Securing Interoperability in eGovernment Implementations

Methods and Frameworks

Tuesday, June 5, 2007, Hotel Golf Jupiter 1, 9.00 – 10.30

Co-chairs:
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The workshop aims at first providing insights from EC funded projects on their approaches to methodical interoperability, including a presentation of results from the survey of R4eGov. The workshop presentations are planned as follows (preliminary – 60 minutes):

Approach from IDABC – new EIF framework
Barbara Held
European Commission

Methodical approach to secure interoperability in the ITAIDE project
Yao-Hua Tan, Professor
Information Management Group, Vrije University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Experiences from the BRITE project to coordinate and implement a standard European business register exchange format based on a common ontology development approach
David Mitzmann or Piero Milani
Infocamere, Italy

Requirements and recommendations for securing interoperability: The Terregov interoperability framework
Norbert Benamou
Business Flow Consulting, France

The R4eGov methodical interoperability framework: Insights from a survey on user partners’ and IT providers’ IOP approaches
Jörg Ziemann
German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Germany

Title to be indicated
Davorka Šel, Undersecretary
Ministry of Public Administration, Slovenia

Workshop description
The European Union keeps growing and member states become more networked every day. Some reasons are that governments are requested to work together more frequently, more intensely and in a vast and ever evolving environment. The drivers of change are manifold: modernization, a huge gap between the burden of work and the available resources, new legal settings and strategic commitments, new ICT, keeping up with the change taking place in private business settings, higher expectations for improved quality of service, enhanced public value generation, etc. One could list a large number of aspects implying cooperation among public administrations and cooperation with their stakeholders on the basis and by means of advanced ICT.

Many strategic documents and initiatives have been launched in order to achieve more efficient government through seamless eAdministration on the European level. Also, a great deal of research is going on in eGovernment related research. R4eGov is an integrated project in the 6th framework programme IST of the EC, which aims at supporting public administrations with a comprehensive interoperability framework to ensure wide interoperability of legacy public sector applications among governments. A key objective of R4eGov is to provide tools and methods to guarantee that interoperability is integrated and implemented in eGovernment.

R4eGov currently conducts a study to analyse methodical interoperability approaches in European research programs, European framework 5 and 6 projects, and national/regional/local eGovernment initiatives as well as international Standardization bodies. The study investigates interoperability for public administration in several respects to reach an understanding of:

- The stakeholders’ methodical requirements and pre-requisites to be fulfilled for cross-organisational collaboration;
- Implications for systems design and legal frameworks;
- Differences of eGovernment projects (e.g. formal models vs. informal guidelines, different organisational structures, broad strategies vs. well-defined frameworks vs. catalogues of standards).

After these food for thoughts presentations, the presenters will discuss in a panel style (30 minutes, moderated by the chairs of the workshop):

- What can be learned from experiences gained in the different eGovernment related research projects aiming at developing methods and frameworks to secure interoperability in and between eGovernment implementations?
- Is an overall IOP methodical framework feasible, and who should develop such?
- Who would be responsible for implementing it and what would be the key requirements in terms of flexibility, dynamism and adaptability for different sectoral environments?

While discussion will be instigated by the panel members, the nature of the panel is to encourage and moderate the exchange of experience and perspectives between the panellists and the audience.
The results of the discussion will be provided as a report in the R4eGov project (http://www.r4egov.info).

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