



# THE SHARING AND REUSE OF IT SOLUTIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

Specific Knowledge Sharing Module 1



# OUTLINE

**1. Introduction**

**2. Communication & awareness raising**

**3. Encouraging collaboration**

**4. Technologies to support the sharing & reuse of IT solutions**

**5. Policies and legal instruments**

**6. Contact**



# 1. INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION



This knowledge sharing module was produced under the [ISA<sup>2</sup> programme](#) of the European Commission, specifically aimed at policymakers\* and central body representatives.



It is based upon the [Sharing and Reuse Framework for IT Solutions](#), a set of recommendations providing guidance to help public administrations share or reuse IT solutions (software and services).



This specific knowledge sharing module is part of a threefold information package, which also includes one generic knowledge sharing module and one specific knowledge sharing module targeting IT developers.

\* By the term "**policymakers**" we refer to individuals working in EU Member States that are involved in, or responsible for, the formulation of policies, particularly in the domain of public administration, IT strategy, digitalisation, etc.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This knowledge sharing module for policymakers will let you translate the recommendations of the **Sharing and Reuse Framework for IT Solutions** into concrete actions.

By the end of this knowledge sharing module, you will have an understanding of:

- The importance of an aligned IT governance structure to support the sharing and reuse of IT solutions.
- How to support collaboration among public administrations to share and reuse IT solutions.
- The value of knowledge transfer and the role you can play in this regard.

# IMPORTANCE

## Why is it important to share and reuse IT solutions?

By promoting the sharing and reuse of IT solutions, public administrations and central bodies improve the interoperability of their IT systems and services, which saves money and increases the quality of eGovernment services. All of this contributes to the development of the EU Digital Single Market and strengthens the EU's position as a world leader in the digital economy.

-  **Lower costs**
-  **Make public administrations efficient & effective**
-  **Contribute to the Digital Single Market**
-  **Collaborate across borders**
-  **Modernise the public sector**
-  **Facilitate free movement of people and services**



# BARRIERS

Public administrations face various barriers in sharing and reusing IT solutions:



## Organisational

- Fragmented IT infrastructures based on obsolete business models.
- Insufficient coordination between public administrations to design, procure and run IT solutions.



## Legal

- Uncertainty regarding IPR limitations and exceptions.
- IT requirements not being considered early enough in the policy-making lifecycle.



## Technical

- Limited use of common standards , poor documentation available and prevalence of monolithic IT development.
- Reduced interoperability and reusability of IT solutions.



## Communication

- Lack of awareness of available IT solutions and common needs.
- Difficulties posed by the multilingual environment.

# HOW TO OVERCOME THESE BARRIERS?

Policymakers and central bodies can help public administrations overcome these barriers. The 19 recommended measures that aim to achieve this are highlighted in the [Sharing and Reuse Framework for IT Solutions](#) with the following icon:



## Recommended measures for central bodies

Barriers can be overcome through strategic policies, central services, supporting arrangements and common tools aimed at improving communication, encouraging knowledge transfer and providing support to public administrations.



# THE ROLE OF POLICYMAKERS

## How can policymakers support public administrations and central bodies?

- By creating, proposing and supporting the adoption of legislation, policies and supporting instruments that enable public administrations to:
  - Collaborate in developing new IT solutions.
  - Share IT solutions they have developed.
  - Reuse existing IT solutions.
- In doing so, policymakers and central bodies will:



Contribute to the competitiveness of the EU and of their country's economy



Avoid inefficient use of public money

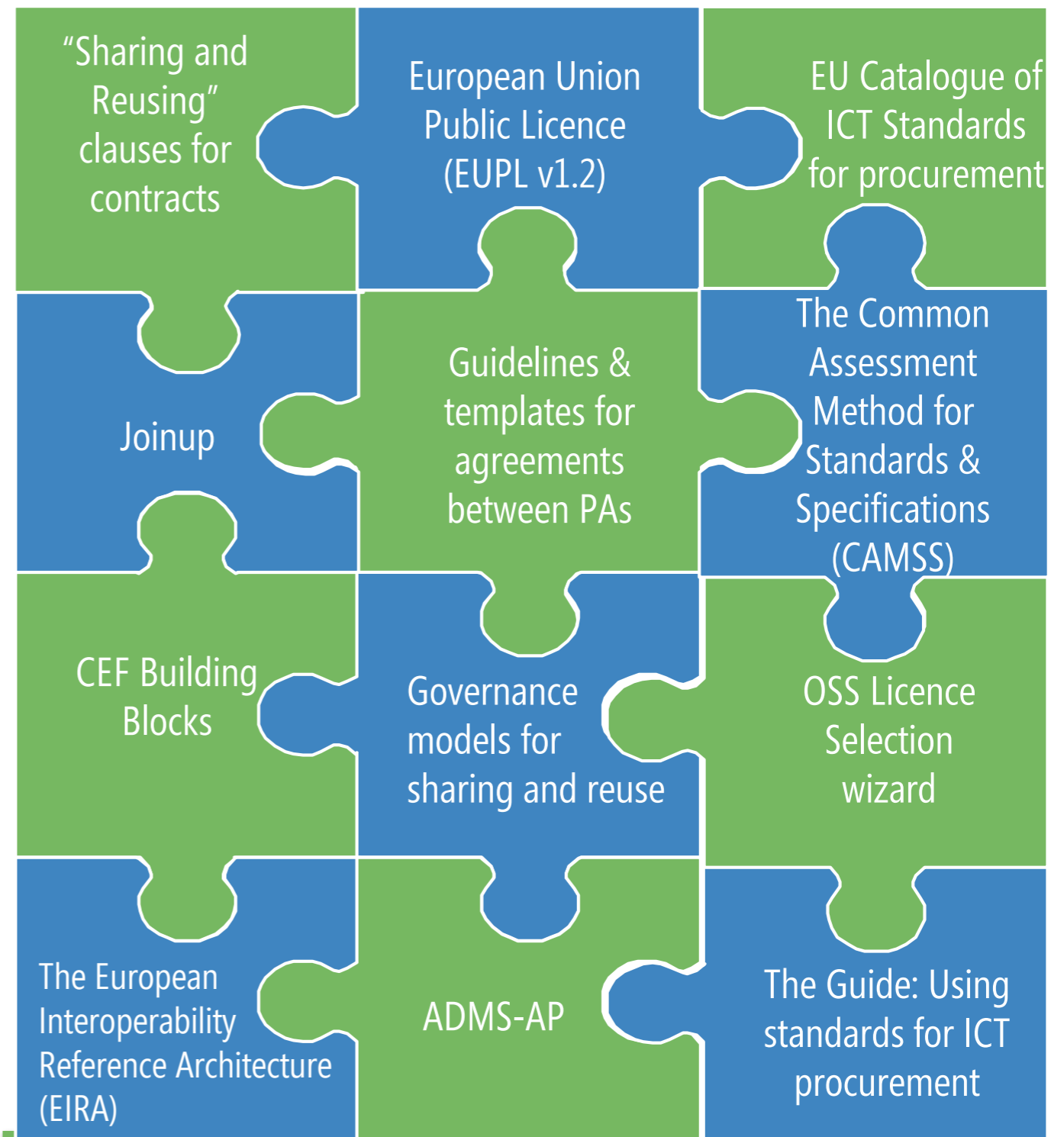


Foster collaboration between public administrations, citizens and businesses

## EXAMPLES OF SUPPORTING INSTRUMENTS

Central bodies may provide instruments to support public administrations when developing new IT solutions, sharing existing solutions or reusing existing ones.

A more extensive list of supporting instruments is available in the [Sharing and Reuse Framework for IT Solutions](#).





## 2. COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS-RAISING





## 2.1 PROVIDE A FORUM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AMONG PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

### Problem statements

- Public administrations do not always know they share common IT-related needs with other organisations across the EU.
- Public administrations, on average, do not always have the resources and overview to identify generic requirements to share information, and stimulate collaboration on the development of common IT solutions with other public administrations.



## 2.1 PROVIDE A FORUM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AMONG PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

### Solutions

- Define a communication strategy that includes setting up and maintaining a forum where public administrations can exchange information about requirements and share suitable existing solutions.





## 2.1 PROVIDE A FORUM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AMONG PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

### In practice

- [Joinup](#) is a collaborative platform created by the European Commission to help eGovernment professionals share their experiences

joinup

- The Dutch Government organised a real-life forum: a [Comparative eGovernment Symposium](#), which invited public administration representatives from Member States to share knowledge.



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## 2.2 OPERATE REGISTRIES AND CONSOLIDATE THEM AT EU LEVEL

### Problem statements

- To consider reusing an IT solution, public administrations need to know about its existence, and to be able to trust the solution, the quality of the solution description and the owner.
- Limiting federation to national registries only (instead of EU level) impedes the chances of reusing IT solutions at cross-border level.



## 2.2 OPERATE REGISTRIES AND CONSOLIDATE THEM AT EU LEVEL

### Solutions

#### Policymakers should

- Support public administrations wanting to publish their IT solutions on common registries by adopting policies in order to promote the sharing and reuse of IT solutions via national registries.

#### They should also

- Consolidate local / national registries to EU common registries, such as the [catalogue of solutions](#) published on Joinup.

#### Finally, they ought to

- Make sure that the registries use standard ways to describe and categorise IT solutions, such as [EIRA](#) and [ADMS-AP](#), and support multiple languages.



## 2.2 OPERATE REGISTRIES AND CONSOLIDATE THEM AT EU LEVEL

### In practice



The [Centro de Transferencia de Tecnología \(CTT\)](#) is a Spanish collaborative platform, creating a common repository for reusing public electronic services and a registry of existing solutions in order to create awareness among public administrations of the available solutions and related news.



[Adullact](#) was founded with the aim of supporting and coordinating the work of French public administrations towards promoting, developing and maintaining a repository of open source software for public services.



The Austrian [eGovernment Innovation Center \(EGIZ\)](#) was used as an open source solution repository until 2012. Since then, the projects have been moved to Joinup.



## 2.3 PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON REGISTRIES

### Problem statements

- Operating regional/national registries for IT solutions and consolidating them at the EU level is not enough if public administrations are unable to decide whether a solution is suitable to be reused.
- Due to a lack of technical expertise, public administrations may have difficulties understanding whether a solution fits their needs or can be reused.
- Public administrations need a straightforward way to assess to which extent IT solutions is reusable and fits their needs.



## 2.3 PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON REGISTRIES

### Solutions

- Registries should include a checklist to assess the compliance level of an IT solution with the reusability criteria defined by the registry.
- Registries should provide assessments of the solution's complexity and the level of activity of its community.
- It is important that new policies and legislations take into account the need for clear descriptions of IT solutions when shared via registries.



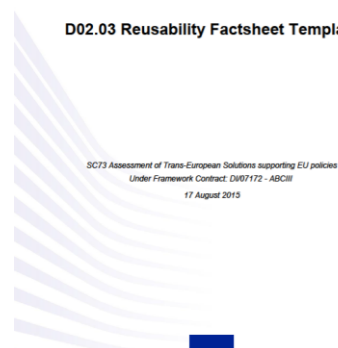


## 2.3 PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON REGISTRIES

### In practice



D02.03 Reusability Factsheet Template



[The Reusability Factsheet Template](#) is a tool developed by the European Commission to help assess solutions by providing information to be taken into account when considering reuse.



[SAGA](#) is a list of mandatory specifications and methods for public administration software from Germany.





## 2.4 ORGANISE WORKSHOPS TO RAISE AWARENESS & SHARE KNOW-HOW

### Problem statement

- Public administrations usually do not have the required resources available nor an overview of the different needs of other public administrations, and may find it difficult to reach out to other administrations that could provide information on existing IT solutions or common needs.





## 2.4 ORGANISE WORKSHOPS TO RAISE AWARENESS & SHARE KNOW-HOW

### Solutions

Organise thematic workshops on both sharing and reuse of IT solutions.



Specific themes are preferable: eID, GIS solutions, etc.



Such events will help exchange experiences, raise awareness and develop expertise across public administrations.



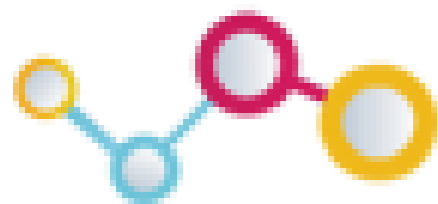


## 2.4 ORGANISE WORKSHOPS TO RAISE AWARENESS & SHARE KNOW-HOW

### In practice



DG Informatics (EC) has organised a workshop aimed at sharing knowledge about [OCS or Online Collection Software](#). This software is part of the European Citizens' Initiatives. Workshops like this increase the likelihood of an IT solution being reused later.



DG CONNECT (EC) has organised a series of workshops aimed at sharing information about [CEF Digital](#) building blocks. The workshops also support the collection of feedback on [building blocks](#) that are ready to be published, as well as giving stakeholders information about upcoming events and developments.



## 2.5 SHARE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHARED SERVICES OR APIS

### Problem statements

- Public administrations do not always communicate shared services soon to be developed or Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) about to be made public, making potential suppliers unable to anticipate opportunities. This results in keeping their needs from being covered in a timely and adequate manner.





## 2.5 SHARE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHARED SERVICES OR APIS

### Solutions

- Compel central bodies to announce upcoming public APIs, thereby making developers aware of interfaces via which they could develop IT solutions.
- By doing so, this will offer developers insight into the future needs of public administrations and into possible opportunities related to the development of shared services.
- Policymakers of central bodies could benefit from this visibility to attract attention from possible interested parties, but also the authority to persuade public administrations to share information in a timely manner.



## 2.5 SHARE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHARED SERVICES OR APIS

### In practice



[Dublin City Community Maps](#) is one of many APIs that benefit from making the data within their community maps database available to other developers/interested parties.



VALTIOVARAINMINISTERIÖ

[The Finnish Ministry of Finance](#) is a strong proponent of open APIs and sees them as the future of eGovernment, where citizens can benefit not only from public services built on APIs by public administrations, but also from value added by private actors.





## 2.6 SUPPORT THE HARMONISATION OF BUSINESS PROCESSES

### Problem statements

- New legislation or policies can impact several areas of eGovernment, generating common requirements in different public administrations.
- Policymakers of central bodies have the power to help public administrations avoid wasting time on analysing new legislation and implementing it. This can be done by commissioning or supporting the preparation of common business process models before the implementation of new legislation.

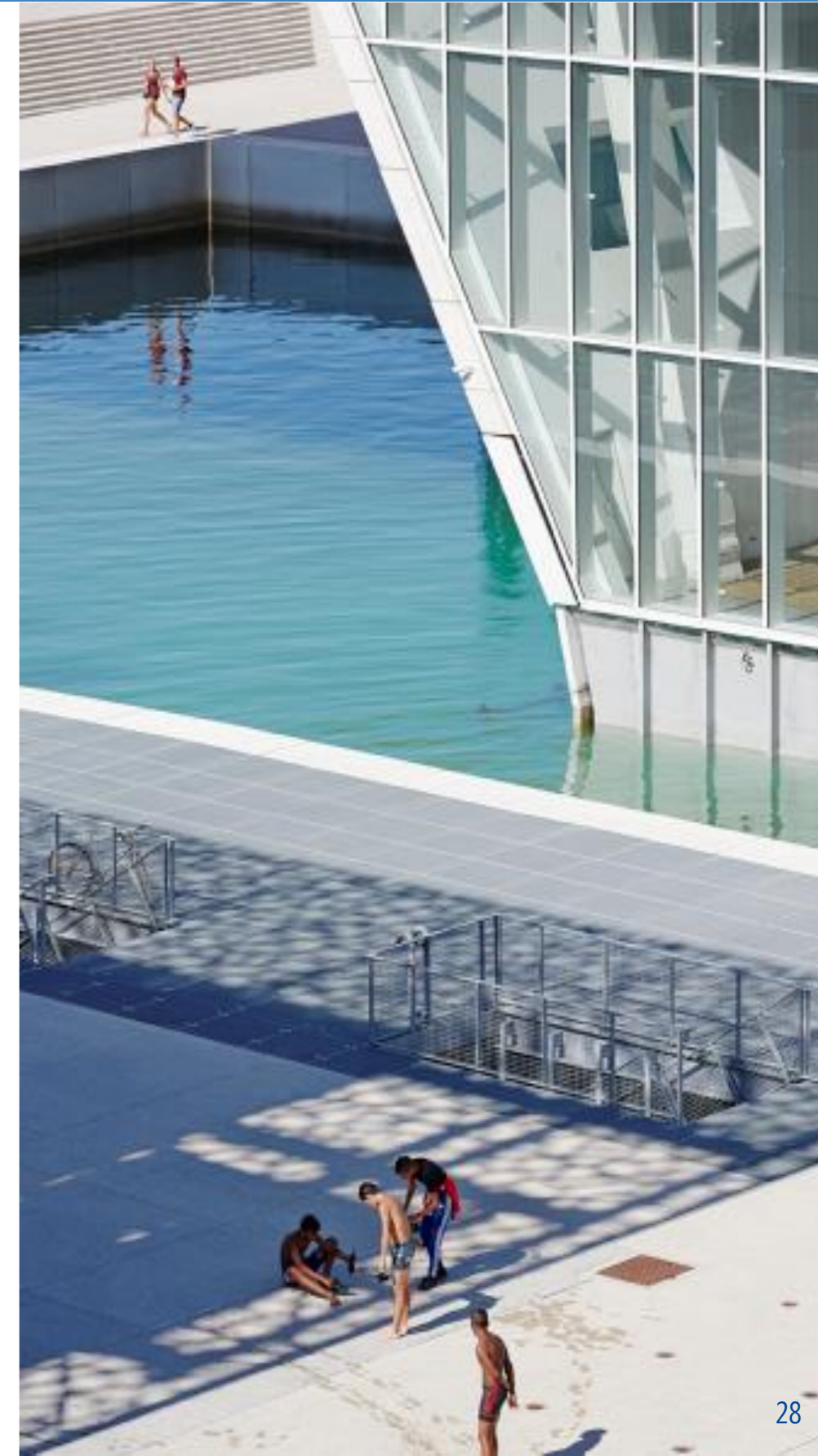




## 2.6 SUPPORT THE HARMONISATION OF BUSINESS PROCESSES

### Solutions

- Define and publish common business processes for the IT aspect of implementing new legislation.
- Help public administrations save time and effort by commissioning or supporting the preparation of common business process models before the implementation of new legislation.
- For unknown common business processes, support public administrations across borders and sectors find business processes that they have in common and the IT requirements these processes imply.







## 2.6 SUPPORT THE HARMONISATION OF BUSINESS PROCESSES

### In practice

- Luxembourg's [CTIE](#) ("Centre des Technologies de l'Information de l'Etat" or State IT Center) is in charge of IT for all public administrations in Luxembourg.
- CTIE supports business process management (BPM) optimisation activities, through a competence centre: the Business Process Management Office (BPMO). Its mission is to define and implement BPM standards and governance, and to help public bodies simplify public procedures and organise process management.





## 2.7 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY HUMAN RESOURCES OR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

### Problem statements

- Many public administrations simply do not have the time, skills, or financial resources to fund and implement existing IT solutions at other administrations (reuse), or to liaise with them in order to develop solutions jointly (sharing).
- Public administrations do not have access to information about financial and staffing issues in other public administrations.



## 2.7 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY HUMAN RESOURCES OR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

### Solutions

- Hire qualified staff at central body level, to provide this function as a service to the public administrations that require it. This could evolve into a shared team working across different public administrations.
- Consider funding a shared service to help public administrations share or reuse IT solutions.
- Provide funding for public administrations to outsource the work of finding or implementing existing solutions, or to hire specialists in this domain.



## 2.7 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY HUMAN RESOURCES OR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

### In practice

- [The UK Government](#) has implemented a solution for all public administrations, aimed at helping them procure solutions easily and transparently: [Digital Marketplace](#).
- Public administrations can use this platform to acquire digital services, hire specialists and commission user research services.
- The platform also includes templates and [legal guidance](#), as well as [practical guidance](#), such as buyers' guides and pointers on [how to interact with suppliers](#) or [how to write requirements](#).

 **GOV.UK**  
Digital Marketplace





# 3. ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION





## 3.1 COORDINATE IT GOVERNANCE WITHIN AND ACROSS MEMBER STATES

### Problem statements

- Public administrations rely on (current) IT solutions specified to their needs.
- In countries with federal or decentralised systems of government, large public administrations often design, procure and maintain their own IT systems. This autonomy can however lead to a fragmented IT infrastructure and a lot of duplication of IT solutions, in addition to impeding the sharing and reuse of software and services.
- In countries where there is a single IT governance body that controls all eGovernment service provision, business processes should be aligned and streamlined, paving the way for collaboration and sharing. This is however not always the case.



## 3.1 COORDINATE IT GOVERNANCE WITHIN AND ACROSS MEMBER STATES

### Solutions

- Ideally, the IT governance structure in place should ensure the alignment between the different levels of administration within a Member State, taking into account their respective IT policies, needs and capabilities.
- Such an IT governance structure has the potential of improving the quality and accessibility of digital goods and services. The improvement of access to digital goods and services is one of the main objectives of the [Digital Single Market Strategy](#).



## 3.1 COORDINATE IT GOVERNANCE WITHIN AND ACROSS MEMBER STATES

### In practice



Luxembourg's **CTIE** coordinates all IT initiatives in the country, thus ensuring their interoperability.

DIGITALES  ÖSTERREICH

**Digital Austria** is the agency responsible for eGovernment in Austria. It covers all electronic public administration services for Austrian citizens.





## 3.2 ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER

### Problem statements

- Joint development or collaboration supposes additional effort on the part of public administrations.
- Shrinking public administrations' budgets and the lack of a mandate to create value for other administrations further discourage any additional effort.





## 3.2 ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER

### Solutions

- Support the implementation of business models that encourage public administrations to pool their resources, both for IT solution procurement and development of common public services. There are different business models, depending on business needs and type of collaboration.
- In addition to showing potentially successful business models, central bodies and policymakers can take into consideration other ways of stimulating sharing or reusing IT solutions, such as offering financial incentives.





## 3.2 ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER

### In practice

- [iMio](#) is a collaborative platform for the “mutualisation of informatics” in the interest of local public administrations. It helps public administrations from the Wallonia region of Belgium select and adapt open source software to their needs. They also provide trainings for public administration personnel and procurement support.





## 3.3 SUPPORT PROJECTS WITH A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR SHARING AND REUSE

### Problem statements

- Some projects are more eligible to be shared or reused across public administrations, sectors, and borders than others.
- Public administrations often choose not to implement Software as a Service (SaaS), due to the need of specialised staff or large amounts of work.



## 3.3 SUPPORT PROJECTS WITH A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR SHARING AND REUSE

### Solutions

- A good way to motivate public administrations to collaborate is offering financial incentives to those that are developing IT solutions jointly. Jointly developed IT solutions have better chances of an engaged, committed community, leading to better technical support and more updates, making the solutions more attractive for potential reuse afterwards.
- Financial incentives can take the shape of awards or grants, but can also be presented as the savings that can be generated by public administrations.





## 3.3 SUPPORT PROJECTS WITH A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR SHARING AND REUSE

### In practice

- The [Connecting Europe Facility](#) is an EU funding instrument that aims to support growth and competitiveness through infrastructure investments. In the digital area, CEF has a [budget of €1.04 billion](#) for 2014-2020, of which €300 million in the form of grants.







## 3.4 ORGANISE EXCHANGES BETWEEN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

### Problem statements

- Public administrations in different regions and countries may often share needs without being aware of them. Furthermore, some public administrations may have an IT solution they are willing to share, but are not aware that other public administrations are looking for the same IT solution.
- Public servants do not always get the opportunity to be inspired by the achievements of colleagues from other places, nor are they supported to gain knowledge about challenges and opportunities presented by different IT solutions or projects.







## 3.4 ORGANISE EXCHANGES BETWEEN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

### Solutions

In the interest of knowledge transfer, “study visits” will help public administrations to:

Understand common needs;

Find out about effective solutions already used elsewhere;

Transmit best practices;

Take advantage of knowledge-transferring opportunities.







## 3.4 ORGANISE EXCHANGES BETWEEN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

### In practice

- In 2015, the [Basque Country Government](#), together with the European Commission and other partners organised the [International Conference on Internet Safe Boxes and Strong Boxes](#). The event focused on different solutions used in several member states of the EU by government bodies to communicate to their citizens.





## 3.5 SUPPORT INTERNATIONALISATION PRINCIPLES

### Problem statements

- Despite its importance, the multilingual aspect of IT solutions is frequently overlooked. Public administrations often de-prioritise the business need for multilingualism from an end-user perspective. They also pass over multilingual support (also referred to as internationalisation) in software design.
- The absence of multilingual support within the structure of an IT solution often makes any reuse impossible or too expensive. Translations of an application's interface can become complex if internationalisation rules have not been followed during development. This represents a missed opportunity to increase the community around solutions, jeopardising both their technical and financial sustainability.



## 3.5 SUPPORT INTERNATIONALISATION PRINCIPLES

### Solutions

- Raise awareness of the importance of internationalisation.
- Stimulate developers to follow basic internationalisation principles (such as [W3C](#)) during the design of IT solutions to allow their adaptability to various languages and regions without any engineering changes.
- Adapting an IT solution to meet language, cultural, numeric systems, date and time formats, use of currency, etc. enables a solution to be localised more easily, thus making it more reusable by definition.





## 3.5 SUPPORT INTERNATIONALISATION PRINCIPLES

### In practice

[The Globalize Repository](#) on GitHub provides a suite of JavaScript libraries for internationalization and localization that leverages the official Unicode CLDR JSON data.

# GitHub





# 4. TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT THE SHARING & REUSE OF IT SOLUTIONS







## 4.1 SUPPORT THE USE OF COMMON STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

### Problem statements

- Public administrations may see the added value in procuring solutions that rely on open specifications and standards, but may be constrained by limitations (compatibility, system & data formats, etc.).
- Proprietary systems already in use may pose compatibility issues, but may be too expensive to abandon, thus resulting in a lock-in for public administrations.





## 4.1 SUPPORT THE USE OF COMMON STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

### Solutions

- Encourage the use of common standards & technical specifications, such as [CAMSS](#) for IT procurement, by creating a list of common technology standards and specifications. This can, for instance, help public administrations avoid vendor lock-in.
- By referencing standards, such as the [EU Catalogue of ICT standards and specifications](#), public administrations open the door to alternative solutions, reducing the risk of vendor lock-in and encouraging competition.







## 4.1 SUPPORT THE USE OF COMMON STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

### In practice



[Denmark's Digitalisation Agency](#) oversees the country's efforts towards digitising public services. Since 2016, there is a “comply or explain” policy regarding the use of open standards.



The Federal Platform [Digital Austria](#) plays a similar role as the Digitalisation Agency in Denmark, supporting the use of common standards at a technical and organisational level. 93% of the enterprises use eGovernment services already.



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Koninkrijksrelaties

**The Dutch Ministry of Internal Affairs**, through its public company **Logius**, publishes a [list of common standards](#) for public administrations, many of which follow a “comply or explain” regime.



## 4.2 MANAGE SOLUTIONS LIKE A PORTFOLIO USING A COMMON REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE

### Problem statements

- To carry out day-to-day operations, public administrations require complex and large-scale IT solutions. However, these solutions are often developed in their specific contexts and their functionalities are not documented and categorised in a common way.
- Due to this lack of visibility of the available IT components, it is difficult to organise proper IT governance. Frequently, this results in redundant expenditure and competing solutions giving rise to a costly and fragmented IT landscape.



## 4.2 MANAGE SOLUTIONS LIKE A PORTFOLIO USING A COMMON REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE

### Solutions

Policymakers should support the creation of common reference frameworks having a portfolio of solutions based on a common reference architecture, such as [EIRA](#)



This makes it easier for public administrations to understand what solutions exist. It also promotes the reuse of these solutions.

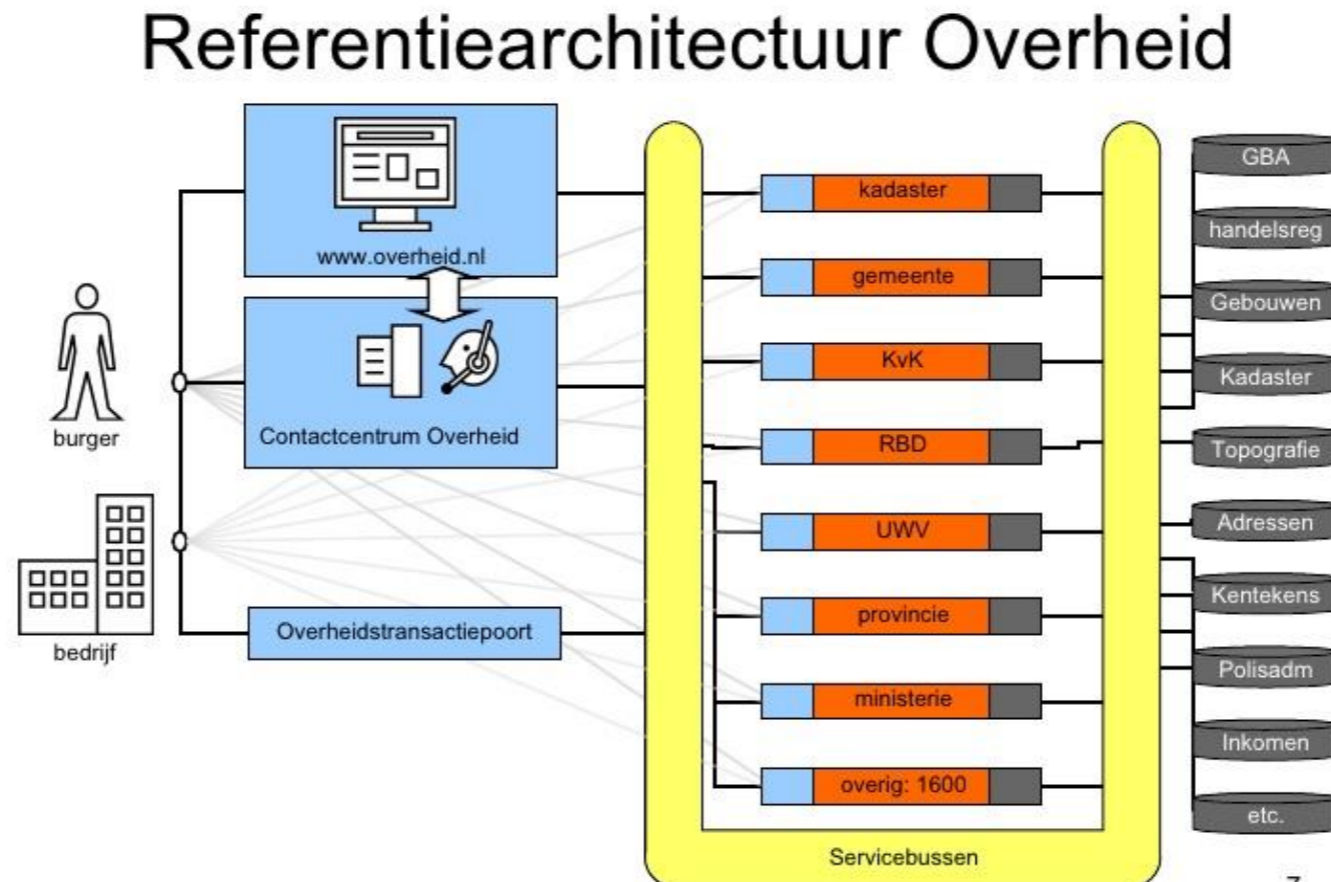




## 4.2 MANAGE SOLUTIONS LIKE A PORTFOLIO USING A COMMON REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE

### In practice

- [NORA](#) is the Dutch government's reference architecture.





## 4.3 OFFER GENERIC AND REUSABLE BUILDING BLOCKS

### Problem statements

- Public administrations in Europe are often not coordinating across borders and sectors when developing IT solutions, increasing the risk of creating new digital barriers for citizens and other stakeholders.
- Not using a common terminology to design, assess and find common IT solution building blocks decreases interoperability and increases the development cost of complex IT systems through the reuse of interoperable building blocks.



## 4.3 OFFER GENERIC AND REUSABLE BUILDING BLOCKS

### Solutions

The (re)use of generic solution building blocks has a range of benefits, including lower development cost of complex IT systems.

Policymakers should offer generic and reusable building blocks.

By doing so, they are less bound to specific requirements making them also more likely to be reused.



## 4.3 OFFER GENERIC AND REUSABLE BUILDING BLOCKS

### In practice

- Belgium's **FedICT** is seeking to increase the number of applications for the eID, and is therefore sharing several related building blocks, including the eID software, applet, and more.
- The **CEF building blocks** - based on existing formalised technical specifications and standards, they are intended to facilitate the adoption of common technical specifications by public administrations.



**The CEF building blocks**



## 4.4 ORGANISE REUSE AS A SERVICE - OFFER SOLUTIONS THROUGH AN API

### Problem statements

- Before commissioning or developing new IT solutions, public administration should check whether similar solutions already exist and can be reused. This check should also be performed when conducting IT impact assessments of new legislations.
- The reuse of common IT solution should be taken into account early on in the policymaking lifecycle, not afterwards.
- A reusability check is on average not a prerequisite for organisations to request funding. As a result there is no clear proof that the new IT solution to be developed does not yet exist elsewhere in other public administrations.





## 4.4 ORGANISE REUSE AS A SERVICE - OFFER SOLUTIONS THROUGH AN API

### Solutions

The effort required for reuse and the costs of adapting an existing IT solution to a public administrations' needs can be reduced...

... by policymakers setting up the legal basis for offering functionalities as services and/or accessed via an API, to encourage reuse

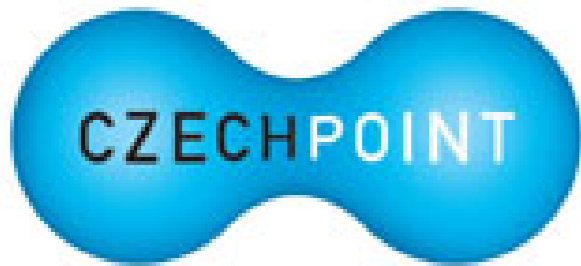


## 4.4 ORGANISE REUSE AS A SERVICE - OFFER SOLUTIONS THROUGH AN API

### In practice

#### API ENTREPRISE

The French government allows public administrations and bodies such as ministries to access basic registers through an [API](#), simplifying administrative procedures.



The Czech government allows interested parties to access the [CzechPOINT API](#) in order to make use of its services outside of its usual setting.



## 4.5 PROVIDE TESTING ENVIRONMENTS AND ORGANISE PLUGTESTS

### Problem statements

- To provide better services for citizens, businesses and other administrations, public administrations are continuously increasing the scope and volume of information exchange with each other across borders and sectors. To facilitate these exchanges, the need for interoperability in Europe is more pressing than ever. Solution developers in all domains of the public sector often deem interoperability and reusability essential to IT solution design.



## 4.5 PROVIDE TESTING ENVIRONMENTS AND ORGANISE PLUGTESTS

### Solutions

- Provide testing environments for public administrations to test the interoperability between existing systems and the IT solutions they are developing.
- Organise Plugtests: events based on a standard, which allow developers to improve their IT solutions' standard compliance and interoperability. Such events raise awareness about the standards around which they are organised.



## 4.5 PROVIDE TESTING ENVIRONMENTS AND ORGANISE PLUGTESTS

### In practice

The [Interoperability Test Bed \(ITB\)](#) provides a platform that enables Member States' public administrations and their potential vendors to test existing national systems as well as individual services or products, against a neutral, reliable and responsive reference test environment. The test bed is cross-border and cross-application and fosters the uptake of cross-border services developed by research projects and pilots.

Interoperability  
Test Bed





# 5. POLICIES AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS





## 5.1 PROVIDE SUPPORT ON IPR AND PERSONAL DATA RELATED MATTERS

### Problem statements

- Legal expertise is, alongside technical expertise, likely to be in short supply in public administrations, particularly for smaller, local ones.
- Public administrations may have concerns related to licensing issues, third party ownership rights or liability issues.
- When IT solutions process personal data, public administrations may impose fines due to exposure of such data.





## 5.1 PROVIDE SUPPORT ON IPR AND PERSONAL DATA RELATED MATTERS

### Solutions and supporting instruments

- Support events and tools that provide concrete advice on IPR and licensing matters.
- Help public administrations better understand the rights and obligations associated with a given solution and understand whether there are third party rights associated with it.
- Commission supporting instruments (e.g. [GDPR](#))
- Create services to be shared across public administrations that can help navigate questions that may arise.





## 5.1 PROVIDE SUPPORT ON IPR-RELATED MATTERS

### In practice

- The European Commission's science and knowledge service (**JRC**) has expertise in identifying, protecting and managing IP assets and performs this service for the Commission's IP assets.
- The **licence wizard** is a guide to finding the most appropriate licence to distribute software. It covers some of the most common situations, without providing the guarantees of a specific legal consultancy.
- The UK Government's solution, **Digital Marketplace**, can be used to acquire digital services, hire specialists and commission user research services. It also provides legal guidance.

Joint  
Research  
Centre

Licence  
Wizard

 **GOV.UK**  
Digital Marketplace



## 5.1 PROVIDE SUPPORT ON PERSONAL DATA RELATED MATTERS

### In practice

- The **EU Data Protection** application allows policy makers to consult the official texts of Regulation 2016/679 (the General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR) and the Directive 2016/680 for the police and criminal justice sector, as published in the Official Journal of the EU on 4 May 2016. This application also allows to read the new rules alongside those they replace, the original legislative proposals of the European Commission, and the recommendations from the EDPS.







## 5.2 SELECT AND PROMOTE THE USE OF APPROPRIATE LICENCES

### Problem statements

- Just as with IPR, public administrations face difficulties when it comes to licensing. They may not have a clear view on aspects like liability exposure, copyright, and other limitations and exceptions posed by property rights.
- Public administrations often don't have the resources to identify the most commonly recognised and suitable licences.





## 5.2 SELECT AND PROMOTE THE USE OF APPROPRIATE LICENCES

### Solutions

Create a list of selected licences suitable for the purpose of reusing IT solutions.

Identify useful licence templates.

Promote the use of these licences and templates.



## 5.2 SELECT AND PROMOTE THE USE OF APPROPRIATE LICENCES

### In practice

- Estonia and Spain have made it a de-facto rule that open licences such as **EUPL** need to be used when creating information systems for public administrations. This provides public administrations in their countries a clear best practice.



- Other countries also use EUPL in public administrations: Malta, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, etc.



## 5.2 SELECT AND PROMOTE THE USE OF APPROPRIATE LICENCES

### In practice

[EURL v.1.2](#) supports policy makers with:

- **Broader coverage:** in addition to software, the new version also covers data, documents, technical specifications and standards.
- **More flexibility:** the new version gives users more room to add provisions, as long as these do not contradict the licence itself, e.g. users can add a reference to a specific law that is to be applied, choose a court for arbitration, etc.
- **Availability in more languages:** the EURL v.1.2 is available in 23 EU languages, including Croatian.





# 6. CONTACT







# CONTACT

Find news about sharing and reusing IT solutions

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The screenshot shows the Joinup website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the 'joinup' brand name. Below this is a search bar and a 'Login or Sign up' button. The main header area contains the text 'Share and reuse interoperability solutions for public administrations'. A breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: 'European Commission > ISA > Joinup > Communities > Srs > Welcome'. The main navigation menu includes 'Find solutions', 'Share and Collaborate', 'Keep up-to-date', and 'People'. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'Find communities', 'My Communities', 'Recommended', and 'Editor's Choice'. The featured community is 'Sharing and Reuse of IT solutions', which has a 3.75/5 rating from 4 votes and a 'Join this community' button. A list of related content is shown below, including 'The Sharing and Reuse Framework', 'Sharing and Reuse Awards Contest', 'Conference', 'Members list', 'Related', 'Communications', and 'About'. A 'Learn more' button is also present. At the bottom, there are tabs for 'Latest News', 'Latest activity', and 'Latest e-Library Content'. On the right side, there are social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn) and a 'Mailing list' sign-up form with the email address 'srs[at]joinup[dot]ec[dot]europa[dot]eu'. A 'Metadata' section is also visible at the bottom right.

