



14TH International Forum on the e-APP

The e-APP: an overview and global update

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14th International Forum on the e-APP
Marrakech, Morocco
12-13 May 2026

Overview & Global Update

- Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)
- 1961 Apostille Convention
- electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP)
- Global update on the e-APP



The Organisation

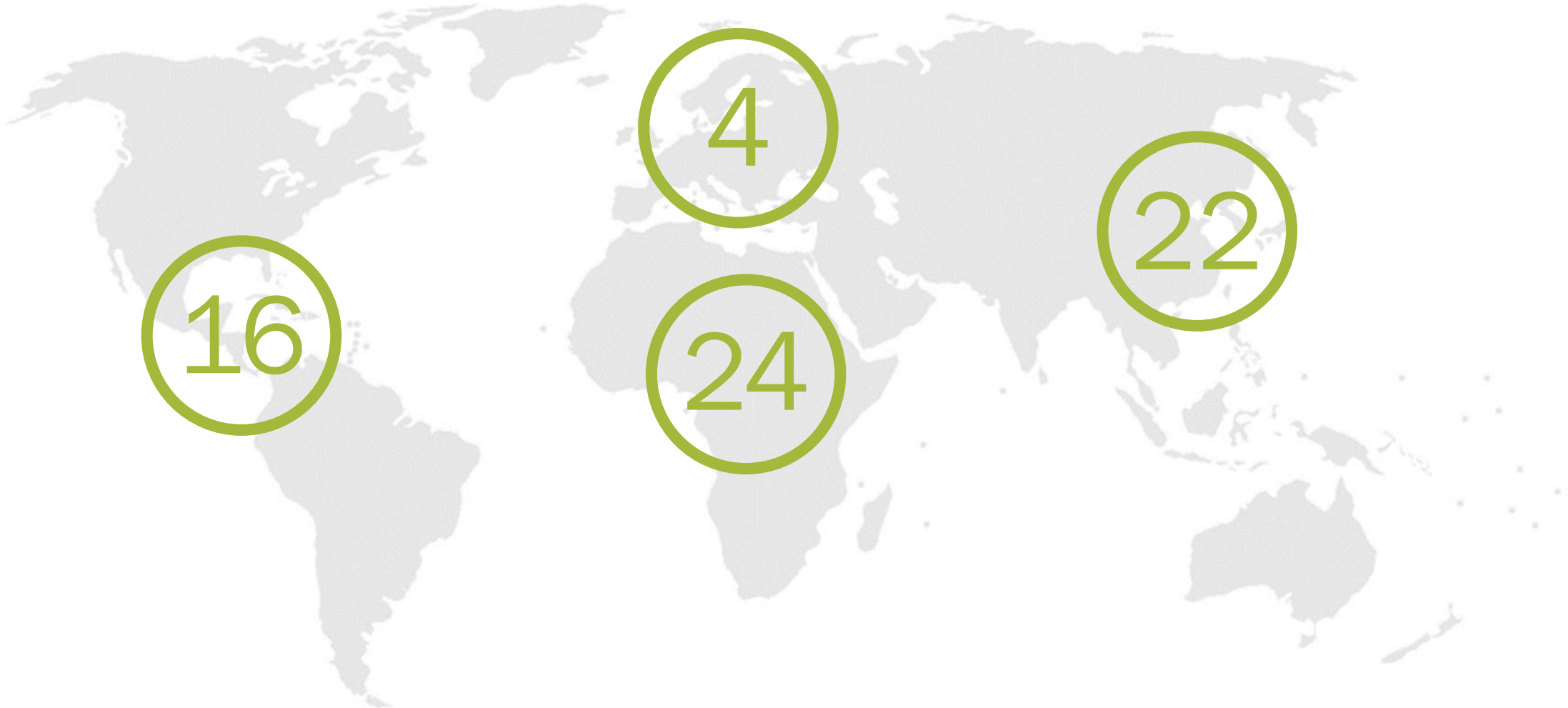
- Intergovernmental organisation
- Legislative mandate: “progressive unification of the rules of private international law”
- Develop international treaties – e.g., Apostille Convention and other instruments – and monitor their practical operation
- Significant practical impact and benefits for individuals, families, and companies



93 Members of the HCCH



66 non-Member Connected Parties /States



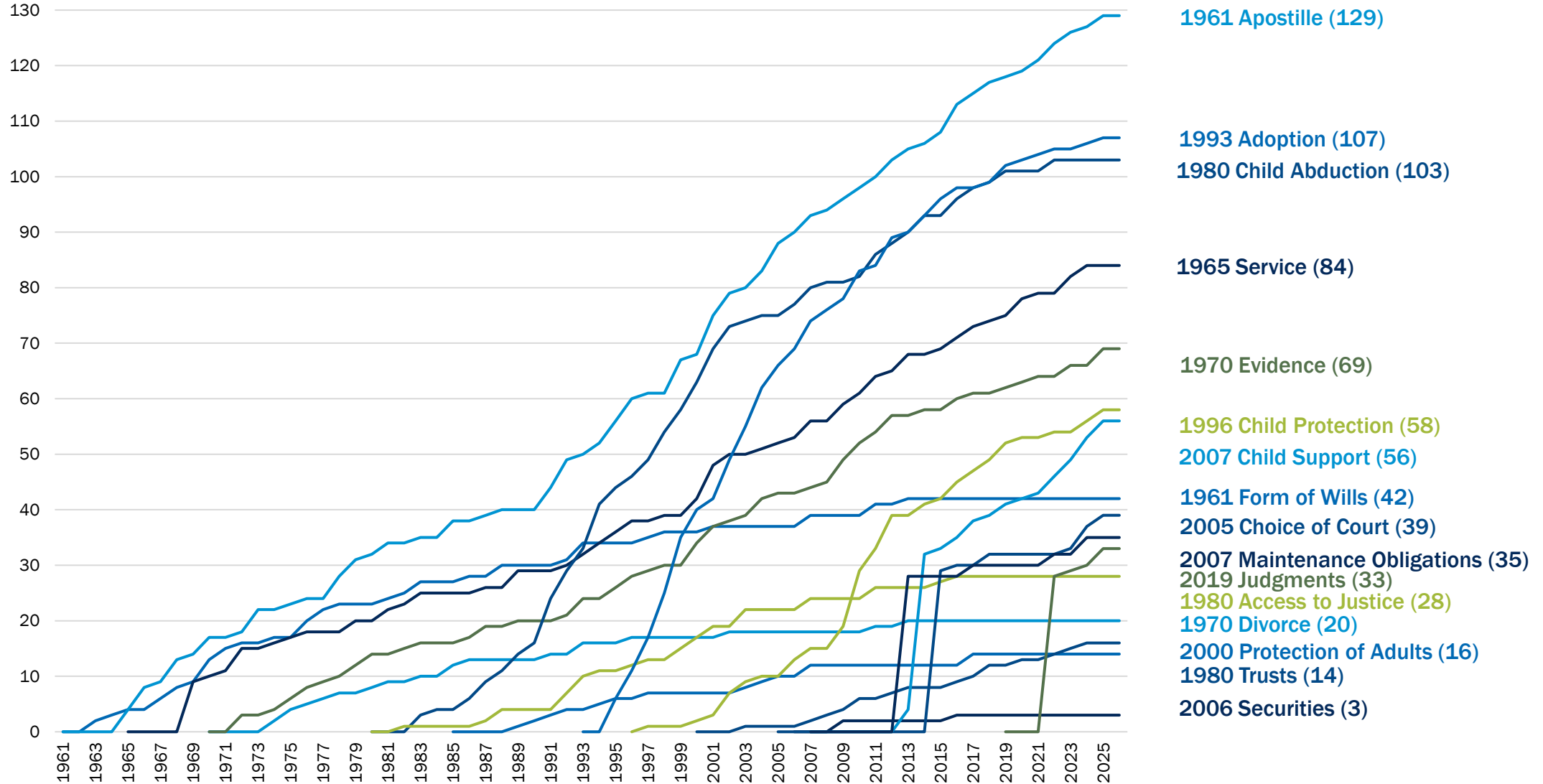
Global Coverage of the HCCH

93 Members + 66 non-Member Connected Parties / States

=

159 Connected Parties / States in total

HCCH Core Conventions



Apostille Convention

Status and Use

A global Convention - 129 Contracting Parties

Provides a single, universal system

Direct benefit for individuals and commercial operators in cross-border transactions

Applied millions of times each year

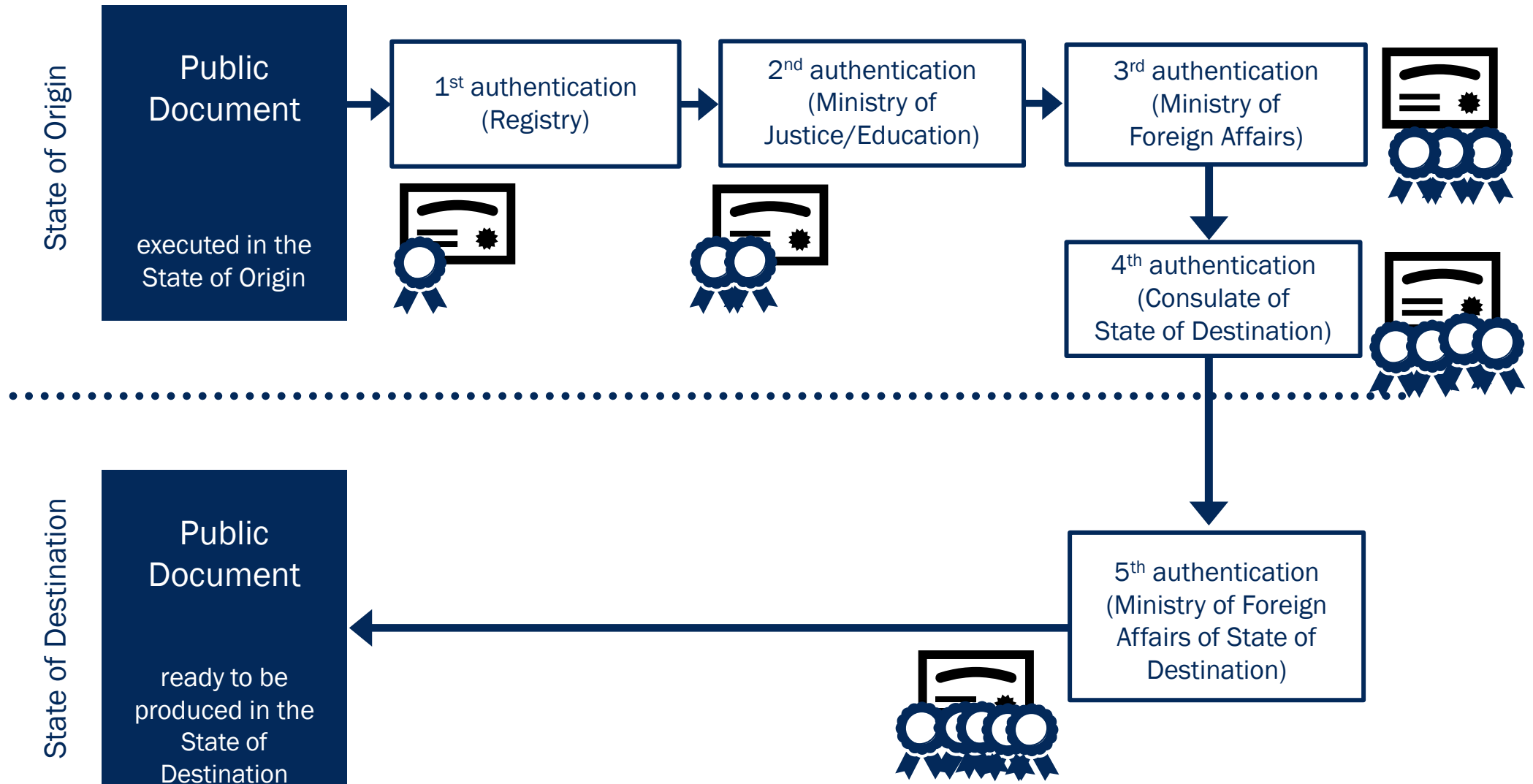
Alleviates pressure on Consular and other Governmental Agencies

Apostille Convention

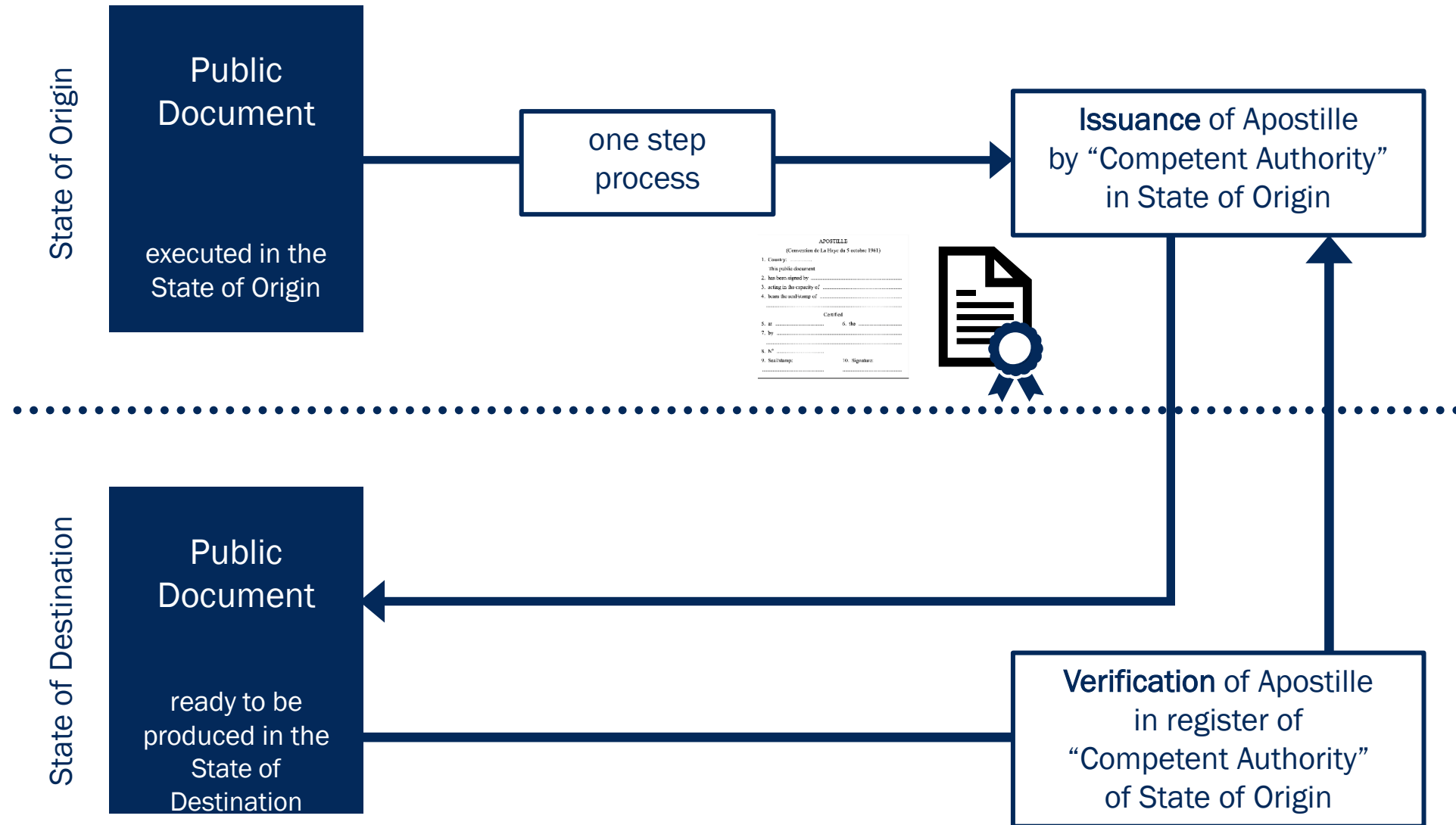
Purpose and Function

- Replaces legalisation with a one-step procedure
- Same effect as legalisation
- Authenticates the origin of a public document issued in one Contracting Party so that it can be presented and used in another Contracting Party
- Apostille:
 - authenticity of the signature, capacity in which the person signing the document has acted, and where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the document bears
 - does NOT relate to the content of the underlying document

Legalisation Chain (*without the Convention*)



Simplified Procedure (*with* the Apostille Convention)



What is a public document?

- Any document executed by an **authority** or person in an **official capacity**
- **General rule:** if a document was subject to legalisation in a State before the entry into force of the Apostille Convention, it will be apostilled
- The law of the **State of Origin** determines the public nature of a document, and whether an Apostille should be issued
- The law of the **State of Destination** determines the probative value of the public document

Competent Authority Functions

- 1. Verifying**
the authenticity (origin) of public documents
- 2. Issuing**
(and attaching) Apostilles
- 3. Recording**
Apostilles in a register

Model Apostille Certificate

APOSTILLE
(Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)

1. Country:
This public document

2. has been signed by

3. acting in the capacity of

4. bears the seal/stamp of

Certified

5. at 6. the

7. by

8. N°

9. Seal/stamp: 10. Signature:

- **Title** in French: “*Apostille (Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)*”
- 10 numbered **standard informational items**
- Square **frame** (with sides at least 9 cm)
- Drawn up in **English, French, or in an official language** of the issuing Competent Authority
- **Attached** to, or logically associated with, the underlying public document (incl. on an *allonge*)

Universal (or “single”) Certificate (Wyoming Example)

This certificate constitutes an Apostille under the *Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents* only if the Convention is in force between the United States and the country where it is to be presented.

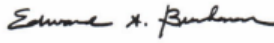
If not an Apostille, the certificate remains subject to applicable additional authentication requirements, and should be presented to the nearest Embassy or Consulate of the State of destination located in (or accredited to) the State of origin.


State of Wyoming
Office of the Secretary of State

APOSTILLE
(Convention de La Haye du 5 Octobre 1961)

- Country: SAMPLE
- This public document
- has been signed by SAMPLE
- acting in the capacity of SAMPLE
- bears the seal/stamp of the State of Wyoming

Certified

- at Cheyenne, Wyoming
- on 9/9/2021
- by EDWARD A. BUCHANAN, Secretary of State, State of Wyoming
- No. 71138
- Seal:
- Signature:

EDWARD A. BUCHANAN
Wyoming Secretary of State



This Apostille only certifies the authenticity of the signature and the capacity of the person who has signed the public document, and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the public official bears.

This Apostille does not certify the content of the document for which it was issued.

This Apostille is not valid for use anywhere within the United States of America, its territories, or possessions.

To verify the issuance of this Apostille, call (307) 777-7370 or email apostilles@wyo.gov.

This certificate constitutes an Apostille under the *Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents* only if the Convention is in force between the United States and the country where it is to be presented.

If not an Apostille, the certificate remains subject to applicable additional authentication requirements, and should be presented to the nearest Embassy or Consulate of the State of destination located in (or accredited to) the State of origin.

Obligation to Accept Apostilles

- An Apostille **validly issued** by one Contracting Party in accordance with the Convention *must* be accepted by all other Contracting Parties for which the Convention is in force
- Applies also to **e-Apostilles**, based on the Convention and the Principle of functional equivalence
- Verification – **value of e-Registers**
- But remember: the probative effect of the underlying public document remains governed by the receiving State...

electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP)



What is the e-APP?

- Facilitates the **use of technology** under the Apostille Convention
- Improves **accessibility and usability** of the Convention using commonly available technologies
- **Streamlines** work processes of Competent Authorities
- **Generates** more user-friendly Apostilles
- **Enhances** the security of cross-border transfer of documents

The two e-APP Components

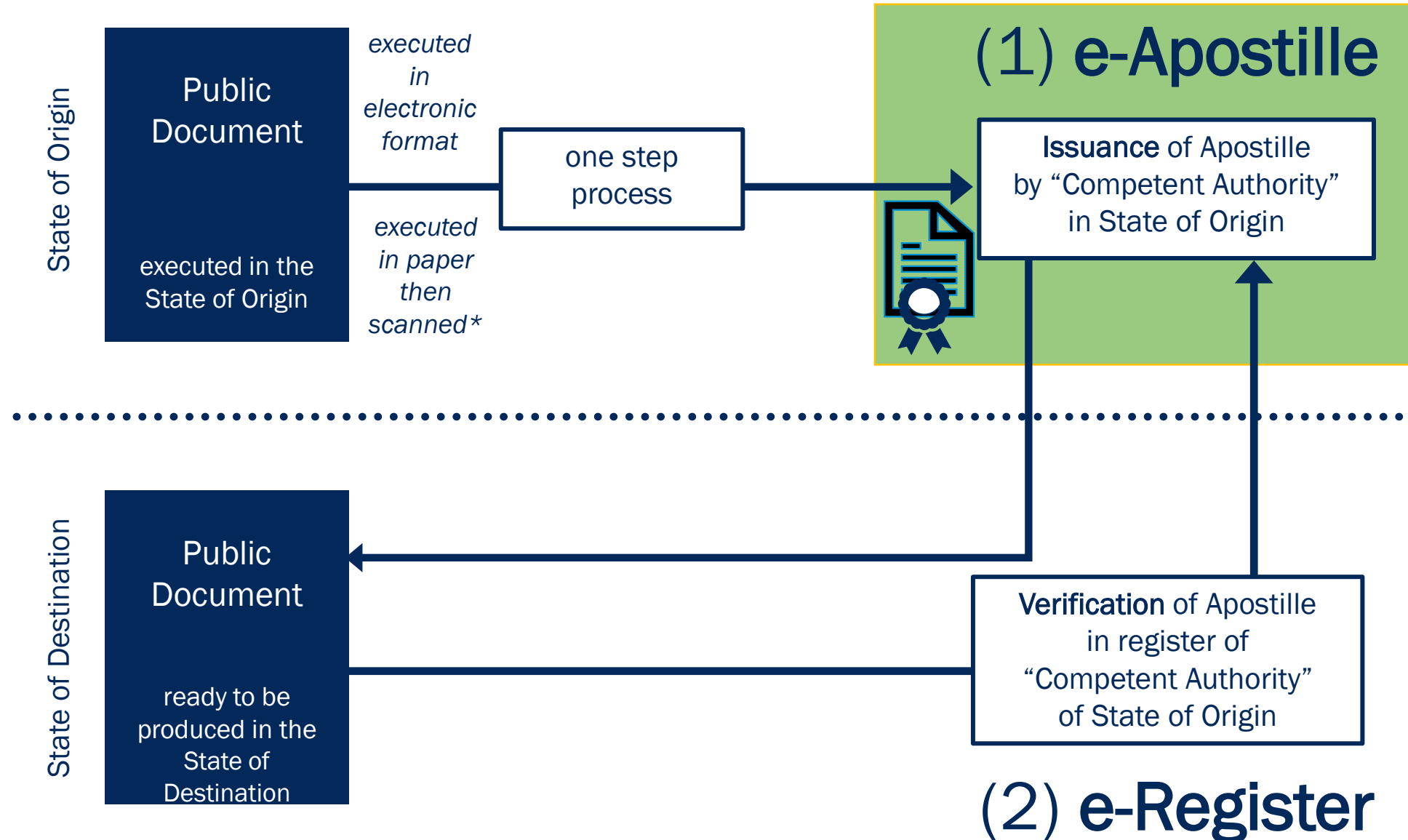
e-Apostilles

- An Article 3(1) Certificate issued in electronic form
- Signed by electronic signature with a digital certificate
- e-Apostilles may be issued on electronic documents or on paper documents that have been scanned/converted into electronic form

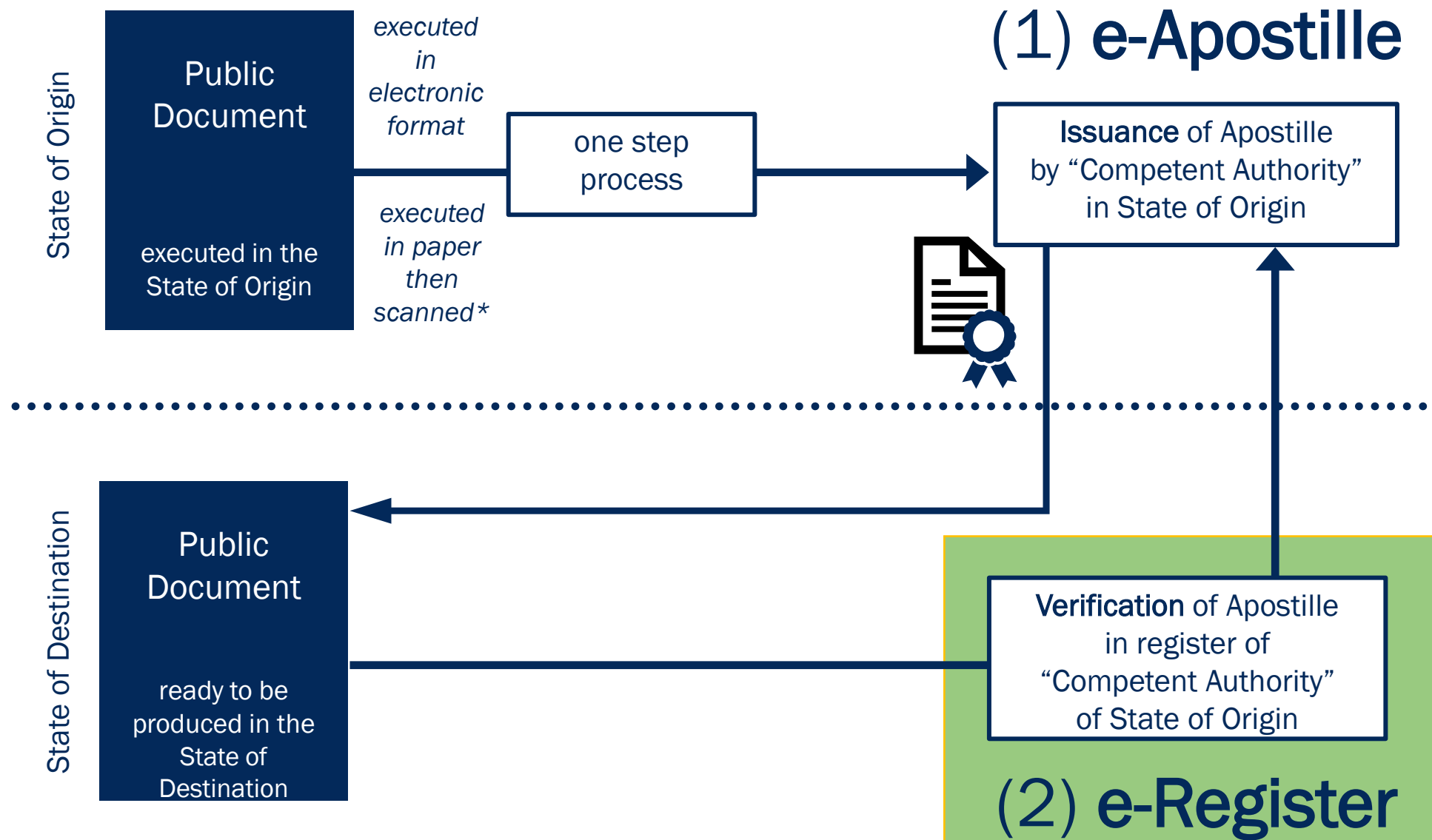
e-Register

- The Article 7(1) register maintained in a publicly accessible, electronic form
- Allows any interested person to verify their Apostille online
- Publicly accessible elements may differ amongst Contracting Parties (also depending on privacy laws)

Two Components



Two Components



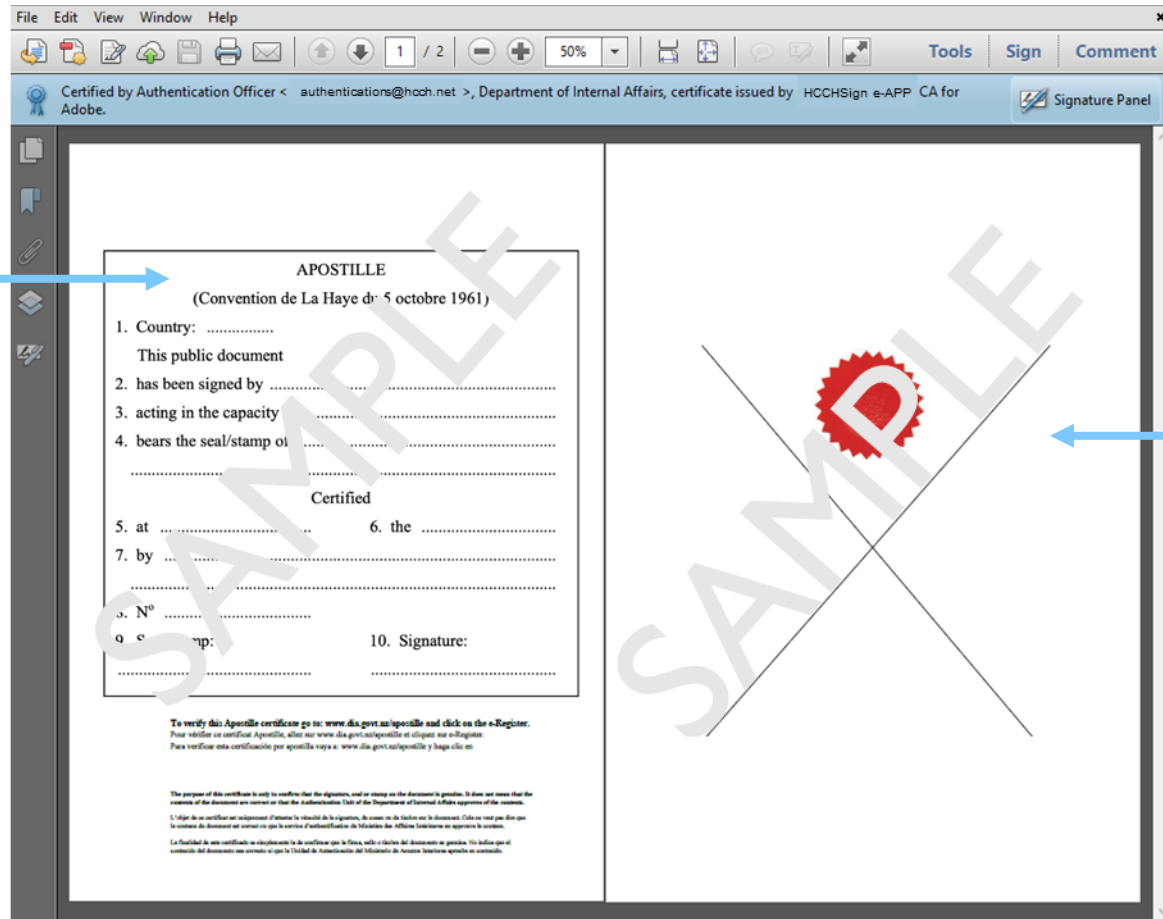
FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE

“an e-Apostille **validly issued** in one Contracting Party to the Convention **must be accepted** in another Contracting Party to the Convention”

(but receiving authority may have specific requirements for underlying public document – admissibility, form or probative value)

e-Apostille

e-Apostille




Digital signature

Underlying public document

e-Register

(Singapore example)



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Verification of Apostille/Authentication Certificate

[Verify Apostille Certificate](#) [Verify Authentication Certificate](#)

(for certificates issued from 16 September 2021)

Apostille Certificate No

Notarial Certificate No

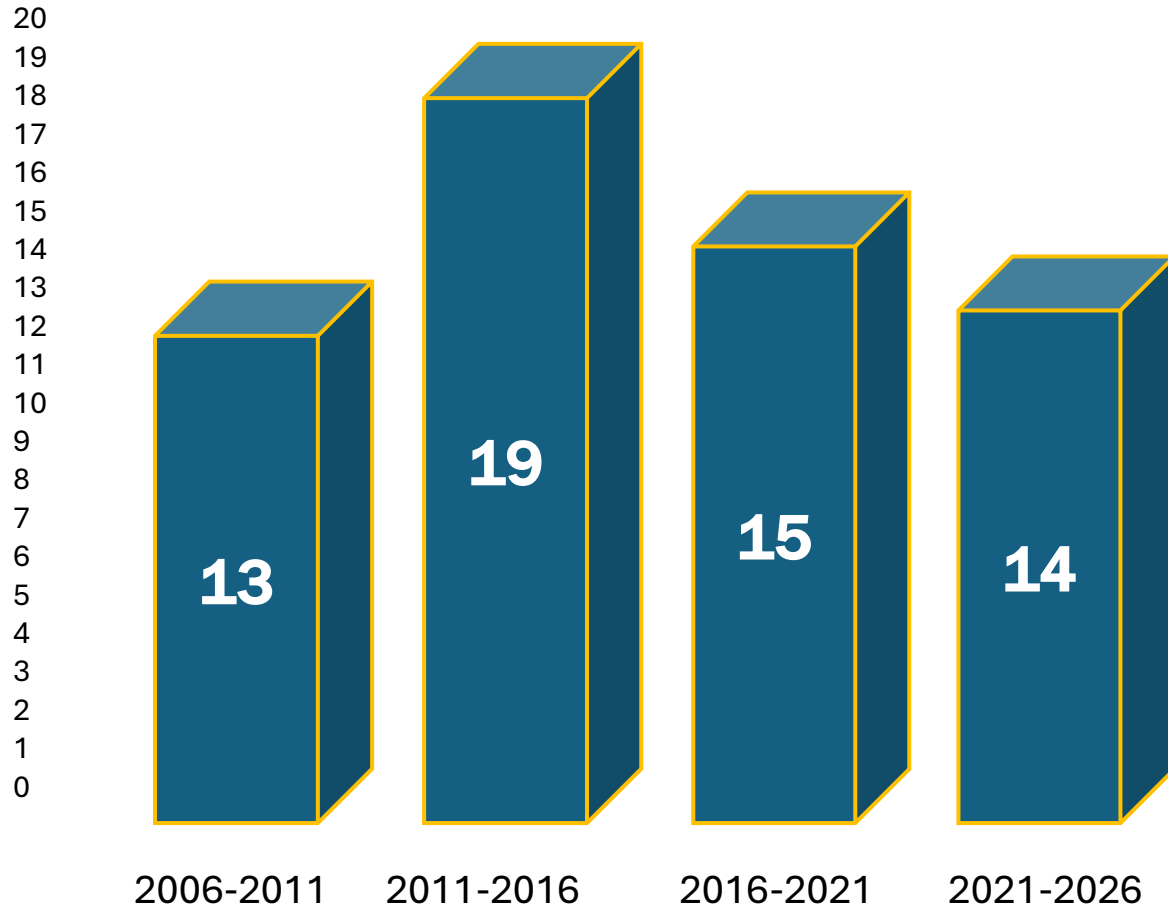
Apostille Verification Code

[Submit](#) [Cancel](#)

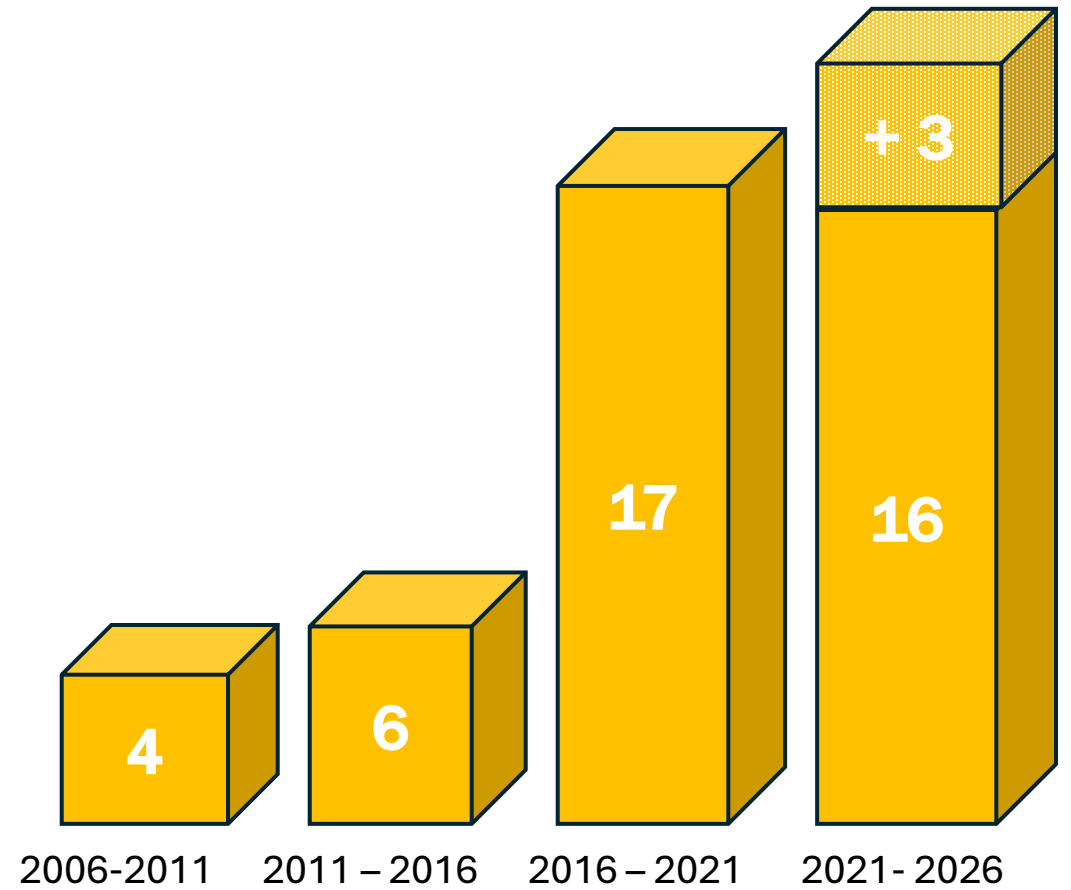
(<https://legalisation.sal.sg/AuthenticationCert/Search>)

Global implementation

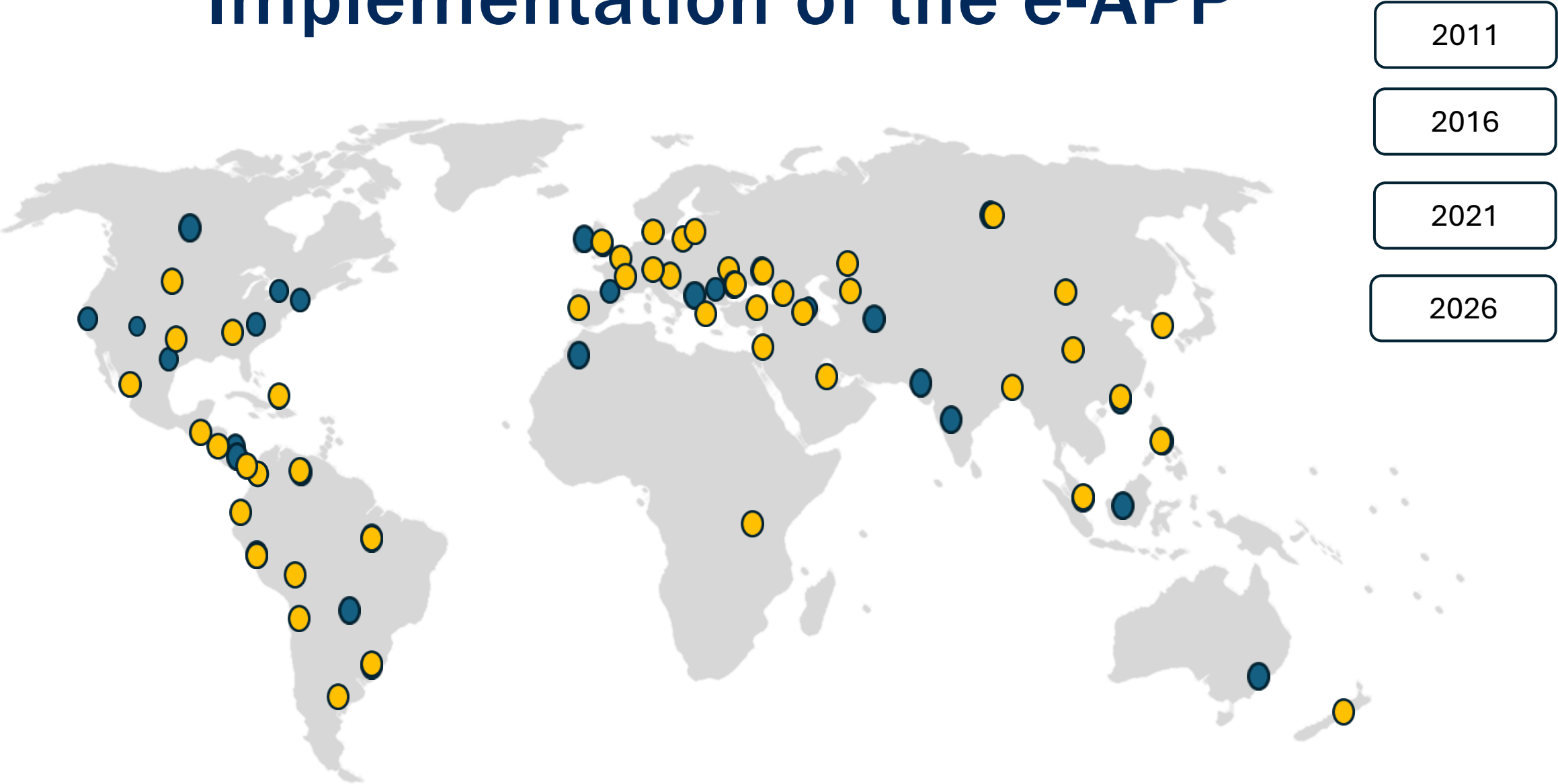
e-Register



e-Apostille



Implementation of the e-APP



e-APP across the globe



The International Forum on the e-APP

Las Vegas



Marrakech



Washington

Astana



Los Angeles

Online/The Hague



New Orleans

Fortaleza



London

The Hague



Madrid

Hong Kong



Izmir



Montevideo