



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Global Standards Package

Frequently Asked Questions



Global
Information
Sharing Standard

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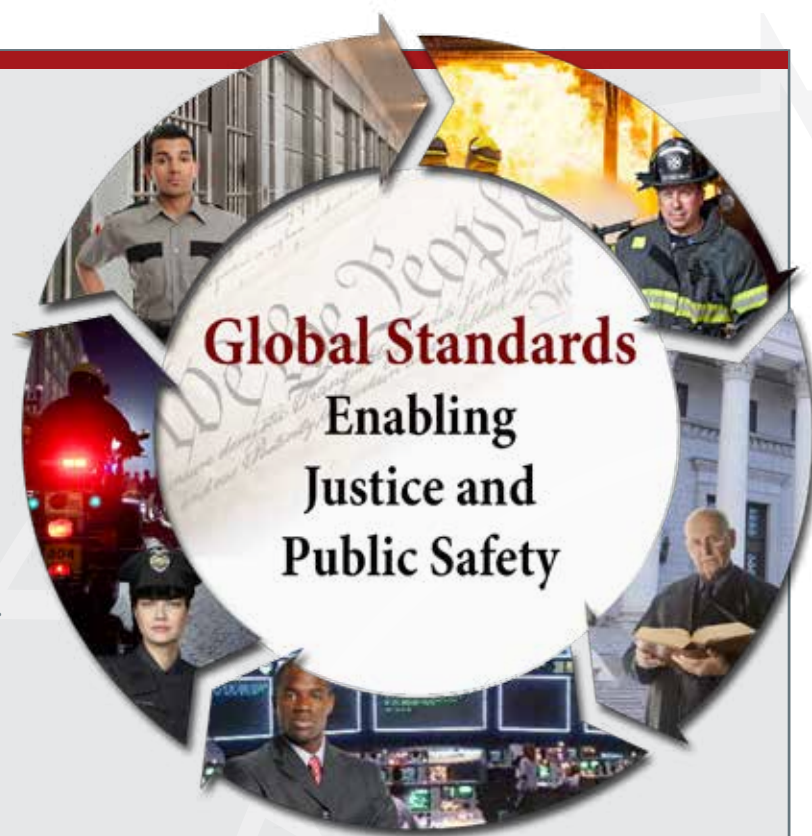
What is the Global Standards Package (GSP)?

The GSP constitutes a full suite of information sharing technology standards and guidelines that address messaging architecture, security, privacy requirements, and data standardization. It is a collection of Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)-recommended normative standards that have been developed and assembled into a unified package of composable, interoperable, and secured solutions enabling effective information exchange. GSP solutions are generally focused on providing a cost-effective, agile, technical solution that promotes national interoperability. The GSP also includes associated guidelines and operating documents to assist implementers.

What are the primary components of the GSP?

There are four major interoperable architectural components included in the GSP:

- ✦ The **Global Reference Architecture** offers guidance on the design, specification, and implementation of services and related infrastructure for organizations that are looking for an architectural solution to sharing information via external exchanges. In turn, these same services are reusable nationwide, saving time and money and reducing complexity when particular information exchanges are implemented with external partners.
- ✦ The **Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management (GFIPM)**, a framework that provides guidelines and standards for establishing, implementing, and governing federated identity management approaches.
- ✦ A **Technical Privacy Framework**, an approach for automating access control (in particular, privacy) policy as part of an information exchange.
- ✦ The **National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)**, a data model and standards-based approach to exchanging information. In particular, NIEM helps to eliminate confusion associated with different data definitions across law enforcement and public organizations by providing a common vocabulary to ensure consistency and understanding among state, federal, and local agencies.



Why is it important to implement the Global Standards Package?

In addition to offering a common mechanism to share information across agencies, the GSP promotes the use of open, consensus-based standards to avoid proprietary or restrictive approaches to system integration and interface development. This approach enables adopters to fully realize the cost savings, operational efficiencies, and business agility demonstrated by those who have already implemented elements of the GSP.

How can implementing components within the GSP benefit my region, state, county, city, and/or tribe? What is the business case?

Call it lowering management burden, call it not reinventing the wheel, or call it smart business. When practitioners use Global tools, such as the GSP, they become partners in a well-established community of peers who, for more than a decade, have developed justice information sharing solutions that:

- ✦ Lower implementation costs and time.
- ✦ Lower risk of investment through product harmonization and real-world testing.
- ✦ Increase interoperability.
- ✦ Improve security.

- ✦ Improve access and prioritize privacy safeguards.
- ✦ Increase the probability of agency success and the delivery of a project on time and within budget.
- ✦ Increase business agility. Case in point: the Global Reference Architecture (GRA), a Global information exchange solution, was designed as an “80 percent solution,” providing developers with a majority of technical specifications and guidelines for their projects while saving room for customization per specific requirements. This translates into significant savings in architecture and design development and in time and cost through the reuse of those established, promising practices.

Are grant recipients required to use the components of the GSP?

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), requires grantee compliance with the GSP and all components thereof. Please visit it.ojp.gov/gsp_grantcondition for further information. Still have questions regarding grant compliance in regards to the GSP? Please contact Mr. Christopher Traver, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, at Christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Are we required to implement each and every element of the GSP?

Compliance with the GSP requires conformance to all components of the GSP whenever and wherever applicable. If a grantee is planning to exchange information across agencies or systems using a common data format, such format is required to be conformant to the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). Similarly, if the grantee is planning and/or looking for an architectural solution to share information via external exchanges, then it must leverage the Global Reference Architecture (GRA), and so on. In addition, certain GSP components enable the development of national or standard specifications that further promote reuse for enhanced interoperability. Whenever and wherever applicable, these reference specifications should be used as a foundation for implementation of complementary business processes. If the grantee wishes to use an alternate format for which a reference specification already exists, specific justification must be included in the grant application narrative. To view a complete list of approved reference service specifications, please visit it.ojp.gov/GSP or access the Global Information Sharing Toolkit at it.ojp.gov/GIST and search further on “service specification.”

Who monitors and provides oversight for the Global Standards Package?

The Global Standards Council (GSC), a subcommittee of the Global Advisory Committee (GAC), provides oversight for the primary GSP components, with the exception of the NIEM component, which is maintained by the NIEM Program Management Office (PMO).

For More Information...

About the GSC

To learn more about the GSC, please visit it.ojp.gov/GSC.

About NIEM

To learn more about the NIEM PMO, please visit <http://www.niem.gov/>.

About the GSP

The GSP components maintained by the Global Standards Council can be accessed via several methods:

1. Visit it.ojp.gov/GSP.
2. Go to the Global Information Sharing Toolkit via it.ojp.gov/GIST. Clicking on “browse,” followed by accessing the “GSP” category, will return a complete list of all Global products and standards currently identified as being associated with the GSP.
3. To access the GSP components maintained by NIEM, please visit <http://www.niem.gov/>.

About Global

If you would like a more comprehensive overview of the entire Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global), please visit it.ojp.gov/global.

Questions?

Still have questions? Please e-mail us at Global@iir.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the Global Advisory Committee

it.ojp.gov/global

The Global Advisory Committee (GAC) serves as a Federal Advisory Committee to the U.S. Attorney General. Through recommendations to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the GAC supports standards-based electronic information exchanges that provide justice and public safety communities with timely, accurate, complete, and accessible information, appropriately shared in a secure and trusted environment. GAC recommendations support the mission of the U.S. Department of Justice, initiatives sponsored by BJA, and related activities sponsored by BJA's Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global). BJA engages GAC-member organizations and the constituents they serve through collaborative efforts, such as Global working groups, to help address critical justice information sharing issues for the benefit of practitioners in the field.

For more information on Global and its products, including those referenced in this document, call (850) 385-0600 or visit it.ojp.gov/GIST.

About the Global Standards Council

it.ojp.gov/gsc

The Global Standards Council (GSC) serves as a Global Advisory Committee (GAC) subcommittee, supporting broadscale electronic sharing of pertinent justice- and public safety-related information by recommending to BJA (through the GAC) associated information sharing standards and guidelines. To foster community participation and reuse, the GSC reviews proposed information sharing standards submitted by Global consumers and stakeholders. Additionally, BJA emphasizes an open, participatory review-and-comment process for proposed standards; please see the Global Justice Tools Web site at www.globaljusticetools.net for more information on this opportunity. BJA-approved standards are developed, maintained, and sustained as one cohesive Global Standards Package (GSP) located at it.ojp.gov/gsp.