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iSupport
cross-border recovery
of maintenance obligations
pour le recouvrement
transfrontière des
obligations alimentaires

Secure Communication (e-CODEX) Working Group (3) - 12 January 2015 Meeting

Report of Meeting n°1

List of Participants

Experts	**iSupport Team**
Eduardo SPANO JUNQUEIRA DE PAIVA (Brazil) Robert BLUKIS (Latvia) - Excused Mary BUTLER (United States of America) Lesli HOMMIK (Estonia) Torsten KIRSCHNER (Norway) - Excused Hannah ROOTS (NCSEA) Carsten SCHMIDT (E-CODEX) (Presenter) Thomas STEIMER (Switzerland) - Excused	Philippe LORTIE (Chair) Brigitte VOERMAN Juliane HIRSCH Marie VAUTRAVERS Patrick GINGRAS

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Introduction

1. Philippe Lortie, First Secretary, welcomed all participants to the Secure Communication (e-CODEX) Working Group Meeting. He gave a short overview of the iSupport project and briefly indicated the time frame of the iSupport project and shortly presented the project's achievements.[1]

e-CODEX

2. Philippe Lortie, introduced the discussion of secure communications including e-CODEX. He stressed the importance of the secure communications between Central Authorities using iSupport. He observed that e-CODEX, which stands for e-Justice Communication via Online Data Exchange, could provide a comprehensive solution in that respect. He pointed out that E-CODEX provides a secure means of communications accepted by most ministries of Justice across Europe. He added that e-CODEX technology had already been tested and was currently being used within Europe in the Civil Justice area. He mentioned

[1] See for additional information the Report of the 4-5 December 2014 Meeting of the Advisory Board available on the Hague Conference website at < www.hcch.net > under the "iSupport" Section.

that e-CODEX had already became a standard within the European Union. Finally, he mentioned that e-CODEX is an open source solution which will lead to considerable saving. Furthermore, two major partners to the project, ITTIG and the Ministry of Justice of Austria, have a valuable expertise with regards to e-CODEX and will provide technical assistance while developing the connectors.

Objective of the Secure Communication (e-CODEX) Working Group

3. Philippe Lortie indicated that the first objective of the Secure Communication (e-CODEX) Working Group is to identify and discuss both technical issues and possible points of disagreement with regards to the use of the e-CODEX technology, in particular for States outside Europe. Eventually the Working Group will either reach a consensus on the use of e-CODEX by iSupport or find an alternative sustainable solution, by the end of February.

4. With that view, Philippe Lortie invited all participants to send their questions to e-CODEX and to copy all participants before the end of January.

II. PRESENTATION – E-CODEX

5. Carsten Schmidt, Project Coordinator e-CODEX, Ministry of Justice North Rhine-Westphalia, presented e-CODEX.[2] The project started in December 2010 and is planned to end in May 2016. It includes 25 Partners namely, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jersey, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, CCBE, CNUE and ETSI. The total cost of the project is € 24 million (€ 12 million funded by the European Union and € 12 million funded by the partner States).

6. Carsten Schmidt indicated that e-CODEX provides solutions that will: (1) enable secure cross-border electronic communication through signature verification in cross-border data exchange in e-Justice applications; (2) enable secure and reliable cross-border data transportation and routing of documents and data; and, (3) enable the handling of documents and metadata for cross-border judicial procedures. e-CODEX does not do this in isolation but builds on the solutions already developed in other large scale pilots, namely STORK 2.0, epSOS, PEPPOL and SPOCS. He underlined that the value of this approach is that there is no "reinventing the wheel" but instead it creates a consistent set of "Building Blocks" for cross-border services that can be re-used and expanded if applicable. The "Building Blocks" consist of e-Signature & e-Identity, e-Payment, e-Delivery and e-Document.

7. Carsten Schmidt explained further that e-CODEX enables access to justice systems across Europe. e-CODEX provides easy and secure access to legal information and procedures. It improves the cross-border access of citizens and businesses to legal means in Europe as well as improving the interoperability between legal authorities within the European Union. Finally, e-CODEX provides greater cross-border effectiveness to legal processes through common standards and greater interoperability of information systems.

8. Information and Communication Technologies such as e-CODEX allow the use of e-Services and interconnection within national infrastructures that Member States have already established. E-CODEX automates legal procedures without "reinventing the wheel", thus making the system more mature. In this context transport of data and documents is a key piece of the solution. Any functionality to be

[2] The Power Point of this presentation is available under the Hague Conference website at the following address < www.hcch.net >under the "iSupport" specialised section then "Advisory Board" and "4-5 December 2014 Meeting".

developed for a cross-border e-Justice service will necessarily mean transport of information from one country to another. Because there is a focus on security and availability for the cross-border e-Justice service, e-CODEX coordinates and establishes an e-Delivery solution. This interconnection requires interoperability in several technical and semantic aspects. Thus e-CODEX cross-border e-Justice services are based on a decentralized approach consisting of: (1) the e-Delivery platform; (2) the e-CODEX Gateway; (3) the National Connector; and, (4) the National System. This approach makes it easier to integrate existing national solutions into a new cross-border e-Justice service.

9. Carsten Schmidt then explained in greater details the e-CODEX system. The National Connector is responsible for all semantic mapping and ensures the ability of the national system to communicate with the e-CODEX Gateway. The Gateway will add a "Trust OK" token and provides interoperability. The National Connector transforms the data from a national data format into a standardised European data format. The National Connector is usually linked to a National System which is in turn used by the courts. In the case of iSupport, National Connectors would be linked to the iSupport database of each participating State. The iSupport e-CODEX Gateway would establish a secure and standardised connection with any other iSupport e-CODEX Gateway. The Gateway establishes the connection, wraps all the data into an SX container and sends it. Then, another Gateway receives, extracts and rechecks the data. The connector transforms it from the international standard to the national standard. In summary, in the context of iSupport, every communication would flow through the National iSupport System, the National Connector, the e-CODEX Gateway – via the e-Delivery platform to – the foreign countries e-CODEX Gateway, their National Connector and their National iSupport System. It was mentioned that this would be rather simple to implement in the iSupport context since it would involve a limited number of Central Authorities.

IV. QUESTIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS

10. Carsten Schmidt indicated that the e-CODEX technology was already used outside of the European Union in Australia, New-Zealand, Norway and Turkey. He added that e-CODEX was collaborating with countries from Latin America. He suggested to draft a comprehensive list of participating countries.

11. In closing, the Working Group participants agreed on raising and discussing any domestic technical issue by early February. Depending on the results of those discussions, a second meeting will possibly be scheduled.