

JOINUP – EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM AND CATALOGUE (2016.20)

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

Type of Activity	Common services
Service in charge	DIGIT.B6
Associated Services	GROW.F3, CONNECT.H3 CONNECT.F2 DIGIT.B1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Information related to interoperability solutions and -initiatives were scattered across Europe in numerous public repositories and governmental websites making it hard for policy makers, IT experts and other interested parties get information on the current status of interoperability in Europe, or to re-use already available solutions in the public sector.

Joinup answers to these problems, by establishing a common platform which combines three services in order to reach the objectives stated above:

1. Observatory functionalities enable different communities, such as National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO), the Open Source Observatory (OSOR) and the Semantic Interoperability Centre (SEMIC) to inform their respective users of new events, news, best practices related to a specific domain;
2. Collaborative features allow setting up separate spaces for different collections to cooperatively develop their solutions, or to exchange best practice of a specific sector or domain;
3. Finally the Joinup catalogue provides a central, federated place for interoperability solutions, which are used and which can be re-used in the public sector across Europe.

The above features allow different initiatives to focus on their core objectives without having to deal with setting up individual websites with similar functionalities to communicate to the public. Joinup not only saves considerable resources compared to setting up individual spaces for specific projects, but also helps these projects gain more visibility and reach their target audience more easily. The Catalogue helps public administrations search for, find and re-use proven solutions from a central place.

Joinup has been available since 2012, while the catalogue of interoperability solutions have been launched in 2013. Currently the platform is visited around 40.000 times a month, has a catalogue of more than 2.000 reusable IT solutions, and provides a platform to numerous communities to exchange information and knowledge in various domains. Based on the experience with their usage, the Commission already has launched a major revamping exercise (funded under the ISA programme, which includes both the update of the Joinup platform and also the re-scoping of the catalogue of solutions.

In 2017, the action will focus on the following areas:

- Collect feedback from the end-users on the new platform to see if we reached to goal to provide better user experience and act accordingly.

- Maintain the catalogue of solutions –Joinup will further focus on promoting the highest quality, most documented solutions, while also allowing other high quality, and well documented ones to be part of the catalogue.
- Maintain and promote the European Interoperability Cartography within Joinup, which aims at providing a highly structured (according to the EIRA) set of building blocks and solutions to support administrations in providing interoperable public services
- Implement the European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement on Joinup (DG Grow initiative)
- Maintain the CAMSS method, tools and library, and the CAMSS list of standards until it is replaced by or merged with the European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement
- Further promote the Joinup platform as authentic source of information around eGovernment and ICT in the public sector in the EU, and a one stop shop for sharing and re-using IT solutions for public administrations in EU.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the action is to help public administrations deliver high quality, interoperable services faster and cheaper by providing them a platform, where they can exchange good practices, and high quality interoperability solutions in the context of public services.

SCOPE

To develop and provide a common technical platform offering a set of services supporting public administrations exchange interoperability solutions and good practices:

1. To develop and maintain the technical Joinup platform
2. To operate the Joinup platform and to provide technical and user helpdesk. To moderate user created content.
3. To develop and manage the catalogue of interoperability solutions and the European Interoperability Cartography on Joinup.
4. To host and promote the European Interoperability Catalogue (EIC)
5. To host the European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement
6. Increase awareness about the new platform and gather user feedback

The catalogue documents and makes available information about interoperability solutions related to EU policies of the Member States and the European Commission, with the possibility to host relevant information from other International Organizations, including standardisation activities and bodies. By interoperability solutions we mean methods, techniques, guidelines, standards, specifications, service descriptions and software artefacts. The listed solutions are organised in multiple dimensions including the four levels of EIF, including technical and semantic interoperability solutions (e.g. standards, metadata schemata), organisational interoperability solutions (e.g. business processes) and legal interoperability solutions (e.g. guidelines on how to achieve legal interoperability, decisions, laws). The catalogue will also include a subset of solutions which meet certain criteria to be included in the European Interoperability Cartography.

Out of scope:

- Content creation is not in scope for the Joinup action, but is managed by other actions (mainly the Community building action).
- Governance of the European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement.

ACTION PRIORITY

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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
<i>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.</i>	Yes, it facilitates the sharing and re-use of solutions for public administration and provides the stakeholders with the means to collaborate.
<i>Does the proposal fulfil an interoperability need for which no other alternative solution is available?</i>	Yes, the observatory functionalities provide a unique access to interoperability information across the EU

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 operational phase : have they been utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? Which are they?	Joinup communities and repositories cover multiple policy areas, such as eProcurement, geospatial, eHealth, etc.

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?	Our end-users are indeed from different European countries, such as Poland, Norway, Germany, France, China, UK, Netherlands, Italy, Ukraine, Spain, etc... and also outside EU (USA, Canada, New-Zeeland, China). Joinup is visited more than 30.000 times a month

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?	In DECISION (EU) 2015/2240 Article 3 (i) it is listed as one of the activities the ISA ² programme should focus on: the maintenance and publication of a platform

	allowing access to, and collaboration with regard to, best practices, functioning as a means of raising awareness and disseminating available solutions, including security and safety frameworks, and helping to avoid duplication of efforts while encouraging the re-usability of solutions and standards
<i>Does the ISA² scope and financial capacity better fit for the implementation of the proposal as opposed to other identified and currently available sources?</i>	Yes, it's part of the legal base

Reusability of action outputs

Name of reusable solution	Updated Joinup reusable platform
Description	The Joinup platform is available for re-use under an open source licence. The Drupal 6 version of the platform is already re-used by the Australian and New Zealander administrations. The new version will be available in 2017, and we can be re-used as a whole, or could be used to co-develop new features that could benefit the community.
Reference	www.joinup.eu
Target release date / Status	Q1 2017 (drupal 8 version)
Critical part of target user base	
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	2 known implementations: New Zealand and Vietnam

Level of reuse by the proposal

Question	Answer
Does the proposal intend to make use of any ISA ² , ISA or other relevant interoperability solution(s)? Which ones?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical platform: the Joinup platform is based on open source, highly re-usable components (Drupal 8.0, Mailman, etc, with some customisation for specific features). • ADMS, ADMS.AP: this semantic specification was developed under the ISA action 1.1. to describe in a standardised manner any interoperability solution. All interoperability solutions in

	<p>the catalogue of solutions are described using this specification. In addition, the specification is also used to federate interoperability solutions from other national and international repositories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIRA: the European Interoperability Architecture will be used to organise solutions which are part of the future European Interoperability Cartography (a subset of Joinup catalogue) on Joinup.
For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: has the action reused existing interoperability solutions? If yes, which ones?	Yes, the current Drupal 6 version of Joinup is also using ADMP, ADMS.AP.

7.1.1.1 Interlinked

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?	<p>In the DSM priorities, the Commission has communicated it will concentrate on standards and interoperability, critical areas to the Digital Single Market. With the implementation of the European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement and the interoperability catalogue of re-usable solutions in Joinup, we are at the heart of the DSM priority.</p> <hr/>

PROBLEM STATEMENT

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The above features allow different initiatives to focus on their core objectives and not having to deal with setting up individual websites with the above functionalities to communicate with their public. Joinup not only saves considerable re-sources compared to setting up individual spaces for specific projects, but also helps these projects gain more visibility and reach their target audience more easily.

To put even more focus on the best and most re-usable solutions (a subset of the Joinup catalogue), the EIC (European Union Interoperability Cartography) will be populated on Joinup. To increase discoverability, the solutions and building blocks in the EIC will be structured using the EIRA.

EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
Member States public administrations and their IT providers Other non-EU public administrations	Improving communication and collaboration on common projects (sharing ideas, code and implementations) with Public Administrations.
European Commission services	Reduced costs through the re-use of common packages integrated into a single hardware + software infrastructure and operated by a single technical service team. Reduced communication and development costs for projects, resulting from not having to set up individual websites and repositories to publish their solutions to the public.
Member States	Member states obtain access to a set of interoperability solutions that can be re-used in their NIF. They could also obtain access to an overview of the different TES that exists to support EU policies. Solutions which could be re-used are not only software systems or parts thereof but also guidelines, methods and techniques, organisational and legal regulations and formal specifications. A selected set of all these elements which could qualify as best-in-class will constitute an EU Cartography. Since the Joinup catalogue is a federated repository, Member States can seamlessly exchange interoperability solutions with the catalogue and their local installations of the platform. A light-weight federation with external repositories became available via the ADMS extended specification for describing any type of interoperability solutions.

European Commission	<p>The Commission uses the platform to promote EIS, EIF and related concepts and ideas. In addition, the platform enables the EU to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the Member States in specific interoperability areas and allows measuring the success of the EIS implementation in Europe. Measuring the success of the EIS implementation would be an important aspect of EIS governance.</p> <p>The European Commission is expected to use the platform to document also its own interoperability solutions and the information systems which have been implemented to support EU policies.</p> <p>The Commission will also acquire a more precise view on the current landscape of different solutions and their interrelationships, possible overlaps, complementarities, needs for interoperability, etc.</p>
European Industry	<p>The access to interoperability solutions like business processes, communication protocols, guidelines and techniques allows the European software industry to develop products, which fit the needs of European public administrations more closely. Therefore, the proposed repository fosters the creation of an innovative European software market offering interoperable products.</p>

EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS

Output name	European Interoperability Catalogue
Description	<p>The 'European Interoperability Cartography (EIC) is a repository of interoperability solutions for European public administrations provided by Union institutions and Member States, presented in a common format and complying with specific reusability and interoperability criteria that can be represented on the European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA). The EIC contains interoperability solutions that have been identified to be reusable and interoperable in the context of the implementing an EU public policy.</p>
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q1 2017

Output name	European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement
Description	<p>The aim of the European Catalogue initiative is to foster the referencing of existing ICT standards and technical specifications by public procurers through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a centralised repository of reference standards and technical specifications • a coordination and convergence process for the development of MS' strategies to adopt ICT standards (including national catalogues when they exist).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better information on existing standards and technical specifications • guidance on the way to use them • an adequate policy to encourage their use • the adoption of best practices <p>It also intends to increase transparency for the vendors on the public procurement market needs, requirements, and opportunities.</p>
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q2 2017

ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives
Member States' public administrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISA² Committee ○ ISA² Coordination Group (or ISA CG equivalent) ○ Dedicated ISA² expert group ○ Representatives of national repositories
European Commission DIGIT	Service provider for hosting/house services and project evolution
European Commission DIGIT	Action owner of "Community building" action
European Commission DIGIT	Action owner of National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO) action
European Commission DIGIT	Action owner of "Promoting semantic interoperability" action
European Commission JRC	Action owner of the ELISA action
European Commission CNECT	Owner of the CEF programme.
European Commission GROW	Owner of the European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement project.

Identified user groups

Communication plan

Event	Representatives	Frequency of meetings / Absolute dates of meetings?
	Dedicated ISA ² expert group	1-2 times per year.
Survey on future improvements	Users of the platform, national repositories	Once per year.
Workshops	Owners of national, international federated repositories	Once per year

Governance approach

The project is managed by the Commission (DIGIT.B6, DIGIT.A3 and DIGIT.C).

The strategic decisions with regards to the direction of further developments are influenced by evaluating the use of the platform and by surveying the end-users and other stakeholders of the platform. A Joinup Steering Committee (quarterly meetings) has been set up (consisting representatives of the above actions) to support the decision making process.

TECHNICAL APPROACH AND CURRENT STATUS

The development of Joinup started in 2010, while the platform was launched in 2011. In 2013, Joinup launched an integrated repository of interoperability solutions, which included not only open source software, but also technical and semantic specifications aimed at increasing interoperability among public services. Over the last years, Joinup has become collaborative home to hundreds of Commission and other EU software initiatives and provides a catalogue of thousands of federated interoperability solutions, guidelines, documents and frameworks.

It also provides the technical means to publish several ISA and ISA² initiatives, such as the National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO), CAMSS, IMM, ePrior, eTrustex, etc.

Being such a rich and diverse information source has had its challenges. Users found it hard to find relevant information among the plethora of content Joinup provides and to navigate through the dozens of different services.

To address these issues, the Commission has launched 2 parallel projects in 2015. One aims at updating the platform itself using modern technologies (full support of mobile devices, better user interface, streamlined workflows), while the other is working on streamlining the catalogue of interoperability solutions.

In Q1 2017, the first version of the new Joinup platform will be launched.

Work on the catalogue has already started in 2015. First, a new scoping criteria along with a stricter quality check have been defined, which will result in a significant reduction of the catalogue. This will make it easier to promote high quality, well documented solutions and important specifications for public administrations.

In parallel, the action overtook the implementation and operation of the EIC (European Union Interoperability Cartography) from the ISA action 2.2 European Interoperability Architecture.

As a first step (2015) a new scope and eligibility criteria along with a governance model were defined for the catalogue. Based on these criteria, a pilot was done in 2016, and in 2017 the EIC will be implemented and operated.

In summary, the following activities are planned for 2017:

- Go-Live of the new Joinup version
- Operation of the new Joinup platform, which includes hosting, technical maintenance, the provision of technical and user helpdesk.
- Implementation of additional features in the new Joinup platform based on user demand.
- Moderation of user created content (activity overtaken from ISA2 action 2016.22 *Community building*. Editorial works related to the Joinup platform.
- Operating the catalogue of interoperability solutions on Joinup, which includes the federation of new repositories, the assessment of federated and hosted solutions against the new scope and eligibility criteria, the promotion of high quality solutions and other promotion activities.
- Implementation and operating the EIC
- Taking over the limited maintenance of the CAMSS method and support of assessments from the CAMSS action which is concluded in 2017.
- Implementation of the European Catalogue of ICT Standards for Public Procurement on Joinup

COSTS AND MILESTONES

Breakdown of anticipated costs and related milestones

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)
Operational	Joinup2 hosting, technical maintenance and provision of technical 2nd line helpdesk. Moderation of user	477	ISA ²	Q3 2016	Q2 2018

	content and editorial work				
Execution	Joinup 2 improvements and new developments	400	ISA ²	Q2 2016	Q2 2018
Execution	Provision of the common service, catalogue of solutions, EIC and the CAMSS catalogue on Joinup	1000	ISA ²	Q2 2016	Q2 2018
	Total	1877			

Breakdown of ISA funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016		1060	
2017		817	
2018			
2019			
2020			