Architectural Stock Taking

The WP6 (Building Blocks Provision) work in the first months has largely been centered around creating a project setup for development of a mature and coherent ICT infrastructure. This includes stock taking of existing Building Blocks and setting up processes for getting the requirements from piloting (WP5), legal regulations (WP4) and long term sustainability (WP3).

A stocktaking process has taken place, which has captured relevant ICT building blocks from both previous Large Scale Projects (e-CODEX, epSOS, SPOCS, STORK, PEPPOL) and other relevant European and National projects (e.g. ePrior, EEESI, Mades, ePrior, xRoads). The aim was to create a setup for future work by getting a structured overview of possibilities and risks in the future work on the ICT building blocks. The stocktaking is documented in Deliverable 6.1 - Executable ICT Baseline Architecture and is now an important part of the ongoing work on prioritization and detailed planning. The stock-taking is based on current knowledge of projects and by that not complete. It is expected that more Building Blocks from projects will be incorporated and later on be handed into the ISA programs European Interoperability Architecture Carthographie (a more complete stock-taking of ICT Building Blocks in Europe)

In parallel with the stocktaking process, the models (e.g. European Interoperability Architecture, ADMS, UP) for use within WP6 and for cooperation with other WPs were established.

WP6 started work on a “requirement model”, which was later matured by WP5. WP5 will use the requirement model to capture legal, business and technical requirements in the piloting domains. Through a requirement consolidation process conducted byWP5 (Domain Board) and WP6 (Architectural Board), the requirements are feed into the Sub groups of WP6.

WP3 has in cooperation with WP6 created a process for non-technical assessment of Building Blocks. Technical mature ICT Building Blocks from WP6 will be handed to WP3 for assessment on standardization and governance before accepted as a valid piloting ICT Building Block.

One of the challenges has been to align the different models (TOGAF9, European Interoperability Architecture and models from CEF and the Deloitte study on LSP Long Term Sustainability) that were initially chosen by WP3, WP5 and WP6. The term “Building Block” was used in many of these models with slightly different meaning and scope. It is very important that we agree on the definitions of the core terms and concepts to be able to cooperate. In cooperation with WP3 and WP5 it the following definitions were agreed:

Building Block (BB): Represents a (potentially re-usable) component of business, IT, or architectural capability that can be combined with other building blocks to deliver architectures and solutions. (TOGAF9 definition)

Architectural Building Block (ABB): Specifications and Standards (specifications) of Building Blocks. (TOGAF9 definition)

Solution Building Block (SBB): Sample Design and/or Software Component that is an implementation of (part of) an Architectural Building Block. (TOGAF9 definition)

High Level Building Blocks (HBB): Generic building blocks, their inter-relationships with other building blocks, combined with the principles and guidelines that provide a foundation on which more specific architectures can be built. (TOGAF9 definition on Foundation Architecture)

Several models has been choosen to support the work in WP6:

European Interoperability Architecture (based on TOGAF9): for structuring and classification of Building Blocks - is an ISA initiative (work in progress) and cooperation with ISA has been established.

ADMS: for describing and tagging Building Blocks – is an ISA initiative and cooperation has been established.

Archimate: for modeling Building blocks

Unified Process: for guiding the process on maturing and consolidation of Building Blocks

eSENS maturity model: for classifying the maturity of the various Building Blocks.

The next step in WP6 involves detailed prioritization and planning, based on the learnings from the stocktaking process. It has already been decided in cooperation with WP3 and WP5 to prioritize the following 4 high level building blocks: eDelivery, eDocument, eID and eSignature. The definition and scoping of these have already been completed and a first draft of this output can be seen in deliverable 6.1.

The prioritization and detailed planning, together with the requirements gathered in WP5, is the basis for the actual consolidation work towards a Pan European ICT infrastructure. The consolidation work has been ongoing throughout the first 6 months with a low prioritization, but this will now change to high priority. The challenges are to get the necessary WP6 resources aligned and to establish a coordinated work effort in cooperation with the previous Large Scale Projects e.g. eCodex in eDelivery, STORK in eID.