


Official Gazette Portal - A new publication platform for official publications by the federal government, cantons and municipalities




Anmelden



**Kanton Zürich  
Amtsblatt**

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Willkommen  
beim Amtsblatt  
des Kantons Zürich

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**Publizieren** ↗  
Meldungen werden neu über das Amtsblattportal erfasst.

After more than two years of conception and development, the „Official Gazette Portal“ of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has been online since 3 September 2018. The new official gazette portal serves as a neutral data hub for official and economically relevant announcements. Notifications are delivered and published in various output channels. Currently, the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce (SHAB), the Official Gazette of the Canton of Zurich and the Canton Gazette of Basel City are published via the portal. The innovative publication platform is a prime example of state-of-the-art e-government applications.

#### THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE PORTAL PROJECT AT A GLANCE

2015	Project call for proposals
Spring 2016	Beginning of the project setup
August 2016	Start of the development phase
January 2018	Provision of an integration environment for the new office gazette portal for tests and implementation of the interfaces by the reporting offices
2 July 2018	Official launch of the official gazette portal ( <a href="http://www.amtsblattportal.ch">www.amtsblattportal.ch</a> ) – notification that are to be published after 3 September can already be drafted
3 September 2018	Official commissioning and activation of the new web portal of the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce ( <a href="http://shab.ch">shab.ch</a> ) and the Official Gazette of the Canton of Zurich ( <a href="http://amtsblatt.zh.ch">amtsblatt.zh.ch</a> )
January 2019	Activation of the Canton Gazette of Basel City

## The Client

The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) with headquarters in Bern is a federal authority of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (WBF). As a competence centre of the Swiss Confederation for economic and labour market policy, it is responsible for the general regulatory and economic policy conditions for sustainable economic growth.

With the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce (SHAB), SECO publishes one of the most important economic publications in Switzerland. Here, all economically relevant official information and legally prescribed announcements for trade, commerce, services and industry can be published nationwide - from commercial register entries to insolvency reports to searches for legitimate heirs.

SHAB was first published on 6 January 1883. From then on, it appeared in printed form on an almost daily basis. In 2001, the notifications were published on the internet for the first time at [www.shab.ch](http://www.shab.ch) - the „SHAB“ acronym, which has now become a brand, was born. In 2006, the electronic form was declared legally binding. At the end of 2017, the last printed edition was published - since then, the information has exclusively been available in electronic form. All notifications are signed with a qualified electronic signature. Today, SHAB publishes between 1200 and 1500 immediately legally effective notifications in German, English, French, and Italian, thus reaching approximately 70,000 users every day.

<p>————— <b>THE SWISS CONFEDERATION</b></p> <p>Customer: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)          Industry: Public administration          Country: Switzerland          Web: <a href="http://www.seco.admin.ch">www.seco.admin.ch</a></p>	 <p>The Swiss Confederation          Confédération suisse          Confederazione Svizzera          Confederaziun svizra</p> <p>Federal Department of Economic Affairs,          Education and Research WBF  <b>State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO</b></p>
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## The Challenge

To date, notifications have been delivered and published via [www.shab.ch](http://www.shab.ch) using electronic forms or directly via interfaces. In 2012, the Official Gazette of the Canton of Zurich was produced using the same technology.

After a service life of 14 years, despite constant further development the applications reached the end of their life cycle. Therefore, in 2015, SECO issued a call for proposals to develop a portal for official notifications. At the same time, the SHAB website and the website of the Official Gazette of Zurich were to be modernised. Based on many years of expertise in the development of modern web portals and the digital transformation of business processes in companies and public administrations at municipal, cantonal and federal level, SECO decided to cooperation with the digitalisation experts from mimacom.

At the beginning of the project, there were no detailed specifications yet, but rather a vision: a neutral portal for official publications was to be created, which could be used by all federal levels. Data was to be easily delivered and obtained in different formats.

Moreover, cost considerations also played an important role in the implementation of the new platform. The configuration adopted for the printed gazettes offers potential savings. Further cost reductions are to be expected, as the development and operating costs of the participating official gazettes/cantons will be borne jointly.

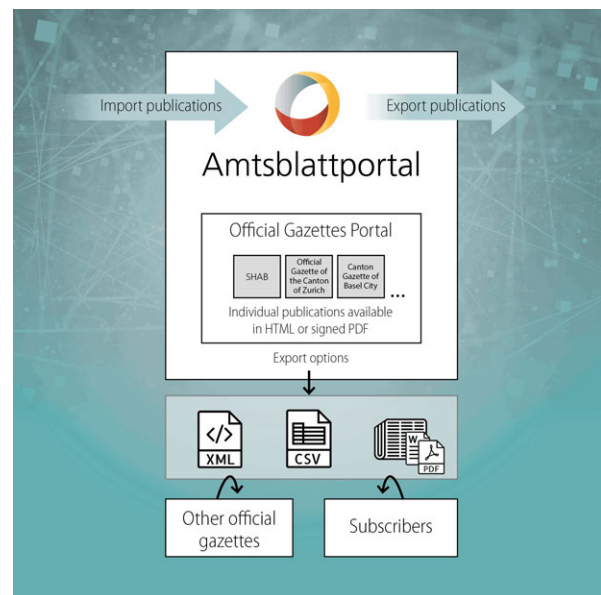
SECO's primary objectives and requirements for the implementation were

- The development of an innovative publication platform for economically relevant official notifications that could be searched and retrieved intuitively.
- The improvement of user acceptance by implementing state-of-the-art operating concepts for both the transmission of data by public and private reporting offices as well as for the use and interpretation of notifications by the consumers.
- Forms were to be generated by SECO itself without requiring extensive development.
- Compliance with statutory guidelines and e-government standards, in particular with HERMES project management methodology prescribed for state IT projects in Switzerland.
- Use of high-performance technologies and IT structures with secure 24/7 availability.

## Implementation

During the design phase, the initial aim was to specify the project in concrete terms. „The biggest challenge during the start phase and in the later course of the project was to bring SECO's vision into clearer focus“, recalls mimacom project manager Daniel Mauch. The result: a strict separation of the data input and notification output on separate levels - the official gazette portal as a publication centre and the websites of the participating official gazettes as output platforms.

Development began at mimacom in August 2016 with a 15-member international core team, including scrum masters, system architects, developers and testers. mimacom is ISO-certified in Switzerland and Germany and works internationally according to the same standards. Thus, putting together international teams like this is more the rule than the exception.



Picture: SECO

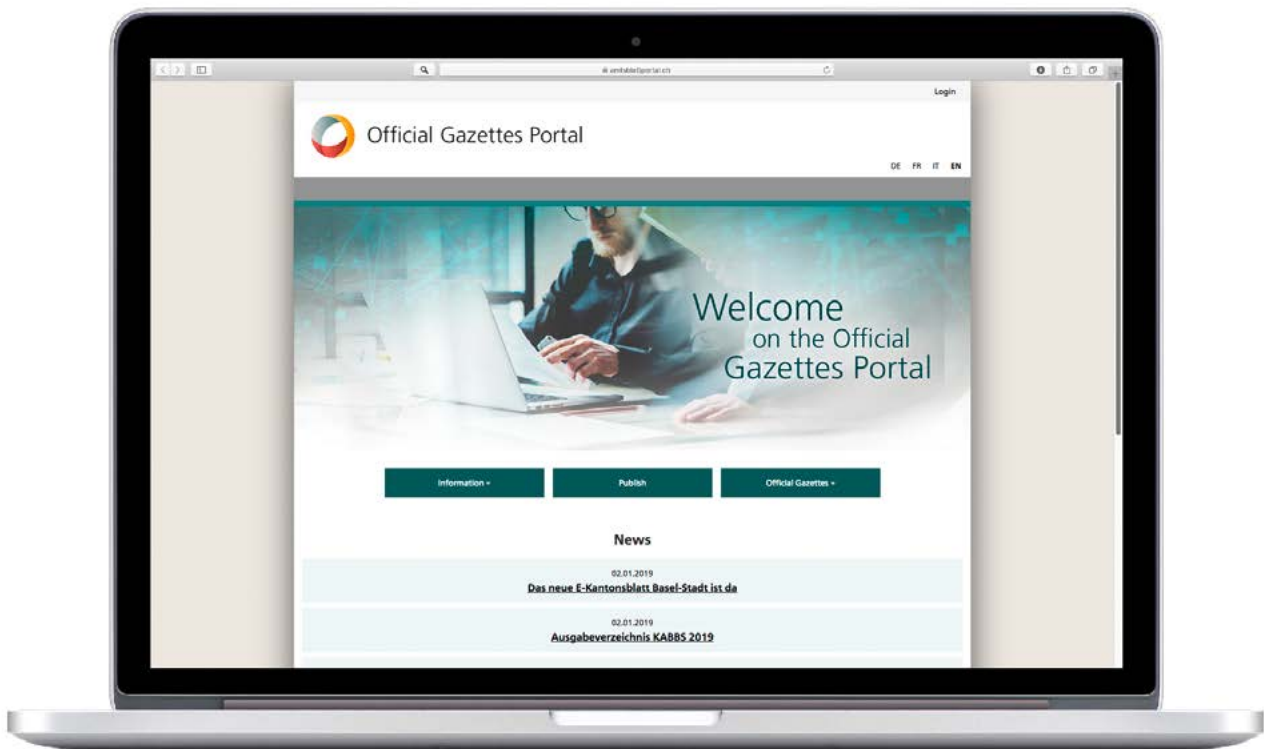


“Without the close cooperation of our 15-member team from eight of a total of 13 international mimacom offices, it would not have been possible to get the official gazette portal project off the ground.”

**Daniel Mauch**, project manager at mimacom Switzerland, Bern

## Official gazette portal as a central data hub

The core component of the project is the newly developed official gazette portal. This serves as a central publication hub for all of the reporting offices and, among other things, leads to the linked official gazette sites. Authorities and companies can submit, manage and publish their notifications in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce (SHAB) and/or other official gazettes using electronic forms or via a simple interface.

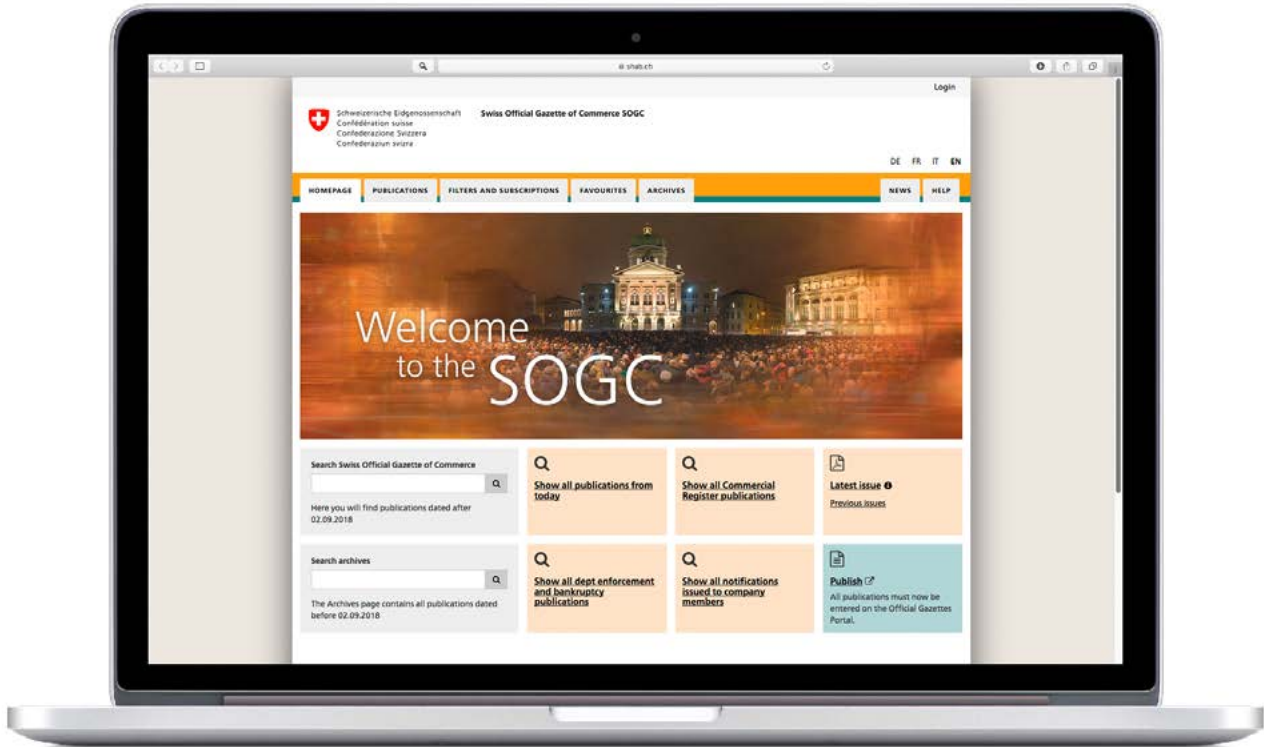


In order to input notifications manually, forms for 100 main and sub-categories can be used. Without a great deal of effort, cantonal special cases can also be taken into account when creating a form. More than 80 per cent of all notifications are already submitted in electronic form.

In principle, all cantons are part of the portal, because they receive SHAB notifications for further publication in their official gazettes via this platform using their own profile. Cantons can also automatically call up unpublished notifications in their own download centre. Because each client has their own area on the official gazette portal, if necessary a canton can also publish its official gazette directly via the portal.

## Official gazettes as output channels

In the course of the project, mimacom also completely rebuilt the websites of the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce (SHAB) and the Office Gazette of the Canton of Zurich. These have now been set up purely as output channels, whereby a data pool generated via the official gazette portal is accessed.



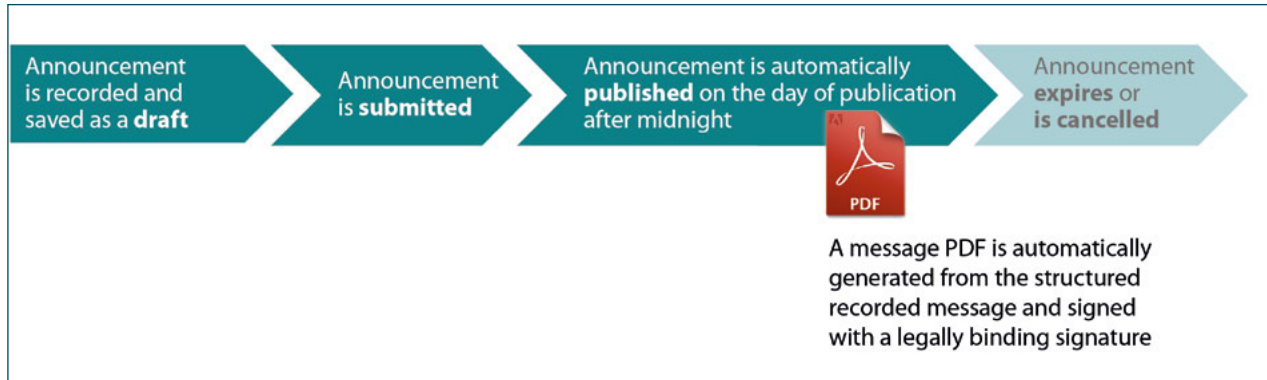
The focus of development was on improving the user experience. Thanks to a wide range of output, filter and search options, the official gazette sites offer visitors optimal access to the official notifications. All notifications submitted via the official gazette portal are displayed directly on the official gazette sites from the date of publication and can be downloaded as a signed single notification PDF, as a Word file or XML file. Older notifications are available as signed PDF files.

Notifications can be found intuitively using different filter options. Search filters can be saved and subscribed to as mail alerts. The most sought-after search filters are available directly on the home page: Thus, all commercial register entries from the current day can be displayed, for example. Because a layout issue is automatically generated on a daily basis, older complete editions can be downloaded as PDFs.

Following the Canton of Zurich, since January 2019 the Canton of Basel City has become the second canton to publish its official gazette via the portal.

## Development using state-of-the-art software technologies

During the development and implementation of the official gazette portal, the mimacom team relied on state-of-the-art web portal standards and software technologies such as Spring, Flowable Work and Elasticsearch. The technological foundation of the entire project was the case and business process management platform Flowable Work. This runs the entire life cycle management of each notification as form-controlled, from drafting in the official gazette portal to publication on the official gazette sites:



Because Flowable Work works adaptively and thus dynamically, new (sub-)categories can be added directly by the customer or existing forms can be changed in the official gazette portal without a great deal of effort.

The technological basis of the extensive search and evaluation function is Elasticsearch. The search engine indexes the data pool of the official gazette portal. This is done either as structured (via form input or import) or as unstructured (using notifications and attachments available as PDFs). Therefore, the data pool is made searchable using a simple interface.

The so-called ELK-stack also relies on Elasticsearch as a monitoring solution. In the interplay between Elasticsearch and Logstash as an event aggregator and Kibana as a visualisation solution, the IT team at SECO and the portal hoster have a view of all actions on the official gazette portal in freely configurable dashboards at all times.

### CORE TECHNOLOGIES AT A GLANCE

**Flowable Work** is a digital adaptive business process and case management platform. It is an in-house development and is based on the open source workflow engine Flowable.

Further info: [flowable.com](http://flowable.com)

**Elasticsearch** is an open source search engine for arbitrary data in corporate networks and is now in effect the industry standard for searching large databases. It searches and indexes documents of different formats, saves the search results in a NoSQL format and returns them via a web interface.

Further info: [www.elastic.co](http://www.elastic.co)

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## Long-term cooperation

Through software development according to the scrum methodology, individual project variables could be adjusted during the course of the project to the SECO objectives. Unlike development according to the waterfall model, here the overall project is divided into numerous increments that are processed in so-called sprints. This allows change requests and additions to be integrated into the ongoing development processes.

The new official gazette portal as a publication platform for official notifications is already a prime example of state-of-the-art e-government applications. In addition to the Canton of Basel City, which has been using the platform to publish its canton gazette since January 2019, other cantons have also expressed their interest. SECO and mimacom are continuing their successful cooperation after having concluded the development project itself: mimacom will continue to be the partner for the further development of the official gazette portal for the next ten years.



“mimacom was and is a very solution-oriented partner. Thank you for the expert advice and professional implementation of the entire project. The pleasant cooperation on a human level warrants particular mention. We look forward to the further development of our platform and to continuing the cooperation with mimacom.”

**Christoph Bigler**, Product Owner Official Gazette Portal



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