



# NIFO Factsheet – France

The main online sources are:

- the Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité (General Interoperability Framework)
- the Référentiel Général d'Accessibilité pour les Administrations - RGAA (Administration's General Accessibility Framework)
- The Cadre commun d'urbanisation du SI de l'Etat (Administration's Enterprise Architecture Framework)
- Cadre stratégique commun du SI de l'Etat (The Administration's Strategic Framework)

See: [https://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/RGI\\_Version1%200.pdf](https://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/RGI_Version1%200.pdf)

<http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/rgaa-accessibilite>

[http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Cadre%20Commun%20d'Urbanisation%20du%20SI%20de%20l'Etat%20v1.0\\_0.pdf](http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Cadre%20Commun%20d'Urbanisation%20du%20SI%20de%20l'Etat%20v1.0_0.pdf)

<http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/strategie-du-si-de-letat>

<http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/rgs-securite>

## Main interoperability highlights

The French NIF, the Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité (RGI), was published on 12 May 2009 and is a General Interoperability Framework.

Since then, a set of other frameworks have been published by the SGMAP (The General Secretariat for the modernization of public action) and are also part of the documents referred to as the French NIF: the Administration's General Accessibility Framework, the Enterprise Architecture Framework, the Strategic Framework and the Security Framework.

The General Secretariat for the modernization of public action (SGMAP) was established by a decree of 30 October 2012. It is headed by the Prime Minister and is composed of the DIMAP (inter-ministry direction for the modernisation of public action), the DISIC (inter-ministry direction for ICT systems) and the mission Etalab, in charge of open data.

More broadly, the eGovernment legislation (*Ordinance on electronic interactions between public services users and public authorities and among public authorities*<sup>1</sup>) was adopted on 8 December 2005 on the basis of the Legal Simplification Law of 9 December 2004. It aims to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the shift to 'electronic administration' creating simple and secure electronic interactions between citizens and public authorities. The text covers all exchanges of electronic documents, email or digital communications among public authorities and among citizens and central administration, regional governments and private organisations. Moreover, it grants the same legal status to email as that of traditional paper-based correspondence and legalises the use of electronic signatures by public authorities. Lastly, the

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=19EBC4859D783AB5C1E67F939B509709.tpdjo16v\\_3?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000636232&dateTexte=20080117](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=19EBC4859D783AB5C1E67F939B509709.tpdjo16v_3?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000636232&dateTexte=20080117)



text lays down provisions on both the security of exchanges and the interoperability of information systems.

## Summary of the NIF

In France, the following six documents function as the sources for the NIF:

The *Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité* (RGI)<sup>2</sup>, published on 12 May 2009, is a General Interoperability Framework. The RGI consists of three parts:

- The *avant-propos* introduces the problems of interoperability and addresses the expected benefits of the RGI. This part is directed to the decision-makers and the heads of administration.
- The *cadre d'interopérabilité* presents the context of the RGI together with principles and the scope. This part is intended for the heads of the public administrations who are involved in the field of organisation and information systems.
- The *guide d'interopérabilité* presents how the public administrations should implement interoperability by giving an overview of recommended and mandatory norms, standards and best practices. The focus of this part is on semantic, syntactical and technical levels of interoperability and is written for the project managers, enterprise architects, developers and others who are involved in the implementation of public services.

An update is planned in 2015, concerning the lists of standards; a public consultation was launched in March 2015 on the proposed new version.

The Administration's General Accessibility Framework<sup>3</sup> (*Référentiel Général d'Accessibilité pour les Administrations* - RGAA) aims to allow any person to access the online services and contents provided by national and local government, regardless of possible disabilities. The RGAA was upgraded and officially approved by government decree (<http://legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000030540064&dateTexte=&categorieLien=id>) on 29 April 2015. The rules now include recommendations on the use of modern web technologies (HTML5) and come with improved tools for testing website accessibility.

The Enterprise Architecture Framework<sup>4</sup> (*Cadre commun d'urbanisation du SI de l'Etat*), published on 10 October 2012, lists the general principles applied when establishing public service information systems and organises the exchange of knowledge regarding the existing systems.

The Strategic Framework<sup>5</sup> (*Cadre stratégique commun du SI de l'Etat*), published in March 2013, sets the background to a common and inter-ministerial transformation of the State's information systems with a series of objectives which include the provision of enhanced services

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<sup>2</sup>[https://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/RGI\\_Version1%200.pdf](https://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/RGI_Version1%200.pdf)

<sup>3</sup><http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/rgaa-accessibilite>

<sup>4</sup>[http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Cadre%20Commun%20d'Urbanisation%20du%20SI%20de%20l'Etat%20v1.0\\_0.pdf](http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Cadre%20Commun%20d'Urbanisation%20du%20SI%20de%20l'Etat%20v1.0_0.pdf)

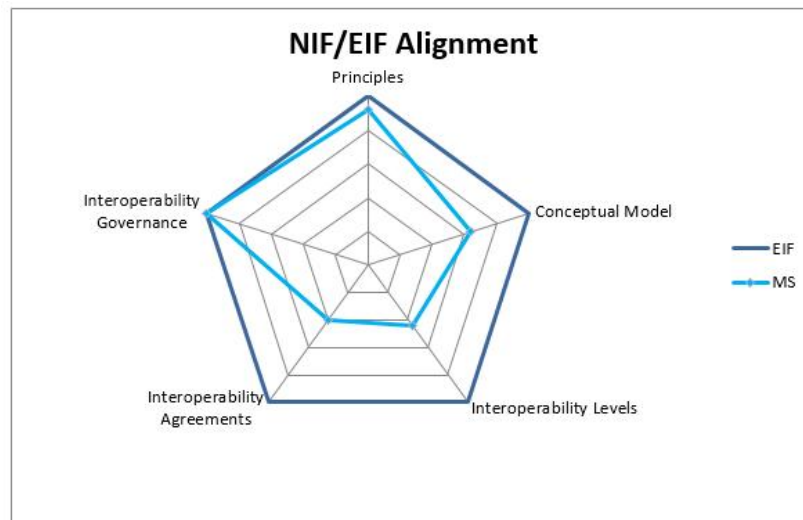
<sup>5</sup><http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/strategie-du-si-de-letat>

to the users and better efficiency of information systems thanks to the sharing and reuse of components and state-of-the-art infrastructures.

The Security Framework<sup>6</sup> (*Référentiel Général de Sécurité*) v2, published in June 2014, defines the security rules which are applied in state information systems and provides best practices in the area of security which public administrations may follow.

## Alignment NIF/EIF

The main concepts of the EIF are covered by the French NIF.



All the EIF **principles** are fully covered by the different frameworks of the French NIF, except multilingualism and administrative simplification which are partly covered, referred to in other legislation<sup>7</sup>.

The **conceptual model** is covered in the Enterprise Architecture Framework and is applied with the "Government as a Platform" strategy.

The RGI mentions six **levels of interoperability**: political, legal, organisational, semantic, syntactical and technical level. The RGI recommends and requires common standard to ensure technical interoperability. The RGI mentions the applicable legislations which apply to interoperability and data ex-change. On organisational level they encourage the public administrations to use UML and BPMN notations to document business processes.

On **interoperability agreements** recommends RGI the public administrations to use the norms, standards and best practices in the specifications, some of these are even mandatory

<sup>6</sup> <http://references.modernisation.gouv.fr/rqs-secureite>

<sup>7</sup> In 2005, with the "ordonnance" number 2005-1516, there is a link with all simplification actions and systems' interoperability. The Toubon law refers to translation of texts (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/af-fichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000005616341>)

to use. The norms, standards and best practices are selected through the same method proposed in CAMSS<sup>8</sup>.

Regarding interoperability **governance**, all work on the interoperability frameworks, and on the establishment of an inter- ministry exchange level are made in co-construction workshops lead by the DISIC.

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

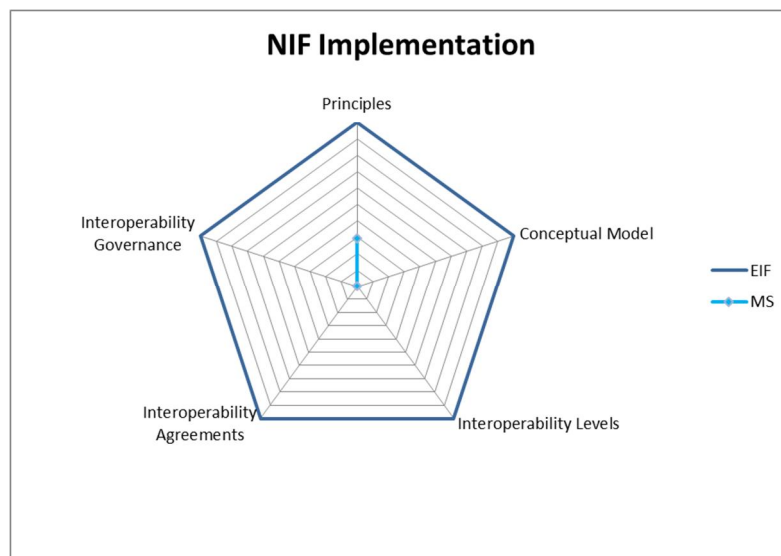
### Example of Alignment – Principles

The EIF includes the principle of technological neutrality and adaptability:

- In France, *the Référentiel Général d'Interopabilité* (RGI) mentions that vendor neutrality of the public administration has to be assured and that the ability to integrate with other information systems contributes to the adaptability of the systems more easily.

## Implementation of NIF

Concerning the implementation of the NIF, principles are covered.



<sup>8</sup> <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/camss/description>



User centricity, administrative simplification are respectively implemented through the portal [service-public.fr](http://service-public.fr), the projects “simplified public support<sup>9</sup>” and “simplified public tender<sup>10</sup>”. Openness is implemented with the nomination of a Chief Data Officer (Administrateur Général des Données, AGD) ensuring open data reaches its full potential in improving government services. Reusability is implemented through the publication each year of the “Socle Interministériel de Logiciels Libres” (SILL, the inter-ministerial free software base). This is a reference guide and DVD distribution of free and open source software solutions that are certified for use by France’s ministries and other public administrations.

## Other initiatives on interoperability

Data.gouv.fr provides access to datasets from the French administration. The portal is currently making near 14000 datasets available (<https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/datasets/>), which are also accessible via ODIP (<http://data.opendatasupport.eu>), the pan-European single point of access to European datasets. Near 1000 applications (<https://www.data.gouv.fr/fr/reuses/>) are reusing one or more datasets that are available on the portal.

The [decree n° 2014-879](#) published on August 1, 2014, states that all government information systems are under the governance of the Prime Minister, including infrastructure, networks, software and services. In practice, a Council of the ICT system of the State is responsible for the overall governance and is consulted in the preparation of all the rules and standards of the state information systems. It is chaired by the Director of the interdepartmental Direction of Information and Communication systems of the State (DISIC). Any change in strategic plans for government ICT systems must be approved by the DISIC<sup>11</sup>. In line with the Decree, DISIC is implementing a “Government as a Platform” strategy<sup>12</sup>, based on a common platform designed to accommodate different types of secure APIs, provided by the different public administrations. These APIs will be used to build multi-channel user applications. “France Connect”<sup>13</sup> provides citizens and businesses a single identification tool to access all public digital services. “France Connect” federates a number of existing accounts selected by the user.

The Circular Ayrault<sup>14</sup> published in September 2012 asks public administrations to use open source software.

The « Cadre d’Interopérabilité des Systèmes d’Information de Santé (CI-SIS) »<sup>15</sup>, the eHealth Interoperability Framework, was published end 2012 and is [available online](#). It specifies the

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.modernisation.gouv.fr/les-services-publics-se-simplifient-et-innovent/par-des-simplifications-pour-les-entreprises/aide-publique-simplifiee>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.modernisation.gouv.fr/les-services-publics-se-simplifient-et-innovent/par-des-simplifications-pour-les-entreprises/marche-public-simplifie>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cio-online.com/actualites/lire-le-systeme-d-information-de-l-etat-unifie-sous-la-gouvernance-du-premier-ministre-7005.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cio-online.com/actualites/lire-jacques-marzin-disic-%C2%A0-%C2%A0nous-voulons-mettre-en-place-l-etat-plateforme-un-socle-de-partage-interministeriel%C2%A0-7068-page-2.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.cio-online.com/actualites/lire-france-connect-un-acces-universel-aux-administrations-en-ligne-7168.html>

<sup>14</sup> [http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2012/09/cir\\_35837.pdf](http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2012/09/cir_35837.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://esante.gouv.fr/services/referentiels/referentiels-d-interoperabilite/cadre-d-interoperabilite-des-systemes-d-inform>



standards to be used when exchanging health information. These standards are mostly international. It also specifies how to implement them in order to deploy interoperability between the different actors.

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