

# What is the Open Signature Initiative?

The non-profit *Open Signature Initiative* aims at supporting the process of implementing a single European market of trustworthy services by enhancing *transparency* and *interoperability* with respect to *electronic signature technology* and related *trust services*.

To reach this goal, the non-profit Open Signature Initiative invites all involved stakeholders to join this initiative and contribute to the implementation of a single European market for trusted services and transactions. While the initiative is open for any organisation or individual who is willing to contribute to reaching the above goal, the following group of stakeholders are especially encouraged to support the Open Signature Initiative:

- **Vendors of signature creation devices, signature application components and services** – are invited to provide information about their products and services. The description of technical features should comprise information about the supported standards (e.g. [1], [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [8], [9] and [10]) and there should be test and demo versions of the products and services which can be evaluated by interested parties to verify the interoperability claims.
- **Issuers of eID and signature creation devices** – should provide test devices and corresponding technical specifications in order to facilitate the creation of standardised capability descriptions according to [11] and [12] for example, such that the eID and signature creation devices can be used by standard compliant middleware components. If signature creation devices and certificates are issued to the public, the issuers should provide information about the implemented registration process and guidance how to perform the registration in a cross-border setting.
- **Application providers** – are invited to integrate the standardised interfaces and middleware components, signature creation devices and trust services and provide feedback and suggestions which may lead to improved future products and services.
- **Standard development organisations** – are invited to liaise with the initiative and provide information about the latest development of the relevant standards and support the interoperability tests.
- **Publicly funded projects** – are invited to liaise with the initiative, use the initiative as dissemination channel and support the interoperability tests.
- **Academic institutions** – should bring in latest scientific findings and support their proficiency to reach the above goals.



- **Associations** – are invited to liaise with the initiative and should encourage their members to support the Open Signature movement.
- **Government bodies and policy makers** – are encouraged to support the initiative in an ideational manner or by any other appropriate means.

## References

- [1] ETSI, *CMS Advanced Electronic Signatures (CAAdES)*, ETSI TS 101 733, Version 1.8.1, 2009.
- [2] ETSI, *Technical Specification XML Advanced Electronic Signatures (XAAdES)*, ETSI TS 101 903, Version 1.4.1, 2009.
- [3] ETSI, *PDF Advanced Electronic Signature Profiles (PAdES)*, ETSI TS 102 778, Part 1 - 5, 2009.
- [4] European Norm 14890-1, *Application Interface for smart cards used as Secure Signature Creation Devices -- Part 1: Basic Services*, 2009.
- [5] European Norm 14890-2, *Application Interface for smart cards used as Secure Signature Creation Devices -- Part 2: Additional Services*, 2008.
- [6] S. Drees, *Digital Signature Service Core Protocols, Elements, and Bindings*, Version 1.0, OASIS Standard, <http://docs.oasis-open.org/dss/v1.0/oasis-dss-core-spec-v1.0-os.pdf>.
- [7] J. C. Cruellas, *Advanced Electronic Signature Profiles of the OASIS Digital Signature Service Version 1.0*, Version 1.0, OASIS Standard, <http://docs.oasis-open.org/dss/v1.0/oasis-dss-profiles-AdES-spec-v1.0-os.pdf>, 2007.
- [8] D. Hühnlein, *Profile for comprehensive multi-signature verification reports for OASIS Digital Signature Services Version 1.0*, OASIS Committee Specification 01, <http://docs.oasis-open.org/dss-x/profiles/verificationreport/oasis-dssx-1.0-profiles-vr-cs01.pdf>, 2009.
- [9] T. Gondrom, R. Brandner and U. Pordesch, *Evidence Record Syntax (ERS)*, IETF RFC 4998, 2007.



- [10] A. J. Blazic, S. Saljic and T. Gondrom, *Extensible Markup Language Evidence Record Syntax (XMLERS)*, IETF RFC 6283, 2011.
- [11] CEN, Identification card systems - European Citizen Card - Part 3: Interoperability using an application interface, CEN/TS 15480-3, 2008.
- [12] ISO/IEC 24727, *Identification cards - Integrated circuit card programming interfaces - Part 3: Service Access Layer*, International Standard, 2008.