

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY v1.0.0

Open Document Format for Office Applications (ODF) v1.2¹

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)²

¹ <https://www.iso.org/standard/66363.html>

² <https://www.iso.org/home.html>

Change Control

Modification	Details
Version 1.0.0	
Initial version	

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present document is a summary of the assessment of the **Open Document Format for Office Applications (ODF) v1.2** carried out by CAMSS using the CAMSS EIF assessment scenario. The purpose of this scenario is assessing the compliance of a standard or specification with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF)³.

2. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The **Open Document Format for Office Applications (ODF)**, also known as OpenDocument, is a ZIP-compressed XML-based file format for spreadsheets, charts, presentations and word processing documents. It was developed with the aim of providing an open, XML-based file format specification for office applications.

The standard was developed by a technical committee in the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) consortium. It was based on the Sun Microsystems specification for OpenOffice.org XML, the default format for OpenOffice.org and LibreOffice.

2.1. Interoperability Principles

Interoperability principles are fundamental behavioural aspects that drive interoperability actions. They are relevant to the process of establishing interoperable European public services. They describe the context in which European public services are designed and implemented.

The specification fully supports the principles setting context for EU actions on interoperability:

- **Subsidiarity and proportionality**

ODF is included in 4 national catalogues of recommended specifications. They belong to Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands and Sweden. The National Interoperability Framework (NIF) aligned with at least 4 out of 5 sections of the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) according to the National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO)⁴ factsheets.

The specification partially supports the principles setting context for EU actions on interoperability:

- **Openness**

The ISO/IEC 26300-1:2015 which refers to ODF v1.2 is not available for free for everyone to study. Payment is needed to reach access to the standard. In ISO, all the stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the development of ODF and the decision-making process includes a public review. It has a significant market acceptance that demonstrates that it is mature enough for the development of products and services. However, it does not foster the creation of innovative solutions. Moreover, there are no disclosures of ISO IPR Database to identify the licensing under the specification. As a document format, ODF helps to make data available on the internet.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/eif_en

⁴ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/national-interoperability-framework-observatory-nifo/nifo-factsheets>

- **Transparency**
As a document exchange format, ODF is a valuable tool for sharing information through the internet between administrations and stakeholders. Allowing sharing data and information the standard foster the visibility and comprehensibility of administration data and services. Fostering the collaboration between public administrations, the specification eases the decision-making process of institutions. However, the purpose of ODF is not related to the availability of interfaces.
- **Reusability**
ODF is a business agnostic document format that can be reused in a cross-domain way. However, it is not available for free. It needs to be paid to get access to the specification's text.
- **Technological neutrality and data portability**
ODF is independent of any software, hardware, or operating system. Moreover, the adoption of ODF as a document format for exchanging information does not hamper the scalability of systems. Furthermore, it supports data portability between systems.

The specification does not support the principles related to generic user needs and expectations:

- **User-centricity**
The purpose of ODF is not related to the once-only principle. Therefore, this criterion is not applicable to the specification.
- **Inclusion and accessibility**
The purpose of ODF is not related to e-accessibility. Therefore, this criterion is considered not applicable to this specification.
- **Security and privacy**
ODF protects in itself data integrity, but also provides capabilities to protect with passwords and user roles in order to the access to the document. Therefore, ODF provides security features that foster a trustworthy data exchange between administration and stakeholders.
- **Multilingualism**
The purpose of ODF is not related to the delivery of multilingual public services. Therefore, this criterion is not applicable to the specification.

The specification partially supports the foundation principles for cooperation among public administrations:

- **Administrative Simplification**
By allowing the exchange of digital documents, ODF avoids sharing non-digital documents and then helps to the reduction of administrative burden.

- **Preservation of information**
The purpose of the specification is not related to the preservation of information. Therefore, this criterion is not applicable to the specification.
- **Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency**
After carrying out information retrieval, no document or study has been found assessing the ODF in terms of efficiency or effectiveness.

2.2. Interoperability Layers

The interoperability model which is applicable to all digital public services includes:

- Four layers of interoperability: legal, organisational, semantic and technical;
- A cross-cutting component of the four layers, 'integrated public service governance';
- A background layer, 'interoperability governance'.

The Specification supports the implementation of digital public services complying with the EIF interoperability model:

- **Interoperability governance**
ODF is already associated to an EIRA ABB in the European Library Of Specifications (ELIS). More specifically, ODF can define the interoperability aspects of the "Representation" ABB from the EIRA Semantic view. 12 Member States are recommending ODF in their ICT National Catalogues. After searching in the different official European websites, there is no evidence of any cross-border project that use ODF nor explicit agreements involving the usage of the specification. After checking the different standard catalogues at supra-national level, there is no evidence of the inclusion of ODF within any European catalogue of standards. However, there are some conformance validators for ODF, for example, The Document Foundation validator.
- **Integrated public service governance & Legal Interoperability**
No evidences have been found of the specification being included in a formal interoperability agreement between organisations involved in the European public services provision. Moreover, no assessment verifying the compliance of ODF with the European standardisation regulation has been found.
- **Organisational interoperability**
The purpose of ODF is not related to the modelling of business processes and it is not related to organisational interoperability. Therefore, these criteria are not applicable to the specification.
- **Semantic Interoperability**
ODF does not define a cross-sector reusable data model, but it defines an open source file format. Moreover, it does not support the main principles for the publication of data as Linked Open Data.
- **Technical interoperability**
This technical interoperability layer is covered by the core interoperability principle "Openness".

3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This section presents an overview of the results of the CAMSS assessments for **ODF v1.2**. The CAMSS “Strength” indicator measures the reliability of the assessment by calculating the number of answered (applicable) criteria. On the other hand, the number of favourable answers and the number of unfavourable ones are used to calculate the “Automated Score” per category and an “Overall Score”.

Category	Automated Score	Assessment Strength	# Favourable	# Unfavourable	# Not Applicable
Principle setting the context for EU actions on interoperability	100%	100%	1	0	0
Core interoperability principles	61%	95%	11	7	1
Principles related to generic user needs and expectations	100%	25%	1	0	3
Foundation principles for cooperation among public administrations	50%	67%	1	1	1
Interoperability layers*	45%	91%	9	11	2
Overall Score	56%	82%	18	14	7

*The technical interoperability layer is covered by the criteria corresponding to the core interoperability principle “Openness”.

With an 82% of assessment strength, this assessment can be considered representative of the specification compliance with the EIF principles and recommendations.

The Overall Automated Score of 56% demonstrates that the specification barely supports the European Interoperability Framework in the domains where it applies.

INTEROPERABILITY PRINCIPLES

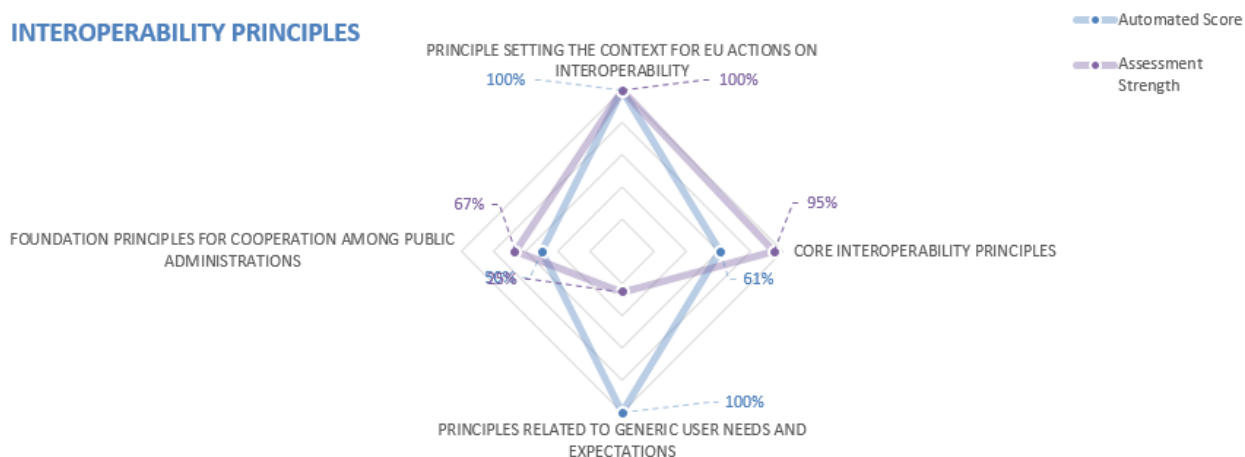


Figure 1. Interoperability principles Results

INTEROPERABILITY LAYERS

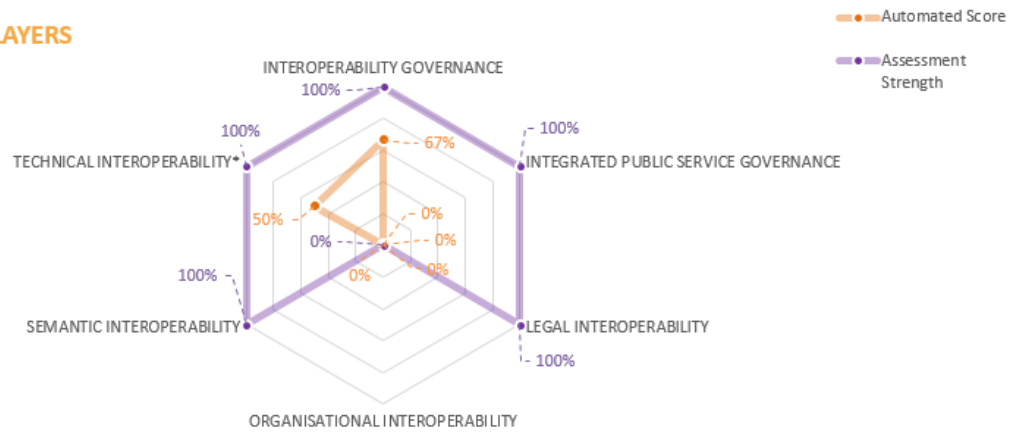


Figure 2. Interoperability layers Results