

NIFO Factsheet – Romania

Main interoperability-related sources of information in Romania:

- National Strategy for the Digital Agenda for Romania: <http://www.mcsi.ro/Transparenta-decizionala/Proiecte-2014>
- Government Action Programme: http://gov.ro/fisiere/stiri_fisiere/Programul_de_actiuni_al_Guvernului.doc
- National Electronic System – SEN: <http://www.e-guvernare.ro/Default.aspx?LangID=4>
- E-Romania portal: www.portaleromania.ro
- www.e-guvernare.ro - website that aims to reform the way in which each and every citizen or company interacts with the public administration in Romania

Main interoperability highlights

Romania has been preparing for interoperability by drafting an interoperability strategy, interoperability laws and a National Interoperability Framework (NIF). The Romanian Interoperability Framework has not been finalized yet.

The *eRomania strategy (Strategia Națională eRomania 2010-2013)* (released in January 2010) has been a key driver for interoperability efforts in Romania. It has built on existing eGovernment initiatives, such as *National Electronic System (Sistemul Electronic Național) - SEN*¹, which is a common platform for providing several eServices to businesses and citizens via a portal².

National Strategy for the Digital Agenda for Romania (Strategia Nationala privind Agenda Digitală pentru România) will be adopted in 2015 following a public consultation. The Romanian approach in relation to the objectives of the Digital Agenda within the action - *e-Government, interoperability, cybersecurity, cloud computing, open data, big data and social media* aims for “improving the interoperability of information systems of public institutions through a pragmatic perspective, oriented system and data set, introduction of the government’s cloud, 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 mechanisms”.³

¹ <http://www.e-guvernare.ro/Default.aspx?LangID=4>

² <http://www.epractice.eu/files/Romania.pdf>

³ National Strategy for the Digital Agenda for Romania <http://www.mcsi.ro/Transparenta-decizionala/Proiecte-2014>

Adopted at the beginning of 2014, 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”.⁴

The following interoperability-related actions are aimed for within the e-Government domain:

- 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 National Interoperability Framework, which is under development, will include criteria and recommendations on security, standardization and preservation of information, formats and applications. The public administration must take these criteria and recommendations into account to ensure an optimal level of organizational, semantic and technical interoperability.

The law covers only cases where the systems:

- Generate data usable by another system;
- Process or use data generated by another system;
- Is based on another systems to provide data;
- Are programmes (software) operating on the same or other platforms.

Interoperability will be considered an integral part of any government IT project from the conception of services and systems through its entire life cycle.

Interoperability will be pursued through organisational, semantic and technical measures. The implementation of systems and services will be based on inter-administrative agreements. Interoperability will be achieved through determination and use of standards in basic infrastructures and public institutions services. To drive further implementation, public administrations applications, related documentation and other information will be published for reuse.

The strategic objectives for interoperability are:

- Creating a common informational environment suitable to the business environment and increasing the level of civilization, by:
 - Assisting the citizens and organizations in a unified and user-friendly manner, from electronic access and public information to achieving electronic economic and financial transactions with the state in terms of electronic protection and information security, avoiding repeated requests for information and minimizing the use of documents on non-electronic support;
 - Assisting the personnel from public institutions in a simple and friendly manner, by using electronic means according to inter-institutional workflows based on electronic documents;

⁴ Government Action Programme, http://gov.ro/fisiere/stiri_fisiere/Programul_de_actiuni_al_Guvernului.doc

- Developing and implementing new public services;
 - Centralization of public services and adding them to citizen's single access point (e.g. e-Romania).
- Online tracking (monitoring) of socio-economic status, its dynamics and trends, as well as preparation of societal management decisions at the central, sectoral and territorial level by:
 - Ensuring the coherence, accuracy, completeness and efficiency of social and economic information;
 - Ensuring the access of decision-making state institutions to a common pool of data, information and knowledge, so that decisions made under delegation of authority by the local central institutions: (1) should not alter the consistency, (2) should make possible the funding of common programs to more state budget authorized officers.
- Ensure interoperability with the European Commission and public institutions of EU member countries;
- Monitoring and protecting critical infrastructure.

Alignment NIF/EIF

The NIF/EIF alignment will be made after the formal publication of the Romanian NIF.

Other initiatives on interoperability

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 200 datasets (<http://data.gov.ro/dataset>), which are also accessible via ODIP (<http://data.opendatasupport.eu>), the pan-European single point of access to European datasets.

On 21 February 2014, 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>. The project was launched 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).

On 23 December 2013, the Ministry for Information Society (MSI) organises the presentation of starting the necessary procedures for launching, evaluation and testing in operating conditions of the online portal promoted under the name [e-Romania](#) - Participatory Democracy portal (the official project name: eRomania 2⁵). Real environmental testing phase lasts until 31 March 2014 and is designed to gather feedback from the public administration, citizens and the media on current functionality, potential future developments and the necessary training for institutions that would like to use the functionality provided by the portal. e-Romania portal is a portal of national significance, designed to contain the largest informational content about Romania, a space for

⁵ See: [e-Romania](#)

discussion and interaction between citizens and public authorities, as well as a collaborative platform between officials from across government.

On 15 October 2013, the Ministry for Information Society launched the project 'Development of infrastructure for interoperability and secure access to Central Administration' or 'PKI-BRIDGE Development'. The project has as main objective the development of interoperability information security infrastructure, allowing secure transactions between organisations using PKI technology (Public Key Infrastructure) from different companies. The project's goal is a public administration aimed at providing support to citizens for intensive exchange of information and data, both within the system and in relationship with the exterior, with business and NGOs.

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