

## **Malta**

The Maltese NIF is currently under development.

The anticipated developments with regard to interoperability are driven by the comprehensive Maltese eGovernment IT strategy "The Smart Island 2008-2010." The NIF is referred to as to "establish a rigorous enterprise interoperability framework to be adopted as a standard requirement to be adhered to across all systems deployment in government."

The intended focus of the future NIF is public services provided by the Maltese government, focusing on formal base registries first, with appropriately defined ownership as part of the interoperability agreements, with an initial focus on the technology aspects of interoperability. The international aspect of eGovernment is explicitly part of the Malta strategy.

NIF ownership is expected to reside within the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA). NIF development will most probably be led by the Enterprise Architecture Unit (EAU) located within MITA. EAU will initially research the various information gathered from current and new NIF initiatives. Later on it will consult with a number of internal experts and might also consider obtaining external expertise.

At first, the interoperability agreements will focus on the technical layer. Currently, a set of policies and standards exists. As part of Smart Island, these will be renovated as well. These activities are part of MITA as well, so a clear division is not there but also not required.

The semantic layer of interoperability, in terms of message standardisation, is considered to be of high importance as well. Eventually, at a semantic level the creation of formal and recognized service and data registers with detailed Service Level Agreements and legal use will be properly categorized, documented and presented in an online fashion by MITA.