

Collaboration for a better society

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Full electronic interoperability between public and private sector and between public agencies is highly prioritised in Norway as in most other European countries. Even though much has been accomplished during the last 20 years, many unsolved issues remain, especially semantic and organisational issues. The stove-piped managerial structure in the public sector is an obstacle for collaboration and communication. Most of the services available today stem from one public body only. There are almost no cross sector services

The main goal of the Semicolon-project is to develop and test ICT-based **methods, tools and metrics** to obtain faster and cheaper semantic and organisational interoperability both with and within the public sector.

The research methodology is to analyse real collaboration examples between the participating organisations in Norwegian public sector and through experiences from the examples generate knowledge, recommendations, methods, tools and metrics.

The research and innovation have produced several results which are about to be used or taken into account by the participating public organisation in their operations. Some of these are:

- a growth model indicating the level of maturity for organisational interoperability [1]
- an analyses of organisational barriers to interoperability and recommendations for correcting measures [2]
- the importance of information governance and metadata strategies for cross-sector services [3]
- a methodology and a technology for publication and reuse of open public service information
- a methodology and indicators to predict societal effects of common components in the public ICT infrastructure

The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (DIFI), will take on the role as a repository for Semicolon results. DIFI, through its Council of Public Sector Standards, maintain a set of mandatory standards and recommendations for public sector in Norway. The idea is that Semicolon results will be turned into standards and recommendations for increased interoperability in public sector in Norway.

Det Norske Veritas is the coordinating partner of Semicolon. The other participants in the research consortium are five large public organisations: The Directorate of Taxes, The Brønnøysund Register Centre, Directorate for Health and Social Affairs and Statistics Norway, the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities; three public and private companies: Karde AS, eKor AS and the Norwegian Centre for Informatics in Health and Social Care – KITH. Academic partners are the University of Oslo, the Norwegian School of Management (BI).

The duration of the project is from October 2007 to December 2010. The budget is 60 million NOK and the contribution from VERDIKT is 17,65 million NOK.

References:

[1] Hans Solli-Sæther: [Analytical Framework for e-Government Interoperability](#). I: Paul Cunningham and Miriam Cunningham (Eds): eChallenges e-2010 Conference Proceedings, Warsaw, Poland, 2010.

[2] Riitta Hellman: [Organisational Barriers to Interoperability](#). I: Paul Cunningham and Miriam Cunningham (Eds): eChallenges e-2010 Conference Proceedings, Warsaw, Poland, 2010.

[3] Terje Grimstad and Per Myrseth: [Information Governance and Metadata Strategies as a Basis for Cross-sector e-Services](#). I: Paul Cunningham and Miriam Cunningham (Eds): eChallenges e-2010 Conference Proceedings, Warsaw, Poland, 2010.