



Press release - 11-11-2015

Industry, Research and Energy

User-friendly European public administrations adapted to the digital era

Common benchmarks for European public administrations, the creation of favourable contexts for citizens and SMEs, and comprehensive solutions adapted to the current digital context are the main features encouraged by the 4th interoperability programme (so-called ISA²), approved by the EP on Wednesday evening.

The program continues the 20 years of [development and improvement of administrations' interoperability in the EU](#), and the vote in plenary approves the deal struck with the Council in September.

"The approval in plenary session of the ISA2 marks a new stage of the development of a common understanding on the future of Digital Europe, which is a first step for the definition of an European digital identity that includes a common framework for public administrations to cooperate among themselves, to dialogue with citizens and companies, and to assure high levels of access, protection and efficiency in the use of resources", said Carlos Zorrinho (S&D, PT), Parliament's rapporteur.

The legislative resolution was adopted by 569 against 31, with 24 abstentions.

A modern public administration, user-oriented and inclusive

The objective of this 4th programme is "the development of a more effective, simplified and user-friendly e-administration", the Parliament insisting both on the fact that these developments should take place at all levels of public administration and on the "re-usability" of the solutions.

EP's negotiators insisted on the social and economic aspects of interoperability, such as:

- Delivering public services in a way that prevents the digital divide;
- Being inclusive in their construction by creating communities around the solutions and frameworks;
- Ensuring a maximum of synergies with other Union initiatives;

EP focused also on taking into account the particular needs of citizens, SMEs and micro enterprises when they act as end users of the solutions developed by the ISA2 Programme.

Less overlapping, more cooperation

At the request of the EP, the agreed text requires the creation of "a platform allowing access and collaboration on best practices. This platform functions as means of raising awareness and dissemination of available solutions, including security and safety frameworks, helping avoiding overlapping efforts while encouraging the reusability of solutions and standards".

MEPs asked for enhanced mechanisms of "sharing of experience and the exchange and promotion of good practices", the Commission being encouraged to "bring together relevant stakeholders and organise conferences, workshops and other meetings".

Background

The budget of the five years of ISA² is EUR 130 928 000. The main beneficiaries are public administrators at EU, national, regional and local level (direct beneficiaries), as well as citizens and businesses (indirect beneficiaries). Most of the solutions under the current programme (such as: semantic standards, e-invoicing, secure e-document exchange, the design of interoperable IT architecture, and a secure machine translation service, covering all official EU languages) are available free of charge, and many of them are open source.

Further information

Catch-up with the vote [here](#)

Adopted text will be available [here](#)

[Interoperability solutions for European Public Administrations \(ISA\)](#)

[ISA² - European Commission website](#)

[EP research: Interoperability for a modern public sector](#)


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