

Project: The Once-Only Principle Project

Acronym: TOOP

Project coordinator: Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia)

Participants: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland

Project start: 1st January 2017

Duration: 39 months (until end of March 2020)

Project budget: 8 M Euro

Funding Programme: Horizon 2020



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PROVIDING DATA ONCE - ONLY



TOOP AND THE ONCE-ONLY PRINCIPLE

The Once-Only Principle Project (TOOP) was launched by the European Commission in January 2017. It is an initiative of about 50 organisations from EU Member States and Associated Countries to explore and demonstrate **the 'once-only' principle** across borders.

TOOP enables better exchange of data and documents of business with and between public administrations.

The 'once-only' principle means that citizens and businesses supply diverse data only once to a public administration. Public bodies take actions to internally share these data – also across borders, so no additional burden falls on citizens and businesses.

The application of this principle needs to be in compliance with the EU data protection legislation.

PILOT IMPLEMENTATIONS ACROSS EUROPE

In accordance with the principle, TOOP pilots the implementation of solutions, which aim to ensure that, as far as possible, companies are not requested to provide information that is already available to public administrations. The solutions are tested within a number of e-services within three pilot areas:

- general business mobility
- cross-border e-Procurement
- online ship and crew certificates



As a result, TOOP connects public registers and e-Government architectures in participating countries and enables automatic retrieval of data already stored in a foreign register and its reuse.

POLICY AND IMPACT

"e-Government Action Plan 2016-2020" states that public administrations should ensure that citizens and businesses supply the same data only once. Furthermore, the Single Digital Gateway Regulation (SDGR) mandates the use of the 'once-only' principle in a number of cross-border digital services. TOOP provides the basis for the implementation and wider use of the 'once-only' principle. TOOP pilots offer opportunity to test in operational conditions the solution for applying the principle under the provisions contained in the SDGR.

Benefits:

- Improved service quality and administrative efficiency
- Reduction of the administrative burden on citizens and businesses that exercise their internal market rights
- Faster and safe execution of cross-border e-services
- Contribution to a well-functioning Single European Market