**eSign ForStudy**

**CEF Telecom Calls 2020**

**CEF-TC-2020-1: eIdentification (eID) & eSignature**

**eSignForStudy**

**Project number 2020-EU-IA-0056**

**NEWSLETTER ON MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT**

# Contents

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is a summary of the deliverable "D1.4 – Progress Report" of the EU funded project eSignForStudy. The project runs from April 1$^{st}$ 2021 until September 30$^{th}$ 2022. This deliverable sets out the tasks undertaken in each of the five activities during the first 9 months of the project, (to December 2021).

The eSignForStudy project aims to address issues relating to the uptake, interoperability, and mutual recognition of electronic signatures in Poland and across the EU. The project outcomes will be of relevance and value to an array of stakeholders across different sectors.

eSignForStudy will provide a highly technical solution for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Not only will it solve the problem of storing, signing, and validating signed documents, but will also assist and enhance the process in the cross-border exchange of documents among institutions involved in student and staff mobility.

The solution will deliver eSignature services and will be accessible to HEIs and small medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will be developed based on the eSignature DSI Building Block's DSS open-source library (by incorporating the library's code).

In addition to supporting the awareness and uptake of electronic signatures, the eSignForStudy solution will boost qualified electronic signatures, thus increasing inter-operability and mutual recognition of electronic signatures across the EU.

The proposal is aligned with the strategies and activities at Polish national level, by supporting digitalization of the Higher Education Area and SMEs businesses, and on a European level, by supporting cross-border exchange and validation of signed documents.

# 2. PROGRESS REPORT ON EACH ACTIVITY

There are five main activities associated with the project and the following is a progress report update for each.

## Activity 1 – Project Management

This activity aims to ensure proper and effective management of the Action and the following is a summary of tasks to date;

- The consortium management committee is in place and consists of a representative from each partner.

- To date the project management committee has had nine meetings (face-to-face and online). Meetings are generally held once per month. In addition, a technical committee is in place, and they have held a number of online meetings and meet on average once per week.
- The financial management and reporting procedures were prepared and approved by all partners.
- Quality Control & Risk management procedures document was prepared and approved by the management committee. It is assessed by the External Reviewer and will continue to be reviewed for the duration of the project.

## Activity 2 – Design and Development of eSignForStudy

The Activity aims to design and develop the software package eSignForStudy using tools of eSignature DSI (DSS Library) for digitally signing and verifying signed documents in academic environment using public certificates for cross border recognition. Implementation effort will focus on performance and provide other features e.g., secure user certificate lifetime cycle management. The following is the status of tasks completed to date as part of this activity:

- eSignForStudy solution document describing application template, technology, and coding rules.
- Preparing a software development environment including application framework.
- Release of a sign server component of eSignForStudy on the cloud.
- Specification of APIs.

Other tasks which are in progress or due to commence are;

- Release of eSignForStudy with HSM, QA and CLC Management components.
- Release of eSignForStudy with full API implementation.
- Beta release of eSignForStudy and deployment on the cloud.
- Final release of eSignForStudy with documentation
- Develop IPR & Copyright agreements and Business Plan

## Activity 3 – Implementation of eSignForStudy with SIS and deployment

This Activity aims to integrate eSignForStudy, developed in activity 2, with the student information system University Study-Oriented System (USOS), used in the University of Warsaw. The processes, which involve signing of documents, need to be recognized, including legal aspects of signing, which are exchanged across borders. USOS needs to be adapted to support these processes, which involves the provision and storing of certificates,

and the signing of documents, either stored in the local system or exchanged with other HEIs. The request for change document will be the basis for development of the integrated solution.

The system will be reviewed and tested in the development environment, then deployed and used in the production environment for cross-border exchange of signed documents (activity 4). The necessary documentation will be produced to make the solution sustainable.

The following is the status of tasks completed to date as part of this activity:
- A report on the business processes in HEIs which involve electronic signing and handling of signatures.
- A report on changes in USOS required to integrate eSignForStudy.

Other tasks which are in progress or due to commence are;

- Pilot deployment of the integrated system and Integrated system used for cross-border.

### Activity 4 – Testing & Validation

This activity aims to test and validate the software package eSignForStudy in the real production environment, to exchange cross-border signed documents via the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) network and validate the signatures.

The design and development of the test and validation suite and the integration of the test and validation suite with EWP platform have recently commenced in December 2021.

### Activity 5 – Dissemination

The dissemination activities commenced in June 2021 and will continue for the duration of the project. To date this has included the design of the project website and arranging a number of workshops.

## 3. SUMMARY

The project is currently running according to the agreed schedule and plan.

The project is now entering the deployment stage where eSignForStudy will be integrated with the SIS, followed by testing and validation of the cross-border exchange of documents. We don't envisage any issues with the remaining deliverables and do expect the project to be successfully delivered on time in September 2022.