



# ASSESSMENT SUMMARY v1.0.0

European Single Procurement Document Exchange Data Model (ESPD-EDM<sup>1</sup>)

European Commission (EU Publications Office<sup>2</sup>)

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<sup>1</sup> ESPD-EDM specification: <https://docs.ted.europa.eu/ESPD-EDM/latest/index.html>

<sup>2</sup>EU Publications Office: <https://op.europa.eu/en/home>

# Change Control

Modification	Details
<b>Version 1.0.0</b>	
Initial version	

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The present document is a summary of the assessment of **ESPD data model (ESPD-EDM, or ESPD)** carried out by CAMSS using the CAMSS Assessment EIF scenario<sup>3</sup>. The purpose of this scenario is to assess the compliance of a standard or specification with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF)<sup>4</sup>.

## 2. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) is a standardized self-declaration form used in public procurement processes across the European Union (EU). The ESPD was introduced in 2016 as a way to simplify the procurement process and reduce administrative burdens for both businesses and public authorities.

The ESPD serves as a preliminary screening tool that enables potential suppliers to declare their eligibility for a particular procurement procedure, without having to provide full documentary evidence at the outset. The document contains information about the supplier's legal status, financial standing, and technical and professional abilities, as well as any relevant exclusion grounds.

### 2.1. EIF 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 does not support the principles setting context for EU actions on interoperability:***

- **Subsidiarity and proportionality**

The ESPD has not been included in the catalogue of any Member State according to the CAMSS List of Standards<sup>5</sup>.

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

- **Openness**

ESPD can facilitate the publication of procurement data on the web given that the document information that provides can be easily processed and shared electronically by public authorities. The ESPD can play a role in facilitating the publication of procurement data on the web, which can help to increase transparency, promote competition, and improve the efficiency of public procurement processes. Moreover, the ESPD can be modeled in XML, an open standard developed by the IETF.

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<sup>3</sup> CAMSS Assessment EIF Scenario 6.0.0: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/camss-assessment-EIF-scenario/release/600>

<sup>4</sup> ISA<sup>2</sup> programme: [https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/eif\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/eif_en)

<sup>5</sup> CAMSS List of Standards: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/camss-list-standards>

The specification has been developed by the European Commission, the body in charge of consulting with stakeholders during the development process. The Github<sup>6</sup> platform is where the largest community of stakeholders contributing to the development of the specification can be found. It is where changes and updates are notified, following comments and feedback from Member States. As all projects carried out within the framework of the Publications Office, ESPD is royalty-free and respects FRAND principles.

As for the maturity of ESPD, it was created in 2016 and since then it has been a widely used and integrated document in public procurement processes. In fact, the use of ESPD is mandatory for all public procurement since 2018, which is why it is currently integrated in many platforms and tools intended for such purposes.

- **Transparency**

While the ESPD itself does not enable the visibility and comprehensibility of administrative procedures, rules, data, and services, its use in conjunction with digital solutions can help to increase transparency and visibility in public procurement processes, such as the e-certis<sup>7</sup> tool, which helps contracting authorities to verify the certificates and documentation submitted by suppliers in response to tender opportunities.

- **Reusability**

ESPD is primarily designed for use in public procurement, nonetheless, its basic principles and approach could potentially be adapted to support data collection and standardization in other domains as well. However, any such adaptations would require careful consideration of the specific requirements and needs of the domain in question.

- **Technological neutrality and data portability**

ESPD can be considered to be platform and technology-agnostic, given that it can be integrated into a wide range of digital systems and platforms. Although it does not allow customisation, the ESPD is a modular document that consists of several sections, each of which covers a specific area of information related to the procurement process. Contracting authorities can choose which sections of the ESPD are relevant to their procurement process and request that suppliers provide the corresponding information, therefore allowing for partial implementations and extensions.

Moreover, data portability is supported by the ESPD, insofar it is a standard format for collecting and sharing procurement-related information, which enables the exchange of data between different systems and applications.

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<sup>6</sup> ESPD in Github: <https://github.com/OP-TED/ESPD-EDM>

<sup>7</sup> eCertis and ESPD: [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/public-procurement/digital-procurement/europeansingleprocurement-document-and-ecertis\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/public-procurement/digital-procurement/europeansingleprocurement-document-and-ecertis_en)

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

- **User-centricity**

The ESPD is designed to be a modular document, which means that it can be used to collect information at different stages of the procurement process. Once information is provided in the ESPD, it can be reused throughout the procurement process, eliminating the need for suppliers to provide the same information repeatedly, therefore, allowing relevant information to be reused when needed, by means of integrating the CCCEV<sup>8</sup> model. More information can be found in the ESPD Technical handbook<sup>9</sup>.

- **Inclusion and accessibility**

The ESPD is designed to enable e-accessibility, ensuring that it can be used by all users, including those with disabilities or impairments. The ESPD is available in various formats, including electronic forms, and structured data formats such as XML, which can be read and processed by assistive technologies used by people with disabilities. It can also be adapted to diverse users if combined with other specifications such as HTML which has tags to use for this purpose.

- **Privacy**

The ESPD is designed to ensure the protection of personal data by complying with data protection regulations, providing transparent information to suppliers and their representatives, and requiring contracting authorities to implement appropriate measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of personal data. Moreover, it aligns with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF<sup>10</sup>) which includes a focus on data protection.

- **Security**

Although the ESPD is not related to the secure exchange or processing of data, some other security features may be put on place when wanting to ensure data integrity or data authenticity, such as the digital signatures. Nonetheless, the responsibility for ensuring these security mechanisms ultimately lies in the implementers of the procurement services.

- **Multilingualism**

The provisions for the use of different languages in the ESPD are described in Article 61 of Directive 2014/24/EU<sup>11</sup> on public procurement. According to this article, contracting authorities must ensure that all procurement related documents, including the tender documents and the contract, are available in the official language(s) of the member state where the procurement is taking place.

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<sup>8</sup> CCCEV: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/solution/e-government-corevocabularies/core-criterion-and-core-evidence-vocabulary>

<sup>9</sup> ESPD Technical Handbook: [https://docs.ted.europa.eu/ESPD-EDM/latest/xml\\_business\\_handbook.html](https://docs.ted.europa.eu/ESPD-EDM/latest/xml_business_handbook.html)

<sup>10</sup> EIF: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/nifo-national-interoperability-framework-observatory/european-interoperability-framework-detail>

<sup>11</sup> Directive 2014/24/EU on Public Procurement: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014L0024>

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

- **Administrative Simplification**

By simplifying and standardizing the procurement process, the ESPD can contribute to the delivery of more efficient and effective public services across the EU. The use of a single, standardized document can help to reduce administrative burden and increase transparency in procurement procedures, leading to more streamlined and cost-effective procurement of goods and services for public authorities, therefore, simplifying the delivery of European public services.

- **Preservation of information**

The ESPD is a single self-declaration form enabling the participation in public procurement, thus providing means to preserve data in electronic format.

- **Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency**

There can be found many articles and research papers addressing e-procurement and assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the ESPD in the context of the digitalisation of e-procurement process. Those article range from the studies on the employment of the One-Only Principle in the Domain of the Electronic Public Procurement<sup>12</sup>, or the assessment of the integration of the ESPD for developing e-procurement<sup>13</sup>.

## **2.2. EIF 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:***

- **Interoperability governance**

ESPD can be mapped into the EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications (ELIS<sup>14</sup>) covering the eProcurement Evaluating Component and the eProcurement Evaluating Service ABBs from the Technical Application view. Regarding the implementation assessment, there can be found an interoperability testbed<sup>15</sup> to validate the ESPD-request and ESPD-response XML instances. Moreover, together with other

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<sup>12</sup> Employing the Once-Only Principle in the Domain of the Electronic Public Procurement: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-44322-1\\_18](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-44322-1_18)

<sup>13</sup> Accelerating Transparency and Efficiency in the Public Procurement Sector for a Smarter Society:

eNotification and ESPD Integration for Developing E-procurement: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-19-3112-3\\_25](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-19-3112-3_25)

<sup>14</sup> ELIS: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss>

<sup>15</sup> Interoperability Testbed: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/interoperability-test-bed-repository/solution/interoperability-test-bed>

models or initiatives like eCertis, the ESPD fosters the cross-border participation in procurement, increasing competition and supporting economic growth. eCertis is a tool that helps to understand what kind of evidence can be used to fulfill a specific public procurement requirement in a European country. ESPD can be found in the Tenders Development Daily (TED) Developer Docs<sup>16</sup> website, and it can also be accessed through Joinup<sup>17</sup>.

- **Legal Interoperability**

According to the Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU and the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/7<sup>18</sup>, the ESPD shall be used and adopted by all stakeholders, thus becoming a European Standard.

- **Organisational interoperability**

The ESPD Data Exchange Model (ESPD-EDM) is designed specifically to enable the integration of the eESPD service into national e-procurement solutions and/or pre-qualification services, therefore, facilitating the modelling of e-procurement business processes in each member state that applies it. In addition, while it was not designed to facilitate organizational Interoperability agreements, it may indirectly support their development by streamlining the procurement process and reducing administrative burdens for business and public administrations.

- **Semantic Interoperability**

The European platform Joinup holds many discussion forums and topics regarding the implementation of the ESPD as well as the sharing of solutions related to the specification.

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<sup>16</sup> TED Developer Docs: <https://docs.ted.europa.eu/home/index.html>

<sup>17</sup> ESPD in Joinup: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/eprocurement/solution/european-single-procurement-document>

<sup>18</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/7: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0007>



### 3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This section presents an overview of the results of the CAMSS assessments for **ESPD-EDM**. 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 is used to calculate the “Automated Score” per category and an “Overall Score”.

Category	Automated Score	Assessment Strength	Compliance Level
Principle setting the context for EU actions on interoperability	20/100 (20%)	100%	Ad-hoc
Core interoperability principles	1480/1700 (87%)	94%	Seamless
Principles related to generic user needs and expectations	1040/1200 (87%)	75%	Seamless
Foundation principles for cooperation among public administrations	500/500 (100%)	100%	Seamless
Interoperability layers*	1000/1000 (100%)	100%	Seamless
Overall Score	3640/4100 (89%) <sup>19</sup>	91%	

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

With an 91% of assessment strength, this assessment can be considered representative of the specification compliance with the EIF principles and recommendations.

The Overall Automated Score of 89% (3640/4100) demonstrates that the specification supports the European Interoperability Framework in the domains where it applies.

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<sup>19</sup> See the “results interpretation” section of the CAMSS Assessment EIF Scenario Quick User Guide:

<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/camss-assessment-eif-scenario/results-visualisation-and-interpretation>