

The European Interoperability Framework

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ICT support for policies

- **Almost all European policy decisions imply the creation of supporting ICT systems and networks (and/or the adaptation of existing ones).**
- **The same is true for policy decisions at national, regional or local level.**
- **No government/administration is an island – we live in a connected world**
- **Persons and businesses live in the European single market and expect services “everywhere, anytime, anyhow”**
- **Web 2.0, Google Earth, e-Bay, Second Life are setting “the standard”.**

The policy context

- **Lisbon agenda, simplification, reduction of administrative burden**
- **Lisbon Ministerial Declaration (September 2007)**
 - **Strengthening the European dimension through cross-border interoperability;**
 - **Reducing the administrative burden;**
 - **Ensuring inclusive eGovernment services so that all citizens can benefit;**
 - **Re-engaging citizens in political processes and increasing transparency.**

Why interoperability (1)

- **European administrations and their partners ...**
 - 27 Member States, regional and local governments, sector administrations at every level, businesses & citizens
 - Using at least 23 Community languages
- **... face a complex challenge**
 - With little chance for centralisation/harmonisation
- **Means going for interoperability between independent partners**

Why interoperability (2)

- **The customer expects:**
 - Single point of contact
 - Re-use of information (confidentiality, security)
- **Organisations must ensure**
 - Interoperability within the organisations:
 - Architecture, modularity
 - Interoperability between organisations:
 - Open standards, Service Oriented Architecture
 - Interoperability over time:
 - Back office applications will live for 20 years

Interoperability

- **Interoperability means the ability of ICT systems and of the business processes they support to exchange data and to enable the sharing of information and knowledge**
- **With of course the purpose to provide better services (in terms of functionality, user friendliness and price) to our citizens and businesses**

European Interoperability Framework

- **Full title: “European Interoperability Framework for pan-European eGovernment Services”**
- **Result of a study made in the context of the IDA II programme (predecessor IDABC) in 2004**
- **High level document, to be complemented with architecture guidelines, including minimal list of standards.**
- **Underlying principles**
- **Defines organisational, semantic and technical interoperability**
- **Under review (in co-operation with the Member States)**

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7



EIF: Underlying principles

- **Multilingualism, Accessibility, Security, Privacy:**
 - Very general issues to be considered
- **Subsidiarity**
 - The basic principle of European collaboration
- **Interoperability “kernel values”:**
 - Multilateral solutions
 - Open standards (independence, choice)
 - Assess the benefits of open source software (cost, collaboration, sharing, re-use)

Strong leadership and guidance

European Interoperability Framework

Organisation Interoperability

Organisation & Process Alignment

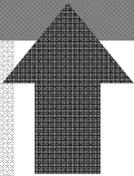
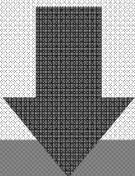
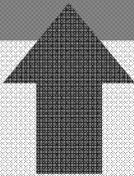
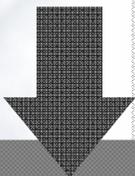


Real world system

Real world system

Semantic Interoperability

Semantic Alignment



Information system

Information system

Technical Interoperability

Syntax, Interaction & Transport

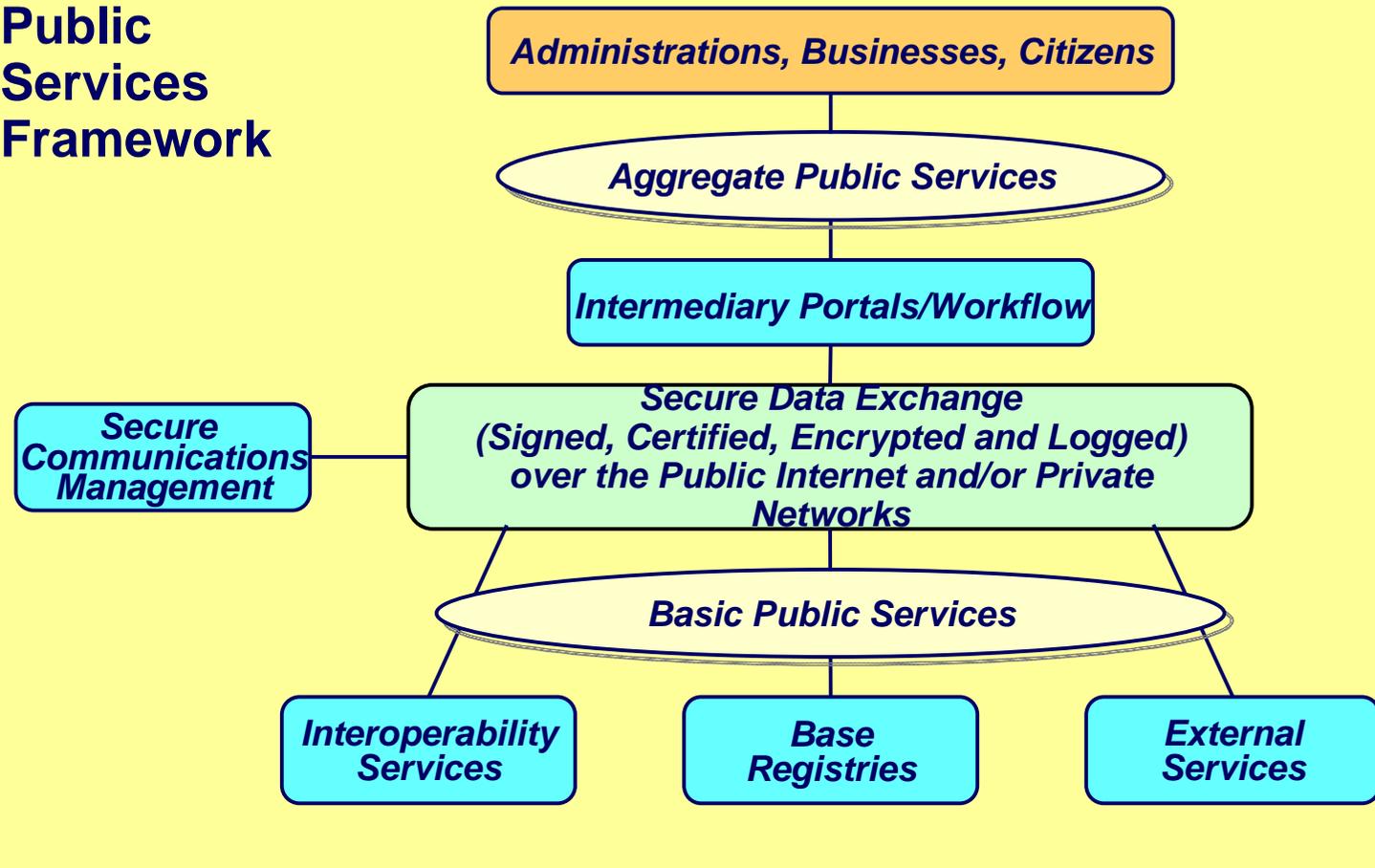


EIF Revision

- **Member States and Commission Services are currently working on a revision of the document:**
 - Update after a few years of experience/use
 - Emphasise the political message (new version will be an official Commission policy document)
 - Foster collaboration between Member States during the elaboration of their national interoperability framework/architectures
- **External stakeholders (industry, standardisation bodies, ...) could comment on preparatory study and will be able to comment on draft version**
- **EIF to be complemented by Architecture Guidelines**

Public Services Framework

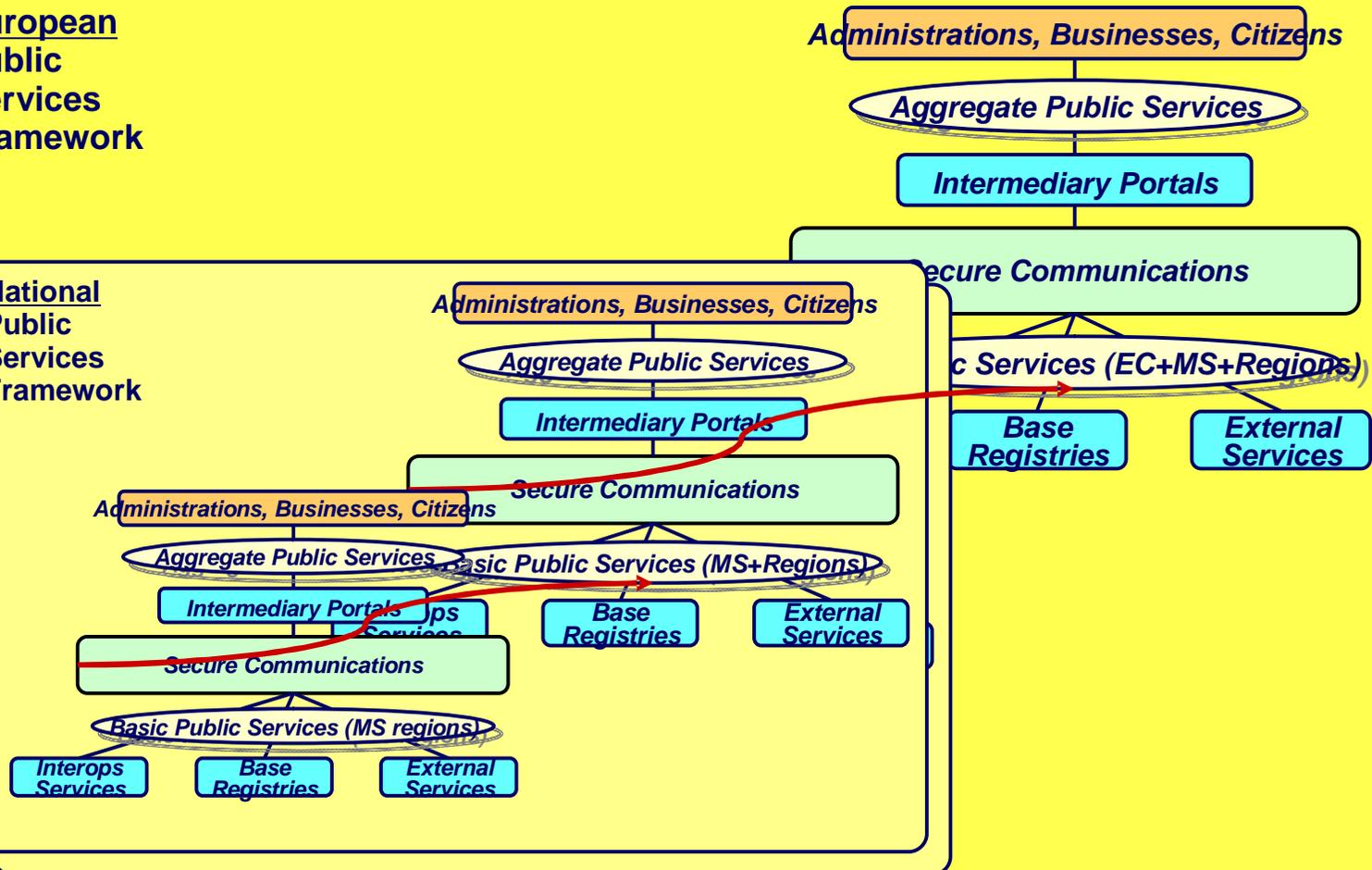
Public Services Framework



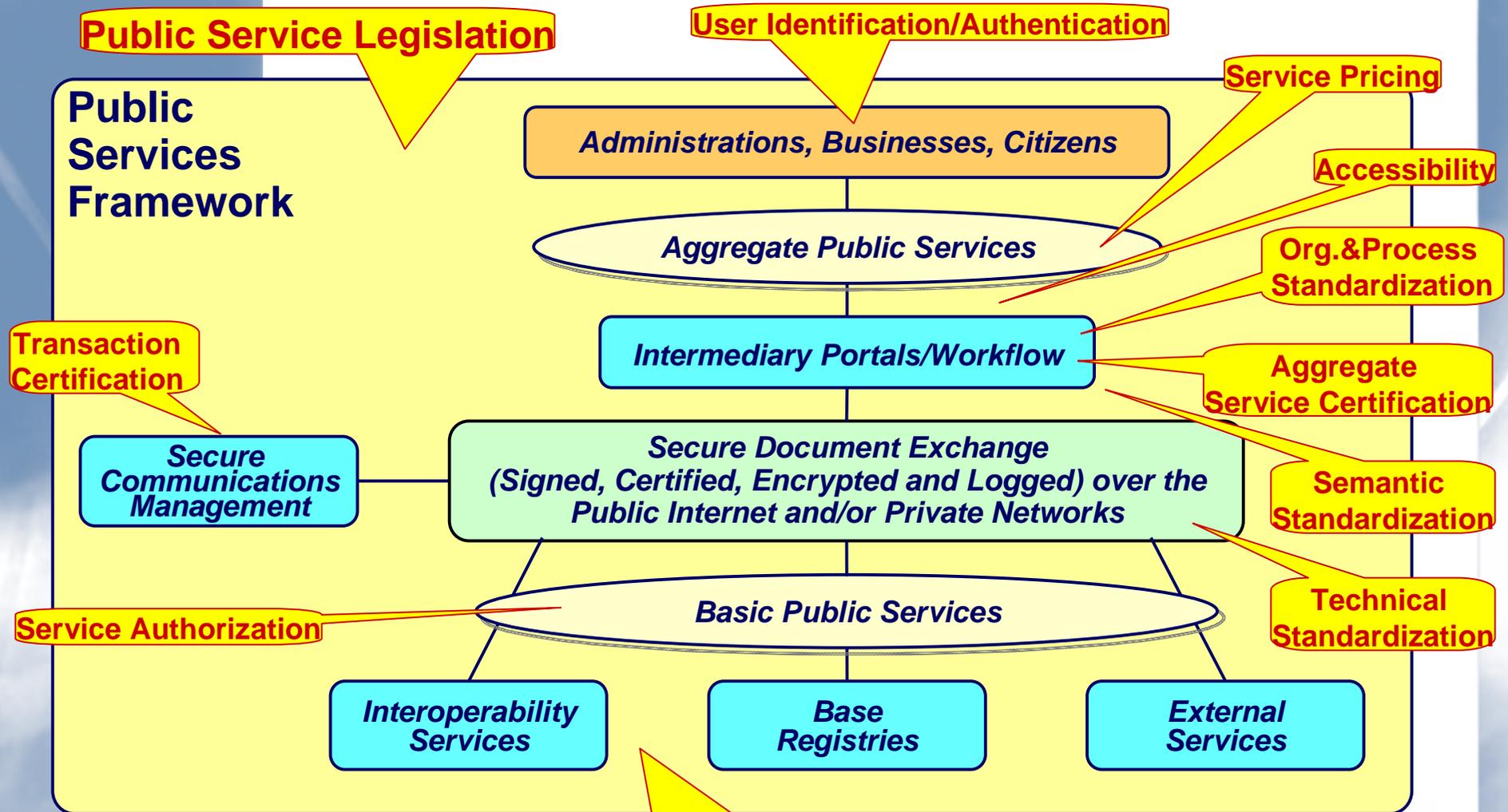
The European Dimension

European Public Services Framework

National Public Services Framework



Issues to be addressed (1)



Issues to be addressed (2)

- **Governance:** while respecting subsidiarity, how to ensure that the overall result still guarantees interoperability (issue at EU level but also at national level)
- **Who has access to what information under what conditions:** legal aspects, privacy & security, re-use of information
- **Navigation:** Ontology, Taxonomy, Directory
- **Multilingualism**
- **Shared infrastructure, shared services**

Benefits from Interoperability

- **Reduces costs**
- **Speeds up public services development**
- **Facilitate innovation**
- **Opens the market, supports SMEs**

And of course:

- **Provides better services to our citizens and businesses**

More information

- **Lisbon Ministerial Declaration**
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=392
- **ePractice (all you ever want to know about ...)**
<http://www.epractice.eu/>
- **IDABC**
<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc>
- **European Interoperability Framework**
<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/servlets/Doc?id=19529>
- **EIF revision**
<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/6227>