

# Factsheet Norway

## Main interoperability activities

The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) is the Norwegian government agency responsible to encourage interoperability in the Norwegian public administration, and is responsible for the Norwegian Interoperability Framework (NIF). It is overseen by the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs (FAD). The Norwegian NIF is not a framework as such but consists out of a set of regulations, decisions and recommendations which the all levels of the public administration should consider when developing public services.

## Summary of the NIF

Since the Norwegian Interoperability Framework is not a framework as such the following main parts are considered to represent the Norwegian NIF:

- Common architectural principles<sup>1</sup>
- Mandatory and recommended standards<sup>2</sup>
- Common ICT components<sup>3</sup>
- Information security<sup>4</sup>

The **common architectural principles** is a document which highlights the common architectural principles with a link to the applicable laws. The principles as defined by Norway are interoperability, scalability, service orientation, availability, security, openness and flexibility.

Difi maintains a **standards portal**<sup>5</sup> with all information regarding standards in the Norwegian public sector. On this portal a catalogue with all the **mandatory and recommended standards** which are approved by the **Standards Council** are published.

The **common ICT components** which the public institutions should use are listed in a separate document. This document contains also future recommendations on these common ICT components.

Difi shares information with the public bodies on how they should handle **information security** when using e-government on their own website.

## Alignment NIF/EIF

Norway has put considerable effort in defining parts for a NIF, and even though these may be in different documents, the Norwegian NIF is well aligned with the EIF.

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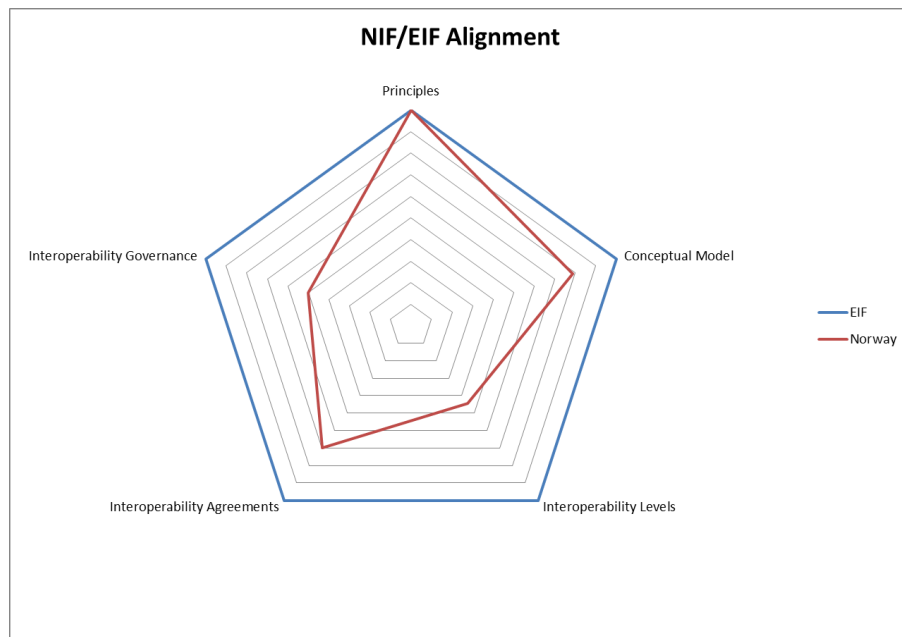
<sup>1</sup> Overordnede IKT-arkitekturprinsipper for offentlig sektor, <http://www.difi.no/filearchive/arkitekturprinsipper-2.1.pdf> (Norwegian)

<sup>2</sup> Referansekatalog for IT-standarder i offentlig sektor, <http://www.standard.difi.no/forvaltningsstandarder/referansekatalogen-html-versjon> (Norwegian)

<sup>3</sup> Nasjonale felleskomponenter i offentlig sektor, <http://www.difi.no/filearchive/difi-rapport-2010-17-nasjonale-felleskomponenter-i-offentlig-sektor-pdf-.pdf> (Norwegian)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.difi.no/ikt-samordning/informasjonsikkerhet> (Norwegian)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.standard.difi.no/> (English summary, portal in Norwegian)



Of the Norwegian common architectural **principles** only a few are fully shared with the EIF in the architecture document (security, openness,...). Other principles are demonstrated through other means/documents that are not written down in the architectural principles document. An example could be administrative simplification that is described in the digitalisation strategy<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, as one of the ongoing activities the EDAG project, which involves the welfare directorate, the tax-directorate and the national statistics, is aiming at consolidating the reporting requirements so that businesses only will have to send one report on their employees, instead of three separate.

The Norwegian NIF proposes a **conceptual model** for the public bodies which includes all the common components in combination with the standards. In this concept it encourages the public bodies to use and share authentic sources. The infrastructure to interconnect is the Altinn portal, it supports the data transfer between services/agencies, if needed via a secured way (encryption etc.). Every new service that is developed also needs to pass by this portal that acts as a metadata repository to build up the service.

Three **interoperability levels** are found back in the Norwegian NIF, and it is supported by a legal act. The relevant legislation is listed with the common architectural principles. The organisational levels are not observed but formalised specifications are encouraged through the usage of standards for technical interoperability.

On **interoperability agreements** it is observed that Difi encourages public bodies to use standard agreements which are selected and approved by the Standards Council, furthermore it is accentuated that these standards be open standards.

**Interoperability governance** is partially observed, a Standards Council is set up and meets 4 times a year in order to select and publish formalised specifications on technical, semantic and organisational standards. Furthermore, in 2013 the mandate of SKATE was formalised as coordinator of ICT development in the Public Sector in Norway. SKATE works on the strategic level whereas there are different tactical committees set up for the different parts of the architecture like e.g. the standards council.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.regjeringen.no/pages/38268786/PDFS/STM201220130023000DDPDFS.pdf>

## Other initiatives on interoperability

**Altinn**<sup>7</sup> ("AllIn") is a common portal for business sector communication with the public sector. On the portal, businesses have access to electronic services from a number of public bodies. Operated by the Brønnøysund Register Center

**Norge.no**<sup>8</sup> is the citizens' portal which has the objective of offering access to public services and dialogue with the public administration.

**ID-porten/MinID**<sup>9</sup> is developed and operated by Difi for logging on to public services online.

**Semicolon II**<sup>10</sup> is a project with the objectives to test and establish methods, tools and performance indicators which can be used as the basis for recommendations and standards for enhancing collaboration across the public sector in Norway.

**SERES** (Semantic register for electronic collaboration) is a project, run by the Brønnøysund Register Center, which contains metadata to describe the semantics and information structure of data being exchanged with and between public bodies. When building new services in Altinn, the mandatory first step is to define the data-exchange involved in the service as metadata in the Seres-repository.

**Norway Digital**<sup>11</sup> is an initiative to build the national geographical infrastructure with the purpose to make reference data and thematic data available.

**GeoNorge**<sup>12</sup> is a metadata portal for geographical information and is also an initiative under Norway Digital.

Three central registries can be reused for public services and are defined as common components: , Central people register, Business Register and Cadaster

There are plans to develop new common components such as **secure mail**. New methods are also studied to finance the common components.

## NIF responsables for Norway

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No secondary contact

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.norge.no>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.norway.no/minside/Default.asp>

<sup>9</sup> <http://minid.difi.no/minid/minid.php?lang=en>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.semicolon.no/Hjemmeside-E.html>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.statkart.no/Norge\\_digitalt/Engelsk/About\\_Norway\\_Digital/](http://www.statkart.no/Norge_digitalt/Engelsk/About_Norway_Digital/)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.geonorge.no>