**Press Release**

Internet Voting as part of the mGov4EU Project

[Villach, November 16ᵗʰ, 2021] During the three-year project period, several mGov4EU pilot applications will be designed and implemented to validate the solution, modules, and infrastructure services. The pilot applications include internet voting, smart mobility based on subsidized taxi rides, and mobile signature. The aims of the three pilots are demonstrating cross-border mobility, cross-border collaboration, and providing additional cross-border information. The pilots are planned to demonstrate their feasibility under real-life conditions and in real life environments like internet voting for the student's council at the University of Tartu.

The special challenges of an Internet Voting Pilot

One of the most critical environments from the point of view of security and privacy in "the Digital Era" are electoral processes. Within these processes it is necessary to ensure the privacy of voters as well as the integrity of the votes, to guarantee the accuracy of the election results. However, another point that is very important is to ensure the authenticity of the voters and their eligibility in the election process, for example that they are authorized to vote in that process. Otherwise, the election integrity could be posed at risk. mGov4EU will research possibilities to ensure a unique mapping between natural persons and identifiers. In addition, in certain cases, it might be interesting to have access to some personal data of the voter for statistics. For example, it can be needed to know the election participation concerning socio-demographic variables, such as gender and age of the voters. This can be done by requesting the voter consent to access to their gender and age using the SDG Layer. In this manner, the voting system does not require a database with the personal data of all the voters and the voter does not need to manually introduce their data for statistics.

This use case consists of integrating the eIDAS authentication in the online voting system of the mGov4EU Partner Scytl, thus voters from different countries and with different eIDAS-compliant authentication tokens can authenticate seamlessly in the system for voting. In addition, the project introduces the ability to get voter personal data relevant to statistics by means of the SDG Layer.
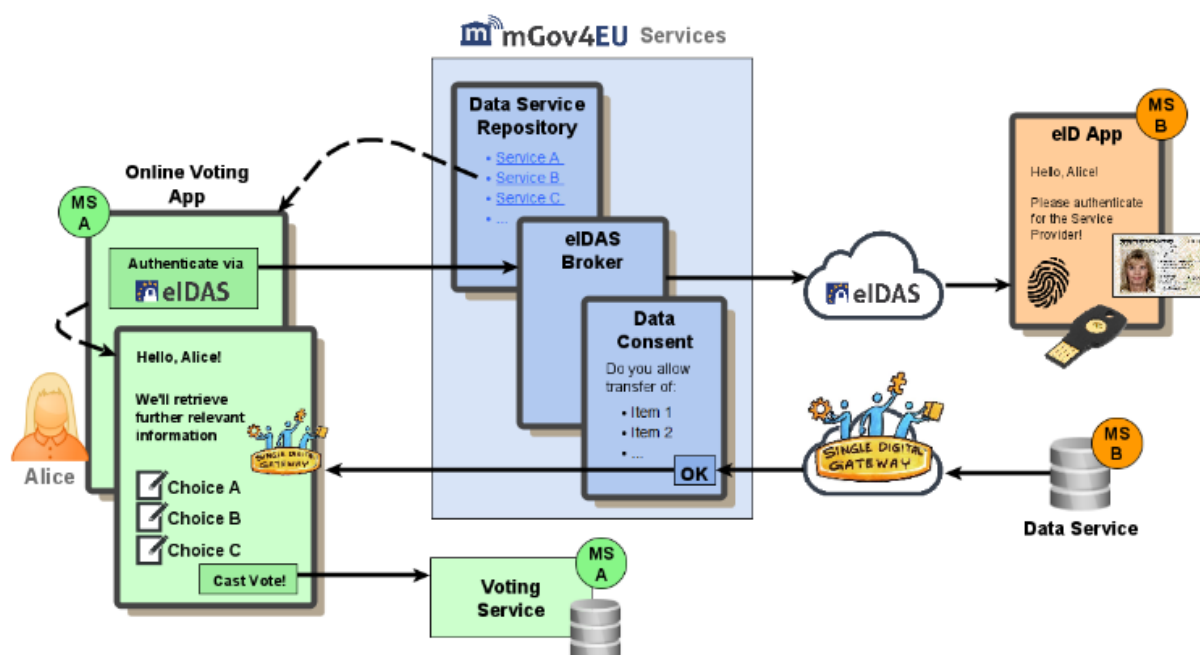
Underline: Internet Voting as part of the mGov4EU Project

The mGov4EU Way

mGov4EU tackles these challenges by evolving and transforming the existing ecosystem of technical interoperability solutions supporting the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020 and the European Interoperability Framework Implementation Strategy such that mobile-only use cases, including the authenticated cross-border access of mobile public services, become a reality. Part of this evolution will be an integration of modern mobile end-user devices into existing processes and infrastructures, which will require a critical assessment of these devices' capabilities and limitations. mGov4EU puts special focus on the eIDAS and the SDG Regulation and their respective technical implementations, which are both crucial for pan European cross-border ICT solutions in Europe and hence have been selected to be in the primary scope of mGov4EU.

The mGov4EU consortium invites all organisations and individuals interested in developing an open ecosystem for secure mobile government services to join the mGov4EU initiative.

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About the H2020 project mGov4EU

With the practical implementation of the "eIDAS regulation", which has been fully applicable since July 2016, the European Union has made great strides in recent years in successfully simplifying the cross-border online identification process for citizens. In addition, the "Single Digital Gateway (SDG)" regulation for the establishment of a uniform digital access gate for administration in the EU entered into force in December and the transition phase will end in December 2023.Afirst part of became reality at the end of 2020. After all, there is an un-broken trend towards the mobile and self-determined use of administrative ser-vices: Today, citizens expect eGovernment services to always be conveniently usable via smartphone. Against this background, the mGov4EU ("Mobile Cross-Border Government Services for Europe") project, funded by the European Union as part of the Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, has started to enable mobile cross-border administrative services in Europe. These services will be demonstrated via three different pilots.

Please refer to https://mGov4.EU for further information and latest news of the mGov4EU project.

Contact:

Dissemination & Communication Management – Press Contact

go.eIDAS e.V. (Association)
Tina Hühnlein
Judengasse 2
96215 Lichtenfels
Germany

Website: https://go.eID.AS
E-Mail: go@eID.AS
Twitter: @go_eIDAS
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8807996

Project Management – Coordination Contact

Technikon Forschungs- und Planungsgesellschaft mbH
Lisa Burgstaller-Hochenwarter
Burgplatz 3a
9500 Villach
Austria
Phone: +43 4242 23355-86
Website: https://mGov4.EU
E-Mail: coordination@mgov4eu.eu
Twitter: twitter.com/mGov4EU