

**The original SPES applications  
utilising electronic signatures were:**

- The electronic document register and document workflow management
- Electronic management of building authorisation
- Building local tax account system
- Payments made through commercial shops
- Unified access for enterprise
- ICI Web
- SIT - Territorial System Information
- Building permits management
- Registry services
- Internal Services
- Form Server
- Payment orders with SAP
- Request for holiday entitlement
- Permission for establishment of gravestones (form server)
- Confidential documents for the city board
- The Contact Form (form server)
- E-Voting
- Internal Document Flows
- Housing payments
- Procurement
- School services
- Employment services

More information can be found at:  
<http://www.w-spes.org>



**THE PARTNERSHIP**

- Comune di Prato (Coordinator)

**Contractors:**

- Sunderland City Council
- City of Bremerhaven
- Dundee City Council
- City of Koper
- Province of Piacenza
- Province of Prato
- USL 4 of Prato

**Members:**

- Sheffield City Council
- Landeshauptstadt Saarbrücken
- Axetel Consulting
- Comune di Poggio a Caiano
- Comune di Montemurlo
- Comune di Carmignano
- Comunità Montana Val di Bisenzio

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# Setting Processes for Electronic Signature

W.SPES "Widening SPES" is supported by the EC through the eTen programme. It is seeking to remove barriers to the uptake of electronic signatures in public administrations and promoting interoperability.





# W-SPEs

Setting Processes for Electronic Signature

## Widening SPES

### What does the project promote?

Partners from cities across Europe have recognised that, for the public and private sector alike, there is a necessity to identify and prove who customers are when carrying out secure transactions online.

By using so-called 'digital certificates', a citizen can prove who they are when dealing with a council or business as easily as if they were face to face in an office. The technology behind this is proven and mature, and is known as PKI (Public Key Infrastructure).

W-SPEs will try to make its use more widespread by removing existing obstacles and helping establish common ways of working across the EU. There is a shortage of applications which need this technology. The partners have been working together on the earlier SPES project developing such applications and these will be shared with new partners joining the team. Similarly, there is a need for a certificate issued in one city to be recognisable in another. By setting processes for how these credentials should be issued to the citizen in a standardised way and by working on the technical aspects needed for such mutual recognition, progress was made. This work is to be taken forward.

The original partners were the cities of Prato, Saarbruecken and Sheffield. These have now been joined by the cities of Bremerhaven, Dundee, Koper and Sunderland along with participants from the provinces of Prato and Piacenza. A technical partner, Axetel, will provide valuable experience gained in the project EU-PKI.

The work of this project will enable many more kinds of transactions to be carried out online with full confidence that security and privacy is being taken care of. We need to create a large number of uses for the digital signature so that it becomes commonplace which will then encourage the development of further applications.

### The main goals of W-SPEs are:

- to extend the scope of SPES and to pursue improved and broader results across European countries. This process will be optimised by spreading the achieved 'know-how' across the participating countries and using the interoperability framework developed by SPES: New interactive and secure services will be implemented based on common techniques and platforms;
- to encourage mutual co-operation and replication of experiences across the participating administrations with a view to accelerating the implementation and integration of secure applications and on-line services;
- to consolidate the use of digital signature and strong authentication in the offer of services by the European Public Administrations, allowing the European citizens to share, exchange, read and recognise documents and information through the use of advanced and secure technical solutions.

### Specific objectives of W-SPEs are:

- to identify and classify the knowledge deriving from the SPES project, producing a set of guidelines (best practice and lessons learnt) and "replication tools" (i.e. specific components that can be replicated across different sites);

- to set up a number of interactive and secure electronic services which require strong authentication and/or digital signature, utilising the above-mentioned guidelines and replication tools and incorporating them into the specific environment of the participating cities;
- to consolidate the Registration Authority and cross-recognition processes needed for European interoperability of certificates, by replicating the SPES model and implementing the EUPKI results, the goal being to ensure that a certificate released in one country by a trusted third party can be accepted all over Europe.

W-SPEs will also involve clusters of entities operating in the same geographical area or having a close cooperation in their work. One of the main obstacles in the diffusion of digital signature is in fact the lack of a critical mass of users: as long as the services requiring the digital signature are few and scarcely used, users will not change their habits, even if equipped with all the necessary tools, and will continue to use the traditional channels of interaction. The specific composition of the W-SPEs consortium will therefore tackle this issue by helping to create large numbers of users and strongly encourage them to introduce the digital signature technology massively.

W-SPEs will also take into account the recent studies on the legal and market issues of digital signatures, and the lessons learnt from its own experience.

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