ASSESSMENT SUMMARY v1.0.0

Service Metadata Publishing (SMP)[1]

OASIS[2]

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[1] SMP Reference: https://docs.oasis-open.org/bdxr/bdx-smp/v2.0/cs02/bdx-smp-v2.0-cs02.html#_Toc30504997

[2] OASIS Website: https://www.oasis-open.org/

Change Control

Modification	Details
Version 1.0.0	
Initial version	

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present document is a summary of the assessment of **SMP** carried out by CAMSS using the CAMSS Assessment EIF scenario[3]. 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

SMP is typically used to discover endpoint information and capabilities between entities exchanging business documents in a 4-cornered network. In some 4-cornered networks, such as the case in the European eHealth domain, business information is being exchanged in different structured forms than as documents. The term "document" used in this specification may in such networks be interpreted as referring to any resource that is being exchanged in the network.

The SMP specification is maintained by OASIS and it's community of contributors. It is also used in the eDelivery Building Blocks, which counts with an active User Community[5] to share updated and contribute to the development of the specification.

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**
  SMP is not included in any national catalogue of recommended specifications whose Member State NIF is fully aligned with at least 2 out of 3 sections of the EIF according to NIFO factsheets[6].

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

- **Openness**
  Even though the specification is related to the use and publication of metadata, it is not directly related to the publication of open data. The relation with metadata and its publication is focused on the availability and discoverability of access points and different parties for the exchange of data. OASIS has defined a clear process where all the stakeholders involved have the opportunity

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[3] CAMSS Assessment EIF Scenario 6.0: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CAMSSAssessmentEIFScenario6

[4] ISA[2] programme: https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/eif_en

[5] eDelivery User Community: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/wikis/display/EDELCOMMUNITY/eDelivery+User+Community

[6] NIFO Factsheets Reference: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/nifo-national-interoperability-framework-observatory/digital-public-administration-factsheets-2022

to participate in the development of the specification development process. Moreover, there is a public review in the TC process.

The specification was initially developed in 2017 with its initial version 1.0. It was used as the basis for the development of European Specifications and building blocks enhancing the development of public services. It is being used in the SMP software for eDelivery.

- **Transparency**
  The SMP eases and fosters the discoverability of administrations data or services to others that can be administrations or other stakeholders. Easing this communication, the specification allows different parties to discover others' capabilities and information to exchange documents amongst them. This fact increases the visibility of administrations' data and also improves and helps the decision-making processes.

- **Reusability**
  SMP is a business domain agnostic specification that can be used in a cross-domain way.

- **Technological neutrality and data portability**
  SMP can be implemented in any platform, and it is independent of any technology, even though in the specification's documentation there is no mention that SMP can be used partially, only meant to be used as a whole. There is also mention that the SMP specification can be extended, but its use is optional.

  The specification is a protocol focused on the transaction of data. Even though it is related to data exchange, and it is aimed to ensure the delivery of data, it is not involved in data portability amongst systems fostering the European Public Services implementation & evolution.

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

- **User-centricity**
  The implementation of SMP can ease the implementation of the Once-Only principle. Since the specification is related to ease the identification of services and the exchange of data, it can be useful for administrations to reuse and exchange information already available reducing the interactions that users need to do with them.

- **Inclusion and accessibility**
  The purpose of SMP seems to not be related to fostering the e-accessibility. Moreover, no information regarding this topic has been found to answer positively or negatively to the criterion.

- **Security**
  The message returned by a Service Metadata Publisher service is signed using one or more XML Signatures. Moreover, the purpose of the specification is to ease and ensure the discoverability

of different parties to exchange the desired information. The specification defines a set of requirements regarding the authentication of parties that ensures secure and trustworthy data exchange.

The SMP 2.0 specification developed by OASIS does not directly address the authenticity and authentication of roles or agents involved in data transactions nor the protection of information against unauthorised changes. While the specification does not provide explicit mechanisms for ensuring data processing accuracy, it can indirectly contribute to it.

- **Privacy**
  While the specification provides a framework for describing service endpoints, capabilities, and other relevant details, it does not specifically address the protection of personal data managed by public administrations.

  In the specification's documentation section 5.6.2[7] it is explained how the SMP 2.0 can restrict access to information and data

- **Multilingualism**
  The SMP is aimed to ease the identification of parties in data exchange. This data exchange can be part of a public service delivered by European Institutions. By easing the discoverability and the connection between parties, the specifications can help and foster the delivery of European Public Services including multilingual ones.

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

- **Administrative Simplification**
  The SMP 2.0 specification aims to simplify and enable the delivery of European public services. By providing a standardized approach to service metadata publishing and discovery, the specification enables easier access to and integration of public services across different systems and organizations.

- **Preservation of information**
  The purpose of SMP seems not to be related to long-term preservation of electronic records. Moreover, no information has been found to answer positively or negatively to this criterion. Therefore, this criterion is considered not applicable to this specification.

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[7] Section 5.6.2 of the specification's documentation Reference: https://docs.oasis-open.org/bdxr/bdx-smp/v2.0/cs02/bdx-smp-v2.0-cs02.html#_Toc30505052

- **Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency**

    There are some assessments[8] from OOTS evaluating the specification's digital solution effectiveness and efficiency which involve SMP2.0. OOTS is a digital solution at European level and has been used for assessing the SMP specification.

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**

    The specification is associated with EIRA[9] ABB's in the EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications (ELIS)[10]. It is associated with Enterprise Service Bus, Internal Website from Technical Infrastructure. Application Component, Access Management Service, eProcurement Discovering Component, Knowledge Discovery Component, Knowledge Discovery Component Service, Metadata Management Component, Metadata Management Service from Technical Application. Controlled Vocabulary, Data Model, Data Syntax, Data Object, Hash Code, Metadata, Shared Knowledge Base from Semantic View.

    Even though the specification defines conformance criteria, no testing mechanism or tool has been found to validate an SMP implementation. There are no Member States recommending SMP in their ICT National Catalogues.

- **Legal Interoperability**

    There are application profiles based in SMP are part of the eDelivery building block in OASIS, which leads to the specification being an European Standard.

- **Organisational interoperability**

    The purpose of SMP is not related to the modelling of business processes. Therefore, this criterion is not applicable to the specification.

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[8] Effectiveness & Efficiency Assessment Reference: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/wikis/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=647955048

[9] EIRA: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/european-interoperability-reference-architecture-eira/solution/eira/release/v500

[10] ELIS: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/elis/elis-dashboard

The specification defines how different parties and transactions have to be done in order to allow proper discoverability and data exchanges. Therefore, it is defining organisational requirements for the data transaction between two or more parties.

- **Semantic Interoperability**
  As SMP is maintained by OASIS which is an international community developing open standards, it encourages people to join and contribute to the development and maintenance of old and new specifications and share their data once a specification is finished on European platforms and the eDelivery User Community.

3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This section presents an overview of the results of the CAMSS assessments for **SMP**. 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	1400/1700 (83%)	100%	Seamless
Principles related to generic user needs and expectations	860/1200 (72%)	100%	Sustainable
Foundation principles for cooperation among public administrations	420/500 (84%)	80%	Seamless
Interoperability layers*	760/1000 (76%)	90%	Sustainable
Overall Score	3360/4300 (76%)[11]	96%	

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

With an 96% of assessment strength, this assessment can be considered representative of the specification compliance with the EIF principles and recommendations.

The Overall Automated Score of 76% (3360/4300) demonstrates that the specification supports the European Interoperability Framework in the domains where it applies.

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[11] 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