



ASSESSMENT SUMMARY v1.0.0

AKN4EU¹

Publications Office of the European Union (OP)²

¹ AKN4EU specification: <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/dataset/-/resource?uri=http://publications.europa.eu/resource/dataset/akn4eu>

² Publications Office of the European Union (OP): <https://op.europa.eu/en/home>

Change Control

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present document is a summary of the assessment of **AKN4EU** carried out by CAMSS using the CAMSS Assessment EIF scenario³. The purpose of this scenario is to assess the compliance of a standard or specification with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF)⁴.

2. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Built on the IMFC Common Vocabulary⁵, Akoma Ntoso for European Union (AKN4EU) is the future machine-readable structured format for the exchange of legal documents in the EU decision-making process. It is based on XML⁶, and more specifically on Akoma Ntoso⁷, an OASIS standard, and should serve as the specification for all future exchanges of legal documents. The scope of the current version includes legal acts adopted through the ordinary legislative procedure (regulations, directives and decisions), as well as the respective legislative proposals. The Interinstitutional Metadata and Formats Committee (IMFC), part of the Publications Office of the European Union (OP)⁸, will further develop and maintain AKN4EU as the interinstitutional standard for the exchange of structured content.

2.1. EIF Interoperability Principles

Interoperability principles are fundamental behavioural aspects that drive interoperability actions. They are relevant to the process of establishing interoperable European public services. They describe the context in which European public services are designed and implemented.

The specification does not support the principles setting context for EU actions on interoperability:

- **Subsidiarity and proportionality**

No Member State includes the AKN4EU in their national catalogue with Their National Interoperability Framework (NIF) in alignment with the three categories 1. Conceptual model for integrated public services provision, 2. interoperability layers, and 3. interoperability principles.

The specification fully supports the principles setting context for EU actions on interoperability:

- **Openness**

³ CAMSS Assessment EIF Scenario 6.0.0: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/camss-assessment-eif-scenario/release/600>

⁴ ISA² programme: https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/eif_en

⁵ IMFC Common Vocabulary: <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/cov>

⁶ XML: <https://www.w3.org/XML/>

⁷ Akoma Ntoso: <https://www.oasis-open.org/2018/09/11/akoma-ntoso-v1-0-akn-oasis-standard-published/>

⁸ Publications Office of the European Union (OP): <https://op.europa.eu/en/home>

The specification does facilitate the publication of open data as it is a technical markup language which derives from the XML standard for representing legislative, executive and judicial documents in a structured manner.

It provides a common data model for legal and legislative documents that can facilitate the publication of public data as open data. By representing legal resources in a machine-readable format that follows a common structure and vocabulary, the specification can make it easier for public administrations to share legal information with each other and with the public in a more transparent, accessible, and interoperable way.

- **Transparency**

The specification is designed to facilitate the creation and exchange of legal documents in a machine-readable format, which includes administrative procedures, rules data, and services. By providing a common framework for the representation of legal documents, it enables greater visibility and accessibility of administrative procedures, rules data, and services. Specifically, the specification enables the creation of structured legal documents that include information about the administrative procedures, rules data, and services contained within them.

It defines a set of markup elements that can be used to represent the various components of a legal document, such as sections, articles, paragraphs, and headings. These markup elements can be used to identify, scope comprehensibility and describe administrative procedures, rules data, and services contained within the document.

- **Reusability**

The specification is designed to provide a standard way to represent legal documents in a machine-readable format. While the specification was initially developed for the legal domain, it is not limited to this domain and can be used in other domains as well.

It is designed to be technology agnostic, as it is based on the principles of XML and uses XML-based schemas to represent legal documents. The specification is also platform-agnostic, as it can be implemented on any operating system.

- **Technological neutrality and data portability**

The specification provides a standard format for representing legal documents, which can facilitate data portability between systems and applications supporting the implementation of European public services.

By using a standard format, different systems and applications can exchange legal documents in a common language, which can help to avoid compatibility issues and ensure interoperability.

The specification partially supports the principles related to generic user needs and expectations:

- **User-centricity**

The specification provides a standard format for representing legal documents that can facilitate the reuse of relevant information when needed. By using a standardised format, legal documents can be exchanged and processed by different systems and applications, which can help to ensure interoperability and avoid compatibility issues.

- **Security and privacy**

The specification can provide means for the restriction of access to information/data, although it is not the primary focus of the schema itself. AKN4EU is primarily designed for structuring and representing legislative documents in a standardized format.

- **Inclusion and accessibility**

The specification provides features and guidelines that can help to support e-accessibility for legal documents. Specifically, the specification supports the use of structural markup and semantic tagging, which can help to facilitate the processing and presentation of legal documents in a variety of formats and contexts, including for users with disabilities.

- **Privacy**

The specification can provide means for the restriction of access to information/data, although it is not the primary focus of the schema itself. AKN4EU is primarily designed for structuring and representing legislative documents in a standardized format.

- **Security**

The AKN4EU specification itself does not provide specific mechanisms for the secure processing of data. However, it can be used as part of an overall approach to enable secure data processing. The use of the specification needs to be combined with other technologies and practices to address data protection and privacy concerns.

- **Multilingualism**

The AKN4EU specification supports multilingual content by allowing the use of multiple languages within the same document. This is achieved through the use of language attributes to identify the language of specific elements within the document.

The specification supports the foundation principles for cooperation among public administrations:

- **Administrative Simplification**

While the specification itself does not directly simplify the delivery of European public services, it can play a role in supporting the development of digital solutions and services that can help to streamline and improve the delivery of these services in the legal domain.

Although the specification can enable digital service delivery channels. By providing a common, interoperable data format, it can help facilitate the exchange of information between different systems and applications supporting the implementation of European public services, including those delivered through digital channels in the legal domain.

- **Preservation of information**

The AKN4EU specification does address long-term preservation of data, information, or knowledge. It is designed to facilitate the exchange of legal and legislative information, it does include features that could potentially support long-term preservation efforts.

- **Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency**

There are assessment evaluating the specification's effectiveness, such as the LEOS⁹ tool, which uses AKN4EU proving that the specification can be effective and efficient.

2.2. EIF Interoperability Layers

The interoperability model which is applicable to all digital public services includes:

- Four layers of interoperability: legal, organisational, semantic and technical;
- A cross-cutting component of the four layers, 'integrated public service governance';
- A background layer, 'interoperability governance'.

The Specification supports the implementation of digital public services complying with the EIF interoperability model:

- **Interoperability governance**

AKN4EU is already associated with EIRA¹⁰ ABBs in the European Library Of Specifications (ELIS)¹¹. More specifically, AKN4EU is associated with two EIRA's ABB in the EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications (ELIS). It is associated with European Legal Act and Legal Act ABBs in the Legal View.

- **Legal Interoperability**

The specification is a European Standard. It is a set of technical specifications developed by the European Commission to facilitate the implementation of digital public services across Europe.

- **Organisational interoperability**

Modeling of business processes. The specification provides a common vocabulary, semantics, and a set of interoperability agreements that can be used to enable seamless exchange of data between different systems and applications.

⁹ LEOS Tool Reference: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/nifo-national-interoperability-framework-observatory/solution/eif-toolbox/solution-leos-software-components-under-eupl>

¹⁰ EIRA: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/european-interoperability-reference-architecture-eira/solution/eira/release/v500>

¹¹ ELIS: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/elis/elis-dashboard>

- **Semantic Interoperability**

The specification encourages the creation of communities by providing a common framework for the development of interoperable public services and the sharing of data and results across communities and platforms on European level.

3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This section presents an overview of the results of the CAMSS assessments for **AKN4EU**. The CAMSS “Strength” indicator measures the reliability of the assessment by calculating the number of answered (applicable) criteria. On the other hand, the number of favourable answers and the number of unfavourable ones is used to calculate the “Automated Score” per category and an “Overall Score”.

Category	Automated Score	Assessment Strength	Compliance Level
Principle setting the context for EU actions on interoperability	20/100 (20%)	100%	Ad-hoc
Core interoperability principles	1480/1700 (87%)	100%	Seamless
Principles related to generic user needs and expectations	960/1200 (81%)	58%	Sustainable
Foundation principles for cooperation among public administrations	400/500 (80%)	100%	Sustainable
Interoperability layers*	780/1000 (78%)	100%	Sustainable
Overall Score	3140/4000 (79%) ¹²	89%	

**The technical interoperability layer is covered by the criteria corresponding to the core interoperability principle "Openness".*

With an 89% of assessment strength, this assessment can be considered representative of the specification compliance with the EIF principles and recommendations.

The Overall Automated Score of 79% (3140/4000) demonstrates that the specification supports the European Interoperability Framework in the domains where it applies.

¹² See the “results interpretation” section of the CAMSS Assessment EIF Scenario Quick User Guide:

<https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/camss-assessment-eif-scenario/results-visualisation-and-interpretation>