

D5.5 – Proposal for a permanent mechanism to facilitate the sharing of EU-CEG data

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Table of contents

Executive summary	3
Background	3
Proposal of permanent mechanism	3
Data protection	3
Requirements for the sharing of EU-CEG data	3
Requirements for the sharing of EU-CEG data after completion of the JATC Project	4
Data sharing protocol	4
Data sharing protocol after completion of the JATC project	4
Conclusion	5

Executive summary

One of the main tasks of Work Package 5 (WP5) in the Joint Action on Tobacco Control (JATC) project is to facilitate data sharing after the completion of the JATC project with the Member States. The permanent structure for data sharing that this report recommends builds upon the framework for data sharing as described in report 5.3 from WP5. In report 5.3, specific guidelines for requesting sharing and handling data from the EU-CEG within the Joint action on Tobacco Control are delineated. This report advocates maintaining the existing solution, that is currently in use, for sharing data across Member States. This report will also elaborate on the necessary steps to continue sharing data after the completion of the JATC project.

Background

This report builds upon the solution proposed for securely accessing and processing data from EU-CEG in deliverable 5.3 in WP5. This report finds the proposed solution synthesises and addresses the issues pertaining to secure data sharing and implements the necessary steps for compliance with applicable laws and regulations for such data sharing. This report therefore suggests that authorities who receive EU-CEG data follow the outlined guidelines in WP 5.3 after completion of the project.

This report also elaborates on the necessary adjustments required for the procedure to continue sharing data after the end of the Joint Action on Tobacco Control (JATC) project. This report recognises the current function for sharing EU-CEG data as very useful and recommends with slight amendments the continued use of said function.

Proposal of permanent mechanism

Data protection

Data sharing agreements pertain to the regulatory constraints that form the conditions for proper data sharing in a responsible and correct manner.

Procedures for data sharing are detailed in report WP5 D.5.3 - *Technical solution for securely accessing and processing public non-confidential data*, under the section entitled *Procedure for sharing data-in six steps*. These steps comprise in a *data sharing framework*. A data sharing framework typically consists of project agreements, training, application procedures, data protection, data and meta-data descriptions, financial models, support and research services.

The JATC data sharing procedures are procedures that contain the steps for the sharing of data between leaders of the WP6, WP7 and WP9 and Member States.

Requirements for the sharing of EU-CEG data

The correct and secure handling of data is subject to the terms and conditions presented by report WP5 D.5.3 - *Technical solution for securely accessing and processing public non-confidential data*. It is in the interest of all Member States to adhere to the guidelines proposed in WP5.3 after completion of the project.

According to WP5.3, participating bodies are subject to data sharing agreements that stipulate obligations concerning product information exchange and other compliance issues. For a more complete brief on the agreement governing the handling, sharing and downloading of EU-CEG data, this report refers to the report from WP5 deliverable 5.3. This report recommends that Member States consider using the data sharing agreement as an optional protocol for the handling and sharing of EU-CEG data after completion of the project.

Requirements for the sharing of EU-CEG data after completion of the JATC Project

After completion of the project, In cases where Member States other than those participating in the JATC project wish to receive data from EU-CEG, the requesting Member State should request permission to receive the data from the Member State or Member States they wish to receive the data from.

Competent Authorities that have participated in the JATC project and acted as liaison office for EU-CEG will continue to be the main point of contact for Member States. If another Competent Authority within the Member State wishes to receive data, this will have to be facilitated by the Member State's liaison office for the EU-CEG system.

This report proposes that all parties wanting to receive and process data after the completion of the JATC project could use the data sharing agreement as a template for a voluntary agreement between the two entities sharing data. The data sharing agreement should therefore be available for Member States to embed in practice if they so desire.

Data sharing protocol

The current data sharing protocol starts with a data request to the JATC secretariat by leaders of WP6, WP7 and WP9. The JATC secretariat then sends an official request to DG Sante who generate selected data files. Following this step, each national administrator of EU-CEG of all Member States, that data is requested from, is notified through an email from the JATC secretariat. Thereafter, DG Sante validates the original request and generates the dataset requested, appertaining to each individual Member State as specified in the original request. Once this data is generated, the data specific for each Member State becomes available for download to that Member State. Downloadable formats available are XML, CSV. It should be noted, that at this point the data has not been shared with other Member States.

It is after this stage that each country who have had a request for a dataset, either selects Spain, Greece and/or the Netherlands to share their data with (WP6, WP7 and WP9), after which Spain, Greece and the Netherlands can then access the data themselves through their MS-REP user access.

Data sharing protocol after completion of the JATC project

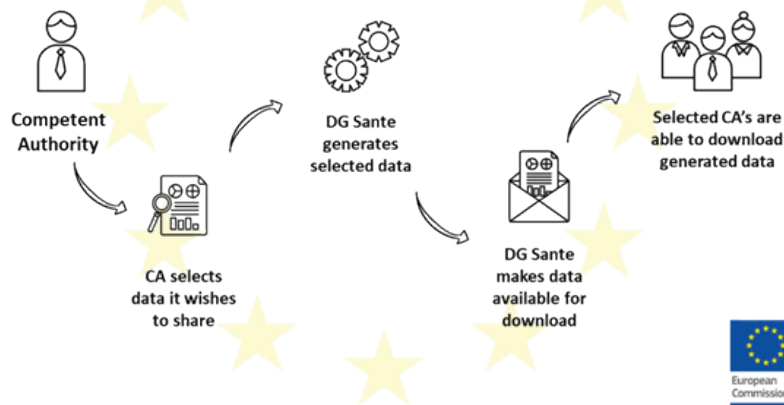
This report recommends using the existing solution in the EU-CEG system that allows Member States to share datasets with each other. After completion of the JATC project, the protocol for sharing data should be adapted, to enable the sharing of data with all relevant parties.

After adaptation in the protocol for sharing data, it would be altered in such a way as to provide the following foundation for a working practice:

- a Member State selects the data it wishes to share/ it then selects the country it wishes to share it with.
- a Member State sends a request to DG Sante, requesting that they generate the selected data and make that data available to the selected country for download.

This in short, means if Denmark wishes to share data regarding chewing tobacco with Sweden. Denmark would in this case cf. the procedure specified, send a request to DG Sante to share the desired data with Sweden.

PROCEDURE FOR SHARING EU-CEG DATA AFTER THE JATC PROJECT



Conclusion

This report focuses on a recommendation for a permanent mechanism for sharing EU-CEG data across Member States after the completion of the JATC project. This report acknowledges the existing function which has enhanced operational efficiency through its data sharing capabilities and created added value for the JATC Member States. This report therefore recommends the continued use of the existing data sharing function in EU-CEG.

This report recommends that Member States consider using the data sharing agreement as an optional protocol for the handling and sharing of EU-CEG data after completion of the project.

This report recommends maintaining the existing solution in the EU-CEG system to further the goal of sharing data across Member States after completion of the JATC project. Simply put, this means when a Member State wishes to share data with another country, they select the data and the country they wish to share it with. The Member State then sends a request to DG Sante, requesting that they generate the selected data and make the data available to the selected country.