

Public

SEPA Payment Account Access (SPAA) scheme tactical pilot

1 Introduction

The European Payments Council (EPC) is launching a public ‘call for interest’ to allow Asset Holders (i.e., Account-Servicing Payment Service Providers (ASPSPs)) and Asset Brokers (e.g., Payment Initiation Service Providers or Account Information Service Providers) to indicate their intent to participate in the **SEPA Payment Account Access (SPAA) scheme ‘tactical’ pilot**, which is expected to start in September 2024.

Asset Holders and Asset Brokers that are interested in participating in the SPAA scheme tactical pilot are kindly invited to complete and submit this form via email to SPAA@epc-cep.eu by 24 June 2024, midnight Brussels time.

2 Purpose

The 28 February 2024 SPAA Scheme Piloting Workshop¹ identified the need for a two-stage piloting process. As a result, it was decided to schedule a ‘tactical’ pilot (with a rather simple and limited scope and without substantial budget requirements for the participants) in a relatively short timeframe, followed by a ‘strategic’ pilot (more complex and extended scope and requiring a dedicated budget allocation) at a later stage.

The main reasons for launching a ‘tactical pilot’ are as follows:

- To gain momentum and demonstrate to the market that SPAA is moving forward.
- To obtain insight on what it takes to migrate from PSD2 compliance to SPAA compliant APIs.
- To encourage stakeholder engagement and collaboration.
- To provide a ‘preliminary proof of concept’.
- To prepare for an extended ‘strategic pilot’ foreseen to take place in 2025.

In an effort to lower pilot participation barriers as much as possible, the SPAA MSG agreed on the following key principles:

- Being a SPAA scheme participant is not a requirement to join the tactical pilot.
- Participants are free to choose which functionalities they would like to implement as part of the tactical pilot (please see item 3 ‘Scope’).
- The advice is not to charge SPAA scheme Default Fees², but participants are free to agree among themselves.

¹ <https://www.europeanpaymentscouncil.eu/document-library/minutes-and-agendas/minutes-sepa-payment-account-access-spaa-scheme-piloting>

² <https://www.europeanpaymentscouncil.eu/document-library/other/version-10-spaa-scheme-default-fees>



- The tactical pilot will be based on version 1.0 of the Berlin Group's openFinance API Framework.³
- Pilot phase related risks are to be covered by internal risk frameworks.

3 Scope

The proposed tactical pilot scope shown below consists of functionalities that can be implemented based on version 1.0 of the openFinance API Framework:

- One-off payments + payment guarantee.
- List of payment (current) accounts.
- List of payment (current) account transactions.

However, it is important to note that an Asset Holder is free to implement - as part of the tactical pilot - any other premium functionality that is covered in v1.1 of the SPAA scheme rulebook (e.g., dynamic recurring payments).

4 Timeline

A three-month tactical pilot phase is foreseen to commence in September 2024 (subject to the outcome of this call for interest).

A strategic pilot phase is anticipated for 2025 (subject to inter alia EPC Board approval).

³ Following the outcome of a 'call for interest' launched by the EPC in March 2024, the conclusion is that the Berlin Group is currently the only API standardisation initiative that has developed relevant API specifications for SPAA (<https://www.europeanpaymentscouncil.eu/news-insights/news/call-interest-development-sepa-payment-account-access-compliant-api>).