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Subject: Standardisation activities  
- Metadata

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**I. Standardisation activities**

1. Standardisation activities aiming to foster interoperability of information exchange and to facilitate access and reuse to public information are a focus area for the Publications Office. Its interinstitutional nature allows collaborative actions and synergies which consequently lead to common practices and shared results among several institutions and organisations.
2. The presentation of these activities is divided into two parts: Metadata and Formats. This document covers only the Metadata part.

## II. Metadata

### Interinstitutional Metadata Maintenance Committee (IMMC)

3. The main task of the IMMC is the maintenance and the further development of the so-called "IMMC protocol" that standardises the metadata for the exchange of information between and within the Institutions and thus enables an automatized transmission of metadata and documents. The continuous work and efforts of the EU Institutions, coordinated by the IMMC, provide successful results: today the IMMC protocol is already in use for documents transmission by the Commission (Official Journal documents and preparatory documents), by the Council (Official Journal documents and preparatory documents for ordinary legislative procedure) and by the Court of Justice of the EU (case-law documents).
4. The use of the IMMC protocol will be further extended to other institutions involved in the decision making process and to other collections such as the ones belonging to the "PublicAccess" pilot project. This increasing use of the IMMC protocol entails constant improvements in terms of standardisation activities that could lead to widen the initial scope of the IMMC.

## III. Metadata Registry (MDR)<sup>1</sup>

5. The Metadata Registry is the central *reference data asset* repository for data models, controlled lists (authority tables) and other relevant reference data used by the Institutions in the exchange of information. As a central reference point, the MDR promotes standardisation of reference data and facilitates interoperability.
6. Currently 70 authority tables covering multiple subjects are available on the MDR website. New authority tables continue being developed, for example for projects such as the DCAT-AP application profile. The authority tables and the EuroVoc resources are also available for reuse through the EU Open Data Portal.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://publications.europa.eu/mdr/>

#### IV. Interoperability Solutions for Public Administrations (ISA<sup>2</sup>)

7. The ISA<sup>2</sup> programme<sup>2</sup> facilitates efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between European public administrations, national public administrations, citizens and businesses.
8. With regard to the activities under the **2015-2016 work programme**:
  - An extension of the DCAT-AP aimed at the statistical community is being finalised after a public review period: *StatDCAT-AP*. Aim is to facilitate the reuse of data between the statistical and open data communities.
  - Following the recommendation by the EU institutions to use the data.europa.eu subdomain for collections that require a persistent Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and the creation of the URI Committee to implement and monitor the URI policy, there are today nine implementations that make use of the data.europa.eu subdomain. Among them ISA<sup>2</sup> related resources such as the DCAT-AP, but also the data catalogue of the Joint Research Centre (JRC).
  - In view of preparing the ground for the ISA<sup>2</sup> action on digital Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP) management (see below), the *landscaping exercise* describing the “as is” situation of the exchanges between the EU institutions that concern the ordinary legislative procedure and the delegated acts is nearly completed. The final report is expected for the middle of December 2016.
9. Work on the following actions in the framework of the **ISA<sup>2</sup> 2016-2017 work programme** has started:
  - European Legislation Identifier (ELI, continuation of the work)
  - Evolution of VocBench – Management of thesauri and other controlled vocabularies (New version expected summer 2017)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/isa/isa2/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/isa/isa2/index_en.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Information about the management of thesauri and other controlled vocabularies is provided in the document "EuroVoc – State of play".

- Interinstitutional framework for digital Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP) management
- European public procurement interoperability action (*for additional information please see below Public procurement standardisation*)
- Public multilingual knowledge infrastructure for the digital single market
- Development of an open data service, support and training package in the area of linked open data, data visualization and persistent identification.

## V. Public procurement standardisation

10. The Publications Office participates in the committee CEN TC 440<sup>4</sup>. The aim of this committee is to develop standards in the domain of eProcurement. The committee is composed of representatives of national standard organisations and other organisations active in the domain of standardisation. The objective of the committee is to create semantic data models which will then be mapped to XML with the ultimate goal of exchanging data electronically throughout the eProcurement Process. It had been foreseen that certain ISA<sup>2</sup> solutions and TC 440 deliverables would be produced by a joint effort between projects. However, concerns have been raised, on the intellectual property rights/copyright rules of CEN conflicting with the free reuse of ISA<sup>2</sup> solutions concerned. Discussions are underway to find solutions that will satisfy all stakeholders.
11. In parallel the Publications Office participates in the EXEP group (Expert Group for eProcurement<sup>5</sup>). The mission of EXEP is to help Member States and the Commission implement the new public procurement directives, notably in the domain of eProcurement.

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<sup>4</sup> CEN Technical Committee on Electronic Public Procurement.

<sup>5</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3142>

12. The new structure of the working groups within EXEP is as follows:
- eCatalogues
  - Accreditation and Standardisation
  - Contract registers.
13. Each working group is to produce a 5 page document by June 2017.
14. In the framework of the ISA/ISA<sup>2</sup> programme the Publications Office is in charge of the development of an ontology covering the complete public procurement lifecycle. This activity is an integral part of the action "European public procurement interoperability initiative". The inception phase will be finalised in the second quarter of 2017 and work has been initiated to develop and publish the necessary code lists on the Metadata Registry of the Publications Office.
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