



Two projects developed in Ireland 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: Ireland

Ireland submitted seven cases of which two have been selected as finalists:

- **losingyourjob.ie** website provides information for newly unemployed people;
- **Digital Book Service** facilitates use of eBooks and eAudio books in Dublin.

Irish partners are also involved in the following finalist cases: pan-European projects **EULIS** and **EUCARIS** (see Dutch country factsheet) and an international project, **PloneGov** (see Belgium country factsheet <http://www.epractice.eu/awardsmediakit>).

In addition, one Irish submission was recognised as good practice.

losingyourjob.ie: Irish website for newly unemployed people (Lyj)

Lost your job? A site for rights, benefits and help
Category 2a: eGovernment empowering citizens



provided by
the Citizens Information Board

Started in March 2009, losingyourjob.ie is a website provided by the Irish Citizens Information Board for those who have recently lost their job. The objective is to provide citizens with clear information on their rights, entitlements and options. The website also helps Citizens Information Centres to better manage requests from newly unemployed people and motivates them to take initiative and start-up their own business or go back to training, as well as providing essential information on benefits.

→ www.losingyourjob.ie

South Dublin Digital Book Service (SDDBS)

Digital books to innovate libraries
Category 2a: eGovernment empowering citizens



SDDBS was developed to streamline and ensure access for visually impaired citizens to the world of books and information. It is the first digital book service in Ireland and one of very few worldwide. Users can download eBooks and eAudio books for free to their MP3 players and portable devices using their library card for authentication. There is now 24/7 access, an essential feature in such a time-strapped world as ours. → www.southdublinlibraries.ie





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

