

Factsheet Spain

Main interoperability activities

The Spanish National Interoperability Framework (NIF), *Esquema Nacional de Interoperabilidad* (2010) is a Royal Decree (4/2010)¹ which develops provisions about interoperability stated in the eGovernment Law (11/2007)² and is applicable to all public administrations in Spain. This legal approach to implement the NIF embeds interoperability requirements in the legal framework of administrative procedure and eGovernment, thus configuring an integrated coherent and comprehensive approach.

The NIF specifically addresses requirements in relation to the implementation of interoperability principles, levels, agreements and governance, plus other issues related to interoperability. The NIF takes into account the European context and recommendations, and systematically links the interoperability instruments of Spain with the equivalent ones in the EU.

The NIF is extended through a number of technical interoperability regulations which develop specific requirements necessary to guarantee the more practical and operational aspects of interoperability between public administrations, agencies and citizens. Some of them have already been published in the *Official Gazette* in 2011 (about issues like eDocument³, eFile⁴, Digitisation⁵, Authentic Copies⁶, eSignature policy and certificates⁷, connection to the administrative network 'Red SARA'⁸ and the exchange of information between input/output registries⁹). In 2012 other regulations were published regarding the Catalogue of standards¹⁰, Brokering services¹¹, data models¹² (semantic assets) and an eDocuments management policy¹³. Recently, in 2013, another one regarding Reuse of public information resources¹⁴. These technical interoperability regulations are developed in cooperation between all public administrations in Spain following the same cooperative approach which was used to develop the NIF.

Although additional documents on compliance with the NIF are still to be published, possibly even still in 2013, a monitoring process of the implementation of the NIF in the General State Administration is ongoing carried on in February, May, September and December 2013.

There is already a collection of common infrastructures and services, with actions on-going to extend and improve these and to add new ones.

¹ <http://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2010-1331>

² <http://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2007-12352>

³ BOE-A-2011-13169

⁴ BOE-A-2011-13170

⁵ BOE-A-2011-13168

⁶ BOE-A-2011-13172

⁷ BOE-A-2011-13171

⁸ BOE-A-2011-13173

⁹ BOE-A-2011-13174

¹⁰ BOE-A-2012-13501

¹¹ BOE-A-2012-10049

¹² BOE-A-2012-10050

¹³ BOE-A-2012-10048

¹⁴ BOE-A-2013-2380

Summary of the NIF

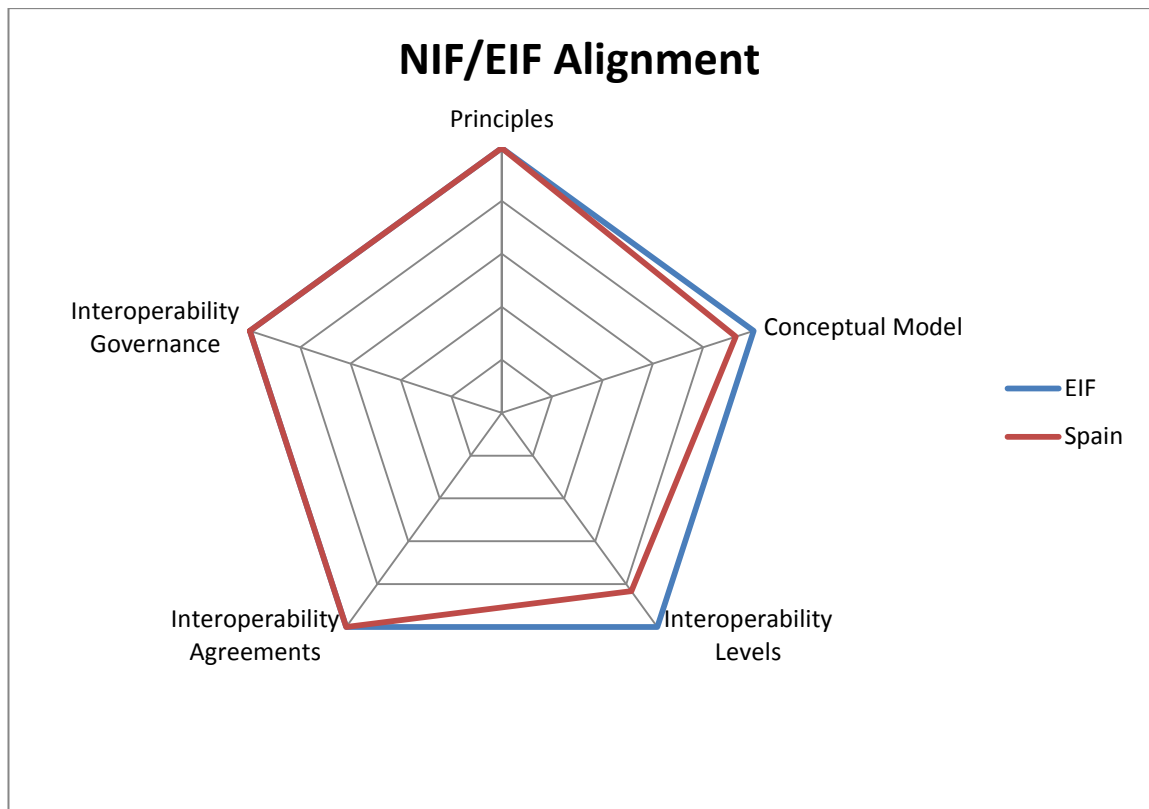
The Spanish NIF is a legal text (Royal Decree 4/2010) which develops the provisions about interoperability foreseen in the eGovernment Law 11/2007 with a set of statements to build and improve interoperability, to be followed by all Public administrations in their relations between them and with citizens.

Particularly, the NIF introduces the following main elements:

- The NIF assumes the general principles stated in the eGovernment Law and additionally defines the specific principles of interoperability (Interoperability as an integral quality; Multidimensional character of the interoperability; Approach of multilateral solutions).
- The dimensions of interoperability, organisational, semantic and technical are developed and the NIF sets out a number of dispositions about them addressing issues like the role of interoperability nodes, the inventories of administrative information (procedures, services, administrative units, registry services), publication and conditions of use of eServices through the administrative network, publication and use of semantic assets and associated codings, and conditions about the selection and use of standards.
- Common infrastructures and services are recognised to be relevant instruments that contribute to the simplification and propagation of interoperability, and facilitate multilateral interactions and there is a call to public administrations to link their infrastructures and services to those ones provided by the General State Administration. In particular there is a call to public administrations to link their networks with the administrative communications platform provided by Red SARA to facilitate exchanges of information and services between them and with the EU; besides it is mandatory to follow the IP Addressing Plan of the Administration.
- It is explicitly recognised that the 'reuse' applied to applications of Public Administrations, associated information and to other objects of information, together with 'share' and 'collaborate' contributes to a better interoperability. The NIF includes provisions about applicable licences, particularly about OSS with a call to use the EUPL, about repositories and their linking, with a call to public administrations to take into account solutions available in those repositories and to publish the code of their applications.
- There is a chapter on the interoperability of electronic signatures and electronic certificates with provisions about policies, profiles of certificates, validation platforms and other issues.
- There is a chapter on the preservation and recovery of the electronic document, since the NIF adds the effect of time in interoperability to the traditional dimensions, with a focus on eDocuments.
- There are a number of provisions about compliance with the NIF.
- Finally, a series of technical regulations and instruments for interoperability is created (inventory of administrative procedures and services, Semantic interoperability centre, Repository of applications for free reuse) in order to facilitate the implementation of the Framework.
- The NIF systematically refers to the linking of the interoperability instruments of Spain with the equivalent ones in the EU environment.

Alignment NIF/EIF

Spain is fully aligned with the EIF on the 'Governance', the 'Principles' and the 'Interoperability Agreements'. It has an almost full alignment on the 'Conceptual Model' and a good alignment on the 'Interoperability levels'.



Spain aligns with all of the twelve EIF **principles**.

Spain is well aligned with the EIF on the **conceptual model**. Due to the format of the Spanish NIF, i.e. a legal text, no graphical representation of a conceptual model as found in the EIF could be added. However, in relation to the conceptual model the NIF implements the following:

- Services provided are to be identified, their conditions of use to be known, published electronically and made available through the administrative network Red SARA.
- Administrative units and services are to be coded and inventoried in repositories and these repositories linked.
- The interoperability Agreement on mediation services (brokering services) sets the rules for the use of brokering services to access base registries describing the roles of providers and consumers and other conditions of brokering platforms.
- The role of interoperability nodes (brokering or intermediation systems and services) is explicitly recognized.
- The secure communications platform is Red SARA, together with applicable rules and security provisions
- All the well-known policies, infrastructures for interoperability of electronic identification, authentication and signature for secure data exchange/management.

Through the Data Mediation Protocol it is possible to access a number of 'authentic sources' such as the Tax Agency, Social Security, Citizens Identification Registry, Citizens residence Registry, Cadastre Registry and many others. The Technical Interoperability Standard for Data Mediation Protocols generally defines the roles of the actors involved in mediated data exchanges and sets forth the conditions for mediated data exchange processes with the mediation platform.

Furthermore, the supporting documentation, a Frequently Asked Questions document and a presentation elaborating the EIF conceptual model linked to the Spanish NIF legislation, provide ample information.

Spain is well aligned on the **interoperability levels**. Spain does implement the Organisational, Semantic and Technical level. The Spanish NIF addresses properly interoperability requirements related to the organizational, semantic and technical levels. The organisational level addresses a number of issues to enable organisational interoperability including aspects about conditions of services to be consumed electronically by other public bodies, the role of agreements, interoperability nodes, and repositories of administrative information (Services and units), together with training of personnel in interoperability. The semantic level addresses the publication of horizontal and sectorial data models and the role of the Semantic Interoperability Centre of the Administration where the mentioned data models are to be published. The technical interoperability level addresses the conditions in relation to the use and selection of standards.

Spain is aligned with the EIF on the **interoperability agreements**. The NIF describes in chapter V the criteria to select standards considering the legal framework in the EU and Spain, the notion of formalised specifications and criteria about the suitability in relation to the need to be satisfied, the conditions in relation to its use and governance and the market conditions. Recently, in October 2012, the official Catalogue of Standards was published in the official journal (BOE-A-2012-13501).

Additionally the Royal Decree 3/2010 regulates the National Security Framework, also foreseen in the eGovernment Law, which determines the security policy regarding the use of electronic means and made up by the basic principles and minimum requirements necessary for the adequate protection of information.

Regarding the **governance framework**, Spain defines rules for compliance. Special emphasis is given to the compliance with the NIF of electronic sites and registries are ruled by the terms of the NIF; and compliance declarations will have to be published accordingly. Compliance with the NIF will be included in the life cycle of services and systems. Each public entity or body has to establish its own control mechanisms to guarantee the compliance with the NIF.

Other initiatives on interoperability

Spain will continue to develop and improve the common infrastructure and services to further enhance Interoperability. Some relevant common infrastructures and services for interoperability are the following taken from the corresponding catalogue:

- **Communications platform:** Red SARA allows the interconnection of the Spanish Public Administrations enabling the cooperation and the exchange of information and services between them as well as with the UE and other Member States through the link with sTESTA.
- **Electronic identification, authentication and signature:**
 - National eID card – DNle: The national eID card makes it possible to digitally sign electronic documents and contracts, identify and authenticate citizens in a secure digital environment.
 - @firma: National platform for electronic signatures creation/ validation as well as for time stamping services.
- **Intermediation services:** The Intermediation Platform is intended to simplify administrative procedures, so that citizens or businesses do not have to deliver data or documents already held by public authorities, and to reduce fraud in applications and related procedures.
- **SIR (Registry Integrated System):** SIR is a non-intrusive exchange system between registry offices to achieve the exchange of registry entries.
- **Payments Gateway:** The Payment Gateway is a platform that allows organizations of the General State Administration (Central Government) to enable electronic payment of their fees.
- **Service Directive Point of Single Contact EUGO.ES:** This website is the Point of Single Contact of the Services Directive (SD) in Spain.
- **Reuse:**

- The Technology Transfer Centre (TTC) offers a general directory, repository, of applications and services and whose aim is to favour the re-use of solutions by all the Public Administrations.
- Datos.gob.es is a national portal that organizes and manages the Catalogue of Public Information, the single point of access to data sets of the General State Administration, which takes over the Aporta project and takes its commitment to opening up public sector information.

NIF responsible for Spain

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