

Interoperability Barometer

During the last few years, interoperability has been recognized as a critical factor for achieving true one-stop service provision for citizens and businesses, fostering collaboration among organizations and achieving efficiency and productivity gains in both the public and private sector. Additionally, it has been established as an important enabler for cross-country G2G cooperation and cross-border service delivery. Thus, it has emerged as one of the most vivid research areas in the fields of electronic governance and electronic business and has become a key issue in the agenda of the respective research and practice, leading to the uptake of various projects and initiatives.

On the other hand, following the uptake of relevant activities, interoperability research has been extended so as to deal - besides the actual interconnection of diverse services, systems or organizations – with the development of methods and frameworks for reviewing or assessing the status of interoperability practice and for guiding the implementation of future endeavors. In this context, several frameworks have been proposed for assessing interoperability readiness, based on interoperability maturity levels. Additionally, interoperability research and practice have been enriched with the creation of mechanisms enabling the dissemination of research outcomes and best practices, and the creation of awareness among the communities involved. In fact, such developments have also rendered clear the value and usability of interoperability-related information (e.g. statistics, implicit performance evaluation information, best practices, policy material etc.), for the purposes of awareness raising in the field, benchmarking, carrying out comparative analyses, providing recommendations to tackle possible weaknesses and challenges and enabling more informed decisions about the allocation of scarce resources to solve interoperability problems.

Yet, the relevant evaluation approaches have been addressing only specific interoperability dimensions (e.g. technical, semantic, organizational, etc.) and have been focusing mainly at or enterprise/organization. As a result, they have failed to provide a structured framework for reviewing interoperability advancements at country level and to examine interoperability from a wider institutional perspective. Such a perspective, coined by the European Public Administration Network as *interoperability governance*, should be concerned with the political, legal and infrastructural conditions that are relevant for developing and using interoperable systems that span both intra- and inter-organizational boundaries, and should be viewed as an issue that cuts across all other interoperability dimensions. In this context, the Interoperability Barometer demonstrator addresses the perspective of interoperability governance, and provides a generic view of the status of interoperability readiness at local and regional level, i.e. in the countries of South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, which are found within the range of influence of the Greek Interoperability Centre.

Interoperability data for Bulgaria, 2011

Options: Show all categories

1. Interoperability as a strategic goal	
1.1. Strategic Priority on Interoperability	Yes
General interoperability guidelines are defined in the Bulgarian National Interoperability Framework for Governmental Information Systems (6/2008) and the Ordinance on the General Requirements for Interoperability and Information Security (11/2008). There is also the strategic goal of developing centralised e-government systems (provision of a centralised integrated information environment for public services, delivery of centralised services by proposing standardised solutions; activities related to the security of centralised information and systems). Such tasks imply drawing up uniform standards to be used in the communications and exchange of data.	
1.2. National Interoperability Strategy Status	Not planned
2. National Interoperability Frameworks	
2.1. National Interoperability Framework Status	
2.1.1. Title	Bulgarian National Interoperability Framework for Governmental Information Systems
2.1.2. Version	Not applicable
2.1.3. Release Date	28 June 2006
2.1.4. Focus / Scope	Governance, Implementation, Operation
2.1.5. Audience	Government sector
2.1.6. Status	Published
2.1.7. Responsible Agency	Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform (http://www.mdsar.government.bg/emanagement.php)



The Interoperability Barometer Website

Business Case

The goal of the Interoperability Barometer is to improve the stakeholders' (policy makers, academics, researchers) understanding on interoperability at regional level by capitalizing on important interoperability-related knowledge that touches mainly upon the policy, research and practice domains. In this direction, it involves a structured collection of indicators, associated with the dimension of interoperability governance, and the detection and aggregation of relevant information, made available through a web-based processing and reporting system, which supports simple data entry and management through standardized data forms, interconnection with the database and automatic generation of reports. Advanced features include the generation of tables, charts and comparative figures.

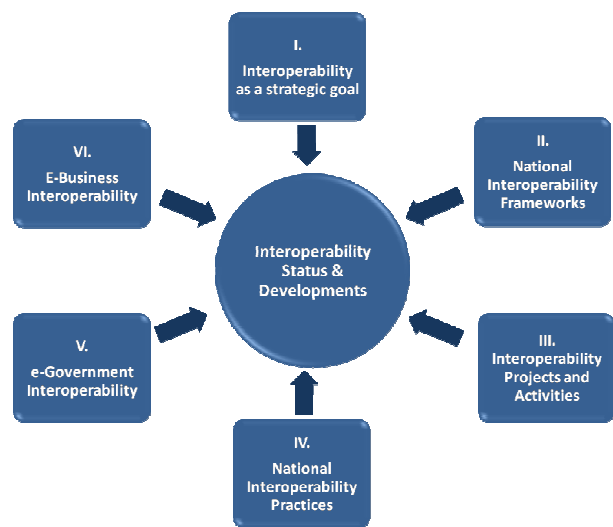
Its scope of application covers South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, i.e. a region that is, at least partially, yet immature with regard to interoperability developments. The information available through the Interoperability Barometer demonstrator may be used for the purposes of awareness raising on the countries' interoperability status, benchmarking and enabling best practices dissemination and reuse.

The system is scalable and allows the incorporation of more indicators or countries upon demand. Moreover, it supports user management and can be remotely accessed, enabling access and data entry or validation from multiple authorized users, and offering as a result the potential for other entities or organizations to contribute to the Interoperability Barometer by adding or editing information on the country they represent.

Interoperability Features

The Interoperability Barometer incorporates a comprehensive collection of metrics on interoperability-related factors. These metrics include qualities, such as the existence of a national interoperability strategy/framework as well as indications e.g. on the number of interoperability-related projects or cases with a good practice label implemented by a country, being thus both qualitative and quantitative, and are structured in six thematic areas, namely:

- I. Interoperability as a strategic goal
- II. National Interoperability Frameworks
- III. Interoperability Projects and Activities
- IV. National Interoperability Practices
- V. e-Government Interoperability
- VI. e-Business Interoperability



IOP Barometer Axes

Tools and Deployed Technologies

The Interoperability Barometer utilizes the following tools and technologies:

- Python 2.7.1
- Django 1.3
- PostgreSQL 8.4
- jQuery 1.6.1