Factsheet Portugal

Main interoperability activities

The Portuguese National Interoperability Framework has been developed by the 'Agência para a Modernização Administrativa' (AMA) and the first version dates from 2004. The main focus of this NIF lays currently on the technical interoperability through the availability of a service-oriented integration layer between all public Information Systems. However, AMA is in the process of updating the NIF to include a wider focus on all levels of interoperability and the delivery is expected during 2013.

Summary of the NIF

The Portuguese National Interoperability Framework touches upon all levels of interoperability (legal, organisational, semantic and technical), the primary focus of this document is on the technical interoperability through the availability of an integration layer (i.e. the Interoperability Platform) between all public Information Systems.

The **legal** interoperability framework only addresses point-to-point integration aspects. Other interactions are presumed out of scope due to data privacy concerns. The NIF acknowledges the need for a broader legal framework in order to promote sharing and reusing information within public administrations and with European and private entities.
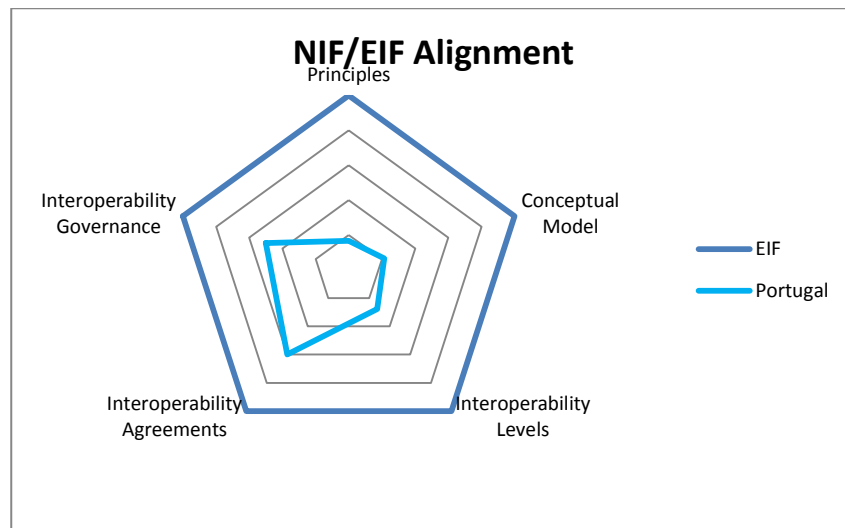
The **organisational** interoperability layer describes an inter-ministerial network for ICT. This collaborative network of public administration agents has the goal of promoting the elaboration and definition of transversal guidelines and standards in the ICT area.

The **semantic** interoperability layer describes a canonical data model present in the Interoperability Platform. This data model allows exchange of information without changing the underlying public Information System data model.

The **technical** interoperability layer describes mainly the central service-oriented 'Interoperability Platform' that can connect to all public Information Systems.

Alignment NIF/EIF

The Portuguese NIF has a fair alignment with the EIF on the 'Interoperability Agreements' and 'Interoperability Governance'. There is a weak alignment with the EIF on the 'Principles', the 'Conceptual Model' and the 'Interoperability Levels'. An increase in the alignment is expected when the new version of the NIF will be published.

NIF/EIF Alignment

The Portuguese NIF only aligns with three of the twelve EIF **principles**: 'user centricity', 'security and privacy' and 'openness'.

No **Conceptual Model** has been put forward by the NIF. The NIF promotes a Service-Oriented platform, the 'Interoperability Platform', which integrates all public Information Systems. The NIF describes a certain number of authentic sources. No evidences have been observed in the NIF describing access and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with security and privacy legislation.

The NIF describes the four **interoperability levels** but puts focus on the technical interoperability layer through the availability of an integration layer (i.e. the Interoperability Platform) between all public Information Systems. The legal framework concerns data privacy but needs further elaboration to address the entire concept of interoperability. No evidences were observed addressing organisational interoperability. It is planned in March 2013 to define ICT sectoral plans regarding the project group for information and communication technologies (GPTIC), to govern a strategic plan that defines the major action lines and restructuration of ICT. One of the areas of this plan is Interoperability. The interoperability platform has a canonical data model (i.e. Reference informational Architecture for public administration) to address semantic interoperability and assures that the associated public Information Systems data models remain unchanged. In 2014 the Public Administration Information Architecture is planned to be expanded. Technical interoperability was addressed mainly by creating a central Interoperability Platform that connects all public information systems. The Platform was built based on SOA principles using web based services using the most common open standards.

The **interoperability agreements** described are fairly aligned with the EIF. The inter-ministerial network for ICT defines guidelines and standards with consensus of all sectors of public Administration. These guidelines and standards go through a legal process after which they will have binding force to be adopted by all public administration.

No formal **governance** activities have been defined. However, the goal of the Inter-ministerial network for ICT is: to promote, to elaborate and to define transversal guidelines and standards in the ICT area that can be applied to all public Administration. It is planned for 2015 to define and implement governance in Public Administration.

Other initiatives on interoperability

A project is on-going to link **professional attributes** to the eID called 'Citizen Card' (CC). This project intends to make several databases available that can validate professional attributes for Citizens.

The **Interoperability Platform** is being prepared to receive base register services and to provide aggregated services that will allow cross border life events services. A part of this platform is the Identity Federation which allows personal data to be exchanged between different systems in a secure way.

On the Citizen's Portal there is a service called **Citizen Console** which allows citizens to visualise the federated data of the different systems which evolve them.

Balcão do Empreendedor[1] is an electronic counter which groups digital services and makes them available for the citizens and enterprises. **Zero Authorization** is one of the services offered which intends to reduce the administrative burden by eliminating licences and authorisations, and replacing them with a better supervision.

The **Simplex Program**[2] was launched in 2006 and has the objective to implement simplifications to the administrative burden imposed by the government to citizens and enterprises. All government institutions are encouraged to propose ideas.

On **svn.gov.pt** public administrations can voluntarily place self-made open software, where it is shared with other public administrations and even to the public to use and also to improve it.

A project is planned in 2013 to create legislation to encourage the use of iAP (Public Administration Interoperability Platform) for integrating interministerial information systems at technical and semantical level with the use of the Public Administration Informational Architecture.

It is also planned from 2013 onwards, until 2015, to define and establish the implementation plan for a set of web services in iAP within the Public Administrations Information Systems and with private sector.

Lastly in 2014 new functionalities on iAP will be deployed.

NIF responsibles for Portugal

Paulo Lobo (Paulo.lobo@ama.pt)

André Vasconcelos (andre.vasconcelos@ama.pt)

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[1] https://www.portaldaempresa.pt/CVE/services/balcaodoempreendedor/catalogolicencas.aspx

[2] http://www.simplex.pt/english.html