



TOOP makes the cross border once-only principle a reality in Europe

The Once-Only Principle Project (TOOP) ends on 31 March 2021.

TOOP was launched in January 2017 as an initiative of more than 50 organisations from 20 EU Member States and Associated Countries. The main objective of TOOP was to explore and demonstrate the once-only principle on a cross-border pan-European scale, focusing on reducing the administrative burden of businesses. The once-only principle means that public administrations should collect information from citizens and businesses only once and then share and reuse this collected information while keeping in mind privacy and data protection regulations and other constraints.

During its four years of operation, TOOP developed three categories of artefacts:

- TOOP Reference Architecture,
- Solution Architecture,
- Software and Components.

TOOP reference architecture supports the organisational, semantic and technical interoperability of national e-gov systems across state borders. This architecture was developed using already existing systems and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) building blocks. The main goal of the TOOP Solution Architecture is to facilitate the execution of the main business process of evidence exchange between the two main actors of the architecture: the Data Consumer (DC) and the Data Provider (DP). The Solution Architecture achieved this, putting its focus on the use of reusable organizational and legal frameworks combined with semantic and technical standards, to promote reusability and interoperability on all the levels.

The TOOP technical architecture and components are taken by the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF) and applied to the implementation of [the Single Digital Gateway](#). After the full implementation of the SDG, European citizens, businesses and administrations will see the tangible value of TOOP.

The TOOP technical solution has been successfully implemented and tested by TOOP partners within different pilot domains – general business mobility, maritime and e-procurement. TOOP used an innovative procedure called ‘connectathons’ to test the cross-border connections between Data Consumers and Data Providers. TOOP pilots proved that developed TOOP architecture can be used to enable better exchange of business related data with and between public administrations and reduce administrative burden for both businesses and public administrations. TOOP partners Success Stories in implementation TOOP architecture are available on [TOOP website](#).

One of the main goals of TOOP is to sustain and keep the projects results available for use and exploitation after the project’s termination. To ensure long term sustainability of TOOP results, the General Assembly has endorsed ONCE-ONLY.ORG AISBL as the organisation for sustainability of

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technical artefacts produced as result of the TOOP project. ONCE-ONLY.ORG AISBL is the organisation founded to facilitate and promote international cooperation of public and private stakeholders aiming to advance and enhance the once-only principle and other underlying principles for e-Governance and the interoperability solutions and practices that support them. The organisation will continue to contribute to the implementation of the SDGR until December 2023 and to support all interested parties who are planning to use the once-only technical solutions based on the TOOP results and the technical requirements that will be defined as part of the implementing act(s) of the SDGR.

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