

NIFO Factsheet – France

The main online sources are:

- the Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité (General Interoperability Framework) v2.0
- the Référentiel Général d'Accessibilité pour les Administrations - RGAA (Administration's General Accessibility Framework)
- The Cadre commun d'urbanisation du SI de l'Etat (Administration's Enterprise Architecture Framework)
- Cadre stratégique commun du SI de l'Etat (The Administration's Strategic Framework)

See:

- <http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/interoperabilite>
- <http://www.ssi.gouv.fr/administration/reglementation/confiance-numerique/le-referentiel-general-de-securite-rgs/liste-des-documents-constitutifs-du-rgs-v-2-0/>
- <http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/accessibilite-numerique>
- <http://www.gouvernement.fr/referentiel-general-de-gestion-des-archives>

Main interoperability highlights

The Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité (RGI) v2.0 ([link](#)), which is the French NIF, has been approved on 20 April 2016. This is a General Interoperability Framework immediately applicable to all administrative authorities.

This new version of the RGI is the result of a collaborative effort launched in September 2014 and facilitated by the inter-ministry Directorate for Digital Information and Communication Systems (DINSIC). It is one of the four general standards that apply to all statutorily administrative French authorities, the other three being:

- The General Security Repository – RGS - ([link](#));
- The General Repository for Administration Accessibility – RGAA – ([link](#));
- The General Repository for archive Management - R2GA – ([link](#)).

The General Secretariat for the modernization of public action (SGMAP), headed by the French Prime Minister, is composed of the DIAT (inter-ministry direction for support of public transformation), the DINSIC (inter-ministry direction for Digital and ICT systems of the state). Entrusted to coordinate the actions of administrations in the field of information systems, DINSIC has been created in September 2015.

More broadly, the eGovernment legislation (*Ordinance on electronic interactions between public services users and public authorities and among public authorities*¹ - adopted back in December 2005 on the basis of the Legal Simplification Law of 9 December 2004) aims to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the shift to 'electronic administration' creating

¹http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=19EBC4859D783AB5C1E67F939B509709.tpdjo16v_3?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000636232&dateTexte=20080117

simple and secure electronic interactions between citizens and public authorities. The text covers all exchanges of electronic documents, email or digital communications among public authorities and among citizens and central administration, regional governments and private organisations. Moreover, it grants the same legal status to email as that of traditional paper-based correspondence and legalises the use of electronic signatures by public authorities. Lastly, the text lays down provisions on both the security of exchanges and the interoperability of information systems.

Summary of the NIF

In France, the following documents function as the sources for the NIF:

The (*Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité*) v2.0 (RGI)² is a General Interoperability Framework. The RGI is a technical document addressing an audience of IT specialists. Among other things, it defines three main interoperability uses cases (exchange between administrative authorities, Exchange between an administrative authority and a company or a citizen) and various interoperability levels (politic, legal, organisational, semantic and technical). For any referenced standard, the RGI allows three possible status:

- “recommended”: standard must be respected and applied;
- “under observation”: considered as emerging of phasing out, standard should be used with caution;
- “out”: standard should be avoided or, if used, abandoned.

The framework is structured as follow:

- The *avant-propos* introduces the problems of interoperability and addresses the expected benefits of the RGI. This part is directed to the decision-makers and the heads of administration.
- The *cadre d'interopérabilité* presents the context of the RGI together with principles and the scope. This part is intended for the heads of the public administrations who are involved in the field of organisation and information systems.
- The *guide d'interopérabilité* presents how the public administrations should implement interoperability by giving an overview of recommended and mandatory norms, standards and best practices. The focus of this part is on semantic, syntactical and technical levels of interoperability and is written for the project managers, enterprise architects, developers and others who are involved in the implementation of public services.

The Administration's General Accessibility Framework³ (*Référentiel Général d'Accessibilité pour les Administrations* - RGAA) has been updated in its version 3.0 and approved

²http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Referentiel_General_Interopabilite_V2.pdf

³ <http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/rqaa/>

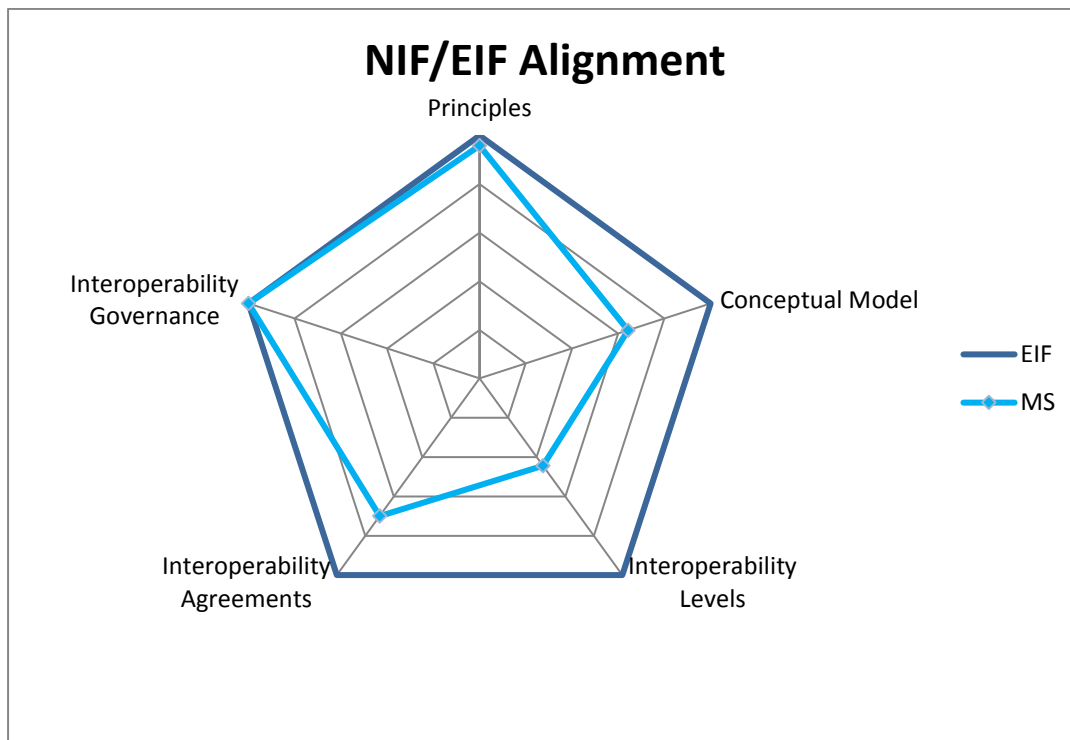
by government decree ([link](#)) on 29 April 2015. Being a major evolution compared to version 2, its content and format has evolved according to users' feedback and evolution of international standards. The framework aims to allow any person to access the online services and contents provided by national and local government, regardless of possible disabilities. The rules include recommendations on the use of modern web technologies (HTML5) and come with improved tools for testing website accessibility.

The Security Framework⁴ (*Référentiel Général de Sécurité*) v2 (dated June 2014), defines the security rules which are applied in state information systems and provides best practices in the area of security which public administrations may follow.

The General Repository for archive Management⁵ (*Référentiel général de gestion des archives - R2GA*) addresses the national strategy for national archive. It deals with archive storage, communication, reuse and related roles & responsibilities.

Alignment NIF/EIF

The main concepts of the EIF are covered by the French NIF.



All the EIF **principles** are fully covered by the different frameworks of the French NIF.

The **conceptual model** is covered in the Enterprise Architecture Framework and is applied with the "Government as a Platform" strategy.

⁴ <http://www.ssi.gouv.fr/administration/reglementation/confiance-numerique/le-referentiel-general-de-securite-rgs/liste-des-documents-constitutifs-du-rgs-v-2-0/>

⁵ <http://www.gouvernement.fr/referentiel-general-de-gestion-des-archives>



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The RGI mentions six **levels of interoperability**: political, legal, organisational, semantic, syntactical and technical level. The RGI recommends and requires common standard to ensure technical interoperability. The RGI mentions the applicable legislations which apply to interoperability and data ex-change. On organisational level they encourage the public administrations to use UML and BPMN notations to document business processes.

On **interoperability agreements**, RGI recommends the public administrations to use the norms, standards and best practices in the specifications, some of these are even mandatory to use. The norms, standards and best practices are selected through the same method proposed in CAMSS⁶.

Regarding interoperability **governance**, all work on the interoperability frameworks, and on the establishment of an inter- ministry exchange level are made in co-construction workshops lead by the DISIC.

More detailed information on NIF/EIF alignment is provided on the NIFO Community on JoinUp on the [Compare NIFs](#) page.

Example of Alignment – Principles

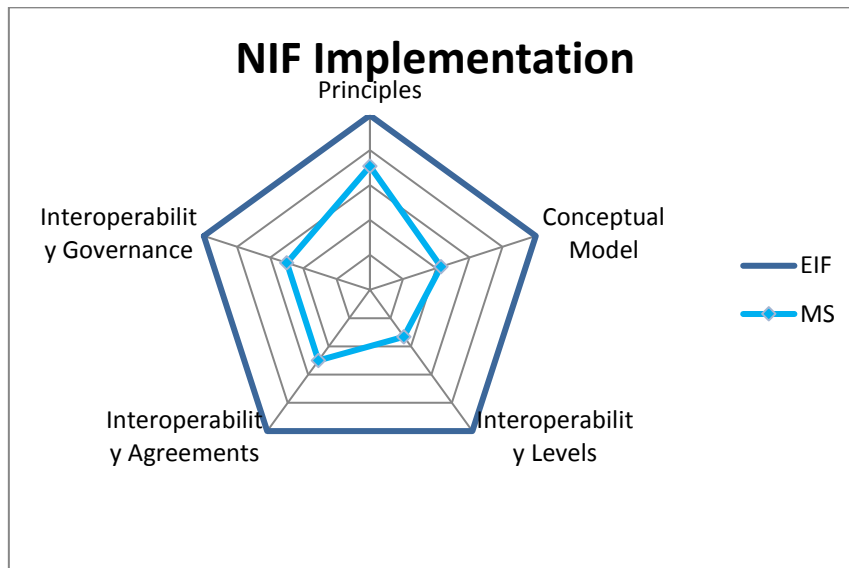
The EIF includes the principle of technological neutrality and adaptability:

- In France, *the Référentiel Général d'Interoperabilité* (RGI) mentions that vendor neutrality of the public administration has to be assured and that the ability to integrate with other information systems contributes to the adaptability of the systems more easily.

Implementation of NIF

Concerning the implementation of the NIF, all the categories are covered.

⁶ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/camss/description>



User centricity and administrative simplification are respectively implemented through the portal service-public.fr, the projects “simplified public support⁷” and “simplified public tender⁸”.

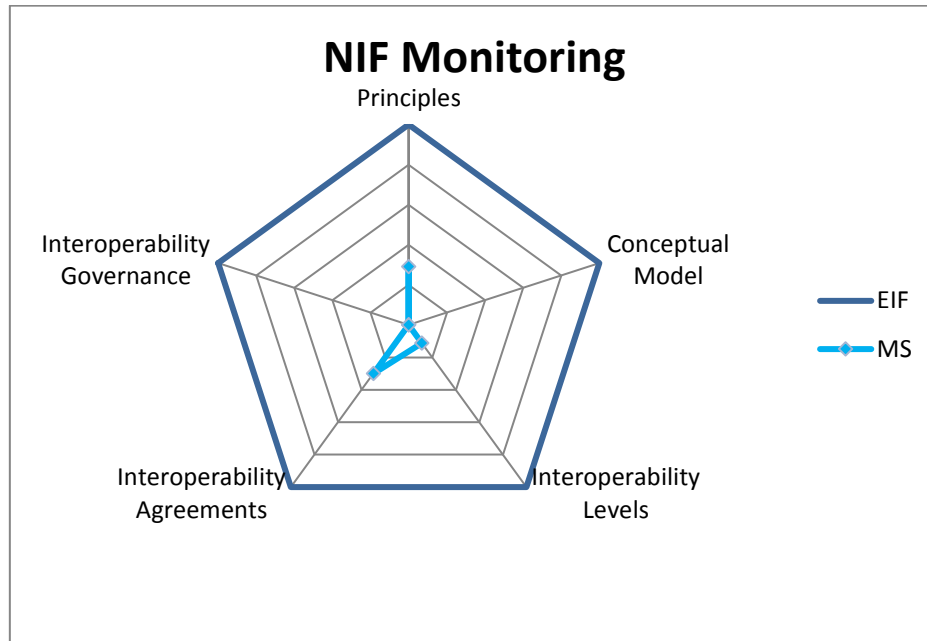
On this regard, The FranceConnect portal (<https://franceconnect.gouv.fr/>) is intended to provide access to all eGovernment services. At the moment, just over 20 eGovernment services are available via the eID service portal, covering all levels of government: towns, departments and ministries. The portal allows users to access all of their online public services, they no longer need to switch between usernames and passwords for different eGovernment services. Once authenticated, the portal provides access to various public e-services (for example: Impots.gouv.fr for taxes, or Ameli.fr for health insurance). Acting as a so-called trusted third party, FranceConnect will let public agencies exchange the relevant user information between online services, with the consent of the user. The system will provide application programming interfaces (APIs) to make access easier for other online services. The first developed API (made available at the end of 2016) serves the Directorate General for Public Finance and allows service providers to gather fiscal data (with the consent of the persons concerned).

Openness is implemented with the nomination of a Chief Data Officer (Administrateur Général des Données, AGD) ensuring open data reaches its full potential in improving government services. Reusability is implemented through the publication each year of the “Socle Interministériel de Logiciels Libres” (SILL, the inter-ministerial free software base). This is a reference guide and DVD distribution of free and open source software solutions that are certified for use by France’s ministries and other public administrations.

⁷ <http://www.modernisation.gouv.fr/les-services-publics-se-simplifient-et-innovent/par-des-simplifications-pour-les-entreprises/aide-publique-simplifiee>

⁸ <http://www.modernisation.gouv.fr/les-services-publics-se-simplifient-et-innovent/par-des-simplifications-pour-les-entreprises/marche-public-simplifie>

Monitoring on NIF



Some of the EIF criteria (such as User centricity, Administrative simplification, Assessment methodology for specifications or Secured data exchange) are monitored through audit and homologation processes.

Example of Monitoring – Reusability

Reusability criteria is fully covered through France's inter-ministerial working group on free software. This group has the responsibility to select and certify solutions that allow large-scale desktop management. By "closing the loop" and having the overall picture about selected and implemented solutions, the composition of this eco-system is followed-up and its coherence is assured.

Other initiatives on interoperability

Data.gouv.fr provides access to datasets from the French administration. The portal is currently making near 21.414 (representing a 150% growth from 2015 to 2016) datasets available (<https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/datasets/>), which are also accessible via ODIP (<http://data.opendatasupport.eu>), the pan-European single point of access to European datasets. More than 1.500 applications (which also represent a 150% growth in the same one year period) are reusing one or more datasets that are available on the portal (<https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/reuses/>).

An interesting initiative to underline is the free consultation platform for public authorities: Eta-lab and the CNNum (Conseil National du Numérique, the National Digital Council) planned to collaborate with civil society members and the Open Government ecosystem in France to develop a consultation platform. Citizens, associations and administrations "have identified the



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need to provide public administrations with open source (free) software for conducting online consultation on legal texts”, This project is also part of a global Open Government strategy of France. The country now co-chairs OGP and has hosted the OGP Summit in December 2016. This platform will also be included in the “Open Government Toolbox” that Etalab is currently developing. This toolbox aims at indexing technologies and digital services used for Open Government to encourage their usage and re-use⁹.

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⁹ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/osor/news/france-developing-free-consultation-platform-public-authorities>