EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Secretariat-General -Directorate A - Decision-making Process
DIGIT - Directorate-General Informatics

e-TrustEx

General information

For any further information

SG-DECIDE-ETRUSTEX@ec.europa.eu

1. INTRODUCTION

What is e-TrustEx?

e-TrustEx (electronic Trusted Exchange) is a generic communication platform that facilitates the secure exchange of electronic documents between public authorities at European, national and local level via standardised interfaces.

What e-TrustEx offers

- Electronic exchange of documents (structured and unstructured)
- Support for large volumes:
  - Up to 100 Mb per file
  - Up to 500 files per transmission
- Advanced security features (encryption, integrity)

What are the benefits of e-TrustEx?

- Enable the automation of business processes
- Reduce overall cost of documents exchange
- Improve the confidentiality and integrity of the transmission

2. E-TRUSTEX PLATFORM OVERVIEW

e-TrustEx is a generic communication platform allowing two organizations, one being the sender and the other one the receiver, to exchange electronic documents.

Sender and Receiver Parties

Each organization is considered a "party" in the communication process and it is identified in the platform by its "party name" (a virtual identifier for the organization). Several parties can be defined for one organization.
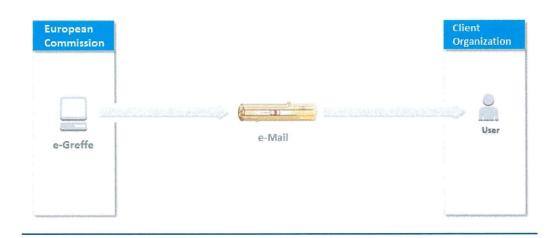
Interchange Communication Agreement (ICA)

In order to exchange documents via e-TrustEx, a communication agreement has to be defined in the e-TrustEx platform between the sender and the receiver parties. This agreement is called Interchange Communication Agreement (ICA). In addition to the sender and receiver parties an ICA also defines some attributes for the communication between the two like the security and integrity levels.

3. USING THE E-TRUSTEX PLATFORM FOR DECIDE DECISION (E-GREFFE) TRANSMISSIONS

Currently the European Commission's system D*e*CIDE Decision (e-Greffe) sends documents to external partners (other institutions, permanent representations, national Parliaments, ...) via e-mail.

Using the e-mail as a transmission channel has certain disadvantages like the lack of security and the limitation in document's size and volume.

The proposed solution is to replace the usage of the e-mail with the e-TrustEx platform as communication channel.

There are three options to access the e-TrustEx platform:

- one of them is an out-of-the-box solution and requires only configuration of access;
- the two other options allow the receiver organization to connect its IT System(s) to the e-TrustEx platform for system-to-system integration and which require development on the receiver's side.

OPTION 1. E-TRUSTEX WEB ACCESS

This is an out-of-the-box solution which does not require any development on the receiver's side.

OPTION 2. E-TRUSTEX NODE

This option allows the receiver organization to connect its IT system(s) directly to the e-TrustEx Node.

OPTION 3. E-TRUSTEX ADAPTER

This option allows the receiver organization to connect its IT system(s) to the e-TrustEx platform via the e-TrustEx Adapter for easier integration and less development.