Facts sheet
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J1 Functional Area Service (J1 FAS)
EDA Software Application Supporting EU CSDP Missions and Operations

The European Defence Agency (EDA) developed a software tool to help the J1 (personnel) branch of EU headquarters manage the in-processing and out-processing of personnel at all phases of a CSDP operation. First demonstrated in 2012, the project showed a method of quickly mapping routine HQ processes and enabling an application to be immediately designed and demonstrated. The tool called J1 FAS (J1 Functional Area Service) has been refined to prototype and trialled within the Operation Headquarters of EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia. Since the end of 2016, it has been accepted as an operational tool. The J1 FAS is also currently under evaluation in an Operational Field Trial within the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali).

From an operational point of view, J1 FAS allows much more accurate and faster in-processing of personnel coming from Member States all over Europe. These augmented staff can access the J1 FAS via a protected internet link before they deploy and provide the HQ with all the data they need to enable speedy integration within the HQ. J1 FAS also allows important management information to be synthesised from the database.

From a technical point of view, J1 FAS is based on the workflow management systems developed by Technische Universiteit Eindhoven and the Queensland University of Technology. The business processes of in-processing and out-processing are modelled using a graphical notation (see below) that can be directly enacted. This implies that work is distributed to the users exactly as depicted in the diagram. Thus, the diagram is always an up-to-date documentation of the process and the J1 FAS can be adapted to a new way of working by "a few mouse clicks". This feature has been proven successful in the initial development phase of the J1 FAS and is now an enabler for continuous process improvement at a reasonable cost.

Operational Process Mapping

From a technical perspective, the workflow management system YAWL is embedded into the Liferay portal. Liferay is the leading open-source portal solution used by very large enterprises around the world. Liferay features a highly configurable user interface with portlets (see below), sophisticated user management and a simple document management system. In a web application security check
of J1 FAS performed by CERTEU it was stated that Liferay is an excellent choice in terms of security.

J1 FAS on the Screen

The high security standard of J1 FAS offers headquarters and organisers of military exercises the additional possibility of using J1 FAS as a service. This greatly reduces the time and effort to set up the system. Together with the Excel import facility of J1 FAS the set up can be done in just a few days, making the tool very flexible.

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