



ISA² WORK PROGRAMME

2016

SUMMARY



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1. THE CONTEXT

1.1 THE NEED FOR THE ISA² PROGRAMME

In today's Europe, citizens are free to work in and relocate to any country in the European Union, and companies are free to operate throughout the EU. They frequently have to interact with Member States' administrations, and are increasingly doing so electronically. Member States are gradually modernising their administrations by improving their business processes and ICT infrastructure, thereby reducing their administrative burden and costs while increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of public services.

However, there is still a high risk that these changes will give rise to electronic barriers ('e-barriers'), due to their national dimension and a lack of interoperability at European level. Such barriers would prevent citizens and companies from interacting electronically with a foreign administration with the same ease as locals. This could impede the success of the digital single market.

Organisational issues, such as the complexity of public administrations and governmental procedures, cultural fragmentation, and the lack of cooperation between public administrations, are also a major barrier to interoperability.

At national level, Member States may opt for mutually incompatible solutions to address these barriers. Rather than boosting efficiency and savings, this would only create new barriers to the delivery of European public services in the internal market.

An EU programme would best address the need to modernise public administrations, by improving electronic interaction among Member State administrations and the way administrations interact with citizens and companies.

The ISA² (spelled 'ISA squared') programme, which builds on the successful ISA programme, has the following objectives:

- (a) to develop, maintain and promote a holistic approach to interoperability in the EU in order to eliminate fragmentation;
- (b) to facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction among European public administrations and between European public administrations and companies and citizens;
- (c) to contribute to the development of a more effective, simplified and user-friendly e-administration at the national, regional and local levels of public administration;
- (d) to identify, create and implement interoperability solutions that support EU policies and activities;
- (e) to facilitate the re-use of interoperability solutions by European public administrations.

ISA² builds on the results of the ISA programme, broadening its scope to interaction between public administrations, citizens and companies. Its stakeholders remain broadly the same. It plans to finance both existing and new and innovative solutions.

1.2 THE POLITICAL CONTEXT

The ISA² programme should be seen in the overall context of a number of other EU initiatives:

- The roadmap linked to the recently published communication on 'A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe' – the roadmap recognises that interoperability and standards are key to the successful implementation of the digital single market. The strategy expresses the need to revise and extend the scope of the European interoperability framework. The revision and implementation of the European Interoperability Framework and the European Interoperability Strategy will be undertaken as part of the ISA².
- The Commission's 2013 annual growth survey¹ - in this document, the Commission makes it clear that it considers the cross-border interoperability of online services and the digitisation of European public administrations to be important contributors to growth and increased efficiency. Interoperability between administrations makes it possible to deliver digital services more effectively and with more efficiency, while sharing and re-using existing interoperability solutions could reduce costs.
- The Europe 2020 Strategy² - the strategy seeks to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy, delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. It addresses a number of key challenges which directly relate to the modernisation of European public administrations.
- The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE)³ – a Europe 2020 flagship programme which underlines that interoperability is essential to maximising the social and economic potential of ICT; consequently, the DAE can take off only if interoperability is ensured. The DAE's 'interoperability and standards' pillar ties in with policy priorities under other relevant initiatives, such as the European Interoperability Strategy, the European Interoperability Framework⁴ and the 2012-2015 e-Commission Strategy.⁵

¹ Commission 2013 annual growth survey, COM(2012) 750 final, 28.11.2012.

² Commission Communication 'Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', COM(2010) 2020 final, 3.3.2010. .

³ A Digital Agenda for Europe, Commission Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2010) 245 final, 28.8.2010. .

⁴ Towards interoperability for European public services, Commission Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2010) 744 final, 16.12.2010. .

⁵ e-Commission 2012-15: Delivering user-centric digital services, Communication from Vice-President Šefčovič to the Commission, SEC(2012) 492 final, 1.8.2012.

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- Other initiatives contributing to the modernisation of public administrations, such as Horizon 2020,⁶ the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)⁷ and networks like the European Public Administration Network (EUPAN), the European Structural and Investment Funds. (ISA² ties in with the last two by ensuring that funded national projects are aligned with EU-wide interoperability frameworks and specifications).

2. THE ISA² PROGRAMME

The European Parliament and the Council adopted the Decision on Interoperability Solutions and Common Frameworks for European Public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens (the ISA² programme) on 25 November 2015.⁸

The ISA² programme will support and promote:

- a) the creation, improvement, operation and re-use of existing cross-border and cross-sector interoperability solutions;
- b) the assessment of the ICT implications of proposed or adopted EU legislation and the identification of areas in which new legislation could promote interoperability;
- c) the creation of a European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA), to be used as a tool for building and assessing interoperability solutions;
- d) the creation of a tool that would facilitate the re-use of existing interoperability solutions and would help identify the areas in which such solutions are still missing;
- e) the assessment and promotion of existing common specifications and standards and the development of new common specifications and standards; and
- f) the introduction of a system that would measure and quantify the benefits of interoperability solutions.

The ISA² programme is implemented by means of projects and accompanying measures supporting implementation. In this connection, due consideration will be given to the policy context, in particular the Digital Single Market, the European Interoperability Strategy (EIS), and the European Interoperability Framework (EIF)⁹, but also to ICT standards priorities and the use

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 — the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020 and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010 (OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 129).

⁸ Decision No 2015/2240.

⁹ See Annex II of the Communication 'Towards interoperability for European public services'. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0744:FIN:EN:PDF>.

of public procurement to foster standards uptake and interoperability, for example through the development of an EU Catalogue of ICT standards.

The ISA² Decision requires the Commission to establish a rolling work programme to implement the ISA² programme over its full duration. This document sets out this work programme.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE ISA² WORK PROGRAMME

The structure of the ISA² work programme used in this document is designed to help identify links between similar initiatives by grouping them together into 'packages'. This structure is temporary and will be discussed when the programme officially launches in 2016; the revised EIF and EIS will be taken into account where appropriate.

The actions included in the 2016 ISA² work programme are divided into the following packages:

- **Key and generic interoperability enablers** include actions which develop generic key interoperability solutions to support public administrations in providing services.
- The **semantic interoperability package** includes initiatives around establishing and enhancing semantic interoperability among public administrations.
- Under the **access the data / data sharing / open data** package, the ISA² programme funds actions which help open up national data repositories, facilitate the re-use of data across borders and sectors, and widen access to data created by the public sector.
- The **geospatial solutions** package consolidates all initiatives linked to the use of geospatial data in the public and private sectors.
- The **eProcurement / e-invoicing** package consolidates all Commission initiatives in the field of eProcurement.
- The **decision-making and legislation** package integrates actions supporting the decision-making process, from the collection of feedback from various stakeholders through the drafting of new legislation, to the monitoring of this legislation's implementation.
- The **EU policies — supporting instruments** package covers actions which support the implementation of EU policies.
- **Supporting instruments for public administrations** consists of actions which develop support solutions that can help public administrations build interoperable services.
- The **accompanying measures** package includes activities around the promotion of instruments funded under ISA² and the monitoring of the actions' implementation.

The actions are defined on the basis of proposals made by the Commission and Member States. Actions relevant to particular policy areas are defined in close coordination with the Commission service(s) responsible for the policy area and in line with the Commission's IT governance.

Actions under the ISA² programme are continuously coordinated and aligned with work carried out under the Digital Single Market Strategy (Priority ICT Standards Plan, EU Catalogue of ICT standards), ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP),¹⁰ the European eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020 when published, and CEF-Digital (the 'Connecting Europe Facility'), as well as with the Commission's internal ICT strategy.¹¹ Similarly, the ISA² programme supports these and similar initiatives whenever they contribute to interoperability between EU public administrations.

3.1 KEY AND GENERIC INTEROPERABILITY ENABLERS

The following actions funded by the ISA² programme identify, promote and support the definition and implementation of key interoperability enablers:

- Action 2016.28 – *access to base registers*: This builds on existing solutions for cross-sector interoperability at national level and single-sector cross-border interoperability at EU level to identify best practices and requirements for the cross-sector and cross-border interoperability of base registers. The action will complete the state of affairs study launched under the ISA programme to collect best practices in implementation and provide recommendations for public administration. It will identify missing solutions and will collect existing ones into a common repository of re-usable solutions, structured according to the European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA).

Action 2016.29 – *catalogue of services*: There is a need to standardise the descriptions of services offered by national and EU services to support the free movement of goods, services and people, and to catalogue them at a later stage. With ISA funding and in cooperation with representatives of the 'points of single contact', work under this action has already resulted in a standard specification to describe services in a harmonised way. In 2016, the focus is on extending this specification to cover all life events in the context of public services. The extended specifications will be implemented in pilot projects in national and European points of single contact and digital gateways. Work under this action will result in these service descriptions being brought together at EU level in a common catalogue.

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- Action 2016.02 – *provision of a private secured network (sTESTA)*: This network connects national administrative networks and the internal networks of the European institutions. It is a secure way of exchanging information among Member States and with the EU. It is used by many services, e.g. OLAF, MOVE, EMPL, ESTAT, HOME (SIS II and VIS networks), SANTE, CDT, MARE, TRADE, and other EU institutions (e.g. EUROPOL) and agencies. In 2016, work under this action will focus on finalising the migration from the sTESTA network to the sTESTA NG (next generation) network.

¹⁰ <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict-policy-support-programme>.

¹¹ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/ecom/index_en.htm.

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- Action 2016.09 – *IPv6 framework for European governments*: Almost all data networks (especially cross-border ones) operate using an IP. The IPv4 has around 4 billion addresses, and there are no more available. The adoption of IPv6 in Europe is still low (in particular in the public sector). This action aims to develop a common framework and set of supporting tools for public administrations to help them procure addresses, organise address space, and adopt IPv6.
 - Action 2016.19 – *e-TrustEx*: This provides support for the secure exchange of documents for example in areas where national parliaments are involved in legislative work at EU level (as a consequence of the Lisbon Treaty), or in the application of EU legislation in the area of competition. This action re-uses modules from the ePrior project and serves as a re-usable component for many EU projects that need the possibility of secure information exchange.
 - Action 2016.26 – *interoperability agreements on electronic documents and electronic files*: This action addresses the need for interoperability agreements on electronic documents and files, and will start with an inventory of what already exists. It will identify requirements for the different interoperability layers, in particular on aspects that are relevant to the sharing of documents, such as integrity, confidentiality, and non-repudiation at national and EU level.

3.2 SEMANTIC INTEROPERABILITY

- Action 2016.07 – *promoting semantic interoperability among EU Member States*: This action promotes interoperability by:
 - a) increasing awareness of the importance of semantic interoperability and appropriate metadata management policies, and
 - b) supporting and promoting the development and dissemination of common specifications, best practices, experiences and lessons learnt in the area of semantic interoperability.

Candidate areas for specific semantic interoperability specifications include: financial reporting (in close cooperation with DG FISMA), eProcurement (together with DG GROW and the PO), and employment-related data standards (with DG EMPL).

- Action 2016.12 – *semantic interoperability of the representation of powers and mandates*: This action will contribute to the semantic interoperability of the representation of powers and mandates that is necessary for the identification of legal persons as defined under eIDAS Regulation 910/2014. The Regulation aims to improve user convenience, trust and confidence in the digital world, while keeping up with technological developments, promoting innovation and stimulating competition. It has defined the requirements on the minimum set of personal identification data that uniquely represent a natural or legal person.
- Action 2016.16 – *public multilingual knowledge management infrastructure for the digital single market*: Supporting the EU economy and in particular SMEs in overcoming language

barriers will help unlock the EU's e-commerce potential. This action's objective is to create a public multilingual knowledge infrastructure that supports companies, in particular in the language technology industry, with implementing the multilingual tools and features needed to improve the cross-border accessibility of e-commerce solutions.

3.3 ACCESS TO DATA / DATA SHARING / OPEN DATA

Public administrations produce vast amounts of data, such as geographical information, statistics, weather data, traffic information, and data from publicly funded research projects. They do this to support their own work, but other economic operators also use the data when providing services to their customers.

The ISA² programme funds a number of initiatives which aim to improve the production, exchange, analysis and dissemination of and access to data in various areas.

- Action 2016.06 – *sharing statistical production and dissemination services and solutions in the European Statistical System*: The European Statistical System, which comprises the statistical office and the public administrations responsible for the production and dissemination of official statistics in each Member State, collects data and compiles statistics for national and EU purposes. The objective of this action is to facilitate the sharing of statistical services and solutions in the European Statistical System, with a particular focus on statistical dissemination.
- Action 2016.15 – *financial data standardisation*: The financial crisis in Europe has underlined the importance of having robust financial systems and of monitoring their health via the regular collection of reliable, high-quality data. Under current EU law, many stakeholders from the financial sector, including banks, public administrations and national regulatory/supervisory agencies, must report or act on financial data. Since 2009, the Commission (DG MARKT, now DG FISMA) has taken part in international initiatives to improve data reporting to support financial stability. A common financial language is lacking, which increases the costs related to legal reporting requirements and makes it difficult to aggregate risk data and ensure that market monitoring is complete. This action aims to increase the reusability and interoperability of financial data by assessing the potential for further standardisation in this area.
- Action 2016.18 – *development of an open data service, support and training package in the area of linked open data, data visualisation and persistent identification*: Opening up access to data produced by the public sector can create new business opportunities and value for society. In 2012, the Commission launched the European open data portal to facilitate the sharing and re-use of data produced by the EU institutions. This action aims to support public administrations in publishing their data using various tools, such as a common knowledge base, a catalogue of re-usable software tools, and implementation guidelines.

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- Action 2016.11 – *automatic business reporting*: Automation and data exchange between companies and authorities is relevant for many European countries, and increases productivity. If European countries are to become stronger in the digital area, they need the right infrastructure, sound public data, and a willingness to develop digital solutions that further automate and simplify the data exchange between them. This action will investigate the potential for automating data exchange between companies and authorities in the EU.
 - Action 2016.03 – *big data for public administrations*: The amount of data generated worldwide is increasing at an astounding pace, by 40 % each year, and is expected to increase 30-fold between 2010-2020. Because non-interoperable means are being used to describe data generated in the public sector, most of this data cannot be re-used. This action aims to address the use of big data within public administrations to support better decision making.

3.4 GEOSPATIAL SOLUTIONS

Action 2016.10 – *European location interoperability solutions for e-government (ELISE)*: Location-related information underpins an increasingly high proportion of EU and national governmental policies, digital services and applications used by public administrations, companies and citizens. Although various studies point to the tremendous potential value of publicly and privately held location information, there are many obstacles to the efficient sharing and re-use of this information. The PSI Directive, INSPIRE and ISA have started to remove barriers and some Member States have introduced important initiatives in this field. However, there is much further potential to tap into interoperable location information: the implementation of INSPIRE is ongoing and new thematic policies are emerging and will benefit from a more harmonised approach. This action is a package of legal/policy, organisational, semantic and technical interoperability solutions that will facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border and cross-sector interaction between European public administrations, and between them and citizens and companies, in the area of location information and services.

ELISE will continue to take the focus areas identified by the European Union Location Framework (EULF) as a basis for assessments and taking action. The frameworks, guidelines, and tools initiated in the previous EULF and ARE3NA actions will be extended to support the different requirements in various sectors and enable a wider adoption of solutions. In addition, key “common services” for geonames, open mapping and addressing will be developed in conjunction with key partners in MSs and related initiatives such as the European Location Framework (ELF) project. The action also plans to publish a package of recommendations and guidance to better link geodata and statistics in consistent ways, drawing on the work of UN-GGIM and other initiatives, and supporting requirements for increased levels of detail and dynamic statistics, whilst respecting privacy constraints. As part of its recommendation package ELISE will assess and address the barriers which impact the free flow of location based data and which inhibit the achievement of the DSM. Topics are likely to include open data, licensing, privacy, data interoperability, skills, and public private partnerships.

3.5 E-PROCUREMENT / E-INVOICING — SUPPORTING INSTRUMENTS

- The new public procurement Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU specifically state that tools and devices used for communicating electronically should be non-discriminatory, generally available, and interoperable. One of the directives' consequences is that e-Procurement will gradually become mandatory in the EU. From April 2016, eNotification and electronic access to tender documents will be mandatory. From April 2017, eSubmission will also be mandatory for Central Purchase Bodies and from October 2018 for all contracting authorities. In addition, e-Certis (a mapping tool for evidence) and the European Single Procurement Document will become mandatory from April 2016 onwards. The eInvoice Directive 2014/55/EU makes the reception and processing of electronic invoices mandatory by 2020. Action 2016.05 – *European public procurement interoperability initiative*: This action will help public administrations to fully meet the requirements of the eInvoice Directive by
 - a) providing a set of reusable tools and services in the area of eprocurement,
 - b) contributing to the definition of interoperability standards and to supporting interoperability initiatives like eSens in bringing software components to the maturity level required by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), and
 - c) reducing the administrative burden and simplifying procedures for buyers and suppliers to encourage cross-border public procurement procedures.

3.6 DECISION MAKING AND LEGISLATION — SUPPORTING INSTRUMENTS

The ISA² programme aims to create a fully automated legislative process in the EU, one that ensures effective, open and transparent access to legislation and facilitates the active and collaborative participation of citizens, companies and other stakeholders. It includes a number of actions which cover various steps in the overall lifecycle of the legislative process. These will increase the efficiency of the regulatory process, reduce the administrative and financial burden, improve the quality of legislation, and facilitate accessibility to and the re-use and preservation of legislation.

- Action 2016.04 – *participatory knowledge for supporting decision making*: This action responds to the demand for more open, transparent, collaborative and participatory pre-legislative consultations, internal decisions and policy-making processes, by consolidating reusable tools that allow the electronic participation of stakeholders, the analysis of collected opinions, and the discovery and generation of knowledge.
- Action 2016.38 – *legislation interoperability tools (LEGIT)*: This action proposes a set of reusable, fundamental, web-based building blocks that support and improve the electronic exchange of documents and metadata in the context of the legislative process and their conversion into different formats.

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- Action 2016.23 – *ICT implications of EU legislation*: This action ensures that ICT implications are identified and assessed when EU legislation is prepared or evaluated, and that they are properly taken into account in due course. This ensures that legislation is implemented in a way that is effective, timely, and at a reasonable cost.
 - Action 2016.08 – *European Legislation Identifier (ELI)*: the ELI is a flexible, consistent and reliable way of uniquely identifying legislative documents from different jurisdictions. It makes the documents readable and understandable by both humans and computers, and makes it easier to reference and share them at European level, while respecting the specific requirements of national legal systems.
 - Action 2016.01 – *application of EU law: provision of cross-sector communication and problem solving tools (THEMIS)*: This action aims to manage the full life cycle of EU law processes and to have one single, usable and coherent point of access, both for the Commission and the Member States. It will improve Member States' efficiency, transparency and openness of reporting on and monitoring of the implementation and application of EU law.
 - Action 2016.17 – *inter-institutional framework for digital ordinary legislative procedure OLP management*: To rationalise the EU legislative process and the underlying IT environment, a study was launched under the ISA programme to get a comprehensive view of the overall life cycle of the inter-institutional legislative process (AS IS). This included business processes and roles, the technologies, tools and systems used in each major legislative step by each of the institutions, and the specifications used to structure and exchange information. This action builds on the results of other actions and initiatives, such as the Interinstitutional Metadata Maintenance Committee (IMMC), and addresses the identification, definition and development of data standards and semantic building blocks required for a seamless, interconnected, end-to-end, fully interoperable IT workflow that supports the production of EU law across institutions.

3.7 EU POLICIES – SUPPORTING INSTRUMENTS

- Action 2016.13 – *common information-sharing environment*: This action aims to set up a platform that improves awareness of what is happening at sea to contribute to the efficiency of maritime operations and eventually to making seas safer and cleaner. This will be achieved by making it possible to exchange data between public administrations across seven policy areas within the EU maritime domain (maritime safety and security, marine environment and pollution preparedness and response, fisheries control, border control, law enforcement, customs, and defence).
- Action 2016.14 – *implementation of tools supporting European citizens' initiatives*: Following the revision of regulation 211/2011, this action aims to strengthen the tools described under action 2016.14 in the following areas:
 - a) improvements for European citizens, who use the online collection software,

- b) improvements for organisers of European citizens' initiatives,
- c) interoperability improvements.

In addition, the action will also provide technical advice on the development of the legislative framework (risk analysis, impact assessment).

- Action 2016.24 *ABCDE – administration, business and citizens' data exchange in the domain of case management*: This action aims to provide interoperable solutions that support data exchange between the European Commission, Member State administrations, companies and citizens, on EU competition policy cases (enforcement of antitrust/cartel rules, merger control, State aid control). Data exchange involves various entities, such as Member State administrations and undertakings (including law firms) located within the EU or even outside the EU.

3.8 SUPPORTING INSTRUMENTS FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

- Action 2016.32 – *European interoperability reference architecture (EIRA)*: The EIRA gives an overview of cross-border and cross-sector interoperability needs at European level. It provides a structure for mapping existing operational interoperability solutions (covering different types of interoperability assets including infrastructure services, information systems, applications, software components, semantic assets, organisational assets and legal interoperability assets), and for identifying missing parts. Trans-European software solutions developed and operated by the European Commission have already been assessed, described and organised according to the EIRA (see ISA Action 2.14). This action, which ISA² will continue to fund,¹² will update and extend this mapping of trans-European solutions and assess their re-usability and interoperability using a common method that will increase the solutions' reusability potential.
- Action 2016.33 – *European interoperability strategy*: Governance support is a continuous and parallel activity that analyses existing governance and organisational interoperability models and structures, investigates trends and changes in interoperability strategies in the Member States, and assesses EU policy developments that may have an impact on the EIF and EIS. In 2016, this action will support the publication of an updated EIF and EIS. Once the new focus areas are set by the strategy, the action will provide direction on how the ISA² programme is to implement the new objectives.
- Action 2016.37 – *interoperability maturity model (IMM)*: This action will improve and simplify the method for verifying the interoperability level of public services developed under the ISA programme. Up to now, more than 30 public services at European and national level have been evaluated. The IMM will be updated based on the revised European interoperability strategy and European interoperability framework, and the feedback collected during real-life applications.

¹² See Action 2016.36 – *assessment of trans-European systems supporting EU policies*.

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- Action 2016.27 *CAMSS – common assessment method of standards and specifications (CAMSS)*: Standardisation is key to achieving interoperability and to avoiding vendor lock-in for digital public services. The CAMSS was developed under the IDABC and ISA programmes, to support public administrations in assessing and selecting the most relevant interoperability standards for their needs in a transparent way. It is based on the methods used in Member States and makes it possible to reuse assessments. In 2016, this action will build on the existing tools and the list of standards endorsed by Member States. Work will be carried out in close cooperation with the Commission services in charge of the European catalogue of standards initiative to ensure that CAMSS is taken into account as much as possible, and that overlaps are avoided. It will also develop functionalities which will contribute to improving the ICT Standards Multi-stakeholders Platform identification process using CAMSS.
 - Action 2016.34 – *CIRCABC (Communication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations, Businesses and Citizens)*: The ISA2 programme continues to cover the maintenance, evolution and, where relevant, operation of generic services. This action supports the activities of the many committees and expert groups assisting the Commission in this work.
 - Action 2016.35 – *EUSurvey*: This action provides a multilingual tool that facilitates the creation of surveys and the collection of information to support the Commission’s policy initiatives. Both the CIRCABC and the EUSurvey are published under an open licence and can be re-used by other organisations with similar needs.
 - Action 2016.25 – *interoperability test-bed*: This action will develop and host reference implementations of a test bed. In addition, work under this action will address the sharing and reuse of test assets (through a dedicated test registry and repository on Joinup, and a community of test bed owners and testers).
 - Action 2016.20 – *Joinup, the European collaborative platform and catalogue*: Joinup is a common platform which allows administrations to share and learn from best practices, and re-use interoperability solutions from a central catalogue. In 2016, work under this action will:
 - a) further improve the Joinup platform to provide a better user experience,
 - b) finish redefining the scope of the catalogue of solutions,
 - c) implement the European interoperability cartography (EIC) , which aims to provide a highly structured set of building blocks and solutions to support administrations in providing interoperable public services.
 - d) implement the EU catalogue of ICT standards for public procurement and provide an exchange platform for the stakeholders to contribute to it.
 - Action 2016.22 – *Community building and effective use of collaborative platforms*: This action will provide overall support to communities contributing to the ISA² programme,

including the OSOR (open source observatory), SEMIC (semantic interoperability community) and eProcurement communities, and will monitor their activities.

- Action 2016.21 – *maintenance and further development of the national interoperability framework observatory (NIFO)*: The NIFO plays a crucial role in ensuring that national interoperability frameworks are aligned with the European interoperability framework. It also helps Member States achieve this alignment by providing an analytical model and gap analysis tools. The NIFO will be updated to better align with the EIF and EIS, which are currently being revised.
- Action 2016.36 – *sharing and re-use*: The economic crisis requires EU public administrations to do the same amount of work or more with fewer resources. In this context, the sharing and reuse of IT solutions used to provide digital public services has the potential of bringing much-needed savings. At the same time, reusing solutions will contribute to better harmonisation and coherence of services across the EU, and will make it easier for public administrations to interact and cooperate. Under the ISA programme, the ‘sharing and re-use’ action already produced a number of tools which can help public administrations to develop common and reusable solutions. Under the 2016 ISA² work programme, this action will result in the publishing of a common framework on cross-border sharing and re-use of solutions. It will also award successful IT projects that have the potential for cross-border expansion.

3.9 ACCOMPANYING MEASURES

- Communicating the solutions developed under the ISA² is a prerequisite for their widespread use. To this end, once the programme starts a comprehensive communication strategy and campaign needs to be set up and maintained. Under the new programme, in 2016 the communication activities action (2016.30) will include an overall communication strategy and plan, the development of the programme’s website and setting up of social accounts, and the organisation of an ISA² conference. In addition, in within the context of the action, the Commission will continue to organise workshops and participate in conferences in Member States to inform stakeholders about the re-usable instruments developed under the ISA and ISA2 programmes.
- Action 2016.36 – *monitoring and evaluation*: This action will support the monitoring and evaluation of the ISA² programme, by defining relevant processes, setting up an appropriate set of tools and implementing and reporting on a monitoring programme. Close monitoring of the implementation and impact of actions funded under ISA² makes it possible to adjust the programme in time and ensure that it achieves the highest impact with the greatest efficiency.

4. BUDGET

Budget details by action are set out in Annex I. Annex II gives a tabular overview.

In order to optimise the use of the ISA² budget, appropriations for work programme entries for a given year may be brought forward to the preceding year in full or in part, if the overall expenditure under the ISA² programme in the preceding year so permits. This is without prejudice to Article 10(4) of the ISA² Decision (flexibility clause).

As Article 9(2) of the ISA² Decision requires that the work programme be revised at least once a year, all budget requests for future years are estimates based on present knowledge of the scope and timing of the actions. Such budget estimates may need to be revised in the light of new information or changing priorities, and are not to be regarded as final decisions on the fundability of future phases of specific actions or on the future ISA² budget to be made available for them.