CAMSS - COMMON ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS (2016.27) – *ACTION CONCLUDED, RESULTS MAINTAINED IN ACTION 2016.20*

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

Service in charge	DIGIT B6
Associated Services	DG CONNECT, DG GROW

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, ISA^2 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).

OBJECTIVES

The specific purpose of the CAMSS Action under the ISA^2 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.

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.

ACTION PRIORITY

Contribution to the interoperability landscape

The contribution of the action to the interoperability landscape, measured by the importance and necessity of the action to complete the interoperability landscape across the Union

Question	Answer
Does the proposal directly contribute to implementing the European Interoperability Strategy, the European Interoperability Framework, or other EU policies with interoperability requirements, or needed cross-border or cross-sector interoperability initiatives? If yes, please indicate the EU initiative / policy and the nature of contribution.	The revised EIF (draft version) recommends to "Use a structured, transparent, objective and common approach in assessing and selecting standards and specifications" and mentions explicitly CAMSS as an example.
Does the proposal fulfil an interoperability need for which no other alternative solution is available?	CAMSS is based on the methods and best practices used in several Member States.

Cross-sector

The scope of the action, measured by its horizontal impact, once completed, across the sectors concerned

Question	Answer
*Will the proposal, **once completed** be useful, from the interoperability point of view, and utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? If yes, which are those?*	
*For proposals or their parts **already in***	Published CAMSS assessments are mostly sector-neutral

operational phase: have they been utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? Which are they?	(https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/camss/og_page/camss-assessments). There are some known assessments in the e-Health sector (to be published).

Cross-border

The geographical reach of the action, measured by the number of Member States and of European public administrations involved.

Question	Answer
Will the proposal, **once completed** be useful, from the interoperability point of view, and used by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?	
For proposals or their parts **already in operational phase**: have they been utilised by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?	Known uses of CAMSS in the Netherlands, in UK and Denmark

Urgency

The urgency of the action, measured by its potential impact, taking into account the lack of other funding sources

Question	Answer
Is your action urgent? Is its implementation foreseen in an EU policy as priority, or in EU legislation?	Not directly, but several instruments mention the selection of standards (EIF, Regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation, Rolling Plan on ICT Standardisation, Communication: ICT Standardisation Priorities for the Digital Single Market)
Does the ISA[2] scope and financial capacity better fit for the implementation of the proposal as opposed to other identified and currently available sources?	No alternative currently available sources known.

Reusability of action outputs

The re-usability of the action, measured by the extent to which its results can be re-use

Can the results of the proposal be re-used by a critical part of their target user base, as identified by the proposal maker? For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been re-used by a critical part of their target user base?

Name of reusable solution	CAMSS method and tools
Description	The core of CAMSS a set of selection criteria which is instantiated as a set of offline tools (spreadsheet version) and online tools (web based, on Joinup).
	These tools have been developed in previous phases of the action but continue to be maintained and extended in a controlled change management process.
	Additional tools planned (e.g.) creation of formatted assessment reports
Reference	https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/camss/og_page/camss-tools
Target release date / Status	available on Joinup
Critical part of target user base	Majority of MS administrations selecting standards and specifications
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	Small number of known users (published assessments exist form UK, NL, unpublished in DK, partial reuse and extension in e-SENS, MSP submission form aligned).

Name of reusable solution	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
Critical part of target user base	Majority of MS administrations selecting standards and specifications
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	Actual reuse of existing assessments is difficult to measure, assessments are sometimes not shared since results are deemed controversial.

Level of reuse by the proposal

The re-use by the action of existing common frameworks and elements of interoperability solutions.

Question	Answer
Does the proposal intend to make use of any ISA[2], ISA or other relevant interoperability solution(s)? Which ones?	
For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: has the action reused existing interoperability solutions? If yes, which ones?	Online CAMSS tools implemented on Joinup; spreadsheet tools, list of standards and CAMSS library also available on Joinup.

Interlinked

The link of the action with Union initiatives to be measured by the collaboration and contribution level of the action to Union initiatives such as the DSM.

Question	Answer
Does the proposal directly contribute to at least one of the Union's high political priorities such as the DSM? If yes, which ones? What is the level of contribution?	This action is a supporting instrument – its contribution is therefore indirect.

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.

EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
• Member States' Public Administrations, Standardisation Bodies and ICT Services Industry •	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. • Using CAMSS offers the following main benefits: • 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.

EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS

Output name	List of Standards
Description	Catalogue of standards that are recommended or mandatory in Member States (on Joinup)
Reference	https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/camss/og_page/list-standards
Target release date / Status	available on Joinup

ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

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

Identified user groups

CAMSS users are organisations (on European level or in Member States) that access and select standards. They either use the CAMSS method as-is, modify/tailor it or adapt its concepts for the development of their own models

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.

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.

TECHNICAL APPROACH AND CURRENT STATUS

The first version of CAMSS was developed by the Commission and Member States under the IDABC programme, the predecessor of the ISA and ISA[2] programmes. It revised in 2011-2013 in 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;

COSTS AND MILESTONES

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).

Phase: Initiation Planning Execution Closing/Final evaluation	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	• Governance of the CAMSS action • Functional specification for extension of tools and	175	ISA²	Q2/2016	Q1/2017

	standards-list, testing and Implementation on Joinup				
	Total	175			

Breakdown of ISA funding per budget year

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

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	