

Federation Policy



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1. Introduction

This policy is the document on which the Federation created for the exchange of authentication and authorisation information between Estonian educational and research institutions is based.

1.1. Objectives

The objective of the Federation is to simplify the cross-usage of services between its members by extending the validity of the electronic personal or service identity issued by one member for the entire Federation.

TAAT, the central service of the authentication and authorisation infrastructure between Estonian educational and research institutions that is provided by the Estonian Education and Research Network (EENet), was created for the achievement of the Federation's goals.

1.2. Participants

The members of the Federation are institutions that have entered into the relevant contracts with EENet, and EENet itself.

A Federation Member is a legal entity that participates in the Federation in the role of an **Identity Provider (IdP)** by creating, managing and closing the electronic user accounts of the natural persons associated with them, i.e. the **End Users** (students, lecturers, employees, etc.) and the data related to such user accounts.

A Federation Member may also perform the role of **Service Provider (SP)** by offering services to the Federation's End Users.

A Federation Partner is a legal entity that participates in the Federation only in the role of Service Provider.

1.3. Documents

The Federation Policy defines the nature, administration and structure of the Federation by defining the procedures and conditions that regulate the communication of authentication and authorisation information between Service Providers and Identity Providers.

The Identity Assurance Profile and the Technological Profile are inseparable parts of the Federation Policy.

The Identity Assurance Profile describes the requirements set for the data moving between the participants of the Federation. The Identity Assurance Profile is independent of the technologies used and based on valid standards.

The Technological Profile describes the technologies, forms and procedures used in data communications.

All documents are available on the TAAT website (<http://taat.edu.ee>).

2. Administration and roles

2.1. Technical Committee

The technical contact persons of the Federation Members and Partners form the Technical Committee that is competent to initiate technical and functional changes in TAAT.

The Technical Committee has an advisory role in the amendment of the Federation Policy.

2.2. TAAT service provider – EENet

EENet checks that Federation Members and the institutions that want to join the Federation are eligible to become Federation Members and publishes the list of Federation Members and Partners on the TAAT website.

EENet amends the Federation Policy as necessary.

EENet proceeds from the principle of using the minimal amount of personal data.

2.3. Identity provider (IdP)

Institutions that are eligible to become clients of EENet according to the Statutes of EENet may become Identity Providers. The Identity Provider must enter into the relevant service contract with EENet in order to use the TAAT service.

The Identity Provider must maintain an up-to-date Identity Administration Report, which describes the practical implementation of the requirements set in the Identity Assurance Profile in its organisation. EENet must be notified in writing of any amendments in the Identity Administration Report.

The Identity Provider must inform the End Users associated with them about the procedure for use of TAAT and offer user support if necessary.

2.4. Service provider (SP)

Every Service Provider must enter into a service provision contract with EENet.

Institutions that provide education and research services to the Federation's End Users may become Service Providers.

3. Procedures

3.1. Identity Provider's Federation membership

In order to become a member of the Federation the institution that wants to become an Identity Provider must connect its identity administration system with the TAAT test

environment and send a written membership application with its Identity Administration Report to EENet.

EENet then checks the performance of the requirements set in the Identity Assurance Profile on the basis of the Identity Administration Report and the functionality of the system in the test environment, and makes amendment proposals to the institution that wants to join.

If the requirements have been met, then EENet and the institution sign a service contract, or a new annex if a contract already exists, about the institution becoming a TAAT Identity Provider.

3.2. Service is linked to Federation

The institution that wants to become a service provider must make its service function in the TAAT test environment and submit a written application to EENet in order to join the Federation.

EENet then checks that the service functions in the test environment and makes amendment proposals if necessary.

If the requirements have been met, then EENet and the institution sign a service contract, or a new annex if a contract already exists, about the institution becoming a TAAT Service Provider.

3.3. Suspension of Federation membership

If it is ascertained that a Federation Participant is in breach of contract or there is a conflict with the Federation Policy, then EENet will inform the technical contact person of the relevant party thereof in writing.

EENet has the right to immediately suspend TAAT services for the responsible party to avoid jeopardising other Federation Participants.

Federation membership remains suspended until the breach is eliminated or participation in the Federation is terminated.

3.4. Leaving the Federation

A Federation Member or Partner may leave the Federation by terminating the contract annex(es) entered into with EENet and separation of the relevant services or Identity Providers from the TAAT system.

3.5. Amendment of Federation Policy

Amendment of the Federation Policy or parts thereof may be initiated by members of the Technical Committee or EENet. All amendment proposals are sent to members of the Technical Committee and EENet prepares the new version of the Federation Policy, unless such proposed amendments are disputed.

All amendments to the Federation Policy enter into force one month after the publication of the new version and sending the relevant notice to Federation Members and Partners.

4. Fees

Use of the TAAT service is free for Identity Providers and the services offered free of charges. EENet has the right to charge for services subject to charge on the basis of the TAAT service price list.

Other parties are not permitted to charge each other for the TAAT service.

A Federation Member or Partner covers all of their expenses related to connecting their system to the TAAT system as well as testing the system and keeping it going.

5. Liability

Federation Participants must abide by the legislation of the Republic of Estonia in their activities, especially the Personal Data Protection Act.

A Federation Member must guarantee that the data they have communicated to the Service Provider is correct pursuant to the Identity Assurance Profile. EENet is not liable for the correctness of the communicated data.

EENet is not liable for the damages caused to Federation Members, Partners or End Users with the use of the service.

EENet is not liable for stoppages and breakdowns in the authentication service provided by Identity Providers.

No damages are claimed from Federation Participants in relation to stoppages, breakdowns or other problems in the work of the Federation.

6. Interfederation

EENet has the right to enter into contracts with the federations and federation associations of other countries, which are the basis for enabling connection between TAAT and the Identity and Service Providers of foreign federations.

The participation of Federation Members or Partners in said associations and the volume of such participation are determined in the contract entered into with EENet. There is no data exchange outside TAAT, unless the relevant clause is included in the contract.