Factsheet Finland

Main interoperability activities

Finland has taken an Enterprise Architecture (EA) approach to interoperability, and embeds all interoperability initiatives within an overall EA for Public Administrations. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for developing and maintaining the Public Administration's EA, and is entitled to lay down regulations concerning information architecture, information systems architecture and technical architecture. In this context, a law on information management guidance for public administrations was created, and a collection of EA approaches, models and tools was specified.

Summary of the NIF

The currently available material on the Finnish NIF describes the following topics:

- Law on information management guidance for public administrations
- Specifications of the EA approaches, models and tools

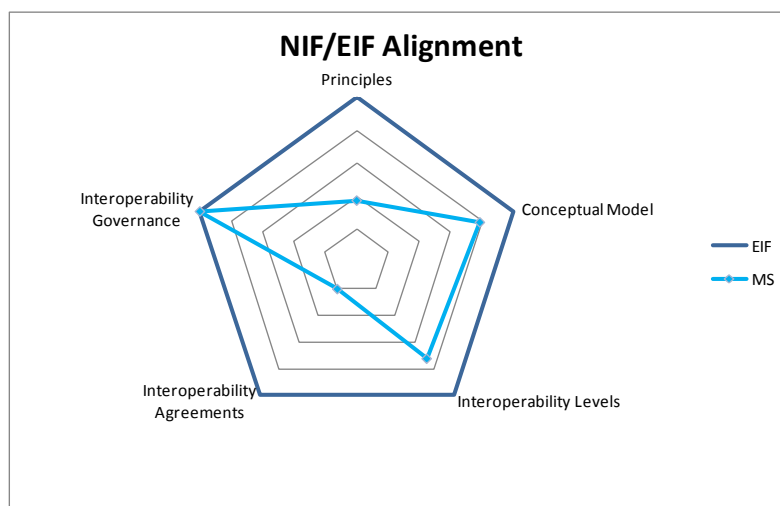**Law on the information management guidance for public administrations**

Since 1/9/2011, the law 10.6.2011/634 obliges all public administration organisations to develop their EA and to make use of the common Public Administration EA and its elements.

Specifications of the EA approaches, models and tools

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for developing and maintaining the Public Administration's EA, which contains the following elements: (1) common EA developing method (including the framework) to be used in all public administration (refers to Public Administration Recommendation: JHS 179 Kokonaisarkkitehtuurin kehittäminen), (2) common EA governance model, (3) definition & ownership of domains, which are large functionally coherent areas such as 'Health and welfare', (4) common architecture definitions, such as architecture principles, common information architectures, common meta data and data services (work in progress), common ICT-services (planned 2012/2013), and common reference architectures, and (5) a roadmap of further development of the common architecture.

Alignment NIF/EIF

The Finnish NIF is nicely aligned with the EIF in terms of interoperability governance, conceptual models, and interoperability levels. Nevertheless, the Finnish NIF does not focus on principles and interoperability agreements.

NIF/EIF Alignment

The following paragraph discusses the NIF / EIF alignment as given by the figure above. Firstly, the interoperability governance is clearly defined in the context of law 10.6.2011/634. Secondly, the fundaments of Finnish interoperability framework are defined by means of EA approaches, models and tools, leading to intensive usage of conceptual models. Thirdly, while all interoperability levels are discussed in the Public Administration's EA, less technical details are specified at this point in time. Fourthly, only five out of twelve EIF principles were considered in the Finnish NIF, including the principles *security and privacy*, *transparency*, *preservation of information*, *openness* and *reusability*. Finally, little evidence about formal interoperability agreements was found in the available material, leading to a low NIF / EIF alignment from this perspective.

Other initiatives on interoperability

Finland published a technical architecture solution and specification for service interfaces to base registries (PERA; ready and published at the interoperability portal Yhteentoimivuus.fi[1]).

Next, the Ministry of Finance started (or will soon start) organising a working group to define a common reference architecture for accessing national base registries (started autumn 2012), a working group to define common reference architecture for electronic customer service (work in progress), a preliminary study on public administration's common meta data services (work in progress), and a plan to implement the technical solutions for the common meta data services.

For some years, there has been ontology work going on in a research project led by Aalto University (http://www.seco.tkk.fi/). The results of this work including the national ontology service ONKI (http://www.seco.tkk.fi/services/onki/) will be part of the public administration's common meta data services.

NIF responsible for MS

Jukka Uusitalo (Jukka.Uusitalo@vm.fi)

---

[1] http://www.yhteentoimivuus.fi