



# NIFO Factsheet – Belgium

The main online source related to the Belgian interoperability activities is the [belgif.be](http://www.belgif.be) platform. [belgif.be](http://www.belgif.be) is dedicated to interoperability in the context of the eGovernment and the information society and is aimed at the different levels of government (federal, regional and local). It takes into account the European Interoperability Framework (EIF).

- See <http://www.belgif.be/>

## Main interoperability highlights

Belgium put forward the BELGIF<sup>1</sup> (BELgian Government Interoperability Framework) website as Interoperability Framework. This website was launched by the intergovernmental architecture workgroup (AWG). It provides a mapping of EIF recommendations to various interoperability initiatives (Legal, Organisational, Semantic, Technical) at federal / regional / local level<sup>2</sup>. In addition the website provides a list of recommended ICT specifications<sup>3</sup> and meeting minutes of the AWG meetings<sup>4</sup>.

In March 2014, the second evaluation of the Federal Plan for Administrative Simplification 2010-2015 was presented. The realisations of this plan are available online<sup>5</sup>. The eGovernment Program of the Belgian Social Sector<sup>6</sup> (2009-2014) is developed by the Crossroads Bank for Social Security and aims to grant efficient and effective services, improve service delivery, promote information security and protection and deliver integrated statistical information.

## Summary of the NIF

BELGIF, the collaborative platform of the Belgian government dedicated to interoperability in the context of e-government and the information society, is a result of the collaboration between several Belgian institutional levels and is compatible with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF). This platform is open for everyone to consult and is open to external contributions.

The “EIF 2” tab page provides a matrix where all 25 EIF recommendations are listed in the first column, and are linked to Legal, Organisational, Semantic and Technical topics from different government levels in the columns. Clicking the EIF recommendations offers the description of the recommendation, and the governments responsible in the Legal, Organisational, Semantic and Technical area.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <http://www.belgif.be>

<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.belgif.be/eif>

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://www.belgif.be/specifications>

<sup>4</sup> See: <http://www.belgif.be/meetings>

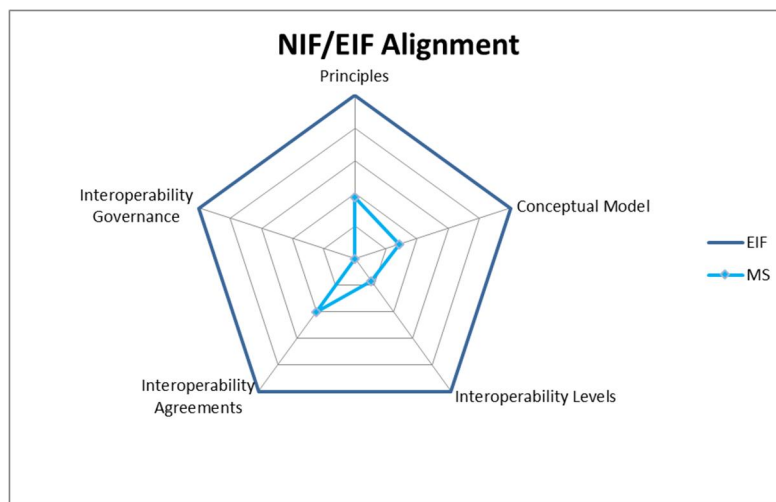
<sup>5</sup> See: [http://www.simplification.be/fr/webfm\\_send/126](http://www.simplification.be/fr/webfm_send/126)

<sup>6</sup> See: [https://www.ksz-bcss.fgov.be/binaries/documentation/en/cbss\\_2009.pdf](https://www.ksz-bcss.fgov.be/binaries/documentation/en/cbss_2009.pdf)

The “Specifications” tab page defines a list of standards, categorised in different categories: files, mail, network, PKI, security, web and XML. Every standard is described by its name, version and its recommended state (recommended, under research or obsolete). Clicking the name will provide a link to the full specification.

## Alignment NIF/EIF

The NIF/EIF alignment for Belgium is based on the information provided through the BELGIF platform and website. Belgium scores best on the Principles and Interoperability Agreements, followed by the Conceptual Model and Interoperability Levels categories. The BELGIF does not focus on Interoperability Governance.



For the Principles dimension, 5 of the 12 elements are covered (user-centricity, inclusion and accessibility, security and privacy, administrative simplification and preservation of information).

The Interoperability Agreements category is mainly covered through the assessment and selection method for standards and specifications and the promotion of open standards and specifications.

The Conceptual Model category is covered by the infrastructure to interconnect loosely coupled service components (Federal Service Bus) and the base registries interfaces.

The Interoperability Levels category describes the four levels of interoperability and the interaction between the different levels of public administrations.

More detailed information on NIF / EIF alignment is provided on the NIFO Community on JoinUp on the [Compare NIFs](#) page.

### Example of alignment - EIF Principle 6: Administrative simplification

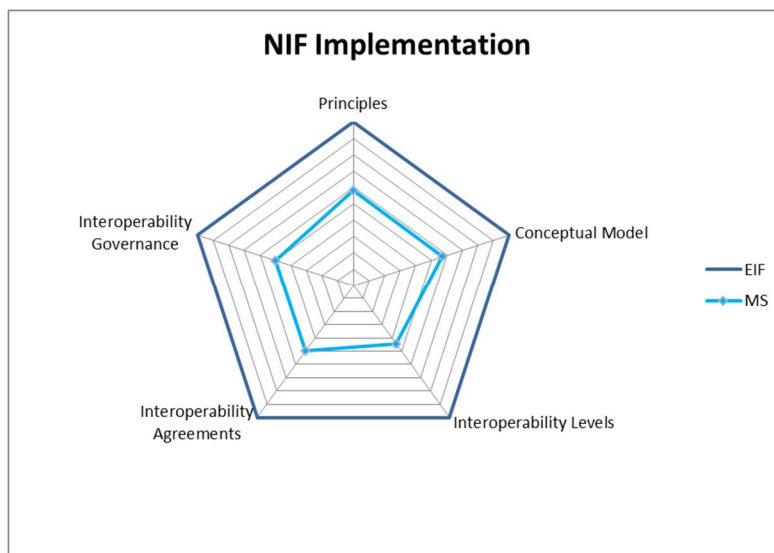
In Belgium, the Administrative Simplification Principle is stated as follows:

- The digital action plan for Belgium clearly states lowering the administrative burden as one of the advantages of eGovernment. For example, the action plan includes measures (up to 2015) to reduce admin burden through ensuring electronic invoicing to lower administrative costs (Belgium is currently implementing the Commission's ePRIOR solution at national level) and through further development of eGovernment services to speed up administrative processes. For the latter, the digital action plan states that in general "Integration of ICT in public services contributes to lowering the administrative burden and increase efficiency".

See [http://economie.fgov.be/nl/binaries/Een\\_digitale\\_agenda\\_voor\\_Belgie\\_tcm325-240901.pdf](http://economie.fgov.be/nl/binaries/Een_digitale_agenda_voor_Belgie_tcm325-240901.pdf)

## Implementation of NIF

Concerning the implementation of the NIF, all categories are covered.



The Interoperability Governance dimension is supported by a practical example as the BELGIF platform is the place to track the interoperability work.

For the Principles dimension, 9 out of 12 principles are covered with examples of implementation, 5 of which are large-scale.

The Conceptual Model dimension is covered by the examples of different Crossroad Banks and the Federal Service Bus.

The Interoperability Levels and Interoperability Agreements dimensions are, inter alia, supported by the list of technical specifications available on the BELGIF platform. Belgium also participates in ISA projects defining common vocabularies, and proposes guidelines for implementing them.

### Example of implementation - EIF Principle 6: Administrative simplification

In Belgium, the Administrative Simplification Principle is implemented as follows:

- Administrative simplification is implied by the creation of the 'Service for Administrative Simplification' at the federal level. Similar agencies exist at regional level.
- The Federal action plan on administrative simplification 2012 – 2015 includes an example project: implementation of ePrior to reduce admin burden for businesses.

See <http://www.simplification.be/fr/livre/a-propos-de-l-agence-pour-la-simplification-administrative/les-missions-de-l-asa>

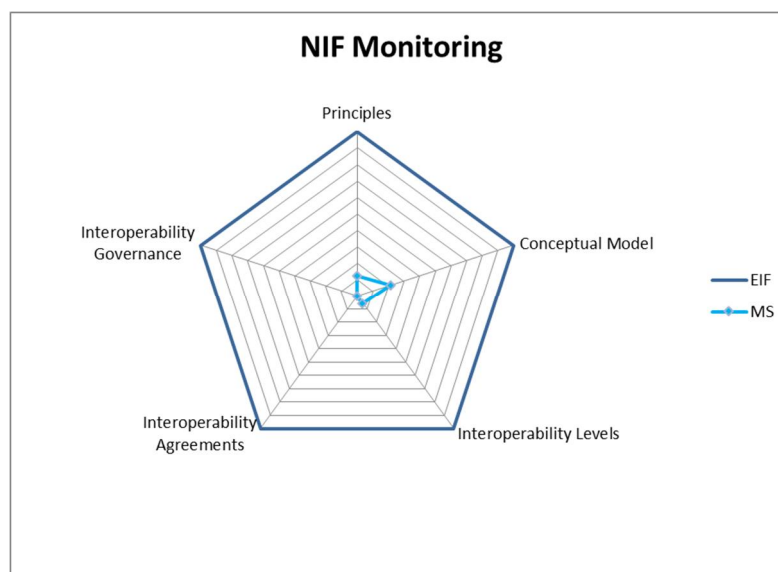
See [http://www.veroeenvoudiging.be/nl/webfm\\_send/124](http://www.veroeenvoudiging.be/nl/webfm_send/124)

See also <http://presscenter.org/fr/pressrelease/20121213/bientot-la-fin-des-factures-papier?lang=nl>

See also <http://presscenter.org/fr/pressrelease/20140717/l-etat-federal-recoit-sa-premiere-facture-electronique>

## Monitoring of NIF

Belgium monitors elements from three categories of the NIF.



Three of the principles are partially monitored, through internal processes for the multilingualism and through service monitoring for security and privacy aspects. The inclusion and accessibility principle is monitored with a check at the launch of federal sites.

Service monitoring is also applied for three elements from the conceptual model and one element from the interoperability levels - applying legislation related to data exchange.

More information on all the implementation and monitoring examples is provided on the NIFO Community on JoinUp on the [Compare NIFs](#) page.



## Other initiatives on interoperability

Digital government is one of five priorities in the “[Digital Belgium](#)” plan, launched in April 2015. Both citizens and businesses need to be able to conduct all communication with the government digitally by 2020 and to be able to do so using a user-friendly channel. The other four priorities in the Action Plan are digital economy, digital infrastructure, digital skills and jobs and digital trust and digital security.

In Flanders, a SOA-based infrastructure called [MAGDA platform](#) was introduced in February 2006, to enable the integration of Government data exchange services and facilitate both the access to authentic data sources and the data exchange among public bodies. In the past five years, more than €5 million has been invested in this platform. In 2010, the roll-out of the MAGDA 2.0 platform started, a new version of the platform which provides additional data exchange facilities (web services, file transfer etc.), while at the same time requiring lower operational costs. In 2012 an application was developed that allows to publish data from authentic data sources automatically: the 'MAGDA publication framework'. The platform enables a smoother distribution of more sophisticated data publications to a wider group of data-customers.

In February 2014, the [Flanders' Open Data Platform](#) was released to the public: the government of the Flanders region in Belgium is using open source for its new open data forum. The site host is running Linux, web server Apache and content management system Joomla for the open data knowledge exchange website.

The Flanders' OSLO (Open Standaarden voor Lokale Overheden – Open Standards for Local Governments) Vocabulary is an open and extensible data format that supports the exchange and reuse of basic data at local governments in the domains of contact information, persons, localisation and public services. The OSLO standards are a local extension of the standards that were developed within the ISA programme; the core Person, Business, Location and Public Service vocabularies. The vocabularies are available on the [dedicated Joinup page](#).

The interagency products and services catalog, referred to as the 'product catalog', is a platform through which governments can work together to create, manage and use descriptions about government services. The product catalog was developed by the Flemish government in collaboration with the Vlaamse Infolijn contact center, the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG), the Flemish ICT organization (V-ICT-OR), the Association of Flemish Provinces (VVP), the Association for government communication and a consortium of cities, municipalities and their suppliers.

Redesign of the user interface of the identity management (IDM) application of the Flemish government. Key features were added: enhanced reporting, assigning rights to groups of employees and granting of rights similar to those of an existing user. Also, the method for charging users' data based on uploaded files was refined.

The platform for access control management has been thoroughly renewed in 2013. It is now easier to give new users access to applications and services (partly thanks to support for “federation” technology). Thanks to this technology, the Flemish government realised for example the integration with the federal e-health platform, allowing care providers access to DOMINO



(hosted by the Flemish government) and Flemish government officials access to INSISTO (hosted by eHealth).

On March 5th, 2014 the Brussels Parliament published an ordinance<sup>7</sup> to ensure that electronic procedures are equivalent to procedures using paper documents. On June 6th, 2014 the Brussels Parliament published an ordinance<sup>8</sup> to create an institution in charge of organizing and streamlining electronic data exchanges to and from regional public bodies (the so-called “regional services integrator”).

### **NIF responsible contact person for Belgium**

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi/article\\_body.pl?language=fr&caller=summary&pub\\_date=2014-03-05&numac=2014031165](http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi/article_body.pl?language=fr&caller=summary&pub_date=2014-03-05&numac=2014031165)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi\\_loi/loi\\_a1.pl?sql=%28text%20contains%20%28%27%27%29%29&language=fr&rech=1&tri=dd%20AS%20RANK&value=&table\\_name=loi&F=&cn=2014050832&caller=image\\_a1&fromtab=loi&la=F](http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/loi_a1.pl?sql=%28text%20contains%20%28%27%27%29%29&language=fr&rech=1&tri=dd%20AS%20RANK&value=&table_name=loi&F=&cn=2014050832&caller=image_a1&fromtab=loi&la=F)