

Factsheet Estonia

Main interoperability activities

The third version of the Estonian Interoperability Framework (December 2011) consists out two levels. The first level describes the framework itself. The second level describes sub-frameworks and activities on interoperability. The framework undergoes a consultation period whereby state and local government agencies, private sector, third sector entities and individuals can submit their proposals. The framework documents are enforced by degree of minister.

Summary of the NIF

The third version of the Estonian Interoperability Framework is aligned with the terminology and general principles of the European Interoperability Framework and other initiatives. The documents of the Estonian framework are divided into two levels.

The first level, the framework itself, includes a list of documents, a glossary, concepts, principles, policies, guidelines, recommendations and practices.

The second level consists out of seven sub-frameworks. The **IT architecture framework**¹ describes the Estonian IT architecture and support strategies for selected public IT systems. The **semantic interoperability framework**² is a set of multilateral agreements and rules, which would facilitate the linkage between systems at the semantic level. The **open standards framework**³ specifies the Estonian public policy on open standards. The **security interoperability framework**⁴ specifies the key aspects of information security, which must be considered by deploying and maintaining information system at all public administration levels. The **software framework**⁵ describes mechanisms and methods for evaluating and selecting software to be procured in public sector. The **document management framework**⁶ describes the key aspects for the governance of document management systems. The **internet interoperability framework**⁷ deals with state and local government agencies web interoperability.

Alignment NIF/EIF

The Estonian NIF is fully aligned with all principles and recommendations of the EIF.

¹ http://www.riso.ee/et/koosvoime/RITA1_01.pdf (version 1.01)

² http://www.riso.ee/wiki/Semantika_raamistik (working draft of version 0.9)

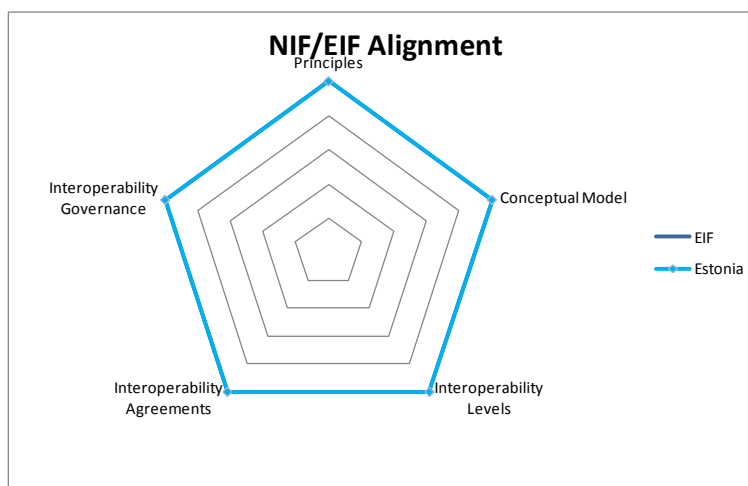
³ <http://www.riso.ee/wiki/Avatud-standardid> (version 0.1)

⁴ <http://www.riso.ee/et/koosvoime/security-framework.odt>(version 2)

⁵ <http://www.riso.ee/et/koosvoime/software-framework.odt> and <http://www.riso.ee/et/koosvoime/tarkvara-raamistik.odt> (version 2)

⁶ <http://www.riso.ee/wiki/Dokumendihaldus> (working version 1.0)

⁷ <http://www.riso.ee/et/koosvoime/web-framework.odt> and <http://www.riso.ee/et/koosvoime/veebide-raamistik.odt> (version 1.0)



The Estonian NIF aligns with all of the twelve EIF **principles** and gives more substance to each of these principles.

The **conceptual model** put forward in the Estonian NIF is fully aligned with the EIF. The states IT architecture is focusing on a Service-Oriented architecture. The NIF puts forward common infrastructure building blocks to be used to develop new public services. Authentic sources are accessible through the secure distributed service bus X-Road. Authentication and authorization for data exchange is issued by the X-Road data security layer. Interfaces to authentic sources are aligned on a semantic and technical level.

The Estonian NIF describes the four **interoperability Levels**. The NIF describes all relevant legislation with respect to data exchange. Business processes are unified documented and the organizational relationships are clarified among the different levels of the administration. The NIF encourages the definition of change management procedures to ensure service delivery. The semantic interoperability framework puts forward semantic assets defined through a collaboration of different public administrations, private companies and associations. Technical interoperability is ensured through formal specifications including the open standards framework, interoperability architecture framework, etc.

The **interoperability agreements** described are fully aligned with the EIF. The Estonian NIF describes a consultation period for administrations, private sector and individuals to provide their feedback and suggestions for selecting formalised specifications. Data protection requirements are considered and implemented through suitable technical measures.

Regarding **governance**, the department of state information systems of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications coordinates the different initiatives and must ensure compliance with the Interoperability framework at all times.

Other initiatives on interoperability

No further evidence was provided for other initiatives on interoperability.

NIF responsables for Estonia

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