

# TED ESPD Annual Seminar Summary

## Publications Office – ESPD EDM

Seminar Date/Time:	2021-12-02 14:00 – 17:00
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### Summary of Seminar Objectives

- Introduce the ESPD evolution during 2021
- Introduce the ESPD next steps

### Seminar Agenda

- Introduction
- ESPD-EDM v3.0.0 summary
- GitHub: Online workspace reorganisation and documentation revision
- ESPD-EDM v3.0.0 data model
- eCertis
- ESPD-EDM & eCertis
- Update of UUIDs for repeatable subgroups
- Next steps
- Questions and answers (Q&A)

## Seminar Report

### Introduction

The regulatory context, as well as main benefits, history and the current situation of the ESPD implementation were presented.

### ESPD-EDM v3.0.0 summary

The main updates included in the ESPD-EDM v3.0.0, released in April 2021, were briefly presented:

- eForms alignment:
  - Lot management:
    - eForms lot management has been adopted in the ESPD model to facilitate the mapping and the reuse of information from eForms in the ESPD.
    - UBL version has been upgraded to UBL-2.3. This update:
      - Allows the ESPD-EDM model to use the same UBL version as eForms;
      - Provides the means to establish a link between lots and criteria.
  - Lot and group of lots identifiers: The logic used in eForms to identify lots and groups of lots has been replicated in the ESPD-EDM. In this way, lot reference is completely transparent between the ESPD-EDM and eForms and no further mapping is needed.
- Technical code lists:
  - EvaluationMethodType and WeightingType code lists have been removed from the model.
  - ResponseDataType code list has been updated: code WEIGHT\_INDICATOR and code LOT\_IDENTIFIER have been removed.
- Criteria:
  - Only the EXTENDED version is represented, which includes the Regulation and allows the buyer to detail the information needed from the EO.
  - The ESPD Request contains Part I – Information concerning the procurement procedure and the contracting authority or contracting entity, Part III - Exclusion grounds and Part IV - Selection criteria.
  - The ESPD Response contains all parts: Part I – Information concerning the procurement procedure and the contracting authority or contracting entity, Part II – Information concerning the economic operator, Part III - Exclusion grounds, Part IV - Selection criteria, Part V - Reduction of the number of qualified candidates (only for multiple-stage procedures) and Part VI - Concluding statements.
  - The “set-up” of an economic operator is provided as a sub-criterion within two criteria: “Specific turnover” and “General turnover”. This is used when the economic operator needs to justify that due to “not having enough years of experience”, cannot meet the requirements established in the criteria for specific and general turnover ([issue 202](#) in the GitHub).
  - The lot information introduced in version 2 of the ESPD in Part III and Part IV has been removed, because with the new model a specific ESPD Response document is created per each lot of the procurement procedure. As well this reduces the complexity of the ESPD EDM ([issue 140](#) in the GitHub).
  - To align v3.0.0 with eCertis, only sections “A-criminal convictions” and “B-payment of taxes” of Part III have been defined as mandatory, leaving all other exclusion grounds as non-mandatory in the ESPD-EDM model ([issue 253](#) in the GitHub).
  - Regarding general turnover within the selection criteria, the criterion has been changed to better reflect its use: PropertyDataType has been updated to QUANTITY\_YEAR and a new QUESTION has been added to define a common threshold ([issue 265](#) in the GitHub).
  - Criteria for Defence and Utilities have been removed – they may be reintroduced when eCertis covers these domains ([issue 223](#) in the GitHub).
  - Multiple cardinality for references within selection criteria have been introduced, allowing economic operator to provide more than one reference ([issue 267](#) in the GitHub).
  - An ON\* code type has been provided to criterion “Other economic or financial

requirements” to have an element code for all QUESTION\_SUBGROUPs in selection criteria ([issue 270](#) in the GitHub).

- All selection criteria have been updated with a new question: “Does the economic operator fulfil the criteria by itself?” to add granularity and allow economic operators to specify whether the economic operator covers each criterion by itself or needs to rely on other entities ([issue 249](#) in the GitHub).
- Validation tool:
  - New validation rules:
    - Validation of UBL-2.3;
    - Validation of exclusion grounds in Part III, to set sections “A-criminal convictions” and “B-payment of taxes” as mandatory;
    - Validation of the lot management to ensure that both the Request and the Responses contain the correct lot linking within the selection criteria, and that all exclusion grounds are common to all lots.
  - Validation rules removed:
    - Validation for code lists that are no longer used;
    - Distinction between the BASIC and the EXTENDED ESPD-EDM documents.
- Online documentation: Documentation has been reorganised and information available has been tailored to specific audiences through two handbooks:
  - Business handbook, with an overview of the ESPD context; and
  - Technical handbook, which provides technical support for the implementation of the ESPD.

#### **GitHub: Online workspace reorganisation and documentation revision**

The work conducted regarding the new GitHub and Online workspace reorganisation and documentation revision was presented.

The ESPD-EDM GitHub has been migrated to an OP-administered repository (<https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/>).

Links to the most relevant areas of the ESPD-EDM were provided:

- Issues (<https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/issues>):
  - Issues have been imported from the previous repository, so the track of previous work and discussions is not lost.
  - Users can access both open and closed issues from the GitHub issues page.
  - The issues area is public, but it is necessary to be registered and logged to participate in the debate with the Open User Community and create new issues or comment on ongoing issues.
- Distribution Package (<https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM>). The reorganisation of the repository provides better access to artifacts available:
  - Users can access the distribution package for the ongoing work through the master branch;
  - Previous releases of the ESPD are accessible through the correspondent “tags”.

The content of the distribution package has not been changed, only the access to the files. Work is still ongoing.
- Online documentation (<https://docs.ted.europa.eu/ESPD-EDM/3.0.0/index.html>):
  - Documentation has been separated from the distribution package to facilitate its maintenance and evolution.
  - Documentation is now provided in a separate repository that will allocate the documentation of the different versions of the ESPD-EDM.
  - Only maintained versions are available. Content is still being updated.

Usability changes have also been implemented. Access to the new Git usage methodology, which provides a set of generic evolution recommendations and semantic versioning of artefacts based on GitFlow, was provided (<https://docs.ted.europa.eu/git-versioning-methodology/git-methodology/latest/>).

#### **ESPD-EDM v3.0.0 data model**

The ESPD-EDM v3.0.0 data model was presented, which is aimed at easing the understanding of the whole ESPD-EDM and show the relationships with vocabularies and ontologies like the eProcurement Ontology.

The ESPD-EDM data model is provided in a unique file that contains two packages:

- Technical-Oriented View (TOV): reflects the UBL elements used in the ESPD-EDM with their attributes and the datatype for each attribute and reflects the needs of a technical implementation;
- Business-Oriented View (BOV): provides the same information but oriented to business users.

Technical and Business views are linked through cross-references between models.

The diagrams of the data model represent version 3.0.0 of the ESPD and include only those elements that are used in the ESPD, as well as the cardinalities and the classes with the corresponding attributes.

The ESPD-EDM data model is currently available in the GitHub in different formats (it will be updated for the version 3.0.1 and will be moved to the documentation):

- EAP file: [https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/master/data-model/ESPD\\_EDM\\_DataModel\\_TOV-BOV.eapx](https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/master/data-model/ESPD_EDM_DataModel_TOV-BOV.eapx)
- XMI file: [https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/master/data-model/ESPD-EDM-DataModel\\_TOV-BOV.xmi](https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/master/data-model/ESPD-EDM-DataModel_TOV-BOV.xmi)
- HTML file: [https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/master/data-model/ESPD-EDM-DataModel\\_TOV-BOV.html](https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/master/data-model/ESPD-EDM-DataModel_TOV-BOV.html) (the link provided in the Seminar's presentation was not correct. Correct link to the HTML file: <https://docs.ted.europa.eu/ESPD-EDM/3.0.1/attachments/ESPD-data-model-html/index.html>)

The presentation was enriched with a brief live tour of the data model file.

### eCertis

Relevant aspects of eCertis, as well as a summary of its history and evolution, current situation and expected next steps in the near future were presented.

The latest version of eCertis is able to cater for different domains. Currently, both eCertis and the ESPD cater for the classical Directive (Directive 2014/24/EU) but eCertis will be used for other Procurement Directives as well:

- Directive 2014/23/EU on the award of concession contracts;
- Directive 2014/25/EU on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors;
- Directive 2009/81/EC on the coordination of procedures for the award of certain works contracts, supply contracts and service contracts by contracting authorities or entities in the fields of defence and security.

The latest version of eCertis also allows for the creation of eCertis scenarios to distinguish between works, services or supplies and Procurement Directives.

The meeting was enriched with a brief live tour of eCertis.

### ESPD-EDM & eCertis

A proposed solution for a better alignment between the ESPD and eCertis was presented.

Currently, information concerning criteria is maintained both in eCertis and in the ESPD Service, which means that the same information is duplicated and maintained in parallel.

The proposed solution is to retrieve information provided in eCertis by the Member States and reuse it in the ESPD. This way, information would be maintained only in eCertis. This is important in the future as the ESPD currently only caters for the classical Directive, and therefore the ESPD should take advantage of eCertis and retrieve the information on the other Directives that will become available in eCertis.

### Update of UUIDs for repeatable subgroups

A proposal to update the current UUIDs used for repeatable subgroups was presented. UUIDs are currently dynamically generated every time a new ESPD Request is created and are used for the identification of requirements and questions within the Request. When the multiplicity of requirements and questions within a criterion is greater than one, it is not possible to have a fixed identification. UUIDs cannot be reused from previous procurement procedures because they are generated with the creation of every new Request.

The proposal is to reduce the randomness by defining fixed identifiers for requirements and questions and to replace the actual dynamic UUIDs with SHA224 hash values. This would allow the codification of responses while facilitating its reuse.

The proposed solution implies defining a pattern that allows matching questions with the criteria they belong to, as well as defining a question identifier that facilitates traceability between the Request and the Response. This proposal improves the readability of the responses by adding a fixed identifier, eases the reuse of

information and is aligned with the once-only principle, and guarantees that all identifiers are defined in one ESPD Request document. However, this solution is more complex than the current one and might entail performance risks, it breaks compatibility with previous versions and requires additional maintenance.

A detailed example of the proposed solution was presented.

An alternative solution was submitted on GitHub ([issue 312](#)). The author will present it in the next OUC Meeting.

### Next steps

Next steps for the ESPD-EDM were presented and the different version types foreseen in the Governance were explained:

- Patch: editorial changes, additional clarifications or small bug fixes;
- Minor release: modifications or additions of elements that do not affect deeply the ESPD-EDM;
- Major release: fundamental aspects of the ESPD-EDM are affected.

The scheduled next releases of the ESPD are:

- V3.0.1 (patch) in January 2022, with:
  - Reorganisation of the GitHub;
  - Update of cardinalities in the documentation;
  - Update of cardinalities in the example files.
- V3.1.0 (minor release) in June 2022, with:
  - Reorganisation of the documentation;
  - Enforce validation of mandatory fields;
  - Validate all code lists;
  - Changes in Criterion codes to enable retrieval of data from eCertis;
  - Removal of CEN references (as the CEN references use UBL 2.2 rather than 2.3);
  - Implement the ESCO occupation code list as genericcode.

Potential evolutions of the ESPD are under discussion:

- Changes in the UUID;
- Guidelines for the retrieval of criterion from eCertis.

These topics will be discussed with the Open User Community, as well as any other question deemed relevant for the next releases of the ESPD.

The next OUC meeting is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.

### Questions and answers (Q&A)

- Where can the presentation slides be found?

Presentation slides will be available in the wiki:

[https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/wgm-reports/ESPD%20Annual%20Seminar/2021\\_ESPD\\_Annual\\_Seminar\\_Presentation.pdf](https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM/blob/wgm-reports/ESPD%20Annual%20Seminar/2021_ESPD_Annual_Seminar_Presentation.pdf)

- Do the principles and procedures outlined in the ESPD-EDM Governance document of April still apply, including the suggested release plan?

The Governance Agreement made at the beginning still applies. About the release plan, it was detailed in section “Next steps”.

- Does the Publication Office have any plans to release similar information packages for the business-oriented view and technical-oriented view for the eForms?

During the [TED eSenders Seminar](#) 2021 the eForms were discussed and this question was addressed. Minutes will be released soon.

- Is it mandatory for Member States to update the data in eCertis?

Yes, it is part of the Procurement Directives: any update on the Procurement Law or on the criteria shall be reflected by the Member States in eCertis.

- Is there documentation regarding APIs available in eCertis?

Documentation regarding the API was showed during the eCertis presentation. The documentation is available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/tools/ecertis/#/about>

- Is there any information regarding eCertis similar to the one for ESPD-EDM?

No, there is not a data model available for eCertis, since eCerts provides high-level information but not taxonomy or criteria in itself.

- A change in eCertis criterion description would imply a change in the criterion description in the ESPD?

Theoretically yes. If the data is updated by the Member States in the criterion in eCertis, this information should be of course also updated in the ESPD.

- Are all criteria in eCertis and in the ESPD are aligned. Will be alignment granted in the future?

Alignment in the future will become even closer, specially when eCertis and the ESPD are used for different Directives it makes sense to move to a more flexible taxonomy when it comes to criteria. The two will work closer together.

**Slido**

The information on the Slido is available in the video of the Seminar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42wnvaMihvI>