasingly an issue for many networks. The need to electronically exchange sensitive information securely and reliably calls for a system allowing authentication and confidentiality. A Public Key Infrastructure is a way to organise and manage keys and electronic certificates which guarantee secure data communication.

»» What is PKI?

The IDA PKI is a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) for Closed User Groups which has been developed for the IDA Programme. Through the establishment of a Certification Authority (CA), it facilitates secure data communication between end-users in public administrations across the EU Member States and within the European Institutions working on different IDA projects.

Currently, the IDA PKI provides electronic certificates to end-users and servers for their mutual recognition.

»» Objectives

The key objective of this service is to make a Certification Authority (CA) available to IDA Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). Through the PKI, IDA aims to improve the security of information exchanged by electronic means between the Member States and the European Community. The IDA PKI is designed to complement the national PKIs, which are not always available to members of IDA sectoral networks and, although technically interoperable, not always organised to support cross-border transactions. Apart from supporting the members of sectoral networks, the IDA PKI also has specific actions to widen the transeuropean use of national PKIs.



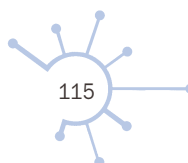
»» How does it work?

IDA's PKI has been designed to work over a web environment. It is accessible to any IDA project member who has access to the IDA TESTA (see page 121) network or the Internet. It enables the following services to be used by end users based in national administrations across the EU Member States and the European Institutions:

- Server authentication – a message is sent to the users allowing them to be sure that they are using the correct server.
- Client authentication – the server is able to distinguish between authorised end-users and those illegally trying to gain access to the system.
- Electronic signatures – a user is able to sign a document (or e-mail) electronically and the receiver can verify the signature and that the document has not been changed after it was signed.
- Confidentiality – this is provided through the use of encryption keys. One for the end-user and one for the server which are unique for each authorised user.

In order to have access to the services, the end-user must have a key-pair as well as a certificate. To take a concrete scenario: Marie is a civil servant within Portugal's General Directorate of Veterinary Medicine (DGV). She is part of a Work Group dealing with BSE which meets and exchanges information virtually via the CIRCA-IDES environment. However, before she can operate freely within her Work Group virtual secure environment, she needs to acquire a certificate as well as a pair of keys.

- The user generates a key pair and the associated certificate request with the help of a programme downloaded from the Internet. Marie completes the information requested on the request form and sends it off to the Registration Authority (RA).
- The RA and the requester exchange the necessary information to verify the user's identity and the legitimacy of the certificate request. Marie provides all the necessary information proving her identity and her right to access the network (e.g. the number and copy of an identity card, of a driver licence, or of a passport). According to the applicable procedure, other documents may be required as well.



- Alternatively, a Local Registration Authority (LRA) is called upon to testify that the requester is entitled to receive a certificate. In this particular case, Marie is processed centrally so her Ministry (MADRP) does not have to be involved as the LRA.
- The RA accepts or rejects the request. If accepted, the RA registers this with the CA server. Marie's request is accepted and thus registered on the CA server.
- If the request is accepted, the CA creates the public certificate of the user (certificate holder) and informs the user how and where they may get it. Marie's request is accepted and she receives a message from the RA to this effect. She is also advised that she can retrieve her certificate by downloading it from the server. She does this and saves it securely with her private key. Her e-mail programme is now ready to send encrypted messages to the Work Group.

»» Achievements

PKI was launched at the start of 1999. The IDA PKI services are currently provided by Belgacom. Initially the PKI services were used for user authentication to web applications. Today the focus among the PKI customers is electronically signed and encrypted e-mails. During 2002, the IDA PKI was implemented in one of the working groups of the Council of Ministers with the purpose to encrypt e-mail exchanges among group members. Other examples are the use of the IDA PKI in two of the networks in the Justice and Home Affairs sector to sign and encrypt all sensitive data exchanges.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: This system is flexible enough for adoption by all IDA networks. It can be adapted to the special requirements of particular user groups, and allows members of individual communities to communicate with other networks that have been granted access rights.

»» The role of IDA

Before certificates are issued to a sector a user requirements study is carried out to determine the user's security needs and to ensure that the IDA PKI is suitable for providing the required security services. This short study also identifies any requirements specific to the sectoral project that might require additional services (e.g. in the area of user registration) not covered by the generic PKI service.

»» Technical information

IDA budget :	1999 € 251,000
	2000 € 495,000
	2001 € 634,000
	2002 € 618,000
	2003 € 100,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator :
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Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida>

Background documents:
IDA PKI - Description of Current Architecture and Operations
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/599.doc>
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/doc.jsp?383>

The Council Decision 2001/264/EC (Council's security regulations), applying to Member States and the Council, and the Commission Decision 2001/844/EC (Commission provisions on security), applying to the Commission, define a common set of rules on how to treat EU classified information. The different classification levels are EU RESTRICTED, EU CONFIDENTIAL, EU SECRET and EU TOP SECRET.

»» What are SECURITY STUDIES?

The execution of studies on security and risk analyses is an IDA horizontal action aiming at ensuring that measures and recommendations concerning information protection are harmonised between various networks and that results are reused as much as possible. The type of studies can vary from how to implement a particular technology, such as Public Key Infrastructure, to what are the security needs for a given information exchange.

For instance, the subject of a possible study could be 'how a PKI can be implemented for a closed user group' or 'what modifications must be made to the organisation and the system if some information is classified as EU RESTRICTED'.

»» Objectives

The primary objective of the studies is to provide recommendations and to build up a set of guidelines for sectoral networks on best security practices and to help establish guidelines on how to treat EU classified information, notably at the

lowest level, EU restricted. It must be underlined that security is an integral part of any system whether it is to protect the sensitivity of the information or to guarantee the reliability of the system.

Through this action IDA aims to promote a common methodology on how to assess and determine security requirements based on the IDA Architecture Guidelines, the authentication policy (to be defined) and the Commission Provision on Security/Council's Security Regulations.

»» How do they work?

Like the PKI services most actions are based on demands from sectoral networks. Studies for DG Competition and DG Fisheries - which both deal with systems aimed at exchanging EU classified information - have just been finalised. DG Competition needs to determine how security should be implemented in a system to support the new antitrust regulation. DG Fisheries would like to know what measures need to be taken in the FIDES network if data classified at EU RESTRICTED should be exchanged.

Concerning recommendations for systems treating EU classified information it must be noted that any solution must be formally approved by an accreditation authority (as defined in the mentioned regulations) and that IDA can only give advice and try to co-ordinate the various activities among sectors.

»» Achievements

To date, PKI feasibility/user requirements studies have been carried out for DG Regional Policy, the General Secretariat of the European Commission (Greffé 2000), European Council working groups, EMEA (European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products), DG Justice and Home Affairs and, as already indicated, DG Competition and DG



Fisheries.

»» Who benefits?

All IDA projects needing security recommendations in any Community policy area.

»» The role of IDA

It is a clear objective of IDA to have the IDA Communication platform (i.e. the TESTA EuroDomain network, the IDA PKI and the CIRCA document repository) accredited according to the Security Regulations. Guidelines on how to treat EU classified information are a complement to the IDA Architecture Guidelines and will be eventually be a part of these.

»» Technical information

Project status:	Development
IDA budget:	1999 € 174,000
	2001 € 128,000
	2003 € 250,000

Responsible service:
DG Enterprise IDA Unit

Project coordinator:
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Countries involved:
All EU Member States

Public website:
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

Background documents:
IDA Working programme 2003
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1498.pdf>

STATEL makes communication between the European Institutions and the national administrations smoother and more efficient, thereby improving the provision of services to citizens across Europe. Providing a secure environment for the exchange of files and directories, STATEL is cost-effective and available around the clock.

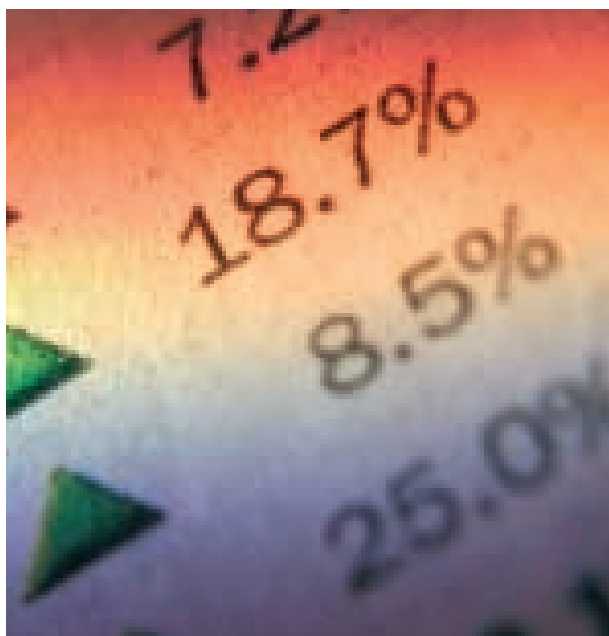
»» What is STATEL?

STATEL is multi-protocol file exchange software which fully integrates telecommunications and allows partners to exchange files and directories through a standardized Application Programming Interface (API), independent of the telecommunications protocol used. Developed by EUROSTAT under the IDA Programme, it is a tool that runs on PC and UNIX platforms.

»» Objectives

Its main objective is to provide a transparent telecommunication layer (file transfers) to application developers.

In 2001, a study was launched on commercial alternatives to STATEL and on the costs of a possible migration. This study resulted in maintaining STATEL, which will be adapted to the latest IT environments. New functionalities and improved management tools will be added. Second level support to users, to STATEL developers and to software editors will be continued.



In parallel to this, the membership of the data collection user group (DCUG), created in 2000 by the Commission services and agencies, has been enlarged to involve additional IDA sectors. Representatives from the Member State administrations were invited to a workshop in the second half of 2002. As a follow up DCUG activities, an IDA project eDFMS (electronic DataFlow Management System) has been launched in 2003. This project shall provide a generic solution in order to ensure a transparent, effective and reliable exchange of data flows using an advanced control system. eDFMS is based on the results of two sectoral projects from DSIS (see page 63): EDIFLOW and STADIUM. Furthermore eDFMS is making use of STATEL.

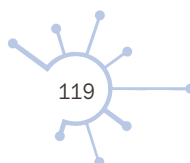
»» How does it work?

STATEL works by using a shared disk space between two communicating systems and offers an API to access the data in the shared space. This Virtual File System (VFS) behaves like a normal file system in that it contains files that are accessible to both parties.

The main STATEL characteristics are:

- Unique API with a multi-protocol ability (Kermit, FTP, mail),
- Automatic segmentation for big volume transfer, with automatic retransmission requests,
- Data encryption, protecting files content during transmission.

A new and simpler version of STATEL for users with limited hard disk space, STATEL 3.5, is now available. There is a new scheduler that allows the user to transmit data during non-working hours, thus enabling more efficient use of the available bandwidth. For a new user of STATEL, a STATEL nickname, SNN, is set up on a production server at EUROSTAT. The user is sent the STATEL installer program and needs only to run the executable file. The set-up of the STATEL software can be pre-configured for each individual user.



»» Achievements

STATEL has been in operation for several years. EUROSTAT and DG Agriculture currently use it to collect data from Member State administrations.

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: The direct beneficiaries of this project are the national administrations as well as the EU institutions. As this tool aims to make the gathering and exchange of information more efficient, it saves on costs and time.

Ultimately the final users – that is, EU citizens - will also feel the impact of this improved efficiency.

»» The role of IDA

The role of IDA is to identify the needs of specific sectors and to provide the suitable advice and guidance as technology moves forward. In this way, IDA focuses on the strategic and fundamental issue of 'data collection'.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1995
Project completion date:	2005
Project status:	Implementation
IDA budget:	1999 € 447,000
	2000 € 267,000
	2001 € 267,000
	2002 € 267,000
	2003 € 270,000

Responsible service:

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Project coordinator:

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Countries involved:

All EU Member States

Public website:

<http://www.statel.com>

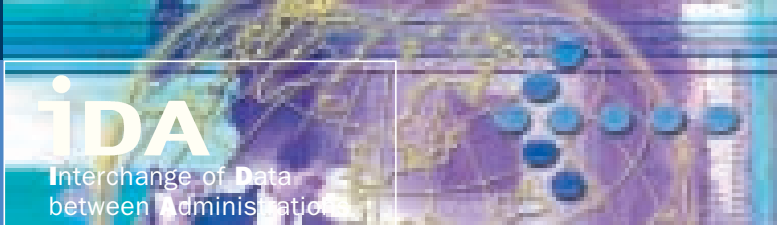
Background documents:

The IDA Catalogue of Common Tools and Techniques

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1227.pdf>

TESTA

TRANS EUROPEAN SERVICES FOR TELEMATICS BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIONS



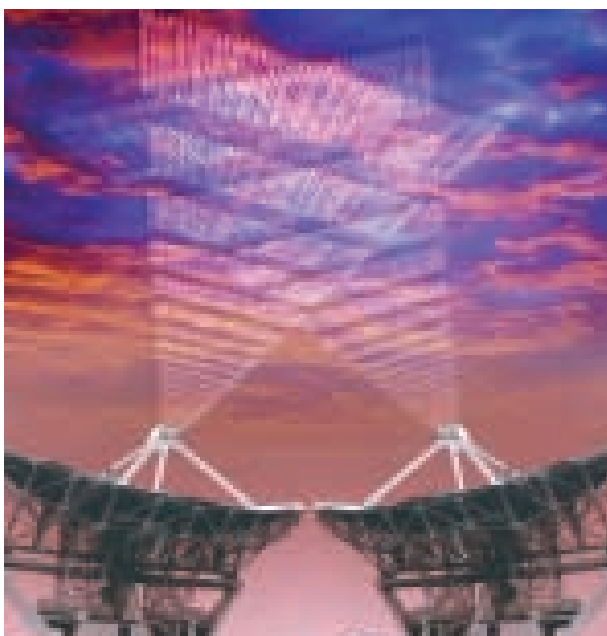
The need for tight security may sometimes appear to clash with the need to exchange information effectively. However, TESTA offers an appropriate solution. It constitutes the European Community's own private network, isolated from the Internet and allows officials from different Ministries to communicate at a trans-European level in a safe and prompt way.

»» What is TESTA?

TESTA is the European Community's own private, IP-based network. TESTA offers a telecommunications interconnection platform that responds to the growing need for secure information exchange between European public administrations. It is a European IP network, similar to the Internet in its universal reach, but dedicated to inter-administrative requirements and providing guaranteed performance levels.

»» Objectives

TESTA aims to provide telecommunication services for data exchanges required for the implementation of European policy.



»» How does it work?

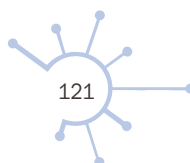
TESTA is a network of networks, composed of the EuroDomain backbone and local domain networks. Local domains can be national or regional networks, European Institutions or Agencies. The EuroDomain is a European backbone network for administrative data exchanges acting as a network communication platform between local administrations. This allows any site connected to EuroDomain to communicate with any other linked site. The EuroDomain is isolated from the public Internet. This guarantees restricted access as only administrations may access the EuroDomain. Security is also enhanced by the implementation of IPSEC technology to prevent eavesdropping. The TESTA domain-based approach allows national administrations to connect to European information sources while maintaining national autonomy in network implementation.

»» Achievements

TESTA began in 1996 and entered its second phase early in 2000. General use of TESTA is growing fast, with total network volume traffic growing in average by 30% per month. The continuing enhancement of security on TESTA will lead to the communications infrastructure being accredited, by the beginning of 2004, to transport information classified to the level of EU RESTRICTED, according to the Council's security regulations (Council decision 2001/264/EC).

»» Who benefits?

Public Administrations: The core service of TESTA is to facilitate communication between local domains. Almost all EU Institutions, EU agencies and Member States are connected to TESTA. Initiatives to connect other administrations are ongoing, including those of the Acceding (among these Czech Republic, Estonie, Malte, Poland, and Slovenia are already connected) and Candidate Countries.



»» The role of TESTA in IDA

TESTA is an IDA generic service to provide Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations. Interested parties should notify the IDA Unit of their interest, indicating which sites require access to TESTA, with whom they need to communicate, and the type of services requested. Information about the legal basis of their data exchange should also be provided so that the IDA Unit can check eligibility. IDA will consult national network coordinators on implementation options. Unless reasonable justification is provided, preference will be given to establishing connections through national administrative networks. In exceptional circumstances, direct links to TESTA can be made available, but in this case some costs will have to be covered by the local administration or the sector.

»» The future of TESTA

In the context of the preparation of the third phase of the IDA Programme, TESTA will be replaced by a new IDA communication platform. In a collaborative approach with the European Institutions and the Member States, the main requirements and architecture principles are being defined. Special attention will be given to answer the sectoral needs with end-to-end security, end-to-end service level agreements and tailored supervision services.

»» Technical information

Project start date:	1996
Project completion date:	2001
Project status:	Operational
IDA budget:	1999 € 5,234,000
	2000 € 5,615,000
	2001 € 2,850,000
	2002 € 3,668,000
	2003 € 7,187,000

Responsible service:

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Countries involved:

All EU Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries

Public website:

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>

Background documents:

Catalogue of TESTA Services (April 2001)

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/589.doc>

Catalogue of Generic Services (EN)

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/export/files/en/1434.pdf>



Projects' Acronyms

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



►► PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST (PCIs)

ACRONYM - Project	page
ADNS Animal Disease Notification System	47
COWEBS Coordination of Websites	15
CAP-ED Electronic Dictionary	27
CAP-IDIM Rural Development Monitoring Indicators	29
CARE Common Road Accident Database	67
CIRCA-IDES Interactive Data Entry System	33
DOCS Communication and Management of Official Documents	83
DSIS Distributed Statistical Information Services	63
ECB-NET European Chemicals Bureau Network	39
EC-CHM European Community Clearing-House Mechanism	41
ECHO 14 POINTS Humanitarian aid reporting system for Member States	61
EIONET European Environmental Information and Observation Network	73
EFSA-NET European Food Safety Authority Network	77
eSAFEGUARDS Online Nuclear Materials' Accountancy Reporting and Evaluation System	37
EUDAMED European Database on Medical Devices	49
EUDRAVIGILANCE Pharmacovigilance System	81
EUDRANET European Telecommunication Network in Pharmaceuticals	79
EUPHIN European Union Public Health Information Network	51
EURES European Employment Services	17
EUROPHYT European Network of Plant Health Information Systems	53
FADN-RICA Farm Accountancy Data Network	33
FIDES Fishery Data Exchange System	45
IATE Inter-Agency Terminology Exchange	85
IMP Information on Medicinal Products	55
NF-NET Novel Foods and Food Ingredients Network	57
OFIS Organic Farming Information System	35
PHYSAN PHYto-SANitary controls	59
PLOTEUS A Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout Europe	13
PROCIV-NET Civil Protection and Environmental Emergencies European Network(s)	43
SAFESEANET Safe Sea Network	69

ACRONYMS

ACRONYM – Project	page
SERT STIPES Statistiques d'Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques (Company Statistics and Telematic Networks)	23
SIGL Système Intégré de Gestion des Licences à l'exportation et à l'importation (Integrated System for Managing Export and Import Licences)	65
SOLVIT Effective Problem Solving in the Internal Market	21
SYSEX Système expert informatisé pour la reconnaissance des diplômes européens des professions de santé (Computer Expert System for the Recognition of European Health Profession Qualifications)	19
TACHONET Telematics Network for the Exchange of Information Concerning the Issuing of Tachograph Cards	71
TRIS Technical Regulations Information System	25

»» HORIZONTAL ACTIONS AND MEASURES (HAMs)

ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES	103
BRIDGE (CA) Gateway Certification Authorities	105
CIRCA Communication and Information Resource Centre Administrator	89
eOBSERVATORY	101
ePROCUREMENT	91
QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROJECT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION	99
IDA eLINK	107
IDA-MT Machine Translation	93
EUROPEAN INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR PAN-EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT SERVICES	107
IPM Interactive Policy Making	95
MIDDLEWARE XML	111
MOREQ Model Requirements for the Management of Electronic Records	113
PKI Public Key Infrastructure	115
SECURITY STUDIES	117
STATEL Data Collection Tools	119
TESTA Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations	121
THE PORTAL OF THE EU ADMINISTRATION	97

A2A: Administration to Administration

A2B: Administration to Business

A2C: Administration to Citizen

AC: Acceding Countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia).

AWAI: The "portal" of DG Agriculture, online since 2002 (<https://awai.ccc.eu.int/>)

B2A: Business to Administration

B2B: Business to Business

B2C: Business to Citizen

BSE: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, chronic, degenerative disorder affecting the central nervous system of cattle.

C2A: Citizen to Administration

C2B: Citizen to Business

CC: Candidate Countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey).

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy

CBD: United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity

CEECs: Central and East European Countries

CSV: Comma-separated values, a file containing the values in a table as a series of ASCII text lines organized so that each column value is separated by a comma from the next column's value and each row starts a new line.

DCUG: Data Collection User Group

DG: Directorate General

EAGGF: European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund

EC: European Commission

ECB: European Chemicals Bureau

ECHO: Humanitarian Aid Office of the European Community

EDFMS: Electronic DataFlow Management System

EDIFLOW: A project which compiles a survey of data flows from Member States to Eurostat

EEA: European Economic Area – EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

EEA: European Environment Agency

EEIS: European Environment Information System

EFTA: European Free Trade Area – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

EMA: European Medicines Evaluation Agency

ERMS: Electronic Records Management System

EU: European Union

GIP: Global Implementation Plan

HTML: Hypertext Markup Language

HTTP: The Hypertext Transfer Protocol is the set of rules for exchanging files (text, graphic images, sound, video, and other multimedia files) on the World Wide Web.

IPSEC: Internet Protocol Security

JRC: Joint Research Centre

LEADER +: Links Between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy

MEPs: Members of the European Parliament

MS(s): Member State(s) Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

NGOs: Non-governmental organizations

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OPOCE: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

PML: Portal Markup Language [an application of the Extensible Markup Language (XML)].

TAC: Telematics between Administrations Committee

SAPARD: Support for Agricultural and Rural Development

STADIUM: Statistical Data Interchange Universal monitor

TERESA: Transparent Environmental Data and Information Reporting and Exchange System for Administrations

XML: Extensible Markup Language



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

INTERCHANGE OF DATA BETWEEN
ADMINISTRATIONS PROGRAMME

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Manuscript completed in July 2003