EUROPEAN INTEROPERABILITY STRATEGY (EIS) GOVERNANCE SUPPORT (2016.33)

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

Service in charge	DG DIGIT.B6
Associated Services	All Commission services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A European Interoperability Strategy[1] (EIS) was adopted in 2010 as part of the Communication "Towards interoperability for European public services"[2].

After two years of implementation, the Commission conducted a review of the EIS implementation in 2012. The result of this study clearly showed that the great majority of interviewed EU Member States considered interoperability as a critical success factor for fulfilling the need to increase the efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services, as well as to increase the transparency and quality of public administrations and that interoperability is an enabler of "cooperation improvement" among public administrations. Ten major recommendations were made to ensure the continued success of the EIS implementation, including the need to improve coordination through the Commission IT Governance, to spread a common vision on interoperability, to spend more effort on the organisational dimension of interoperability and to communicate the benefits of interoperability.

Following the EIS review, a new draft strategy was created following last years' development in interoperability, especially the Digital Single Market strategy that calls for interoperability as a major enabler for digital integration in Europe. The new European Interoperability Strategy (EIS) was a subject to an Impact Assessment process that started in 2015 and finished in Q2/2016. In parallel with the revision of EIS the European Interoperabiltity Framework (EIF) was revised too under the same procedure and with the same impact assessment.

The new EIS will provide organisational, financial and operational directions to implement the revised EIF recommendations. The EIS defines a set of focus areas and an Action Plan that should guide Member States and European Institutions in the period 2016-2020. EIS is to serve as a practical tool where interoperability priorities are linked to a set of high added-value actions with measurable results in selected areas until 2020. Emphasis will be put on interoperability layers that can now be further developed such as organisational interoperability.

OBJECTIVES

The Member States and the Commission should increase their efforts to avoid market fragmentation, achieve interoperability and promote commonly agreed ICT solutions, while ensuring the appropriate governance.

The ISA[2] programme should be based on the experience gained from the ISA, IDA and IDABC predecessor programmes. The conclusions drawn from the final evaluations of the ISA and IDABC programmes, which address aspects such as relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, utility and coherence, should also be taken into account.

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[1] COM(2010) 744 final: Annex 1 to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions Towards interoperability for European public services, Brussels, 16.12.2010

[2] COM (2010) 744 final: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions Towards interoperability for European public services, Brussels, 16.12.2010

The objectives of this action are:

- To define a high-level strategy at EU level in the area of interoperability as well as an implementation roadmap of concrete actions to support the realisation of this strategy;
- to identify and assess relevant governance structures and organisational models in the Member States public administrations and evaluate their efficiency and effectiveness vis-à-vis the multi-layered interoperability model,
- to identify and assess the legal solutions used in the Member States and at EU level to ensure that EIS is in compliance with the EU context,
- to follow up on the implementation of the strategy and review it as needed

Through this approach the Commission will provide a reference model for governance and organisational interoperability structures that will be in accordance with the different structures and models within the EU and could aid the Member States in their national interoperability activities. Furthermore, EIS stays aligned with the EU political agenda and with the priorities and initiatives of the Member States regarding European Public Services and interoperability activities.

SCOPE

Any interoperability initiative in the EU, in any policy domain, is in scope of the action.

This action will help instituting EIS governance, the related organisational models and the decision making processes and activities for implementing, monitoring and keeping up to date the European Interoperability Strategy (EIS).

Moreover this action will investigate the direct relation between the EIS governance and the organisational structures that facilitate interoperability in the public administrations. The aim in this respect will be the identification and assessment of the organisational interoperability models that exist at EU level and their evaluation.

The core organisational tasks of this EIS Governance action encompass the whole implementation of the EIS as well as ensuring the alignment of the long term vision with short term actions and their related objectives.

The action will have a permanent activity on screening which changes at EU and Member State level might have an impact on the EIS implementation and on the EIS itself.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem of	Not having a common and constantly updated strategic approach to interoperability at European level
affects	the Members States and the EU bodies as well as the European citizens and businesses benefitting from European public services
the impact of which is	Strategic misalignment of interoperability actions amongst the MS, diverging approaches in the delivery of public services, possible duplication of effort, risk that interoperability is not seriously considered. All above entail the risk of creating new e-barriers in EU to the detriment of the DSM.
a successful solution would be	To define a high level strategy at EU level and have it apply through concrete interoperability actions.

EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
• Member States' Public Administrations •	• Strategic alignment between interoperability activities and Member States related priorities, coherence of interoperability actions at EU and MS levels. • Awareness and understanding of EU interoperability related activities.
• European Commission	• Strategic alignment between interoperability activities and EU policies, coherence of interoperability actions within the Commission

RELATED EU ACTIONS / POLICIES

Action / Policy	Description of relation
Communication on "A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe", COM(2015)192	The DSM roadmap makes a clear reference to the need of updating the European Interoperability Framework (EIF). Implicitly this means that the strategy that the framework relies on should also be updated.
Communication "Towards interoperability for European public services"	A Communication on Interoperability that includes as Annexes the EIS and the EIF. this communication will be updated within 2016 and will also include EIS and EIF as annexes. A thorough consultation with the MS and concerned stakeholders, notably businesses and citizens already took place and the finalisation of the file is expcted in Q4/2016.

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

The EIS maintains a strong link with the EIF being its implementing framework and with the action that monitors the status of interoperability in Europe, the NIFO. However given the overarching role of the strategy, it is hard to say that there are ISA² actions that are not concerned or will not contribute to it.

Other related Commission initiatives may also be included in the EIS action plan

EXPECTED RE-USABLE OUTPUTS (solutions and instruments)

Output name	European Interoperability Strategy
Description	An overall strategy on Interoperability at EU level through a Commission communication.
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q4/2016

Output name	Orientations for ISA^2 to implement new objectives
Description	Analysis of ISA^2 programme and establishment of future orientations to implement new EIS based objectives. Includes definition of new action on "user centricity/ engagement approaches"
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q2/2017

Output name	Organisational interoperability orientations
Description	Instrument to measure and increase organisational interoperability
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q2/2017

ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives
European Commission services	The Secretary General and any Commission DG concerned about the update of the strategy.
Member States	MS representations to the ISA^2 Committee and Coordination group (or its equivalent) and through them MS public administration authorities involved in interoperability initiatives.
ICT Industry	Representatives of ICT industry, SMEs, …
Standardisation bodies	Representatives from standardisation organisation fora and consortia
Local and regional public administrations	Representatives from local and regional public administration European representative organisations such as Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Eurocities, …

Communication plan

The communication plan includes:
- Promotion with stakeholders and users for the dissemination and take up and of the revised EIS and EIF;
- Communication with the MS representatives through the regular ISA^2 management meetings and through webinars and dedicated workshops;

Governance approach

The action will be managed by DIGIT with the support of an external contractor. Whenever major deliverables are to be published, the validation of the MS representatives will be sought.

TECHNICAL APPROACH

In 2012, the EIS implementation was reviewed. The review identified the barriers that still existed in implementing interoperability in the EU. It also laid down an overview of the interoperability landscape in Member States as well as in the Commission. Review findings revealed the need for more coordination, and that the lack of organisational interoperability is one of the major interoperability barriers throughout EU.

In 2013 work focused on understanding the critical success factors for proper governance of interoperability solutions at European level.

In 2014 the action performed evaluations on the interoperability governance of selected MS and other countries.

During 2013-2014 effort was put to achieving synergies with other EU initiatives in different policy areas, for example the European Semester.

During 2015 the new ISA^2 Programme was adopted and set the basis for the implementation of interoperability in the Union until 2020. Late 2015 and within 2016 the revision of EIS took place through a long consultation process with Commission services and Member States including an open public consultation. The final draft that will be annexed to the Commission Communication was made.

In 2016 the EIS governance action has identified the governance and organisation interoperability models in the Union and analysed them to investigate whether an overall European model can be proposed. This work will continue in 2017 aiming to an endorsement by stakeholders of the organisational interoperability model fro the Union.

COSTS AND MILESTONES

Breakdown of anticipated costs and related milestones

Phase: Inception Execution Operational	Description of milestones reached or to be reached	Anticipated Allocations (KEUR)	Budget line ISA^2 / others (specify)	Start date (QX/YYYY)	End date (QX/YYYY)
	Update the EIS	308	ISA^2	Q2/2016	Q4/2017
	Total	308			

Breakdown of ISA^2 funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016		210	
2017		98	

ANNEX AND REFERENCES

Description	Reference link	Attached document
The European Interoperability Strategy	http://ec.europa.eu/isa/documents/isa_annex_i_eis_en.pdf	