

Statistical Interoperability Node

September 2024

Content

1. **Project context**
2. **Activities and deliverables**
3. **Project conclusions**
4. **Lessons learned**

Context

interSTAT

In Spain, the **InterSTAT working group was created** within the Interterritorial Committee of Statistics (CITE) with the purpose of **establishing the legal and technical foundations for the formation of a Statistical Interoperability Node** in accordance with the provisions set forth in Royal Decree 4/2010 of January 8, which regulates the National Interoperability Scheme (ENI) in the context of Electronic Administration.

Specific objectives

1. **Identify the legal framework** for the configuration of a Statistical Interoperability Node that facilitates the exchange of data for statistical purposes between public administrations that hold administrative data and national or regional statistical public services.
2. **Identify the conditions, protocols, and functional or technical criteria** necessary for the aforementioned data exchange for statistical purposes, ensuring the highest guarantees of security, integrity, and availability.
3. **Identify the requirements for organizational, semantic, or technical interoperability** in public statistics that could be developed by the Statistical Interoperability Node.

Members



Context

European Union Technical Assistance Instrument (TSI) – Project Objectives

It is understood that the statistical system of the State Administration is responsible for **producing official statistics** for both Spain and the European Statistical System. On the other hand, each autonomous community has its own statistical system to manage statistics within its territory. However, **access to data is hindered by obsolete exchanges and ineffective bureaucratic processes**. This underscores the **need to create a national strategy to improve statistical interoperability** by simplifying data exchange between administrations and agencies. The **active participation of regional agencies is key** to ensuring acceptance and scalability at the national and European levels.

To address this issue, the European Union Technical Assistance Instrument (**TSI**) is utilized, designed to help **member states implement reforms that enhance their administrative and technical capacities**. This support is essential for designing, developing, and implementing effective and sustainable public policies that respond to the structural and cyclical challenges faced by EU countries, particularly in the following areas:



Context

European Union Technical Assistance Instrument (TSI) – Project Objectives

The main project objective is

Define a **Statistical Interoperability Node** that establishes **data management policies** for statistical data to **enable data exchange between all levels of Spanish management** (regional and national) as well as with EU agencies, in order to **improve decision-making** regarding public policies.

Secondary objectives



Definition of **standards, architectures, and common methodologies** for statistical data to enable data exchange between Spanish and EU agencies.



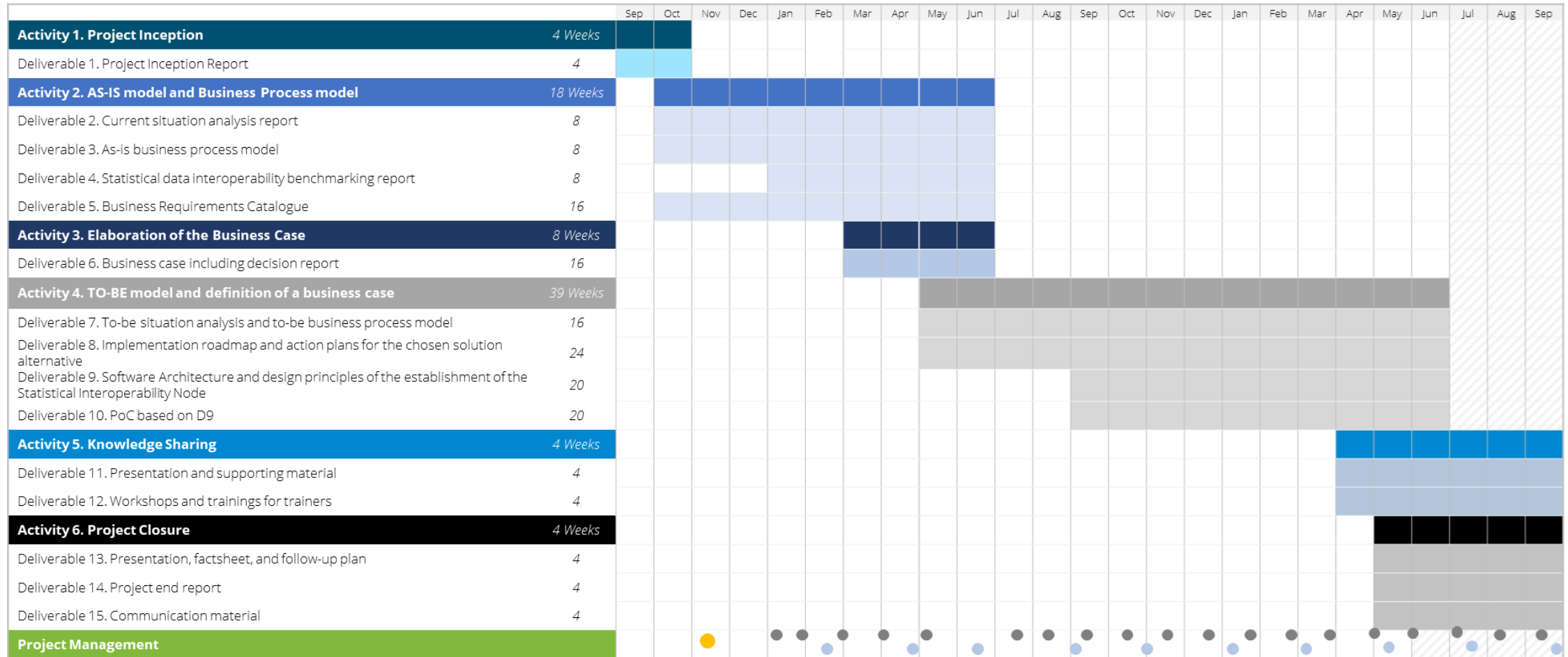
Increase the value of statistical data sets to improve government decision-making regarding public policies in Spain by providing high-quality data sets.




Test the technical and functional architecture of the Statistical Interoperability Node, defined by the beneficiaries, in order to refine it with best practices and lessons learned for future adoption by interested agencies.

Activities and deliverables


The present project **started in September 2022** and **concluded in September 2024**. During this period, the following activities have been developed:




Project conclusions

 The platform **meets the main requirements** identified and evaluated during the analysis and diagnosis phase.

 There are some **key constraints that limit, but do not block**, the use of the SGAD platform as a technical solution for the implementation of the Statistical Interoperability Node:

 **User connectivity** to the catalog must **always occur within the Sara Network**; there cannot be a public catalog on the Internet. However, access to data sources or data destinations outside the Sara Network will be allowed, provided that such connectivity is approved and managed by the SGAD team.

 There are **limitations in configuring the granularity of security** for the catalog elements and the actions users can perform on them. A significant evolution in this aspect is expected in the next version 5 of the product (currently 4.8).

 For the **files published in the catalog, there is no possibility of direct download without being persisted on the platform**. For the execution of scheduled exchanges or those carried out using the Datastage product, temporary persistence of the information will be necessary during the execution of the process. No one, except the process itself, will have access to this information..

Lessons learned

In order to ease the future implementation of the Statistical Interoperability Node, the following **lessons or considerations must be taken into account**, which are derived from the present project:

- There is **no market product that fully meets the technical requirements** of the Node. Therefore, to completely cover these requirements, **additional custom developments would be necessary**.
- The **platform may have specific technical requirements that must be met** for its proper implementation and operation, limiting the available options for deployment.
- There is a **need for adjustments or updates in regulatory matters** within the platform to maintain compliance.
- It is recommended to **standardize** and ensure that all access points use the same technologies and protocols.
- Data **governance will always remain in the hands of each member**, and access to information will be conducted solely through local access points.
- The **platform must define the definitive standards** for information processing to be followed. The use of DCAT-AP for the definition of information metadata and DDI for the definition of field metadata has been proposed.
- **Identity management** in the IBM Cloud Pak for Data product **has limitations** in the evaluated version (4.8). This management should be analysed in future versions of the product.