

8.4 CAMSS - COMMON ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS (2016.27)

8.4.1 IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

Type of Activity	Common frameworks
Service in charge	DIGIT B6
Associated Services	DG CONNECT, DG GROW

8.4.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Standardisation is key to achieve interoperability and to avoid vendor lock-in when developing digital public services. Several Member States have published lists of recommended or mandatory standards. The Common Assessment Method for Standards and Specifications (CAMSS) was developed under the IDABC and ISA programmes, in order to ensure that public administrations can assess and select in a transparent and trusted manner the most relevant interoperability standards for their needs. It is based on the methods used in Member States, provides neutrality and transparency for the assessment process and enables the reuse of assessments.

The main objectives of the CAMSS action are:

- To ensure that assessments of formal ICT specifications and interoperability profiles are performed to high and consistent standards;
- To ensure that assessments contribute to the interoperability of systems implementing these specifications and profiles;
- To enable the re-use, in whole or in part, of such assessments;
- To continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the assessment process for ICT formal specifications and interoperability profiles.

In 2016, ISA² funding is foreseen for the maintenance and extension of the existing tools and the standards list. For the tools, this includes greater flexibility (user-defined scenarios) and improvements in the user interface (including search functionalities). For the standards list, it concerns both the update of the content and the functionalities; where the latter regards primarily the alignment with other Joinup catalogues (EIC catalogue, European Catalogue of Standards).

8.4.3 OBJECTIVES

The specific purpose of the CAMSS Action under the ISA² work programme is:

- To maintain and extend the method itself, the library of existing assessments, the tools and the list of standards selected in Member States;
- To implement a lightweight but consistent and transparent governance process and to continuously update the method;

- To closely cooperate with and support other standardisation-related commission activities such as the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on European Standardisation and the foreseen European Catalogue of ICT-Standards as well as other relevant organisations, e.g. standardisation bodies;
- To create an active user community around the assessment and adoption as well as the development and maintenance of standards and/or liaise with existing standardisation fora, to raise awareness of the different methods used in Member States, aligning them where possible, and building upon existing knowledge about best practices.

8.4.4 SCOPE

The CAMSS action does not itself select or recommend standards; it is meant to support public administrations in Member States that make such selections. Member States are free to use the method as-is or to build their own methods based on it; and they are encouraged to contribute requests to the development of CAMSS in order to make it suitable to their needs.

Primarily, the CAMSS action will secure the sustainability of the assessment method and the related components. Beyond the assessment and selection of existing standards, methods for the development and maintenance of standards are also within the scope of the CAMSS action.

8.4.5 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Within the context of the elaboration of their National Interoperability Frameworks, Member States need to define interoperability architecture domains and standardised interfaces. The same is true when various Member States want to link up their systems in order to establish cross-border European public services.

Decisions and recommendations concerning formal specifications often call for resource intensive and time consuming assessments. By following a common assessment process and criteria, and by sharing and re-using assessments done in other Member States, the burden of assessment can be made easier.

CAMSS provides guidance on the assessment of ICT standards and specifications and ensures transparency and openness of the process.

8.4.6 EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
Member States' Public Administrations, Standardisation Bodies and ICT Services Industry	<p>A commonly agreed assessment method, assessment process and a list of assessment attributes brings transparency to the selection of standards in the context of ICT strategies, architectures and interoperability frameworks. The re-use and sharing of completed assessments reduces resources and time needed, when establishing, maintaining and commenting on Interoperability Statements.</p> <p>Using CAMSS offers the following main benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear guideline that allows the assessments of formalised specifications to be made consistently and in high quality by applying neutral, unbiased and transparent criteria. • Helps Member States to make interoperability agreements based on formal specifications, by providing a common assessment method for these needs. • Helps Member States to assess formalised specifications in public procurement. • Re-use of assessments, in whole or in part. Avoids duplication of effort, for the already finalised assessments of formalised specifications can be shared via the library to be available on Joinup. • The assessed formalised specifications will contribute to the interoperability of systems implementing these specifications. • The possibility of more efficient use of public funds, because of easier and faster assessments and a CAMSS library to reuse formalised specifications meant for similar business needs. • Improvement of the expertise of civil servants working with formalised specifications. • Offers a complimentary tool to support the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) and the European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA) in the evaluation of European or national interoperability standards and specifications.

8.4.7 RELATED EU ACTIONS / POLICIES

Action / Policy	Description of relation, inputs / outputs

Communication on "A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe", COM(2015)192	The DSM strategy calls for more standardisation and in its roadmap the establishment of a European catalogue of ICT-standards is foreseen. The latter is closely interrelated with the CAMSS as it will be in this catalogue that standards to be assessed will be hosted.
Digital Agenda Action 21 & 22	Alignment to be ensured between renewed ICT standardisation regulation, procedures and CAMSS
Digital Agenda Action 23	Alignment to be ensured between new ICT standards related procurement guidelines and CAMSS
Regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation	The regulation establishes the rules for standards and specifications to be referenced in public procurement, and establishes the Multi-stakeholder Platform on European Standardisation
Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation	The standardisation-related activities in the Commission will set the priorities for specifications to be assessed.
Priority ICT Standardisation Plan	
ISA ² Action 09 – Promoting semantic interoperability amongst the European Union Member States	The SEMIC action is itself developing and maintaining standards. Its governance process was devised to comply with the CAMSS criteria. The Core Vocabularies creation methodology and the metadata management policy developed by SEMIC provide input for the development and maintenance of specifications.
ISA ² Action 45 – European Interoperability Architecture	CAMSS can give input on the selection of interoperability specifications for the European Interoperability Reference Architecture.
European Catalogue of Standards (DG CONNECT and DG GROW)	The action will collaborate with the European Catalogue of Standards to align and harmonise its list of standards with the future catalogue.
ISA Action 30 – Joinup European Observatory, Collaborative platform and Catalogue	The CAMSS method and library are published on Joinup, and the online assessment tools have been integrated into the platform.

8.4.8 REUSE OF SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED BY ISA, ISA² OR OTHER EU / NATIONAL INITIATIVES

CAMSS has been created on the basis of the assessment methods in several Member States, and has been aligned with the submission form used by the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on European Standardisation.

For the publication of the method, the existing assessments and the list of standards selected in Member States, it is the Joinup platform that is used. An online version of the assessment tools is also integrated into Joinup.

8.4.9 EXPECTED RE-USABLE OUTPUTS (solutions and instruments)

The following reusable assets have been produced by the CAMSS action under the IDABC and ISA programmes and will need to be maintained under ISA²:

Output name	CAMSS library
Description	The CAMSS library of existing assessments is available on Joinup and will be extended in 2016 and 2017. Each assessment is reusable partially or as a whole.
Reference	https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/camss/og_page/camss-assessments
Target release date / Status	available on Joinup

In addition to these directly reusable assets, the CAMSS method has produced a catalogue of standards that are recommended or mandatory in Member States (on Joinup), and an inventory of adoption methods in Member States (study) with the analysis of their effectiveness. These are expected to serve as input for the future European Catalogue of ICT-Standards.

8.4.10 ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

8.4.10.1 Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives
Bodies in MS administrations that assess and select standards	ISA ² Coordination Group or ISA CG equivalent
Public procurers in Member States	ISA ² Coordination Group or ISA CG equivalent
Multistakeholder	DG CNECT project officer

Platform on European Standardisation	
Standardisation units in DG GROW and CNECT	Project officers
Standardisation fora	Individual contacts, secretariats

8.4.10.2 Communication plan

The benefits resulting from a common method and from the reuse of assessments can only be realised when the method is widely used and Member States not only continuously align their methods with CAMSS but also contribute changes made in their national methods back to the common one.

This requires an active community, which will be built starting with the known users of the early CAMSS versions, engaging them in a dialog with the goal to re-align where assessment methods have over time diverged, and encouraging active participation in the decision-making for the common method. Duplication of fora will be avoided through a close liaison with other groups such as the Multistakeholder Platform on European Standardisation and the Commission services in charge of the future European Catalogue of standards.

Further Member States (with a priority on those that already publish lists of recommended or mandatory standards) will be actively invited to participate in the governance of CAMSS, and align their own methods with it.

The availability of the online version of the CAMSS tools (from autumn 2015) is expected to make its use even more attractive to users, and result in an automatic contribution of assessments to the CAMSS library.

8.4.10.3 Governance approach

The Commission coordinates consensus building around CAMSS, and all relevant stakeholders will be consulted. Alignment between CAMSS and related EU actions and policies will be ensured by close interdepartmental collaboration inside the Commission. The proposal for the governance of CAMSS that has been developed under the ISA programme will be further refined, aligned with the governance mechanisms of other actions, and implemented. The action is managed by the DG DIGIT ISA unit and a contractor will help in the implementation of the action. The Commission will also assess cooperation opportunities with standardisation bodies.

Maintenance and sustainability of the CAMSS tools, the assessment library and the list of recommended or mandatory standards from Member States will be planned in the course of the action.

8.4.11 TECHNICAL APPROACH

The first version of CAMSS was developed by the Commission and Member States under the IDABC programme, the predecessor of the ISA and ISA² programmes. It revised in 2011-2013 in 2014 aligned with the submission form of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on European Standardisation. The

documentation of the present CAMSS is publicly available online at the following address:
<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/camss/home>

The current version of CAMSS comprises 1) a process, 2) a set of criteria and 3) an assessment library. The CAMSS process describes how to complete an assessment utilising the CAMSS criteria. Assessments from Member States have already been identified and published in the Joinup platform.

The technical approach as from 2016 includes:

- to continue populating the assessment library, supporting the Member States to run or map to CAMSS assessments of standards, and animate the Joinup CAMSS community;
- to maintain and update the CAMMS method and CAMSS tools;

8.4.12 COSTS AND MILESTONES

8.4.12.1 Breakdown of anticipated costs and related milestones

In 2016, budget is foreseen for the maintenance and extension of the existing tools and the standards list. For the tools, this includes greater flexibility (user-defined scenarios) and improvements in the user interface (including search functionalities). For the standards list, it concerns both the update of the content and the functionalities; where the latter regards primarily the alignment with other Joinup catalogues (European Interoperability Carthography, European Catalogue of Standards).

In 2017, budget is planned mainly for the maintenance and governance of all existing components.

Phase: Inception Execution Operational	Description of milestones reached or to be reached	Anticipated Allocations (KEUR)	Budget line ISA/ others (specify)	Start date (QX/YYYY)	End date (QX/YYYY)
Execution - Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance of the CAMSS action • Functional specification for extension of tools and standards-list, testing and Implementation on Joinup 	175	ISA ²	Q2/2016	Q1/2017
Operation	Maintenance and promotion of method, tools, assessment library and standards list	125	ISA ²	Q2/2017	Q1/2018
	Total	300			

8.4.12.2 Breakdown of ISA² funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016		175	
2017		125	

8.4.13 ANNEX AND REFERENCES

Description	Reference link	Attached document
Regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation	http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:316:0012:0033:EN:PDF	
Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation	http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/european-standards/policy/benefits/index_en.htm http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/8972/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native	
Priority ICT Standardisation Plan	To be published end 2015	