



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

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 approach to interoperability and its related eGovernment initiatives is structured on fundamentals such as the definition of single point of contacts for the citizens and businesses, the sharing of components and tools for e-service development and the creation of 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 the protection of critical state information systems³; requirements for state infor-

¹ 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

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



mation 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 (published back in 2005) is the main legal basis for the Interoperability activities and it foresees, among other recommendations, that

- 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

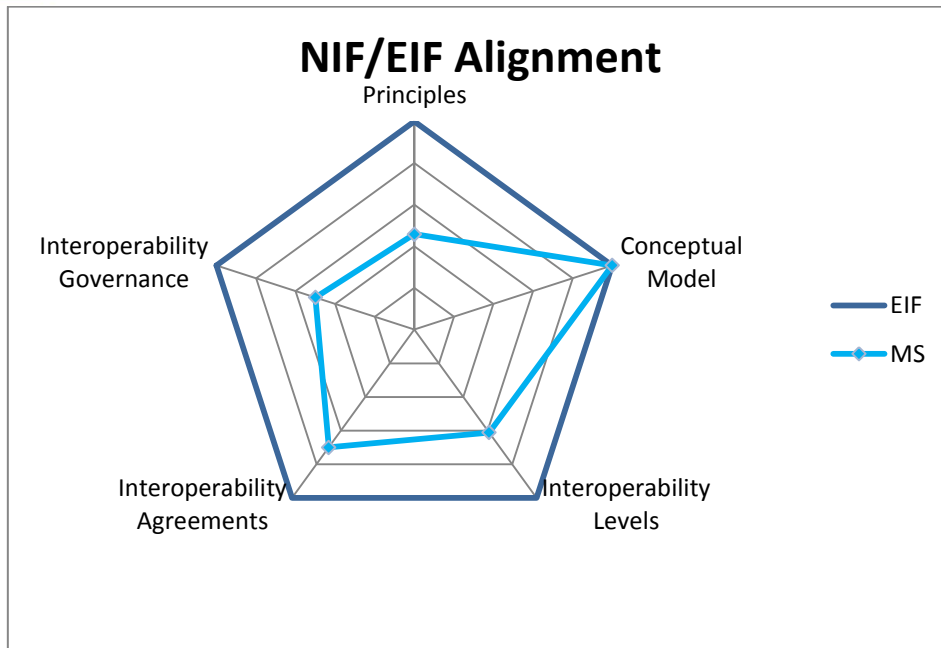
The Latvian interoperability approach is partially aligned with the EIF. Even if the strongest focus is on technical aspects and less on legal, organisational and semantic aspects, Latvia has progressed in terms of alignment on the transparency and preservation of information principles and in the fields of interoperability levels and agreements.

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](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 fully 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). 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). Fourthly, the technical platforms embed different interoperability principles in an implicit way, while “security and privacy”, “openness” and “preservation of information” are fully aligned with the EIF. Finally, the new governance model is currently being applied for the ICT projects being co-funded by EU structural funds.

Example of alignment – EIF principle 9: Openness

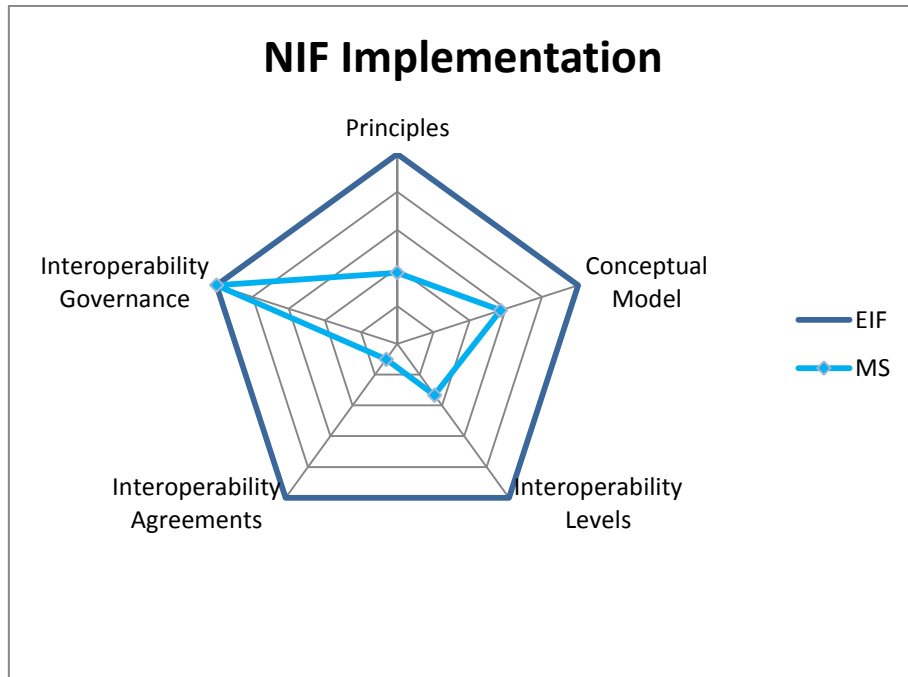
In Latvia the General Technical Requirements of State Information Systems include the following requirements which contribute to the implementation of the openness principle:

- 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

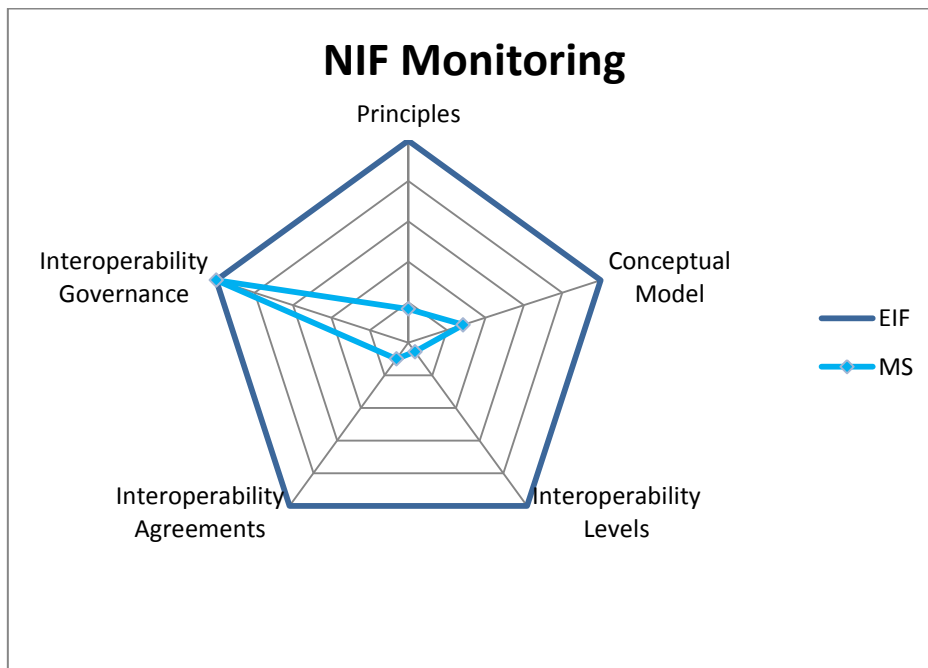
More detailed information on NIF / EIF alignment is provided on the NIFO Community on JoinUp on the [Compare NIFs](#) page.

Implementation of NIF



The implementation is fully done for the Interoperability Governance and for one principle (preservation of information), as well as partially done for a couple of levels, while it last unattended for all the rest of the criteria

Monitoring of NIF



The governance is fully monitored through the evaluation by VARAM and approval by Ministru Kabinets



Other initiatives on interoperability

In October 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers approved Information Society Development Guidelines for 2014 -2020⁸. 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 management⁹.

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 catalogue¹⁰, which acts as a store for public sector organizations, providing standard product offerings through a number of suppliers which have concluded framework agreements¹¹. 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.1517¹² of the Cabinet of Ministers (December 2013).

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 cards¹³.

NIF responsible contact person for Latvia

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⁸ See: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=4518>

⁹ See: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=4212>

¹⁰ See Chapter 5, <https://ivis.eps.gov.lv/IVISPortal/files/folders/10/download.aspx>

¹¹ See: <https://www.eis.gov.lv/EIS/>

¹² See: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=263376>

¹³ See: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/egovernment/news/electronic-gateway-platform-latvia-has-been-connected-stork-and-ecas>