

HELIOS

Talk AIST ABIDJAN

November 2013

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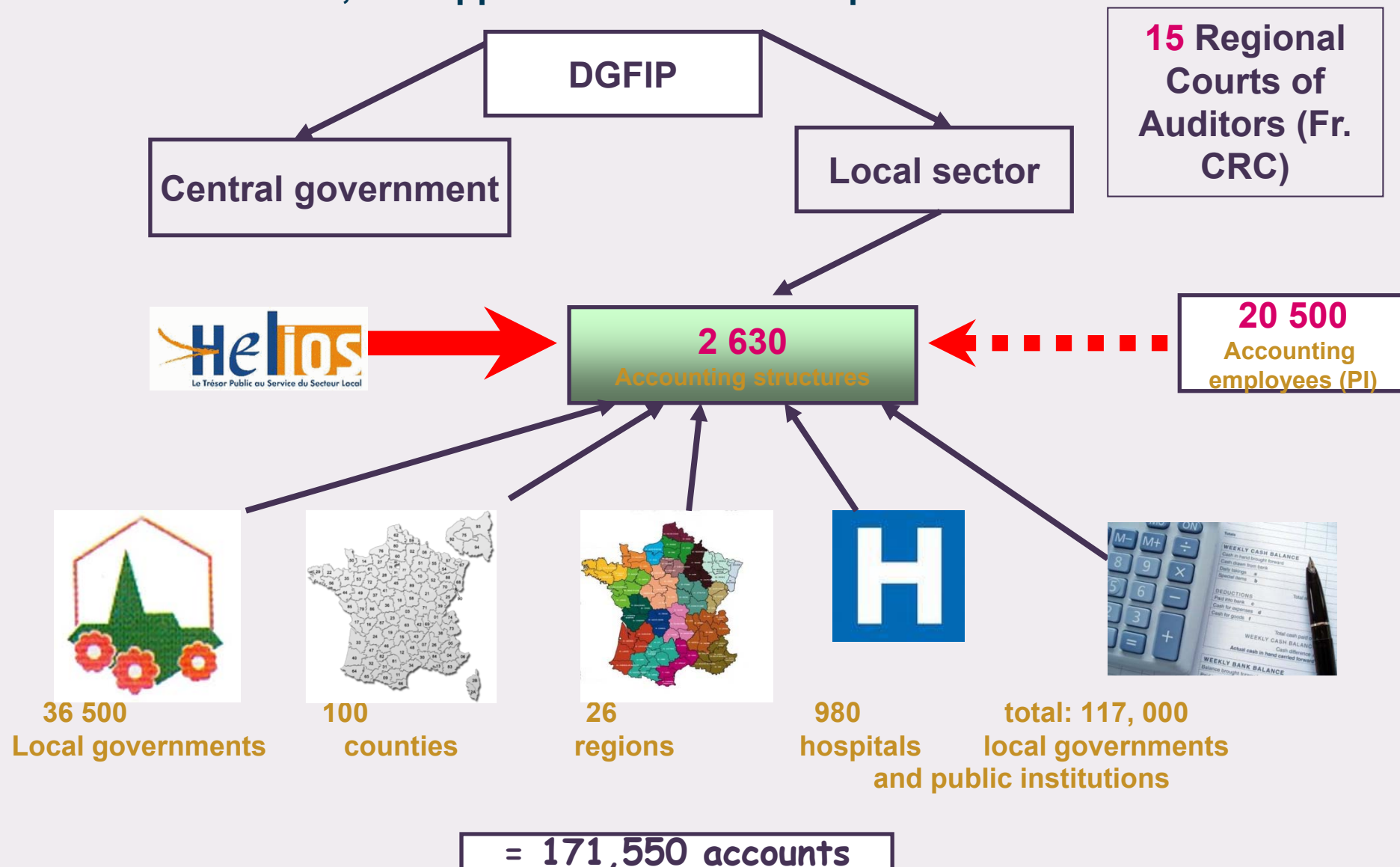
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- user friendly and ergonomic

Accounting background: Hélios, one application for the local public sector at DGFIP



HELIOS_AIST_ABIDJAN_novembre 2013

PROJECT origins: strategic choices

- **Internal application or shared?**

- From a constitutional point of view, local governments are free to choose their management, so they are free to choose their information systems.
⇒ **Hélios shall be an application dedicated only to accountants,**
- However, service improvement for local Authorizing officers **presupposed that Helios had to be accessible in real time**, something which the arrival of internet would facilitate.

- **One-shot or progressive delivery?**

- Designing and delivery first of the accounting core, and then of peripheral modules.

- **Big Bang or phased roll-out?**

- Roll-out in successive waves (per month and per county) of accounting structures,
- Data migration for each treasury unit is a specific process benefiting from special support (Change Support Network).

- **End of project, May 2012: keep the project design and the project implementation units together?**

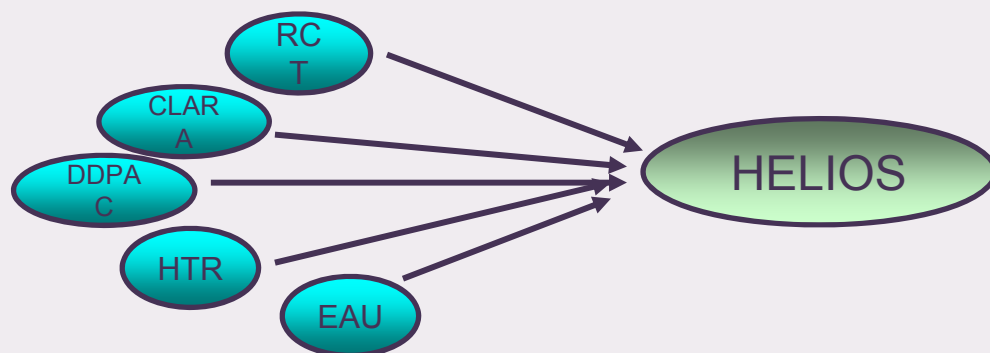
- Recent DGFIP organization imposed the split of the two in two units of different sub-directions while still keeping a close co-decisional process between them

Project milestones

- 1997-2000: trial mission,
- 2001: setting up of Hélios mission
- 2002: debates, studies, first roll-out plan, procurement preparation
- 2003: implementation of automatic processes of accounting data transfer from former applications to Hélios (extraction, correction, tests and injection),
- 2004: setting up of design and testing teams. V1 design - limited scope
- 2005: roll-out kickoff and first difficulties, “quality break”: feedback to users
- 2006: larger scale roll-out: a new strategy, V2 design – larger scope
- 2007: Technical installation fire
- 2008-2009: roll-out continuation, V3 design – ergonomic version
- 2010: important structure roll-out = end of roll-out phase
- 2011: conversion of programming language FORTE => HTML
- 2012: end and dissolution of Hélios mission

HELIOS – one application for the local public sector

- It replaces the former numerous accounting and collection applications from the local public sector



- It observes local governments' budget diversity,

Regions, Counties, Municipalities, Inter – municipal public institutions, Social and Health Care Public Institutions, Social housing management units...

- Makes both SOFT and HARD WARE more efficient, thus cutting down on costs and improving, at the same time, the security of data preservation
- Enables practice harmonization

HELIOS – one, common system for accounting and financial data of the local public sector 1/2

- **An accounting and financial data system**

Hélios application takes in data flows

Features of these data flows:

- **they are integrated in the accounting system** – represent the very core of Hélios application
- **improve peripheral management modules**
 - of third parties: creditors, debtors, bailiffs, etc...
 - budgetary: expenses, revenues
 - hierarchical expense control
 - collection following enforcement orders
 - accounts receivable: asset maser record and accounts payable: loan records
 - public procurement records, direct collection and payments, resources of people provided with accommodation/shelter in health and social public institutions
- **improve peripheral supervision modules**
 - flows and flow processing (workflows) supervision

Configuration and reference docs



HELIOS one, common system for accounting and financial data of the local public sector 2/2

- **One, common system of shared data**

Internally:

- Between the accountant and coordination units from regional or county services of public finances.
- Thanks to a DELPHES info-center fed by Hélios on a monthly basis

Externally: with authorizing officers' units which can

- get “feedback” flows in order to improve their own information systems
- and/or check online in Hélios accounting, budget, treasury, creditor and debtor data.

Main Hélios benefits

- **Hélios was designed with a focus on computerization**
 - Computerization of accounting data and supporting documents
 - tools were developed (Standard Exchange Protocol, XéMélios “data tool extractor and reader”, a portal where data flows are exchanged...)
 - Computerization of procedures
 - A legal and contractual framework was drawn up among partners (authorizing officers, central government, jurisdictions: national partnership structure).
 - **At the end of the day**, computerization improves the information flow while also making it more secure.

Computerization design relied on a partnership approach



National
Partnership
Structure

National Partnership Charter

Signed on **Dec 07, 2004** by
The National authoring units' associations
The Central government
The Court of Auditors

2010: A national framework agreement comprising all national recommendations

It includes the works carried out since 2005

It includes all documents sent by the local government to their account with respect to budget implementation and accounting issues
Possibility to computerize the entire flow.

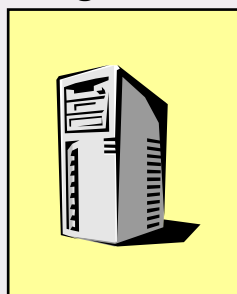
Definition of a new data standard exchange protocol (Fr. PES)

Before the switch to PES: 2 parallel flows

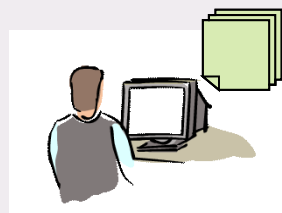
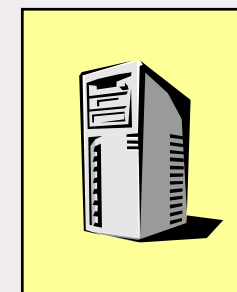
1st “accounting” flow

Data were sent via special protocols, according to the respective items

Progiel CL



Hélios



Authorizing officer



Accountant

Local government

2nd “paper” flow

Payment orders

*Public
Finance Unit*

Collection enforcement orders and collection forms
playing the role of supporting documents, included in the management account

Switch to PES: Only one flow

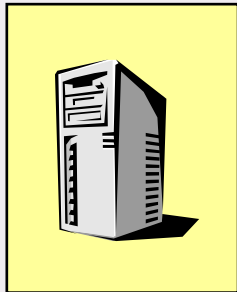
Standard Exchange Protocol

Revenues and expenses

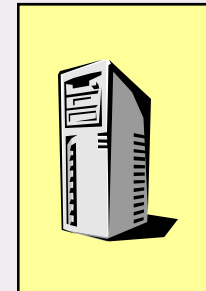
With electronic signature

It comprises electronic supporting documents
also included in the management account

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Hélios



Authorizing officer

Local government

~~No more “paper” payment orders/enforcement orders/
collection forms~~



Accountant

*Public Finance
Unit*

Main Hélios benefits

- **It improves accounting quality and safety**

- Traceability via individual accounts
- Same methods, irrespective of the accounting type used

- **It improves the monitoring of local governments' assets**

- Automatic, progressive generation of records on accounts receivable and payable
- Suggestions made to the authorizing officer with respect to the calculation of amortizations and provisions
- Checking against the budget for their presence

- **User friendly and ergonomic**

computerizing mass tasks in an ergonomic environment

- Tracking engine catered for enforcement orders issued by hospitals, municipality
- Drop down interactive menu with suggestions for automatic accounting checks
- Online support and documents
- Archived files that can be consulted and adapted to account assessment rhythm

Hélios home page

Shortcuts can be created by the user for a more direct access to various menus.

Hélios instructions

Instructions available

- on the Hélios website from the DGFIP site
- directly from the application

Files comprising the following tools

- Procedure's guide
- User's guide
- Kickoff kit
- Fact sheets and general concepts
- Special Hélios memos
- Banking reference documents
- Search engine

