

NIFO Factsheet – Latvia

The main source for the Latvian interoperability activities is the document General Technical Requirements of State Information Systems: [http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_764 - Requirements of State Information Systems.doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_764_-_Requirements_of_State_Information_Systems.doc)

IVIS - Integrated State Information System is a platform to implement electronic services. It is designed for e-services' developers and those who want to achieve the information systems integration, using modern technologies and standards. IVIS website's content consists of all the technical details relating to the integration of the system: <https://ivis.eps.gov.lv/ivisportal/>

Main interoperability highlights

The Latvian national interoperability framework (NIF) designs the fundamentals of e-government, by defining single point of contacts for the citizens and businesses, by sharing components and tools for e-service development, and by creating standardized interoperability platforms based on open standards. Although no explicit interoperability framework exists, guidance on interoperability is given by law and legal acts on state information systems and by documentation of Latvian integration platforms.

Latvia is in the process of redesigning:

- The legal framework in area of e-government, ICT governance and delivery of public services (new Public Services law, new Physical persons e-identification law, new e-government law),
- The public services ICT architecture frameworks – taking into account the EIF.

Adoption of the new conceptual ICT architecture document by the government and adoption of new legal acts mentioned above are planned end of 2015 or beginning of 2016.

Summary of the NIF

The currently available material on the Latvian NIF describes the following topics:

- Law and legal acts on state information systems
- Documentation of integration platforms

From 2005 till 2009, different legal acts were published related to security requirements of state information systems¹; technical requirements of state information systems²; requirements for

¹ [http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_765 - Security Requirements of State Information Systems.doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_765_-_Security_Requirements_of_State_Information_Systems.doc)

² [http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_764 - Requirements of State Information Systems.doc](http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_764_-_Requirements_of_State_Information_Systems.doc)



the protection of critical state information systems³; requirements for state information system management integrators, procedures for the establishment, maintenance and activities of the state information systems management integrators and procedures for ensuring the functioning of state information systems within the framework of integrated state information systems⁴.

The state information systems law⁵ will have the mandatory requirement for national interoperability, this law will have the high level requirements. It is foreseen that it will be adapted early 2013. More detailed technical information (rules for technical items, platform, SLA's, standards, etc.) has already been taken up in separate documents with legal power. Others will be drafted in the future. These documents with legal power will be easier to adapt and change with technological evolution.

The law will encompass the spirit of the EIF recommendations a.o.:

- A state information system is obliged to give information to another state information system,
- A state information system can, free of charge, request information from another state information system,
- Mandatory integration of the state information systems.

In order to support single points of contact for citizens and businesses, Latvia employs different integration platforms (IVIS⁶, VISS⁷) via comparable architectures. By means of these integration platforms, different facets of interoperability between public administrations are specified, such as data exchange, security, reusable building blocks, standards, sharing of semantic models, service level agreements etc.

Currently the e-government platform has 3 layers:

- An interoperability layer for the exchange of data
- A platform for common e-services (e.g. authentication, payment, etc.)
- A presentation layer (the e-services portal)

Alignment NIF/EIF

The Latvian NIF is partially aligned with the EIF, due to a strong focus on technical aspects and less on legal, organisational and semantic aspects.

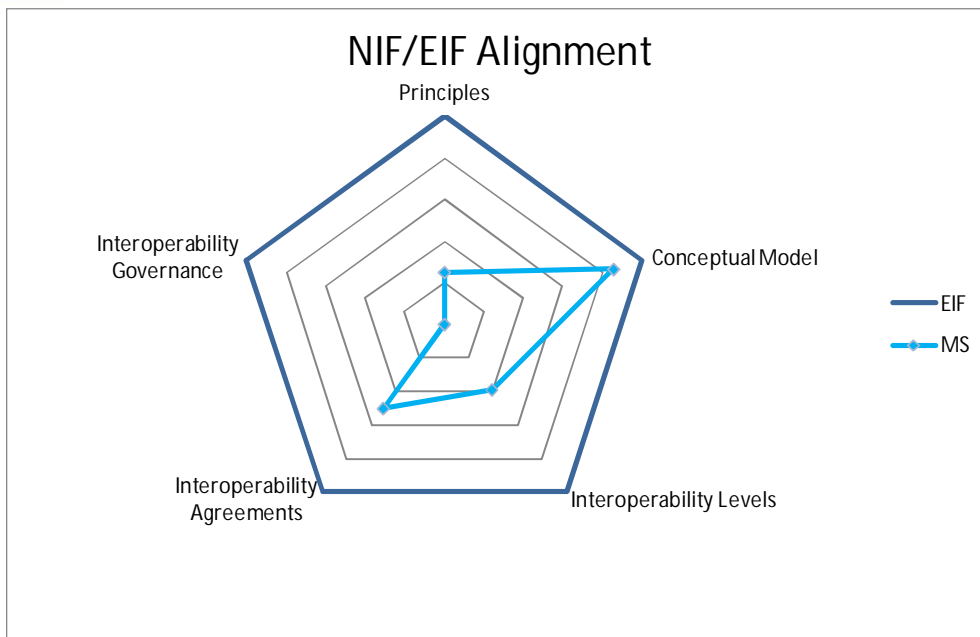
³ http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_1445_-_Protection_of_Critical_State_Information_Systems...doc

⁴ http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_1131_-_Establishmentx_Maintenance_and_Activities_of_the_State_Information_Systems_Management_Integrators...doc

⁵ http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/State_Information_Systems.doc

⁶ <https://ivis.eps.gov.lv/ivisportal/>

⁷ <http://www.vraa.gov.lv/lv/epakalpojumi/viss/>



The following paragraph discusses the NIF / EIF alignment as given by the figure above. Firstly, Latvia closely aligns with EIF in terms of conceptual models, as many conceptual architectures are provided to specify the interactions between building blocks. Secondly, the NIF uses interoperability agreements to a certain extent (i.e., to define technical interfaces between different systems), but does not deal with other legally binding agreements. Thirdly, not all interoperability levels are discussed in depth, with a strong focus on the technical level, including technical specifications of semantics (i.e., technical XML definition of semantic concepts, without defining the meaning of the concepts from an organisational point of view). Fourthly, the technical platforms embed different interoperability principles in an implicit way, but -except from security and open standards- no explicit principles are specified. Finally, no references to interoperability governance were found.

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 9: Openness

In Latvia the General Technical Requirements of State Information Systems include the following requirements which contribute to the implementation of the openness principle:

- The system user interface shall ensure the opportunity of sending and receiving data, using platform independent file formats and data transmission protocols.
- Moreover, the integration platforms employ open standards.

See General Technical Requirements of State Information Systems, Section 4.4, http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_764_-_Requirements_of_State_Information_Systems.doc



Other initiatives on interoperability

In 2015, Latvia has made available its national eID identification to partners in other EU member states, in the context of the STORK project. In cooperation between Latvia's State Regional Development Agency and European Commission DIGIT, connection with ECAS has been established providing Latvian citizens and officials an opportunity to access number of EC services in more convenient way – by using National eID cards⁸.

The turnover of the e-Procurement System has been constantly rising. Statistics released in March 2014 have revealed that turnover of the electronic procurement system reached 31 million euro in 2013, 19 % more than in 2012. The Latvian Electronic Procurement System (EIS) is the first electronic procurement system in the Baltic States, which was established in 2005. EIS is based on the principle of an electronic catalogue⁹, which acts as a store for public sector organizations, providing standard product offerings through a number of suppliers which have concluded framework agreements¹⁰. The State Regional Development Agency ([VRAA](#)) now operates and maintains the EIS. State and local authorities do not need to join each agreement separately, thanks to the 'Centralized Electronic Procurement Rules' Nr.1517¹¹ of the Cabinet of Ministers (December 2013).

In October 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers approved Information Society Development Guidelines for 2014 -2020¹². The Guidelines were elaborated to ensure continuity of existing policies and to determine the priorities in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the European Union Structural Funds Programming period for 2014 – 2020.

In January 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers approved concept of the organizational model of public ICT management¹³. The implementation of this model will frame public ICT strategies, principles and scenarios that will ensure strategic coordination of public ICT development and maintenance through partly centralized management: competence and responsibility in ICT management will be shared between the national and sector levels. This optimal ICT management model identifies the main parties involved: the public ICT organization, sector ICT organizations, hybrid ICT organizations, public ICT manager forum and, sector ICT management councils. To achieve the aim of optimal ICT management, both public- and private-sector resources will be used, providing effective cooperation focusing on benefits for the public and the creation and maintenance of convenient and user-friendly eGovernment solutions.

The number of started electronic services in portal [www.latvija.lv](#) has reached 1 million in 2012 and has increased to 1,16 million (by 16%) uses in 2013, according to statistics released in December 2013. The most popular electronic services in portal [www.latvija.lv](#) are Declaration of the place of residence and Electronic application for undergraduate programmes of study.

⁸ See: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/egovernment/news/electronic-gateway-platform-latvia-has-been-connected-stork-and-ecas>

⁹ See: <https://www.eis.gov.lv/Categories/CategoryList.aspx?>

¹⁰ See: <https://www.eis.gov.lv/Publications/PublicationView.aspx?PublicationId=2>

¹¹ See: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=263376>

¹² See: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=4518>

¹³ See: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=4212>



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