



Semantic Interoperability Conference **SEMIC 2015**

Highlights **Report** ● ● ● ●

Riga, Latvia 5 May 2015





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Introduction



Gertrud Ingestad , Conference Chair

*Director "Information Systems and Interoperability Solutions",
DG Informatics, European Commission*

SEMIC 2015 is the fifth edition of the annual conference on semantic interoperability organised by the Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) Programme of the European Commission.

Since 2011, the conference brings together an ever-growing number of participants from public administrations, the private sector and academia to discuss the use of semantic interoperability solutions for better public services and interoperable public data.

Emerging trends in public administration, such as «digital by default» and the «once only» principle, require public organisations to rethink the way they manage information, especially in the context of public service delivery.

This year's conference explores how Enterprise Information Management and Service Portfolio Management can help public administration improve its modus operandi, reduce costs and improve public services through digital transformation.

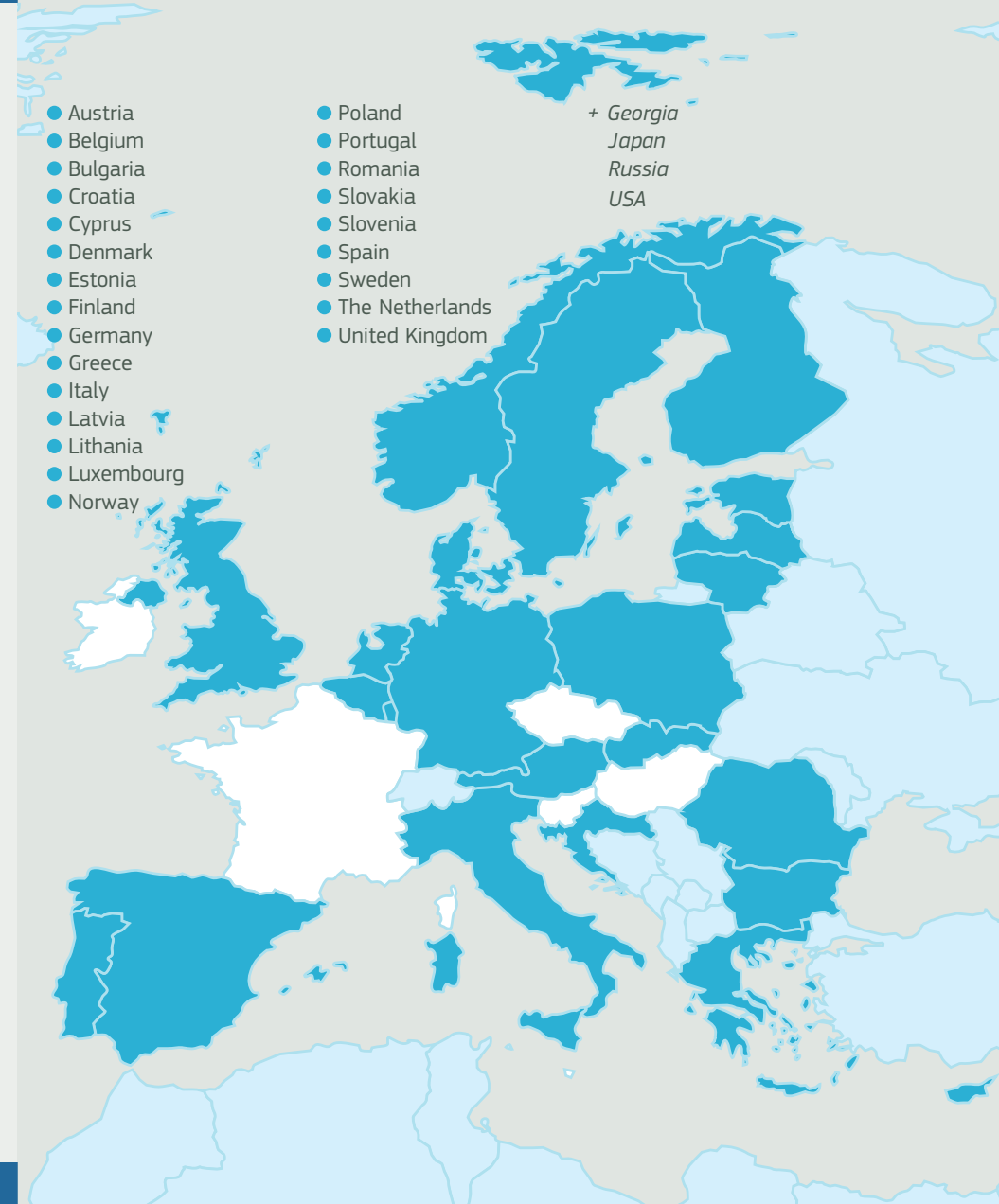
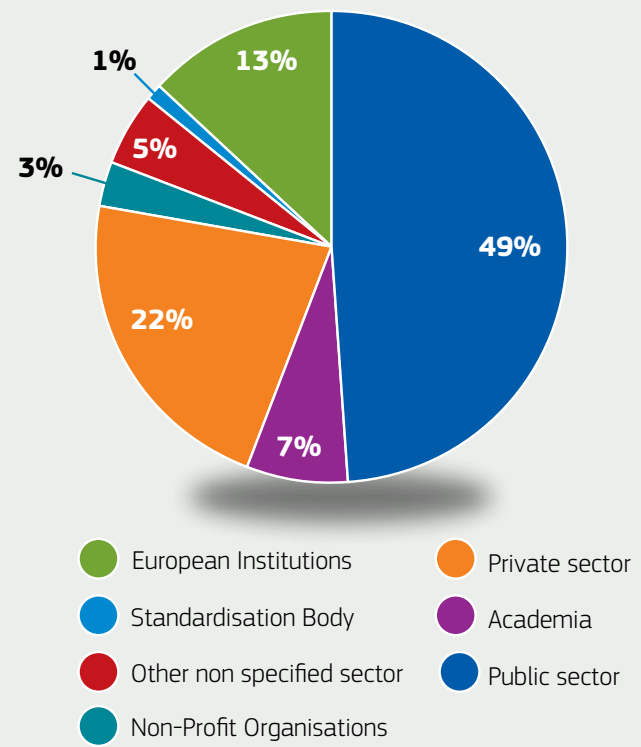
Semantic barriers are still prominent. We need to perform a substantial work in order to achieve cross-domains interoperability. Metadata governance and management is a key enabler of semantic interoperability to foster growth within Europe.



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SEMIC 2015 Conference Figures

152 participants from 28 countries





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Conference Highlights



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Conference Highlights Welcome



Arnis Daugulis

*Deputy State Secretary for ICT and eGovernment at the [Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development](#),
Latvia*



As a Deputy State Secretary in the Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, **Arnis Daugulis** is responsible for defining ICT and eGovernment policy, strategy and implementation plans for the government of Latvia.

- The [Digital Single Market](#) is a priority for the Latvian government.
- Interoperability and IT governance are two key elements needed for the strategy to be achieved.



Conference Highlights

Enterprise Information Management and Service Portfolio Management for the Public Sector



Vassilios Peristeras

Programme Manager, ISA Programme, European Commission

Vassilios Peristeras is a programme manager in the Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administration Unit at the European Commission in Brussels, and an elected assistant professor on Web Information Systems at the International Hellenic University in Greece. His interests include semantic interoperability, open and linked data, and metadata management.

- Achieving semantic interoperability is important for implementing the “once only” principle and digital by default.
- ISA² broadens the scope of ISA, supporting cross-sector and cross-border activities and interoperability by increasing the visibility of existing standards, creating core standards for master data, improving the interoperability of open data and promoting service models and service catalogue tools.
- SEMIC has brought together an international Community of Practice on Core Data Models, where experts from the Member States exchange knowledge, experiences and practices on data and metadata management.



Interoperability, by design, allows bridges to be built between isolated legacy systems.



Conference Highlights

Japanese Common Vocabulary Project



Takashi Wada

Director of the Information Technology Project Office at METI, Japan



Takashi Wada is involved in eGovernment policy planning and administration of major eGovernment projects, including the Infrastructure for Multilayer Interoperability (IMI).

- The 2011 earthquake and tsunami acted as a catalyst for working on interoperability and data openness in order to standardise and open up data about shelters and radiation.



International coordination with existing vocabularies such as NIEM and the EU Core Vocabularies of ISA is very important.



Shuichi Tashiro

General Manager of the Open Standards Promotion Centre of IPA, Japan



In 2002, **Shuichi Tashiro** served in **METI** to start up projects to promote OSS and Open Standards. He moved to **IPA** in 2006.

- IMI created core & sector-specific vocabularies.
- The IMI vocabularies take into account other initiatives from ISA, NIEM, schema.org, Germany and Japanese local governments.



Conference Highlights

Challenges of the semantic interoperability layer:
core registries and their contribution to the core data model establishment



Peter Reichstädter

Senior Strategy Evangelist, Austrian Federal Chancellery

Peter Reichstädter works for the Federal Chancellery of the Austrian Republic in the Division for the Austrian ICT-Strategy, which is responsible for drawing up and coordinating the Austrian E-Government strategy within the initiatives of i2020 and Digital Agenda.

- Base registries contribute to the establishment of core data models. **Citizens, businesses** and **objects** are among the core data entities.
- The Austrian Reference Model is a key element of eGovernment system implementation in the country.
- ISA solutions serve as a good basis for achieving semantic interoperability, but they need to be adapted to the needs of each Member State.



*Don't think in silos.
Sometimes we like
our silos a lot,
but we need
to build bridges.*



Conference Highlights

Different dimensions of the once-only principle



Mechthild Rohen

Head of the Public Services Unit, DG CONNECT, European Commission.

Mechthild Rohen is leading a unit whose mission is to drive the development and deployment of EU Digital Public Services/Goods, focusing on cross-border excellence in e-Government. This includes the coordination of the cross-border services support under the Connecting Europe Facility for DG CONNECT, and the deployment of innovative technologies in public administrations and governments.

- The “once only” principle states that citizens and businesses should have the right to supply data only once to a public administration.
- Implementing the “once only” principle results in benefits (e.g. cost savings and reducing the administrative burden for public administrations and citizens), but there are still barriers that need to be overcome (e.g. public sector silos, legal and privacy constraints).
- The Connecting Europe Facility building blocks will enable the “once only” principle to become operational at a national level, and cross-border at an EU level.



Implementing the “once only” principle can yield yearly savings of EUR 5 bn up to 2017.



Conference Highlights

The Stelselcatalogus



Kristian Mul

Programme Manager *Stelselcatalogus*, Logius, The Netherlands



The Stelselcatalogus makes the content of base registries very transparent and accessible.

Kristian Mul is currently working for Logius, a Dutch government organisation that offers a cohesive ICT infrastructure to public service providers so that citizens and businesses can reliably, quickly and easily conduct electronic business with them. He is responsible for the alignment between the functionality of the catalogue and the needs and wants of its users, and of the policy makers.

- Data from base registries has the potential to be heavily reused within public administrations and beyond.
- The Stelselcatalogus fosters the reusability of data from base registries, it gives a complete view and explanation of available data & terms; it interconnects with other government systems.
- The Stelselcatalogus is compliant with the European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA).



Conference Highlights

Finnish Act on Information Management Governance in Public Administration



Jari Kallela

Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Finland



*The domination
of internet
technologies is so
strong that technical
interoperability is no
longer an issue.*

Jari Kallela leads the [enterprise architecture work](#) in the Finnish public sector. He is responsible for the legal aspects, the strategic governance of the enterprise architecture work and for leading the development and implementation of the architecture vision.

- The Finnish Act on Information Management Governance in Public Administration legislation (634/2011) contributes to achieving interoperability.
- The National Architecture for Digital Services programme creates infrastructure and services for interoperability.
- Finnish public authorities define as-is and to-be architectures, while ministries set requirements and common architectures for interoperability.



Conference Highlights

The Value and Implications of Master Data Management and Metadata Management



Dimitris Geragas

VP Consulting, *Gartner*

Dimitris Geragas is the Gartner Global Practice Lead for the Business Intelligence practice, which encompasses Enterprise Information Management, Information Governance and master data management programmes, BI, corporate performance management and analytics, Information Infrastructure and big data.

- Master data is shared across many parts of the organisation; it is consistent across viewpoints; it is part of day-to-day vocabulary of the organisation and it is stable over time.
- Master data management is a technology-enabled discipline in which business and IT work together.
- Master data management ensures the uniformity, accuracy, stewardship, semantic consistency, and accountability of shared master data assets.

Enterprise Information Management is not about information, but about providing business (or mission) value.





Conference Highlights

Creating Data Value Chains by Linking Enterprise Data



Sören Auer

Professor, University of Bonn, Germany



*Big data is not
just Volume and
Velocity. Variety
is the real
challenge.*

Sören Auer holds the chair for Enterprise Information Systems at the University of Bonn, and leads a research group at the Fraunhofer Institute for Analysis and Information Systems (IAIS).

- Semantic technologies have great potential in the field of big data, especially when it comes to data integration.
- The linked data approach can be used to address common semantic interoperability problems (e.g. access to the data via web protocols and the creation of interlinked domain-specific data vocabularies).
- Persistent Unique Identifiers (URIs) form the foundation for making any type of data linkable.



Conference Highlights

The Technology Transfer Centre of Spain – The portfolio of solutions (services, applications, data models, legislation, etc.) for Spanish public administrations



Elena Muñoz Salinero

Head of Telematic Systems, Ministry of Finance and Public Administration, Spain

Elena Muñoz Salinero heads the eGovernment Systems department of the [Directorate of Information and Communications Technologies](#), which is responsible for the management and implementation of the ICT strategy.

- Interoperability is not only about semantics, it is also about legal, organisational and technical aspects.
- Horizontal services are key to achieving interoperability, because they allow public administrations to use a service without having to install any software.
- The Technology Transfer Centre ([CTT](#)) promotes reuse and interoperability by developing and providing access to data models, code lists, horizontal services, open source software, methodologies, guidelines and implementation experiences.



If you know colleagues going through the same process of cataloguing solutions, connect with them.



Conference Highlights

Core data models in eGovernment interoperability – a roadmap for Latvia



Dita Gabaliņa

Ministry of the *Environmental Protection and Regional Development*, Latvia

Dita Gabaliņa participated in the development of an IT architecture for the public sector of Latvia, which included the development of the concept of “Unified Data Space” – a basis for interoperability in information architecture.

The implementation of core data models followed a 3-step approach

- **Step 1:** evaluate the current situation and plan for change.
- **Step 2:** change management by designing and implementing interoperability solutions, e.g. the reference model for PSI resources.
- **Step 3:** reinforce change by monitoring information systems and offering guidance on programme management and architecture.



Managing data standards is one step in the Latvian roadmap to further digitising services.



Conference Highlights

ISA Action 1.3: Catalogue of Services



Peter Burian

Project Manager, ISA Programme, European Commission



Peter Burian has led several ISA projects dealing with various aspects of interoperability, including base registries, catalogue of services, architecture, as well as strategy.

- Do not think in silos.
- Align the national/local interoperability strategies with the strategy of ISA.
- Follow a holistic approach.



We are organising public services descriptions and exploring tools for describing public services.



Miguel Alvarez-Rodriguez

Programme Manager, ISA Programme, European Commission

Miguel Alvarez Rodriguez is responsible for several actions related to implementing interoperable solutions for public services, particularly in the areas of electronic identification and signatures, access to base registries, catalogue of public services and eDOC.

- Through [ISA Action 1.3](#), the ISA Programme supports Member States by developing standard specifications for public services, making available reusable software and documenting good practices for public service portfolio management.



Conference Highlights • Panel discussion



Mihkel Lauk

Project Manager, Manager, PwC EU Services, Estonia



Mihkel Lauk provides professional advice for public sector and company managers in Estonia, in order to help them overcome issues related to practical uses of information technologies.

- Public service portfolio management is a dynamic method for governing investments in public service management across the country and managing them for value.



Marjukka Ala-Harja

Ministry of Finance, Finland

Marjukka Ala-Harja works as a development manager in the [Ministry of Finance](#), in the Public Sector ICT Unit, which steers the development of ICT management in both central and local government.

- Centralised management of public services leads to cost reductions, the rationalisation of investments on public services and services of better quality for citizens and businesses.



Tom Booth

Government Digital Services (GDS), United Kingdom

Tom Booth is the Technical Lead for [GOV.UK Performance](#) helping the government manage and improve its services using data.

- It is important to make as many things as possible open: the data, the software, and even the lessons learned.
- Centralising services on GOV.UK allowed GDS to identify services to be improved.





Conference Highlights

Panel discussion



Janek Rozov

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication, Estonia

Janek Rozov is head of the Department of Information Society Services Development at the [Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications](#), which leads the standardisation of the delivery of public services in Estonia.

- Member States should review and reuse what already exists, rather than creating new solutions from scratch.
- Estonia is currently implementing the Core Public Service Vocabulary Application Profile ([CPSV-AP](#)) of ISA which is helping them address their need for cataloguing services and developing a methodology and a common understanding of what a public service is.



PSPM is not just about changing paper into electronic, it's really about rethinking service delivery.



Dita Gabaliņa

Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia

Dita Gabaliņa is an expert in information technology; she works at the Latvian Ministry of the [Environmental Protection and Regional Development](#).

- The main goals for Latvia are to reduce the costs to citizens and businesses of receiving public services, and to increase satisfaction and availability by offering more services electronically.

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Stay connected



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bring down e-barriers and
overcome financial constraints



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