

## 8.3 NATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK OBSERVATORY (2016.21)

### 8.3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

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

### 8.3.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO) monitors interoperability activities in Member States and associated countries. It analyses the National Interoperability Frameworks (NIFs) in the countries covered, based on a comparative model (called Analytical model – AM) and measures their alignment with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF).

NIFO exchanges and promotes good practices and interoperability solutions among member States as well as the re-use of infrastructures, digital services and software solutions. It collects public administration's interoperability requirements that are then translated into specifications and standards for digital services.

The aim is to share good practices and to serve as a source of inspiration towards the establishment and further development of the NIFs aligned with the EIF.

NIFO aims at providing guarantees on implementation and monitoring and acts as a reference point for the modernisation of public sector in EU based on ICT interoperable solutions.

Under the ISA<sup>2</sup> programme, NIFO will continue the activities started under ISA.

In 2016, the action will revise its approach, guidelines, methodologies and other instruments based on the revised European Interoperability Strategy (EIS) and the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) and will continue monitoring the status of interoperability in the Europe.

### 8.3.3 OBJECTIVES

As countries across the European Union (EU) strive to combat the economic crisis, the need for cooperation and collaboration between them is ever increasing. In the world of eGovernment, this collaboration comes in the form of cross-border and cross-sector interoperability. All of the EU Member States are working hard in this area and the NIFO has been set up by the EU Commission as a means to support collaboration between EU public administrations. In this respect, the NIFO aims to:

- Maintain a landscape of interoperability activities in the Member States;
- Contribute to the revision of the EIS/EIF;
- Carry out a comparative analysis of the NIFs in order to gain a structural snapshot of their alignment with the EIF in Europe;

- Analyse the current national interoperability activities in MS and feed the NIFO factsheets that are then shared with all MS;
- Help EU public administrations to align their NIFs or similar initiatives with the EIF;
- Identify interoperability needs of the public sector;
- Identify new interoperable and reusable solutions that can feed the European Interoperability Cartography (EIC);
- Manage the online space for the NIFO community on the Joinup.eu platform containing information and comparative analysis between different countries as well as best practices and practical examples.

### 8.3.4 SCOPE

All EU public administrations, EFTA countries and Candidate Countries with whom a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement regarding their participation in the ISA/ ISA<sup>2</sup> programme has entered into force, are in scope of the action.

### 8.3.5 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem of	not having the European Interoperability Framework aligned with and implemented in practise by the national administrations in National Interoperability Frameworks or similar approaches
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	misalignment of interoperability actions within and 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 put in place a National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO) that will monitor and support the EIF/NIFs alignment and implementation through a proper mechanism, will collect and make available information about the status of interoperability at EU level and will identify interoperability needs and opportunities.

### 8.3.6 EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

Beneficiaries	Anticipated benefits
EU public administrations	The NIFO action will provide guidance and support both for the development of new NIFs and the alignment of current interoperability initiatives to the EIF. NIFO provides a "virtual" place to share best practices and experiences.
National Experts and Policy Officers	NIFO acts 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 interoperability 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.

### 8.3.7 RELATED EU ACTIONS / POLICIES

Action / Policy	Description of relation, inputs / outputs
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). The NIFO action will be the primer "information feeder" to this initiative. Following revision, the NIFO will remain the action to monitor the implementation of the updated EIF in the MS.
ISA Action 1.1 – Methodologies for the development of semantic assets	As semantic interoperability is one of EIF, consequently NIFs components..
ISA Action 4.1.2 – Interoperability Maturity model	The NIFO action monitors the degree of implementation of the NIFs within the MS. The IMM gives input to such monitoring.
ISA Action 2.1 EIA	The EIRA will be part to the revised EIF and as such falls under the monitoring function of the NIFO.
ISA Action 4.2.1 – Collaborative platform (Joinup.eu)	ISA Action 4.2.1 will develop the missing features and services necessary for the improvement of the NIFO community.

Action / Policy	Description of relation, inputs / outputs
ISA Action 4.2.2 – Community Building and effective use of platforms	Joinup hosts the NIFO community
ISA Action 4.2.5 – Sharing and re-use strategy	The sharing and reuse action identifies best practises in the relevant area and can feed the NIFO.
ISA Action 5.2 – EIS Governance support	NIFO monitors the implementation of EIF which in turn is the implementing instrument of the EIS.

### 8.3.8 REUSE OF SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED BY ISA, ISA<sup>2</sup> OR OTHER EU / NATIONAL INITIATIVES

The Joinup platform is used to host the community and all NIFO deliverables.

### 8.3.9 EXPECTED RE-USABLE OUTPUTS (solutions and instruments)

Output name	NIFO factsheets
Description	Factsheets presenting the degree of alignment of NIFs or similar instruments/initiatives/approaches in the MS with the EIF
Reference	<a href="https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/og_page/nifo-factsheets">https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/og_page/nifo-factsheets</a>
Target release date / Status	Yearly update

Output name	EGovernment factsheets
Description	Factsheets presenting the situation in the MS in relation to eGovernment
Reference	<a href="https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/og_page/egovernment-factsheets">https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/og_page/egovernment-factsheets</a>
Target release date / Status	Yearly update

Output name	State of play of interoperability in Europe
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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 practises.
Reference	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/isa/documents/publications/2014-report-on-state-of-play-of-interoperability.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/isa/documents/publications/2014-report-on-state-of-play-of-interoperability.pdf</a> (2014 report)
Target release date / Status	Periodical update

## 8.3.10 ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH

### 8.3.10.1 Expected stakeholders and their representatives

Stakeholders	Representatives
Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National experts and national policy officers</li> <li>ISA<sup>2</sup> Committee</li> <li>ISA<sup>2</sup> Coordination Group or ISA CG equivalent</li> </ul>
European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DG officials and ISA<sup>2</sup> action owners</li> </ul>
EU Publications Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The unit responsible for the EU Open Data portal</li> </ul>
Non-European public administrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National representatives</li> </ul>
ICT Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry associations</li> </ul>

### 8.3.10.2 Communication plan

Event	Representatives	Frequency of meetings / absolute dates of meetings?
State of play report	All	Annual
Meeting/workshop of the NIFO experts	NIFO experts	Ad-hoc

### 8.3.10.3 Governance approach

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

### 8.3.11 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.

The success of the NIFO action depends mainly on the commitment and support of the public administrations. 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 2015, 25 countries had a NIF (or similar) in place. Since 2012, it has been observed that NIF to EIF alignment has been increased.

In 2016, the action will continue its regular activities but will have this time an extended scope. It will feed into and contribute to the Impact Assessment process for the revision of the EIS/EIF, foreseen to be completed by mid-2016.

After the revised instrument is in place, 2016 onwards, NIFO will continue monitoring its application in the MS during the lifetime of the ISA<sup>2</sup> programme. It is possible that the comparative model used for this purpose will have to be updated to reflect the revised EIF.

Although having a NIF is very important step towards achieving interoperability, it is definitely not enough. The Commission will also continue supporting public administrations in the implementation of their NIFs by supporting and facilitating the monitoring of implementation of the NIFs in the EU public administrations.

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

### 8.3.12 COSTS AND MILESTONES

#### 8.3.12.1 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 <sup>2</sup> / others (specify)	Start date (QX/YYYY)	End date (QX/YYYY)
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Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of the NIFO process including the update of the eGovernment and interoperability factsheets and the analysis of the interoperability state-of-play in Europe;</li> <li>• Support to the MS to develop or align their NIFs with the EIF;</li> <li>• Contribution to the revision of the EIS/EIF.</li> </ul>	920	ISA <sup>2</sup>	Q2/2016	Q1/2019
	<b>Total</b>	920			

### 8.3.12.2 Breakdown of ISA<sup>2</sup> funding per budget year

Budget Year	Phase	Anticipated allocations (in KEUR)	Executed budget (in KEUR)
2016		450	
2017		250	
2018		220	
2019			
2020			

## ANNEX AND REFERENCES

Description	Reference link	Attached document
NIFO Community	<a href="https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/description">https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/nifo/description</a>	