

Factsheet Latvia

Main interoperability activities

The Latvian national interoperability framework (NIF) designs the fundamentals of e-government, by defining single point of contacts for the citizens and businesses, by sharing components and tools for e-service development, and by creating standardized interoperability platforms based on open standards. Although no explicit interoperability framework exists, guidance on interoperability is given by law and legal acts on state information systems and by documentation of Latvian integration platforms.

Summary of the NIF

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

- Law and legal acts on state information systems
- Documentation of integration platforms

Law and legal acts on state information systems

From 2005 till 2009, different legal acts were published related to security requirements of state information systems¹; technical requirements of state information systems²; requirements for the protection of critical state information systems³; requirements for state information system management integrators, procedures for the establishment, maintenance and activities of the state information systems management integrators and procedures for ensuring the functioning of state information systems within the framework of integrated state information systems⁴.

The state information systems law⁵ will have the mandatory requirement for national interoperability, this law will have the high level requirements. It is foreseen that it will be adapted early 2013. More detailed technical information (rules for technical items, platform, SLA's, standards, ...) has already been taken up in separate documents with legal power. Others will be drafted in the future. These documents with legal power will be easier to adapt and change with technological evolution.

The law will encompass the spirit of the EIF recommendations a.o.:

- A state information system is obliged to give information to another state information system,
- A state information system can, free of charge, request information from another state information system,
- Mandatory integration of the state information systems.

¹ [http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_765 - Security Requirements of State Information Systems.doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_765_-_Security_Requirements_of_State_Information_Systems.doc)

² [http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_764 - Requirements of State Information Systems.doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_764_-_Requirements_of_State_Information_Systems.doc)

³ [http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_1445 - Protection of Critical State Information Systems ...doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_1445_-_Protection_of_Critical_State_Information_Systems_...doc)

⁴ [http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_1131 - Establishmentx Maintenance and Activities of the State Information Systems Management Integrators...doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_1131_-_Establishmentx_Maintenance_and_Activities_of_the_State_Information_Systems_Management_Integrators...doc)

⁵ http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/State_Information_Systems.doc

Documentation of integration platforms

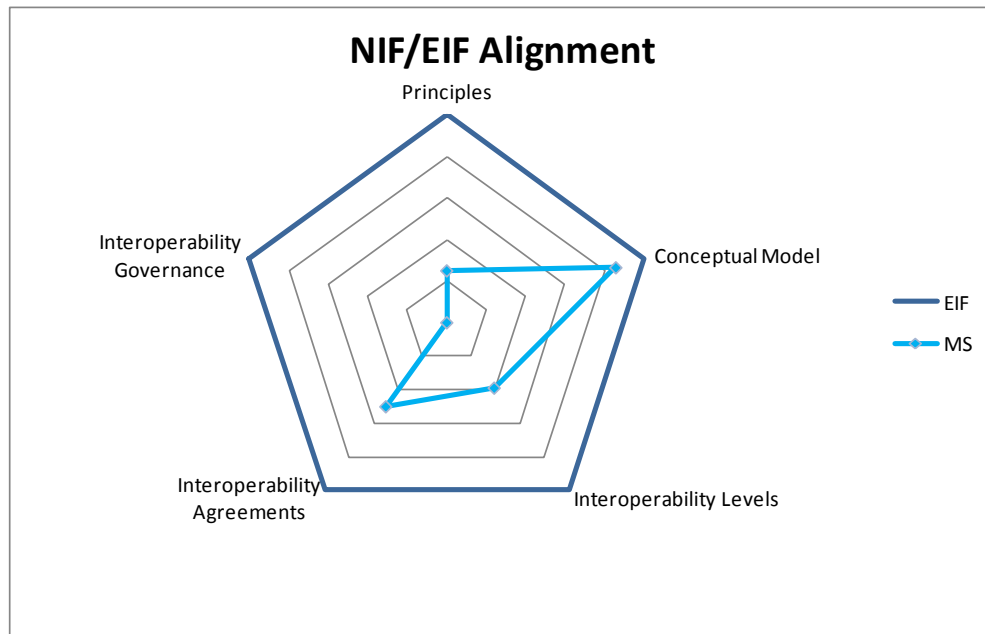
In order to support single points of contact for citizens and businesses, Latvia employs different integration platforms (ISIS, IVIS⁶, VISS⁷) via comparable architectures. By means of these integration platforms, different facets of interoperability between public administrations are specified, such as data exchange, security, reusable building blocks, standards, sharing of semantic models, service level agreements etc.

Currently the e-government platform has 3 layers:

- An interoperability layer for the exchange of data
- A platform for common e-services (e.g. authentication, payment,...)
- A presentation layer (the e-services portal)

Alignment NIF/EIF

The Latvian NIF is partially aligned with the EIF, due to a strong focus on technical aspects and less on legal, organisational and semantic aspects.



The following paragraph discusses the NIF / EIF alignment as given by the figure above. Firstly, Latvia closely aligns with EIF in terms of conceptual models, as many conceptual architectures are provided to specify the interactions between building blocks. Secondly, the NIF uses interoperability agreements to a certain extent (i.e., to define technical interfaces between different systems), but does not deal with other legally binding agreements. Thirdly, not all interoperability levels are discussed in depth, with a strong focus on the technical level, including technical specifications of semantics (i.e., technical XML definition of semantic concepts, without defining the meaning of the concepts from an organisational point of view). Fourthly, the technical platforms embed different interoperability principles in an implicit way, but -except from security and open standards- no explicit principles are specified. Finally, no references to interoperability governance were found.

⁶ <https://ivis.eps.gov.lv/ivisportal/>

⁷ <http://www.vraa.gov.lv/lv/epakalpojumi/viss/>

Other initiatives on interoperability

Currently a policy planning document (agenda) is being drafted nationally in order to implement the principle of one-stop agency in all local governments – in every administrative centre of a city, town or local municipality, ensuring availability of municipal and state-level public services at a single location.

Next, the State Regional Development Agency plans to improve and develop the catalogue of public services, in order to align with the Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on services in the internal market.

NIF responsible for Latvia

Aigars Laurinovičs (Aigars.Laurinovics@varam.gov.lv)