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Interoperable Europe Act proposal
An architecture perspective

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate General for Informatics (DIGIT)

DIGIT B2

Digital Europe programme

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EU policy on interoperability – What is already happening?

Non-binding **European Interoperability Framework** (latest version from 2017). National implementation monitored through National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO).

Support to interoperability activities since 1995 (currently under DEP), solutions to be found on **online platform (JoinUp) for interoperability solutions** and **community** since 2011.

Cooperation with Member States through the informal CIO network (since 2015), and the Expert Group on interoperability of European public services (since 2020).

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Challenges with cross-border interoperability in practice

A hospital wants to share the capacities of free intensive care beds with the nearest hospital that is on the other side of the border.

But: The current legal and technical framework just allows to share nationally.

Car driver wants to get a digital parking ticket in a city outside the country his car is registered in.

But: The parking app only allows to enter national license plates.

A city wants to implement traffic management solutions. They are looking for a good example.

While such good examples exist across Europe, they are difficult to find and reuse.

Problem definition: Limited interoperability of services and data of public administrations in Europe

Inefficient governance of interoperability efforts **between EU policies, the Commission and Member States for all administrative levels and sectors.**

Lack of common minimum interoperability specifications, **shared solutions, standards.**

Lack of an 'interoperability-by-default' approach **in the design and implementation of EU and MS's legislation and policies.**

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Why a legislative package?

> **EU's digital strategy**
> - Key Public Services: 100% online by 2030
> - Cross-border interoperability as an enabler

> **Gaps in existing legislation**

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Data Governance Act
European Strategy for Data
Open Data Directive
Regulation on Digital Identity
Digitalisation of Justice

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Policy options analysed

⟩ **Baseline: no change**

⟩ **Option 1: Updated EIF and new Interoperability Action Plan**

⟩ Option 2: New legal framework for a structured cooperation on public sector interoperability

⟩ **Option 3: New legal framework introducing minimum interoperability requirements for public sector bodies**

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Interoperable Europe Act – Ambition and objectives

Help EU and Member States administrations to deliver connected digital services to citizens and businesses across Europe

To ensure a consistent, human-centric EU approach **to interoperability from policy-making to policy implementation**

To establish an interoperability governance structure **to enable public administrations to work together and agree on shared interoperability solutions**

To create an ecosystem of interoperability solutions for the EU's public sector so that public administrations in the EU and other stakeholders can contribute to and re-use such solutions, innovate together and create public value

Communication to set the context and next steps

Supports the achievement of the Digital Decade 2030 targets

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Scope and legal basis of the Act

Who is addressed?
Public sector bodies of Member States and Union institutions, agencies and bodies (Art.1(2))

What is laid down in the Regulation**?**
- **measures to promote** the cross-border interoperability **of network and information** systems **which are** used to provide or manage public services **in the Union**
- **by establishing** common rules and a framework for coordination **on public sector interoperability, with the**
- **aim of fostering the** development of interoperable trans-European digital public services infrastructure **(Art. 1(1))**

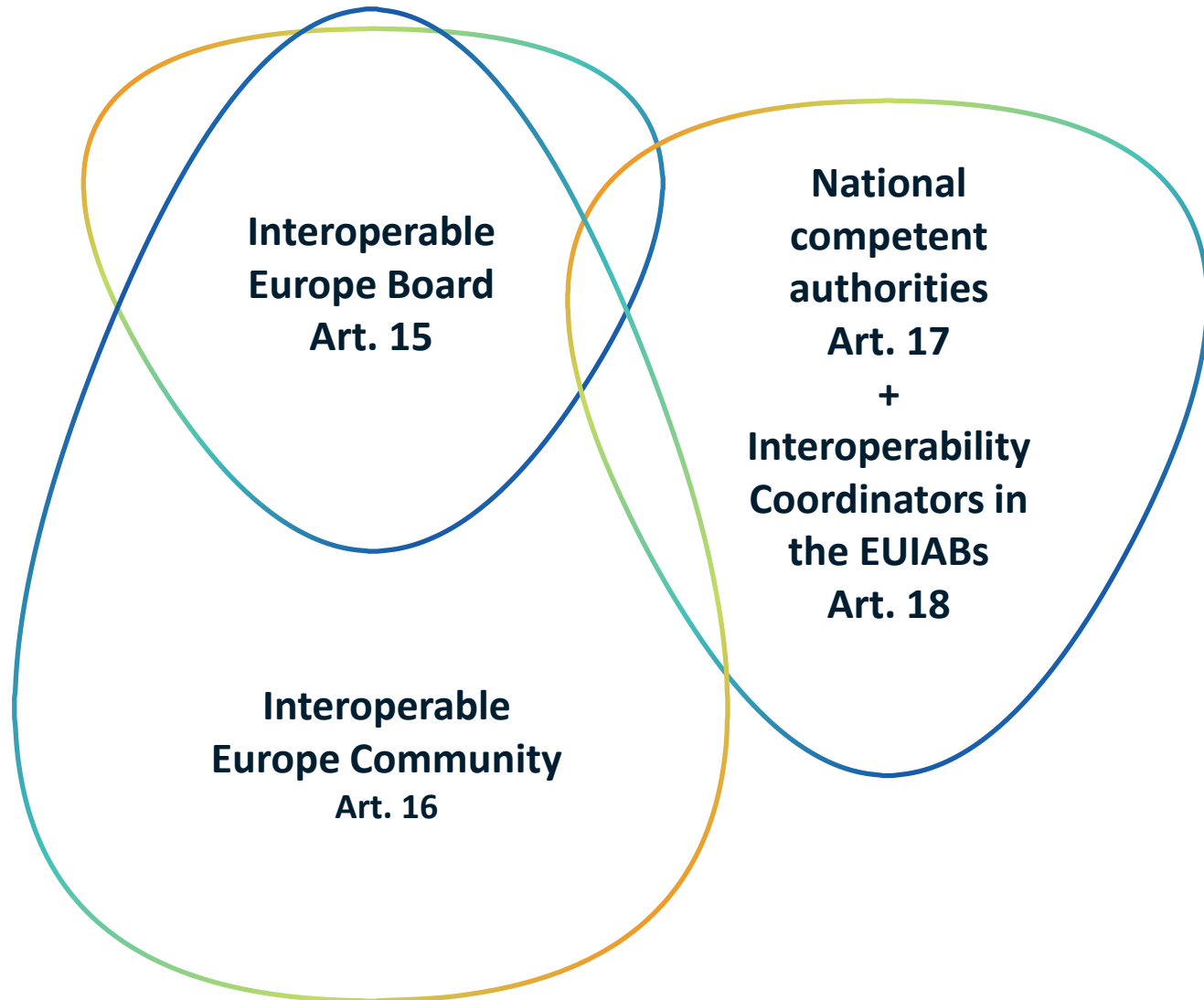Legal basis: Art. 172 TFEU (trans-European networks)

Key pillars

Chapters
1. General provisions
2. Interoperable Europe Solutions
3. Interoperable Europe support measures
4. Interoperable Europe Governance
5. Interoperable Europe planning & monitoring
6. Final provisions

Structured and co-owned EU cooperation

Interoperable Europe Board Art. 15

National competent authorities Art. 17 + Interoperability Coordinators in the EUIABs Art. 18

Interoperable Europe Community Art. 16

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Main deliverables of the Regulation

PROPOSAL

- **Mandatory** interoperability assessments: **Impacts on cross-border interoperability of the legal, organisational, semantic and technical requirements for the IT system in scope (Art 3)**

- **Keeping** 'European Interoperability Framework' **(EIF) up-to-date and strenghtening alignment (Art 6)**

- **Common** 'Interoperable Europe' **label for openly accessible & reusable solutions (Art 7), published in the** Interoperable Europe Portal **(Art 8)**

- **Mandatory** share and reuse **of publicly developed solutions (Art 4)**

- Innovation measures, **such as GovTech (Art 10) and regulatory sandboxes (Art 11-12)**

- Policy implementation support **projects (Art 9.), incl. trainings (Art 13) and peer reviews (Art 14)**

- Interoperable Europe Agenda – **annual strategic planning (Art 19)**

- Monitoring – **implementation of EIF, take-up of IOP solutions and development of OS solutions (Art 20)**

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Interoperability assessment (Art. 3) – Rationale

Why do we need the interoperability assessment?
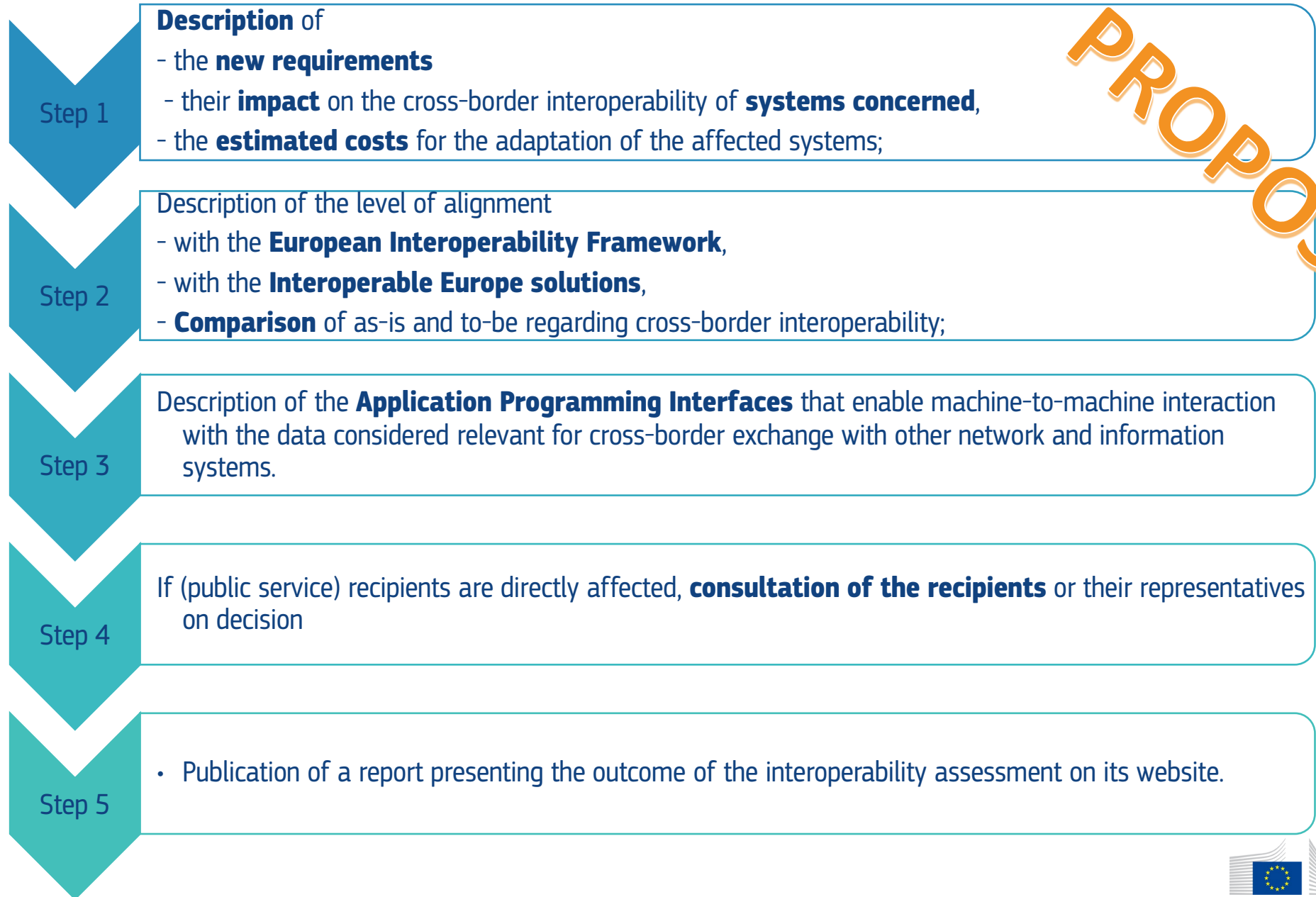
PROPOSAL

The assessment is
- A mechanism for discovery of opportunities to build better digital public services at lower costs (e.g. through discovery of reusable solutions)
- To detect barriers for cross-border interoperability early in the process of policy making and implementation
- To help implementing other EU policies, e.g. Social Security
- To help prevent failed investments in IT public sector projects

Minimum content of the assessment

PROPOSAL

Step 1

Description of
- the **new requirements**
  - their **impact** on the cross-border interoperability of **systems concerned**,
- the **estimated costs** for the adaptation of the affected systems;

Step 2

Description of the level of alignment
- with the **European Interoperability Framework**,
- with the **Interoperable Europe solutions**,
- **Comparison** of as-is and to-be regarding cross-border interoperability;

Step 3

Description of the **Application Programming Interfaces** that enable machine-to-machine interaction with the data considered relevant for cross-border exchange with other network and information systems.

Step 4

If (public service) recipients are directly affected, **consultation of the recipients** or their representatives on decision

Step 5

- Publication of a report presenting the outcome of the interoperability assessment on its website.

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What changes for the Member States?**

- **Participate in the Interoperable Europe** Board

- **Assign** national competent authorities **to help implement the interoperability assessments and oversee interoperability activities;**

- **Carry out** interoperability assessments **under certain conditions;**

- Share interoperability assets **upon request, under certain conditions;**

- **Contribute to** monitoring;

- **Participate in innovation measures and regulatory sandboxes, in line with the applicable funding programme rules (DEP, TSI or other)**

- **Benefit from re-usable interoperability solutions through the Interoperable Europe Portal.**

But also…

- **Be at the driving seat for** shaping the Interoperable Europe policy;

- **Benefit from support, capacity building, innovation cooperation and re-usable interoperability solutions through the** Interoperable Europe Portal **and** support measures.

*** Pending the outcome of the inter-institutional negotiations*

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Thank you

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