



How interoperability can
achieve seamless data flows
and services for the EU's public
sector

*Stakeholder Kick-off Workshop
10:00 CET, 3 December 2020*

Agenda of the workshop

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10:00 - 10:10

Welcome address by Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow and Head of GRID unit at CEPS

10:10 - 10:25

Introductory remarks on the future EU interoperability strategy by Natalia Aristimuño Pérez, Head of Unit, DG DIGIT, European Commission

10:25 - 10:40

Presentation of the scope and objective of the ISA² and EIF evaluations by Nadina Iacob, Researcher at CEPS

10:40 - 10:50

Discussion with the audience

Q&A and feedback on the approach used for the evaluations

10:50 - 11:10

Presentation of the impact assessment on a future interoperability strategy by Felice Simonelli, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Policy Evaluation at CEPS

11:10 - 11:45

Discussion with the audience

Q&A and feedback on policy options for a future interoperability strategy

11:45 - 12:00

Next steps and wrapping up by Max Strotmann, Deputy Head of Unit, DG DIGIT, European Commission

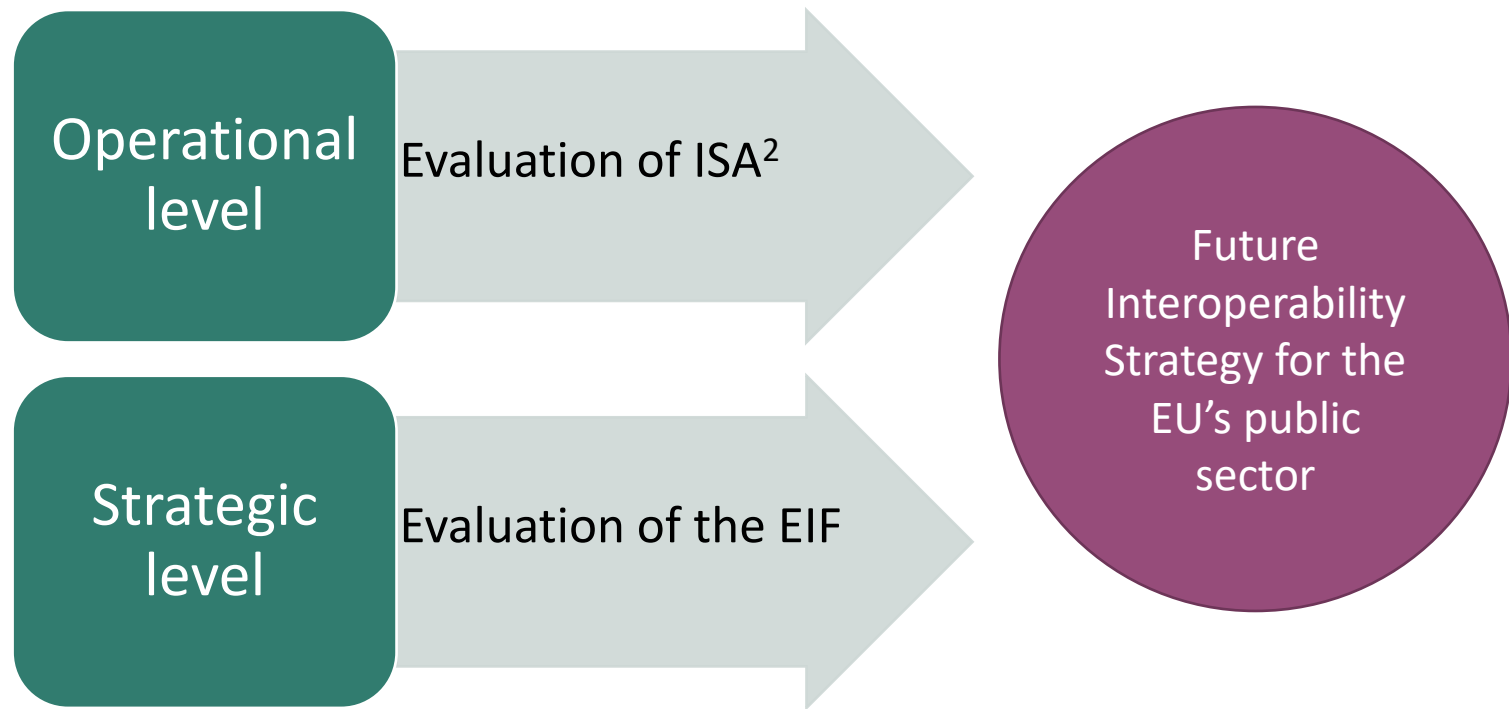


Taking stock of achievements: The evaluations of ISA² and EIF

Objectives and scope

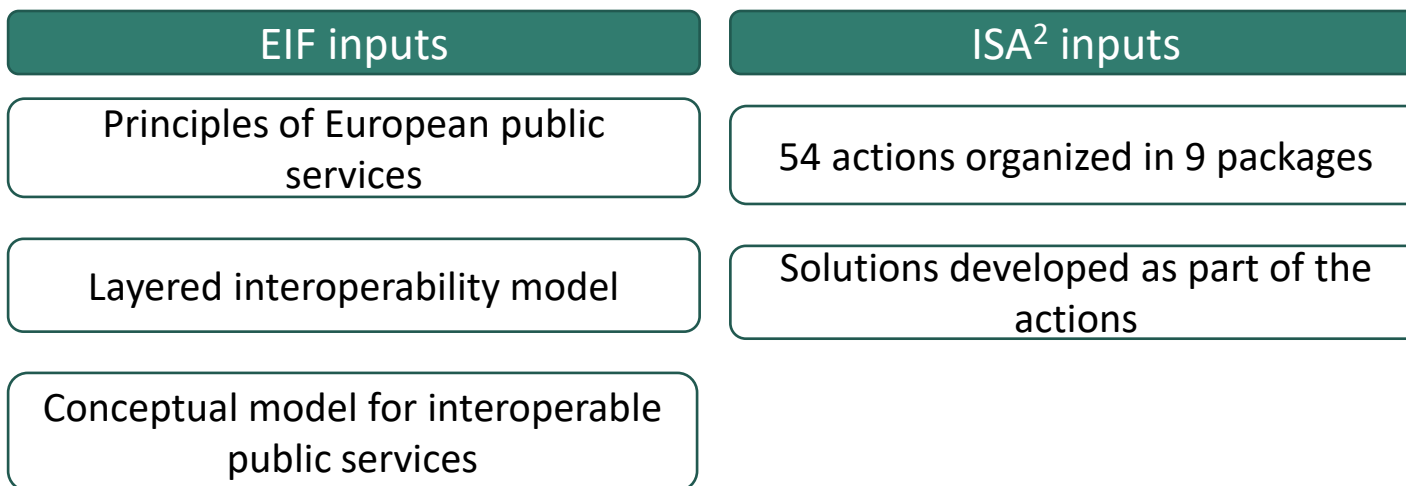
- **Final Evaluation of ISA²** (Art. 13 of the ISA² Decision)
 - Objectives: Evaluate the programme, inform the implementation of the Digital Europe Programme, contribute to the Impact Assessment of a Future Interoperability Strategy
 - Timespan: 2016-2020
 - Criteria: Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value, utility and sustainability
- **Evaluation of the EIF** (Section 6 EIF Communication)
 - Objectives: Evaluate the framework, contribute to the Impact Assessment (evaluate first principle)
 - Timespan: 2017-2020
 - Criteria: Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value

The importance of the evaluations for the policy process



Main objective of ISA² and the EIF

To help public administrations provide **key interoperable, user-centric, digital public services** to businesses and citizens, at EU, national, regional and local levels, supporting the free movement of goods, people, services and data throughout the Union



What is the approach to the evaluations?

- Key elements of the EIF and ISA² evaluations:
 - Evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value (including *sustainability* and *utility* ISA²)
 - Evaluation questions
 - Sources, including consultation activities



Feedback from stakeholders is essential!

In focus: The EIF Evaluation Framework (1/2)

- **Relevance**

1. To what extent do the initial objectives of the EIF still correspond to the current needs of the stakeholders at the EU, national or sub-national level?
 - How has the demand for cooperation, common rules and EU actions around interoperability changed?

- **Effectiveness**

2. To what extent has the EIF reached its objectives?
 - What are the factors that have influenced positively and negatively the achievement observed? What obstacles remain?
3. Are there aspects or recommendations of the EIF that are more or less effective than others, and if so, what lesson can be drawn from this?
4. What are the benefits of the EIF implementation and how beneficial are they for the various stakeholders?

In focus: The EIF Evaluation Framework (2/2)

- **Efficiency**

5. Have the benefits been achieved at a reasonable cost?
 - Is there evidence that the implementation of the EIF has caused unnecessary regulatory burdens?
6. If there are significant differences in costs (or benefits) between Member States, what is causing them?

- **Coherence**

7. To what extent is the EIF and its governance consistent with other EU legislation or initiatives (external coherence)?
 - Are there any inconsistencies, overlaps or gaps?

- **EU added value**

8. What is the additional value resulting from the implementation of the EIF, compared to what could reasonably have been expected from Member States acting at national, regional and/or local levels or activities on international level (e.g. standardisation activities)?

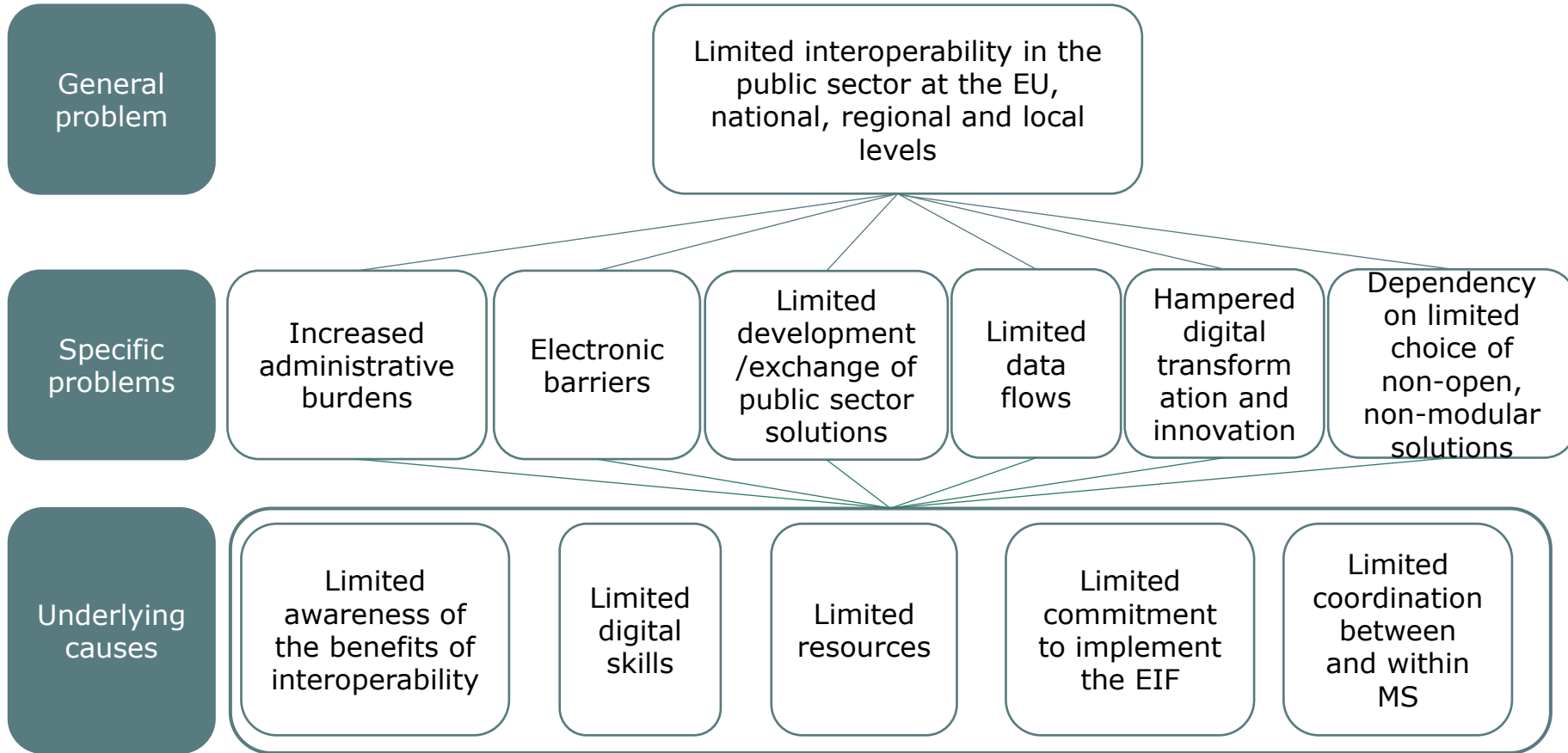
A landscape photograph showing a wide, open field in the foreground, possibly a meadow or pasture, with a dense line of trees and bushes in the middle ground. The sky is bright and clear. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Q&A



Impact Assessment for a Future Interoperability Strategy

Problems and underlying causes



Policy objectives

General objective

To **foster legal, organisational, semantic and technical interoperability** in the public sector at the EU, national, regional and local levels, thus supporting the development of an **integrated and coherent approach to interoperability in the EU** and improving interactions of public administrations between themselves and with businesses and citizens

Specific objectives

To introduce a **longer-term strategy** to enhance Member States' commitment to interoperability of digital public services

To support and promote the **provision of digital public services** on a **cross-border** and cross-domain basis

To support and promote the use of **common interoperability solutions** by public administrations across the EU

To support and promote the use of **common standards/specifications** for secure and borderless public sector data flows and services

To act as an enabler for innovative public-private cooperation to **foster digitalisation and innovation** in the public sector

To **reduce administrative burdens** incurred by business and citizens when interacting with public administrations

To foster the **availability and exchange of digital solutions** and guarantee freedom of choice thus **contributing to digital sovereignty**

Policy options: Main options

- **Option A: Baseline**
 - No new intervention
 - Account for e.g. the deadlines for the Interoperability Action Plan, the end of ISA² (and the ISA² Committee), the upcoming DEP, other legislation (e.g. Single Digital Gateway).
- **Option B: Soft law**
 - Revisions to the EIF, new guidelines/recommendations from the Commission (e.g. more concrete and practical framework relying on SMART goals, soft cooperation mechanisms)
- **Option C: Hard law**
 - Option C1: Legislative proposal in the form of a Regulation creating a shared interoperability governance (e.g. joint undertaking) and ensuring cooperation and coordination on interoperability
 - Option C2: Legislative proposal in the form of a Directive introducing minimum requirements for interoperability

Policy options: Add-on options

- **Add-on option 1: Synergies**
 - Enhanced synergies between the EIF and existing and upcoming programmes and initiatives in the EU (e.g. SRSP/TSI, DEP, HEU)
- **Add-on option 2: Conditionalities**
 - Add-on option 2.1: Mild conditions - Eligibility and selection criteria favouring interoperability
 - Add-on option 2.2: Strong conditions - Implementation of the EIF for public administrations to receive EU funding
 - Add-on option 2.2: Labels/Seals to certify solutions and services implementing interoperability principles
- **Add-on option 3: European Semester**
 - Using the European Semester as a tool to monitor interoperability efforts and ensure policy coordination
- ***Add-on option 4: Joint undertaking***
 - *Enhanced collaboration between stakeholders in the form of a joint undertaking that could be part of the Digital Europe Programme*

A landscape photograph showing a wide, open field in the foreground, possibly a meadow or pasture, with a dense line of trees and bushes in the middle ground. The sky is bright and clear. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Q&A



Thank you for
your attention.



Back-up slides

Question to guide the discussion – EIF 1/3

- What EU pieces of legislation, programmes and initiatives should be of particular focus when analysing the external coherence of the EIF? (Multiple choice)
 - CEF
 - SRSP/TSI
 - Single Digital Gateway
 - Digital Single Market Strategy
 - Data Strategy
 - Other: Please specify

Question to guide the discussion – EIF 2/3

- Which external factors have had a positive impact on the implementation of the EIF so far? (single choice)
 - New opportunities brought by technological advances to improve the delivery of public services
 - National initiatives related to the interoperability in the public sector
 - Cross-sectoral initiatives such as smart city initiatives
 - Other

Question to guide the discussion – EIF 3/3

- Which external factors have had a negative impact on the implementation of the EIF so far? (single choice)
 - Institutional complexity
 - Technical challenges, such as existing legacy systems
 - Changing political priorities
 - Limited resources (for instance, funds, skills etc.)
 - Other

Question to guide the discussion – Policy objectives

- Select the specific objectives that you believe to be most relevant to address existing problems: (multiple choice)
 - Specific objective #1: To introduce a **longer-term strategy** to enhance Member States' commitment to interoperability of digital public services;
 - Specific objective #2: To support and promote the **provision of digital public services** on a **cross-border** and cross-domain basis;
 - Specific objective #3: To support and promote the use of **common interoperability solutions** by public administrations across the EU;
 - Specific objective #4: To support and promote the use of **common standards/specifications** for secure and borderless public sector data flows and services;
 - Specific objective #5: To act as an enabler for innovative public-private cooperation to foster **digitalisation and innovation** in the public sector;
 - Specific objective #6: To **reduce administrative burdens** incurred by business and citizens when interacting with public administrations;
 - Specific objective #7: To foster the availability and exchange of digital solutions and guarantee freedom of choice thus contributing to digital sovereignty.

Questions to guide the discussion – Policy options

1/2

- Which main policy option do you believe could best tackle the existing problems? (single choice)
 - **Option A: Baseline**
 - **Option B: Soft law**
 - **Option C: Hard law**
 - Option C1: Regulation on cooperation and coordination
 - Option C2: Directive introducing minimum requirements for interoperability

Questions to guide the discussion – Policy options

2/2

- Which add-on options do you believe could contribute to enhancing interoperability? (multiple choice)
 - Add-on option 1: Synergies
 - Add-on option 2.1: Eligibility and selection criteria favouring interoperability
 - Add-on option 2.2: Implementation of the EIF for public administrations to get EU funding
 - Add-on option 2.3: Labels/Seals to certify interoperable solutions and services
 - Ancillary option 3: European Semester
 - *Ancillary option 4: Joint undertaking*