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IDABC
European Interoperability Framework
Overview and restart of the Project

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Disclaimers

- **This presentation provides technical information on the IDABC programme and the eGovernment actions of the unit I work for. This presentation should not be considered as an official Commission position on anything.**
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Outline

1. **The IDABC programme**
2. **The European Interoperability Framework (Version 1.0)**
3. **Towards a revision**
4. **Others IDABC related activities**

The IDABC programme : Pan European eGovernment Services

(**I**nteroperable **D**elivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public **A**dministrations, **B**usinesses and **C**itizens

–

=> identify, support and promote the development and establishment of pan-European eGovernment services)

IDABC: European eGovernment Services

- **European Commission, Enterprise and Industry Directorate General**
- **Support eGovernment and interoperability**
- **Since 1995 (IDA and IDA II)**
- **Global budget: 148.7 M EUR**
- **Duration: 5 years (2005-2009)**
- **No subventions (only Call for tenders)**

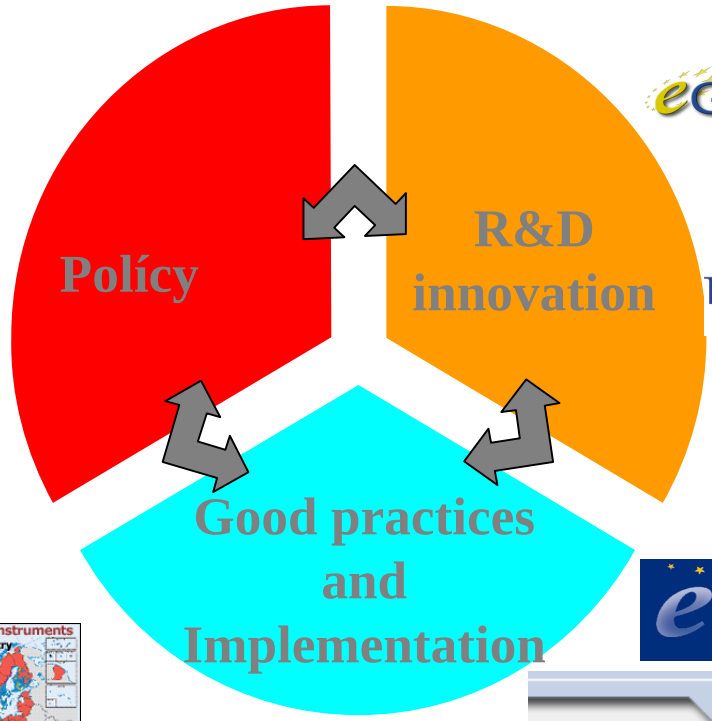
IDABC – Political context

- **Linked to the Lisbon agenda**
  - a more effective administration will make European enterprises more competitive and will make Europe a better place to life
- **Closely linked to i2010 (i2010 eGoverment action plan)**
  - actions around eProcurement, eIdentity, sharing and collaboration…

IDABC part of …

eGovernment

i2010



eGovernment

Information Society
Technologies

e-TEN

Structural funds

IDABC: activities

- **Projects of Common Interest (PCI)**
  - Support (budget and guidance) within the Commission services to sectoral projects that have legal base from an existing Community legislation
- **Pan-European eGoverment Services (PEGS)**
  - Works with member states and institutions towards the establishment of real pan-European services for citizens and business (Your Europe, IPM, eProcurement)
- **Horizontal Measures (HM)**
  - Infrastructure (network, collaborative tools, eID)
  - Guidelines (EIF, security)
  - Sharing (eGov observatory, OSS observatory, XML and OSS repositories)

IDABC website
http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/

The Portal : Your Europe

The portal to on-line European and national public services

http://europa.eu.int/youreurope/

2. The EIF v1.0 : European Interoperability Framework

“Interoperability”

- **What is it?**
- **Interoperability is everywhere !**
- **What are the main enablers of Interoperability?**

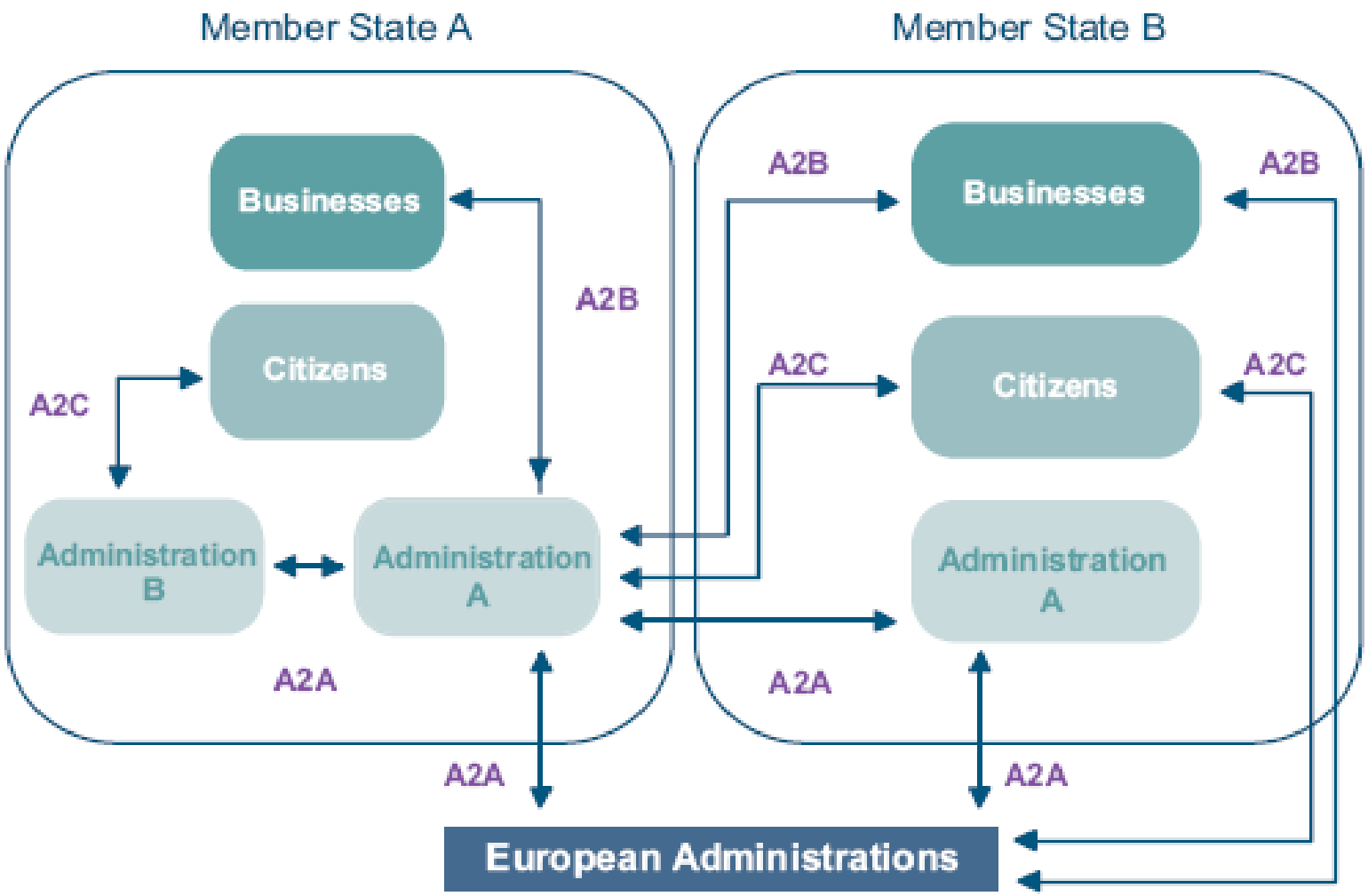
Challenging goal

« The implementation of Pan-European e-Government Services (PEGS) requires that public administrations in the 25 member states and the EU institutions join forces to support the development of new emergent e-services in support of the efficient implementation of EU policies and to facilitate the development of the internal market »

But !

- **The organisation of public administration in EU member states is very different**
- **Too many involved parties, different legal frameworks, different economic conditions and using different technologies**
- **A complete harmonisation of systems and services at EU level as a strategic target is likely to be unrealistic**

Complex Interactions ...



Semantic issues …

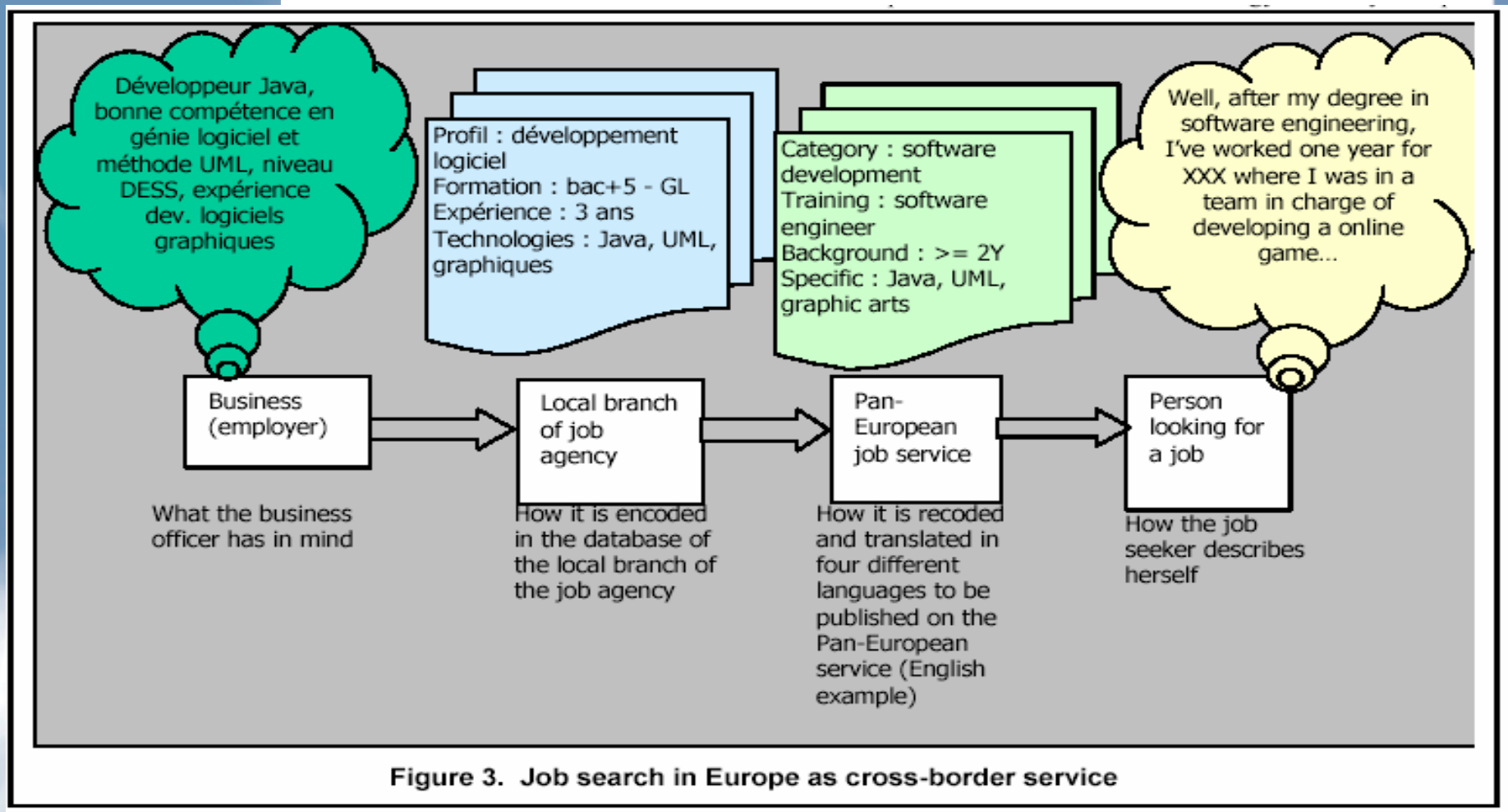
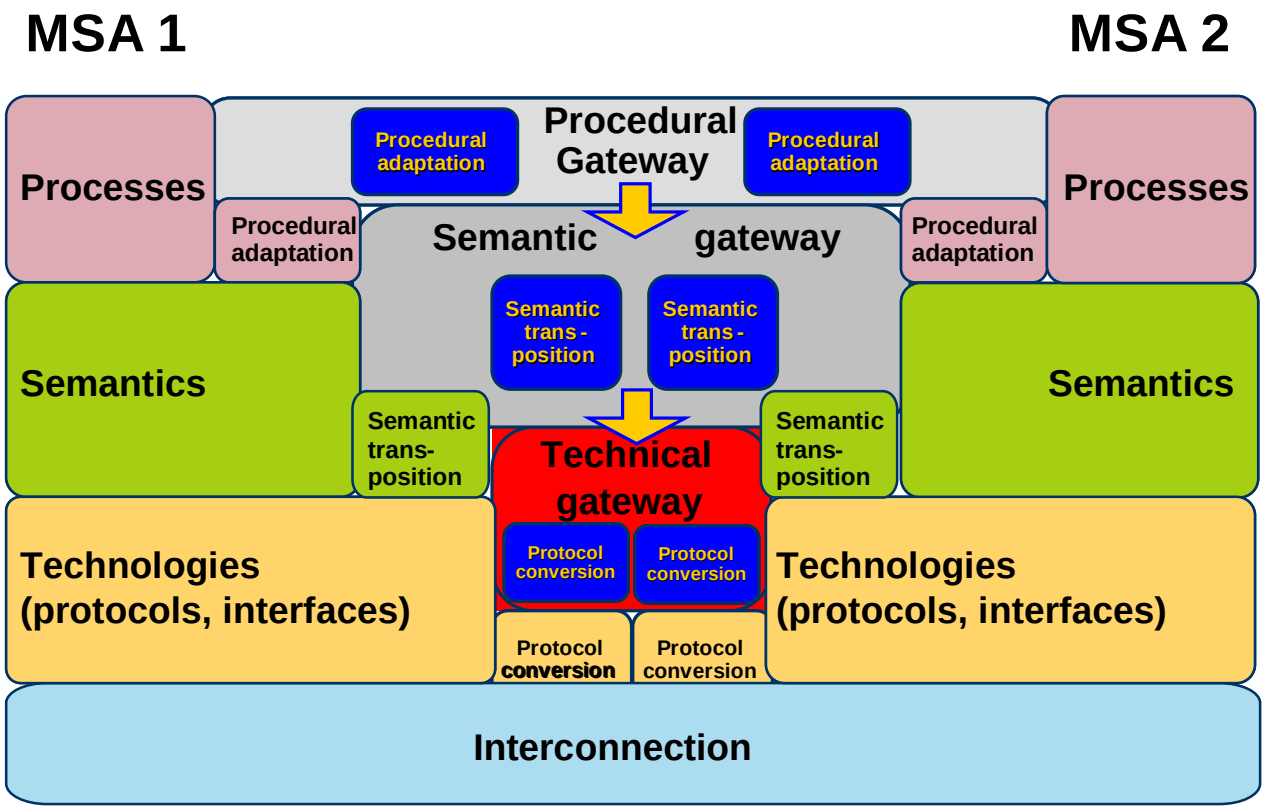


Figure 3. Job search in Europe as cross-border service

Implementation

Multiple gateways ….



Solution …

- Setting a « framework contract » of common principles and rules with agreements on standards and open interfaces so that interoperabiliy is made possible among systems, applications and processes as well as all the stakeholders producing or consuming administrative e-services

The European Interoperability Framework (EIF)

- **Full title: “European Interoperability Framework for Pan-European eGovernment Services”**
- **Result of a study financed by IDA II (predecessor of IDABC)**
- **Endorsed, after public consultation, by the IDA II management committee composed by Member States representatives**
- **Published in November 2004**

The EIF objectives are ....

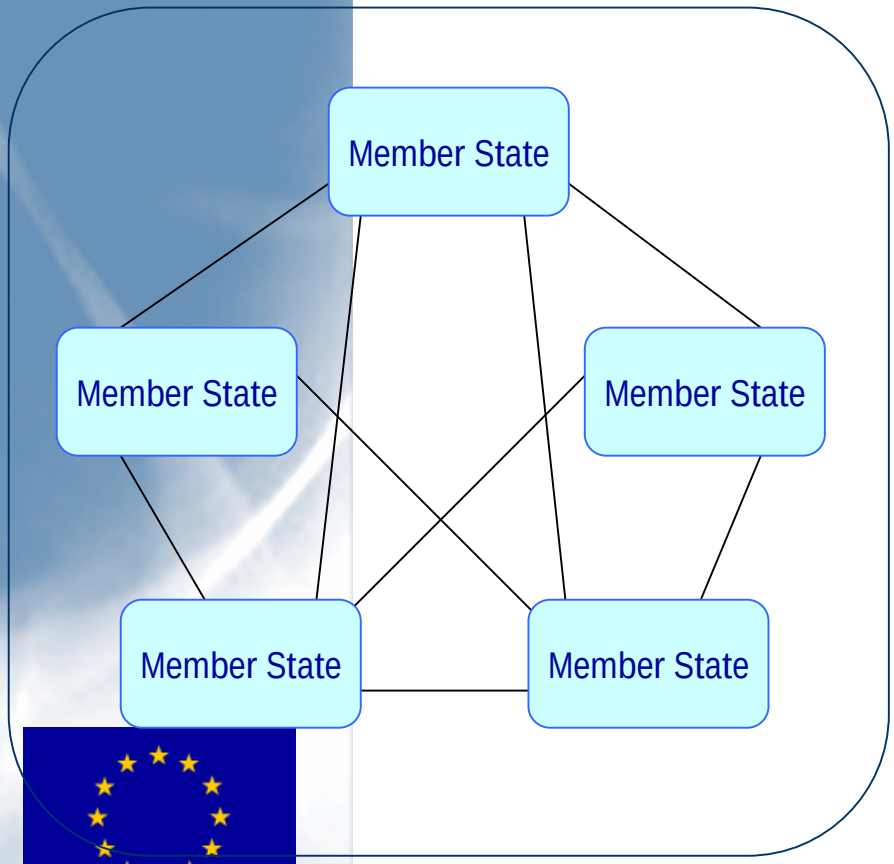
- To **support** the European Union's strategy of providing user-centred e-services by facilitating the interoperability of services and systems between public administrations, as well as between administrations and the public (citizens and enterprises), at a pan-European level
- To **supplement** national Interoperability frameworks in areas that cannot be adequately addressed by a purely national approach
- To **help** achieving interoperability both within and across different policy areas, notably in the context of the IDABC programme and any other relevant Community programmes and initiatives

Underlying principles for eGovernment

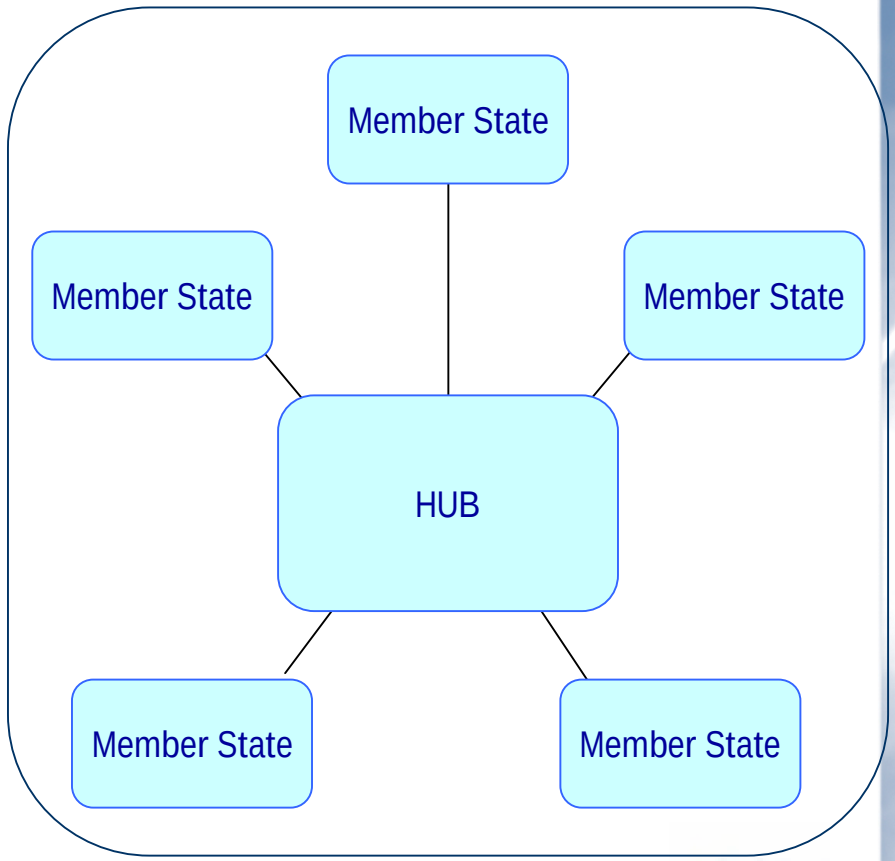
- **Accessibility**
- **Multilingualism**
- **Security**
- **Privacy**
- **Subsidiarity**
- **Use of open standards**
- **Assess the benefits of Open Source Software**
- **Use of multilateral solutions**

Bi-lateral solutions

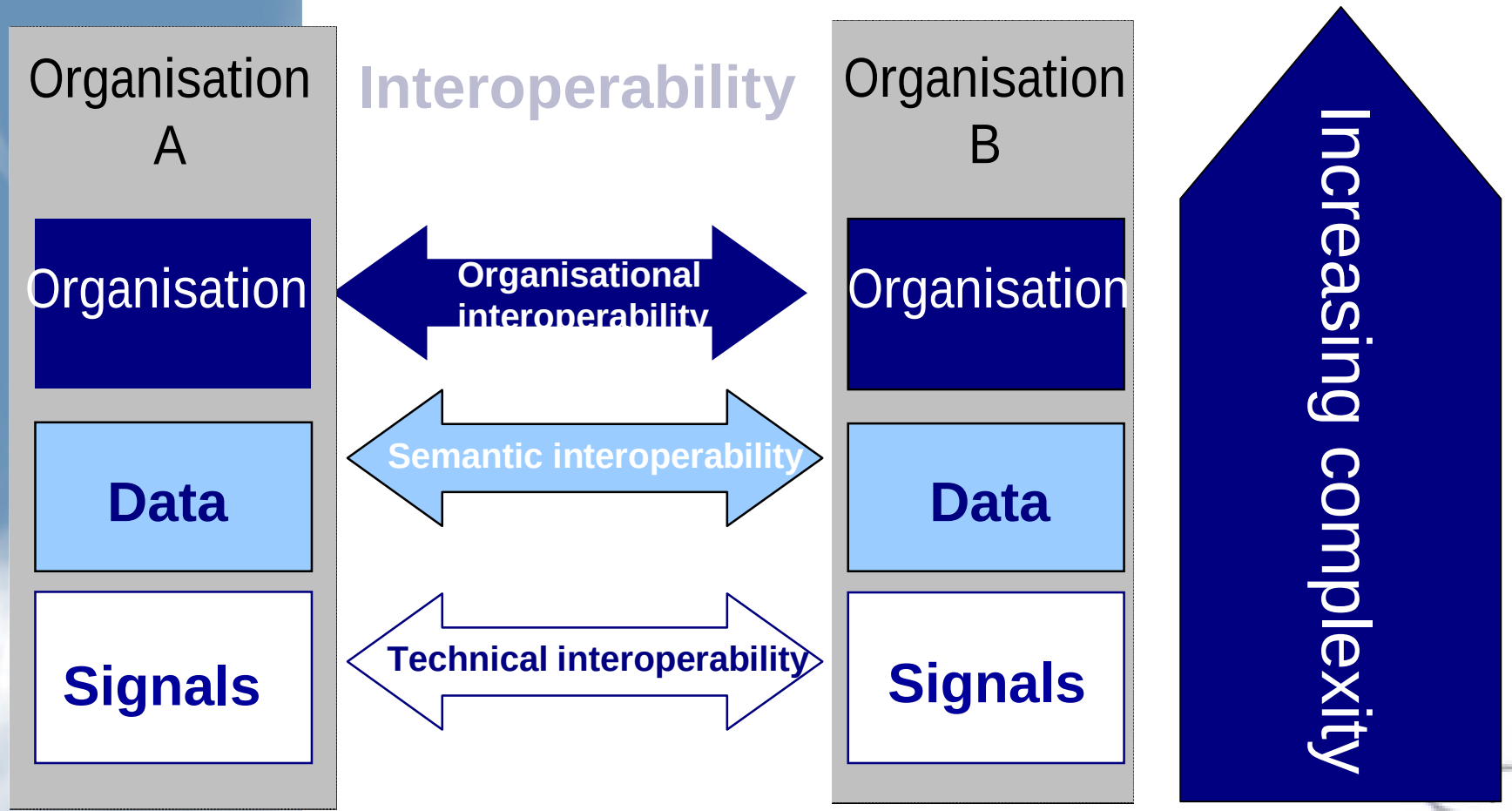
Bi-lateral



Multi-lateral



Which way for a Pyramid?



Dimensions of Interoperability

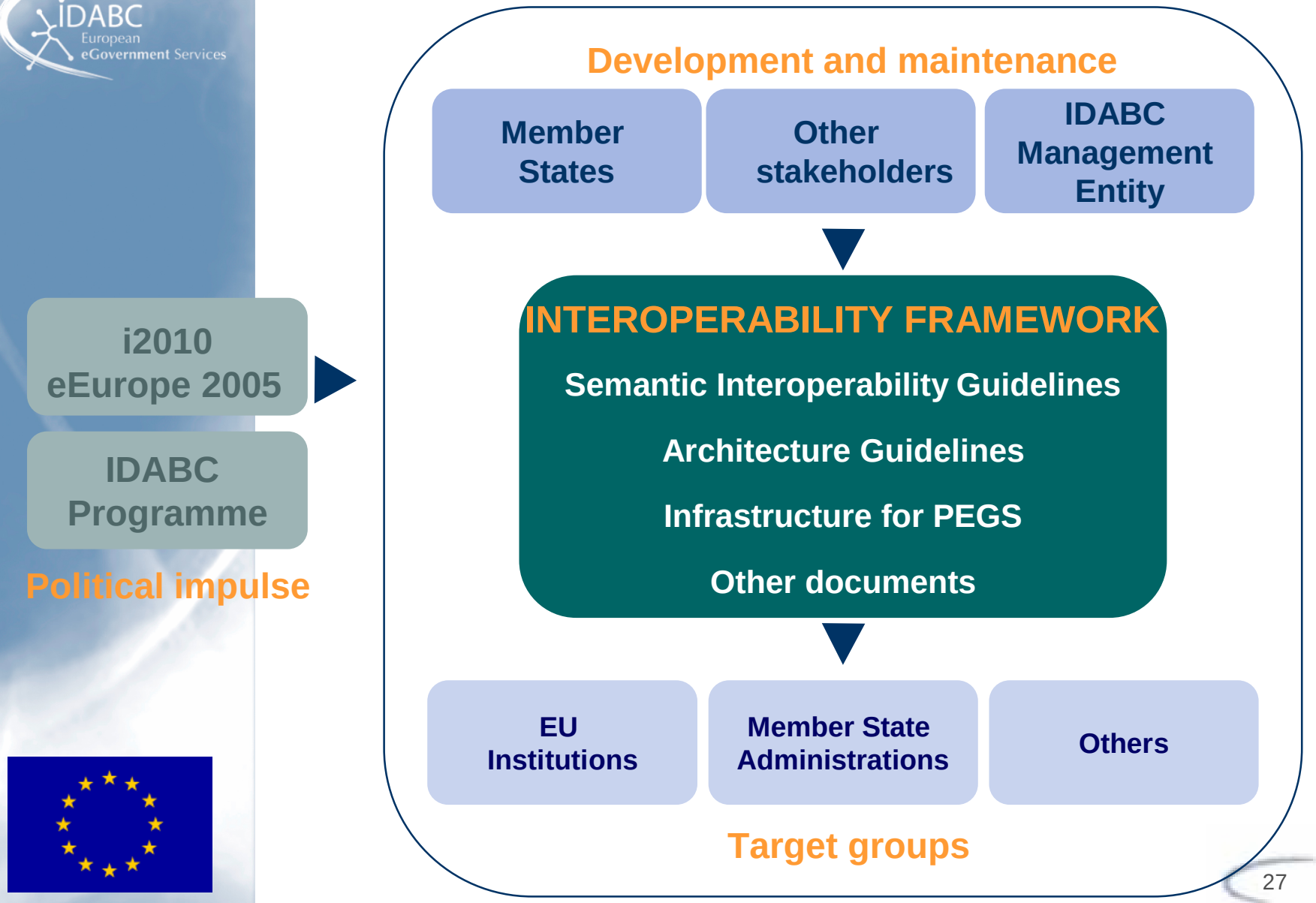
- **Organisational Interoperability is about streamlining administrative processes and information architecture to the institutional goals we want to achieve – and to facilitate the interplay of technical and organizational concerns. It requires coordination throughout MS and EU.**
- **Semantic Interoperability is about ensuring that the meaning of the information we exchange is contained and understood by the involved people, applications, and institutions.**
- **Technical Interoperability is about knitting together IT-systems and software, defining and using open inter-faces, standards and protocols. It relies on cooperation as well as on technical infrastructures.**

Lessons learnt …

- **The EIF V 1.0 has become one of IDA(BC)'s most widely known and influential documents**
- **Lot's of relevant experience with national frameworks since the creation of the document**
- **Most of the document widely accepted**
- **Criticism/Support/Debate around statements about openness (open standards and open source) and the differentiation between different inter-operability layers**
- **Review announced in the Communication on Interoperability (C(2006)45)**
  - Revision scope and process to be defined (2006)
  - Actual revision (2007), supplemented by architectural guidelines (2007-2008)
  - Industry will be consulted at various stages in the process
  - The final document will be offered to the Commission for approval

3. Towards a revision of the European Interoperability Framework for Pan European eGovernment Services

European Interoperability Framework



Policy context

- **Communication on Interoperability for pan-European eGovernment Services – COM(2006) 45**
  - The EIF will have to evolve in line with policy requirements and technological changes. It needs to be supplemented with recommendations on specific standards and applications, which can be provided by the Architecture Guidelines and equivalent documents, to be produced by the IDABC programme.
  - Future, more refined versions of the EIF, will be formalised in the light of policy guidance obtained from consultations and studies in the various EU programmes concerned, including the i2010 initiative. In the longer term, a stable governance organisation may need to be established

- **http://europa.eu.int/idabc/en/document/5320/5883**

EIF and AG:
Towards a Revision

- **Start with a preparatory study**
  - Gartner Group consultants
  - From mid August, 2006 to February, 2007

- **Revision of EIF to start in spring 2007**
  - Draft documents
    - Consultation process with Members States, consultation with industry and other stakeholders,
  - Publish documents
    - Interservice consultation within Commission, approval by Commission, Council, Parliament

EIF and AG:
The Preparatory Study (1)

- **Objectives**
  - Rethinking EIF as a real Framework (not only one document) at EU level in the context of PEGs development
- **Tasks**
  - Assessment of the situation in comparison to measures taken nationally/internationally by public administrations and businesses in this area
  - Assess stakeholder requirements and needs
    - Member States, Commission, costumers of pan-European eGovernment services in general, Industry ...

EIF and AG:
The Preparatory Study (2)

- **Tasks**
  - Define IDABC's role in providing guidance for pan-European Interoperability
    - Overview of actions to be done or not
    - Assess the possible impacts
  - Define what to do for EIF, AG revision and other new activities, set priorities

4. Others IDABC related activities

Others linked activities

- **Interoperabilty field**
  - Architecture guidelines
  - XML Clearinghouse
  - Open Document Format
- **Interoperability is everywhere**
  - Infrastructures for interoperability (TESTA, eLink, Bridge CA,…)
  - OSS activities
  - eID Management
  - Specifications (MOREQ, eLink, eProcurement, …)

Open Source Observatory (OSO) + Open Source Repository (OSOR)

- **Information platform**
  - Website delivering news around OSS (OSO)
  - Providing commented links to and information on other European collaboration platforms in Members States and EU institutions (OSO then OSOR)
- **Platform for uploading and downloading**
  - Registry and repository for download
  - Processes for up-loading
- **Platform for collaboration = OSOR**
  - Supporting cross-border collaboration (technically and organisationally)

IDABC promotes OSS for being adequate in the context of pan-European eGovernment

More information

- **DG ENTR/IDABC – Interoperability**
  - http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/chapter/5883
- **Serge Novaretti**
- **idabc@ec.europa.eu**

Thanks for your attention !