

SHOWCASE TITLE: CROSS-BORDER BUSINESS REGISTRATION USING EIDAS

DIGINNO Partners: Aalborg University (Denmark), Brønnøysundregistrene (Norway), Enterprise Lithuania (Lithuania) and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (Estonia).

ABOUT THE SHOWCASE

The aim of the showcase was to conceptualize a technical service that will enable cross-border business registration in the Baltic Sea Region and the EU at large. The conceptualization phase started with the investigation of the current state of cross-border business registration in the BSR and the EU. This stage was dubbed as the “As is”. The next phase was the actual conceptualization of the expected or “close to ideal” technical scenario for cross-border business registration in the BSR and EU at large. The conceptual solution were accompanied with proposed policy and regulation proposals, which will enable the easy adoption and implementation of the conceptual solution.

The DIGINNO partner countries represented in the showcase were Denmark (lead), Norway, Lithuania and Estonia. They consulted and developed the conceptual technical solution using the help of public and private sector experts from their individual countries. These experts are named in the feasibility study.

SHOWCASE OUTCOME

The “As Is”

- State of digital cross-border business registration in the BSR and EU
 - Estonia, Denmark, and Netherlands provided facility for a one-way digital cross-border business registration. Other Countries either permitted business registration once there was a proof of residence or had no infrastructure to facilitate digital cross-border business registration.
- Infrastructure challenges
 - Each member state owned business registration systems that were not technically, operationally and legally interoperable with each other.
 - Some member states have no infrastructure to enable digital cross-border registration.
- Service delivery challenges:
 - Currently until eIDAS is fully implemented, Identity and authentication of company representatives in a cross-border context is challenging. This is due to the lack of recognition of mutual eIDs.
 - Currently only few member states have notified their eIDs in the eIDAS scheme.

- The lingua franca used for service delivery excludes persons from other EU member states who do not understand that lingua franca.
- The existing online service delivery processes and requirements backed by national laws differ from one member state to the other.
- Legal readiness
 - Most national company laws are not designed to facilitate digital cross-border business registration.

The “To Be”

The proposed solution was to develop a technical solution that will perform the following functions.

- Cross-border identity and authentication,
- Language selection,
- Cross-border information search function
- And a Cross-border transaction function.

The solution was designed to align the Single Digital Gateway Regulation.

The proposed tools for performing each function were:

- eIDAS as a tool for cross-border identity and authentication,
- e-translation of the business registration portal to the national language, English and another language. The other language would be based on the volume of transactions received by speakers of those languages by the national business registrar. This decision was based on the perceived high cost of language translation.
- An AI enabled middleware supported by a context broker, which will facilitate cross border inquiries by a prospective applicant. This infrastructure will be interfaced with the national infrastructure of the business registrars.
- An AI enabled middleware supported by eID (eIDAS) service attribute gateways. The gateways will be able to request, receive and transmit data as well as documents from the applicant to the relevant business registrar's infrastructure. The middle ware based on the applicant's request decides which gateway to receive and transmit information.

THE SERVICE

The service will be a centralized platform where the applicant can log in using eIDAS to either perform a search or apply to register a business enterprise without travelling to the destined member state.

However, in order for the service to function, each member state needs to have a national business registration infrastructure. Furthermore, they need an eID attribute gateway for the infrastructure. The service is conceptualized to work with existing and future AI business registrations owned by member states.

The legal feasibility for this solution are highlighted in the feasibility study.

Proposed owner of the service

The proposed owner of the service are the national business registrars, possible under the umbrella of the EU Business Registrars Association.

Proposed funding mechanism

As proposed in the feasibility study, a Public Private Partnership would be ideal. Here a private operator is contracted to design, build and operate the infrastructure for a specified period. The infrastructure owners can always seek new operators at the end of the contract.