

NIFO Factsheet – Romania

Main interoperability-related sources of information in Romania:

- National Strategy for the Digital Agenda for Romania: <http://www.mcsi.ro/Minister/Despre-MCSI/Programe-si-Strategii>
- Government Action Programme: http://gov.ro/fisiere/stiri_fisiere/Programul_de_actiuni_al_Guvernului.doc
- National Electronic System – SEN: <http://www.e-guvernare.ro/>
- E-Romania portal: www.portaleromania.ro
- Website that aims to reform the way in which each and every citizen or company interacts with the public administration in Romania www.e-guvernare.ro -

Main interoperability highlights

On 15 December 2016, the Romanian Ministry of Communications and Information Society developed and published the **National Interoperability Framework (NIF)**, which will reinforce and support further implementation of the National Strategy for Romania's Digital Agenda 2020. The Romanian NIF was prepared taking into account the current European Interoperability Framework (EIF) v2.0. The new NIF primarily targets the public sector, aiming to minimise costs and maximise efficiency of the public administration and to ensure better service delivery to citizens and businesses through the introduction of flexible ICT tools, which are reusable and interoperable.

The *National Strategy for the Digital Agenda for Romania* (Strategia Nationala privind Agenda Digitală pentru România) (adopted in 2015 following a public consultation) describes the Romanian approach in relation to the objectives of the Digital Agenda. This takes place within the action “e -Government, interoperability, cybersecurity, cloud computing, open data, big data and social media”. It aims for improving the interoperability of information systems through a pragmatic perspective, which requires low operating costs, energy efficiency, flexibility in developing new services online and alignment with European standards.

Development in the areas of e-governance and cloud computing involves standardizing of the databases work procedures and implicitly leads to a faster and more transparent service. Improving of the online services will be conducted with the direct involvement of end-users of e-participation mechanisms¹.

The *Government Action Programme* contains a chapter on (digital) “communications” that addresses key topics in the area of Digital services. The main objective of the programme is to implement the actions in the European Digital Agenda including interoperability solutions under the European framework. It is said that “ensuring interoperability will significantly encourage the provision of electronic public services through appropriate governance and processes in accordance with the policies and goals of the European Union and the secure exchange of information”.²

¹ National Strategy for the Digital Agenda for Romania <http://www.mcsi.ro/Minister/Despre-MCSI/Programe-si-Strategii>

² Government Action Programme, http://gov.ro/fisiere/stiri_fisiere/Programul_de_actiuni_al_Guvernului.doc

Within the e-Government domain, the following interoperability-related actions are aimed for:

- Achieve interoperability at the national level, coordinated with the EU, for the purpose of improving public activities focus on electronic services centered around events in the life of a citizen;
- Support institutional coordination system to ensure application of interoperability framework, as agreed at the European level in strategic and organizational terms.

Summary of the NIF

The Romanian National Interoperability Framework (NIF) primarily targets the public sector, aiming to minimise costs and maximise efficiency of the public administration and to ensure better service delivery to citizens and businesses through the introduction of flexible ICT tools, which are reusable and interoperable.

The National Interoperability Framework for Romania has the following five key objectives:

- Promote public administration to use ICT shared and reusable assets that can be used by public services throughout the national territory with minimal effort;
- Promote a standardised approach to implementation of services and application;
- Facilitate the provision of services to users (citizens, public administration, companies) to be built on an approach that puts the user at the center of the operation and use one-stop shop system;
- Facilitate implementation of transparent and reliable systems;
- Ensure interoperability across borders of Romania (within the borders of the EU) to facilitate information sharing and benefit sharing international best practices already applied by other EU member states.

The main legal framework and strategical plan for the implementation of the NIF is the [National Strategy on Digital Agenda for Romania](#), which targets directly the ICT sector and aims to contribute to the economic growth and increase competitiveness in Romania. It intends to achieve these both by direct action and support of development of effective Romanian ICT and through indirect actions such as increasing efficiency and reducing public sector costs in Romania, improving private sector productivity by reducing administrative barriers in relation to the state, improving the competitiveness of the labour force in Romania and beyond. The Strategy was developed in alignment with the Digital Agenda for Europe as framework of reference to define an overview on how to boost the digital economy for the period 2014 – 2020.

As a result, some of the objectives set by the European Digital Agenda were taken and adapted to the current context of Romania in order to ensure the alignment of the Romanian ICT development with the level recorded by the countries in the region, to establish premises of Romania's integration in terms of ICT, in the European digital single market.

Taking into consideration the 7 pillars that form the basis of the Digital Agenda for Europe 2014 – 2020, Romania has adapted them to the current context and has defined 4 major fields of action that will be pursued as Romania's vision of the ambitious program that will drive the economic growth and increased competitiveness, for covering the underpinning principle stated above in pursuit of sustainable long-term economic growth. These 4 fields of action are summarized as follows:

- **Field of Action 1 - eGovernment, Interoperability, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing, Open Data, Big Data and Social Media** – increase efficiency and reduce the public sector costs in Romania by having a modern administration.
- **Field of Action 2 – ICT in Education, Health, Culture and eInclusion** – support at a sectorial level that will ensure ICT investments create a positive impact in the social context.
- **Field of Action 3 - eCommerce, Research & Development and Innovation in ICT** – builds on the comparative advantages of regional Romania and supports economic growth in the private sector.
- **Field of Action 4 – Broadband and Digital Services Infrastructure** – ensures social inclusion and enables the benefits across all other fields of actions.

Alignment NIF/EIF

[Due to the adoption of the Romanian NIF at the very late 2016 its content will be assessed and the results taken into account in the next release of the Romanian NIFO factsheet.]

Other initiatives on interoperability

Starting on 20 May 2016, the Ministry of Communications and Information Society began the implementation of the project 'Support for the identification, project management and implementation of projects funded under Axis 2 of the Competitiveness Operational Programme 2014-2020'. The aim is to provide support for the Ministry of Communications and Information Society in achieving the objectives of the National Strategy for Romania's Digital Agenda 2020. A team of experts will be created to ensure the development and implementation of the project portfolio as well as to provide the strategic management measures intended to fulfil the ex-ante conditions related to the project³.

Data.gov.ro (<http://data.gov.ro/>) is the Romanian open data portal that provides access to national datasets. The Prime Minister's Department leads the open data initiative. The portal is currently providing access to almost 900 datasets (<http://data.gov.ro/dataset>). This figure has been multiplied by four during the last two years. These sets are also accessible via ODIP (<https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data>), the pan-European single point of access to European datasets.

More than 500 000 registered SMEs in Romania have a portal with 31 dedicated applications, which they can access at <http://imm.msinf.ro/wps/portal>. This portal intends to provide a secure gateway for SMEs in a wide range of information and online services and to interconnect the databases of public institutions. The project is part of a series of projects and initiatives launched by the Ministry for Information Society in order to ensure interoperability of information systems of public administration. It contains 31 applications for SMEs and public administration, grouped into three categories, depending on the area of interest: Business to Business (B2B), Government to Business (G2B), Government to Government (G2G).

³ https://www.comunicatii.gov.ro/?page_id=7080



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