



Three projects developed in Belgium are amongst the finalists competing for the **4th European eGovernment Awards 2009** - an initiative of the European Commission to stimulate innovation by identifying best practice examples using information and communication technologies in public sector organisations. This year 52 awards finalists from 17 countries are competing for the prizes. The winners will be announced on 19 November at the Ministerial eGovernment Conference 2009 in Malmö (Sweden). For the first time the finalists' projects are accessible online through a virtual exhibition.

Selected finalists 2009: Belgium

Three out of nine submissions from Belgium have been selected as awards finalists:

- **Front Office Employment (FOE)** offers a solution to implement a front office for employment addressed to both employers and their potential employees;
- **Digichambers** aims at reducing administrative burdens to obtain Certificates of Origin;
- **Plonegov** is a crossborder initiative to tackle digital divide and to support sustainable development in a collaborative way.

In addition, two Belgium cases were given a good practice label as a recognition.

Front Office Employment (FOE)

Employment measures made clear for employers and job-seekers

Category 2b: eGovernment empowering businesses



Front Office Employment is an interactive and multilingual web application comprising all measures taken by public authorities, both at federal and a community level, to stimulate employment in Belgium. Employers and their potential employees can search for and easily find all employment measures. FOE enables them to calculate the financial benefits and subsidies from which they could benefit in a real-life situation. → www.autravail.be

DigiChambers

Exporting made simple

Category 3: eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness



DigiChambers is a web application enabling exporters to apply for Certificates of Origin to certify where their goods were cultivated, produced or manufactured and, following approval by the Chamber of Commerce, to print them off. The system facilitates the verification of documents, signatures and stamps, thus reducing the administrative burden for businesses.

→ www.digichambers.be

Open-Source Collaboration for the Public Sector (PloneGov)

Working together to share the cost of enhanced capabilities

Category 3: eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness



PloneGov is a collaborative software ecosystem involving government organisations, non-profit organisations and the private sector. The objective is to deliver tools for public administrations and online web services to citizens more effectively and efficiently by reducing or eliminating the duplication of effort between localities through sharing and collaboration. PloneGov enables governments to benefit from greater technological independence and to build tools truly suited to their own needs. → www.plonegov.org





4th EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS 2009 – FACTS

- Submissions from 31 out of 34 eligible countries
- Total number of submissions: 259
- Number of finalists: 52 from 17 countries
- Number of finalists by categories:
 - Category 1: eGovernment supporting the Single Market - 5 finalists
 - Category 2a: eGovernment empowering citizens - 18 finalists
 - Category 2b: eGovernment empowering businesses - 6 finalists
 - Category 3: eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness - 23 finalists

4th EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS 2009 - CATEGORIES

- **Category 1. eGovernment supporting the Single Market:** strengthening the Single Market by increasing mobility for businesses and citizens in the EU;
- **Category 2. eGovernment empowering citizens:** improving access to public services for citizens;
- **Category 2b. eGovernment empowering businesses:** improving access to public services for companies, by creating business opportunities and generating savings for businesses (particularly SMEs);
- **Category 3. eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness:** making public services and administrative processes simpler and more efficient, thus reducing the administrative burden.

A separate **public prize** will be awarded based on the online votes cast by members of ePractice.eu (membership open to all).

EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS BACKGROUND

The purpose of the European eGovernment Awards is to support the implementation of European eGovernment policy and strategies and facilitate good practice exchange. In this context, since their launch in 2003 the Awards have been promoting the best ICT-based solutions for public services in Europe.

The European eGovernment Awards are organised every two years, coinciding with high-level EU Ministerial eGovernment conferences. Their aim is to monitor progress and identify policy and research priorities for the future. This year the 5th Ministerial eGovernment Conference, "Teaming up for the eUnion", is a European Commission-Swedish Presidency joint event. It will take place on 19-20 November 2009 in Malmö (Sweden). The European eGovernment Awards ceremony and Finalists Exhibition are integral parts of the conference.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Virtual Exhibition of European eGovernment Awards is accessible at <http://www.expopolis.com/>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Awards website: www.epractice.eu/en/awards

Full list of finalists: www.epractice.eu/en/awards/finalists

5th Ministerial eGovernment Conference, 19-20 Nov 2009, Malmö (SE): www.egov2009.se

Press queries: info-eGov-conference-press@ec.europa.eu Tel: +32 2 299 45 31

EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS CONSORTIUM

- Center for European Public Administration, AT www.donau-uni.ac.at/verwaltung
- Danish Technological Institute, DK www.teknologisk.dk
- RSO S.p.A., Rome, IT www.rso.it
- P.A.U. Education, ES www.paueducation.com

