Module 8: Implementation of an IEPD

**Introduction/agenda for Module 8**

* In this module we will discuss the Implementation within the NIEM model. The topics that we will cover are:
  + Purpose
  + Implementation Overview
  + User Responsibilities
  + Support and Tools
  + Summary/Wrap-Up

**Purpose**

* The purpose of IEPD implementation is to publish the completed IEPD to an online repository and implement the information exchange in the production environment.
* The publication of an IEPD allows for future discovery of the IEPD by others for use in other information exchanges. Without publication, the value proposition of NIEM is reduced as IEPD artifacts are unable to be reused in other information exchanges. Implementation of an information exchange is outside of the scope of NIEM, but you should be aware of the responsibility to implement the information exchange.
* During publication, the implementers should be aware that many possible IEPD publication locations exist and you must make a decision regarding where the IEPD will be published. Additionally, you might decide to publish an IEPD to more than one IEPD repository.

**Implementation Overview**

* The IEPD Clearinghouse is an example of a publication location. The implementers should be familiar with publication locations and understand how the publication location decision will impact future discovery and reuse of an IEPD. It’s important to note that the IEPD Clearinghouse does not actually store the IEPDs but provides a link to the location of the IEPD.
* During implementation, the implementers should be aware that NIEM intentionally does not provide implementation specifications and these decisions should be made by the project team. You should be aware of these implementation decisions and work with the architect on the project to develop an implementation strategy. Each organization may have a different standard regarding implementation and you should know those guidelines.

**Responsibilities**

* You are responsible for managing the IEPD Review Process before acceptance and publication of the IEPD. Depending on the IEPD, multiple changes may need to be made to an IEPD and you need to be able to understand the impact of these changes and set expectations with stakeholders appropriately.
* In addition, you will be responsible for choosing the publication location for an IEPD. Depending on your organization, a standard might exist regarding publication locations. Ideally, you should choose a publication location that maximizes future discovery and reuse of the IEPD.
* Another responsibility is the management of implementation of the exchange. An IEPD represents a specification for an information exchange but this exchange still needs to be developed and implemented in order to exchange information. The implementers need to be able to manage the development of software components that will support the exchange outside of the XML Schemas used to structure the data within the exchange.

**Support and Tools**

* Grant money may be available to organizations looking to improve information exchange and interoperability. Some of these grants, such as those offered by U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), may require the use of NIEM.
* DOG Grants: The DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) applies special conditions to all relevant information sharing and technology grant awards. These awards require the use of NIEM specifications and guidelines to support public safety and justice information sharing. Conditions like these serve to improve cross-governmental coordination and interoperability.
* DHS Grants:
  + Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant recipients may be able to use FEMA-funded awards for NIEM-based information sharing, exchange, and interoperability activities. FEMA grant recipients are encouraged to participate in the NIEM Emergency Management (EM) domain, which supports emergency-related services and activities, such as homeland security, preparing and responding to disasters, first responders, and resource and communication management.
  + The NIEM Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) guidance outlines the many ways in which an organization can use grant funds for NIEM, including but not limited to training and travel, communications and governance, planning an exchange development, and purchase of software/tools to ease development.
* The NIEM Tools Catalog also provides, for the convenience of the NIEM community, a location to identify tools available to support capabilities defined by key criteria​. You can find a full suite of support capabilities here. Once submitted, [each tool will undergo a review process](https://www.niem.gov/tools-catalog/tool-review-process).
* A short note from our lawyers: NIEM does not endorse any tool. The NIEM Tools Catalog is designed for informational purposes and the convenience of users. NIEM has no ownership, nor provides any license for use of any non-government tool listed. Please reference information provided with each tool, as license and ownership may vary. None of the tools listed have been given to the government and are not considered gifts to the government.

**Summary/Wrap-Up**

* TBD
* To learn more, visit XXXX.