

1.3 DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK SERVICE (TESTA / TESTA NG) (2016.02)

Type of Activity	Common Services
Service in charge	DIGIT.D3
Associated Services	OLAF, DG MOVE, DG EMPL, DG HOME, DG SANTE, CDT, DG JUST, DG ECHO, DG TRADE

1.3.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The TESTA-ng network service is the continuation of an existing action of the ISA Programme. A number of sectorial networks are currently using the TESTA services for their sectorial applications (OLAF, DG MOVE, DG EMPL, DG HOME, DG SANTE, CDT, DG JUST, DG ECHO and DG TRADE). The network is also used by the European Institutions and the European agencies. In addition, the TESTA framework is also extensively used by DG HOME for the implementation of the SIS II and VIS II networks and by EUROPOL for the implementation of their own dedicated EUROPOL network. Also, the General Secretariat of the Council is using the TESTA framework contract for the implementation of the FADO network, the Council Extranet and Courtesy networks.

The TESTA network is also used in the context of non-Community projects by Member State administrations or organisations acting on their behalf under certain conditions as described in the TESTA Memorandum of understanding. One of the most successful non-community programmes is the trans-border police cooperation in the context of the Prüm treaty and the Financial Intelligence Unit network in the context of money laundering.

Currently TESTA is facing problems with regard to the long-term financial sustainability. Also the structural captivity and vendor lock-in due to the "one vendor provides all" approach needs attention.

In order to address these problems DIGIT D3 is preparing the next evolution in order to keep abreast of the latest technologies and developments and to achieve DIGIT's vision of becoming the sole and only network of choice of the European Union that handles all data transactions between Member State, EU Institutions, EU Agencies, EFTA Countries, Acceding Countries and members of community programs.

The strategy is to have more control on the provided services by implementing a new organisational structure. The problem of captivity of the market will be solved by splitting the future contracts in autonomous entities.

The main objectives of the future implementation of TESTA are:

- To consolidate the network and ensure financial sustainability
- To guarantee and further increase security and reliability
- To introduce secured trans-European collaborative services
- To increase control by bringing together a technical core team that manages the network in Commission premises

The activities related to the preparation of the future network are not part of this request.

1.3.2 SCOPE

Ensure continuity for the provision of the current TESTA-ng network.

1.3.3 ACTION PRIORITY

1.3.3.1 Contribution to the interoperability landscape

The contribution of the action to the interoperability landscape, measured by the importance and necessity of the action to complete the interoperability landscape across the Union

Question	Answer
<p><i>How does the proposal contribute to improving interoperability among public administrations and with their citizens and businesses across borders or policy sectors in Europe?</i></p> <p><i>In particular, how does it contribute to the implementation of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the new European Interoperability Framework (EIF),</i> • <i>the Interoperability Action Plan and/or</i> • <i>the Connecting European Facility (CEF) Telecom guidelines</i> • <i>any other EU policy/initiative having interoperability requirements?</i> 	<p>The nature of the TESTA project "trans-border data communication" makes TESTA an underlying communication infrastructure directly contributing to cross border interoperability. Various policy areas (trans-border police cooperation, money laundering, asylum policy etc....) are directly served via the TESTA initiative.</p>
<p><i>Does the proposal fulfil an interoperability need for which no other alternative action/solution is available?</i></p>	<p>TESTA provides network infrastructure that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is private and only accessible to the EUI, Agencies and Public Administrations, ensuring confidentiality of transmissions and a greatly reduced surface of exposure to intrusion and hacking; - is independent of public Internet backbones, and therefore always available if when the Internet is down, ensuring that crucial information systems such as border control and police cooperation will continue to work even in the event of large-scale cyber attacks - has its own Security Operations Centre providing 24/7 monitoring and protection by security cleared

	<p>personnel;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has built-in redundancy so as to guarantee 99,95% measured availability even in case of technical problems within its own infrastructure.
--	---

1.3.3.2 Cross-sector

The scope of the action, measured by its horizontal impact, once completed, across the policy sectors concerned.

Question	Answer
<i>Will the proposal, once completed be useful, from the interoperability point of view and utilised in two (2) or more EU policy sectors? Detail your answer for each of the concerned sectors.</i>	YES, once the future TESTA is completed it will also provide collaborative secured cross border and cross sector services
<i>For proposals completely or largely already in operational phase, indicate whether and how they have been utilised in two (2) or more EU policy sectors.</i>	TESTA is the undelaying secured transport platform for many policy areas. Justice and Home Affairs, Health, Transport, Trade, Employment are examples of policy areas that rely since years on TESTA.

1.3.3.3 Cross-border

The geographical reach of the action, measured by the number of Member States and of European public administrations involved.

Question	Answer
<i>Will the proposal, once completed, be useful from the interoperability point of view and used by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States? Detail your answer for</i>	YES, is operational

<i>each of the concerned Member State.</i>	
<i>For proposals completely or largely already in operational phase, indicate whether and how they have been utilised by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States.</i>	Yes. TESTA is covering the whole territory of the European Union, EFTA Countries and Acceding Countries

1.3.3.4 Urgency

The urgency of the action, measured by its potential impact, taking into account the lack of other funding sources

Question	Answer
<i>Is your action urgent? Is its implementation foreseen in an EU policy as priority, or in EU legislation?</i>	The continuation of the funding of this action for 2018 is urgent in order to guarantee the continuity of the services to the current stakeholders.
<i>How does the ISA² scope and financial capacity better fit for the implementation of the proposal as opposed to other identified and currently available sources?</i>	Since ISA ² is focussing on new initiatives, the long-term financial sustainability has been questioned. In the preparation of the future of TESTA, a cost recovery mechanism will guarantee the long term financial funding. Consolidation of all existing European networks is envisaged

1.3.3.5 Reusability of action's outputs

The re-usability of the action, measured by the extent to which its results can be re-used.

Name of reusable solution to be produced (for new proposals) or produced (for existing actions)	TESTA-ng
Description	
Reference	

Target release date / Status	
Critical part of target user base	
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	<p>One of the main objectives of TESTA is "network consolidation". In this perspective a common data communication infrastructure has been set up and is used and reused by many policy areas.</p> <p>The last decade TESTA as actively avoided the proliferation of communication infrastructures dedicated to one application.</p>

1.3.3.6 Level of reuse of existing solutions

The re-use by the action (following this proposal) of existing common frameworks and interoperability solutions.

Question	Answer
<i>Does the proposal intend to make use of any ISA², ISA or other relevant interoperability solution(s)? Which ones?</i>	<p>TESTA is a generic key interoperability solution, supporting public administrations by providing a secured communication infrastructure and facilitating secured cross border data communications.</p> <p>TESTA serves information systems in various EU policy areas such as, Asylum (Eurodac/ Dublinet), trans border police cooperation (Prüm), judicial cooperation (ECRIS), financial intelligence (FIUNET), civil protection (CECIS), transport (TACHONET/EUCARIS), social security (EESSI) and health (eHealth/Tobacco).</p> <p>Also the ISA action 2017.04 REGDEL relies on TESTA.</p>
<i>For proposals completely or largely already in operational phase: has the action reused existing interoperability solutions? If yes, which ones and how?</i>	<p>TESTA is reusing existing interoperability solutions such as CIRCABC, EU Survey.</p> <p>See also answer above.</p>

1.3.3.7 Interlinked

The extent to which the action (following this proposal) contributes to Union's initiatives such as the DSM.

Question	Answer
<p><i>Does the proposal directly contribute to at least one of the Union's high political priorities such as the DSM? If yes, which ones? What is the level of contribution?</i></p>	<p>As underlying secured communication infrastructure TESTA EuroDomain contributes directly via the information systems that are using TESTA to the implementation of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Justice and fundamental rights</u> by providing secured and reliable communication infrastructure to information systems in the context of Fight against organised crime: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) European Criminal records Information Systems (ECRIS), b) Cross border police cooperation combating terrorism and cross border crime (Prüm), c) System of Control of Explosives for the Prevention and Fights against the terrorism (SCEPYLT). 2. Migration: by providing secured and reliable communication infrastructure to information systems in the context of Asylum (Eurodac/ Dublinet for the comparison of finger Prints of asylum applications 3. The Internal Market: by providing secured and reliable communication infrastructure to information systems in the context of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Financial Intelligence Network (FIUNET) in the context of money laundering b) By letting people move more freely by supporting the electronic exchange of social security information (EESSI)

1.3.4 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TESTA EuroDomain is a public private pan-European network with private central value-added services. The followed "One Shop All" sourcing approach gave structural captivity and vendor lock-in problems 2. Financial Sustainability, dependence on funding from community programme
affects	All EU communities
the impact of which is	Less quality, higher price
a successful solution would be	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Captivity of the market can be solved by splitting the "One fits All" contract in autonomous entities that are separately tendered. . Such an approach should also increase competition and attract a bigger number of tenderers 2. <u>Financial sustainability</u> - Currently the EuroDomain is financed by the ISA² programme. The strategy for the future is focused on becoming financially sustainable by working towards a sound legal basis and by applying cost sharing by end 2020.

1.3.5 IMPACT OF THE ACTION

1.3.5.1 Main impact list

The funding of the continuation of the TESTA services will allow all communities that use the TESTA network to continue their services.

In parallel an action for the preparation of the future TESTA with a different governance model will be started. The activities in this context will initially be started up by budget that has been recovered from the TESTA-ng provider due to late delivery of the services.

Impact	Why will this impact occur?	By when?	Beneficiaries
(+) Savings in money	Consolidation of network infrastructure	2021	All Member States and user communities in all different policy areas
(+) Savings in time	The new organisational	2020	All Member States and

	model for the operation of this network will avoid future costly big bang migrations		user communities in all different policy areas
(+) Better interoperability and quality of digital public service	the innovative collaborative needs stated by the users, redundant and well integrated cloud architecture with a robust and performant consolidated network	2019-2020	All Member States and user communities in all different policy areas
(+) Cost sharing	Cost sharing will after setup of the core infrastructure and governance model	2021	All Member States and user communities in all different policy areas
(+) Security	The implementation of dedicated optical backbone that is centrally engineered and managed will give more control and more security to the EU. Additional	2020	All Member States and user communities in all different policy areas
(-) Governance	The governance organization will require more resources to operate and coordinate the different contractual and organisational components.	2020	DIGIT

1.3.5.2 User-centricity

In order to keep track of the needs of the users the TESTA team is assisting different policy sectors for the integration of their information systems on TESTA, (e.g. eHealth, EUCEG, nf-Net of DG SANTE, EDES EEAS, Agriculture expenditure audit DG AGRI, CERTEU, ARIS EU Parliament).

On a yearly basis a TESTA workgroup with the TESTA representatives of the Member States is organised. The meeting in 2017 will take place on 4 October.

Also, the TESTA team is closely following up the ICTAC activities of EU Agencies .

1.3.6 EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS

Output name	SCEPYLT
Description	(Explosives Control & Protection System to prevent and fight against terrorism). <i>DG for Migration and Home Affairs - Unit D1: Terrorism and Crisis Management is looking to expand the SCEPYLT system to additional Member States and 3rd</i>

	<i>countries.</i>
Reference	Legal basis: meeting in Sheffield July 2004
Target release date / Status	2018

Output name	SIMSTAT / ESDEN
Description	ESDEN (modernisation of the data exchange services across the European Statistical System (ESS)).
Reference	
Target release date / Status	2018

Output name	EU ETS
Description	Union Registry information system which handles the registration of carbon emission allowances exchanges (within the European Emission Trading System)
Reference	
Target release date / Status	2019

Output name	<i>NCPeH</i>
Description	eHealth System via National eHealth Infrastructure Agency
Reference	
Target release date / Status	2018

1.3.7 ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

1.3.7.1 Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives	Involvement in the action
Specific sectors	Ability for sectors and EU agencies to use a secured trans-European network service for the exchange of data with specific availability or security requirements over a shared quality solution. Prevents proliferation of uncontrolled networks.	user
Member States' Public administrations	Ability for MS administrations to use a secured trans-European network service for the exchange of data with specific availability or	user

	security requirements, with EU Institutions, EU agencies and other MS administrations. The provided solution is managed and the access points are under control of the MS administrations.	
EU institutes and agencies	Avoids the unnecessary implementation of costly shadow network infrastructures.	user
Non-community programs	TESTA can be used in the context of a non-Community project by Member States administrations or organisations acting on their behalf under certain conditions described in the TESTA Memorandum of Understanding. It stimulates the re-usage of an existing infrastructure.	user

1.3.7.2 Identified user groups

This table is an extract of the list of policy areas where TESTA is referenced.

This is not an exhaustive list

Action / Policy	Description of relation
ECRIS	Council Decision 2009/316/JHA on the establishment of the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).
Prüm	EU Council Decision (2008/616/JHA) on the implementation of Decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime. Trans-border police cooperation in a non-community programme.
DUBLINET	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1560/2003 of 2 September 2003 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national. DubliNet is based on the use of the generic IDA services referred to in Article 4 of Decision No 1720/1999/EC.
Eurodac	Council Regulation No 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin Convention. But in the COM/2016/0272 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of [Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person] , for identifying an illegally staying third-country national or stateless person and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes (recast)
CECIS	Council Decision 2007/779/EC, Euratom of 8 November 2007 establishing a

	Community Civil Protection Mechanism.
EDRIS (ex 14 POINTS – HOLIS)	Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid
FIUNET	Council Decision 2000/642/JHA of 17 October 2000 concerning arrangements for cooperation between financial intelligence units of the Member States in respect of exchanging information
SIGL	Council Regulation (EEC) No 3030/93 of 12 October 1993 on common rules for imports of certain textile products from third countries.

1.3.7.3 Communication and dissemination plan

Event	Representatives	Frequency
TESTA workshop	TESTA national experts + representatives from EU Institutions, EU Agencies and EC application owners	1 to 2 times a year
TESTA stakeholders	EU Institutions or national governments	On demand
TESTA webportal	https://demo.portal.testa.eu	

1.3.7.4 Key Performance indicators

Key performance indicators for the continuation of services of TESTA-ng are contractually defined by the service level agreements and associated penalties.

Average availability of EURODOMAIN for 2017: 99.95%

P1 Tickets: 16

P1 Tickets with breached SLA: 8

1.3.7.5 Governance approach

Organisational: TESTA workgroup with the TESTA experts of the Member States.

Technical: The network's governance approach for 2018 shall remain as is. It is fully outsourced to T-Systems whereby a SOC manages the day to day operations and a layer of specialists sits in between DIGIT and the SOC to facilitate quarterly reporting. An independent team of auditors perform the necessary controls and audit checks on the entire project scope.

For the next iteration, DIGIT is working upon a new governance structure that shall minimise costs, be more flexible whilst ensuring better control over outputs and processes.

Also a cost sharing model will be implemented to make the project financial sustainable As from end 2020

1.3.8 TECHNICAL APPROACH AND CURRENT STATUS

Currently the contract with T-Systems is active up until 06/2020. This will allow continuity of the current TESTA-ng services during one year.

It concerns all activities in providing the TESTA-ng EuroDomain network during one year including Security Operations Services, Central Domain Services to Member States, EU Institutions and EU-agencies in the execution of the different policy areas.

In order to control the quality of the provided services and adherence to the security requirement of the project, assistance services are necessary in the domains of (service provisioning, security, ITIL processes, customer relationship management.)

Activities in relation to the preparation of the future TESTA are NOT covered by this budget.

1.3.9 COSTS AND MILESTONES

1.3.9.1 Breakdown of anticipated costs and related milestones

Phase: Initiation Planning Execution Closing/Final evaluation	Description of milestones reached or to be reached	Anticipated Allocations (KEUR)	Budget line ISA/ others (specify)	Start date (QX/YYYY)	End date (QX/YYYY)
TESTA-ng continuation	Continuation of the current TESTA-ng services contract T-Systems	2600	ISA	01/2019	12/2019
TESTA-ng continuation	Assistance services to TESTA ng, contract DESIS III	1000	Other	01/2019	12/2019
TOTAL		3600			

1.3.9.2 Breakdown of ISA² funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016		2500	2500
2017		3946	
2018		2000	
2019			
2020			