

Factsheet Germany

Main interoperability activities

Germany has no formal National Interoperability Framework defined. However, the main tool to improve interoperability in German is the 'Standards and Architectures for eGovernment Applications' (SAGA) 4.0¹. The current version '4.0' dates from March 2008. A new version, SAGA 5.0², is under development but no release data has been communicated. Germany pursues complementary to SAGA a number of initiatives on interoperability (see below).

Summary of the NIF

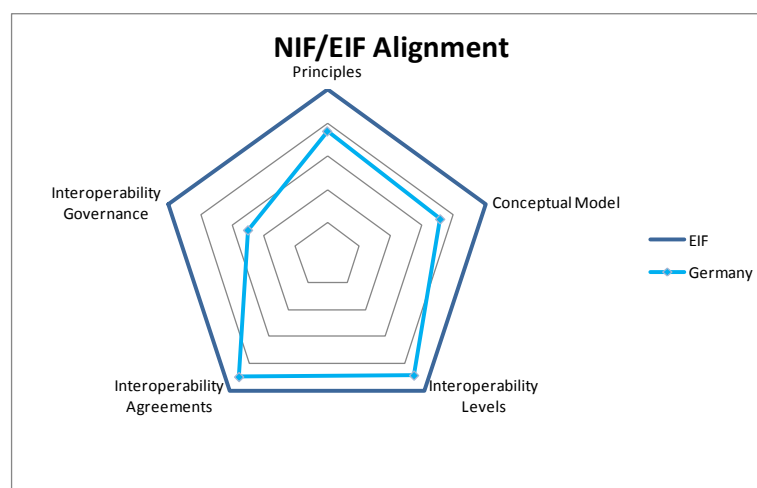
SAGA defines the standards and architectures to be used in eGovernment applications. The technical standards are assigned to the individual elements of the architecture model. The architecture model for eGovernment applications contains an Enterprise viewpoint, Information viewpoint, computational viewpoint, Engineering viewpoint and technology viewpoint.

Standards and architectures in SAGA undergo a **defined process** before they are included. Proposals for standards and architecture can be made through a public discussion forum and will then be investigated by the SAGA expert group and the SAGA author before inclusion. During their life cycle, standards pass through 10 stages.

SAGA's **scope of validity** covers the federal administration and software systems with interfaces between federal authorities and federal-state and/or municipal authorities in order to support eGovernment services to citizens and businesses. **SAGA conformance** of an eGovernment application is evaluated on the basis of the models, procedures and standards described in SAGA.

Alignment NIF/EIF

The German NIF has a very strong alignment with the EIF on the 'principles', 'conceptual model', 'interoperability levels' and 'interoperability agreements'. There is an alignment with the EIF on governance.



¹ SAGA 4.0, http://www.cio.bund.de/SharedDocs/Publikationen/DE/Architekturen-und-Standards/saga_4_0_update_kapitel_8_download.pdf

² SAGA 5.0, http://www.cio.bund.de/SharedDocs/Publikationen/DE/Architekturen-und-Standards/saga_5_0_konzept_download.pdf

SAGA aligns with nine of the twelve EIF **principles**. These nine principles are: Subsidiarity and proportionality, User-centricity, Inclusion and accessibility, Security and privacy, Administrative simplification, Transparency, Openness, Reusability and Effectiveness and efficiency.

SAGA puts forward as **conceptual model** the architecture model for eGovernment applications. SAGA is almost fully aligned with the conceptual model presented in the EIF. Through the eGovernment 2.0 programme, Germany prepares federal administrations to fit for a service-oriented information society. The Deutschland-Online (DOL) strategy aims to create a fully integrated eGovernment landscape in Germany, so that electronically captured data can be exchanged between the administrations of the Federal Government, federal states and municipalities in a consistent manner and across all levels. Evidences encouraging the use of common schemes to interconnect loosely coupled service components and evidences encouraging access and control mechanisms were not observed.

The **interoperability levels** described in SAGA are very strong aligned with the ones described by the EIF. SAGA does not describe the interoperability level 'legal' as such but provides a legal frame of reference including data protection. The business processes are transparent and unified documented at the various levels of the public administration. Semantic interoperability is achieved by defining a uniform presentation form and semantics for the elements of the XML files exchanged. Technical interoperability is achieved through the usage of technical standards.

The **interoperability agreements** described are very strong aligned with the EIF. SAGA defines a strict process, involving various entities, to include open standards and architectures. Data protection requirements are considered and implemented by way of suitable technical and organizational measures.

Germany does not have a **governance** framework as such defined. However, the Deutschland-online-project aims to create a fully integrated eGovernment landscape in Germany, so that electronically captured data can be exchanged between the administrations of the Federal Government, federal states and municipalities in a consistent manner and across all levels.

Other initiatives on interoperability

XÖV standardization: To achieve improved interoperability in the electronic data exchange within and with the public administrations, common rules for developing and maintaining standards for electronic data interchange (XÖV standards) are developed and coordinated.

Architecture management: In this working group fundamental traits of a common understanding of architecture as part of a unified reference model ("Framework") was devised.

IT Planning council: It holds the national e-government strategy, which emphasis on interoperability & standards. In addition, it will have a working group, which deals explicitly with implementing EIF/EIS in the municipalities.

Common Network Infrastructure: this is the future network infrastructure of the German federal government. It assures the interoperability on the technical level.

V-Model Extended for the federal government: The V-Model is a software engineering process model, which allows us to execute software engineering projects in the same way in the German government. It has explicit cues to SAGA and, therefore, supports the idea of interoperability.

Competence Center Process Management: This is an initiative to bring process modeling techniques to the German government. It serves as a vehicle to harmonize business processes and, therefore, achieve organizational interoperability.

Competences Center Open Source Software: This is an initiative of our IT investment program. It supports the use of open source software in the German government.

NIF responsables for Germany

Dr. Andreas Gehlert (andreas.gehlert@bmi.bund.de)

Dr. Andreas Mück (ReferatIT1@cio.bayern.de)