



Project co-funded by the  
CIVIL JUSTICE PROGRAMME  
of the EUROPEAN UNION

iSupport

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

**Technical Requirements Working Group (2) and Secure Communication (e-CODEX) Working Group (3) –  
12 March 2015 Meeting**

**Report of Meeting n°2**

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**List of Participants**

<b>Experts</b>	<b>iSupport Team</b>
Robert BLUKIS (Latvia) - Excused Mary BUTLER (United States of America) Enrico FRANCESCONI (ITTIG – 16h00) Sylvain GORAWSKI (France) Lesli HOMMIK (Estonia) – Excused Sven JENSEN (Estonia– 17h00) Torsten KIRSCHNER (Norway) – Excused Arnaldo JOSÉ ALVES SILVEIRA (Brazil) Hannah ROOTS (NCSEA) Carsten SCHMIDT (E-CODEX) Thomas STEIMER (Switzerland)	Philippe LORTIE (Chair) Brigitte VOERMAN Juliane HIRSCH - excused Marie VAUTRAVERS Patrick GINGRAS - excused

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**Introduction**

1. Philippe Lortie, First Secretary, welcomed all participants to the Secure Communication (e-CODEX) and Technical Requirements Working Groups last meeting. He gave a short overview of the European Judicial Network meeting held in Brussel and underscored the wide interest shown in the iSupport project.

**e-CODEX – Outstanding questions – Agreement on the use of e-CODEX**

2. Philippe Lortie noted that detailed answers had been given to the questions raised by the United States of America about e-CODEX and queried the result of the e-CODEX assessment carried out by States outside of the European Union.

3. An expert from the United States of America expressed her satisfaction at the answers provided by e-CODEX and indicated that United States of America agreed on the use of e-CODEX.

4. An expert from Brazil explained that a preliminary evaluation of e-CODEX had been carried out, with a positive outcome. He indicated that further investigation are ongoing, to which the final approval of e-CODEX use is subject. He however stated that there is no indication or grounds for believing that any legal or technical barriers would adversely affect the final approval of e-CODEX.

5. An expert from Switzerland associated Switzerland with the statement of the expert from Brazil. He explained that Switzerland is currently defining its own secure communication solution (SEDEX) and surmised that no technical issue would prevent implementing the e-CODEX solution.

6. Carsten Schmidt, representative of e-CODEX, expressed his great satisfaction at the positive outcomes of the work carried on by States. In response to a proposal from Philippe Lortie, he expressed his support for the participation of an e-CODEX representative in the iSupport Governing Body and proposed that an iSupport representative shall participate in the e-CODEX meetings.

7. Philippe Lortie highlighted the work carried out by Brigitte Voerman, iSupport Project Director, to define the practical modalities of the partnership between the iSupport team and Co-Beneficiaries (the Italian Institute of Legal Information Theory and Techniques (ITTIG) and the Austrian Ministry of Justice). He explained that Co-Beneficiaries would be responsible for defining the connectors' configuration, linking connectors to the iSupport database, and monitoring tests. In addition ITTIG and the Ministry of Austria will provide assistance to States building and implementing e-CODEX connectors, especially to Pilot States that will be in a position to use the connectors in January 2016.

8. Carsten Schmidt announced that e-CODEX has been very recently endorsed by the European Commission as a stable technical system sustainable for any kind of judicial communications. In that respect, he expressed his hope to be able in the near future to provide assistance to other projects teams or States in the implementation of e-CODEX gateways and connectors, subject to the prior approval of the European Commission.

9. As a follow-up to the 12 March 2015 meeting of the Working Groups, the iSupport Team received the following information from Norway with regard to the use of e-CODEX: "Regarding the application of e-CODEX by the Norwegian Central Authority: NAV National Office for Social Insurance Abroad is the Central Authority. They are a subsidiary of the Norwegian Directorate of Labour and Welfare (NAV) [...]. We have no technical or legal issues with regard to e-CODEX."

**Document types used within Central Authorities, for instance PDF, Word, ODT format (LibreOffice, OpenOffice)**

10. Philippe Lortie recalled that experts had been invited to give details on the most used documents type. A general agreement was reached on the use of PDF, Word, and ODT Format.

**List of applications (Java, etc.) used within Central Authorities**

11. In response to a question from Brigitte Voerman, an expert from France confirmed that Java was only used on the server side, not on the client side.

12. An expert from Estonia noted that Java could be supported on both sides in Estonia.
13. An expert from Brazil mentioned that older versions of Java were used. He specified that on the client side, the second last version of Java was most generally used on the Brazilian internal system.
14. An expert from Switzerland also explained that the frequency of Java updates was restricted by internal processes. He suggested requesting an updated version when implementing iSupport but surmised that due to those internal restrictions, only an older version would be available.
15. An expert from the United States of America stated that iSupport would be operated on a separate server, with Java latest version. She mentioned that since iSupport would be browser based, html would be used on the client side.

**Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP - [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cheat\\_Sheets](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Cheat_Sheets)), in particular SQL Injection Prevention or Cross Site Scripting Prevention**

16. An expert from Estonia presented OWASP as a set of security good practices providing successive steps to significantly reduce the risk of external intrusion, including SQL injection and cross site scripting. He noted that those guidelines were used by Estonia when developing web base applications.
17. An expert from France underscored the importance of those guidelines that are widely used in France.
18. Philippe Lortie suggesting adding OWASP guidelines as security requirement.
19. An expert from the United States of America noted that those steps were acknowledged and commonly followed. She added that security issues were also addressed through security scans during development. She cautioned that OWASP requirements might increase development costs.
20. An expert from Switzerland mentioned that OWASP guidelines were currently under assessment by his department.
21. Philippe Lortie invited him to share the outcome of this evaluation with the iSupport team.

**Other items for discussion**

22. Brigitte Voerman invited the participants to share any comments on the possible compatibility of iSupport with mobile devices as suggested by an expert from France.
23. An expert from the NCSEA observed that applications similar to iSupport were rarely used on mobile devices, with the possible exception of remote workers or clients that are offered an individual access.
24. Philippe Lortie underscored the lack of funding available at this stage to provide external access for citizens and develop this elaborate functionality.

25. An expert from Brazil observed that the Brazilian national maintenance recovery system offers individual access to citizens and also runs on mobile applications. He however highlighted the lack of need for such a functionality with regard to iSupport limited number of users and related additional costs.

26. An expert from France concurred with the view of the expert from Brazil.

27. An expert from the United States of America addressed another topic linked to the future implementation of iSupport besides the existing national system. She noted that caseworkers in the United States of America currently work on an automatic elaborate system and queried the possibility to import and export data from iSupport in the national system, in order to avoid extra work such as double data entry.

28. Brigitte Voerman explained that a plug in will be provided in iSupport, allowing States to build their own interface to the national system. In response to an observation of an expert from Switzerland, she however clarified that the interface between iSupport and the national system would not be provided by iSupport. She observed that data would be exchanged between the local iSupport database and the national maintenance recovery system database.

29. In closing, Philippe Lortie gave a short overview of the upcoming tender procedure. He indicated that the revised deliverable document will be published on the iSupport webpage on 2 April 2015 for review and comments by 15 April 2015 from the Working Group and private sector experts. The Call for tender will be launched on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015, with a deadline for submitting tenders of 1<sup>st</sup> June. The selection of a contractor will be completed by end of June and the development of iSupport will start in July. Philippe Lortie added that during the course of the development, experts might be contacted on short notice to express their views, either in writing or during videoconference meetings, on specific unforeseen issues.

30. Philippe Lortie thanked the experts for their ongoing co-operation and their extremely valuable comments and suggestions.