# Open Government Partnership

# Independent Reporting Mechanism

## Italy
## Comments Received on the First Progress Report

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On behalf of AgID, I comment on the part no. 9 on "Promoting National Open Data Standards", questioning the IRM assessment.

IRM 1."According to AgID, public administrations were required to embark on a standardised and nationally interoperable process to produce and release public data by proposing operational and organisational models..."

AgID 1: this sentence turns the purpose of the guidelines upside down. It is true that AgID proposes operational and organisational models, but the interoperability is centered to the Open Data that those models aim to produce.

IRM 2."Stakeholders questioned the way the government focused on developing national standards and, to ensure greater interoperability, called for the government to adopt international standards.".

AgID 2: AgID does not develop any national standard; rather, it promotes international standards. As a matter of evidence, AgID participated in W3C (the most important standardization body in the field of data and Web technologies) working groups established in cooperation with the European Commission in the context of the ISA programme for the definition, promotion and use of core vocabularies (in particular, AgID actively contributed to the definition of the Core Public Service Vocabulary and to a pilot activity involving the Org ontology) and appeared in reports from the European Commission itself for its work on promoting international standards (see https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/co.... In addition, AgID produced an open data agenda including, among the others, national policies for the valorisation of the Public Sector Information, quality of data principles and where a national model for open data and a national model for metadata have been proposed.

IRM 3. "Since the guidelines were not implemented at the time of this report, potential outcomes remain unclear. Stakeholders expressed the need for a stronger commitment, which should be developed with the engagement of the private sector."

AgID 3: there are a number of issues to be reported for what concerns this comment. First of all, it has been noticed a typo in the government self-assessment regarding the release date of the guidelines. AgID released a first set of guidelines on "Semantic interoperability Through Linked Open Data" on 1 August 2012 (http://www.agid.gov.it/sites/d....
These guidelines promote the use of Semantic Web standards. The guidelines were also submitted to public consultation for two months (as highlighted in https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/ne....

A number of comments were collected and implemented in the final version. A summary in English of these guidelines is also available http://www.agid.gov.it/sites/d.... In addition, AgID published on 31 of July 2013 another version of the technical guidelines on "valorisation of the Public Sector Information" which are applicable in 2013. A new version of these latter guidelines will be released by March 2014 following a specific process defined in the Law Decree 179/2012. The potential outcomes are repeatedly pointed out by the guidelines themselves. However, their consensus (I.e. implementation) will be explicitly assessed with a report to be issued by AgID in the upcoming months.

IRM 4: "The IRM researcher suggests the commitment could be reformulated with clear milestones for the development and finalisation of guidelines and standards".

AgID 4: it appears strange that AgID could finalise an international standard without any power to enact a standard. However, it is not true that AgID did not contribute in developing international standards. It is worth noticing that AgID is actively working on international standards for open data as a matter of evidence since it will also participate as partner in a new Thematic Network named Share-PSI 2.0 funded under the ICT PSP programme for the definition and development of international standards on open data.

Finally, there is no mention of the largely mentioned "Study on persistent URIs, with identification of best practices and recommendations on the topic for the Mss and the EC" (see https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/si... where AgID directly contributed and cited in the previously mentioned technical guidelines.