



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Social Protection and Integration

Coordination of Social Security Schemes, Free Movement of Workers



Open Call for Tender VT/2008/019

**Informatics services and products in the context of the
EESSI (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information) project**

Administrative Specifications

Annex A1 – Acronyms and Definitions

Acronyms

These acronyms apply to the whole set of documents comprising the Administrative and Technical Specifications and Annexes. To assist the reader, they are usually defined the first time they are used. To aid understanding, links are provided where the tenderer will benefit from finding out more, e.g. about the Code List Database (CLD) and the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

In these documents, "Commission" and "European Commission" are synonyms and denote the contracting authority. DG EMPL or simply EMPL denotes the specific services of the Commission in charge of this call for tender.

AJAX	Asynchronous JavaScript and XML
AP	Access Point
API	Application Programming Interface
CI	Competent Institution
CLD	Code List Database http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/cld/public/findInstitution.do?lang=en
CN	Coordination Node
CSV	Comma Separated Value
DG EMPL	Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
DS	Directory Services
EHIC	European Health Insurance Card http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/healthcard/index_en.htm
eEHIC	electronic European Health Insurance Card
EC	European Commission

EESSI	(Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information)
E Form	European form
EMS	EESI Messaging Service
EU	European Union
FAT	Factory Acceptance Test
HTML	HyperText Markup Language
HTTPS	HyperText Transport (or Transfer) Protocol Secure
IDE	Integrated Development Environment
IMAP	Information Mapping
IMAP	Internet Message Access Protocol
IP	Internet Protocol
IPAP	International Part of an Access Point
IPG	Information Providers Guide (http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/index_en.htm)
IR	Information Repository
IT	Information Technology
J2EE	Java 2 Platform Enterprise Edition
JMS	Java Messaging Service
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation

LB	Liaison Body
LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
LDCP	Local Domain Connection Point in sTESTA
MDA	Model Driven Architecture
MPR	Monthly Progress Report
MR	Message Relay
MS	Member States
MTA	Message Transport Agent
MTF	Magnetic Tape Format
NA	National Administration
NPAP	National Part of an Access Point
PDD	Protocol Design and Documentation
PMO	The Paymaster Office
PMQP	Project Management and Quality Plan
PSAT	Pre-SAT(Site Acceptance Test)
QoS	Quality of Service
RI	Reference Implementation, an application that implements the IPAP
RPC	Remote Procedure Control

RSS	Really Simple Syndication
RUP	Rational Unified Process (RUP) Methodology
SAT	Site Acceptance Test
SED	Structured Electronic Document
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SQL	Structured Query Language
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer
sTESTA	secured Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations
TLS	Transport Layer Security
UI	User Interface
UML	Unified Modelling Language
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WP	Work Package
WSDL	Web Services Description Language
XML	eXtensible Markup Language
XSLT	Extensible Style sheet Language Transformations

Key Definitions and Concepts

This section provides details of the key concepts relating to the EESSI project that shall emanate from the Regulations once they begin to apply. Where changes to the original text have evolved, they are noted below so as to provide an up-to-date understanding of these key concepts. This is because they have, in the main, been taken on board by Member States in the Administrative Commission. However, it must be noted that since a legislative text (in particular the implementing Regulation of Regulation 883/2004) can be given final approval only as a whole, any partial agreement is by definition subject to subsequent review.

“Access Point” means any electronic contact point designated by the competent authority of a Member State for one or more branches of social security referred to in Article 3¹ of the basic Regulation², to send and receive electronically the data necessary for the application of the basic Regulation and the implementing Regulation via the joint network between the Member States;

The above definition is further clarified as follows:

Access Point is an entity providing the functions of;

- (a) an electronic contact point, and
- (b) automatic routing based on the address.

In the interest of the citizens and administrations alike, the ultimate goal is to minimise the number of rejected Structured Electronic Documents, so Member States may introduce

- (c) intelligent routing based on sophisticated software that enables automatic checking and routing (e.g. an artificial intelligence application) and/or human intervention.

“Structured Electronic Document” means any structured document in a format defined for the exchange of information between Member States;

“Document” means a set of data, irrespective of the medium used, structured in such a way that it could be exchanged electronically and which must be communicated to allow the basic Regulation and the implementing Regulation to function;

“Transmission by electronic means” means transmission of data using electronic equipment for processing (including digital compression) of data and employing wires, radio transmission, optical technologies or any other electromagnetic means;

¹ Article 3 stipulates the **Matters covered** concerning the following branches of social security: (a) sickness benefits; (b) maternity and equivalent paternity benefits; (c) invalidity benefits; (d) old-age benefits; (e) survivors' benefits; (f) benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases; (g) death grants; (h) unemployment benefits; (i) pre-retirement benefits; (j) family benefits. Unless specifically excluded, this Regulation shall apply to general and special social security schemes, whether contributory or non-contributory, and to schemes relating to the obligations of an employer or ship-owner. This Regulation shall also apply to the special non-contributory cash benefits.

² "Basic Regulation" means Regulation (EC) No 883/2004; and "implementing Regulation" means the implementing rules of the basic regulation.

"Competent Authority" means, in respect of each Member State, the Minister, Ministers or other equivalent authority responsible for social security schemes throughout or in any part of the Member State in question;

"Liaison Body" means any body designated by the competent authority of a Member State, for one or more branches of social security referred to in Article 3³ of the basic Regulation, to respond to requests for information and assistance for the application of the basic Regulation and the implementing Regulation and which has to fulfil the tasks assigned to it underof the implementing Regulation;

"Competent Institution" means:

- (i) the institution with which the person concerned is insured at the time of the application for benefit; or
- (ii) the institution from which the person concerned is or would be entitled to benefits if he/she or a member or members of his/her family resided in the Member State in which the institution is situated; or
- (iii) the institution designated by the competent authority of the Member State concerned; or
- (iv) in the case of a scheme relating to an employer's obligations in respect of the benefits set out in Article 3(1), either the employer or the insurer involved or, in default thereof, the body or authority designated by the competent authority of the Member State concerned;

"Competent Member State" means the Member State in which the competent institution is situated;

"Institution of the place of residence" and **'Institution of the place of stay'** mean respectively the institution which is competent to provide benefits in the place where the person concerned resides and the institution which is competent to provide benefits in the place where the person concerned is staying, in accordance with the legislation administered by that institution or, where no such institution exists, the institution designated by the competent authority of the Member State concerned.

"Transitional Provisions" The date of the application of Regulation 883/2004 and its implementing rules is to be synchronised with the up and running of the EESSI system. It is envisaged, however, that some special transitional provisions may be negotiated by Member States in Council. In effect, this means that once the new regulations begin to apply, some Member States may not start exchanging electronic information on social security using fully the EESSI system.

³ As noted in Foot note 1