

Foreword

In this well-timed book Petter Gottschalk and Hans Solli-Sæther present popular e-government interoperability practices. They use several organization and management theories as a means of understanding the underlying factors of interoperability. Improved interoperability at all levels of public sector and between public and private sector is of critical importance to make electronic government more successful. The authors bring together their expertise as academics and researchers, along with their professional experience as Chief Information Officers of several organizations.

This book covers a range of important topics such as barriers of interoperability and solutions to overcome them, value configuration for interoperability, alignment of information resources to government tasks, defining stages of E-Government interoperability, strategic planning for alignment of E-Government initiatives. Interoperability represents an import issue for all governments, yet not many executives are quite clear about the various aspects of interoperability and therefore run the risk of missing opportunities in integration projects.

Semicolon (Semantic and Organisational Interoperability in Communicating and Collaborating Organisations) is a research and development project partly funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The main goal of Semicolon is to develop and test ICT-based methods, tools, and metrics to obtain faster and cheaper semantic and organizational interoperability both with and within the public sector. This book serves as a valuable literature review establishing a common ground for research into organizational interoperability. A number of cases are included to provide additional help to the reader better understand the subject matter, and relate it to real-world scenarios. Further it adds academic rigor to its arguments with theoretical aspects of organizational interoperability.

This book is a most comprehensive guide on all the aspects of interoperability, and is highly commendable for practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and consultants alike.

Terje Grimstad

General manager, Karde AS

Project manager, Semicolon

Oslo, Norway