



First virtual breakfast on Better Legislation for Smoother Implementation!

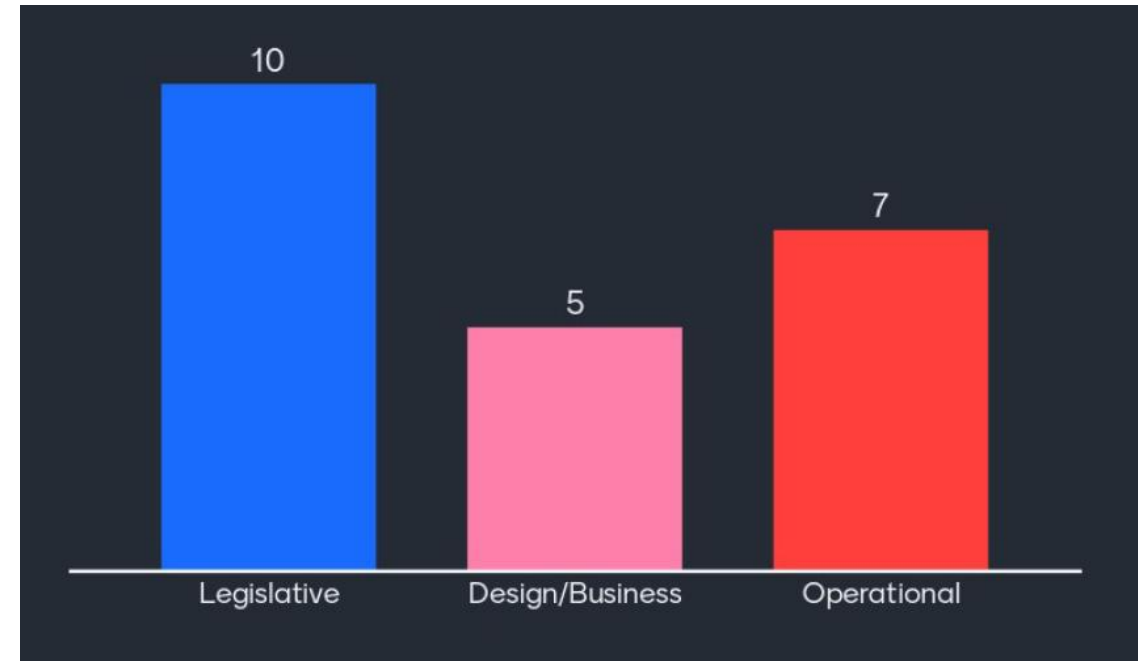
Summary and takeaways

On the menu: Digital-ready policymaking
July 8th 2020



Audience

- Most of the audience was coming from the legislative domain (including also law firms and the Publications office at EU)
- Significant participation also from the design and business domain, as well as the operational field.
- Some attendees had multiple backgrounds
- Representatives both from the public and the private sector
- Some representatives' highlights:
 - The Brussels administrative simplification agency
 - The Emilia Romagna-Region
 - The Hellenic Parliament and the Hellenic Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Team
 - Center of competence or Public IT (ÖFIT, DE)
 - Regtech, UiPath



Expectations expressed by attendees

- To understand the urgency regarding digital-ready legislation in the European context
- Early digital check of policy initiatives
- Linking legislation to internal compliance policies and procedures
- Transparent assessments

Also...

- Get to know the community and the framework
- Exchange information and ideas
- Suggestions, guidelines and best-practices on digital-ready policy making

Better Legislation for Smoother Implementation – Collaborations landscape

The Better Legislation for Smoother Implementation (BLSI) activities are in close **collaboration** with the interoperability framework around Europe, starting from the implementation of the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) principles, like reusability.

All the relevant information around BLSI will flow into the evaluation of EIF, which will start in 2020 and will be possibly followed by a revised version.

The BLSI community is also in close collaboration with various other actions and tools, like the Interoperability Maturity Assessment for Public Services (IMAPS) for the assessment of public services, but also with European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA), the European Interoperability Reference Architecture. It is also in contact with the Semantic Interoperability Community (SEMIC) action team for the semantic aspects of interoperability, like core vocabularies, while for the technical view of interoperability, BLSI is in contact with the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) team that provides digital building blocks (e.g. the eDelivery infrastructure).

The **educational aspect** of BLSI activities lies in the intention to test the various ideas on digital-ready legislation with the relevant community today. In parallel, BLSI is working on the update of the EC Better Regulation tool on digital impacts and they will start building training materials.

The channel to provide input and feedback to policy initiatives is the Have your Say platform.

Similar European efforts

Digital-ready legislation in Denmark: Danish digitization Strategy

- The BLSI principles are similar to those of the Danish action. For example, the administrative simplification of BLSI is similar to the “rule-making” principle of the Danish paradigm, which gives a quality check emphasis on administrative streamline, administrative simplification and burden reduction.
- The Danish paradigm has more principles than the BLSI, whose principles are considered to be at a higher level.
- The whole set of Danish principles and the concept of describing the implementation impacts of new legislation are available here: <https://en.digst.dk/policy-and-strategy/digital-ready-legislation/guidances-and-tools/>

X-Road

X-Road refers to a "centrally managed distributed Data Exchange Layer (DXL) between information systems".

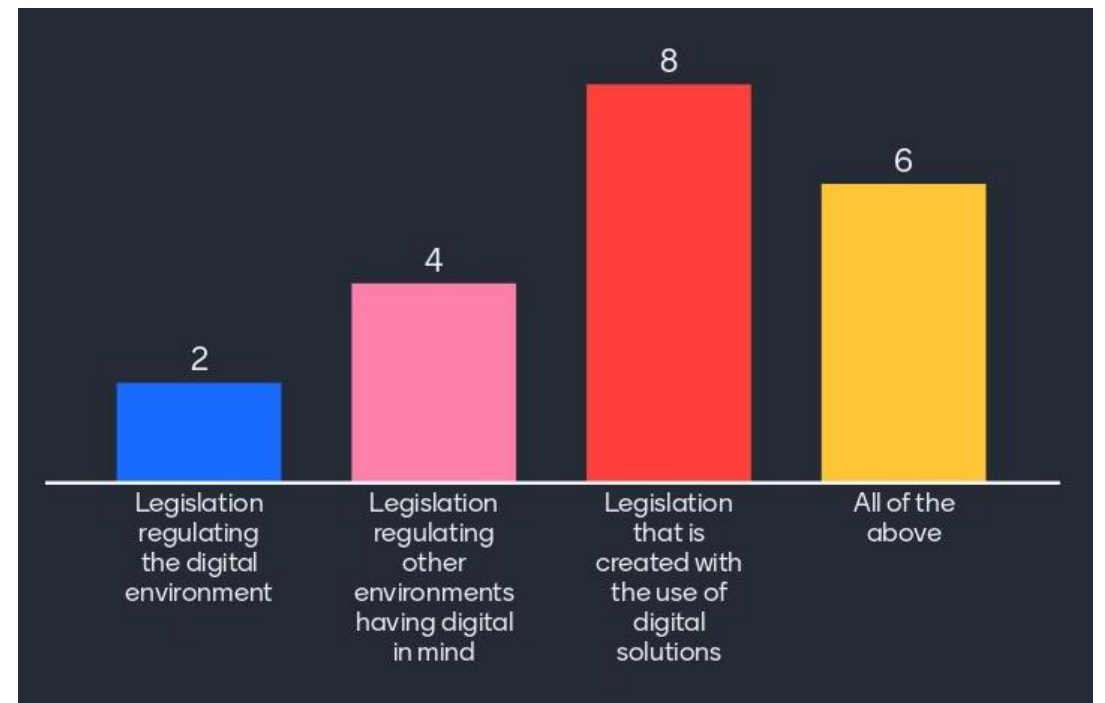
Organizations can exchange information over the Internet using X-Road to ensure confidentiality, integrity.

More information about Estonia X-Road can be found here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-Road>, <https://e-estonia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019nov-facts-a4-v02-x-road.pdf>

What do you think digital-ready legislation is about?

There is an evident trend that digital-ready legislation is more about legislation that is created with the use of digital solutions.

However, next most popular reply is that digital-ready legislation definition includes all approaches, i.e. not only legislation that is created with the use of digital solutions, but also legislation regulating the digital environment, and legislation regulating other environments, having digital in mind.



What principles of digital-ready legislation would you propose?

Reusability

Reusability

- Reuse of open shared tools has precedence over new custom development
- Reusability check should be a pre-requisite
- Following good practices from other countries
- Cooperation of existing tools within EIF
- Cohesion through the reuse of concepts

Standardisation

- Using standard ontologies
- Shared ontology
- Principle-based / standard-based approach
- AKN/ELI conformity

Innovative and future-proof

Innovative

- No new legislation without interoperability assessment
- New laws always with digital in mind
- Enabling machine consumability of law, where possible, meaning: drafting and enacting laws in a way that enables machine to understand or enact law, without any translation process

Future-proof

- Technology-agnostic
- Open source
- Open source building-blocks ([LEOS](#))
- Enabling open data
- Neutrality (not mentioning specific digital solution in the regulation)

What principles of digital-ready legislation would you propose?

Administrative simplification and reduction of burden

- Bureaucratic burden check
- Cohesion through data streamlining of administrative procedures through objective rules

Cross-border by default

- Better communication between different countries and between national authorities inside the countries
- Multi-level Governance of interoperability on EU level

Other (economic, societal)

- Better engagement of the relevant stakeholders, a need to enhance the public consultation process, an in-depth analysis of the economic and societal impact of the new regulation

Challenges across domains

Regarding digital-ready legislation, each domain has certain expertise and depends on a certain ontology. There is still quite some room for improvement towards **consistent, shared ontologies** to describe the terminology of some sectors, like e.g. the financial sector and this, due to the lack of shared ontology structures, commonly endorsed e.g. by EC and the UK. The whole approach is still very fragmented and there is struggle in making products compliant with all financial regulations.

Initiatives that can serve for inspiration to implement similar actions in other sectors.

- Core vocabularies: SEMIC identified core elements and created vocabularies which were based on a reduced set of information (agnostic core elements), focusing only on public administrations. This is part of ongoing work, as every domain has its own specificities and effort and it is overall, a long process.
- For the financial sector, a first work has been done in the context of the European Single Electronic Format (ESEF) ontology that is used for regulatory reporting.

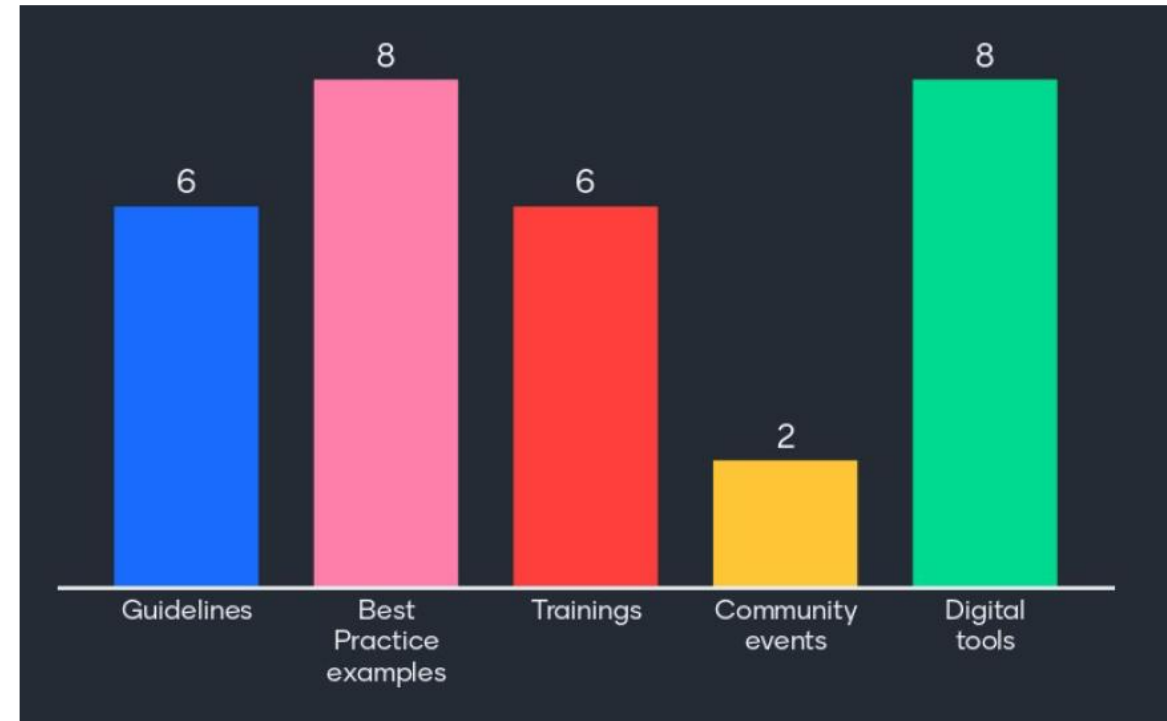
There is a need for standardization at EU level.

Other EU and international initiatives include:

- the Dublin Core™ Metadata Initiative
- the recommendations of the European Electronic Health Records (EHR) exchange format (provides alignment on semantic concepts)
- the FDS (Financial Data Standardisation for its text-mining techniques and multi-level governance)
- the IUCLID Platform and
- the eProcurement ontology

What support our community should bring to digital-ready legislation?

- Equally important are the need for best practice examples and digital tools to get support with regards to digital-ready legislation
- Equally important are also guidelines and trainings in this respect
- Less popular were the community events, a fact that can be also combined with training sessions to amplify learning and support



What other kinds of actions would you propose?

Enabling and sharing results from legislation laboratories

Legal requirements of a public digital check

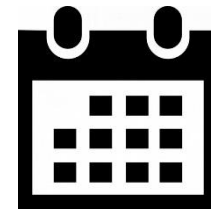
Standardization endorsed by Governments

Good practice presentations

Big community event in Brussels

Next Breakfasts ahead - Stay tuned!

- More breakfast sessions will follow from September 2020 onwards!
- Stay tuned to learn more details about our schedule and the upcoming topics!



Useful resources

- Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Building Blocks <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/CEF+Digital+Home>
- Dublin Core TM Metadata Initiative: <https://dublincore.org/>
- eProcurement ontology: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/eprocurement/solution/eprocurement-ontology>
- European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA): <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/solution/eira>
- IUCLID Network: <https://iuclid6.echa.europa.eu/>
- European Interoperability Framework (EIF): https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/eif_en
- Exchange of Electronic Health Records across the EU (EHR): <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/exchange-electronic-health-records-across-eu>
- Financial Data Standardisation (FDS) Action (FISMA): https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/actions/towards-better-financial-data-reporting_en
- Interoperability Academy: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/solution/interoperability-academy>
- Interoperability Maturity Assessment for Public Services (IMAPS): https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/solutions/imaps_en
- LEOS - Open Software for editing legislation: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/solution/leos-open-source-software-editing-legislation>
- National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO) at Joinup: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/nifo-national-interoperability-framework-observatory>
- Promoting Semantic Interoperability amongst the EU Member States (SEMIC action): <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic>
- Agency of administrative simplification in Brussels: <https://easy.brussels/?lang=en>
- Financial Regulation Made Easy (Finreg-E): <https://www.finreg-e.com/>
- Public IT (ÖFIT): <https://www.oeffentliche-it.de/> (in German only)
- Rules as Code movement: the new OECD primer on AI available at <https://oecd-opsi.org/new-rules-contributions/>



ISA² programme

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