Standards – a foundation for interoperability
Workshop held at I-ESA'2010 Coventry, UK on 2010-04-13

The half-day workshop was held as part of the I-ESA pre-conference program with the objective to increase awareness of standards for Enterprise Interoperability (EI). Six presentations from initiatives inside (paper #1, 2, 4) and outside (paper #3, 5, 6) INTEROP-VLab were presented to identify issues related to interoperability and to discuss potential improvements through standardisation.

(1) M. Zelm / K. Kosanke provided an overview of EI standards and propose a content oriented layered hierarchy, which positions the different standards available in the area of interoperation in 3 categories: i) standards to guide standards development, ii) standards to guide product developments and standards implemented in products. Further, the standards development process in SDOs has been analysed with proposals for improvement. (2) D. Chen reported on an on-going international standardisation initiative jointly carried out by CEN TC310/WG1 and ISO TC184 SC5/WG1 to define and standardize a Framework and a Maturity Model for Enterprise Interoperability. (3) N. Ivezic/ J. Woo presented a general test framework to enhance a test bed development and enable reuse of existing testing components and materials. Currently, the test framework is undergoing a validation effort within a healthcare domain. (4) B. Elvesaeter / A. Berre presented an overview of the latest OMG modelling standard initiatives with respect to enterprise architecture. In the paper, these OMG standards have been mapped on the Zachman Framework . (5) P de Sabbata et al presented the experience, of the Textile, Clothing and Footwear industry achieved via the European project eBIZ-TCF as a case of standardisation in industrial sectors characterised by a large portion of SMEs. (6) T. Mc Grath presents the Pan-European Public eProcurement On-Line (PEPPOL) project, an initiative to align (and standardise) business processes across Government Agencies. Implementation profiles created from existing CEN/ISSS standards and resulting governance issues were outlined.

In the discussions a number of issues and recommendations to improve the development of EI standards were identified

o   To become more effective, the standards development process of formal SDOs must receive full support from both the National governments and from the European Union organisations. Otherwise results obtained in R&D projects are lost after the project completion.

o   Universities must strengthen their active involvement in research and development of standards. A strong collaboration between research and standardisation organisation, is recommended that should be supported by information dissemination and results demonstration efforts to increase public awareness and acceptance of both R&D and standardisation results.

o   The development of open, application oriented EI standards in industry consortia (as OMG or OASIS), runs faster and with strong involvement from all stakeholders involved. However, governance of the implementation is limited to those involved, hence, such standards lack global acceptance.

o   SME collaboration networks prefer sector specific standards. This should be reflected in the classification of standards, as well as types of horizontal and vertical standards.

o   The implementation of standards in SMEs networks is still in an early phase and is often not complying with the specifications.

Attendees

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The workshop papers will be published at HERMES Scientific Publications, the conference presentations will be posted at www.interop-vlab.eu .