



Against lock-in: building open ICT systems using standards

Communication of the Commission

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Lock in: too high prices and too much dependence

- Many public authorities are locked into their ICT systems (build with proprietary technology) – few potential suppliers for follow up of system
- This results in too high prices (€0.7 to €1.4 billion per year for the whole public sector)
- Too high dependence on business decisions of supplier
- Might have the effect that stakeholders also need to use that same proprietary technology to communicate with public authority

Standards might help

- **They make essential knowledge about a system available to anyone**
- **But many barriers for using standards:**
 - It is complex to understand which standard to use in which situation
 - On the short term it might increase the cost of procuring new systems (while there might be savings on the long term)
 - And new ICT systems need to work with already existing systems. Resulting requests for backward compatibility might enforce the lock-in.

Guidelines based on existing best practices have been developed to increase the use of standards

-----Centralised level-----

Assessing
standards

Developing ICT
strategy

Developing
Practical advice

-----Local level-----

Engaging with
market & evaluation
products

Understanding
ICT needs

Long term
business appraisal

Budgetary
planning

-----Individual level-----

Decide best
procurement
process

Write
procurement
documents

Evaluation
And feedback

Assets that could be shared, adapted and reused

Centralised level-----



Local level---[]-----



Individual level-----



ICT Strategies and Architectures

Knowledge on standards

Lists of recommended standards

Evaluation of products

Templates and ready texts

Training on ICT Procurement

ICT Needs

Long term plans of evolution of ICT

Procurement documents

Next steps

- **Adoption of the Communication by the Commission**
- **Guidelines should be put into practice (by all of us)**
- **Commission will set up regular meetings where public procurement officials, CIO's, IT departments, ICT suppliers can meet in order to exchange best practices on how to better use standards in order to resolve lock in.**
- **We hope to count on your further advice and engagement**