

Denmark

In Denmark, the major driving force behind the interoperability standards, and more broadly, the adoption of open standards by the government in general, is the parliamentary resolution B103 from 2006, urging the Danish government to adhere to open standards for IT. This has led the government to define seven sets of open standards for new IT investments, to be mandatory per January 1st, 2008:

- Standards for document exchange (ODF/OOXML)
- Standards for data exchange between public authorities (OIOXML)
- Standards for electronic file and document management (FESD)
- Standards for electronic procurement in the public (OIOUBL)
- Standards for digital signature (OCES)
- Standards for public Web sites
- Standards for IT security

The compliance regime is based on the “comply or explain” principle. Although mandatory, there is no enforcement and no legislation. The three tiers of the Danish government (state, regions and municipalities) are all represented in the standards committees. At the annual budget meeting rounds, the three tiers agree on the scope of mandatory standards and then work mostly independently throughout the rest of the year.

From a NIFO perspective, the OIOXML standards are most relevant. There, Denmark has chosen to facilitate bottom-up, expert-driven “organic” growth of a set of semantic message standards and core components. Although this effort and its supporting tools and processes are funded by the national government, the OIO Committee (with representatives of all stakeholders, not just the central government) decides on standards adoption and lifecycles.

In addition to a mature semantic layer, there is a set of 181 de facto technical standards that predates the open standards initiative. Management of these standards is being transitioned to the OIO committee as well.