1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 What is the exact definition of a "beneficiary"? How does this definition relate to the notion of an online platform?

A "beneficiary" is defined as an entity designated as such in a grant agreement signed with INEA. Applicants, whose proposal is selected for funding by the Commission, are expected to become the beneficiaries of the financial aid awarded for the selected Action.

1.2 Does an "online platform" refer to a technical platform or to a service delivery platform accessible by citizens/businesses?

An "online platform" in the context of objective/action type iii refers to a virtual service delivery platform based on a web interface - and not to a physical platform, web-server infrastructure or similar.

1.3 What are the definitions of the terms "applicant" and "beneficiary", particularly in relation to the available funding in objective/action type iii?

These two terms are generic and not specific to objective/action type iii. Please see Question 1.1 and the Glossary of the Guide for Applicants for the definition of these and other terms.

1.4 What is an "entity" in relation to the available funding in objective/action type iii?

Like the terms in Question 1.3, "entity" is generic and not specific to objective/action type iii. An "entity" refers to any organisation that may submit an application for funding in accordance with the rules for participation as laid down in the relevant Call for proposals.

1.5 What is a "PEPS"?

A "PEPS" is a connection point of the electronic identification interoperability architecture that is involved in cross-border authentication of citizens which allows the national electronic identification infrastructure of one Member State to interface with service providers operated in other Member States.

A PEPS can assume three different roles depending on the origin of a received request:

1. Connector (S-PEPS)
   - Responsible for requesting an authentication received from a national Service Provider and for forwarding it to the PEPS belonging to the citizen’s country which will provide the authentication
   - Operated in the Service Provider’s Member State
   - There can be one or more Connector(s)/S-PEPS to allow the connection of the national Service Providers with national electronic identification infrastructures from other notifying Member States
2. Proxy-Service (C-PEPS)

- Responsible for providing authentication.
- Operated in a Proxy-based Member State
- The Proxy-Service receives authentication requests from a PEPS of another Member State (their Connector/S-PEPS)
- The Proxy-Service has also an interface with the national eID infrastructure and triggers the identification and authentication for a citizen at an identity and/or attribute provider
- There can be only one Proxy-Service/C-PEPS that provides authentication of the national citizens

3. MW-Service (VIdP)

- Responsible for providing authentication for MW based Member State
- Operated in the Receiving Member State

Other related definitions:

- Sending Member State: the Member State whose eID scheme is used in the authentication process, and sending authenticated ID data to the receiving Member State
- Receiving Member State: the Member State in which the service provider requesting an authentication of a citizen is established
- Proxy-based or centralised Member State: the Member State that has notified their eID scheme as Proxy-based
- Middleware-based or decentralised Member State: the MS that has notified their eID scheme as Middleware-based.

2. CALL OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

2.1 Is it correct that objective/action types (i+ii) and iii are independent and do not have a factual connection?

Yes, this is in principle correct. However, it cannot be excluded that a specific setting in a Member State would allow all objective/action types to be interlinked and cross-fertilised between them.

2.2 Are we correctly informed that there is no emphasis on utilisation (use) of services and platforms?

Yes. However, following the setting-up of the Pan-European Proxy Services and the integration of the eID solution in the online services, these services must of course be operational.

2.3 Which PEPS implementation is leading for the 2014 eID call for proposals (STORK, STORK2, eIDAS (under construction))?

The PEPS must implement the core service platform technical specifications available at the point in time when the implementation takes place. Considering the timeline of this call, these may be expected to be the technical specifications annexed to the eIDAS implementing act – of which the Commission will make a sample implementation available.

2.4 Are multiple proposals allowed from one country for objective/action type iii?
There is no formal restriction concerning the number of objective/action type iii proposals that can be submitted per country. However, please bear in mind the limited amount of funding available under this call for proposals for all the objective/action types - it may not be possible to grant funding to more than one objective/action type iii proposal per country.

2.5 What are the exact criteria for consortium composition?

There are no criteria for consortium composition prescribed for the eID Call for proposals 2014. It is up to each applicant or consortium respectively to make the most suitable consortium composition in its specific national context.

2.6 We use a so-called "proxy-based scheme", which means that there would be one proxy to allow citizens of our Member State to use services in other Member States (C-PEPS in STORK) and one (or several) proxy(ies) to allow foreigners to use our national services (S-PEPS). Some S-PEPS may be hosted by service providers themselves. Is this ok?

This configuration is compatible with the requirements of the call. There can be as many PEPS as needed in a given Member State, even though most are going for only one. However, this is a discretionary choice of each Member State.

2.7 One or several identity providers and attribute providers must also be connected to the C-PEPS, depending of the data we want to be able to provide. Should both natural and legal persons be supported? If so, different IdPs must be connected...

Yes. Both natural and legal persons should be supported and therefore the different IdPs should be integrated.

2.8 Should at least one public national service be offered as part of an objective/action type i proposal, or should all national services be part of an objective/action type iii proposal?

An objective/action type i proposal should address the setting up of a PEPS. Objective/action type iii proposals are for integrating existing solutions/online platforms to offer a service to citizens.

2.8 In view to allow citizens from middleware-based Member States to access our national services, we would need to run some code provided by these Member States on our servers. This part is unrelated to our "national eID service" but is only useful for other Member States. Is such a procedure mandatory for proposals under objective/action type i?

Yes. The middleware is required as there is also a need to accept identities from the middleware countries.

2.9 Other additional components are also needed to make the proxies work. For instance, to manage the trust between Member State proxies, some new PKI components will eventually also be needed (and at the moment it is not even clear how this will be done). Please elaborate on the requirements in this respect.

The related implementing act has not yet been published and can therefore not be taken into account when preparing or evaluating proposals under this call for proposals.

However, it is assumed that the implementing act will be available when the grant agreements for proposals selected for funding under this call will be finalised (Q3 2015). Therefore, it will be possible to align the implementing activities with the requirements of the implementing act at this point in time.

Generally, the PKI component concerning the trust built between the Member State components is done with certificates. The exchange of these certificates is done on a one-by-one basis between Member States.

2.10 Can our company receive funding for one proxy service, as well as funding for running this one proxy service?
Yes, this is possible. There is no restriction preventing a single entity to apply for more than one objective/action type, even within one proposal. The funding per lump sum would be cumulative in this case.

2.11 *Is it possible to submit a single proposal that includes all three objective/action types? If so, can some partners be included just in one action (more precisely in objective/action type iii)?*

A proposal can cover all three actions, and beneficiaries should have a clear role in the proposal.

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3. **SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA/APPLICANTS**

3.1 *Should ten entities from one Member State be interpreted as ten entities “per online platform” per Member State? Would ten entities in four online platforms from one Member State be acceptable?*

No. The requirements in section 3.1.3.2 of the Work Programme and section 8.1 of the Call for proposals regarding action type iii (i.e. “integration in an existing online platform (e.g. ERASMUS registration of students) of this eID DSI in order to enable citizens from any Member State to use its national eID to access a public service”) are to be understood as the minimum requirement per online platform. However, there is no restriction to the number of platforms in which to integrate the eID DSI by a consortium of a minimum of ten entities per Member State.

3.2 *According to the 2014 eID Work Programme, a proposal should consist of a certain number of entities from one Member State. Must we then have one or more organisations from a Member State for this call to be useful for us? Do these organisations need to be our clients?*

The minimum number of entities to be applicants of a proposal depends on the objective/action type it is submitted under in order to render the proposal eligible. This is specified in both the Work Programme and the call. There are no stipulations concerning the relationships between these entities.

3.3 *In the technical specifications (art. 4) for objective/action type iii, it is stated that for this action, “(…) the integration in an existing online platform (…) of the eID DSI in order to enable citizens from any Member State to use its national eID to access a public service. (…)” is required. Could you please specify whether the eID DSI has to be integrated only in an existing online platform which provides one public service (e.g. an ERASMUS-related service) or if the eID DSI could be integrated in several existing online platforms which provide several different public services offered by several public administrations (e.g. Ministries, national agencies etc.)?*

The eID DSI can be integrated into several services on several platforms. Beneficiaries can claim financial support for each service on which the eID DSI will be integrated.

3.4 *If we understand correctly, proposals for the 2014 eID call can span a period of four years in total (for example: the first year for PEPS implementation, then three years for PEPS operations). For objective/action type iii (implementation by service providers) is it possible that the one-year funding period will start in the second year of the proposal? (i.e. after the PEPS is implemented)?*

Objective/action types i and ii can be combined and lead to a proposal of a four-year duration. Objective/action type iii has a one year duration and should be implemented within the duration of the grant. If the objectives/action type iii are integrated in a combined proposal, they should be implemented by the end of the grant.

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4. **SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA/PROPOSED ACTIONS**
5. LUMP SUMS

5.1 For proposals under objective/action type iii, does "per beneficiary and service" refer to a lump sum contribution of €20,000 for each combination of a beneficiary and a service or a contribution of €20,000 for each individual beneficiary or service?

Under objective/action type iii, individual beneficiaries could receive a contribution of €20,000 per service that is being integrated in an existing eID DSI service platform in order to enable citizens from any Member State to use its national eID to access a public service. Example: 12 beneficiaries each integrating three services could obtain a total contribution for their proposed Action of 12 * 3 * €20,000 = €720,000

5.2 Due to the lump-sum-per-action-per-beneficiary model of the 2014 eID call and no explicit cap on the number of beneficiaries, a single proposal could easily end up requesting a significant part of the overall budget. What would be considered a "reasonable" financial contribution that the Commission is expecting for each proposal?

There is no recommended requested funding per proposal.

6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

6.1 When creating an application, we are asked to select only one of the three objective/action types, although our proposal addresses more than one objective/action type. Should we submit different proposals for each objective/action type?

If the proposal addresses more than one objective/action type, please select any one of the objectives/action types to which the proposal relates. In the description of the proposed Action, you should explicitly refer to all the objectives/action types addressed in the proposal (see page 9 of the Guide for Applicants).

7. MISCELLANEOUS