

Factsheet Italy

Main interoperability activities

Italy has drafted a National Interoperability Framework consisting of a legal framework Digital Administration Code (DAC) and an ICT interoperability framework Sistema Pubblico di Connettività e Cooperazione (SPC), which is deployed to enforce the DAC.

Summary of the NIF

The currently available material on the Italian interoperability framework describes the following topics:

- The legal framework Digital Administration Code (DAC)
- The ICT interoperability framework Sistema Pubblico di Connettività e Cooperazione (SPC)

Legal framework Digital Administration Code (DAC)

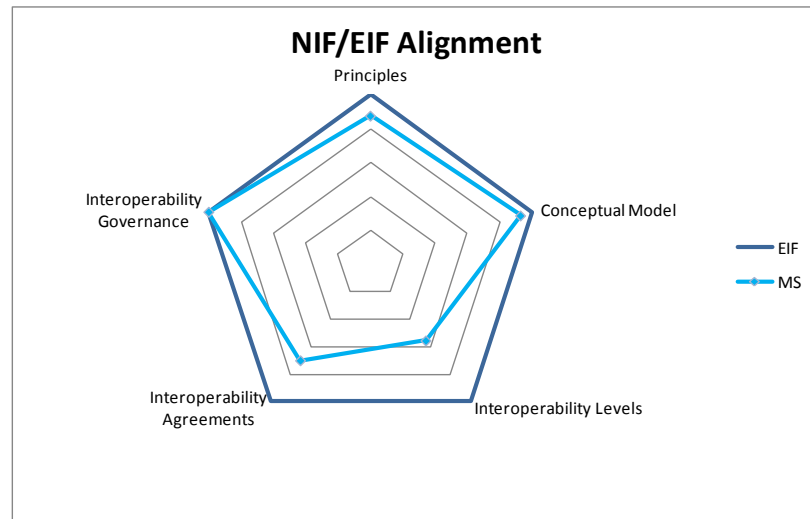
The Digital Administration Code (DAC) defines a comprehensive set of rules regarding the digitalization of the public administrations, dealing with (a) the rights of citizens and enterprises on public administration, (b) putting citizens and enterprises at the centre of public administration services, (c) digital signatures and legal validity, (d) contracts, payments and accounting deeds, (e) development, acquisition and reuse of software, and (f) the SPC. Due to recent changes in the law, a new national shared infrastructure for electronic payments in public administrations will be included into the SPC interoperability framework.

ICT interoperability framework Sistema Pubblico di Connettività e Cooperazione (SPC)

The SPC mainly describes the *actors*, the *governance*, the *interoperability infrastructures*, and the *security management*. Firstly, the *actors* could be qualified SPC providers (providing internet or application service), private enterprises with public purposes, or external authentic data sources (do not participate in SPC but they can provide required information within SPC). Secondly, the *governance* of SPC is under the control of the SPC Commission, formed by members appointed by Ministers and members appointed by the Assembly of local administration. Thirdly, the *interoperability infrastructures* guarantee technical interoperability at any abstraction level, from the connectivity up to the application level. Finally, the *security management* implements a set of security services to enforce trust among public administrations connected to the network.

Alignment NIF/EIF

The Italian NIF is nicely aligned with the EIF, especially in terms of interoperability governance, conceptual model, and principles.



The following paragraph discusses the NIF / EIF alignment as given by the figure above. Firstly, a strong interoperability governance structure was found in the NIF, as demonstrated by the SPC commission. Secondly, the SPC closely aligns with the EIF in terms of conceptual models, by means of the Italian Enterprise Architecture and the Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)-driven infrastructure. Thirdly, although no list of principles is given explicitly by the SPC or DAC, most of the EIF principles are mentioned in the details of the legal text. Fourthly, the SPC describes several legally binding interoperability agreements, such as service agreements and cooperation agreements, but does not fully align to the EIF as public administrations are not encouraged to participate in standardisation work and to assess and select formalised specifications. Finally, the Italian interoperability framework discusses all interoperability levels, but only a limited alignment to the EIF was observed as (1) no explicit business processes of public administrations are given, (2) organisational relationships are not really detailed as part of European public services, and (3) connecting to cross-sectoral communities that aim to facilitate semantic interoperability was not fully stimulated.

Other initiatives on interoperability

Italy is planning to adjust the SPC compliance rules to bring the existing regulation in line with the organizational and technological changes required by the future cloud-based design of the SPC model.

Next, a re-design of the SPC framework started around September 2011. The SPC Board approved the creation of a number of working groups for such a purpose. DigitPA coordinates the groups that are principally formed by representatives from both central and local Public Administrations.

As part of the re-design of the SPC framework, a number of activities started last December. Specifically, DigitPA is currently working on the national index of Public Administrations that contains the reference information of the Administrations (e.g., responsible managers, web sites, certified email domains, email addresses, offered services, etc.). For the public nature of this information, the entire index will be available by the end of January 2012 as linked open data (level 5 of W3C classification). A relative SPARQL end point will be available for querying the open dataset. The endpoint will be part of the SPC national Interoperability Infrastructures.

In addition to this activity, last December one of the above mentioned working groups started a complete revision of the SPC national Interoperability infrastructures (see NIFOdocument_v1.2.pdf). The revision is necessary in order to effectively support the future cloud-based SPC model and the new PA e-government services. The working group is going to release a document describing the new Interoperability Infrastructures (at both connectivity and SPCoop levels) over the next months. The document will be subject to the approval of the SPC Board and then used for writing the specifications of a public tender related to the interoperability infrastructures. This tender is supposed to be launched within 2012.

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