ICEG

Charter -URI strategy

### 1 OVERVIEW

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| Start date | September 1st, 2019 |
| End date | March 2019 |
| President |  |
| Project team |  |
| Planned activities | * 3 public workshops * Webcast at the end of the public review period |
| Decision criterion | Unamity minus one (U-1) |
| License | CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/deed.en>) |
| Location documentation | www.belgif.be |
| Issue logging² | *Github* |

# 2 CONTEXT

Today data has been recognised as a fundamental resource in our (digital) society. Data is collected, shared and enriched at increasing speeds and amounts. Datasets not only grow, but also get more interconnected with each other. This applies to all sectors, including the government.

In this web of data, retrieval of information is challenging. As the data is often modelled from a specific perspective, it cannot easily be reused by other applications, without analysing and transforming it. This lack of interoperability (IoP) is expensive and slows down innovation.

The European Commission defines IoP as the ability of organisations to share information and knowledge, through the business processes they support, by exchanging data between their ICT systems (2017). There does not exist a simple and unique recipe for raising interoperability, in a complex ecosystem with a large group of heterogeneous stakeholders. As stated in the European Interoperability Framework, agreements at different levels, i.e. legislative, organisational, semantical and technical, are needed to reduce the hurdles to (re)use data.

Despite the IoP challenges, the web of data is emerging. Of all the different approaches, the most successful is the World Wide Web invented by Tim Berners-Lee. It is a living example of how documents are connected forming an enormous distributed web. The key to its success is the ability to combine in a simple and cheap process documents together, namely by using dereferenceable[[1]](#footnote-1) identifiers for documents: URI’s. At the start of the millennium, Tim Berners-Lee’s original idea is applied not to documents, but data. The Web of (Linked) Data emerges.

The to-be-designed **URI strategy** will contain a set of rules for dereferenceable identifiers for data. URIs that implement these rules yield more trust, and therefore, the data that is built with them will be more trusted. The existence of the URI strategy facilitates uptake as implementations and tools can be reused.

As the URI strategy is part of the universal problem of identification of entities in the web of data, the URI strategy will discuss the scope of application. This includes notions as persistency, accessibility, versioning, etc.

## Background information

The following documents are starting points for the discussion

* The Vlaamse URI strategy, <https://data.vlaanderen.be/standaarden/erkende-standaarden/vlaamse-uri-standaard-voor-data/uri-standaard.html> , builds upon the best practices of W3C, ISA and experiences in EU other member states. The URI standard was translated and published by the EC: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/document/uri-standard-guidelines-flemish-government>
* https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/document/10-rules-persistent-uris

# 3 SCOPE

# 3.1 STAKEHOLDERS

Because the URI strategy is domain neutral and has a potential impact on all aspects of government data, the will be a large number of involved stakeholders:

* All entities of the Belgian government, regional governments and local governments, especially the regional service integrators
* The European Commission, especially the ISA² program which supports the improvement of data interoperability between governments, government entities, businesses and citizens.
* The private sector especially the e-Government workgroup of AGORIA
* The academic sector, especially researchers in the domains of e-Government, hypermedia and (linked) semantics.

# 3.2 SUCCESS CRITERIA

The ability to come to a collective agreement on a technical standard for persistent, dereferenceable identifiers in the form of a URI strategy.

In the short future, after the URI strategy has been accepted, the adoption and application of URI strategy by at least one dataset beyond the prototype implementation.

# 4 DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables will be provided

* A document describing the URI strategy for the Belgian Government.
* A prototype implementation of one dataset following the URI strategy

# 5 MILESTONES AND TIMING

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| Timing | Milestone |
| 31 Aug 2019 | Project charter |
| 11 Oct 2019 | First workshop |
| 8 Nov 2019 | Second workshop |
| 22 Nov 2019 | Third workshop |
| Dec – Jan 2019 | Public review |
| Feb 2019 | Finalisation |

1. Dereferencing an identifier is a method to retrieve via a protocol the document/data/information which is referred to by the identifier. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)