

# eArchiving

## Connecting Europe

Simplify long-term access to information with the CEF eArchiving building block: a technical solution for developers that need to migrate, preserve and reuse data.

The eArchiving Building Block can provide long-term information assurance. It provides the specifications, reference software, training and service desk support for digital archiving, including digital preservation. This benefits both the design and implementation of repositories and enables business systems to send data to those repositories.

Information Package specifications are the foundation of eArchiving. These describe platform-independent formats to structure information assets as bulk data and metadata that remains authentic and understandable over time. They are thus ideal for:

- migrating information assets between generations of technology;
- transferring information assets to repositories;
- long-term managing of information assets in repositories;
- permanent access to information assets as archived data.

eArchiving also provides sample software for several business scenarios, which any organisation can reuse to develop its own institutional archiving and preservation ecosystem, or to deliver content from its business systems to external repositories. Using eArchiving guidelines guarantees that information will be available and reusable for as long as it is required.

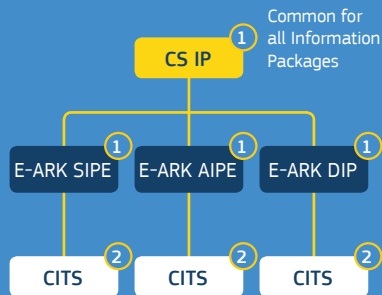
### Who can use it?

- Data creators in public and private institutions
- Data repositories such as archival institutions
- Services and solution providers

### How it works

eArchiving is based on Information Package specifications that provide interoperability across borders, types of institution and user communities. These are supported by the Common Specification for Information Packages (CS IP), expressed with the Metadata Encoding & Transmission Standard (METS), with specialisations for:

- Submission Information Package (SIP), for sending the data to be preserved to a repository;
- Archival Information Package (AIP), for storing and preserving the data in a repository;
- Dissemination Information Package (DIP), for accessing data stored in a repository.



1 Expressed with Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS)

2 Content Information Type Specification (CITS) e.g. for ERMS, databases, geodata, etc.

## Get started with help from CEF

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) within the European Commission offers a range of services to support public and private sector entities that want to implement eArchiving, at no cost.

- **Software:** Components to demonstrate how eArchiving technical specifications can be applied in the archival workflow
- **Support:** Our service desk is available to help your team during analysis, design, implementation and post implementation of your project
- **Stakeholder Management:** Access a range of knowledge articles, events, and webinars to support a successful rollout to your stakeholders
- **Developers Community:** Connect with other developers and share your knowledge and experience in building applications

## How we comply with European Standards

Developed and tested in the E-ARK project, the eArchiving specifications are based on international standards for describing, transmitting and preserving digital data.

The core standard for eArchiving is the Reference Model for an Open Archival System (OAIS): ISO 14721:2012. Information Packages are written using Metadata Encoding & Transmission Standard (METS) and use other standards for describing the different types of content.

## 6 reasons to use eArchiving

**1 Maturity:** re-uses the accumulated knowledge of other organisations facing the same challenges

**2 Standardisation:** enables information assets to be transmitted, preserved and re-used across borders as well as time

**3 Transparency:** ensures a high level of confidence among all participants in the information value chain

**4 Flexibility:** supports scaling of digital archival systems from small to very large

**5 Efficiency:** accelerates the delivery time of a working digital archive, while controlling costs

**6 Risk management:** reduces risks in information assurance

Find out more:

[ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/eArchiving](https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/eArchiving)