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## European ePractice Newsletter N. 270- 19 March 2009

### >> New Platform Launch

The ePractice.eu portal has been transferred to a new platform which now offers improvements and enhanced functionalities. Currently we are correcting some small mistakes. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause you. We are convinced that the enhancements in the new platform will benefit the ePractice community.

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### Latest Cases

- [dot health Top Level Domain](#) 13 March 2009 | Belgium , International Organizations
- [Open Source Software at the Swiss Federal \(Administrative\) Court](#) 3 March 2009 | Switzerland

Editor's Choice of the week: [Optimized assessment of suspicious items in Social Security](#)

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### dot health Top Level Domain

The goal and mission of the project is to respond first of all to the request expressed by ICANN to propose a generic Top Level Domain .health with a global and community based focus. It is not the intention of the consortium to go for financial benefit, but to generate the required technical structure, to build up the necessary legal processes and to integrate all medical staffing and related structures in this project. As both organisations have the necessary skills and relationships, ISfTeH being the representative partner in tele-medicine and e-Health, ISOC Belgium representing the policy and technical aspects related to the Internet world and the Internet user (being an ALS inside the ICANN structure), we are confident in expressing the desire to start off this project. The dot health consortium's basic methodology consists in bringing together interested and qualified partners in order to be able to cover all levels of medical authorities, staff and participants as well as the appropriate and qualified technical partners to accomplish the basic goals of the project. It speaks for itself, government will also be invited as many of the issues to be handled in cross border situations will depend on national and intercontinental law.

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### Open Source Software at the Swiss Federal (Administrative) Court

In 2001 the Swiss Federal Court moved its IT infrastructure to Solaris by Sun Microsystems, using StarOffice as a text processor. This move was necessary, as the previously deployed all-in-one platform that was used since the early 1990s could no longer meet the needs of the Federal Court. With this also came the introduction of open source applications such as Gnome, Firefox and the Evolution mail client. Among the goals were vendor independence and the implementation of open standards. The IT solution was extended to the newly formed Swiss Federal Administrative Court in 2007, where it has struggled to find acceptance mainly due to organisational reasons.

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## Latest News

- [EU: SEMIC.EU repository registers 100th interoperability asset](#) 17 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
  - [GR: Tele-welfare services by the Municipality of Trikala expanded to all patients](#) 16 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
  - [HU: Developing the next generation of the Client Gate](#) 16 March 2009 | Hungary
  - [EU: Launch of new online platform presenting results of EU-funded projects](#) 16 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
  - [EU: Final Countdown for the European Public Sector Award 2009](#) 13 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
  - [CZ: Government approves proposal to facilitate access to spatial information](#) 13 March 2009 | Czech Republic
  - [FR: New online reporting service for pesticides distributors](#) 13 March 2009 | France
  - [UK: Government to actively and fairly consider open source solutions](#) 13 March 2009 | United Kingdom
  - [EU: Commission adapts monitoring mechanism of 2004 Microsoft Decision](#) 13 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
  - [EU: Open Source Initiative approves European Union Public licence](#) 13 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
  - [IE: Ireland's eGovernment Awards 2009 winners](#) 13 March 2009 | Ireland
  - [HR: Cautious start for open standards in new eGovernment policy](#) 13 March 2009 | Croatia
  - [RO: e-CAESAR: eService-Centre for Romania](#) 5 March 2009 | Romania
  - [EU: Launch of public Survey on European eInclusion Policy](#) 4 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
  - [EU: Creation of formal body to help align eHealth systems across the EU announced](#) 3 March 2009 | Eu Institutions
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## EU: SEMIC.EU repository registers 100th interoperability asset 17 March 2009

*The Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe's repository of interoperability assets has passed an important milestone. Two new core components were provided by the French Ministry of Budget's General Directorate for State Modernisation ([DGME](#)), pushing the number of available solutions into the triple digits.*

The 100th asset is a specification of "[Financial Institution](#)" in France. It is used as a standard to describe an institution, such as a bank, building society, credit union, stock brokerage, or similar business.

Other data models and solutions span domains as diverse as employment and energy, agriculture and public health.

SEMIC.EU cooperates with numerous European projects and experts. Among the providers are the European Commission itself, Eurostat, the eGovernment units of Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, regional agencies from Italy and Spain as well as international organisations like OASIS and the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative.

Examples of transnational interoperability assets:

- [MoReq2](#) (Model Requirements for the Management of Electronic Records)
- [IDABC's schemas for public procurement](#)
- [European Arrest Warrant](#)

Examples of national models include:

- [Interprana](#) (extensive Italian model for person-related data)
- [Austrian life event catalogue](#)

As a service, SEMIC.EU gives active support to eGovernment projects that intend to reuse existing semantic solutions tailored to their own needs.

The Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe is one of the "horizontal measures" of the European Commission's programme "Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Businesses and

Citizens" ([IDABC](#)). Others include the European Interoperability Framework ([EIF](#)), the Open Source Observatory and Repository ([OSOR.eu](#)) and the European Union Public Licence ([EUPL](#)).

**Further information:**

- [SEMIC.EU Portal](#)
  - [Access to SEMIC.EU Repository - Asset Browser](#)
  - [Requests and support SEMIC.EU](#)
  - [European Commission's IDABC programme](#)
  - [Contact IDABC](#)
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## **GR: Tele-welfare services by the Municipality of Trikala expanded to all patients**

**16 March 2009**

*The Greek Municipality of Trikala is implementing an innovative "tele-welfare" program which will allow doctors to monitor elderly people and chronically ill patients through the Internet and telephone networks.*

Patients fulfilling certain criteria will be supplied with portable (electro) cardiographs, sphygmomanometers (blood-pressure meters) and other biological telemetry devices, which will transmit measured data to the Municipality's "Tele-welfare" center through a fixed or mobile phone network. The competent doctors will be able to read these data through the Internet.

If the vital signs of a patient indicate abnormalities, that patient will be requested to modify his/her medical treatment or to enter the hospital for further treatment. The medical history of each patient is kept in a special data management system of the "Tele-welfare" Center.

This "tele-welfare" service is implemented by the Municipality in the context of the "Information Society" program and addresses patients with diseases that require intensive monitoring namely arrhythmia, chronic heart failure, spasmodic asthma and hypertension.

Up to recently the service has only been available to patients who have been diagnosed in public hospitals or other public health bodies. According to the Municipality, as of this day this service will also be available to patients who consult private doctors.

The Municipality of Trikala also supplies its citizens with more ICT technologies, among which is the free for all wireless Internet connection.

**Further information:**

- [In.gr news article \(in Greek\)](#)
  - [Official press release of the Municipality of Trikala regarding the participation in the implementation of European eHealth programs \(in Greek\)](#)
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## **HU: Developing the next generation of the Client Gate 16 March 2009**

*A new version of the Client Gate, the "corridor" enabling the use of electronic public services in Hungary, is currently being developed. It is expected to start operation in December 2009.*

The Client Gate is the electronic client access and identification system accessible via the Hungarian eGovernment portal. It is a gateway allowing users to securely identify themselves online and gain access to any available transactional government service. The Client Gate has been operating since April 2005 and has about 700 thousand registered users.

*The ongoing development of the Client Gate II has been considered necessary because even though the basic elements and services of the system are established, the satisfaction of the permanently growing demand requires*

that further steps be taken. The updated system is also planned to facilitate the introduction of new public and healthcare services as well as the adoption of even more user friendly applications.

Client Gate II will be implemented thanks to approximately €16 million of full EU support in 2009.

The development also includes the establishment of physical access points throughout Hungary where people will be provided with information on how to use the Client Gate. In addition, the involvement of assistants for managing one's personal affairs will also be possible.

Ferenc Baja, the Government Commissioner responsible for Information and Communication, said that these developments will allow the Central Electronic Service System - the basis of the Hungarian eGovernment - to cover the entire management of the active citizens' affairs within a period of five to ten years.

The Client Gate is among the important components of the Central Electronic Service System, together with the Electronic Government Backbone, the eGovernment Portal, the Government Customer Information Service and the totality of services available through these platforms.

**Further information:**

- [Original Press release - Hungary's eGovernment portal \(in Hungarian\)](#)
- [ePractice Case of "Client Gate - Customer entry and identification system of Hungary"](#)

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## **EU: Launch of new online platform presenting results of EU-funded projects 16** March 2009

***Called 'EVE' (Espace Virtuel d'Échange), the new platform is freely accessible online and contains detailed information on projects funded under the EU's action programmes in education, culture, youth and citizenship.***

The platform was officially launched by Ján Figel', the European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, on 2 March 2009 at a conference and exhibition on creative and innovative projects funded by the EU.

"With EVE, it will be easier for project-managers to learn from the successes of the past," he said. "The information is structured in such a way that the results can be adapted and transferred to new contexts. EVE will allow project promoters to establish networks and will give their projects more visibility."

Participants at the conference on creativity and innovation in EU-funded projects discussed ways of ensuring the best possible results and long-term impact. The theme of the event was chosen in line with the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009.

Workshops focussed on creativity and innovation in lifelong learning; the links between creativity and innovation and entrepreneurship; cultural awareness and creative partnerships.

Participants stressed that the EU can create crucial European added value by acting as a facilitator in several ways: by giving financial support in initial project phases where risk-taking is a major concern, by providing supporting structures that allow projects to concentrate on their core objectives, or by creating brands such as the European capitals of culture as a means of recognition.

In order to reap the benefits of EU-funded projects, the debates concluded that project results and experiences need to be carefully examined for their potential to be transferred to other contexts. Participants appreciated the cross-sectoral approach of the conference, since it reflected the benefits of linking people from very diverse sectors, backgrounds and environments in innovative project partnerships, or, as one panellist put it, by bringing together people with pressing real-world needs with actors from more traditional learning contexts, research and academia.

**Further information:**

- [Original, full press release RAPID - European Commission](#)
- [EVE platform](#)
- [Conference/exhibition "Creativity and Innovation - Best practice from European Union programmes"](#)

- [European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 - European Commission](#)
- [More on 30 outstanding projects - Creativity and Innovation. Best practices from EU programmes](#)

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## **EU: Final Countdown for the European Public Sector Award 2009 13 March 2009**

***The call for applications for the European Public Sector Award 2009 (EPSA 2009) competition is open until 20 March 2009.***

During the recent years, the public sector has faced a number of global challenges that have strongly impacted on the way European Public Administrations function. The second European Public Sector Award rewards the efforts made within institutions or organisations to deal with these challenges.

The award categories are aimed at promoting awareness of key dimensions of public value; in doing so, the EPSA intends to encourage governments to modernise their administrative structures and practices and address the essential themes of administrative reform in Europe.

There are [four themes of focus of EPSA 2009](#), as follows:

- Performance Improvement in Public Service Delivery
- Citizen Involvement
- New Forms of Partnership Working
- Leadership and Management for Change

All public sector institutions from all levels and all over Europe - with special attention laid upon local and regional approaches, as well as public sector enterprises, agencies or public-private partnerships - are eligible to submit their projects for the award. In any case, the lead applicant must be a public sector actor.

Submissions must be performed online under the chosen thematic area after registering with the system.

The second European Public Sector Award is organised by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) with the institutional and financial support of 15 European States and the European Commission under the patronage of Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner responsible for Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud.

The EPSA 2009 will be awarded on the occasion of a high-level conference on leading-edge public administration solutions, to be held in Maastricht (the Netherlands) on 5 and 6 November 2009, under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency.

### **Further information:**

- [EPSA 2009 website](#)
- [EPSA 2009 themes](#)

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## **CZ: Government approves proposal to facilitate access to spatial information 13 March 2009**

***On 2 March 2009, the Czech Government approved a proposal from the Ministry of Environment to amend the Act on the right to information on the environment. This will enable the public to gain free access to spatial information (maps).***

The amendment aims to transpose into national legislation the requirements of the EU Directive 2007/2/EC establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community ([INSPIRE Directive](#)). The text of the Czech Act on the right to information on the environment (no. 123/1998 Coll.) will thus be extended to a relatively independent field: the one governing the conditions for the development and provision of spatial data.

"People have a right to know about the state of the environment and to get maximum information as simply as possible", commented on this occasion Rut Bízková, the Czech Deputy Minister for the Environment.

The Public Administration obtains and creates spatial data when performing various parts of its work. Following the amendment, the disclosure of this spatial data in the form of maps and map layers becomes compulsory for the Ministry of the Environment through the maps section of the Public Administration portal ([www.portal.gov.cz](http://www.portal.gov.cz)), the [national Geo-Portal](#) administered by CENIA, the Czech Environmental Information Agency.

Citizens will not need to use any specific application to access the free-of-charge maps.

"The active provision of information, when possible, is among the important principles laid down in the Act on the right to information on the environment, as well as in the Aarhus Convention to which the Czech Republic is a party." said Deputy Minister Bízková.

Access to spatial data can be restricted or denied for motives of security threats, privacy protection or other public interest reasons (e.g. no accurate map data on the occurrence of endangered animals will be made publicly available).

To facilitate their handling by users, each map will have to comply with certain technical parameters. The map searching and browsing through the Geo-Portal will be entirely free, whereas their download and analysis as well as other specific actions will be charged for.

#### Further information:

- [Original press release - Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic \(in Czech\)](#)
- [INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC](#)
- [Czech Geo-Portal \(in Czech\)](#)
- [Czech Public Administration portal](#)

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## FR: New online reporting service for pesticides distributors 13 March 2009

*The French Minister for Sustainable Development launched the Internet site "[Phyto licence fee and sales traceability](#)" which aims to make it easier for the distributors of phytosanitary products (pesticides) to comply with their legal duties.*

The French law of 30 December 2006 on water and aquatic environments has set out two obligations for the distributors of phytosanitary products. These are required to convey to the relevant Water Agencies: (1) a declaration of diffuse pollution (to determine the pesticides licence fee - the "*redevance phyto*" in French), and (2) a pesticides sales report covering the past year. Both obligations will apply for the first time in 2009 and must be fulfilled by 31 March 2009 at the latest.

The new "Phyto licence fee and sales traceability" website proposes a single online procedure for fulfilling both obligations. It features a template form for transmitting to the Water Agencies one's report of pesticides sales over the previous year. The information is provided by product and by quantity (expressed in litres or kilograms, depending on the type of product).

The single document is available in three formats (.xls, online and XML) which have been respectively designed to meet the needs and IT capacities of each type of business. The use of this form and its electronic transmission to the Water Agencies offer two advantages, namely:

- By formulating their declaration of diffuse pollution in terms of "product quantity", distributors avoid calculating the quantity of substances contained in each product sold during the previous year.
- By sending this form, distributors convey at the same time their yearly pesticides sales report, thus guaranteeing the traceability of sales.

The new website is the result of a partnership between the Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning, the Water Agencies and the National Office for Water and Aquatic Environments (ONEMA), with the technical support of the National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks (INERIS).

Both the licence fee for diffuse pollution and the sales traceability of phytosanitary products are intended to contribute to achieving the national policy objective of reducing by half, if possible, the use of pesticides within the next ten years and of having water resources in good state in 2015. Likewise, both measures have been designed for supporting the monitoring and limitation of the water resources' contamination resulting from the use of pesticides.

**Further information:**

- [Original press release - French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning \(in French\)](#)
- [Website "Phyto licence fee and sales traceability" \(in French\)](#)

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## **UK: Government to actively and fairly consider open source solutions 13 March 2009**

***The UK Government will increase its use of open source software and open standards, according to an action plan published on 24 February 2009. "Where there is no significant overall cost difference between open and non-open source products, open source will be selected on the basis of its additional inherent flexibility", is one of the elements of the Government's policy.***

According to a spokesperson for the cabinet, the new policy reflects changes to both the open source market and the Government's approach to IT. "In setting out this action we will make sure of a level playing field for open source software, and encourage the use of open standards and re-use of software the Government has already paid for."

The policy includes ten actions regarding open source, proprietary software, re-use of software and open standards.

Explicitly referring to open standards, the Government shows that it wants to ensure that systems are interoperable and that it wishes to avoid getting locked in to a particular product. The policy document states that the Government will specify requirements by reference to open standards and require compliance with open standards.

The Government indicates that it will support the use of Open Document Format (ODF) as well as emerging open versions of previously proprietary standards. "It will work to ensure that government information is available in open formats, and it will make this a required standard for government websites."

The action plan, published on the web site of the Cabinet's CIO, says the "Government will actively and fairly consider open source solutions alongside proprietary ones in making procurement decisions." When procuring software, it will take into account "total lifetime cost of ownership of the solution, including exit and transition costs."

"The government will, wherever possible, avoid becoming locked in to proprietary software. In particular it will take exit, rebid and rebuild costs into account in procurement decisions and will require those proposing proprietary software to specify how exit would be achieved."

"Open source has been one of the most significant cultural developments in IT and beyond over the last two decades: it has shown that individuals, working together over the Internet, can create products that rival and sometimes beat those of giant corporations", writes Tom Watson, Minister for Digital Engagement in the foreword to the action plan.

**Further information:**

- [Full, original version of this news article by OSOR.EU](#)
- [Open Source, Open Standards and Re-Use: UK Government Action Plan](#)
- [Open Source section of the website of the Chief Information Officer Council](#)

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## **EU: Commission adapts monitoring mechanism of 2004 Microsoft Decision 13 March 2009**

***The European Commission has adapted the nature of the technical assistance it receives to facilitate its monitoring of Microsoft's compliance with the [Commission's 2004 Microsoft Decision](#).***

As specified in this decision, Microsoft has an ongoing obligation to supply complete and accurate interoperability information. However, the Commission decided it no longer requires a full time monitoring trustee to assess Microsoft's compliance with the decision. In future, the Commission intends to rely on the ad hoc assistance of technical consultants.

This evolution is due to three main factors:

- The original set of interoperability information has already been documented by Microsoft;
- There has been increased opportunities through private enforcement provisions in Microsoft's license agreements for third parties to exercise their rights directly before national courts;
- Experience has been gained since the adoption of the Commission's 2004 decision.

The Commission therefore considers that the monitoring that is still necessary, can now be performed more appropriately with the help of technical consultants - available under a framework service contract - to advise on issues that arise from time to time.

In line with this, the Commission has adopted on 4 March 2009 a Decision which removes the Trustee provision from the 2004 Decision and repeals the 2005 Trustee Decision which provided for the modalities of the monitoring mechanism and the appointment of a monitoring trustee.

The Commission nevertheless specified that it highly appreciates the excellent quality of the work that the former monitoring trustee has provided since 2005.

## Background

In the 2004 Decision of 24 March 2004, the Commission found that Microsoft had infringed Article 82 of the EC Treaty and Article 54 of the EEA Agreement by refusing to supply interoperability information and by tying Windows Media Player with Windows. As a result, it imposed a fine and remedies aimed at bringing to an end the abuses in question.

By separate decision of 28 July 2005, the Commission established a monitoring mechanism that provided for the appointment of a monitoring trustee and stipulated that Microsoft had to bear the costs of remunerating the trustee and his operation.

On 7 June 2004, Microsoft lodged an application for the annulment of the 2004 Decision with the EU's Court of First Instance (CFI). The judgment of the Court of First Instance of 17 September 2007 in Case T-201/04 partially annulled Article 7 of the 2004 Decision, in particular insofar as it provided that all the costs associated with the appointment of the monitoring trustee, including his remuneration, be borne by Microsoft and dismissed the remainder of Microsoft's application for annulment of this Decision.

## Further information:

- [Full press release of the European Commission - RAPID](#)
- [ePractice news of 5 March 2008 "EU: Microsoft claims substantial shift towards more interoperability and openness"](#)
- [ePractice news of 7 November 2007 "EU: Microsoft to comply with March 2004 Antitrust-Decision"](#)
- [Complete chronology of the Microsoft case](#)

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## EU: Open Source Initiative approves European Union Public licence 13 March 2009

***The Open Source Initiative (OSI), one of the principal advocacy organisations on open source software, has unanimously approved the European Union Public Licence (EUPL) version 1.1 as an open source licence on 4 March 2009.***

"This is very good news", commented Karel De Vriendt, head of the European Commission's e-Government programme (IDABC) that is responsible for the development and maintenance of the open source licence. "OSI's decision certifies that the EUPL is 100 percent compliant with their definition of open source. This will help to convince European public administrations which are developing software for their e-Government systems, that the EUPL is a true open source licence."

Version 1.1 of the EUPL was published by the European Commission on 9 January 2009. The licence is available in 22 linguistic versions which all have identical value. This means that developers who want to use the licence can pick whichever language version they prefer.

## Proliferation

The OSI is increasingly strict with new licences, to prevent licence proliferation, says Martin Michlmayr, one of the OSI board members. In an interview with the German Linux Magazine Online last week, he said he expects the EUPL to be of true value. "For the first time we have a license available in all European languages, valid everywhere and with all translations legally scrutinised."

The EUPL is also compatible with the GNU Public License version 2 (GPLv2). Michlmayr: "If you combine EUPL code with GPLv2 code, you can distribute the combination under the terms of the GPL. Given the widespread adoption of GPLv2, that's a very useful provision."

## Further information:

- [Original news article by OSOR.EU](#)
- [List of OSI approved open source licences](#)
- [Information on EUPL in the OSOR.EU website](#)

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## IE: Ireland's eGovernment Awards 2009 winners 13 March 2009

*Ireland's eGovernment Awards 2009 ceremony was held on 19 February 2009 in Dublin. The Overall Winner of the competition and the winner of the Local eGovernment Award is South Dublin County Council for the [Digital Book Services](#). The novelty of this year's edition was the launch of a new category, the People's Choice eGovernment Award.*

The South Dublin City Council Digital Book Services enable users to sign up for the library service, download audio books and reserve books online, providing direct access from their own home or office to those with visual or literacy problems.

New to Ireland's eGovernment Awards 2009 was the People's Choice eGovernment Award. Citizens could vote online for an eGovernment service that made a significant impact in Ireland. The winner in this category is "An Post", for the [TV Licence Online Service](#).

The winners in the remaining categories included:

- Ireland's Accessible eGovernment Award: Department of Social & Family Affairs for [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie);
- Ireland's Central eGovernment Award: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for Livestock Marts Online Project;
- Ireland's Cross Agency eGovernment Award: Irish Spatial Data Exchange Programme for [www.isde.ie](http://www.isde.ie);
- Ireland's Education eGovernment Award: Higher Education Authority for [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie);
- Ireland's Irish Language eGovernment Award: Meath County Council & NUI Maynooth for <http://nuaghaeilge.nuim.ie/nuimhi.shtml>;
- Ireland's Marketing eGovernment Award: ESB for [www.culgreen.ie](http://www.culgreen.ie);
- Ireland's Project Management eGovernment Award: The National Tourism Development Authority, Fáilte Ireland for [www.iaa.ie/webcheck](http://www.iaa.ie/webcheck);
- Ireland's State Body eGovernment Award: An Post GeoDirectory for [www.geodirectory.ie](http://www.geodirectory.ie).

Ireland's eGovernment Awards are the recognised benchmark for excellence in Irish eGovernment services and standards. They are intended to raise awareness and recognise the innovators, developers, forward thinkers and experts who are pioneering the changes happening in the way the Irish Government delivers services to its citizens.

The judging panel was composed of experts in eGovernment including representatives from the Taoiseach's (Prime Minister) office, education sector and the European Union. This year's ceremony Guest of Honour was Minister Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister of Social & Family Affairs.

## Further information:

- [Website of Ireland's eGovernment Awards 2009](#)
  - [Press release](#)
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## **HR: Cautious start for open standards in new eGovernment policy 13 March 2009**

The fifth principle in the policy document stipulates that whenever the Government makes information publicly available through an electronic system, this must be done in such a way that users can access this freely. Users should not be forced to use proprietary software, explains the document. "Government bodies must use standards that do not force end-users to use commercial technology or restrict the users in any other way."

However, the document does not define open standards and the two words are literally mentioned only once. In one of the so-called action lines, number 18, the policy document states that open standards are a requirement for Public Administration's web sites.

The eGovernment policy was published on 22 January. According to the introduction, it is meant to help the country's public bodies to build modern electronic services for Croatia's citizens.

According to a statement on the website of the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia (e-Hrvatska), the country is about to begin a first set of pilot projects to make Public Administration services available in electronic form. The pilot should help figure out what methods work best and which standards should apply. "This will be the start of a new communication network to offer electronic public services."

Moreover, the policy document just refers once to the Government's open source strategy, published in 2006. The Government wants public bodies to procure IT in line with this open source software policy. "Open source software enables more rational distribution of state budget funds because it creates the environment in which domestic suppliers/manufacturers may be more actively involved in any phase of the development, maintenance and use of the information and communications systems."

### **Further information:**

- [Full, original version of this news article by OSOR.EU](#)
  - [ePractice news item "eGovernment Development Strategy 2009-2012 adopted"](#)
  - [Croatian Linux user group](#)
  - [Website of the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia \(e-Hrvatska\)](#)
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## **RO: e-CAESAR: eService-Centre for Romania 5 March 2009**

On 17 February 2009, representatives from the University Politehnica of Bucharest (UPB), the Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest (ASE) and Fraunhofer FOKUS signed the agreement in a ceremonial manner, thus laying the foundations to set up the centre in Bucharest.

The festive opening event included speeches from both Romanian and German Research Ministries, the Ministries for Telecommunications and Information Technology and many other high ranking representatives from government and industry and piqued a strong interest in the broader Romanian professional public.

The presence of high ranking members of the Romanian Government at the event underlines the high level of importance that the bilateral establishment of this alliance is being afforded in the eGovernment arena; also by the Romanian Government. A wide range of approaches to research and current key questions were discussed at the eService workshop which took place on the following day, as part of e-CAESAR and this was also highly successful.

The new institution is establishing a long term bilateral collaboration between Romanian research institutions and Fraunhofer FOKUS Berlin.

The aim of this centre, founded by Fraunhofer FOKUS, the University Politehnica of Bucharest (UPB) and the Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest (ASE), is to carry out research in the eService arena as well as to set up an eService platform in Romania and its southern European neighbours.

E-CAESAR's main topics of interest include international interoperability in eGovernment and standardisation, service oriented infrastructure, increased security in administrative processes and the cross-border exchange of services. The centre is supported by the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

*Note: Article published with the permission of the source, the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communications Systems FOKUS*

**Further information:**

- [Original press release by the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communications Systems FOKUS](#)
- [e-CAESAR website](#)

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## **EU: Launch of public Survey on European eInclusion Policy 4 March 2009**

The objective of this survey is to gather the views of all those interested on the following points:

- The role of eInclusion in the future European strategy on the Information Society that will succeed the 'i2010' initiative;
- The European programmes and activities supporting eInclusion;
- The cooperation modalities between the European Commission services and relevant stakeholders regarding eInclusion activities.

The survey has been formulated in five languages (DE, EN, ES, FR and IT) and can be answered to accordingly.

In addition to responding to the survey, position papers (of maximum 3 pages each and in A4 format) can be also sent to [eInclusion@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eInclusion@ec.europa.eu). Those sending position papers are requested to indicate if the paper and the name of the author can be made public or not.

Note: In the event of accessibility issues, the survey is directly available in document format, or on demand, by sending an email to [eInclusion@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eInclusion@ec.europa.eu).

**Further information:**

- [Link to the Online Survey on the European eInclusion Policy – Interactive Policy Making tool](#)
- [Original press release and links to the survey in document format – Europe's Information Society Thematic Portal](#)
- [Official documents on the European eInclusion policy](#)

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## **EU: Creation of formal body to help align eHealth systems across the EU announced 3 March 2009**

The formal body will include representatives from all Member States who will "take into account all views at a higher political level," said Marek Snajdr, the first Deputy Minister of Health for the Czech Republic, during a press conference. Mr. Snajdr disclosed some basic information about the "formal body", revealing that it would serve as an umbrella organization to provide a communications platform for eHealth interoperability. He further stated that the body would be dedicated to establishing data protection standards.

Asked by HealthTech Wire if he expected the body to be able to address strong resistance at national level to the implementation of some tried and tested eHealth solutions, Mr. Snajdr said that this was exactly the reason why the body had been founded.

"We would like the body to create a political arena and environment to convince stakeholders that eHealth is beneficial. It might help implementations at national level if all stakeholders see that there is international coordination," Snajdr said. He added that in the case of his own country, it was very difficult to implement the legislation needed for the storage of ePrescription data. "If we succeed in creating common standards in terms of data protection, this will be good for everyone," he said.

Snajdr outlined that the variety and incompatibility of eHealth systems used across Europe as well as the different stages of implementation are the main adoption barriers. Another critical aspect is that many people are wary of eHealth solutions and are afraid of innovation. "Politicians must address these concerns," Snajdr said.

The informal meeting of the state secretaries concluded that the barriers to adopting eHealth were similar across all EU countries. International coordination should now avoid the addition of new barriers and ensure that all systems become interoperable while also adequately involving all stakeholders – at a technical, professional and political level.

The conclusions of the informal meeting of the state secretaries will be discussed during the ministerial council in June 2009.

*Note: Source – [HealthTech Wire](#). This article has been published on 19 February 2009 in the European Commission's ICT for Health GoDirect channel at [www.healthtechwire.com/ictforhealth](http://www.healthtechwire.com/ictforhealth).*

#### Further information:

- [ePractice news – EU: Call for action to build an eHealth area for European citizens](#)

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### Latest Publications

- [AT/EU: Austria on the way to a “European Shared Environmental Information System](#) 16 March 2009 | Austria EU Institutions
- [GL: Assessing the opportunities and the pertinence of eHealth in developing countries](#) 06 March 2009 | Africa Asia Central and South America
- [NL: Competition, innovation and intellectual property rights in software markets](#) 03 March 2009 | Netherlands
- [EU: Citizen First Evaluation & Monitoring Report](#) 22 December 2008 | EU Institutions
- [EU: Opinion of High Level Group on public procurement reform](#) 10 December 2008 | EU Institutions

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## AT/EU: Austria on the way to a “European Shared Environmental Information System 16 March 2009 | Austria EU Institutions

### Description (short summary):

With the amendment to the Environmental Information Act (EIA) 2004, Austria transposed Directive 2003/4/EC on Public Access to Environmental Information into national law at the federal level. The amended Environmental Information Act sets high requirements for access to and dissemination of environmental information; these must be implemented by the federal government and the federal provinces, as well as towns, cities and municipalities. A new level of cooperation between these entities must be reached, thereby providing an important contribution to greater transparency and bringing environmental administration closer to Austrian citizens.

In order to ensure the coordinated implementation of the required operative measures by all targeted information providing bodies, an eGovernment working group on environmental information has been set up within the framework of the platform «digital Austria». One of the major objectives of the eGovernment working group on environmental information is the development of a central environmental information portal (one-stop shop) which is in line with the intentions of the European Commission for a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

### Original URL:

<http://www.ref.gv.at/SEIS-Gemeinsames-Europaeisch.1718.0.html>

Number of pages: 3

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## GL: Assessing the opportunities and the pertinence of eHealth in developing countries 06 March 2009 | Africa Asia Central and South America

**Description (short summary):**

This paper constitutes a general exploration of eHealth activities in developing countries.

More and more, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are available and can act as a catalyst for the improvement of health in all parts of the world. Even in poor countries, various initiatives tend to spread the technology among the population.

Among the numerous elements contributing to individual's wellbeing, health is arguably one of the most fundamental keystones. In spite of huge progress made in the area of medical research, a large part of the world population is still affected by diseases that can not be addressed, either by lack of scientific knowledge or because of financial constraints. This statement is especially accurate in economically deprived countries where some people do not have access to the most basic medical services. In many places, life expectancy is lower than 45 years whilst it is estimated at about 80 years in the European Union. Beside the role health plays for human wellbeing, it is also a crucial factor influencing the economic prosperity of a country. In a developmental approach, investing in better healthcare in poor countries seems thus a very judicious choice.

**Original URL:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/admin-burdens-reduction/highlevelgroup\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/admin-burdens-reduction/highlevelgroup_en.htm)

**Number of pages:** 36

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**NL: Competition, innovation and intellectual property rights in software markets**  
03 March 2009 | Netherlands**Description (short summary):**

This study analyses under which circumstances it may be desirable for the government to stimulate open source software as a response to market failures in software markets. To consider whether policy intervention can increase dynamic efficiency, the document discusses the differences between proprietary software and open source software with respect to the incentives to innovate and market failures that may occur. The document proposes guidelines to determine which types of policy intervention may be suitable.

The most important finding is that directly stimulating open source software, e.g. by acting as a lead customer, can improve dynamic efficiency if (i) there is a serious customer lock-in problem, while (ii) to develop the software, there is no need to purchase specific, complementary inputs at a substantial cost, and (iii) follow-on innovations are socially valuable but there are impediments to contractual agreements between developers that aim at realizing such innovations.

**Original URL:**

<http://www.cpb.nl/eng/pub/cpbreeksen/document/181/>

**Number of pages:** 54

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**EU: Citizen First Evaluation & Monitoring Report 22 December 2008 | EU**  
Institutions**Description (short summary):**

The original Citizen First project was extended to develop local eGovernment citizen-centric services to become more socially-inclusive. The consortium aimed to outreach its results beyond the current consortium and to make available key practical guidelines to all NWE regions, and actively participate in the Commission's 2008 eInclusion Initiative.

For the extension project, the original five partners were reduced to four: the Municipality of Ieper in Belgium did not continue with the project beyond its original end date.

The four remaining partners were:

- The Mid-West Regional Authority - Ireland (MWRA);
- Cambridgeshire County Council - UK (CCC);
- The Regional Authority of Eindhoven - The Netherlands (SRE);
- The Municipality of Kortrijk - Belgium (KORT)

This report draws together the findings of the evaluation reports of the Citizen First Pilots, which have been written up by the project partners (Appendices 3 -6) in the agreed common Citizen First case study format (Appendix 2) where the same elements are covered for each of the pilots.

**Original URL:** <http://www.citizen-first.net/>

**Number of pages:** 129

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## **EU: Opinion of High Level Group on public procurement reform 10 December 2008 | EU Institutions**

### **Description (short summary):**

The High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens (HLG) was set up inter alia to advise the Commission on suggestions for administrative burdens reduction measures coming from the Consortium and from stakeholders through the internet consultation. The Consortium has submitted a draft report concerning administrative cost and burden in the priority area of public procurement.

Based on this report and with input from the Commission, the present opinion has been prepared. It constitutes the HLG's advice to the Commission on administrative burden reduction in this area.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/admin-burdens-reduction/highlevelgroup\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/admin-burdens-reduction/highlevelgroup_en.htm)

**Number of pages:** 5

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## **ePractice Workshops**

ePractice.eu combines online and offline activities. Workshops are held on a monthly basis, giving participants the opportunity to discuss the latest issues and cases face-to-face.

- [eGovernment Impact Measurement](#) | 01 January 1970 | Hungary

Co-branding your event with ePractice.eu is possible. Please read our terms at [epractice.eu/workshops](http://epractice.eu/workshops)

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## **Upcoming Events**

- [BE: European e-ID Interoperability Conference 2009](#) 17-18 March 2009 | Belgium
  - [DE: Challenges for FTTB/H in Europe](#) 23-24 March 2009 | Germany
  - [SK: Demonstrating the benefits of European Territorial Cooperation](#) 23-24 March 2009 | Slovakia
  - [BE: 2009 EURO-AFRICA cooperation forum on ICT Research](#) 25-26 March 2009 | Belgium
  - [ES: e-STAS 2009](#) 25-27 March 2009 | Spain
  - [CZ: European Conference 'Towards eEnvironment 2009'](#) 25-27 March 2009 | Czech Republic
  - [DE: European Accessibility Forum Frankfurt](#) 27 March 2009 | Germany
  - [CN: Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications- China '09](#) 21-22 April 2009 | Asia
  - [CZ: 7th Eastern European eGov Days](#) 22-24 April 2009 | Czech Republic
  - [UK: ePS Annual Conference 2009](#) 23-24 April 2009 | United Kingdom
  - [LU: Med-e-Tel 2009](#) 1-3 April 2009 | Luxembourg
  - [CZ: ICT Information Day & Brokerage Event 2009](#) 29-30 April 2009 | Czech Republic
  - [UK: Patient 2.0 Empowerment - EHR for Personalizing and Improving Care](#) 1-3 June 2009 | United Kingdom
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## BE: European e-ID Interoperability Conference 2009 17-18 March 2009 | Belgium

*European e-ID Interoperability Conference 2009, "Current Perspective and Initiatives from around Europe in Government and Business"*

In its fourth year, this annual conference acts as a neutral forum where industry and administrations can address specific areas of importance in the digital identity arena. It also facilitates the exchange of ideas amongst delegates who want to learn and build upon their knowledge in a relaxed, constructive environment.

The European e-ID Interoperability Conference 2009 will examine how the cross border electronic identity (e-ID) large scale pilots (LSPs) and National schemes are progressing and the implications for governments, administrations, businesses and the citizen alike. It will focus on key subject areas such as those listed below:

- Secure Identity Across Borders Linked (STORK) – Pan European Public Procurement OnLine (PEPPOL) - European Patients Smart Open Services (EPSOS) - Objectives, Current position and Interworking together;
- Examples of how countries and businesses are rolling-out their e-ID schemes;
- Discovering the key legal, data protection and privacy implications;
- The technical issues and solutions (additionally the future use of RFID & NFC applications);
- The latest strategies for maximising the security of e-ID (including two-factor authentication);
- The cross border interoperability challenges and their possible solutions Applications and solutions driven by national e-ID card implementations;
- Mobile applications.

The agenda of the event is available [here](#). There is a participation fee for the event, €200 for eema members, and €400 for non-members. The number of attendees is expected to be around 120. Online registration will open shortly.

Event email: [f.hawkins@eema.org](mailto:f.hawkins@eema.org)

Event website: <http://www.eema.org/>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: European Association for e-identity and security (eema)

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## DE: Challenges for FTTB/H in Europe 23-24 March 2009 | Germany

*International WIK (Wissenschaftliches Institut für Infrastruktur und Kommunikationsdienste) conference: Challenges for FTTB/H in Europe*

This international conference constitutes an open event that will focus on critical issues related to the creation of a high-speed Internet access infrastructure for Europe (FTTB/H - Fiber to the Building / Fiber to the Home). It addresses issues such as technology, deployment & operation, regulation, investment & financing, national fibre broadband strategies and business cases.

The conference aims to provide insights into the experiences, expectations and perspectives of leading international network operators, national regulatory authorities, and representatives of the European Commission, government officials, investors, equipment manufacturers and independent experts.

Participation in this conference is fixed at € 590 per person + VAT. Registration is to be performed by completing the dedicated [form](#) which is to be submitted prior to 10 March 2009 by fax to the following number: +49 2224 922 563. The expected number of participants to attend this event will vary from 120 to 150 persons.

The draft agenda of the event may also be viewed [here](#).

Event email: [fttbh-conference-2009@wik.org](mailto:fttbh-conference-2009@wik.org)

Event website: [http://www.wik.org/content\\_e/challenge\\_of\\_fttb.htm](http://www.wik.org/content_e/challenge_of_fttb.htm)

Country: Germany

City/Location: Berlin

Organiser: WIK (Wissenschaftliches Institut für Infrastruktur und Kommunikationsdienste)

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## **SK: Demonstrating the benefits of European Territorial Cooperation 23-24 March 2009 | Slovakia**

### *Demonstrating the benefits of European Territorial Cooperation*

Territorial Cooperation has become more important than ever, as the European Commission's recent Green Paper on territorial cohesion outlined, yet many of its results and success stories remain uncovered and unknown, even within the European Territorial Cooperation community. This means that making a case for continued funding is more difficult than it should be, and many great opportunities for dissemination of best practice and efficient synergies are lost.

INTERACT addresses the problems with the introduction of KEEP - Knowledge and Expertise in European Programmes - a comprehensive database-backed web tool with interactive maps and tables and detailed information on over 13 000 projects - all those funded under INTERREG and European Territorial Cooperation. INTERACT supports and promotes good governance in European Territorial Cooperation. Its Secretariat which is based in Bratislava has four INTERACT points in Turku, Valencia, Viborg and Vienna.

The Bratislava conference will mark the launch of the consultation period to give programmes a chance to air their views. Representatives of the European Commission Directorate General for Regional Policy as well as the President of the Bratislava Self Governing Region will be speaking.

The event will build towards an agreement on how programmes, the Commission and INTERACT can work together to ensure that we have the best possible evidence of what the projects are achieving. The separate workshop sessions will give participants the chance to reflect on the successes and lessons learnt from INTERREG as well as to focus on the current and future programming periods.

Specifically, the event aims to bring together representatives from all European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and the European Commission in order to create a common understanding for the months ahead. It is also aimed at a range of programme staff working with monitoring, evaluation, project support and communication. It is important that participation have sufficient expertise to reflect and comment on existing monitoring and evaluation within the programme and how these might be harmonised with wider initiatives.

The event is free and open. The draft agenda can be found [here](#). Expected participants will be around 150. Registration for the event closes on 15 March and can be performed [online](#).

Event email: [interact@interact-eu.net](mailto:interact@interact-eu.net)

Event website: <http://www.interact-eu.net/bratislavaevent/206>

Country: Slovakia

City/Location: Bratislava

Organiser: European Commission & Interact

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## **BE: 2009 EURO-AFRICA cooperation forum on ICT Research 25-26 March 2009 | Belgium**

### *2009 EURO-AFRICA cooperation forum on ICT Research*

For the first time in Europe, sub-Saharan African and European policy-makers are being brought together with ICT research organisations to address the development of research collaborative projects.

Conference Day 1 will focus on roundtable discussions around the following subjects:

- Africa-EURO Cooperation on ICT
- Implementation of the EU-AU Partnership on Science
- European Commission and African Union Commission Programmes
- Private, Public Partnerships (PPP)

Conference Day 2 will offer a limited number of speaking slots for researchers and scientists excelling in their respective (ICT) activity field. A selection committee will evaluate the received proposals and invite the selected candidates to present their work at the event. Abstracts focusing on the ICT themes outlined in FP7 will be given priority, namely:

- Pervasive and trusted network and service infrastructures
- Cognitive systems, interaction and robotics
- Components, systems and engineering
- Digital libraries and content
- Sustainable and personalised healthcare
- Mobility, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency
- Independent living and inclusion
- Future and emerging technologies

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 January 2009.

Registrations to the event are free of charge but subject to pre-registrations and acceptations. Online registrations are available [here](#). Early registration is recommended due to room capacity constraints.

Event email: [info@euroafrica-ict.org](mailto:info@euroafrica-ict.org)

Event website: <http://euroafrica-ict.org/events/forum.php>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: European Commission (EC DG INFSO) and the African Union Commission (AUC) with the support of EuroAfrica-ICT initiative

## **ES: e-STAS 2009** 25-27 March 2009 | Spain

*e-STAS, Symposium on Technologies for Social Action and Human Development*

The e-STAS Symposium focuses on Technologies for Social Action from an international and multi-stakeholder perspective. By providing the necessary grounds for all actors involved in the development and implementation of ICTs exchanging good practices, innovations, experiences and know-how, it is intended to contribute to putting an end to the digital divide through a cluster of innovative strategies relating to ICTs and social action.

The Symposium's main aim is to promote, foster and adapt the use of ICTs for the benefit of social action and human development. Both the population with the lesser chances of access to the Information Society and volunteers indirectly benefit from e-STAS, so that the promotion of the use of the New Technologies reaches NGOs and those groups with the higher risk of digital exclusion.

The 4th edition of the e-STAS will focus on the "Innovation for the Empowerment of Citizens".

The main activities during the event will be:

### Round tables

Formed by 4 leaders in the thematic topics addressed, each round table will be coordinated by a journalist in order to foment the debate. The main objective will be to generate an inclusive and interactive debate that engages the public.

### Workshops

Workshops will be raised for each sub-theme. The operational work tables will be composed of 8-10 persons that may move from one table to another every 20 minutes so that everyone actively participates in different talks exposing different views and perspectives.

### Communications

The main objective is to introduce the speakers and participants, and their projects. The communications will last approximately 7-8 minutes. They will be made without any technological support and will be a source of interactivity among the participants.

### Closing Conference

During the event, journalists will list, analyse, and summarise all discussions that will take place and furthermore draw well defined conclusions. Those conclusions will be presented at the closing of the conference.

## Networking

That will be an opportunity for all participants to make a social networking whose effectiveness will be enhanced by the dynamic of a presentation to be held on the first day.

## Live connection with universities

In order to expand the scope of e-STAS, multisectoral meetings were at the same time organised in 10 universities all around the world (at least one per continent) thanks to which a very close contact was established via broadcasts, web streaming, and the use of communication tools such as Twitter.

Targeted attendees range from entities to individuals, including local authorities, companies, NGOs and universities, and all those involved in the development and implementation of the ICT through various social projects.

Participation to this event is open and free-of-charge. Registration is to be performed [online](#) at the event website. The number of seats is limited to 200.

Event email: [e-stas@cibervoluntarios.org](mailto:e-stas@cibervoluntarios.org)

Event website: <http://www.e-stas.org/>

Country: Spain

City/Location: Málaga

Organiser: Fundacion Cibervoluntarios

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## **CZ: European Conference ‘Towards eEnvironment 2009’ 25-27 March 2009 | Czech Republic**

*European Conference of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union – ‘Towards eEnvironment – Opportunities of SEIS and SISE: Integrating Environmental Knowledge in Europe’*

The European conference ‘Towards eEnvironment 2009’ is dedicated to information exchange among public administrations, EU institutions, environmental agencies, scientists and businesses involved in developing and using environmental informatics for the delivery of modern eEnvironment services in Europe.

The event is intended to offer a meeting place for experts on leading edge ICT technologies. It aims to foster the standardization and integration of environmental data and information flows in Europe and beyond, which are essential pre-requirements for managing natural resources in a sustainable development framework.

The main topics of the conference will include: ICT research towards the development of a Single Information Space in Europe for the Environment (SISE); best practices of European Member States in the implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS); cooperation and integration of Kopernikus and INSPIRE activities.

The conference will feature the state-of-the-art in environmental informatics while presenting the opportunities towards the development and implementation of two related initiatives; SEIS and SISE. Special focus will be placed on:

- Building SEIS, Europe's backbone for eGovernment environment services. Does Europe champion challenge and seize the opportunities in the provision of eEnvironment/eParticipation services?
- ICT research towards enabling a Single Information Space in Europe for the Environment (SISE). How can ICT contribute to strengthening a collaborative information space on the web that will maximise the use of distributed environmental information for multiple purposes and actors?
- ICT for monitoring and controlling energy efficiency and security, environmental modelling of air pollution, climate change to support decision making in environment protection.

Participation is open to governmental institutions, international and intergovernmental organisations, environmental agencies and networks, scientists, academicians, politicians, businesses, managers of corporate social responsibility, public administration and decision makers in the field of environmental information, experts from the ICT industry, specialists of theoretical and applied informatics, consultants, students and the concerned public.

More information (including the preliminary programme) can be found on the conference's [official announcement](#).

Registration is to be performed by completing the dedicated [PDF form](#). The participation fees are as follows:

- Early rate (before 15 December 2008): €300 for delegates, €100 for students;
- Late rate (from 15 December 2008 to 20 March 2009): €330 for delegates, €130 for students.
- On site rate (after 20 March 2009): €360 for delegates, €160 for students.

Event email: [e-envi2009@guarant.cz](mailto:e-envi2009@guarant.cz)

Event website: <http://www.e-envi2009.org/>

Country: Czech Republic

City/Location: Prague

Organiser: Masaryk University in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, the European Commission and European Environment Agency

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## DE: European Accessibility Forum Frankfurt 27 March 2009 | Germany

*European Accessibility Forum Frankfurt - "Accessible Internet. For All!"*

This International eAccessibility conference aims to explore accessibility from the perspectives of technology, profitability, politics, and higher education.

Demographic developments have rendered accessibility an economic and ethical imperative as well as a sign of professionalism. During the event, several industry innovators will share their knowledge and discuss social and political developments on the Internet.

Early bird tickets (from 28 January to 15 February) will cost €150 while registration from 16 February and on will cost € 220. Those who cannot afford to pay the participation fee and wish to attend the conference may [contact](#) the conference organisers.

Details on registration can be viewed [here](#). Places are limited to 200 attendees.

The agenda of the event is displayed [here](#).

Event email: [eafra@namics.com](mailto:eafra@namics.com)

Event website: <http://eafra.eu>

Country: Germany

City/Location: Frankfurt

Organiser: namics (deutschland) gmbh

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## CN: Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications- China '09 21-22 April 2009 | Asia

*International Conference, I-ESA CHINA 2009, Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications. Promoting collaboration of enterprises through interoperability, to link China and Europe, and the world.*

I-ESA brings together the world's leading researchers and practitioners in the area of enterprise interoperability. It is a unique forum for the exchange of visions, ideas, research results and industrial experiences, dealing with a wealth of interoperability research subjects for business, enterprise applications and software.

This series of conferences was Initiated in 2005 by two major European research projects of the 6th Framework R&D Programme of the European Commission, the ATHENA IP (Advanced Technologies for Interoperability of Heterogeneous Enterprise Networks and their Applications, Integrated Project) and the INTEROP NoE, (Interoperability Research for Networked Enterprise Applications and Software, Network of Excellence).

I-ESA China 2009 will feature a high-quality pre-conference programme on 20 April 2009, consisting of workshops and tutorials. During the main conference, there will be an attractive exhibits programme and an additional brokerage event, including a hands-on "industrial use case challenge". Conclusions and generalized discussion will wrap-up the event with the post-conference on 23 April 2009.

The call for papers for the event is open. Details about the submission of proposals for papers and workshops are available either via the I-ESA China 2009 portal or by contacting the I-ESA China 2009 General Chair ([I-ESA@hit.edu.cn](mailto:ESA@hit.edu.cn)). The paper submission deadline is 12 December 2008.

The conference encourages submissions in (but not restricted to) the following topics: Business Interoperability; Enterprise Interoperability Roadmaps; Cross-organizational collaboration and cross-sectoral processes; Systems engineering in the context of Interoperability; Specification and Implementation; Architectures and Frameworks for Interoperability; Service Oriented Architectures for Interoperability; Enterprise Modelling for Enterprise Interoperability; Approaches and solutions for Model Driven Architectures and Interoperability; Design and Execution of Interoperable Services; Platforms for Enterprise Interoperability; Semantics for Enterprise Interoperability; Interoperability Scenarios and Case Study; Education on Enterprise Interoperability.

Participation is open to all and requires the payment of a general fee of €300 for the totality of the Conference (Lunch, Coffee Breaks, Proceedings, Dinner).

Event email: [i-esa@hit.edu.cn](mailto:i-esa@hit.edu.cn)

Event website: <http://www.i-esa.org.cn/OncePortal/portal/>

Country: Asia

City/Location: Beijing

Organiser: Interop V-Lab

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## **CZ: 7th Eastern European eGov Days 22-23 April 2009 | Czech Republic**

### *7th Eastern European eGov Days: eGovernment & eBusiness Ecosystem & eJustice*

The annual Eastern European eGov Days provide a solid platform for exchange of creative ideas and inspiring technology transfer between Western and Eastern European countries. The 7th EEEGOV Days will focus on the themes of eGovernment, the eBusiness Ecosystem and eJustice. Supplementing the Czech presidency of the European Union, the event is held under the auspices of the Czech Ministry of the Interior.

The event is organised in cooperation with a wide range of partners from: the national governments of Austria, Latvia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Sweden; the regional government of Vysocina Region (CZ); civic partners such as the Vienna Core group (EU), the Judicial Academy (CZ) and the Respekt Institute (CZ); and business.

The event will support the European eGovernment Award 2009 which is administrated by CEPA Institue (AT), and promote the forthcoming Ministerial eGovernment conference 2009.

Expert and project communities will meet on April 22, the day before the official opening, on the occasion of side workshops supported by the organisers. High level Government Officials from 6 EU countries will speak in a plenary session together with 5 lead ICT visionarists and 3 representatives from the European Commission. 60 experts will speak in the parallell sessions.

Transformational Government enabled by ICT is becoming mainstream, having an impact on all aspects of eGovernance. The accepted papers will cover technological, socio-economic, organizational and political aspects, related to the eGovernment agenda and cross-topic issues, showing the integrated knowledge from different disciplines. The thematic sessions are as follows:

- Government Transformation and eService provision: Personal Data Protection & eGovernment Interoperability, Information and Data Security, Future of customer-centric ICT-enabled services, eDemocracy & eParticipation.
- Digital Government & Business Ecosystem: Concepts, models and challenges, Vertical and horizontal integration of services, Economic and financial aspects, Evaluation and measurement of eGovernment, eProcurement, Semantic technologies.
- eJustice: Judicial decisions on-line (data protection/anonymization, accessibility, applications, uniform gateways, semantic search systems etc.), on-line publication of black-letter law, multi-jurisdictional systems, unification of search criteria and search terms, semantic systems etc., IT support of the judiciary, Legal aspects of eGovernment implementation.
- Public Sector Information: Implementation of Directive 2003/98/EC throughout Europe (experience, opinions, outlook), innovative PSI products & packages (business, geographic, meteorology, traffic, socio-economical, legal etc.; accessibility of PSI and its privacy issues, economic issues of PSI, problems and challenges of data holders, the end users' view.

The number of the participants will be around 200. Registration to the event may be performed by filling the [online form](#). The programme can be downloaded [here](#). The registration fee is €130 (CZK 3 250). For those countries that joined the European Union after May 2004 and for non Member states the fee will be €85.

Event email: [zalisova@epma.cz](mailto:zalisova@epma.cz), [pekarek@epma.cz](mailto:pekarek@epma.cz)  
Event website: [http://www.epma.cz/7th\\_eeegovdays.html](http://www.epma.cz/7th_eeegovdays.html)  
Country: Czech Republic  
City/Location: Prague  
Organiser: European Projects and Management, EPMA (CZ) & Forum eGovernment/OCG (AT)

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## **UK: ePS Annual Conference 2009 23-24 April 2009 | United Kingdom**

*eProcurement Scotland's 7th Annual Conference 2009*

The ePS Conference 2009 will predominately address public sector buying organisations including those currently using eProcurement or considering its use in the future.

The programme will cover:

- eCommerce and new contract of service
- PECOS Project 21C - how do we get there collectively
- Content Management and best practice in collaborative contracts
- Progressing with Post Implementation Reviews, the key findings to what we can do
- Supplier eCommerce (eEnablement) - what do our suppliers need?
- Progress with eInvoicing
- eSourcing - who is using it, what can it do to support your business needs, how does it fit with the advertising portal.

Spaces are limited and registration to the event is being performed by email [eprocurement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eprocurement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk). There is a fee of £100 (approximately €106) for Scottish public sector organisations and of £182 (approximately €193) for non Scottish public sector, aiming to cover the full cost of accommodation, meals etc. Number of expected attendees is around 150 delegates.

Event email: [eprocurement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eprocurement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
Event website: <http://www.eprocurementscotland.com/Home/Channels/Events/Archive/conf2009>  
Country: United Kingdom  
City/Location: Aviemore  
Organiser: Scottish Procurement Directorate, Scottish Government

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## **LU: Med-e-Tel 2009 1-3 April 2009 | Luxembourg**

*Med-e-Tel – The International Educational and Networking Forum for eHealth, Telemedicine & Health ICT – 7th edition*

Med-e-Tel focuses on the convergence of ICTs with healthcare and medical applications, which lead to higher quality of care, patient safety, cost reductions, workflow efficiency, widespread availability of health care services, while contributing to a better public health.

In its 7th edition, Med-e-Tel is set to attract once again in 2009 a qualified audience of care providers, buyers, specialists, users, researchers, industry representatives, association executives, and health insurance providers from 50 countries in Europe and around the world. Over 600 participants are expected.

Med-e-Tel features an extensive conference program with more than 150 presentations and sessions on a wide variety of Telemedicine and eHealth topics. The event offers opportunities to discover Telemedicine and eHealth systems, services and innovative technologies care providers and industry representatives, with the participation of many international organisations. It also allows sharing experiences and knowledge, networking with contacts from around Europe and the world, and establishing new partnerships.

Med-e-Tel is also endorsed by the Luxembourg Ministry of Health and the CRP-Santé (Luxembourg Public Institution for Research in Healthcare, Public Health and Biotechnology) and is accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to provide a maximum of 18 hours of CME credits for medical specialists.

More information (detailed programme, registration, deadlines) will be made available in future at the event website.

Event email: [info@medetel.lu](mailto:info@medetel.lu)

Event website: <http://www.medetel.lu>

Country: Luxembourg

City/Location: Luxembourg

Organiser: Luxembourg

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## **CZ: ICT Information Day & Brokerage Event 2009 29-30 April 2009 | Czech Republic**

*ICT Information Day & Brokerage Event 2009*

ICT Brokerage Event 2009 is held under the Czech Presidency of the European Union and is an accompanying event of the conference [Research Connection 2009](#).

The Brokerage Event, which is one of the projects of the Regional Innovation Strategy of South Moravian Region (RIS 3), will be accompanied by an Information Day on the following challenges of the ICT Work Programme 2009:

- Pervasive and trusted network and service infrastructure
- Cognitive systems, interaction and robotics
- Components, systems and engineering
- Digital libraries and content
- Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare
- ICT for mobility, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency

The project is financially supported by Regional Contact Organization South Moravia (RKO JM), Enterprise Europe Network, Centropo Information Technology Transfer (CITT) and Sectoral Contact Organization for Knowledge-based Society (OKO).

The final version of the Work Programme for ICT research in FP7 for 2009 and 2010 can be downloaded from [here](#).

Registration to attend the events is open and free; it can be performed by filling the relevant registration forms, [Registration to Information Day](#), [Registration to Brokerage Event](#).

Event email: [info@ict-brokerage.cz](mailto:info@ict-brokerage.cz)

Event website: <http://www.ict-brokerage.cz/en/home/>

Country: Czech Republic

City/Location: Brno

Organiser: Masaryk University, Brno University of Technology, South Moravian Innovation Centre, Regional Chamber of Commerce Brno, Transport Research Centre and FIRST Innovation Park in collaboration with the European Commission (DG INFSO) and invited EU project coordinators

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## **UK: Patient 2.0 Empowerment - EHR for Personalizing and Improving Care 1-3 June 2009| United Kingdom**

*6th ICMCC Event – "Patient 2.0 Empowerment - EHR for Personalizing and Improving Care"*

In a recently published paper, the ICMCC defined Patient 2.0 Empowerment as: the active participation of the citizen in his or her health and care pathway with the interactive use of Information and Communication Technologies.

Dealing with medical and care compunetics, the field of social, societal and ethical implications of computing and networking, ICMCC decided to focus the 2009 event on Electronic Health Records (EHR) and secondarily, the connection between EHR and Digital Homecare.

The main themes of the conference are as follows:

- EHR and Knowledge Mangement;
- Social aspects of EHR;
- Ethical aspects of EHR;
- EHR and Digital Homecare;
- Future of EHR (visionary).

The [call for papers](#) is open until 1 February 2009. Authors are encouraged to focus their contributions from a patient's perspective.

Event email: [event@icmcc.org](mailto:event@icmcc.org)

Event website: <http://2009.icmcc.org/>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: International Council on Medical and Care Compunetics (ICMCC)

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