

#### Reference

Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary v1.3.0

#### Keywords

<CAMSS, CAV, CSSV, assessment, Controlled vocabularies, EIF>

#### **CHANGE CONTROL**

Modification	Details
Version 1.3.0	
Current version	Main changes for this minor version of the Vocabulary are:  Refinement of Specification and Standard's definition.  Refinement of Specification's versioning.  Alignment of CSSV T-box and CSSV specification.  Adoption of the schema:contactPoint relationship for expressing the Agent who maintains the Specification.  Recovery of the cssv:alternative attribute.  Addition of the dcat:downloadURL attribute.
Version 1.2.0	
Last version	<ul> <li>This minor release of the CSSV includes: <ul> <li>The class cssv:Scope has been removed.</li> <li>The cssv:Specification class inherits from the DCAT the attribute dcat:Version to identify the version of the specification.</li> <li>Addition of the attribute cssv:acronym in the class cssv:Specification and the attribute dct:alternative has been removed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Version 1.1.0	
	This minor release of the CSSV includes:  - Use of the latest of version of DCAT.  - The class adms:Asset has been replaced by dcat:Resource.  - The dcat:Resource class has a dct:creator which is a foaf:Agent.  - Addition of the class schema:ContactPoint.
Version 1.0.0	
Initial version	

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Directorate-General for Informatics

Directorate B - Digital Public Services, Unit B2 - Interoperability Unit Contact: Raul-Mario Abril-Jimenez - Project Officer for the CAMSS action

E-mail: Raul-Mario.ABRIL-JIMENEZ@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

B-1049 Brussels

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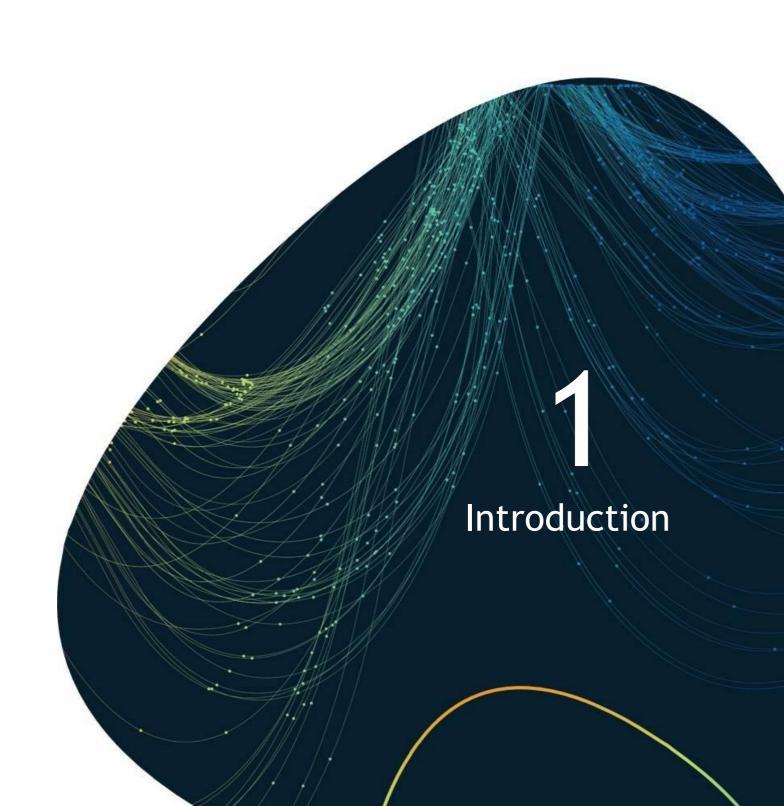
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#### **Foreword**

This Specification has been produced by the Common Assessment Method for Standards and Specifications (CAMSS) Team, a Digital Europe (DEP) Programme initiative in alignment with the European Standardisation Regulation 1025/2012.

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#### 1. Introduction

The CSSV is the vocabulary used for the information exchange related to standards and specifications amongst software solutions, as well, it is the key element for the development and maintenance of the EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications (ELIS<sup>1</sup>).

#### 1.1 Context

The DEP Programme of the European Commission supports the development of solutions that enable the cross-border delivery of interoperable public services in Europe. In order to ensure the interoperability of those services, the EIA action works as an integrator between the Member States and other departments of the European Commission for the development of a joint interoperability architecture for public services. The main output of this action is the European Interoperability Reference Architecture (EIRA©²).

As an element of EIRA©, the EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications (ELIS) was created. The ELIS contains the specifications describing the interoperability requirements of the architecture building blocks (ABBs) that conform to EIRA©.

At the core of the ELIS, there is also another asset developed in the context of the CAMSS action that shall be referenced which has been further developed: the Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary (CSSV).

#### 1.2. Objective and Scope of the document

The objective of this document is to provide an interoperability-oriented solution for the information exchange related to standards and specifications amongst software solutions, the Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary.

The scope of this document encompasses the following.

- Conceptual data models used for the CAMSS Vocabulary.
- Constraints and rules specific to the CAMSS domain.
- A reference implementation of the A-Box as an OWL Turtle syntax.

In addition, this vocabulary has been publicly analysed to create a stable version of the vocabulary.

The CSSV has been reviewed by a group of experts contributing to the new release of the vocabulary.

#### 1.3 Methodological approach

The CSSV defined in this document is a minor release of the vocabulary. As its precedent release, the CSSV is created for the development of the ELIS.

The approach followed for the development of the CSSV adheres to three fundamental principles.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ELIS: <a href="https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/elis">https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/elis</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> EIRA: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/european-interoperability-reference-architecture-eira/about

- 1. Reuse and share when possible (i.e., do not reinvent the wheel).
- 2. Do not betray the knowledge and experience of the domain, nor the terminology and interpretation of the concepts (i.e., do not invent new terms when they already exist in the communities of practice or generic domains).
- 3. Isolate technical and business constraints and rules as much as possible (i.e., externalise them in separate artefacts, for example, graph and data shapes for the control and validation of the data). This has a great impact on the quality and cost of the implementation, as well as the maintenance of the vocabulary.
- 4. One way of facilitating the semantic interoperability consists of reusing existing generic ontologies and vocabularies. This way, the semantics of common concepts and properties are agreed upon without the need for re-discussion. When concepts or properties have not been identified nor defined for the purposes pursued, they must be proposed as either extensions, or from scratch.

The methodological approach followed for the development of the CSSV reuses the following ontologies and vocabularies.

- Data Catalogue Vocabulary (DCAT);
- Friend of a Friend (FOAF);
- Core Person Vocabulary (CPV), only Natural Person;
- The Organization Ontology;
- Core Criterion and Core Evidence Vocabulary (CCCEV);
- Provenance, Authoring and Versioning (PAV);
- DCMI Metadata Terms (DCTerms);
- The Profiles Vocabulary (PROF);
- Schema.

The rationale for defining this vocabulary goes as follows.

- 1. No generic ontologies or vocabularies have been found defining what an Assessment is that fulfils the purposes of CAMSS, partially or totally (e.g., some initiatives define methodologies for assessment, but not ontologies or vocabularies).
- 2. Existing concepts in other ontologies did not cover all the information requirements needed in CSSV and had to be reused or specialised by new classes.
- 3. Concepts and properties existing in other ontologies have different semantics to those needed in CSSV.
- 4. Concepts required in CSSV have not been identified in any other existing ontologies and therefore needed to be defined.
- 5. Given this is "Core" vocabulary, a key goal is to make it as flexible as possible. This means that predicates are set with optional and multiple cardinality (0..n) unless there is a strong reason for further restriction.

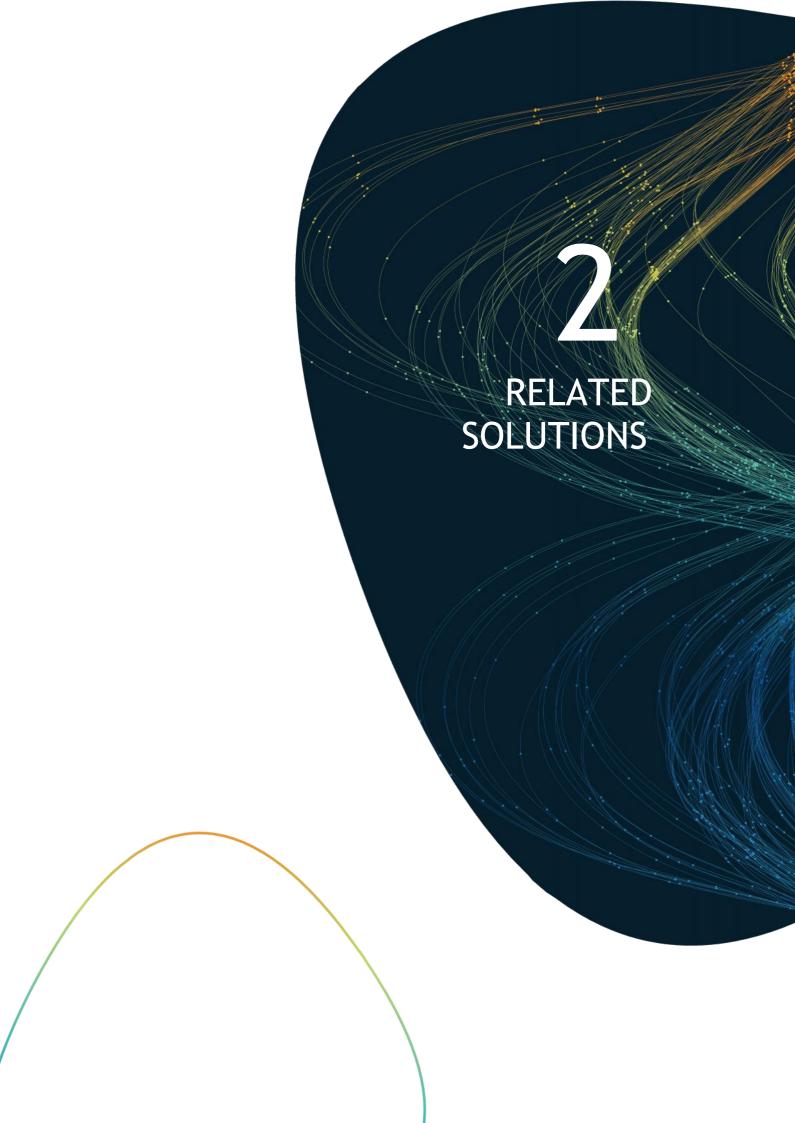
#### 1.4 Structure of this document

This document consists of the following sections.

• Section 2 describes the related solutions to the Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary

(CSSV).

- Section 3 explains the CSSV model and identifies the classes and properties defined for the vocabulary.
- Section 4 contains the Conformance Statement for this vocabulary.
- Section 5 describes specific accessibility and multilingualism aspects.
- Section 6 lists the different acronyms used in the whole document.
- Section 7 contains related references.



#### 2. Related Solutions

This section lists the different CSSV related solutions. Note that some are still under development.

# 2.1 EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications (ELIS)

The ELIS is a family of interoperability specifications that define the interoperability aspects of the Architecture Building Blocks (ABBs) contained in EIRA©. ELIS aims to support architects for the modelling of solutions based on EIRA©. The current version of ELIS will need to be slightly revamped to accommodate the concepts defined in the CSSV and to support the requirement of all stakeholders, e.g., EIRA-based solution developer needs, NATO profiles, and others.

#### 2.2 2.2. Core Assessment Vocabulary<sup>3</sup> (CAV)

The Core Assessment Vocabulary represents, expresses, and defines what an "Assessment" of "Assets" is and how to perform the assessment based on "Criteria". It is a domain-agnostic vocabulary, meaning that it can be used to assess any asset.

### 2.3 Data Catalogue Vocabulary<sup>4</sup> (DCAT)

The Data Catalogue Vocabulary (DCAT) is used to describe public sector datasets in Europe. This vocabulary has been developed by the W3C. DCAT can be used to describe any type of asset (treated as a dataset, especially when considering that metadata is also data).

The figure below shows the DCAT conceptual data model with its classes and properties:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> CAV: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-method-standards-and-specifications-camss/solution/core-assessment-vocabulary-cav

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> DCAT: https://www.w3.org/TR/vocab-dcat-2/

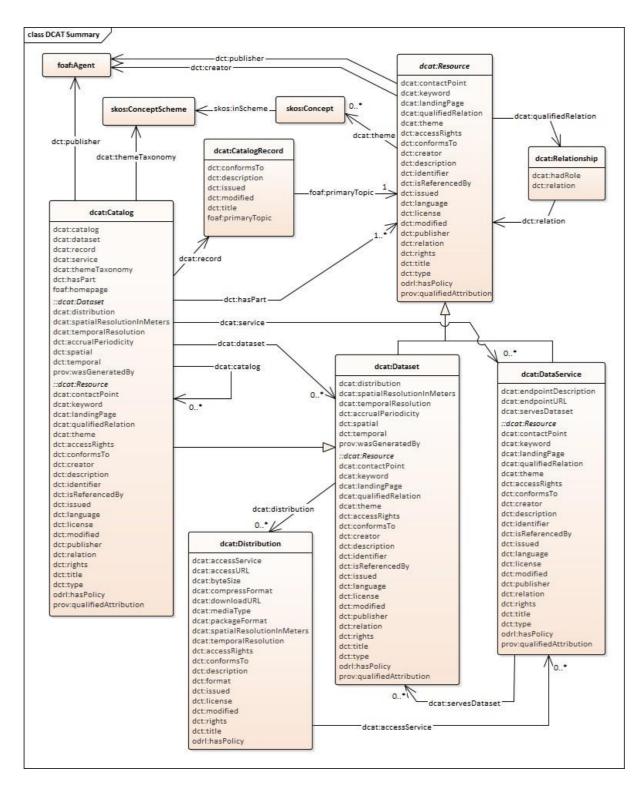


Figure 1: DCAT classes and properties

In the CSSV model, the class Specification can be considered the "root" class and is a "Resource" as defined in DCAT.



# 3. Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary (CSSV)

The CSSV is the vocabulary used for the information exchange related to standards and specifications amongst software solutions, as well, it is the key element for the development and maintenance of the EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications (ELIS).

The Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary is depicted in Figure 2 CSSV Data model. The figure shows the classes and properties that are used or defined in the CSSV.

#### dcat:Resource The ContactPoint is an foaf:Agent nstance of a subclass + dcat:accessRights foaf:Agent (e.g. an «enumeration» dcat:them + dct:license org:Organizatio skos:Concept + dct:rights ntactPoint schema:ContactPoint dcat:Distribution dcat:Dataset ote that the descendan dcat:distribution + dcat:accessURL + dcat:downloadURL "disjoint". +cssv:isMaintainedby cssv:Specification +pav:previousVersion + dct:identifier: cssv:ldentifier + dct:title: cssv:Text + cssv:acronym cssv:Text + cssv:alternative cssv:Text + dct:description cssv:Text + dct:type: cssv:Code + pay:version: cssv:Text cssv:configures cssv:combines V 0.. V 0. cssv:Standard cssv:ApplicationProfile cssv:Family cssv:isAspectOf V 1 prof:Profile dct:Standard

#### 3.1 Data Model for the CSSV

Figure 2: The Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary

#### 3.1.1. Interpretation

The main class of the CSSV model is the "Specification". A conceptual approach to define

Specification is by aligning with the one undertaken by Joinup<sup>6</sup>.

As represented in the conceptual model of the CSSV, a Specification is an asset, since it inherits from the dcat:Dataset, which inherits from the dcat:Resource. A Specification, beside a document, can be a Standard, an Application Profile, and or a Family or a collection of other specifications. The CSSV model defines:

- Specification, which describes precise requirements that are needed for the implementation of a solution. A specification is not necessarily a standard.
- A Standard as a specification that has reached a certain maturity and widespread adoption and potentially endorsed, meaning that is recognized and supported by a community or sanctioned by an authority.
- An Application Profile as customisation of one or more existing specifications potentially for
  a given use case or a policy domain adding an end-to-end narrative describing and ensuring
  the interoperability of its underlying specification(s). By customisation, we understand the
  "addition of more specificity by identifying mandatory, recommended, and optional
  elements, as well as by defining controlled vocabularies to be employed".
- A Family as a collection of interrelated and/or complementary specifications, standards or application profiles and the explanation of how they are combined, used, or both.

A collection of Specifications differs from a Family of Specifications in the fact that the relationship amongst themselves is not explicit. In the CSSV model, a collection of Specifications is an Asset that is related to other Assets and that is realised as an individual of a Specification. In other words, a Specification that reuses the dct:relation property of its base class dcat:Dataset.

There are occasions where collections of Specifications are applied to a context or a domain in a specific "configuration". Thus application profiles may conform sets of "themed" specifications. For this, the CSSV model uses the property "configures/includedIn" and the dcat:theme property pointing at a skos:Concept (i.e. a code, see the DCAT model above).

It is important to note that the descendants of the specifications are all "disjoint". Thus, Application Profiles and Families are Specifications that refer to or put together with other Specifications and/or Standards, but cannot themselves be considered Standards.

One Specification, in time, may become a Standard. In these cases, the authority (author) that defined the Specification may be different from the one that creates and maintains artefacts out of the Standard. Think, for example, of the artefacts produced, maintained and distributed by the Publications Office of the European Union (OP) in its site EU Vocabularies<sup>7</sup>: all these artefacts are defined by other authorities (e.g. the ISO), whilst the artefacts (e.g. the controlled vocabularies expressed in SKOS, XML, GeneriCode, XML, etc.) are supplied by the OP. For this, the CSSV uses the properties dct:creator and cssv:isMaintainedBy. Additionally, the dcat:Dataset has the property dct:type that can be used to state that the Specification is of type "definition, artefact or other". The DCAT vocabulary also provides the possibility of expressing who is responsible for the publication of the definition or the artefacts via the property dct:publisher (see the DCAT model).

The maintainer or publisher of a Specification is a foaf:Agent, which allows great flexibility to the CSSV model as foaf:Agent is the base class in many ontologies. The CSSV puts forward the reuse of the Core Person Vocabulary (ISA2 CPV) and the Organization Ontology (W3C Org) for this purpose. Also, the foaf:Agent also provides the contact point of the specification.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Joinup conceptual model and implementation of an asset. See ADMS-AP version 2.0.1: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/solution/asset-description-metadata-schema-adms/distribution/adms-ap-version-201-pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> EU Vocabularies: https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/controlled-vocabularies

Concerning the Intellectual Property Rights, they are covered by the fact that a specification which is a dcat:Resource and it allows to define the dct:license and dct:rights.

Finally, note that all the descendants of the ccsv:Specification are disjoint. This entails that an individual of an application profile or family cannot be a standard, but does not preclude that, in time, the application profile or the family can become standards. If that were the case then individuals of ccsv:Standard would be created to represent the standardisation of those specifications that are application profiles and families..

#### 3.2 Class: cssv:Specification

OWL Class	cssv:Specification
Label	Specification
Definition	Precise requirements that are needed for the implementation of a solution. A specification is not necessarily a standard.
Subclass of	dcat:Dataset

# 3.2.1 Property: dct:identifier

OWL Property	cav:identifier
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	identifier
Definition	This property contains the main identifier for the specification, e.g. the URI or another unique identifier.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Property Type	xsd:anyURI
Examples	Any URI pointing at an instance of an Asset. An example of this could be:  DCAT (W3C)  URI: http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat#  Expression in CSSV:
	<pre>@prefix cssv: <http: cssv#="" data.europa.eu="" xyz=""> . @prefix dct: <http: dc="" purl.org="" terms=""></http:> .</http:></pre>
	<pre><http: dcat#="" ns="" www.w3.org="">     a <cssv:specification> ;     dct:identifier "http://www.w3.org/ns/dcat#" .</cssv:specification></http:></pre>

# 3.2.1 Property: dct:title

OWL Property	cssv:title
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	title
Definition	The name given to the Specification.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Property Type	xsd:string

Examples	Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary, Core Assessment Vocabulary, Core Public Service Vocabulary, Core Criterion and Core
	Evidence Vocabulary, etc.

## 3.2.1 Property: cssv:acronym

OWL Property	cssv:acronym
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	acronym
Definition	Abbreviation of the specification.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Property Type	xsd:string
Examples	CSSV, CAV, CPSV, CCCEV, etc.

## 3.2.1 Property: cssv:alternative

OWL Property	cssv:alternative
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	alternative
	The alternative name of the specification.
Definition	Additional information:  The alternative title for a Specification is optional. CAMSS aims to standardise the names of specifications as a reference at EU level. However, the title of a Specification might, distinct to the provided by CAMSS, may be widely used in the community.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Property Type	xsd:string
Examples	CSSV, CAV, CPSV, CCCEV, etc.

## 3.2.1 Property: dct:description

OWL Property	dct:description
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	description

Definition	This property contains a free-text account of the Specification. This property can be repeated for parallel language versions of the description.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Property Type	xsd:string
Examples	To define the main concepts and characteristics related to specifications, standards, and their combinations and relationships.

# 3.2.1 Property: dct:type

OWL Property	dct:type
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	type
Definition	This property refers to the type of the Specification. A controlled vocabulary for the values has not been defined for the time being. A proposal is provided in the examples below.
Property Type	skos:Concept
Domain	dcat:Resource
Range	skos:Concept
Examples	Definition, Artefact, Summary.

# 3.2.1 Property: dct:accesRights

OWL Property	dct:accessRights
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	accessRights
Definition	Information about who can access the resource or an indication of its security status.
Property Type	xsd:anyURI
Examples	Read, write, modify, and delete rights.

## 3.2.1 Property: dct:license

OWL Property	dct:license
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	license
Definition	A legal document under which the resource is made available.
Property Type	xsd:anyURI
Examples	Creative commons license.

## 3.2.1 Property: dct:rights

OWL Property	dct:rights
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	rights
Definition	A statement that concerns all rights not addressed with dct:license or dct:accessRights, such as copyright statements.
Property Type	xsd:anyURI

## 3.2.1 Property: pav:version

OWL Property	pav:version
OWL type	owl:DataProperty
Label	version
Definition	The version number of a resource. This is a free text string, typical values are "1.5" or "21". The URI identifying the previous version can be provided using prov:previousVersion.
Property Type	xsd:string

# 3.2.1 Property: pav:previousVersion

OWL Property	pav:previousVersion
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	previousVersion
Definition	The previous version of a resource in a lineage.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Range	cssv:Specification

## 3.2.1 Property: cssv:configuredIn

OWL Property	dct:type
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	configuredIn
Definition	A set of Specifications potentially for a given use case or policy domain that are aggregated in an ApplicationProfile.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Range	cssv:ApplicationProfile
Examples	Instance classes representing application profiles, such as DCAT-AP, ADMS-AP, others.

## 3.2.1 Property: cssv:combinedIn

OWL Property	dct:type
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	combinedIn
Definition	A set of Specifications that are complementary and interrelated, forming a Family of Specifications.

Domain	cssv:Specification
Range	cssv:Family
Examples	OASIS UBL XML-based family (XML, XML Schema Definition, ISO Schematron, OASIS Genericode, Context Value Association (CVA), UN/CEFACT unqualified data types); OASIS JSON-based family; CEN TC 440 families; UN/CEFACT CII elnvoice family; other.

## 3.2.1 Property: cssv:isMaintainedBy

OWL Property	dct:type
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	isMaintainedBy
Definition	The Person, Organisation responsible to update and maintain the specification.
Domain	cssv:Specification
Range	foaf:Agent
Examples	CAMSS Team, SEMIC, W3C, OASIS, others.

### 3.3 Class: cssv:Standard

OWL Class	cssv:Standard
Label	Standard
Definition	Specification that has reached a certain maturity and widespread adoption and potentially endorsed.
Subclass of	cssv:Specification

# 3.4 Class: cssv:ApplicationProfile

OWL Class	cssv:ApplicationProfile
Label	ApplicationProfile
	An application profile "customises one or more existing specifications potentially for a given use case or a policy domain adding an end to end narrative describing and ensuring the interoperability of its underlying specification(s)".

Definition	
Subclass of	cssv:Specification

## 3.4.1. Property: cssv:configures

OWL Property	cssv:configures
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	configures
Definition	Whether an Application Profile design or adapts a Specification for a specific purpose.
Domain	cssv:ApplicationProfile
Range	cssv:Specification
Examples	DCAT-AP configuring DCAT for its use in the context of the EU Public Administrations; Any NATO profile configuring a set of interoperability Specifications for a specific context of use; other.

## 3.4.3. Property: cssv:isAspectOf

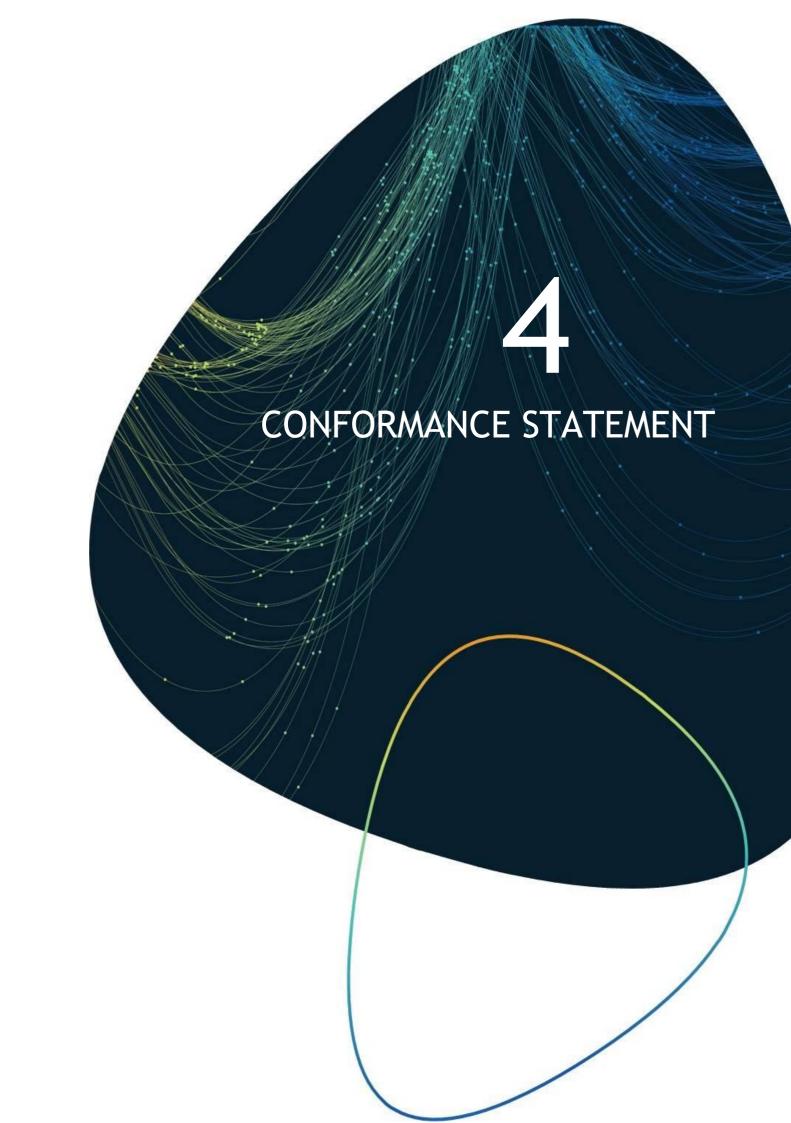
OWL Property	cssv:isAspectOf
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	isAspectOf
Definition	ApplicationProfile is a part of a Profile.
Domain	cssv:ApplicationProfile
Range	prof:Profile
Examples	DCAT-AP.

# 3.5 Class: cssv:Family

Label	Family
Definition	A family is a collection of interrelated and/or complementary specifications, standards, or application profiles and the explanation of how they are combined, used, or both.
Subclass of	cssv:Specification

# 3.4.3. Property: cssv:combines

OWL Property	cssv:combines
OWL type	owl:ObjectProperty
Label	combines
Definition	Whether a Family is a union of more than one Specifications.
Domain	cssv:Family
Range	cssv:Specification
Examples	One or more Specifications that are part of a family, e.g. OASIS UBL XML-based family (XML, XML Schema Definition, ISO Schematron, OASIS Genericode, Context Value Association (CVA), UN/CEFACT unqualified data types); OASIS JSON-based family; CEN TC 440 families; UN/CEFACT CII elnvoice family; other. Conformance Statement.



#### 4. Conformance Statement

A data interchange of Standards or Specifications, however that interchange occurs, is conformant with the CSSV if:

- it uses the terms (classes and properties) in a way consistent with their semantics as declared in this specification;
- it does not use terms from other vocabularies instead of ones defined in this vocabulary that could reasonably be used.

A conforming data interchange:

- may include terms from other vocabularies;
- may use only a subset of CSSV terms.

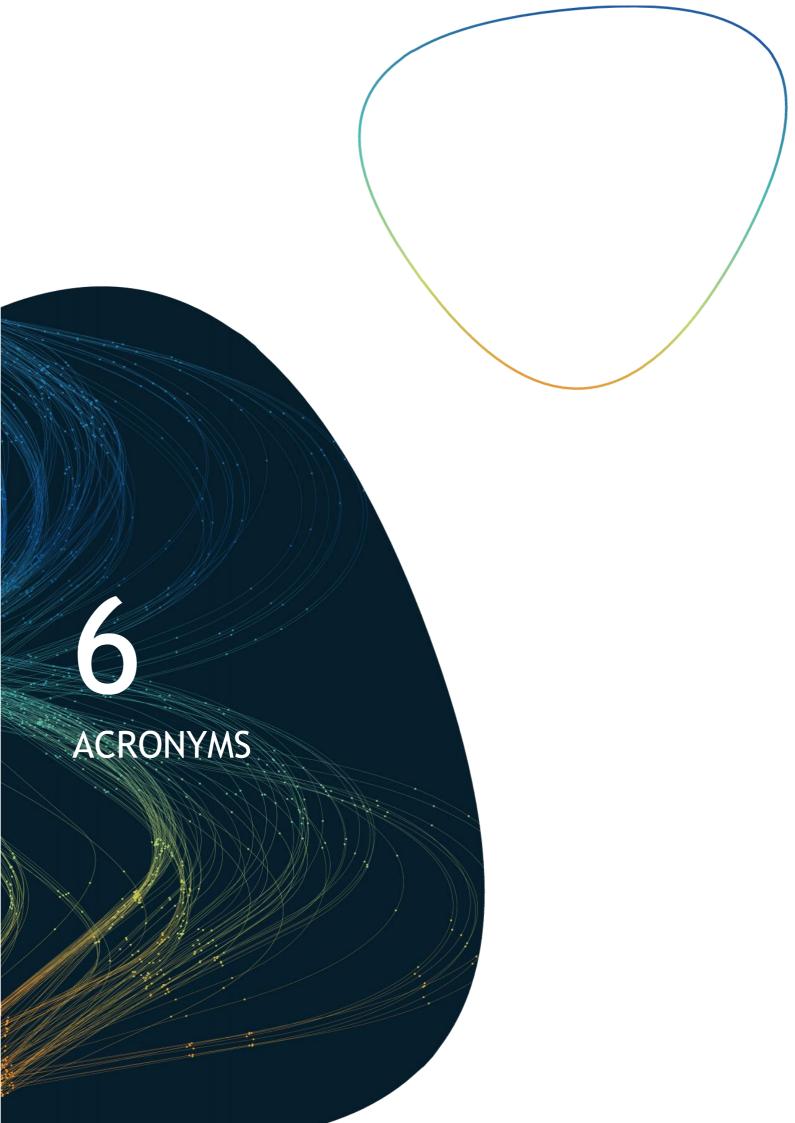
The CSSV is technology-neutral and a publisher may use any of the terms defined in this document encoded in any technology although RDF and XML are preferred.



# 5. Accessibility and Multilingual Aspects

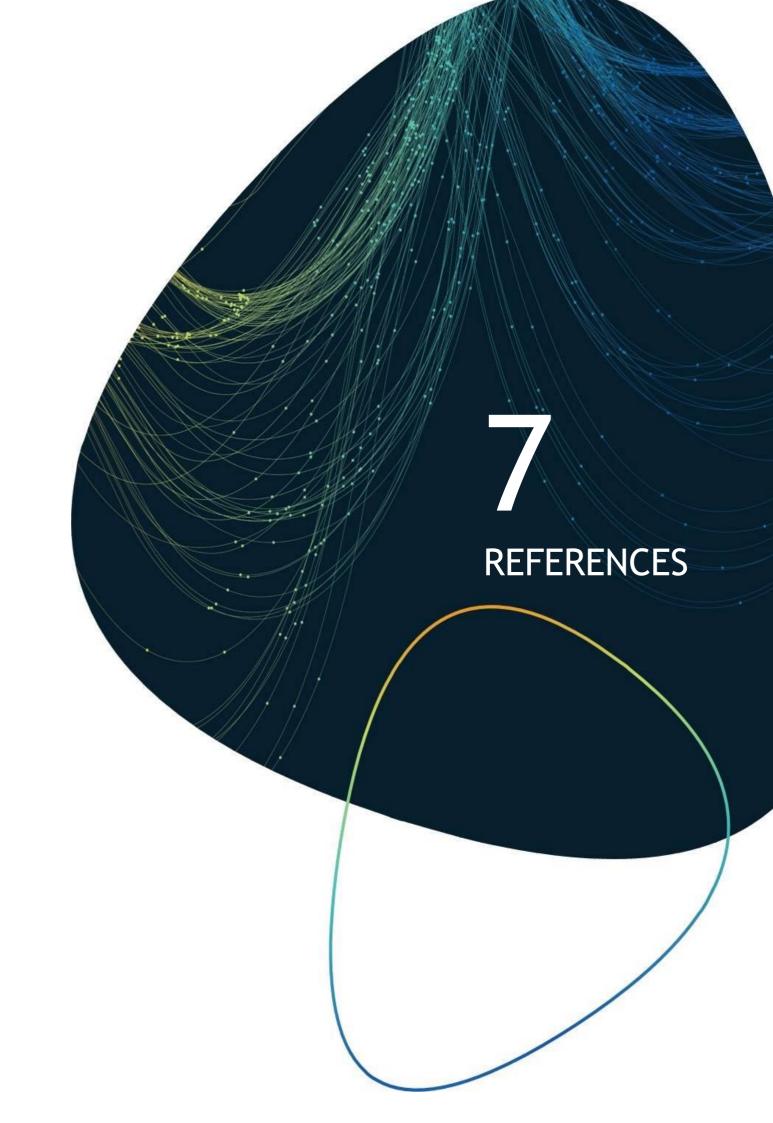
The CSSV can operate in any language due to the following.

- In a multilingual context, with all properties that are datatype "Text", the value may exist in multiple languages, the property may be instantiated multiple times and tagged with the language identifier for the value used for that property.
- The CSSV specification encourages the use of PURIs as identifiers.



# 6.Acronyms

Term	Description
CAV	Core Assessment Vocabulary
EIRA©	European Interoperability Reference Architecture
CSSV	Core Standards and Specifications Vocabulary
DCAT	Data Catalogue Vocabulary
ELIS	EIRA Library of Interoperability Specifications
ABBs	Architecture Building Blocks
SEMIC	Semantic Interoperability Community
CPSV	Core Public Service Vocabulary
PAV	Provenance, Authoring and Versioning
PROF	The Profiles Vocabulary



#### 7. References

#### 7.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, the CAMSS Team cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

DCAT Application Profile . (n.d.). Retrieved from https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/solution/dcat-application-profile-data-portals-europe/releases

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*Provenance, Authoring and Versioning (PAV)*. Retrieved from: https://pav-ontology.github.io/pav/

Schema Vocabularies. Retrieved from: https://schema.org/docs/schemas.html

#### 7.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any

amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, the CAMSS Team cannot guarantee their long-term validity.

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document, but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

CAMSS Joinup Community. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/common-assessment-methodstandards-and- specifications-camss/about

DCAT Application Profile . (n.d.). Retrieved from Releases for DCAT Application Profile for data portals in Europe solution | Joinup (europa.eu)

EU Vocabularies. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://publications.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/controlled vocabularies



## **Annex 1: CSSV Model**



