

NATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK OBSERVATORY (2016.21)

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

Type of Activity	Common Framework
Service in charge	DIGIT.B6
Associated Services	CNECT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the adoption of the EIF (European Interoperability Framework) in 2010, the Commission through the previous programme ISA has been supporting interoperability actions that contribute to the implementation of EIF recommendations and monitoring the State of Play of interoperability in the Member States through the establishment of mechanisms such as the National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO).

Under the ISA programme, NIFO achieved a regular monitoring of interoperability activities and of eGovernment state of play in Member States and associated countries.

In May 2015, the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy was launched and calls for boosting the competitiveness through interoperability and standards. The DSM requires the Commission to revise and extend the EIF and also the EIS (European Interoperability Strategy) by 2016. The NIFO will be kept as the monitoring mechanism.

Under the ISA² programme, NIFO will pursue and reinforce its support and monitoring by measuring the implementation in the Member States of the revised EIF recommendations and the achievement of the roadmap of actions proposed in the revised EIS at national level. Therefore a new mechanism of data collection, analysis and delivery of information with the highest possible quality of data will be established in 2017. NIFO will also continue to provide an overview of the eGovernment activities in European countries.

Also, the observatory needs to be strengthened in its role of a respected and authoritative source of information **on the state of play of interoperability and digital public services in Europe**. This way, the observatory can be linked with initiatives contributing to the public sector modernisation like (not exhaustive) the DSM, the MS's national digital strategies, the European semester, the eGovernment action plan 2016-2020, etc.

To this aim, a comprehensive blueprint will be established in 2017 to describe the activities in order to design and implement the consolidated observatory on Joinup. The IMM will be used as an interoperability maturity model of digital public sectors complementing the IOP model.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a consolidated observatory designed in a user-friendly way that will:
 - Gather all interoperability results contributing to the modernisation of European public administrations and to priority of the DSM and other initiatives such as the eGovernment action plan, the European semester, etc.
 - Serve the purpose of having a better understanding of the situation in each national public administration in terms of public sector modernisation; by giving insight into European

countries' approach to interoperability and by maintaining a comprehensive snapshot of the eGovernment activities in the countries in scope.

- Provide a useful input to the European Semester exercise in particular in what concerns the Administrative capacity building and the coherence of Member states programmes in this area with national strategies and European initiatives.
- Act as the monitoring mechanism of the revised EIF and EIS implementation.

The results of the observatory are intended to be consulted and reused mainly by the European public administrations and the European Institutions.

The observatory will continue to enable sharing best practices on interoperability in Europe and communicate them.

SCOPE

EU Institutions and all EU public administrations, EFTA countries and Candidate Countries with whom a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement regarding their participation in the ISA² programme has entered into force, are in scope of the action.

ACTION PRIORITY

NIFO action strongly contributes to the interoperability landscape as the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) is at the hearth of its activities. The EIF contributes towards a coherent European interoperable environment, and acts a facilitator of the delivery of digital services that work together, within and across organisations/domains.

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. The observatory will monitor the implementation of the EIF recommendations by Member States and the achievement of the roadmap of actions proposed in the EIS. The NIFO action contributes to all EU policies related to modernisation of public administration, as NIFO contributes to the fact that interoperability aspects are taken into account in the EU legislation.
<i>Does the proposal fulfil an interoperability need for which no other alternative solution is available?</i>	Yes, EIF and EIS foster interoperability. Monitoring their implementation is essential and contributes to the DSM. NIFO is the instrument used for this monitoring.

Cross-sector

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

Question	Answer
<i>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?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes
<i>For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been utilised in two (2) or more EU policy areas? Which are they?</i>	Yes

Cross-border

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

Question	Answer
<i>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?</i>	<p>Yes, by offering a comprehensive picture of the interoperability activities in the countries in scope.</p> <p>By assisting its stakeholders through the collection, analysis and dissemination of european-comparable interoperability indicators that inform policies and monitor their outcomes.</p> <p>All stakeholders in scope are expected to make usage of NIFO results</p>
<i>For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: have they been utilised by public administrations of three (3) or more EU Members States?</i>	<p>Yes, the outputs of NIFO have already been reused by various Member States. The eGovernment factsheets are considered as a reference. The state of play reports on interoperability in Europe and the NIFO factsheets served as a source of input in the revision of the EIF and EIS.</p>

Urgency

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

Question	Answer
<i>Is your action urgent? Is its implementation foreseen in an EU policy as priority, or in EU legislation?</i>	It aims to continue the efforts undertaken in the context of ISA ² action 2016.21 in 2016. It should cover the needs of monitoring the revised EIF and EIS. This action cannot be discontinued.
<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 as there is no other instrument or funding mechanism that could support the observatory.

Reusability of action outputs

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

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	NIFO factsheets
Description	Factsheets presenting the degree of alignment/implementation/monitoring of NIFs or similar instruments/initiatives/approaches in the MS with the EIF
Reference	https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/og_page/nifo-factsheets
Target release date / Status	Available / Yearly update
Critical part of target user base	PAs
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	

Name of reusable solution	EGovernment factsheets
Description	Factsheets presenting the situation in the MS in relation to eGovernment
Reference	https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/og_page/egovernment-factsheets
Target release date / Status	Available / Yearly update
Critical part of target user base	PAs
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	

Name of reusable solution	State of play of interoperability in Europe
Description	A yearly report that presents the state of play in the area of interoperability at EU, along with main trends, main challenges and best practices.
Reference	http://ec.europa.eu/isa/documents/publications/2014-report-on-state-of-play-of-interoperability.pdf (2014 report)
Target release date / Status	Periodical update
Critical part of target user base	PAs
For solutions already in operational phase - actual reuse level (as compared to the defined critical part)	

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?	NIFO is a monitoring tool of interoperability. In that sense, it will monitor the results of all of them. IMM will be used as a an interoperability maturity model of digital public sectors
For proposals or their parts already in operational phase: has the action reused existing interoperability solutions? If yes, which ones?	The Joinup platform is used to host the community and NIFO outputs. CIRCABc is used to host the NIFO deliverables and as document exchange platform.EU survey is used for measuring the satisfaction of users

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?	The DSM roadmap makes a clear reference to the European Interoperability Framework (EIF). Following revision of the EIF and EIS, the NIFO will remain the action to monitor their implementation in the MS and contribute to priority of DSM. NIFO results also contribute to other initiatives such as the eGovernment action plan, the European semester, etc.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The consolidated observatory comes in response to the need of establishing NIFO as a unique entry point to interoperability results.

Once the revised method is in place, NIFO will monitor the implementation of the *revised* European Interoperability Strategy (EIS) and of the *revised* European Interoperability Framework (EIF).

EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
EU public administrations	The NIFO action will foster interoperability by monitoring the implementation of the EIF and EIS, by offering a view on the interoperability results, and by providing a "virtual" place to share best practices and experiences.
National Experts and Policy Officers	NIFO will act as an input to decision-making processes for national developments and MS policy officers.
EU Commission	Policy-makers that require information about the current state of modernisation of the public administration in order to develop European-wide policies.
ICT Industry	Organisations that are involved in the realization of e-Government solutions like service integrators and software vendors.

▪ EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS

Output name	Blueprint of the interoperability observatory
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Description	comprehensive blueprint describing the activities in order to design and implement a consolidated observatory on Joinup
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q2 2017

Output name	Design of the consolidated observatory on Joinup
Description	
Reference	
Target release date / Status	Q3 2017

- **ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH**

- **Expected stakeholders and their representatives**

Stakeholders	Representatives
Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National experts and national policy officers • ISA² Committee • ISA² Coordination Group
European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG officials and ISA² action owners
EU Publications Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unit responsible for the EU Open Data portal
Non-European public administrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National representatives
ICT Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry associations

- **Identified user groups**

Public Administrations in Member States, associated countries and non-european countries;
European Commission;
EU Publication Office;
Citizens and businesses;
Academia

- **Communication plan**

Promote and share the results on NIFO community on Joinup. The communication strategy involves publishing of material, news, cases and promotional activities.

- **Governance approach**

The action will be managed by DIGIT with the support of an external contractor.

- **TECHNICAL APPROACH AND CURRENT STATUS**

- **TECHNICAL APPROACH**

The NIFO is presented in different sections of Joinup. The observatory has a continuous maintenance process which makes sure that information is timely and accurate.

Desk research is done prior to data collection from the Member States experts. The input is then processed and sent back to the respective country for validation before it is published. In the context of NIFO, the different outputs are prepared in collaboration with external consultancy companies.

In 2017, after the revised instruments (EIF and EIS) are in place, NIFO will monitor their implementation in the Member States during the lifetime of the ISA² programme. At the time of this writing, the new method of collecting data is in definition as well as the the design of the future observatory.

A prerequisite for the success of this action is the direct involvement of the EU public administrations and therefore the participation of the latter is done via the online community on Joinup.eu

Concerning the future observatory, a preliminary assessment will take place (identification of existing observatories, sources of information, official statistics available, and consultation with other DGs) that will permit to identify the needs and gaps as regards data sources and to elaborate a list of indicators to be monitored through the new observatory. The possibility of creating an index will be examined. These assessments will fed the elaboration of the blueprint of the observatory.

▪ **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 maintenance of the NIFO process including the update of the eGovernment and interoperability factsheets and the analysis for the state of play report	393	ISA	Q2/2016	Q1/2019
	Implement/update/maintain the method needed to provide an accurate monitoring of the <u>revised</u> EIF/EIS actions implementation and continue the operational monitoring of the factsheets on interoperability and eGovernment	600	ISA ²	Q1/2017	Q1/2019
	Formulate the blueprint of the consolidated observatory and the technical specifications for the consolidated observatory on Joinup Platform	120	ISA ²	Q2/2017	Q1/2018
	Total	1113			

- **Breakdown of ISA funding per budget year**

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016		450	
2017		443	
2018		220	