

Factsheet Italy

Main interoperability activities

Italy has drafted a National Interoperability Framework consisting of a legal framework Digital Administration Code (DAC)¹ and an ICT interoperability framework Sistema Pubblico di Connettività e Cooperazione (SPC)², 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)
- The main regulation changes that have been introduced with very recent law decrees n. 83/2012 and 179/2012.

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. Changes in the law, applied in 2011, foresee the introduction in SPC interoperability framework of a national shared infrastructure for electronic payments in public administrations.

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

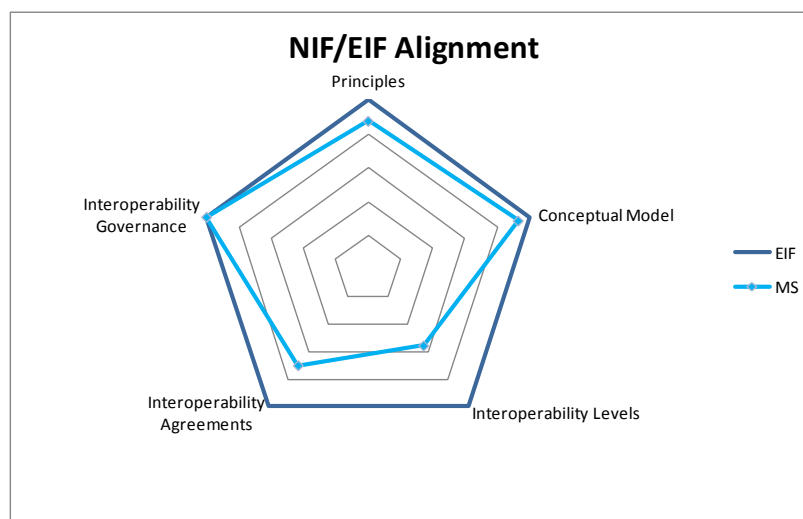
The SPC framework mainly describes the *actors*, the *governance*, the *interoperability infrastructures*, and the *security management*. Firstly, the *actors* could be qualified SPC providers (providing internet or application service), private enterprises with public purposes, or external authentic 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.

¹ <http://www.digitpa.gov.it/amministrazione-digitale/CAD-testo-vigente>

² <http://www.digitpa.gov.it/spc>



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, 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; these are being used by an increasing number of Public Administrations. 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-sector communities for facilitating semantic interoperability is still preliminary.

Other initiatives on interoperability

On August 2012, Law Decree No 83/2012 went into effect. The Decree has a broad scope; however, paragraphs No. 19 - 22 are devoted to innovation and specifically to the definition of a new Italian ICT governance model. In the new model, DigitPA and other two Italian public organisations (i.e., the Agency for the Promotion of Technologies for Innovation and the Department of Innovation and Technology of the Presidency of Council of Ministers) have been suppressed as single isolated bodies in favour of a brand-new Agency named "Agenzia per l'Italia Digitale" (Agency for Digital Italy)³. The Agency inherits the main activities carried out by the suppressed organisations along with a number of additional functions.

A novelty is that the range of applicability of the Agency's functions is no longer confined anymore to the public sector only (as it happened in the past with bodies like DigitPA) but it is also extended to the private sector and to the overall Italian citizenship (in this latter case with activities aiming at reducing the digital divide and enhancing e-skills). The Agency is thus responsible for implementing the Italian Digital Agenda, compliant with the European one.

The recent law decree n.179/2012 went into effect on last 18 December 2012 and details the main sectors and principles that constitute the Italian Digital Agenda (e.g., transparency in Public Administrations and open data, smart communities and digital inclusion, eID, e-Health, e-Education, Intelligent Transportation Systems, e-Justice, electronic payments, advanced e-procurement mechanisms, etc.)

³ <http://www.digitpa.gov.it/>

In addition, a re-design of the SPC framework has been performed. DigitPA coordinated a number of working groups of the SPC Commission that were principally formed by representatives from both central and local Public Administrations. A number of guidelines have been produced⁴.

In particular, in December 2011 one of the above mentioned working groups started a complete revision of the SPC national Interoperability infrastructures. The revision was necessary in order to effectively support a possible future cloud-based SPC model⁵ (the model was proposed by another working group of the SPC Commission) and the new PA e-government services. The working group has released a document describing the new Interoperability Infrastructures⁶ (at both connectivity and SPCoop levels). The document was subject to the approval of the SPC Commission and then used for writing the specifications of a public tender related to the interoperability infrastructures. This tender is supposed to be launched by the first half of 2013.

Among the interoperability infrastructures, DigitPA manages 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, during 2012 the entire index has been made available as linked open data (level 5 of W3C classification). The result is the portal named SPC data⁷. A SPARQL endpoint is also provided that can be used in the future by other Public Administrations as an interoperability infrastructure. Currently, the portal includes the data related to the national index of Public Administrations mentioned above, which are described by the related ontology, and data regarding some of the SPC contracts that were subscribed by Public Administrations in order to acquire specific SPC services.

Based on these activities and on the new law decrees, Italy is planning to adjust the SPC compliance rules to bring the existing regulation in line with the organisational and technological changes required by the future cloud-based design of the SPC model⁸.

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⁴ http://www.digitpa.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati_tec/CdC-SPC-GdL4-ContenutiGareS2S3-v1%200.pdf and http://www.digitpa.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati_tec/CdC-SPC-GdL6-InfrastruttureNazionaliCondivise-v1.5_0_0.pdf

⁵ http://www.digitpa.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati_tec/CdC-SPC-GdL4-ContenutiGareS2S3-v1%200.pdf

⁶ http://www.digitpa.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati_tec/CdC-SPC-GdL6-InfrastruttureNazionaliCondivise-v1.5_0_0.pdf

⁷ <http://spcdata.digitpa.gov.it>

⁸ http://www.digitpa.gov.it/sites/default/files/allegati_tec/CdC-SPC-GdL4-ContenutiGareS2S3-v1%200.pdf