

interoperable
europe
Academy


Online

Seasonal School
13-15 May 2025

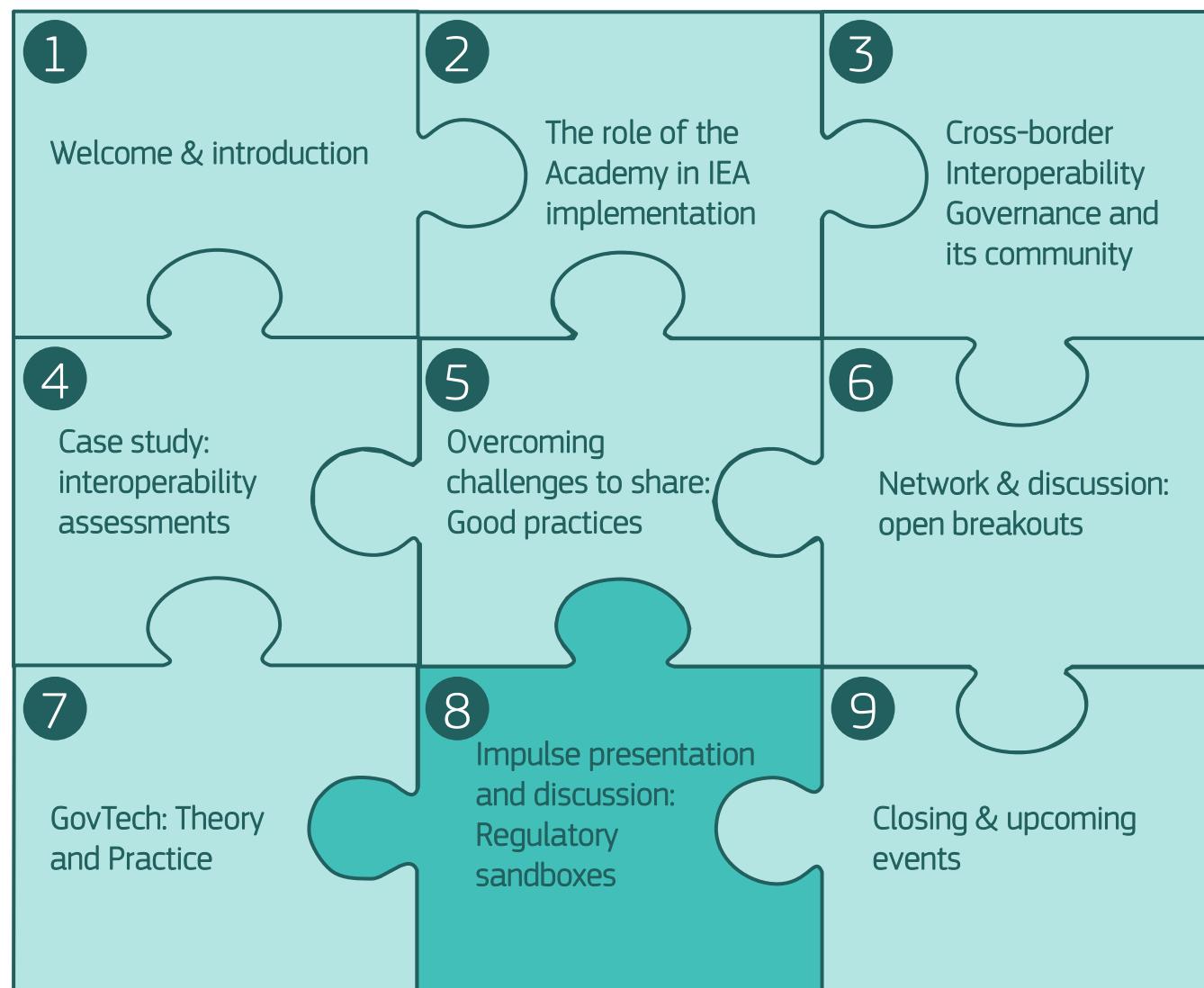


15th MAY
2025

Seasonal School 2025

Impulse presentation and discussion: Regulatory sandboxes

Session tracker



Speakers of today



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Agenda

01 | WELCOME
Warm-up introduction

02 | WHAT ARE
INTEROPERABILITY
REGULATORY
SANDBOXES?

03 | LESSONS FROM
GOVTECH
INCUBATOR

04 | MOVING TO
IMPLEMENTATION
Discussion





02 | What are Interoperability regulatory sandboxes?

02 Main regulatory experimentation tools

Testbeds

- Experiments to **develop, test and upscale** a product or service in a dedicated environment
- The **focus of the experiment is mostly technical** (technology requirements, standards, and performance)
- Regulatory authority is typically **not** involved



SOURCE: JRC, 2022

Living labs

- Co-create, prototype, test and upscale innovative solutions to (local) needs in real-life settings
- Experimentation includes the **involvement of citizens** as well as other stakeholders and end-users as **co-creators to assess user uptake and acceptance**
- **Not systematically linked with regulatory authorities** but can be used by regulators to anticipate future needs

Regulatory sandboxes

- Schemes that enable the testing of innovations in a **controlled real-world environment**, under a specific plan developed with **one or more competent authority**
- Aim to **facilitate evidence-based regulatory learning and promote innovation**, in a setting of multi-stakeholder cooperation
- Involved authorities can help to improve legal certainty. This regulatory dialogue can occur with a degree of flexibility through derogations¹

¹ Presence of a derogation is not a necessary element of regulatory sandboxes

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Our focus today!

Regulatory sandboxes

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EU's Better Regulation Toolbox #21 :
Experimentation clauses

02 Interoperability Regulatory Sandboxes

Articles 11 and 12 in the Interoperable Europe Act

Innovation support measures:
Interoperability regulatory
sandboxes, GovTech ecosystem

interoperable
europe **Act**

With the aim of contributing to the following:

- **Fostering innovation and the** roll-out and re-use of interoperability solutions for public services
- **Facilitating cross-border cooperation** between national regional and local competent authorities
- **Facilitate the development of an open European Ecosystem** (Cooperation with SMEs, research institutions, start-ups)
- Contribute to evidence-based regulatory learning
- Improve **legal certainty**

Interoperability Regulatory Sandboxes as described in the IEA



- Controlled test environments
- Set up by a Union entity or a public sector body
- For the development, training, testing and validation of innovative interoperability solutions supporting the cross-border interoperability of trans-European digital public services
- Where appropriate in real world conditions
- For a limited period of time, under regulatory supervision

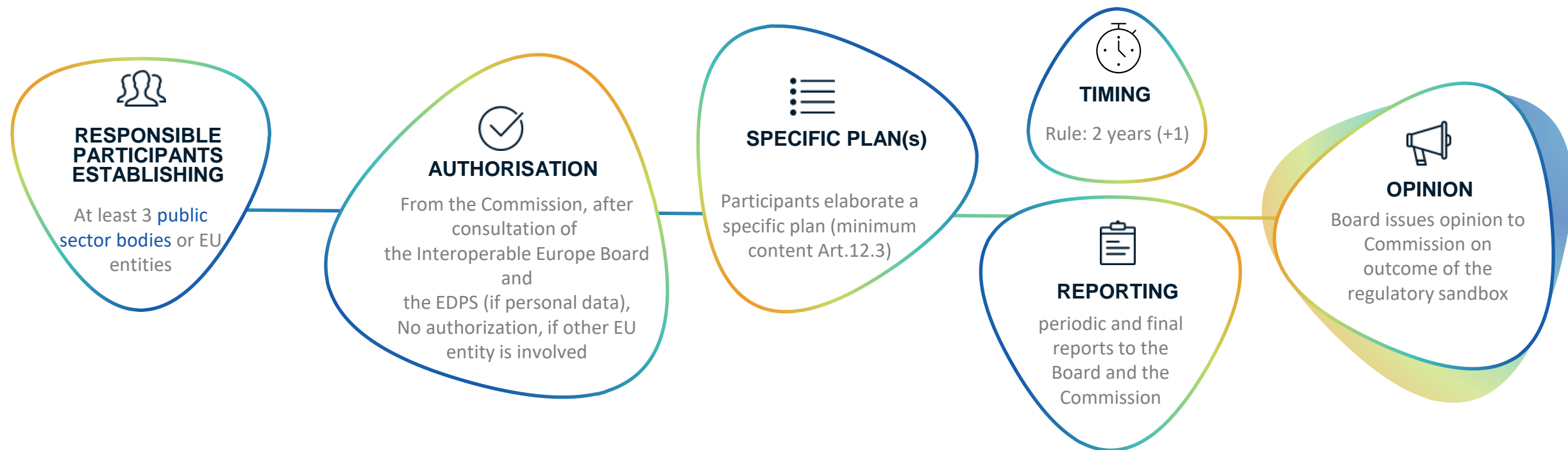
They are not:



- A funding instrument
- A way to bypass EU regulatory frameworks
- A selection process with points, thresholds, etc. => you only need to tick the boxes



Interoperability Regulatory Sandboxes - Process



WHAT THE ACT SAYS: Main obligations of the Commission



Prepare and adopt the implementing act(s) with help of Committee

**Adoption
Q2 2025**



Ensure information on regulatory sandboxes is available on the Interoperable Europe portal (Art. 12, paragraph 9)

**Publication
Q2 2025**



“Authorize the establishment of regulatory sandboxes (Article 11, paragraph 4), upon a joint request from at least three (MS) participants”

03 | Learnings from GovTech4All incubator



GovTech4All Incubator for Regulatory Learning



GovTech4All can be understood as a use case within an interoperability sandbox.

- Public and private organisations.
- Design and testing of cross-border interoperable-by-design public services.
- **Regulatory learning.**



Regulatory learning: top-down, bottom-up, iterative cycles? In fact, it is more like a multiplayer collaborative board game.

GovTech4All Incubator for Regulatory Learning



GovTech4All was born as an “implementation” of the Interoperable Europe Act that would:

1. Work as a govtech incubator to bring together national digital services agencies, universities and govtech startups around Europe.
2. Promote the design and testing of human-centric and interoperable-by-design cross-border public services.



Throughout its implementation, the teams:

- Engaged in one pilot on post-quantum secure data exchange (technological innovation), one on startup challenge public procurement (process innovation) and one on personal regulation assistant (hybrid).

GovTech4All Incubator for Regulatory Learning



Resulting in learnings on:

- Design procurement - how governments can use existing procurement law for innovation and what to do to improve it.
- Rules as Code - how governments can use existing technology to create personal regulation assistants for citizens.
- Emerging technologies – how governments can test future-proof technology.



How to develop structured (regulatory) learning?

Continuous communication and effort for

- Needs analysis
- Implementation gap (policy goals and day-to-day needs)



04 | Moving to implementation Discussion

What's next?



Q2 2025 – More information on the Interoperable Europe Portal



Q2 2025– Implementing Act to be adopted



Q3 2025 – Agreements on common templates and EC approach with other Commission services



Q4 2025/Q1 2026 – First pilots (>?)

Conclusions

The Interoperable Europe Act focuses on cross-border public services.

Legal interoperability difficult obstacle for cross-border interoperability - Regulatory Sandboxes interesting tool to overcome this.

Interoperability Regulatory Sandboxes focus on testing innovative interoperability solutions in cross-border contexts.



Thank you!

For any question:

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Stay in touch



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