

DE4A Partner Contribution Communication

On the Austria's participation in DE4A project

The Federal Computing Centre of Austria (BRZ) participates as a beneficiary in DE4A project together with its Linked Third Party, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW). Both organisations are mainly involved in the developments in WP5 and overall, in the piloting of DBA-pilot in WP4. Austria understands its participation in the project as a contribution to the preparatory work for the realisation of the Single Digital Gateway and its underlying regulation.



Georg Nessler

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Digital and
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Questions to Georg Nessler, Head of Division “eGovernment for Businesses” in DG ICT of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs

Q: What is the biggest opportunity that the OOP creates?

A: Once Only creates more than one opportunity, it is rather a bunch of opportunities. Let us split it in government internal and external opportunities, which could result in real benefits with the time. For the government internal area, we can extend and foster our attempts to automate processes, for which the Once Only Principle provides technical, juridical and organisational support. It brings up the chance to evaluate existing processes of data management at all - and this "End2End" alongside the governmental "value chain". It touches the data systems itself and could result in data harmonisation in large-scale, both nationally and European wide. That is also a reason why we are so eager to participate in European research projects, such as DE4A, because it brings up significant advantages and experiences to cope with all the challenges. We can learn a lot from other experiences in Europe and we hope we are a good partner for others as well.

To have a closer look at the external sphere we see some very important opportunities as well. The governmental internal advantages of Once Only Principle find its equivalent in the improvement of the external business processes. The more the Once Only Principle is developed and rolled out, the better for the businesses and the people, because their governmental related processes are more automated, secure and faster. The great benefits are visible in domestic governmental procedures, but even more in the European dimension.

Nonetheless, we must consider some very important points on the road to Once Only Principle in the future, for example data protection and within this we have to strengthen all efforts and specifically on data minimisation.

Q: Are there any examples of OOP in existence today that provide a blueprint for the EU?

A: Partly but yes, the road to Once Only Principle is paved to a certain extent. This does not mean that everything is tucked out, but the European and the Austrian ideas are stretched out. Alongside these lines we have pinned our strategies. The participation in European initiatives, work groups or the participation in European research projects from PEPPOL to TOOP and further to DE4A brought and still brings up huge advantages to fulfil the tasks. The European initiatives also foster the Austrian strategy and the realisations thereof. In Austria we are on the way to implement the necessary legal basis; we implement the Austrian Data Hub, a technical service bus for secure data exchange; we have connections to our main registers in the business-related eGovernment; we set up an information obligation database (IVDB) with the aim of providing a national data catalogue and, finally, we are integrating the specific Once Only use cases. Our national infrastructure will also serve as the hub for the European connections.

We share our experiences with other partners in Europe within the research projects and we also communicate our findings within the work groups, such as the SDG work groups. We are sure that the most benefits are in the cooperation of all partners involved. So, we want invite everybody to get in touch with us and exchange ideas and experiences!

Q: Given the socio/economic challenges we are facing as a result of COVID-19, how important is OPP in supporting the Digital Single Market?

A: I guess that all initiatives for strengthening the European Single Market will show positive socio-economic effects, and the Once Only Principle is a central point in reducing administrative burden for businesses and simplifying cross border activities.

As far as we see it now COVID-19 is a driver for the digital market and its future and therefore it is to expect that the recent pandemic crises will result in significant digital initiatives, and within this also for the Once Only Principle. With a more specific view, the Once Only Principle minimises the need of

physical interactions to gather information (potentially Europe-wide), so it reduces the risk of infections.