

eCH E-Government-Standards

E-Government standards

Goals and strategies



1 Introduction

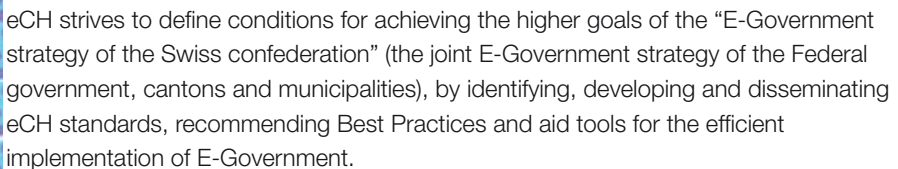
1. Introduction

The E-Government strategy of the Swiss confederation pursues three goals, in order of importance:

1. Businesses conduct their transactions with the authorities electronically.
2. The authorities have modernised their business processes and interact with each other electronically.
3. The public is able to conduct the most important transactions – the most common or the most time-consuming – with the authorities electronically.

If administrative transactions could be conducted globally and electronically without media breaks, businesses, private individuals and the administration would see their tasks alleviated thanks to reduced bureaucracy and, most importantly, costs could be saved. Within the administration, the use of ICT permits swift decision-making, less staff-intensive processes, a leaner work organisation and improved networking. For the public and for businesses, this should mean better services, simpler relations with the authorities, without restriction of time or space, as well as transparency and accessibility of administrative policy.

Source: E-Government strategy of the Swiss confederation dated 24.1.2007



eCH strives to define conditions for achieving the higher goals of the “E-Government strategy of the Swiss confederation” (the joint E-Government strategy of the Federal government, cantons and municipalities), by identifying, developing and disseminating eCH standards, recommending Best Practices and aid tools for the efficient implementation of E-Government.



2. Vision

- Government, administration and business processes within the authorities, dealings with businesses, society, the education system and health service, and with national and international institutions, are conducted electronically.
- To ensure this, they are based on standards, Best Practices and aid tools that are identified, developed and disseminated by eCH.
- E-Government and its architecture, together with their services and processes, are translated into practice.

For these reasons, Switzerland ranks high in international comparisons.

3. Strategic goals and their prioritisation

eCH focuses its work on interactions and transactions with rationalisation potential (costs) and improvement potential (efficiency, productivity, quality, satisfaction) and prioritises them according to the following criteria:

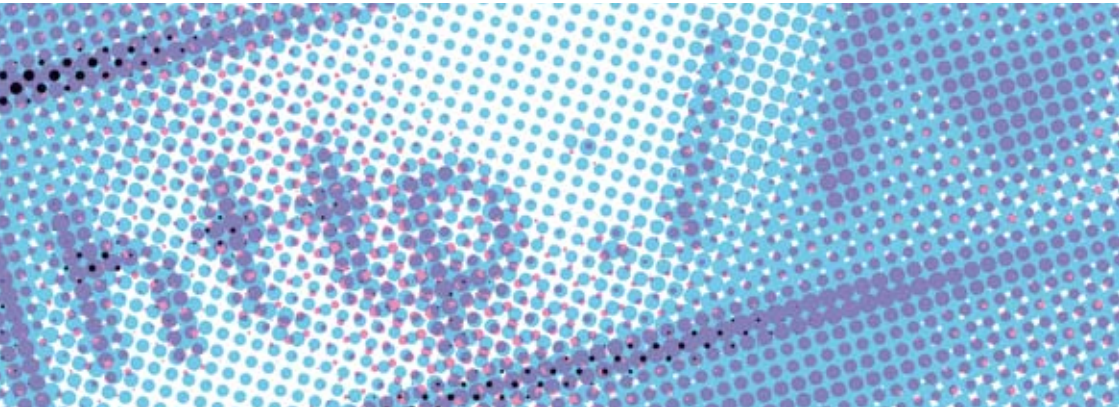
1. Processes in the public sector and the health service, in which companies, organisations and other relevant players are involved.
2. Process within the administration (at in-house, office and department level, as well as federation-wide level).
3. Processes with private individuals.



4. Mission

4. Mission

- eCH lays the foundations for achieving a high standing for Switzerland in E-Government and E-Health.
- eCH concentrates on transaction processes within the administration and health service.
- eCH establishes standards, identifies Best Practices and provides aid tools that are implemented by businesses, the administration and other organisations. They contribute to productivity, interoperability, increased efficiency and transparency.
- eCH actively communicates those standards and does what it can to ensure that the current authorities declare them mandatory.





5. Aims of the eCH

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- eCH brings the public and private sector to the same table as equal partners, in order to establish workable standards.
- eCH references and supports existing national and international standards, so long as their implementation in Switzerland is effective.
- eCH assumes a pioneer role, detects niches and gaps in the field of standardisation, establishes standards and optimum solutions (Best Practices) on the basis of low cost/utility ratio and provides aid tools.
- If the legal foundations are lacking for E-Government, or if existing laws stand in the way of achieving goals, eCH lends its support to politicians.
- Communication is an important pre-requisite in the effective implementation of standards. Proven standards are an important motivation factor for creating new standards and further developing existing ones.
- eCH guarantees quality results through the application of clearly defined, documented, transparent procedures. The board of directors and expert committee support the specialist groups in their work (sponsorships).

6. Management

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Members of the management

- raise an awareness of E-Government and E-Health with the aim of ensuring a widespread application of standards,
- support efforts to bring cantons, towns and cities, companies and organisations together with the eCH association, and to attract and keep them as members,
- promote and strengthen the eCH partnership (Public Private Partnership),
- help eCH to acquire financial means (fundraising).



7 Operative goals

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- From 2009, new ICT applications in the public sector shall comply with eCH standards.
- From 2009, eCH standards shall be mandatory for acquisitions and developments in the public sector.
- Recommendations for the most important standards for the Swiss health service have been adopted until end 2007.
- Standards for the health insurance card have been defined until 2006.
- Standards for the health card and the associated data protection requirements have been defined until end 2008.
- Missing ICT standards in the education system have been established until end 2010.
- Until the end of the first quarter of 2007, core processes have been identified and prioritised by eCH in accordance with the board's targets. Transaction processes have been simplified and defined until 2008 in such a way as to ensure they may be offered in the form of electronic services based on technologies that are as simple and as reusable as possible.
- The foundations have been laid for the Information Life Cycle Management (ILM) until end 2007.
- Comprehensive standards for Information Life Cycle Management (ILM) have been defined for the public sector until end 2009.



8. Achievement of goals

The board of directors

- conducts a yearly assessment of the goal achievement status and reports thereon,
- supplements and further develops the operative goals yearly, and
- establishes and maintains a portfolio of measures together with specialist groups.

9. Official approval

The afore-mentioned strategy was officially approved at the extraordinary annual general meeting of 31.10. 2006.

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