ASSESSMENT SUMMARY v1.0.0

LegalDocML[1]

Semantic Interoperability Community (SEMIC)[2]

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[1] https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/solution/core-public-service-vocabulary/about

[2] https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/about

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 **LegalDocML** 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 OASIS **LegalDocML** goal is to "collect requirements from the community of the stakeholders who create, manage and use legislative and legal documents in order to extend and refine the standard."[4] The objective of the specification is to improve the best practices of the use of XML within Parliaments', Assembly's or Congress' document management processes, within courts' and tribunals' judgment management systems, and in legal documents including contracts. The specification is based on the Akoma Ntoso-UN project.

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

- **Subsidiarity and proportionality**
  There is no Member State that includes LegalDocML in their national catalogue with 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) factsheets.

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

- **Openness**
  The purpose of LegalDocML is not related to the publication of public data as open data. However, OASIS has defined a clear Technical Committee (hereby TC) process where all the stakeholders involved have the opportunity to participate in the development of the specification development process and available for everyone to study. In addition, there is a public review in the TC process and operates under the Royalty Free on Limited Terms IPR mode as defined in the OASIS Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy. Finally, the European Commission includes in its Rolling Plan for ICT Standarisation. And, at the same time, it is used by LEOS, the European Project for Legal Texts Development.

- **Transparency**

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[3] https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/eif_en

[4] https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=legaldocml

The LegalDocML TC works to advance worldwide best practices for the use of XML within a Parliaments', Assembly's or Congress' document management processes, within courts' and tribunals' judgment management systems, and generally in legal documents including contracts. The implementation within LEOS project demonstrates the usefulness of the specification in the visibility and the decision-making process of public administrations and allows a common interface where this XML content is displayed in a user-friendly way to allow the creation and management of legal documents.

- **Reusability**
The business domain in which the specification was developed was mainly the administrations and the management of legal, political/administrative and contract management. However, this can be extended to other business domains where this kind of documents are basic for the development of the activity. In addition, The specification provides a common legal document standard for the specification of parliamentary, legislative and judicial documents, for their interchange between institutions anywhere in the world and for the creation of a common data and metadata model that allows experience, expertise, and tools to be shared and extended by all participating peers, courts, Parliaments, Assemblies, Congresses and administrative branches of governments. Finally, the specification is available for free at the SDO's webapge but also it is accessible through LEOS project and sofware application documentation, which can be found in joinup.

- **Technological neutrality and data portability**
LegalDocML is XML based, however, it is not dependent on any other technology or platform. Moreover, the specification is proportionate to the needs of its users as aims to allow the modifications to the models within the AKOMA NTOSO framework so that local customisation can be achieved without sacrificing interoperability with other systems. Finally, the specification fosters data portability between systems and applications supporting the implementation and evolution of European public services when legally possible as the purpose of LegalDocML is to provide a format for long-term storage of and access to parliamentary, legislative and judicial documents that allows search, interpretation and visualization of documents.

The specification partially supports the principles related to generic user needs and expectations:

- **User-centricity**
The LegalDocML can be related also to contracts with legal bindings or relevance for the administration and regulatory boards. The specification can allow public administrations to define XML schemas for the reuse of information across borders including reference to contracts or other legal documents without requiring the submission or provision more than once.

- **Inclusion and accessibility**
The purpose of LegalDocML is not related to e-accessibility. Therefore, this criterion is not applicable to this specification.

- **Security and privacy**

LegalDocML has no requirement recognizing and executing the content on the receiving end. The receiving agents must ignore executable content coming from unsecured channels and/or unknown sources. However, the specification is XML based and it provides a set of common elements that are used to validate the information and the structure of the information exchange. This fact contributes to the trustworthy data exchange between parties.

- **Multilingualism**
The LegalDocML is XML base, which allow the estructuration of legal documents data and its exchange between systems. This can also be used for instance, in combination with the e-translation building block, to translate the content to other languages in the European Union. Then the collaboration between Member States can be improved using the method for the alignment of legal frameworks.

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

- **Administrative Simplification**
The specification contributes to enchance and simplify the process of drafting legal documents. This fact helps to save time and resources by removing administrative burdens that have been related to regulation drafting over the years. An example of this is the LEOS software.

- **Preservation of information**
The specification aims to provide a format for long-term storage and access to parliamentary, legislative and judicial documents that allows search, interpretation and visualization of documents. Therefore, LegalDocML can support and foster the long-term preservation of electronic records, especially legal texts.

- **Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency**
There are different documentation and studies related to the use of LegalDocML. An example is "Evaluating LegalDocML and LegalRuleML as a Standard for Sharing Normative Information in the AEC/FM Domain analyses the LegalDOCML specification"[5]

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

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[5]https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318010726_Evaluating_LegalDocML_and_LegalRuleML_as_a_Standard_for_Sharing_Normative_Information_in_the_AECFM_Domain

- **Interoperability governance**
On the one hand, at the moment of performing the assessment, the specification is not mapped with any EIRA ABBs and therefore is not included in the ELIS v1.0.1. However, it has been associated with Legal ABBs from EIRA Legal View and is being included in the on-gong version of the ELIS that will be released in May 2021. The ABBs included are: Legal Act, Binding Instrument, Legislation On Data Information and Knowledge Exchange and Non-Binding Instrument. Moreover, the specification has been selected within the scope of LEOS project to develop the LEOS software, which aims to ease the drafting and edition of legal documents. Finally, LegalDocML has been included within the European Commission's Rolling Plan for ICT Standarisation and in the related standardisation activities of the same rolling plan.

On the other hand, the mechanisms to assess conformity of the implementations of the specification are not available for free. LegalDocML is not recommended by an EU Member State and is not included in a catalogue of standards at national or EU level.

- **Integrated public service governance & Legal Interoperability**
No evidence has been found of the specification being included in a formal interoperability agreement between organisations involved in the European public services provision. In addition, After checking the assessments performed by CAMSS and the list of specifications identified by the MSP Multi-stakeholder-platform, no assessment verifying the compliance of the specification with the European standardisation regulation has been found.

- **Organisational interoperability**
The LegalDocML TC works to advance worldwide best practices for the use of XML within a Parliaments', Assembly's or Congress' document management processes, within courts' and tribunals' judgment management systems, and generally in legal documents including contracts. It can be concluded that the specification fosters defining organisational interoperability aspects. However, the purpose of LegalDocML is not related to the modelling of business processes.

- **Semantic Interoperability**
LegalDocML is aimed to define a common data and metadata model towards the maximisation of information reuse. It is focused on administration purposes mainly for public administrations, but it also can be extended to more specific sectors requiring legal document management and processing. However, the purpose of LegalDocMC is not related to the publication of public 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 **LeglDocML**. 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	0%	100%	0	1	0
Core interoperability principles	100%	95%	18	0	1
Principles related to generic user needs and expectations	100%	75%	3	0	1
Foundation principles for cooperation among public administrations	100%	100%	3	0	0
Interoperability layers*	68%	86%	13	6	3
Overall Score	80%	90%	28	7	4

The technical interoperability layer is covered by the criteria corresponding to the core interoperability principle ''Openness''.

With a 90% of assessment strength, this assessment can be considered representative of the specification compliance with the EIF principles and recommendations.

The Overall Automated Score of 80% demonstrates that the specification supports the European Interoperability Framework in the domains where it applies.
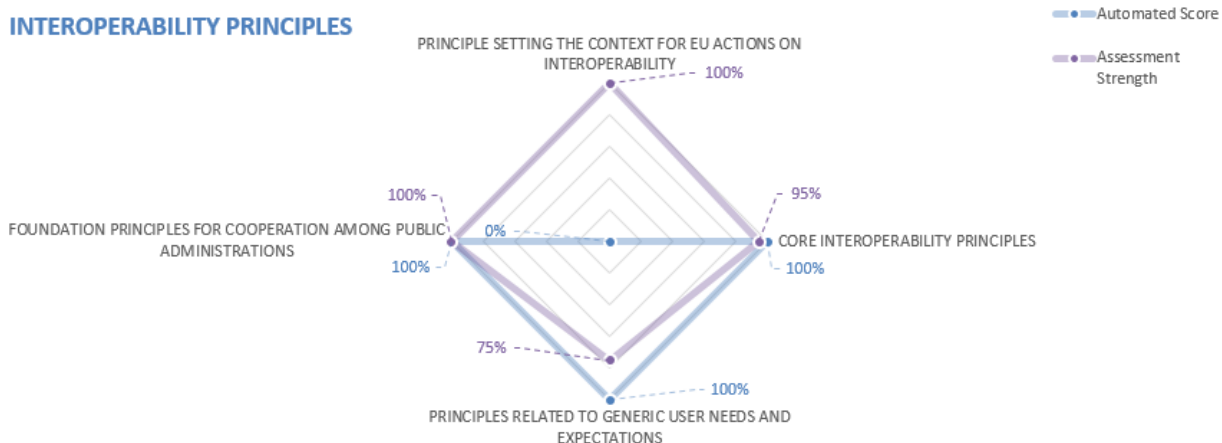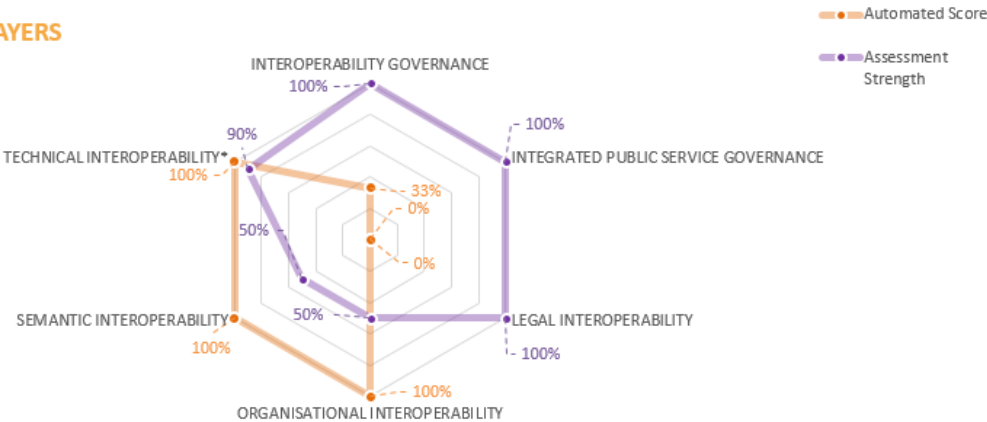

Figure 1. Interoperability principles Results

INTEROPERABILITY LAYERS

Figure 2. Interoperability layers Results