

Interoperability Data for Albania, 2013

1. Interoperability as a strategic goal	
1.1. Strategic Priority on Interoperability	Yes
<p>Article 103 of the <i>Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA)</i> - the implementation of which targets the country's integration into the European Union, and is supported by the <i>National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI)</i> (2007-2013) – addresses information society and the interoperability of networks and services, while Article 104 covers electronic communications networks and services [1].</p> <p>Additionally, the <i>National Information and Communication Technologies Strategy</i> suggests the development of “more effective, transparent, responsive government and public services” through a process of coordination to assure the interoperability of independent information systems, as well as the building of an inexpensive, fast and secure country-wide ICT infrastructure providing internet coverage and interoperable and seamless access to data and services [2].</p> <p>Finally, within the <i>Cross-Cutting Strategy on Information Society</i> [3, 4], the main purpose of which is the adoption of a Service Oriented Architecture for the Government of Albania, services interoperability and standard adoption by external service providers holds great importance in the context of the relevant policy on the “Development of Information Technology Infrastructure”.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1, 2, 3, 4]</p>	
1.2. National Interoperability Strategy Status	Not planned
2. National Interoperability Frameworks	
2.1. National Interoperability Framework Status	
2.1.1. Title	X-Road Albania
2.1.2. Version	<i>Not applicable</i>
2.1.3. Release Date	<i>Not applicable</i>
2.1.4. Focus / Scope	Unknown
2.1.5. Audience	Government sector
2.1.6. Status	Under development
<p>Following the issuing of an RFP by UNDP Albania [5], e-Governance Academy (Estonia) will prepare a Feasibility Study on the development of an Interoperability Framework for the Government of Albania (X-Road Albania) [6].</p> <p>This feasibility study will take into account the current and future possibilities in three main pillars (legal framework, organizational and technical areas) and will analyze, detail and present five components: legal framework, organizational setup, technical aspects, infrastructure components, fiscal aspect and implementation timeframe. The study will serve as the basis for setting up an interoperable e-Government system in Albania [6].</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[5, 6]</p>	
2.1.7. Responsible Agency	The Feasibility Study on Interoperability Framework for Albania will be prepared in very close cooperation and partnership with the National Agency for Information Society, which is the main beneficiary and also has authority within the Government to plan and implement such frameworks.
2.2. Compatibility of National Interoperability Framework with the European Interoperability Framework	<i>Not applicable</i>

(The Government is in the process of preparing the interoperability framework. X-Road project is ongoing and envisaged to establish an interoperability framework in line with EU practice.)

[7]

3. Interoperability Projects and Activities

3.1. Number of interoperability-related projects of local or national scope	Moderate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GovNet (Government Electronic Network) project (Sep 2004 – Feb 2006), to assist with the modernization of the public administration through the establishment of a modern, high-speed and reliable electronic network, to inter-connect central government institutions, provide some applications for those institutions and build an internal government capacity in ICT (Jointly funded by the European Commission and UNDP Albania) [7, 8]. - GovNet - Phase II project (Jan 2007 – Aug 2009) on the enhancement of the Government Electronic Network, to improve the quality of governance in Albania by speeding up the exchange of a wider range of information within government, and increasing public access to information (Co-funded by UNDP Albania) (http://govnet.undp.org.al/) [9]. - X-Road Albania Project (Jul 2009 – Apr 2010), aiming at drafting a Feasibility Study on the development and implementation of an Interoperability Framework for Albania. This feasibility study will take into account the current and future possibilities in three main pillars (legal framework, organizational and technical areas) and will analyze, detail and present five components: legal framework, organizational setup, technical aspects, infrastructure components, fiscal aspect and implementation timeframe. The study will serve as the basis for setting up an interoperable e-Government system in Albania (Funded by UNDP) [6]. - e-Accounting Pilot Project - as part of the 3-tier e-Accounting Programme – being a crucial milestone towards the full implementation of the Albanian e-Accounting system (http://eaccounting.undp.org.al/) (Funded by DGTF-UNDP & Italian Government) [10]. - Ensuring Citizen Access to Public Information and E-services at the Regional Level – PAC (Apr 2003 – April 2005), to establish a network Public Access Centers (PACs) in five pilot regions of Albania and enhance the electronic exchange of information and services among central and local governments and communities (Funded by UNDP) [11]. - Introducing ICT Applications at Local Level And Enhancing Citizens’ Participation (Apr 2010 - Nov 2011), to enable two municipalities to increasingly plan and carry out their business processes in an automated manner and enhance their interaction with citizens (Funded by UNDP) [12]. - "One-Stop Shop" Local Licensing – as part of the EC-funded project on “Technical Assistance and Training on Public Services Delivery to Local Government” - with the aim to facilitate the licensing procedures by local authorities by standardizing the forms, documents and overall procedures involved [13]. - "One-Stop-Shop" for business registration procedures, reducing to one day the time required to register new businesses and combining all registration steps, including tax registration, in a single procedure (http://www.qkr.gov.al/nrc/default.aspx) [14]. <p style="text-align: right;">[6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14]</p>	
3.2. Number of EU-funded interoperability-related projects	Low
3.2.1. Indicative projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWEB (“Secure, interoperable cross-border m-services towards a trustful European cooperation with the non-EU member Western Balkan countries”) project to develop a secure, interoperable, open, affordable platform upon which secure cross border government services will be built (http://www.sweb-project.org/) [15]. 	

- **SeaDataNet** (Pan-European Infrastructure for Ocean and Marine Data Management, April 2006 – March 2011), aiming to develop an efficient distributed Pan-European Marine Data Management Infrastructure for managing large and diverse marine research data sets, and to network the existing professional data centers of 35 countries, active in data collection, and provide integrated databases of standardized quality on-line (<http://www.seadatanet.org/>) [16].

[15, 16]

4. National Interoperability Practices

4.1. Number of Interoperability Cases with Good Practice Label

Low

- **GovNet** (Government Electronic Network) project (Sep 2004 – Feb 2006), to assist with the modernization of the public administration through the establishment of a modern, high-speed and reliable electronic network, to inter-connect central government institutions, provide some applications for those institutions and build an internal government capacity in ICT (Jointly funded by the European Commission and UNDP Albania) [7, 8].
- **"One-Stop Shop" Local Licensing**, with the aim to facilitate the licensing procedures by local authorities by standardizing the forms, documents and overall procedures involved [13].

[7, 8, 13]

4.2. Best Interoperability Practice

4.2.1. Title

GovNet (Government Electronic Network)

4.2.2. Description

GovNet (Government Electronic Network) project (Sep 2004 – Feb 2006), to assist with the modernization of the public administration through the establishment of a modern, high-speed and reliable electronic network, to inter-connect central government institutions, provide some applications for those institutions and build an internal government capacity in ICT (Jointly funded by the European Commission and UNDP Albania).

[7, 8]

4.2.3. Status

The project was successfully completed and its objectives were met. The Government has taken over total ownership of the results of the project and is improving the network and running additional applications.

4.2.4. Indicative interoperability aspects covered

- Collaborative Networks
- Information Exchange
- Content Accessibility
- Authentication and Security
- etc.

4.2.5. Impact

A high speed fiber optic network was established, connecting over 63 public institutions. Different applications were installed and are operational, such as an e-mail service, anti-virus service and VoIP. Over 50 IT specialists were trained and prepared to run the network. Accessibility to information and communications were dramatically improved.

Lessons Learnt – Success Factors:

The need for a project or initiative has to come from and be in support of the Government's overall strategy for development. Accountability should not just be an issue that touches the project management but also the Government. Transparency and a good flow of information will ensure the smooth implementation of a project.

5. e-Government Interoperability

5.1. Interoperability Level of core e-Government services to citizens / businesses	39.0% (2010) [17]
5.2. Connected Government Status	3.4% (2008) [18]

6. e-Business Interoperability

6.1. Intra-organizational Integration Level	<i>Not available</i>
6.2. Cross-organization Integration Level	<i>Not available</i>
6.3. Cross-organization Application-to-Application Integration Level	4.0% (2010) [17]
6.4. e-Invoicing Status	4.0% (2010) [17]
6.5. B2B Data Standards Usage	
6.5.1. EDI-based standards	<i>Not available</i>
6.5.2. XML-based standards	<i>Not available</i>
6.5.3. Proprietary standards	<i>Not available</i>
6.5.4. other technical standards	<i>Not available</i>
6.6. Interoperability Awareness	
6.6.1. Within their sector	<i>Not available</i>
6.6.2. Between sectors	<i>Not available</i>
6.6.3. For producing or providing products and services	<i>Not available</i>

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