



relationship that the four municipalities took the initiative to start OpenCimetiere, an open source management system for cemeteries. This was started with an initialization phase in 2006, followed by a contribution phase in 2007, where the software was further improved and extended. Today, the software is used by over 300 municipalities inside and outside France, and helps an increasing number of municipalities all over the world to manage their citizens' final resting places efficiently.

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## A semantic-based knowledge flow system

AsIsKnown (A semantic-based knowledge flow system for the European home textiles industry) was a successful project for supporting the European home textiles industry with new technologies. Nine partners from six European countries formed a well-balanced consortium of associations in the home textiles industry, home textiles producers, retailers as well as experts of data modelling, data mining and ontologies.

The project aimed at reducing overproductions and storage costs and at enabling the European market to gain advantages over Asian business competitors. Within a project runtime of three years starting at April 2006, tools for customer consulting, market segmentation, trend prognoses as well as new concepts of collaborating within the home textiles industry have been developed and tested.

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**Editor's Choice of the week:** [Supporting Vocational Education and Training of Disabled People](#)

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## EU: European eGovernment Awards 2009 finalists announced - 24 August 2009

On 24 August 2009, the European Commission announced the names of the **52 finalists** that are going to compete for the European eGovernment Awards 2009. The Awards ceremony will take place on 19 November 2009 in Malmö, Sweden.

The 52 selected projects are managed by public authorities at local, regional or national level from 17 different European countries, providing services in their own locality or cross-border. All projects make a significant contribution to increasing the efficiency of public services in Europe through the use of digital technologies.

The 4th edition of the prestigious European eGovernment Awards aims at promoting best practices and the most innovative electronic solutions that public authorities in Europe have developed to facilitate citizens' and business' access to public services, reduce the administrative burden and increase public administrations' efficiency. All finalists competing for the Awards use state-of-the-art applications such as innovative websites and portals, SMS-based services, web 2.0 as well as other ICT-based solutions.

The winners of the 2009 Awards will be announced on 19 November in Malmö (Sweden) during the [5th Ministerial eGovernment Conference](#), a joint event organised by the European Commission and the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, which aims at monitoring progress in eGovernment, accelerating the adoption of eGovernment policies in Europe and identifying research priorities for the future.

During the event, the finalists will participate in a large-scale exhibition to showcase and promote their projects. A committee of judges composed of independent experts in the field will visit the exhibition and will select amongst the 52 finalists the best project in each of the following four categories:

- **eGovernment supporting the Single Market:** strengthening the Single Market by increasing mobility for businesses and citizens in the EU;
- **eGovernment empowering citizens:** improving access to public services for citizens;
- **eGovernment empowering businesses:** improving access to public services for companies, by creating business opportunities and generating savings for businesses (particularly SMEs);
- **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 in Malmö based on the online votes cast by members of ePractice.eu (membership open to all).

The European Commission has also announced the list of projects that have been awarded with the epractice.eu Good Practice Label in recognition of their grade of excellence. The list of the **52 awards finalists** and **55 additional good practice label recipients** may be found by clicking [here](#).

### Background information

The European eGovernment Awards is an initiative of the European Commission organised every two years, coinciding with regular high-level EU eGovernment conferences. The purpose of these 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.

## Further information

- [European eGovernment Awards webpage](#)
  - [ePractice announcement for 5th Ministerial eGovernment Meeting and Conference, 18-20 November 2009, Malmö](#)
  - [European Commission Information Society Portal - eGovernment Conference](#)
  - [Additional information and queries](#)
  - Tel: +32-2-299 45 31 or +32-2-295 09 81
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## ES: 'Open source science allows others to get involved' - 24 August 2009

**Researchers at the University of Granada, Spain, are publishing as open source their software simulating the human nervous system, saying this is the only way to allow other teams to become involved.**

The department of Architecture and Computer Technology, last May 2009, published Edlut (Event driven look up table based simulator) that can be used to mimic parts of the human brain. Apart from studying how the brain works, it is meant to support research into diseases and to test new medicines. The software can also be used to improve robots and other machines, such as accurate control and tool manipulators.

The software was published using the GPLv3 General Public open source Licence. According to professor Eduardo Ros Vidal, making the software available as open source is the only way to make such a project a success. "Other teams must get involved in the development, using it for their projects and experiments. It takes an international research community to develop a high complexity tool. A single group cannot address the many topics involved."

The open source licence allows scientists to make all kinds of changes to the code, he says, in order to fit the software to their model, or to carry out very specific experiments. "Brain simulation is one of the major challenges of the current century, and there is a long way to go."

Professor Ros Vidal says that after consulting the University's Open Source Office, the team settled on the GPLv3 licence without much debate. "We are computational neuroscience researchers, with little experience in open source. The GPLv3 seemed general enough."

Edlut, part of the EU's robotics research project Sensopac, is used by at least three other European teams of scientists, the University Pierre Marie Curie in Paris in France, the University of Pavia in Italy and the University of Lund in Sweden. "Server logs show Edlut in the past three months has been downloaded by several hundreds of potential users from around the world."

### Further information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
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## EU: Finding government apps in Europe's open source forges - 24 August 2009

**Starting on Monday 24 August 2009, the visitors of [OSOR.EU](#), the Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations, can search for applications among the 1749 open source development projects that are currently hosted on ten development websites provided by national and regional public administrations in Austria, France, Italy and Spain.**

The search results are based on automatic translations of the project descriptions provided on these ten forges, using the European Commission's machine translation service. The search tool is an improvement of the current search plugin offered by OSOR.EU.

"All of these ten forges use the same platform to host the software development projects, G-Force. That, and the cooperation of the forges themselves, made it relatively simple to access all of the projects", explains Unisys consultant Marco Battistoni, involved in the development of the OSOR.EU website.

The search engine is meant to make it easier for visitors to the OSOR.EU website to get introduced to projects developed on other forges. Once a link is selected, visitors will be taken to the national forge.

### Search-widget

OSOR.EU will also be offering this federated search service in the form of a widget that can be embedded into other websites. "This is a simple Javascript application and some CSS code, so other sites can easily customise it to fit their own needs and adapt it to the lay out of their web site", explains Battistoni.

The search engine is the most recent feature that extends the OSOR.EU. This platform is meant for the exchange of information, experiences of free and open source based code for use in public administrations. The OSOR repository provides tools enabling public administrations and developers to collaborate with each other in developing new open source applications.

### Further information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU website](#)
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## DE: Ministry of Interior launches new Civil Protection Portal - 24 August 2009

On 14 July 2009, the German Minister of Interior, Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble presented the new [Civil Protection portal](#) of the Ministry. According to the Minister, 1.8 million people nationwide have the opportunity to voluntarily provide help in case of emergency.

A following presentation of the portal gave a brief insight into its structure and content. The portal allows Internet users to retrieve information quickly. The categorisation of several topics such as 'self protection', 'dangers', 'volunteering', 'crisis communication' and 'responsibilities' makes the navigation at the website easier. The portal provides detailed information on current and significant issues on the above topics.

Answers to issues such as the following are also provided:

- Actions to be taken when facing possible cases of crisis.
- Measures to be followed for the population protection.
- Contact points in cases of emergency.

10th grade students from a school in Kappelrodeck had the opportunity to join the event when Minister Schäuble activated the portal. In this context the Minister urged them to volunteer to promotional activities.

### Further information:

- [Original News item - German Ministry of Interior, Official Website](#) (in German)
  - [Civil Protection portal of the Ministry of Interior](#) (in German)
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## DE: The city of Essen implements an online eParticipation project - 24 August 2009

The Ministry of the Environment and Nature Conservation, Agriculture and Consumer Protection has put together an action plan with measures to promote noise reduction in the area of Essen. This regional Online Participation project has recently completed its first online phase.

The Federal Ministry of Interior is funding the development of eParticipation activities aiming to enhance the participation of the population, improve the time in decision making, and facilitate the organization processes involved in politics and administration. The development is a further valuable step aiming to tackle with concrete measures the increased distance between the citizens and politics.

12 000 citizens of Essen participated in the first online phase of the plan that run from 15 June to 10 July 2009. They visited the platform, [www.essen-soll-leiser-werden.de](http://www.essen-soll-leiser-werden.de), reported on noisy places and made proposals for noise reduction. The degree of participation indicated how important the topic of noise is for many citizens in Essen. Altogether 910 proposals and 688 comments were entered, which will be evaluated and technically checked within the next weeks by the Environmental Office. The analysis results will be available on the platform, whereas those preferred will be contacted by email. Based on the analysis results, the environmental office will then develop measures for noise reduction in Essen and will submit a draft for the noise action plan.

During the second online phase, which will probably start at the beginning of November, the suggested measures will be commented and prioritized by the citizens.

**Further information:**

- [Original News item, Federal Governmental Commission for Information Technology, Official Website](#) (in German)
  - [Federal Government Commission for Information Technology, eParticipation, Webpage](#) (in German)
  - [Online Project in Essen, Website](#) (in German)
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## **EU: Commissioner for Environment initiates new eService on environmental indicators - 21 August 2009**

**At the end of July 2009, European Commissioner for Environment Stavros Dimas launched on his website a [new section devoted to environmental indicators](#) from around the European Union (EU).**

Through the new eService, every citizen across the EU can now gain free access to information regarding the performance of any EU Member State on greenhouse gas emissions per capita, on the direction of the trend, the sort of cars that are being bought, and get an overview of air quality, waste production, and even the percentage of agricultural land given over to organic farming.

This user-friendly online service contains up-to-date figures that are taken from the latest information available at the European level, making this service a useful online resource for anyone interested in comparing data to other countries around the world. In this respect, the Commissioner added that "transparency is particularly important in the field of the environment, for the simple reason that 'sunlight is the best disinfectant'".

These figures can also be found in the [Environment Policy Review](#), which is a report designed to monitor recent environmental trends and policy developments at EU and national levels and the progress towards the EU's key environmental goals. Mr. Dimas added that the events of last year - mainly the adoption of the EU's climate and energy package - will have a major affect on European policy at least until 2020.

**Further information:**

- [Official News Article - EU Commissioner for Environment blog](#)
  - [Member State statistics and environmental indicators website](#)
  - [Annual Environment Policy Review](#)
- 

## **MK: Ministry of Transport and Communications assumes ownership over the Electronic System for International Transport Licenses - 21 August 2009**

**On 29 July 2009, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia assumed all rights and responsibilities regarding the management and maintenance of the [automated system for management of international cargo transport licenses](#).**

The Ministry of Transport and Communications and the e-Gov Project announced the successful completion of *the* electronic distribution and managements of international cargo transport licenses project, the main purpose of which

was to reduce the administrative burden on truckers and the Ministry of Transport and Communication and increase transparency.

The e-Gov Project Chief of Party, Ms. Gordana Toseva officially presented to the Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr. Mile Janakieski the source code of the electronic application, whose rights were given to the Ministry in order to manage and maintain the system.

Upon receiving the source code, the Minister emphasised on the assistance received by the e-Gov Project in establishing the new transparent and efficient system and stated that the positive experience from the implementation of the system set off a number of other similar initiatives within the Ministry.

The electronic system for distribution and management of international licenses is a web-based solution that enables fair and efficient distribution of transport licenses based on pre-determined criteria and virtually without any influence by a human factor. The application was developed in close cooperation of the e-Gov Project, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Association of Truck Transporters 'MAKAMTRANS'.

#### **Background Information:**

The USAID-funded e-Gov Project is being implemented for the period 2004-2010. The main goal of the project is to implement in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia modern eGovernment solutions that will increase the efficiency and transparency of public sector management and open new channels for doing business in an open and secure manner, therefore make Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia more attractive to the investment community.

#### **Further information:**

- [Official press release - e-Gov project website](#)
  - [Homepage of the e-Gov project](#)
- 

## **LT: New version of the 'eGovernment Gate' proves highly popular - 20 August 2009**

**The new version of the Lithuanian eGovernment portal 'eGovernment Gate' - reachable via [www.epaslaugos.lt](http://www.epaslaugos.lt) and [www.evaldzia.lt](http://www.evaldzia.lt) - has already registered over 8 000 users.**

Currently, the portal offers 18 public eServices. The change of place of residence (in Lithuania and for those moving abroad) declaration service made available on the portal in March 2009 has already been used by 200 Lithuanians. Moreover, since the beginning of the fourth week of July 2009, this service has covered the entire country.

A major novelty is the possibility for the users to perform identification on the portal by means of their national identity card and the State Enterprise Centre of Registers certificates.

Apart from the change of address declaration, the documents and/or services delivered online via the eGovernment Gate include building permissions, criminal records certificates and personal data certificates, as well as the municipal services provided by the cities of Vilnius and Kaunas.

The portal visitors can furthermore check their personal data regarding State social insurance along with the information pertaining to the medical services they received and the medicines that have been prescribed to them.

#### **Further information:**

- [Official press release - Information Society Development Committee of the Republic of Lithuania](#)
  - [eGovernment Gate](#)
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## FR: Online Guide for safer family vacations - 18 August 2009

In July 2009, the French Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Solidarity introduced an [online guide](#), which provides parents and family members with useful advice on how to prevent accidents that may occur during summer vacations.

With children being more frequent victims of both domestic and outdoor accidents, parents and anyone who is supervising children can find online useful tips and advice on how to spend secure family vacations.

The purpose of the guide is to inform citizens about how to avoid problems that may cause small or even fatal accidents. The guide presents some simple gestures that can be used in order to prevent accidents that may occur in the sea or swimming pool, at home or during summer holidays, under the extensive exposure to sun and heat. In the event of an accident, the first reaction should be to refer to the following emergency services by dialling:

- number 15 for paramedics, in case of being poisoned by a medical or a household product;
- number 18, in an event of fire;
- number 112, which is the single European emergency call number, as well as,
- the number of the personal doctor.

Everyday accidents is the leading cause of mortality among children under age of 15, counting 266 victims, every year across France. The primary cause of death is drowning.

### Further information:

- [Original News Article - Service-Public.fr portal \(in French\)](#)
- [Online advice guide for family vacations - Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Solidarity \(in French\)](#)
- [National Institute for Prevention and Health Education \(The Institut national de prévention et d'éducation pour la santé - INPES\) \(in French\)](#)

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## UK: Local government will increase use of open source office tools - 18 August 2009

**Local public administrations in the United Kingdom will increasingly turn to open source office productivity tools over the next two years, according to a survey by Public Sector Forums, an independent organisation.**

"Open source office productivity software has gained a small but significant foothold in a few local authorities", the network organisation writes in its report "Open or Closed? A Survey of Open Source Software in Local Government" that was published during the first week of August 2009.

According to the report, 95 percent of the respondents currently use proprietary office tools, the remaining 5 percent using the open source alternative OpenOffice or Sun Microsystems' commercial alternative.

The report is based on the answers of 168 respondents from district councils, unitary authorities, county councils, metropolitan councils and London Boroughs. The survey was held in November and December 2008.

A small majority of respondents, 65 percent, believe their council should increase their use of open source. "However, a third are either neutral or disagree (7 percent), suggesting there are a substantial contingent in local government who still need to be won over."

The key advantage of open source is the lower cost of the software, the report states. "Cost savings emerged, by a clear length, as the top reason why local authorities had chosen open source solutions. Three quarters of respondents (75 percent) cited lower cost as one of the most important factors in their decision to use open source."

Software licensing costs commonly represented between 30 to 40 percent of local authority IT budgets, the participants estimated.

Other advantages of open source mentioned by the council administrators are vendor independence (47 percent) and functionality (40 percent).

The primary obstacles to open source adoption relate to organisational culture issues, such as risk aversion and lack of understanding at senior level, resistance to change and internal objections from management and users. "Around two-thirds (65 percent) believed the perception by management that open source is 'too risky' is preventing councils from increasing their using open source."

"When asked what would help councils to increase their adoption of open source, the top issue highlighted was the need for more visibility of successful implementation across local government, in particular high-profile, practical case studies of success, proof of concepts and greater knowledge transfer of 'what works'."

Public Sector Forums timed the publication of the report with its launch of a new website, [UKGovOSS.org](http://UKGovOSS.org), meant to encourage discussion about open source and open standards in the UK's public administrations.

**Further information:**

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU website](#)
- [Link to the "Open or Closed?" report](#)
- [UKGovOSS portal](#)

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## **EU: Digital economy can lift Europe out of crisis, says Commission report - 18 August 2009**

**In the recent report "[Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)" which comes back on the main achievements of the i2010 strategy, the European Commission states that building on the potential of the Digital Economy is essential for Europe's sustainable recovery from the economic crisis.**

The report published on 4 August 2009 outlines the results of five years of i2010 strategy, the EU policy promoting the latest communication technologies, new networks and services and creative media content.

It shows that Europe's digital sector has achieved strong progress since 2005: 56 % of Europeans now regularly use the internet, 80 % of them via a high-speed connection (compared to only one third in 2004), making Europe the world leader in broadband internet. Moreover, Europe is the world's first truly mobile continent with more mobile subscribers than citizens (a take up rate of 119 %).

### **"Digital natives" hold a great potential for Europe's growth**

People aged 16 to 24 are the most active internet users: 73 % of them regularly use advanced services to create and share online content, twice the EU population average (35 %). Likewise, 66 % of all Europeans under 24 use the Internet every day, compared to the EU average of 43 %. They also have more advanced Internet skills than the rest of the population, according to a Commission study on digital literacy released on the same date.

Although the "digital generation" seems reluctant to pay to download or view online content like videos or music - 33 % say that they are not willing to pay anything at all - twice as many of them have actually paid for these services compared to the rest of the population. They are also more willing to pay for offers of better service and quality.

Internet use will soar as Europe's digital natives begin their professional lives, increasingly shaping and dominating market trends. As traditional business models stall, companies will have to offer services which are attractive to the next generation of users, while legislators should create the right conditions to facilitate access to new online content while also ensuring remuneration for the creators.

Europe moreover needs to act more to compete globally. Despite progress, a third of EU citizens never used the internet. Only 7 % of consumers have shopped online in another Member State. Europe is still behind the US and Japan in R&D investments in information and communication technologies (ICT), high-speed broadband communications and developing innovative markets such as online advertising.

Pro-active policy making across the EU must ensure that everyone has a high-speed internet connection and that there is an online single market, where people can easily use online services across borders.

### **Public consultation post-i2010**

Upcoming challenges for Digital Europe are raised in a [public consultation](#) - launched by the Commission on the same day - which will run until 9 October 2009. This is the first step towards a new European ICT strategy that the Commission aims to present in 2010 as part of the next wave of the Lisbon Agenda.

#### **Further information:**

- [Original press release - European Commission](#)
  - [Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009 - ePractice Library](#)
  - [Post-i2010 - Join the debate - ePractice news](#)
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## **BE: New website on company restructuring goes live - 17 August 2009**

The portal [www.restructurations.be](http://www.restructurations.be) gathers all the legal regulations and procedures that apply in the event of company restructuring in Belgium.

While the businesses can easily find out on this site all the options available to them, the employees can obtain information on the possible restructuring of their company along with its consequences on their working conditions and, most of all, gain knowledge of their rights.

The website breaks down into three sections:

- **Company under restructuring** - this part describes the various scenarios for a company under restructuring, such as transition (transfer or closing down), mass redundancy or bankruptcy.
- **Accompanying measures** - a section dedicated to the possibilities for the employees following a restructuring, that is: outplacement (services and advice on how to find a new job), assistance of a placement bureau or early retirement.
- **Anticipation of restructuring** - a section providing information on the measures companies can take when facing economic difficulties: the temporary unemployment, various aids for employment and crisis measures.

The information featured on this site comes from federal authorities (Federal Department for Employment and National Office for Employment - ONEM) and regional and community employment offices (Actiris for the Brussels-Capital region, Forem for Wallonia, VDAB for Flanders and 'Arbeitsamt' for the German-speaking Community).

#### **Further information:**

- [Official press release - eGovernment portal 'Belgium.be' \(in Dutch and French\)](#)
  - [Company restructuring portal \(in Dutch and French\)](#)
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## **HR: Electronic admission to higher education courses - 17 August 2009**

The national information system for applying online to Croatian universities has been presented at the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. It will be operational from 2010 onwards.

The system forms part of a trial "State matura exam" - the Croatian final exam taken by students at the end of their secondary education - which will facilitate the application and admission of the State matura students' to university faculties.

The State matura exam takers will apply for university studies through the system. Based on their exam grades, they will be able to know whether they have been admitted to the selected courses. The system will furthermore inform

them on their detailed results at the exam and the credits calculation for each university course, as well as their rank on the admission lists.

As the application system is interconnected with the databases of the Central State Office for Administration and the e-Register containing all the data on the results of the students during their entire secondary school education, the students no longer need to submit their certificates of nationality, of birth and of secondary-school degree.

The system has the advantage of ensuring the transparency of both the State matura results and the applications. Likewise, the costs related to taking the exam and to the issuance of the required documents will be reduced.

Behind the project are the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, the Agency for Science and Higher Education - within which the Central Application Office has been established - the Croatian Academic and Research Network, and the National Centre for External Evaluation of Education.

**Further information:**

- [Official news article - Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia](#)
  - [National application system \(in Croatian\)](#)
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## **BE: Agency for Geo-Information Flanders joins the Open Geospatial Consortium** - 17 August 2009

**On 1 July 2009, the 'Agency for Geo-Information Flanders' (AGIV) joined the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the international non-profit organisation responsible for the development of geographical standards and specifications.**

The OGC currently consists of 388 members comprising government agencies, universities and research organisations as well as geo-industry companies.

By joining the OGC, the AGIV will be able to take part in forefront discussions and in testbeds.

Many standards and specifications developed by the OGC become endorsed by other standardisation bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

Likewise, the INSPIRE directive relies on the use of such standards and specifications for establishing a Spatial Data Infrastructure for the European Union.

With this membership, AGIV emphasises the importance of standards for the establishment of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of Flanders, stressing that standards are key to ensuring interoperability within and among SDIs.

AGIV indicates that apart from specific geo-standards, current ICT standards like those of the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) should also be taken into account.

**Further information:**

- [Original press release - AGIV \(in Dutch\)](#)
  - [Open Geospatial Consortium](#)
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## **EU: Launch of the Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate Project - 14 August 2009**

**On 1 June 2009, the [Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate \(MACC\)](#) pilot project was officially launched for a 29-month period.**

Funded under the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the MACC project aims to implement and improve systems that monitor the global distributions of atmospheric constituents across Europe. Monitoring the atmospheric composition on a global and regional scale will be of great value to the climate change, as well as to air quality and surface solar radiation.

MACC is already operating the systems that had been developed by the completed Global and regional Earth-system (Atmosphere) Monitoring using Satellite and in-situ data (GEMS) project, funded under the Sixth Framework Programme.

In September 2009, the MACC project will be further expanded in order to include the operation of a number of core production lines developed by the [Global Monitoring for Environment and Security \(GMES\)](#), under the [Protocol Monitoring for the GMES Service Element \(PROMOTE\)](#) project.

**Further information:**

- [Original News Article - Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security \(GMES\) programme](#)
- [Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate \(MACC\) pilot project](#)
- [Protocol Monitoring for the GMES Service Element \(PROMOTE\) project](#)

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## **CZ: Easier access to information on industrial emissions - 12 August 2009**

**On 29 June 2009, the Czech Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, Erik Geuss, and the Deputy Minister for the Environment, Karel Blaha, launched the new 'IPPC web portal' whose purpose is to provide an integrated access point to information on pollution prevention and control.**

"Through the new portal, companies can find in a single place all the information on the best techniques that are currently available in the European Union. This will help them to adapt their production processes, so as to produce in a way that impacts on the environment as little as possible," said Erik Geuss.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) had placed integrated information on pollution prevention and control online before the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union (EU).

The launch of the new Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) web portal required a major review of the information's structure, layout and navigation. The portal users can now enjoy more user-friendly features and enhanced interactivity.

The MIT moreover organises regular technical working groups and annual forums aimed at exchanging information on the best techniques available in the field of pollution prevention and control.

The support to the information exchange system is provided by the MIT in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA).

### **About IPPC**

Integrated pollution prevention and control is an advanced way of regulating selected industrial and agricultural activities with a view to ensuring a high level of environmental protection. The measure is primarily intended to stimulate companies to prevent pollution and, in case this is not possible, to restrict the creation of emissions arising from their production. It is regulated under the EU Council's '[IPPC Directive](#)' on integrated pollution prevention and reduction.

**Further information:**

- [Original press release - Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic \(in Czech\)](#)
- [IPPC web portal \(in Czech\)](#)
- [Council Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control](#)

## **BG: The Bulgarian Computer Security Incidents Response Team receives accreditation - 12 August 2009**

The [National Computer Security Incidents Response Team \(CERT Bulgaria\)](#) -whose purpose is to take proactive actions in order to eliminate cyber-security risks- has been officially accredited by the International Certifying Organization '[Trusted Introducer](#)'.

The mission of the National Computer Security Incidents Response Team is to provide information and assistance to its constituencies in implementing proactive measures to reduce the risks of computer security incidents, as well as to respond to incidents of this kind when they occur. Since its establishment, most efforts are directed towards protection of the systems and networks and prevention from cyber-attacks. Newsletters include daily inspections of sources of information related to security, new vulnerabilities, viruses, threats, and attacks. The national centre is part of a global network under the auspices of 'Trusted Introducer', whose main objective is the prevention of similar breaches of the security of information systems.

CERT Bulgaria was established in November 2008 by the State Agency for Information Technologies and Communications (SAITC), in pursuance of the Ordinance for Interoperability and Information Security and the project was implemented with the support of the [European Agency Network and Information Security \(ENISA\)](#) and the [Hungarian CERT](#).

In the light of the accreditation of the National CERT, the President of SAITC and National Cyber-security Coordinator Dr. Plamen Vachkov stated that Bulgaria is on the European map for information security. He also added that the construction of this centre constitutes the foundation of every information security policy.

### **Further information:**

- [Original Press Release - State Agency for Information Technologies and Communications - Official Website \(in Bulgarian\)](#)
- [Bulgarian Computer Security Incidents Response Team Website](#)
- [European Agency Network and Information Security \(ENISA\) Website](#)
- [CERT Hungary Website](#)

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## **EU: Eurocancercoms to establish a network for cancer communication in Europe - 12 August 2009**

On 20 July 2009, the launch of the [eurocancercoms portal](#) marked the beginning of the Eurocancercoms project, whose primary objective is to establish a single and efficient network for cancer communication in Europe.

The Eurocancercoms project constitutes a collaborative initiative of the [European Institute of Oncology](#) (Istituto Europeo di Oncologia - IEO), aiming to boost cancer prevention, treatment and care across Europe by improving communications, bringing together all those involved in cancer, from researchers and doctors to patients. The project is led by the [European CanCer Organisation](#) (ECCO) as well as by the open access electronic journal "[ecancermedicalscience](#)" and it is funded by a €1.2 million grant from the European Commission's FP7 programme.

The project takes into consideration issues regarding communication and dissemination of cancer information across Europe, identifies any bottlenecks and suggests solutions; in order to do so, it:

- examines the flow of information between basic scientists and other healthcare professionals;
- assesses the way cancer research results are disseminated and identifies the existing barriers to successful dissemination;
- establishes searchable databases for clinical trials and guidelines that are available to all involved in cancer care, including patients;
- uses new technologies, particularly internet-based technologies, to create a networked cancer community, including health professionals, patients, consumer groups and industry;
- writes policies for promoting the best ways of disseminating cancer science across Europe.

#### Further information:

- [Original News Article - eHealthNews.EU portal](#)
  - [Eurocancercoms Website](#)
  - [European CanCer Organisation Website](#)
  - [European Institute of Oncology \(Istituto Europeo di Oncologia- IEO\) Website - \(in Italian\)](#)
  - [Ecanccermedicalscience - Online Journal about cancer issues - Website](#)
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## HU: Hungarian Information Society Report 2009 published - 11 August 2009

The '**Blue Book**', the annual report on the development of Hungarian Information Society during the past year, has been published for the fourth time. It reveals that in 2008, the development of the Information Society failed to become a priority and a strategic area for the promotion of the socio-economic competitiveness of the country.

"Similarly to the previous years, we are still a demanding Information Society, although it would be possible to take offensive steps producing competitive advantages. During the last year, the building of Information Society from the ground up kept on strengthening, the reflexivity of the civil society improved, but this process met the governmental and market initiatives only occasionally" – states the report produced by the [BME-UNESCO Information Society Research Institute \(ITTK\)](#) in its first sentences.

2008 was an important year in the European Union, since more than half of the adult population can be regarded as Internet users now. Hungary approached this rate before the end of 2008, and the Hungarian youth showed a sufficient level in Internet usage and in the consumption and production of digital culture. As regards eGovernment however, the country reached average levels. For about half of the society, ICT tools still do not bring any direct advantage in everyday life.

In addition to assessing last year's most important data, the Blue Book analyses the broadband public utility development, the results of reducing the digital divide and community informatics. It moreover presents the importance of green IT and the Hungarian eGovernment achievements. The report urges for immediate action in the fields of social innovation, broadband Internet access and the development of eGovernment.

#### Further information:

- [Hungarian Information Society Report 2009 - ePractice library](#)
  - [BME-UNESCO Information Society Research Institute \(ITTK\)](#)
- 

## CH: eProcurement platform increases transparency and reduces administrative costs - 11 August 2009

Since it was initially launched -in March 2009- the eTendering platform [www.simap.ch](http://www.simap.ch) has increased transparency and has managed to reduce administrative costs in the field of public procurement.

Formerly, anyone interested in having an overview of a call for tenders searched among the sheer amount of cantonal and municipal publications in the Swiss Official Commercial Gazette. Thanks to the eprocurement platform Simap.ch - Information System on Public Procurement in Switzerland- (Système d'information sur les marchés publics - Simap) bidders and companies can quickly obtain all relevant information about calls for tenders at a national level.

Having already published 600 public procurement calls and contracts, this electronic service offers a simple procedure for public contract-awarding authorities in order for them to post their tenders. Through simap.ch, transparency in procurement services has been improved and administrative costs have been considerably reduced. This modern tool also presents the advantage of facilitating the work of public authorities, while allowing constant progress of tenders ensuring legal certainty. Finally, it promotes the harmonization of public procurement across Switzerland. Simap is shared among the federal government, cantons and municipalities in order to cover a wide range of public

procurement purposes, varying from photocopiers and office equipment, to cleaning and consultancy services of all kinds; tenders for construction are also numerous.

The new platform is part of the Confederation's e-government strategy, which in overall aims to provide enterprises and citizens the electronic means to easily deal with state matters. The Confederation, cantons and municipalities are the main entities in Switzerland involved. The volume of contracts awarded amounted to around €26 161 928 000 (40 billion CHF) per year, a great majority of which have been calls for tenders.

**Further information:**

- [Original Press Release - The Federal Authorities of the Swiss Confederation - Official Website](#)
  - [Information System on Public Procurement in Switzerland Website](#)
- 

## **SI: Residents' active participation in government's decision-making process - 11 August 2009**

**On 23 July 2009, the Slovenian Government endorsed the "my.suggestion.gov.si" (predlagam.vladi.si) project; this web tool, whose implementation will start by October 2009, will enhance residents' participation in government policy-making.**

The project, conceived and run by the Government Communication Office, will open up new channels for direct communication between the government and Slovenian residents as well as among residents themselves. This comes in the context of the government's wider efforts to involve Slovenians in the process of creating government policies and actions. The primary purpose of the project is to encourage residents to express their opinions, suggestions and proposals for the regulation of certain substantive political issues. In this way, greater participation in formulating government policies will be achieved and dialogue between civil society and the government will be enhanced.

However, the upcoming web channel should not be seen as an electronic tool through which Slovenians can simply comment on various governmental decisions and actions. Its fundamental objective relies on residents' active participation in the government's decision-making process. This initiative is expected to gear residents in order to bring to government's attention any public issue that, in their view, calls for a systemic government solution. Residents' proposals will be presented publicly and will enter into a public debate; the web portal will publish the response of a competent authority in no later than 30 days, which will in turn be subject to any further discussion.

The "my.suggestion.gov.si" will be designed with the standards similar to those used by the web portal "TID+" (Täna Otsustan Mina - Today I make decisions), which has successfully operated in Estonia since 2001. In cooperation with the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Estonia, the Estonian non-governmental organization '[e-Governance Academy](#)' has developed an open-code software solution, which will also be implemented in Slovenia but further upgraded and with new functionalities introduced. The estimated cost for the project is around €6 000 for 2009, while in the coming years, will be around €5 000 per year for maintenance and extra tools for improvement.

**Further information:**

- [Original Press Release - Government Communication Office - Official Website](#) (in Slovenian)
  - [e-Governance Academy Website](#)
- 

## **EU: Over thirty MEPs from seven Member States support free software - 10 August 2009**

**Of the 232 candidates for the European Parliament who pledged their support for free and open source software, 34 have been elected. They are from Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.**

The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) who signed the 'Free Software Pact' can be found in all six political groups of the European Parliament.

The French free software advocacy group 'April' published the results of its European campaign last month. The organisation said it will brief the group of MEPs on topics such as Digital Rights Management, patents and the Telecom Package.

'April' and its Italian counterpart the 'Associazione per il Software Libero' began their campaign at the end of March 2009. They wanted citizens to approach candidates, bring them up-to-date regarding free software and ask them to express their support for it. The names of candidates who pledged support are published on the [website](#) of the Free Software Pact.

Their efforts were later joined by organisations and individuals in ten countries, said Alix Cazenave, the spokesperson of 'April'. For instance, in Spain, the open source group Hispalinux joined. The campaign moreover received contributions from individuals in Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The Free Software Pact is helping 'April' and the other groups improve contact with the MEPs, explains Cazenave. The MEPs will be involved in thorny issues such as the revision of the European Copyright Directive and patents, she says. "It is vital that MEPs take organisations representing civil society as seriously as they do with multinationals."

**Further information:**

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU website](#)
- [Website of the Free Software Pact](#)

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## **BE: Flemish Region to educate citizens on open source - 10 August 2009**

**The Flemish regional Government wants to educate its citizens on "free software (open source)", it writes in its coalition agreement published on 10 July 2009.**

The open source information is meant to help to increase the region's use of the Internet, including electronic government services, media, culture, health services and eLearning.

The new regional government, which took office on 13 July 2009, wants every Fleming to have access to high-quality media content which combines technological innovations and new media. "We want to work on a New Digital Action Plan to develop Flanders as an advanced Information Society and to bridge the digital divide."

The Flemish plan should also help to reduce the administrative burden. "Gains in terms of quality, speed and transparency of services can often be achieved by improving the exchange of information between authorities." "We will take care that in this Information Society everybody will have the same level of access, and will have equal chance to use such digital instruments."

Spokespersons at the Flemish cabinet's office could not yet be reached to comment on the coalition agreement.

### **Legislation**

In May 2009, the Belgian free and open source consultant Machtelt Garrels last approached all fractions of the Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Parliament, enquiring about their policies on this type of software. Four political parties replied, all positively and Garrels published their answers on her website.

The Open VLD (Flemish Liberals and Democrats) replied the Government should use open source and that they favour the use of open IT standards. The party is against introducing legislation on this.

The N-VA, a centre-right political group, wants the Government to replace proprietary software by open source. "The Government should not be dependent on specific vendors."

In Wallonia, the CDH (Humanist Democratic Centre) replied that it supports a transition of public administrations to open source, referring for instance to CommunesPlone, an open source project for the development of e-Government applications.

Ecolo, a Green party, replied being in favour of promoting this type of software in government and schools.

**Further information:**

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU website](#)
- 

## **EU: Post-i2010 - Join the debate - 10 August 2009**

The European Commission has launched an [online consultation](#) to help to prepare and define the priorities for a new EU strategy for the Information Society for the period 2010-2015.

The current [i2010 strategy](#) to boost Europe's lead in ICT and to unlock the benefits of the Information Society for European growth and jobs, adopted by the European Commission in 2005, comes to a close this year.

All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to the "Post-i2010" consultation by the closing date of **9 October 2009**.

Participants are not obliged to answer all questions; they may focus on the areas of interest to them. They can furthermore write their replies in any of the official EU languages.

Those wishing to send an additional position paper are required to use the following e-mail address: [INFSO-Post-i2010@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-Post-i2010@ec.europa.eu).

The identity of contributors to this consultation will be published on the i2010 website; emailed contributions will be published there as well.

All contributions will be carefully analysed and a summary of the outcome will be published on the i2010 website: <http://europa.eu/i2010>.

**Further information:**

- [Public consultation "Post-i2010" online](#)
  - [i2010 website](#)
- 

## **IE: Information on drinking water quality accessible online - 7 August 2009**

On 20 July 2009 the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government of Ireland, Mr. John Gormley T.D., announced that he has issued instructions for all local authorities to commence publishing on their websites the results of their drinking water sampling programmes.

According to the 2007 Drinking Water Regulations, the 34 County and City Councils are required to prepare a monitoring programme to cover each water supply in their functional area as well as all water supplies for which they are responsible. The Regulations also set down a range of chemical and micro-biological standards which drinking water supplies must comply with.

Minister Gormley gave directions to the local authorities according to which in case the supply of water constitutes a potential danger to human health, the monitoring results, together with any advice from the Health Services Executive (HSE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), should be made available on the local authority's website promptly.

"Improved consumer access to information on the quality of drinking water will be a key driver in bringing about a sustained improvement in the quality of water services. Ready access by consumers to up-to-date data on water quality is not alone important in terms of protecting public health, but also it empowers consumers to actively engage with the water supplier to seek information or reassurance in relation to their drinking water supply" the Minister stated.

According to the Minister the requirement to publish drinking water data is part of a package of measures agreed by him and EU Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas last year in order to enhance the protection of drinking water supplies in Ireland.

**Further information:**

- [Original News item, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Official Website](#)
- 

## **FI: Online services for the elderly - 7 August 2009**

**The Social Services Department of the City of Helsinki provides online and phone information for the elderly.**

The renewed senior-info-site provides guidance for older people. Social services, in addition to online assistance through the website, provide advice and guidance to the elderly on a great variety of issues, including housing, traffic, sports, learning and health, among other.

This type of assistance is provided both by telephone and on site, discussing, without needing an appointment, issues that trouble the elderly. Information can also be communicated anonymously. The elderly also have the possibility to seek information online on their own, should that be their choice.

The Helsinki Social Services Department, which underwent a reform in 2005, has become a life course organisation. The Elderly Services are one of the five responsibilities of the Social Services Department Organisation.

Those services comprise:

- Social and contact work units, service centres, day activity units, service houses, old-age homes, Senior-info and functioning home;
- Home help services, support services for home help and caring for the elderly at home and also institutional care for the elderly.

**Further information:**

- [Official press release of the Suomi.fi](#) (in Finnish)
  - [Official website of the Social Services Department of the City of Helsinki](#) (in Finnish)
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## **EU: Commission consults European citizens on the accessibility of its websites - 5 August 2009**

**The Commission is inviting citizens (with or without disabilities) to reply to an [online questionnaire](#) to express their degree of satisfaction with the accessibility and the user experience of the European Commission websites.**

The European Commission is aware that users with disabilities and the elderly face problems accessing the Web, and one of its priorities is to improve accessibility by removing these barriers. For this purpose, the Commission needs to gather information from all possible sources, including directly from European Union citizens, in order to identify the barriers they encounter.

A list of websites has been submitted for the citizens' evaluation. This list can be viewed under the following link: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/einclusion/policy/accessibility/web\\_access/survey/sites/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/policy/accessibility/web_access/survey/sites/index_en.htm)

Those wishing to participate in the consultation are firstly required to choose one, several or all of the websites listed under the aforementioned link and to spend a few minutes browsing freely each selected site, in order to familiarise with its structure.

In order to make sure that all participants have explored the websites with a similar purpose, they are invited to take a few short steps:

- Find the contact details.
- Find out how to make a comment about the website, using the site's feedback form.
- Carry out a search using the search box.
- Try to find the "about us" section and find out who are the organisations or bodies represented by the website.
- Look for any events announced on the site, or its calendar.

Once users have completed these preliminary tasks, they may fill out the questionnaire, including any relevant observations or comments they wish to make.

The deadline to contribute is **6 September 2009**.

**Further information:**

- [Original news article - European Commission](#)
- [Online questionnaire](#)

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## **DK: Public discussion in implementing cloud computing services in the Danish public sector - 5 August 2009**

In July 2009, the [Local Government Denmark \(KL\)](#) along with the [National IT and Telecom Agency](#) launched a debate on the potential use of cloud computing services in the public sector. The [public discussion](#) will primarily focus on the benefits as well as the obstacles in implementing cloud computing in the Danish public sector.

Cloud computing is perceived as an opportunity to streamline IT management in the public sector and, thus, increase the focus on green IT and innovation. It is a Danish government priority to modernize the public administration in order for public officers to work more closely on citizens' requests and less in administration per se. The use of cloud computing services is expected to be of great value for the public sector, improving the effectiveness of public IT management. However, the main concern is to avoid any risk of compromising safety and privacy issues at the expense of technological innovation.

Moreover, a study showed savings of 71%, if the IT and Telecom Agency moved two of its systems, Digitaliser.dk and NemHandel, from a traditional hosting provider to a cloud-based solution. Moreover, cloud computing services will have a positive effect on energy saving. Several studies have concluded that a more efficient use of server capacity through virtualization and centralization in large data centres, can provide noteworthy energy saving. Within the context of the government's decision to reduce state energy consumption, cloud computing appears to be a sound solution favouring Denmark's eco-policy.

Mr. Michael Hald, consultant of Local Government Denmark, states that the need to start a more thorough investigation on the potential of cloud computing in the public administration is imperative. He also adds that expected savings in terms of time and energy will be significant. In addition to the benefits of introducing cloud computing services, the security concerns raised are taken into a serious consideration. The Head of IT and Telecom Agency, Mr. Christian Lannig explained that the Danish government aims to create an open and active forum to help set the agenda for the future use of cloud computing in the public sector, while collecting practical experiences. The IT and Telecom Agency will engage in a closer cooperation with municipalities and public institutions interested in participating in a pilot project during the coming autumn.

## Further information:

- [Original News Article - National IT and Telecom Agency - Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation - Official Website](#) (in Danish)
  - [Local Government Denmark - Website](#) (in Danish)
  - [Digitalisér.dk - Public Debate on Cloud Computing in Public Sector - Website](#) (in Danish)
- 

## New Factsheets

The 12th Editions of the eGovernment factsheets for Poland and Slovakia are now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Furthermore, the 1st Edition of the local eGovernment factsheet in Greek is now available [online](#).

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## Latest Publications

- [EU: Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#) | 4 August 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: i2010 - Annual Information Society Report 2009 accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#) | 4 August 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: i2010 - ICT Country profiles accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#) | 4 August 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: i2010 - List of actions accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#) | 4 August 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: Factsheet of the SPOCS project](#) | 1 August 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [AT: Report on the application of the Directive 2003/4/EC](#) | 24 July 2009 | Austria
  - [US: States e-Governance Report \(2008\)](#) | 16 July 2009 | North America
  - [UK: A Socitm Policy Briefing on the Digital Britain Final Report](#) | 1 July 2009 | United Kingdom
  - [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - eGovernment evolution towards 2020 Report](#) | 30 June 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Policy Issues in eGovernment](#) | 30 June 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Final report of the review of FP6 projects](#) | 30 June 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Innovative Government, Maturity and Transfer](#) | 30 June 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - eDemocracy report](#) | 31 March 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Information Integration Report](#) | 31 March 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [GL: E-readiness rankings 2009: The usage imperative](#) | 17 June 2009 | Pan european | Africa | Asia | Central and South America | North America | Oceania
  - [US: Municipalities e-Governance Report \(2008\)](#) | 12 May 2009 | North America
  - [HU: Blue Book 2009 - Hungarian Information Society Report](#) | 7 May 2009 | Hungary
  - [EU: i2010 Annual Information Society Report 2008 accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review](#) | 17 April 2008 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: i2010 List of actions accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review](#) | 17 April 2008 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: ICT Country Profiles accompanying the i2010 mid-Term review](#) | 17 April 2008 | EU Institutions
  - [INT: Global Information Technology Report 2007-2008](#) | 16 April 2008 | International Organizations
  - [GL: E-readiness rankings 2008: Maintaining momentum](#) | 14 April 2008 | Pan european | Africa | Asia | Central and South America | North America | Oceania
  - [INT: Global Information Technology Report 2008-2009](#) | 26 March 2009 | International Organizations
  - [INT: Compendium of Innovative E-government Practices – Vol. I](#) | 1 January 2006 | International Organizations
-

## EU: Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009 - 4 August 2009

### Description (short summary):

This communication of the European Commission outlines the results of five years of [i2010 strategy](#), the EU ICT policy promoting the latest communication technologies, new networks and services and creative media content.

### Number of pages:

11

### Related article:

[Digital economy can lift Europe out of crisis, says Commission report](#)

### Related documents:

- [i2010 - Annual Information Society Report 2009 accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - ICT Country profiles accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - List of actions accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
- 

## EU: i2010 - Annual Information Society Report 2009 accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009 - 4 August 2009

### Description (short summary):

The Annual Information Society Report 2009 is the first accompanying document to the Communication of the European Commission of 17 April 2008 entitled "[Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report - Main achievements of the i2010 strategy 2005-2009](#)".

It analyses developments in Europe's information society and benchmarks Member States' progress in implementing the i2010 initiative. It also looks at developments in the ICT sector in the face of the economic crisis, with a focus on the impact it is having on R&D investment.

### Number of pages:

111

### Related article:

[Digital economy can lift Europe out of crisis, says Commission report](#)

### Related documents:

- [Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - ICT Country profiles accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - List of actions accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
- 

## EU: i2010 - ICT Country profiles accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009 - 4 August 2009

### Description (short summary):

This is the second accompanying document to the Communication of the European Commission of 17 April 2008 entitled "[Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report - Main achievements of the i2010 strategy 2005-2009](#)".

It describes the individual performances of the EU Member States plus Norway, Iceland and Croatia in implementing the i2010 strategy. It presents detailed results for 52 benchmarking indicators for which up-to-date data is available.

**Number of pages:**

67

**Related article:**

[Digital economy can lift Europe out of crisis, says Commission report](#)

**Related documents:**

- [Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - Annual Information Society Report 2009 accompanying the Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - List of actions accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
- 

## **EU: i2010 - List of actions accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009 - 4 August 2009**

**Description (short summary):**

This document is the third accompanying document to the Communication of the European Commission of 17 April 2008 entitled "[Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report - Main achievements of the i2010 strategy 2005-2009](#)".

It provides an overview of the actions taken at EU level over the period from June 2005 to May 2009.

**Number of pages:**

26

**Related article:**

[Digital economy can lift Europe out of crisis, says Commission report](#)

**Related documents:**

- [Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - Annual Information Society Report 2009 accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
  - [i2010 - ICT Country profiles accompanying Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
- 

## **EU: Factsheet of the SPOCS project - 1 August 2009**

**Description (short summary):**

Simple Procedures Online for Cross-border Services (SPOCS) is a pilot project launched by the European Commission. It aims to remove the administrative barriers European businesses face in offering their services abroad.

SPOCS is expected to further enhance the quality of electronic procedures completion and has been designed for businesses that have an interest in cross-border activities. It will allow them to meet all the administrative obligations through a single contact point that will be available online.

SPOCS will have the advantage to already benefit from the results achieved by its sister projects, [STORK](#) (on electronic identity) and [PEPPOL](#) (on electronic procurement), in relation to mutual recognition for the use of electronic identity and signatures.

The pilot project will be implemented in different phases and a special emphasis will be drawn on the development of common specifications and tools for electronic services, such as technical and semantic interoperability, the promotion of electronic documents (eDocuments) and the creation of a services directory.

**Number of pages:**

2

## AT: Report on the application of the Directive 2003/4/EC - 24 July 2009

### Description (short summary):

The final report provides a description of the experience gained from the application in Austria of [EU Directive 2003/4/EC](#) concerning the public access to environmental information.

The Directive states that the public bodies and the companies of the private sector have to grant their access to any environmental information. The Directive was introduced in Austria at a federal level with an amendment to the [environmental information law \(Umweltinformationsgesetze, UIG\) 2004](#) (Federal Law Gazette No. 6/2005), and at states level (Länder) with corresponding amendments to nine provincial laws.

Currently the following national laws contain the new rules according to Directive 2003/4/EC:

- [Environmental Information Act of Burgenland](#), idF. LGBl. 2007/8
- [Information and Statistics Act of Carinthia](#), idF. LGBl. 2005/70
- [South Austrian Information Act.](#), idF. LGBl. 2006/94a
- [North Austrian Environmental Act 1996.](#), idF. LGBl. 2006/44
- [Environmental Protection and Information Act of Salzburg](#), idF. LGBl. 2007/72
- [Environmental Information Act of Steiermark](#), idF. LGBl. 2005/65
- [Environmental Information Act of Tirol](#), idF. LGBl. 2005/89
- [Environmental Information Act of Vorarlberg](#), idF. LGBl. 2005/56
- [Environmental Information Act of Vienna](#), idF. LGBl. 2006/48

The Directive concerns the implementation of one of the three points of the [Aarhus Convention](#) of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Other points in this Convention refer to the issue of public participation in environmental decision-making process (e.g. environmental assessments), as well as the access to justice in connection with environmental matters.

**Number of pages:** 20

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## US: States e-Governance Report (2008) - 16 July 2009

### Description (short summary):

The U.S. States E-Governance Survey assessed the practice of digital governance in states across the United States by evaluating their websites and ranking them on a national scale. Simply stated, digital governance includes both digital government (delivery of public service) and digital democracy (citizen participation in governance). Specifically, the authors analyzed security, usability, and content of websites; the type of online services currently being offered; and citizen response and participation through websites established by state governments.

The methodology of the U.S. survey of state websites mirrors the E-Governance Institute previous research on digital governance worldwide in [2003](#), [2005](#) and [2007](#). The instrument for evaluating state websites consisted of five components: (1) Privacy/Security; (2) Usability;

(3) Content; (4) Services; and (5) Citizen Participation. For each of those five components, the research applied 18-20 measures, and each measure was coded on a scale of four-points (0, 1, 2, 3) or a dichotomy of two-points (0, 3 or 0, 1). Furthermore, in developing an overall score for each state the authors have equally weighted each of the five categories so as not to skew the research in favor of a particular category (regardless of the number of questions in each category). This reflects the same methods utilized in the worldwide surveys. To ensure reliability, each state website was assessed by two evaluators, and in cases where a significant variation (+ or - 10%) existed on the adjusted score between evaluators, websites were analyzed a third time.

Based on the 2008 evaluation of the 50 states, Maine, Oregon, Utah, South Carolina and Indiana represent the states with the highest evaluation scores.

The survey results indicate that all the 50 states selected for the survey have developed official websites, and the average score for digital governance in states is 50.12. Maine received a score of 69.17, the highest ranked state website for 2008. Oregon had the second highest ranked state website with a score of 66.46, while Utah ranked third

with a score of 63.17. South Carolina and Indiana complete the top five ranked state websites with scores of 63.11 and 61.29, respectively.

This research represents a longitudinal effort to evaluate digital governance in the 50 states in the United States. The continued study of states, with the next U.S. Survey planned in 2010, will further provide insight into the direction and the performance of e-governance in the United States.

**Number of pages:**

72

**Related document:**

[US: Municipalities e-Governance Report \(2008\)](#)

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## **UK: A Socitm Policy Briefing on the Digital Britain Final Report - 1 July 2009**

**Description (short summary):** The report offers some important prescriptions for Government and public services, and, by devoting a whole chapter to 'Digital Government' demonstrates the importance attached to this sector as a source of stimulus to the wider economy. In recent years, Socitm has argued that ICT deployment in locally delivered public services should be seen as an investment in the future, rather than a cost to the present. The report reinforces this principle with its 'Universal Service Commitment' to extend broadband access to those areas the market views as unviable. Some have been quick to criticise this core proposal as lacking ambition, by limiting the commitment to universal 2Mbps internet connection by 2012. Moreover, the report emphasises the need to commission and control data and content such that there is a compelling 'offer' to potential users. Socitm agrees with the case that is made for Government to set the standard for others to follow. Standards similar to those on website quality and take-up pioneered by Socitm Insight through its 'Better Connected' review of local authority websites and its website take-up service are now being developed by the Central Office of Information (CoI) for all government websites. However, those disadvantaged and excluded from the online world must not be forgotten, if public services are to take advantage of the opportunities to reconfigure and personalise services around citizen's and business' needs. With this in mind, the report rightly identifies barriers to participation in the online world such as: affordability, capability and relevance, and availability.

**Number of pages:** 7

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## **EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - eGovernment evolution towards 2020 Report - 30 June 2009**

**Description (short summary):**

The present document addresses the evolution of eGovernment towards 2020 as seen through the results of the IST priority in FP6.

Issues to affect eGovernment by 2020 include developments in the public sector and in ICT.

These are examined in the light of conclusions arising out of recent independent reports used by IST research projects and serve as a foundation layer for building the evolutionary track for

eGovernment. The general outlook for eGovernment is presented based on the opinions of experts on the impact of technology. This is assessed with respect to government and public eServices in general as well as social issues such as eInclusion and the digital divide.

Technology visions for 2020 reported by domain experts appear in close correlation to expected social changes. This trend is already visible today: "web 2.0" and "social computing" reflect the same functionality seen correspondingly from the technological and the social side.

An inclusive society should provide services for every single citizen. Current state of play and future trends of the digital divide are subsequently presented and commented, along with a brief appraisal of trends in the eHealth domain.

Finally, technology capabilities and possibilities are seen as mere enablers of eGovernment development by 2020, precedence belonging to the general political and socioeconomic climate prevailing at the time. Under this point of view, prediction of the future of eGovernment makes no sense unless embedded in certain regions of a socio-political evolution space. This space has been defined by IST research as being three dimensional on which eight different eGovernment courses of evolution ("scenarios") can be projected.

The conclusion at which IST research points to is that eGovernment in 2020 will be shaped to a lesser extent by technologies and to a greater extent by socioeconomic conditions and successful implementation of appropriate policies.

The financial crisis still underway at the time of writing and its impact in all socio-economic aspects of life should remind the reader that any prediction is dependent on a series of fundamental assumptions. The validity of these assumptions should always be verified.

**Number of pages:**

71

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## **EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Policy Issues in eGovernment - 30 June 2009**

**Description (short summary):**

eGovernment, when viewed as a research field, exhibits a strong correlation to policy. In the present document we refer to gaps identified in the application of eGovernment throughout Europe as perceived by FP6-funded studies and actions. In fact, the mere persistence of these gaps despite advances in technology is a direct manifestation of the complexity of eGovernment as a multidisciplinary field. It is here that research into the causes and remedies of these shortcomings has a distinct role to play.

We then address the gaps arising within the research conducting process itself, including research programme management. Additionally, we examine the factors influencing the dissemination of research results to the eGovernment policy and practice. FP6 studies conducted by experts provide fruitful conclusions on the state and possible strategic options for eGovernment research and policy in Europe. Recent findings on policies and practices in Europe show that although research in eGovernment has recently gained in recognition and consolidation, it still remains fragmented even within the Member States.

We subsequently review eGovernment policies and strategies as implemented and endorsed by European countries that appear at the top of the 2008 UN rankings. Priorities, such as customer-centric services, provision of multi-channel services, issues on handling, use, transfer and share of data, as well as concerns on eInclusion seem to be common among those states. We also take a brief look at the international scene in terms of policies; there we still observe that customer's satisfaction, established through efficient channels of high-quality service provision, also appears as being the utmost priority.

Finally, FP6 studies note that the present structure of research programmes and funding in Europe act as a "bottleneck" between policy awareness and research effort. At policy level, eGovernment research is mentioned as an important application field of IST research. At the same time, in the research community, there are increasing research activities on eGovernment. Despite this, only a minority of countries have a dedicated eGovernment research programme, and the budget devoted to eGovernment research appears relatively low.

**Number of pages:**

82

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# EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Final report of the review of FP6 projects - 30 June 2009

## Description (short summary):

This document corresponds to the final report of the review of FP6 research projects in eGovernment for the IST programme, within the framework of the study on "Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU".

The final report of the previous (2nd) phase was produced in June 2008. This version has been enriched and revised to include recent results on eGovernment processes models, privacy and security, model-driven software development, voice-driven applications and new success stories.

One new chapter on democratic participation has also been added.

The general aim is to present the features and accomplishments of eGovernment research which has reached maturity. This means projects which are nearing or have achieved completion and therefore have produced their basic results and have settled on a robust methodology enabling them to fulfil their declared mission.

The document proceeds with an analysis of their characteristics, similarities and differences categorised under the following general areas:

- User-related issues: response to needs, acceptance, creation of value
- Open source software
- Integration and Interoperability for e-Government services, processes and applications through web services and service oriented architectures;
- Speech recognition and related technologies to ease interaction between citizens and administrations;
- Comprehensive knowledge modelling and development of ontologies in the government domain;
- ICT-aided parliaments;
- Legal support systems;
- Privacy and security, including identification, authentication and related issues;
- Services delivery via mobile technologies;
- Democratic participation;
- Research and policy issues;
- Technological and socio-economic trends.

Each section is accompanied by good practice cases (when available) and selected success stories, which show application of results to "real world" problems, at pilot (prototype) level.

Conclusions, lessons learnt arising out of the application experience and policy directions have also been reported. Section on emerging success stories refer to more recent projects, which have shown promising results, potentially able to evolve into success stories.

Emphasis has also been placed on the subject of semantic interoperability through web services, due to its importance as a core component of the European effort for cross-border services.

The document continues by reporting on eGovernment trends emerging in technology and the socio-economic system as a whole. Following the policy priority set in the 2010 Action Plan for eGovernment, the section of research results referring to inclusion has been considerably enhanced with recent results.

## Number of pages:

426

## Related documents:

- [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - eDemocracy report](#)
- [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - eGovernment evolution towards 2020 Report](#)
- [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Information Integration Report](#)

- [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Innovative Government, Maturity and Transfer](#)
  - [EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Policy Issues in eGovernment](#)
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## **EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Innovative Government, Maturity and Transfer - 30 June 2009**

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

The present document addresses innovative government including maturity and transfer of such innovation as seen through the results of the IST priority in FP6 and the trends of eServices in Europe. In addition, the report highlights international practice with examples of innovative features present within eGovernment portals worldwide. Research conducted in various areas of potential application has highlighted the role of ICT as a driver for better governance.

Important, possibly radical changes such as the exclusive use of Open Source Software

(OSS) in public administrations have been studied. Conclusions drawn out of pilot implementation cases (although indicative of benefits as well as pitfalls which may affect a full scale application) show that OSS is a feasible solution. In addition, FP6 research proposes the adoption of policy measures to promote wider adoption of OSS.

Services-for-all is the cornerstone of innovative government. Research results here offer novel ICT solutions for delivery of services through voice and mobile channels, without the need for compromise: Requests via natural speech can be machine processed and answered; mobile telephony channels can provide a secure and interoperable environment. A series of informed policy recommendations has been produced as a result of studies on the causes and effects of the digital divide.

ICT support for eGovernment has centred on ontologies and semantic web languages applied in local government environments. These are supplemented by pilot implementation of process modelling tools addressing administrators, domain and process specialists. Knowledge management has also been addressed via ontologies. A characteristic innovative application is models for multilingual support in eGovernment.

The contribution of innovation to governmental efficiency and effectiveness has also been addressed in FP6 research. Subjects include the risk management of critical processes and the restructuring of business processes so that eGovernment gradually becomes a citizen-centric service.

Novel areas of application such as fraud detection, legal process modelling and support as well as ICT for elected representatives on the move have produced encouraging results to sustain innovation in governance. These are supplemented by technological developments in support of enhanced democratic processes.

Finally, results on security and authentication, besides their obvious use in safeguarding privacy of personal data, show the feasibility of cross-border interoperability leading to effective mobility in Europe. This, in turn, calls for priority actions in the policy field.

### **Number of pages:**

91

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## **EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - eDemocracy report - 31 March 2009**

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

This document corresponds to the final version of the report on eDemocracy under the framework of the study "Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU". The general aim is to present the role of ICT in enhancing the democratic process, with emphasis on the role of research efforts throughout the world.

The report examines the general issue of eDemocracy and its main branches such as eVoting and eParticipation, with special emphasis on the latter as being the most widely applicable. Various examples of successful implementation of the participatory model throughout the world are included, followed by research trends. The message from the research community is that political, technological and cultural aspects are equally important; this is manifested by the span of disciplines covered by internationally distributed teams.

Regarding present gaps and future needs of research, impact assessment aided by comparative analysis of different implementations and methods to narrow the digital divide appear prominent. On the technological side, research should aim for support tools: today's user faces vast amounts of content and needs to engage and interact with others.

The report concludes with examples of policy-led initiatives for a number of countries. These examples show the European lead in the application of participatory models, including

eVoting, and the support given by policy-making bodies such as governments and the Council of Europe. Finally, a chapter on the dangers inherent in eDemocracy, due to either technical or non-technical underlying causes, is included.

**Number of pages:**

72

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## **EU: Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU - Information Integration Report - 31 March 2009**

**Description (short summary):**

This report, compiled under the framework of the study "Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU" examines the status of information integration as applied to eGovernment research.

The first chapter, although introductory, has an important mission: to show why information integration in eGovernment today mainly relates to semantic integration and, at the same time, to align the reader with the most important trends and problems faced by the international research scene.

The second chapter emphasises on eGovernment applications, where ontologies and ontology integration in web services environments play a dominant role. Various examples of ontologies and ontology creation techniques and methods are given spanning applications from local government to multi-lingual support to legal knowledge representation and management.

The third chapter explores the international dimension of information integration through references to national and cross-border initiatives and related research activities.

The report concludes that information integration in the public sector requires agreement both at policy-making level and at administrative and technical level, given the vast size of the terminological system and the entities (communal, national, regional) involved.

**Number of pages:**

56

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## **GL: E-readiness rankings 2009: The usage imperative - 17 June 2009**

**Description (short summary):**

The past year has brought severe shocks to the economies and macroeconomic structures of countries around the world. In contrast to the last major crisis of a decade ago, however, global confidence in information and communications technology (ICT) and the virtues of digital development remains intact.

The 2009 e-readiness rankings reflect this complex environment. Digital development marches on, and millions more people across the globe continue to be connected to—and use—broadband Internet and other advanced communications technologies. But the Economist Intelligence Unit's long-established definition of e-readiness emphasises that a country's digital advancement is dependent on progress in other, interconnected areas, such as the business environment, education, support for innovation, legal frameworks, and government policy and vision. In part because of the wide-scale deterioration of countries' business environments over the past 12 months, the e-readiness scores of all but nine of the 70 countries in the study have declined in 2009.

But scores also fell because this year's rankings now cover ICT usage in addition to availability. The availability of technology is not enough to deliver the full socioeconomic benefit to countries that ICT can provide. For this, digital technologies must be used, and used effectively. Tracking actual ICT use is a tricky endeavour, but the authors have introduced several new indicators this year which compare countries on the extent to which their businesses and individuals use online channels. Since technology usage tends to lag availability, countries' e-readiness scores have declined further.

**Number of pages:**

29

**Previous editions:**

[2007 e-readiness rankings - Raising the bar](#)

[2008 e-readiness rankings - Maintaining momentum](#)

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## **US: Municipalities e-Governance Report (2008) - 12 May 2009**

**Description (short summary):**

The U.S. Municipalities E-Governance Survey assessed the practice of digital governance in large municipalities across the United States by evaluating their websites and ranking them on a national scale. Simply stated, digital governance includes both digital government (delivery of public service) and digital democracy (citizen participation in governance). Specifically, the authors analysed security, usability, and content of websites; the type of online services currently being offered; and citizen response and participation through websites established by municipal governments.

The methodology of the U.S. survey of municipal websites mirrors the previous research of the E-Governance Institute on digital governance worldwide in [2003](#), [2005](#) and [2007](#). The worldwide survey focused on cities throughout the world based on their population size; this research focused on the largest and the second largest cities in each of the 50 states based on their population size, along with Washington. The instrument for evaluating U.S. municipal websites consisted of five components: (1) Privacy/Security; (2) Usability; (3) Content; (4) Services; and (5) Citizen Participation. For each of those five components, the research applied 18-20 measures, and each measure was coded on a scale of four-points (0, 1, 2, 3) or a dichotomy of two-points (0, 3 or 0, 1). Furthermore, in developing an overall score for each municipality the authors have equally weighted each of the five categories so as not to skew the research in favor of a particular category (regardless of the number of questions in each category). This reflects the same methods utilized in the worldwide surveys. To ensure reliability, each municipal website was assessed by two evaluators, and in cases where a significant variation (+ or - 10%) existed on the adjusted score between evaluators, websites were analyzed a third time.

Based on the evaluation of 101 U.S. cities, Washington, Portland OR, New York, New Orleans, and Los Angeles represent the cities with the highest evaluation scores.

The survey results indicate that all the 101 cities selected for the survey have developed official websites, and the average score for digital governance in these municipalities is 42.04. This research represents a longitudinal effort to evaluate digital governance in large municipalities in the United States. The continued study of municipalities nationwide, with the next U.S. Survey planned in 2010, will further provide insights into the direction and the performance of e-governance in the United States.

**Original URL:**

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~egovinst/Website/researchpg.htm>

**Number of pages:**

91

**Related document(s):**

[US: States e-Governance Report \(2008\)](#)

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**HU: Blue Book 2009 - Hungarian Information Society Report - 7 May 2009****Description (short summary):**

The so-called 'Blue Book' describes and assesses the development of Hungarian Information Society in Hungary in 2008.

**Number of pages:**

48

**Related article:**

[HU: Hungarian Information Society Report 2009 published](#)

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**EU: i2010 Annual Information Society Report 2008 accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review - 17 April 2008****Description (short summary):**

This document is the first accompanying document to the Communication of the European Commission of 17 April 2008 entitled "[Preparing Europe's digital future - i2010 Mid-Term Review](#)".

The main conclusions of the 2008 report are as follows:

"Throughout the first three years of the revised Lisbon agenda, there has been an increasing focus by Member States on the mainstreaming of ICT policies, thanks to better recognition of the importance of ICTs as a source of innovation, competitiveness and growth. Countries increasingly recognise the need for greater cooperation within and among government organisations. The most frequent initiatives undertaken by Member States focus on the spread of eGovernment, broadband and digital skills in education. National plans are increasingly addressing a variety of ICT areas, often with dedicated strategies along the lines of the EU i2010 initiative, but commitments are uneven across the European Union.

In general terms there is a need to bring forward more innovative policies, speeding up action on the interoperability of cross-border eGovernment services, stimulating business take-up and including e-skills strategies within lifelong learning and skills policies. Measures should also take into account the important changes that ICT developments in network capacity, in wireless and mobile technologies as well as in collaborative applications are bringing to economies and societies.

The Lisbon reform process will be crucial, and needs to ensure progress while stimulating uniform development across Member States. The European Union is characterised by fragmentation for most of the information society indicators considered in this report.

All countries have strengths and weaknesses, with indicators both above and below the EU average. However, not all are equal and information society development is uneven. Three groups of countries can be distinguished:

- The most advanced countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden. Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the UK are close to this group.
- The least developed: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Poland and Romania. For these countries, more than 75% of the indicators are lower than the EU average.
- The remainder, with values above and below the EU average.

The pattern of information society development has remained largely unchanged: more advanced in the Nordic countries plus the Netherlands and the UK and lagging in many of the countries of eastern and central Europe and the Mediterranean. The [accompanying Staff Working Document with country chapters](#) sheds more light on individual performances."

**Number of pages:**

44

**Related documents:**

- [i2010 Mid-Term review](#)
  - [i2010 List of actions accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review](#)
  - [ICT Country Profiles accompanying the i2010 mid-Term review](#)
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**EU: i2010 List of actions accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review - 17 April 2008****Description (short summary):**

This document is the second accompanying document to the Communication of the European Commission of 17 April 2008 entitled "[Preparing Europe's digital future - i2010 Mid-Term Review](#)".

It provides an overview of the i2010 key achievements over the period 2005-2007, describes the future actions announced in the Mid-Term review and lists the actions taken at EU level over the period from June 2005 to March 2009.

**Number of pages:**

28

**Related documents:**

- [i2010 Mid-Term review](#)
  - [i2010 Annual Information Society Report 2008 accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review](#)
  - [ICT Country Profiles accompanying the i2010 mid-term review](#)
- 

**EU: ICT Country Profiles accompanying the i2010 mid-Term review - 17 April 2008****Description (short summary):**

This document is the third accompanying document to the Communication of the European Commission of 17 April 2008 entitled "[Preparing Europe's digital future - i2010 Mid-Term Review](#)".

It describes the individual performances of the EU Member States plus Norway and Iceland in implementing the i2010 strategy. It presents detailed results for 52 benchmarking indicators for which up-to-date data is available.

**Number of pages:**

66

**Related documents:**

- [i2010 Mid-Term review](#)
  - [i2010 Annual Information Society Report 2008 accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review](#)
  - [i2010 List of actions accompanying the i2010 Mid-Term review](#)
-

## **INT: Global Information Technology Report 2007-2008 - 16 April 2008**

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

The Global Information Technology Report 2007-2008 is released at a time in which the importance of high bandwidth connectivity for countries' competitiveness, sustained growth, and poverty reduction is widely recognized. Facilitating access and effective use of ICT has increasingly moved to the top of national agendas in most developed and developing economies, while more resources are invested in ICT infrastructure upgrading and development. The Report is the seventh of a series and builds on a long-term partnership between the World Economic Forum and INSEAD, aimed at furthering understanding of networked readiness and its main enablers.

The Report features four thematic parts. Part 1 includes the findings of the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) 2007–2008, together with a number of insightful essays on selected issues of networked readiness, with a specific focus on how it can foster innovation. Topics covered stretch from the link between innovation and ICT to recent trends in innovation (such as Unified Communications) and e-skills and telecommunications regulation in emerging markets.

Part 2 focuses on country/regional case studies showcasing best policies and practices in fostering networked readiness. This year, Singapore, Qatar, and EU cases are analyzed in depth.

Part 3 provides detailed profiles for each of the 127 economies covered in the Report, presenting a comprehensive snapshot of each economy's current networked readiness status and allowing for international and historical comparison on specific variables or components of the NRI.

Last but not least, Part 4 provides detailed data tables for each of the 68 variables composing the NRI this year, with global rankings.

### **Number of pages:**

Executive Summary: 7

Main Chapter: 20

Networked Readiness Index 2007-2008 Rankings: 20

### **Previous editions:**

[Global Information Technology Report 2006-2007](#)

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## **GL: E-readiness rankings 2008: Maintaining momentum - 14 April 2008**

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

E-readiness continues to advance across the globe. Indeed, the average e-readiness score of the 70 countries in the 2008 rankings rose to 6.39 (on a 1-10 scale), up from 6.24 in 2007. This overall progress, however, masks some backtracking among a handful of countries, notably within the top ten. After four consecutive years as the world's most e-ready country, Denmark has fallen four places, as has Switzerland. Similarly, Finland has dropped three places and has been supplanted in the top 10 by Austria. The United States is now the global e-readiness leader, with a score of 8.95, followed closely by Hong Kong, which has advanced two places. Maintaining the momentum of digital development is clearly tough.

The aforementioned European ICT leaders have been unable, in some areas, to sustain the heady pace of development they had previously established. Both Finland and Denmark, for instance, were unable to maintain previous ICT spending levels or to improve upon (albeit impressive) public and corporate access to digital channels. By contrast, those countries that have advanced in the top 10—the US, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and Australia—have largely done so on the back of improvements in connectivity—both in fixed and wireless broadband access, as well as in their innovation environments.

### **Number of pages:**

28

### **Previous editions:**

[The 2007 e-readiness rankings - Raising the bar](#)

## INT: Global Information Technology Report 2008-2009 - 26 March 2009

### Description (short summary):

The Report stresses the importance of ICT as a catalyst for growth in the current global turmoil.

Denmark and Sweden once again lead the rankings of The Global Information Technology Report 2008-2009, released for the eighth consecutive year by the World Economic Forum. The United States follows suit, up one position from last year, thus confirming its pre-eminence in networked readiness in the current times of economic slowdown. Singapore (4), Switzerland (5) and the other Nordic countries together with the Netherlands and Canada complete the top 10.

The Report underlines that good education fundamentals and high levels of technological readiness and innovation are essential engines of growth needed to overcome the current economic crisis. Under the theme "Mobility in a Networked World", this year's Report places a particular focus on the relationship and interrelations between mobility and ICT.

The Report covers 134 economies worldwide.

### Number of pages:

406

### Previous editions:

[Global Information Technology Report 2006-2007](#)

[Global Information Technology Report 2007-2008](#)

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## INT: Compendium of Innovative E-government Practices – Vol. I - 1 January 2006

### Description (short summary):

The Volume I of the Compendium of Innovative E-government Practices compiles 74 case studies from 38 countries. It presents cases such as national eStrategies, portals, telecentres, eHealth and eParticipation programmes, and a range of eServices.

### Number of pages:

205

### Related publication(s):

[Compendium of Innovative E-government Practices – Vol. II](#)

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## ePractice Workshops

- [eGovernment good practices transfer between regional authorities:experiences & challenges of InterregIVC Capitalisation projects](#) | 24 September 2009 | Belgium
- [Applying standards in eInvoicing](#) | 5 November 2009 | Belgium

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## Upcoming Events

- [BA: Medical Informatics in a United and Healthy Europe - MIE 2009](#) | 30 August - 02 September 2009 | Bosnia and Herzegovina
- [AT: Eighth international EGOV Conference 2009](#) | 30 August - 03 September 2009 | Austria
- [IT: AAATE 2009 Conference](#) | 31 August - 02 September 2009 | Italy

- [ES: Mobile Life 2009 Conference](#) | 02 - 04 September 2009 | Spain
- [IT: 7th EARSeL FF- SIG Workshop](#) | 02 - 05 September 2009 | Italy
- [AT: 2009 Conference on Electronic Democracy – EDem2009](#) | 07 - 08 September 2009 | Austria
- [UK: Information Security and Digital Forensics 2009](#) | 07 - 08 September 2009 | United Kingdom
- [IT: "Communicating Security Using ICT" - A new ePractice Community Launch Conference](#) | 15 September 2009 | Italy
- [DE: Baltic Conference on e-Health](#) | 16 September 2009 | Germany
- [RO: E-Health and Bioengineering Conference 2009](#) | 17 - 18 September 2009 | Romania
- [SI: Workshop on Restrictions in the Implementation of EU Data Protection Directive for Public Interest, Security and Defence](#) | 17 - 18 September 2009 | Slovenia
- [FR: Smart Event 2009](#) | 22 - 25 September 2009 | France
- [PL: International Conference on 'Education for All'](#) | 22 - 25 September 2009 | Poland
- [NL: ISSE 2009](#) | 06 - 08 October 2009 | Netherlands

## **BA: Medical Informatics in a United and Healthy Europe - MIE 2009 - 30 August - 02 September 2009**

Medical informatics at current development stage belongs to highly specialized science. Simultaneously, this scientific discipline causes numerous dilemmas and confusion. Even though, human knowledge and skills are constantly expanding, it is not clear if the current technological process will be able to accommodate all kinds of existence and humankind as a whole. The Medical Informatics Europe (MIE) Congress is the main scientific event in health informatics, held every two years in Europe. Around 500-1000 participants from 32 European member countries of the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) attend the event. Several scientists from other parts of the world also participate.

The main theme of MIE 2009 is to develop new bridges and medical informatics between western and eastern parts of the world. For this purpose, a panel of high level scientists will be invited to participate and to give keynote speeches, tutorials and workshop discussions. Thematic tracks will contain selected full papers on specific topics, such as bio-informatics, ontological approaches, and knowledge representation; image processing and feature extraction; electronic health records and information systems. Workshops will cover debates and presentations under the leadership of EFMI working groups or established entities.

The registration is open and can be performed [online](#) with the payment of a fee.

Event email: [loc@mie2009.org](mailto:loc@mie2009.org), [spc@mie2009.org](mailto:spc@mie2009.org)

Event website: <http://www.mie2009.org/index.php?NAV=home>

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

City/Location: Sarajevo

Organiser: European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI)

## **AT: Eighth international EGOV Conference 2009 - 30 August - 03 September 2009**

The international EGOV conference 2009, organized within the [DEXA conference cluster](#), presents the state of eGovernment and eGovernance research and practice, providing valuable guidance in this fast-developing sector.

The EGOV conference brings together leading researchers and professionals from all over the globe and from many disciplines. The 2008 conference attracted some 130 participants from more than 30 countries from all over the world including developing countries.

The eighth EGOV conference includes, but is not limited to the following topics around eGovernment and eGovernance and other fields of ICT application in the public sector:

- Research theories and frameworks for public sector modernization with the support of ICT;
- Research methods, method integration and technique;
- Analysing and assessing contemporary research in eGovernment and eGovernance;
- Designing systems for the public sector: innovative cases and systems;

- Studying ICT usage, acceptance and performance of technology-supported public sector activities: methods and contemporary case analyses;
- Future directions in research and practice of ICT in the public sector;
- Innovation management, change management and complexity management in shaping public sector advancements;
- Transformation, customer-driven public sector reengineering and change management;
- Mass collaboration of stakeholders in government modernization: participative governance, simulation, animation, gaming and policy modeling;
- Customer-driven public sector reengineering;
- New ways of innovative developments: crowd sourcing, grid computing, social software etc;
- Economics, evaluation and stakeholders;
- Theories, concepts and solutions to deal with specific challenging topics in the application field: complexity, system dynamics, evolution, change management, mobile technologies, information preservation, trust and privacy, information management, ICT4D, information quality, adaptability and agility, integration and interoperation, systems and enterprise architecture, domain-specific social networking cases and solutions, semantic technologies, etc;
- Crises management, emergency and disaster response, public-private cooperation, transnational government;
- Education, training courses, and curricula.

The EGOV Conference Series is open to all and free of charge. The conference also includes a PhD student colloquium providing doctoral students with an international forum for presenting their work, networking opportunities and cross-disciplinary inspiration.

Moreover in 2009, EGOV Confence will be co-located for first time with the [International Conference on eParticipation – ePart09](#), which will be dedicated to topics on eParticipation and eDemocracy.

Event email: [office@dexa.org](mailto:office@dexa.org)

Event website: <http://www.egov-conference.org/egov-2009>

Country: Austria

City/Location: Linz

Organiser: Organized within the DEXA 2009 Conference cluster

## IT: AAATE 2009 Conference - 31 August - 02 September 2009

The main aim of the 10th European Conference for the Advancement of Assistive Technology is to bridge the gap between two complementary approaches; the meaning of elnclusion and its use in order to achieve wider inclusion objectives. The Conference will provide an opportunity to clarify the differences and the common points between those two approaches and to better define a way for the future.

A non-exhaustive list of relevant discussion topics includes:

- Technological innovation in Assistive Technology;
- The need for interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approaches to the development of integrated solutions;
- The contribution of Assistive Technology and Design for all towards inclusion;
- Equipment interconnectivity and compatibility, covering hardware, software and wireless, to favor integrated solutions to inclusion;
- The need for standardization (formal, informal and de facto);
- Cultural aspects: e.g. acceptance of different approaches, designs and aesthetics of AT devices and inclusive living environments, high tech versus low tech, creative solutions for complex problems;
- Social aspects: penetration of AT and integrated approaches, the role of Europe in building up inclusion competence in emerging and developing countries, etc.;
- Technology transfer, towards not only AT industry, but also mainstream industry. Participation is open to all but it requires the payment of a fee.

Registration can be performed [online](#) through the conference management tool.

Over 300 attendees are expected.

Event email: [p.l.emiliani@ifac.cnr.it](mailto:p.l.emiliani@ifac.cnr.it), [l.burzagli@ifac.cnr.it](mailto:l.burzagli@ifac.cnr.it)  
Event website: <http://www.aaate2009.eu>  
Country: Italy  
City/Location: Florence  
Organiser: Institute of Applied Physics "Nello Carrara" (IFAC)

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## ES: Mobile Life 2009 Conference - 02 - 04 September 2009

mLife conference and exhibitions are aimed at all organizations and professionals who would like to monitor, take part in and shape the development of the social impact of the mobile revolution. They provide opportunities to businesses, public sector organizations and researchers to explore the frontiers of the social mobile revolution and to be informed in order to reach their goals. The conference will cover all aspects of mobile life, technology, services, implementation as they relate to individuals, society, economies and governments.

The conference consists of the following three major events:

- **mSOCIETY 2009:** The 2nd International Conference on Mobile Society refers to the emerging trends of the collective-life on earth driven by the technology of networked mobile phones and other mobile devices. These technologies and its fast and wide adoption is influencing the way we live in the society, we run businesses and the way we are as an individual.
- **EURO mGOV 2009:** The 4th European Conference on Mobile Government involves revolutionary approaches to the modernization of public sector via the utilization of networked mobile technologies in local or central government organizations. It aims to enhance public sector business by creating new opportunities to provide services to society. mGovernment is now a recognized field of practice and research, and constitutes the next evolutionary step of progress in eGovernment.
- **mDEVELOPMENT 2009:** The 1st International Conference on Mobile Development aims to explore the impact of the mobile technologies on economic and social development and invites all professionals from public, private, non-profit and third sector org organizations to create a prime platform for knowledge exchange and dissemination.

The draft programme of the conference can be found [here](#).

The number of participants is expected to be around 150; information regarding registration can be obtained from [here](#).

Event email: [conf@m4life.org](mailto:conf@m4life.org)  
Event website: <http://www.m4life.org/>  
Country: Spain  
City/Location: Barcelona  
Organiser: Mobile Government Consortium Int. and Barcelona City Council

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## IT: 7th EARSeL FF- SIG Workshop - 02 - 05 September 2009

This workshop is the latest in a series of technical meetings organised by the European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL) Special Interest Group (SIG) on Forest Fires (FF) after its foundation in 1995. Previous meetings held in Alcalá de Henares (1995), Luso (1998), Paris (2001), Ghent (2003), Zaragoza (2005) and Thessaloniki (2007) resulted in outstanding progress made in forest fire research. Since the main subject of the present workshop will be the Space operational use of remote sensing in forest fire management, paper contributions are expected to focus on the operational use of remote sensing in:

- pre-fire planning and management;
- fire detection and monitoring;
- post-fire evaluation and management;
- post-fire vegetation recovery assessment.

The main activities of the Workshop will include lectures given by invited speakers, poster sessions, a round-table discussion session and a field excursion. Selected papers presented during the workshop will be included in a special issue of a scientific journal related to forest fires and remote sensing. Only invited lectures will be presented orally, to leave more time for sharing ideas among the attendants. The three poster sessions will cover the main phases of fire management, namely, fire risk, detection and fire effects assessment. General discussion will follow the poster sessions, which will be the opportunity to present innovative work in the previously defined topics. Additionally, round tables will be held to encourage the participation of end-users in remote sensing developments.

Further information on important deadlines can be found [here](#).

Participants to the event will be around 100. Further information on the registration fees is available [here](#).

Event email: [earsel-ffsig@imaa.cnr.it](mailto:earsel-ffsig@imaa.cnr.it)

Event website: <http://www.forestfire.imaa.cnr.it/>

Country: Italy

City/Location: Matera

Organiser: European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL), Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis (IMAA), University de Alcalá, European Space Agency (ESA), National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR)

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## **AT: 2009 Conference on Electronic Democracy – EDem2009 - 07 - 08 September 2009**

There are a number of eDemocracy applications, ranging from transparency sites and information, discussion, deliberation and consultation platforms to decision-making and voting systems, thus encompassing the entire democratic process. As technical devices have matured and feasibility is largely not considered an issue any more, other questions are now considered:

- To what extent can eDemocracy support and enrich our democracy?
- What and where are the interfaces, what methods can be used to integrate eParticipation in present public administration processes?
- How can we ensure that the greatest number of people are reached and are able to use the means of participation?
- How can the modern media support political education?
- How can the Internet increase participation in political discussion?
- What are the limitations and the risks of eDemocracy?
- How may traditional Decision Support Systems be included in the eDemocracy framework?
- How may microeconomic models (e.g. game theory) contribute to the understanding of the dynamics created by electronic citizen involvement?

The EDem 2009 aims to be opportunity to look into these questions and discuss the answers. During the conference experiences will be shared, examples of good (and maybe not so good) practice analysed, the State-of-the-Art and future scenarios will be presented and discussed.

The call for papers is open. The organisers are looking for contributions on all areas and levels of electronic democracy and participation systems. Projects can also be submitted, and, if accepted, would be presented as examples of "hands-on" demonstrations of eDemocracy and eParticipation. The main conference language is English; submissions in German are also acceptable.

Contributions from individuals from academic and professional backgrounds as well as public administration offices, public bodies, NGOs, education institutions and independent organisations are welcome.

The deadline for papers' submission is 17 May 2009. Submission may be sent in PDF format to [alexander.prosser@wu-wien.ac.at](mailto:alexander.prosser@wu-wien.ac.at) or [peter.parycek@donau-uni.ac.at](mailto:peter.parycek@donau-uni.ac.at). Submission via a Web page will be made available soon.

The conference fees are €95 for authors, €115 for those who register as participants prior to 17 July 2009, and €115 for those registering after that date. The registration facility will be made available at <http://www.ocg.at/edem2009/reg.html>.

Event email: [alexander.prosser@wu-wien.ac.at](mailto:alexander.prosser@wu-wien.ac.at) or [peter.parycek@donau-uni.ac.at](mailto:peter.parycek@donau-uni.ac.at)

Event website: <http://edem2009.ocg.at/>

Country: Austria

City/Location: Vienna

Organiser: Danube University Krems and the University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna

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## **UK: Information Security and Digital Forensics 2009 - 07 - 08 September 2009**

The conference aims to develop and bring together diverse communities from academia and research, to industry and government, interested in identifying and understanding several security and identity challenges across the globe. The main objective of the ISDF conference is to better address the gap that exists in the digital economy market and to explore security and identity frameworks and solutions in order to protect the next generation of Information Technology applications.

The main thematic areas of the conference are, but not limited, to the following:

- Security in Information Flow
- Security and Privacy in Pervasive/Ubiquitous Computing
- Mobile Communication Security
- Security Modeling and Architectures
- Authentication and Access Control
- Biometrics Authentication
- Identity Management
- Identity Theft & Online Fraud
- Intrusion Detection
- Cyber Legislation
- Digital Fraud
- Electronic Money Laundering
- Computer Forensics
- Mobile Device Forensics
- Trust Models and Trust Management

Registration is free and can be performed [online](#).

Event email: [R.Muttukrishnan@city.ac.uk](mailto:R.Muttukrishnan@city.ac.uk)

Event website: <http://www.epsrc-identity.net/ISDF2009.php>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, City University London

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## **IT: “Communicating Security Using ICT” - A new ePractice Community Launch Conference - 15 September 2009**

This conference aims to present the new epractice community "Communicating Security Using ICT". This Community will be a network in which the members of the European Police forces working in the External relations/Public relations field will be able to communicate in real time among them on the ways to communicate security to the citizen using ICT and to inform them about security issues.

The Community's members will be able to share suggestions, projects and best practices on how to communicate the security to the citizens and the initiatives taken for making feel them more secure using ICT means (police websites, intranet, community, electronic newspapers, mailing lists, advertising campaigns about security and so on).

The participants to the launch conference in Rome will be explained how the Community works and how to create their personal account to join it.

Participation in the event is **upon invitation only** and free of charge.

Event email: [mauro.valeri@interno.it](mailto:mauro.valeri@interno.it)

Country: Italy

City/Location: Rome

Organiser: Italian Police, External Relations Office

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## **DE: Baltic Conference on e-Health - 16 September 2009**

The Baltic Conference on eHealth will present a well-balanced mix of best practices and strategy-oriented presentations from various countries. The participants including representatives from hospitals, governments, health insurance organizations, service providers and media will have the opportunity to exchange views and experiences among all those involved in health management. "To learn from each other - to work with one another" shall be conference's main aim.

The conference program will focus on the following topics:

- Cross-Border Healthcare (experience and knowledge transfer, best practices, interoperability/interconnectivity, globalization, business intelligence/consulting and quality management).
- Optimization of clinical and business processes as well as of hospital information and communication systems in order to increase the quality and economics of patient care.
- Telemedicine.

Moreover, the link between eHealth and medical engineering will be discussed.

The conference will not only include several presentations and workshops but also an exhibition of international IT solution providers and a [pre-opening session](#) on 15 September, at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf - UKE).

Detailed information about the agenda of the conference can be found [here](#).

The conference is expected to host around 150 participants. Registration is open and can be performed [online](#) with a payment of a fee.

Event email: [event@common-sense.biz](mailto:event@common-sense.biz)

Event website: <http://www.baltic-conference-on-ehealth.com/eng/index.html>

Country: Germany

City/Location: Hamburg

Organiser: Baltic Sea Forum e.V. - Baltic SeaStates Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC), Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, IBM, in cooperation with University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf

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## **RO: E-Health and Bioengineering Conference 2009 - 17 - 18 September 2009**

The main focus of EHB 2009, the second edition of the EHB conference, is placed on ehealth and bioengineering in general. Its goals are to promote concepts and advanced hardware and software technologies in the emerging domains of ehealth, telemedicine, medical devices/equipment, medical informatics, biomechanics, biomaterials, biotechnologies and healthcare management.

Another objective is to strengthen the interdisciplinary synergy between medical and technical researchers and practitioners, within the generous framework of medical bioengineering, in order to establish and promote advanced scientific concepts, methods and technologies for medical services and healthcare in Romania and enlarged Europe.

In this respect, a special attention will be granted in the next years to targeting research to the real needs of patients, through different national and international projects and partnerships.

Last but not least, EHB 2009 represents a new "official" occasion to show that telemedicine in Romania and particularly in Iași exceeds the level of other more or less theoretical approaches and demonstrative issues. Its maturity was already proven by real time transmission and analysis of some vital biosignals of patients, performed by using the facilities offered by the first Romanian Telemedical Regional Centre located at the Faculty of Medical Bioengineering of the „Gr.T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Iași, which was developed by a local team within two research pilot projects - TELMES and TELEMON - financed by the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research.

The intention is therefore to promote procedures for teleconsultation, telediagnosis and telemonitoring, providing an alternative to be employed in the healthcare system that could be made available "every time and anywhere" for those persons who need such a public service.

The [topics to be covered](#) and the [full papers' submission guidelines](#) can be viewed online.

The organisers expect to attract over 200 attendees. The registration fee is 300 RON (approximately €70).

Event email: [ehb2009@bioinginerie.ro](mailto:ehb2009@bioinginerie.ro)

Event website: <http://www.bioinginerie.ro/ehb2009>

Country: Romania

City/Location: Constanta

Organiser: "Gr. T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iasi, the Romanian Society of Medical Bioengineering and "Ovidius" University of Constanta

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## **SI: Workshop on Restrictions in the Implementation of EU Data Protection Directive for Public Interest, Security and Defence - 17 - 18 September 2009**

This problem-solving workshop is being organised in the context of a European Commission founded project called [Homeland Security, Biometrics Identification & Personal Detection Ethics - HIDE](#).

Its aim is to bring together individuals and representatives from the European governmental and non-governmental organisations, with the emphasis on the new EU Member States and the Balkan countries in order to identify and discuss ethical and other issues related to the restrictions of the scope of rights in the implementation of EU data-protection principles, when such restrictions constitute the necessary measures to safeguard important public interests, security and defence.

More information about the programme of the workshop can be found [here](#).

Although registration for this workshop is free, the number of participants is limited; therefore, the completed [registration form](#) should be submitted no later than 1 September 2009, either by [email](#) or by fax.

Event email: [simon.dobrisek@fe.uni-lj.si](mailto:simon.dobrisek@fe.uni-lj.si)

Event website: <http://luks.fe.uni-lj.si/hide/>

Country: Slovenia

City/Location: Ljubljana

Organiser: Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship (CSSC) and the University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Electrical Engineering, in collaboration with HIDE partners

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## **FR: Smart Event 2009 - 22 - 25 September 2009**

Smart Event is as an international forum of knowledge-sharing, learning and networking in the fields of e-ID, e-mobility and Smart Security. It has proven to be a meeting place for world-class researchers, innovators, developers and business decision-makers. The event encompasses 3 international conferences covering complementary areas:

- The future of digital security technologies, e-Smart.
- The building of trusted mobile applications, Smart mobility
- The next generation of e-ID management technologies and services, World e-ID.

The relevant calls for papers are open until 13 March 2009.

Smart Event features contents combining scientific and strategic presentations of Industry experts, researchers and academics, as well as governmental and institutional representatives.

The *Smart University* advanced educational programme as well as a series of workshops and meetings complete the agenda.

Smart Event 2009 addresses high level professionals that foster research and innovation the e-ID, e-mobility and Smart Security fields. Based on a steady growing audience, the target for 2009 exceeds 800 attendees. Regardless their activity - Academia, eGovernment, Institutions, Standardisation, Research, Integrators/Consultancy, Manufacturer/hardware, Security Solutions Providers, Content Service & Telecoms Operators – they all play an important and crucial influence on major decisions in the mobility, trusted technologies and services marketplace.

Registration will be performed online with the payment of a fee, and it will commence in April 2009.

Event email: [info@strategiestm.com](mailto:info@strategiestm.com)

Event website: <http://www.strategiestm.com/conferences/smart-event/09/index.htm>

Country: France

City/Location: French Riviera

Organiser: Strategies Telecoms and Media

## **PL: International Conference on ‘Education for All’ - 22 - 25 September 2009**

The conference will be divided into three sessions. During the conference there will be an Exhibition of Assistive Technology and Adaptive Solutions.

- Universal design - more than just architecture:
  - making graphics accessible to persons with vision dysfunction;
  - accessibility of mathematical notation;
  - DAISY standard as a new tendency in creating books adapted for the blind;
  - designing outdoor activities for students with disabilities;
  - methodology of practice in mainstream classes with one child with disability taking into consideration the needs of people with sight impairment in building planning;
  - environment safe for everyone, etc.
- Beyond the borders of traditional disability:
  - the conference intends to become a platform for spreading solutions and good practices, the aim of which is to equalize the educational opportunities of the abovementioned groups of students and pupils.
- Inclusive education - can it become a fact?:
  - university studies as an example of inclusive education;
  - a blind pupil on a geography lesson - is full participation possible?
  - physical inclusion versus social inclusion in primary schools;
  - how to fight the stereotypes- social inclusion as the greatest challenge for inclusive education;
  - legal solutions - an enemy or a supporter of inclusive education;
  - methods of preparing teachers to inclusive education; who needs special education schools, etc.

Further information about the programme of the conference can be found [here](#).

The event is expected to host around 250 participants. The registration can be performed [online](#) with the payment of a fee.

Event email: [disability@uw.edu.pl](mailto:disability@uw.edu.pl)

Event website: <http://www.disability.uw.edu.pl>

Country: Poland  
City/Location: Warsaw  
Organiser: University of Warsaw, Office for Persons with Disabilities

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## NL: ISSE 2009 - 06 - 08 October 2009

Founded in 1999 as an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate General for Information Society, ISSE is intended to be "Europe's only independent, interdisciplinary security conference and exhibition".

ISSE provides a forum for sharing real life experiences and learning from experts in the field and it is renowned for its rich educational content and unbiased perspective. It is designed to educate and inform ICT security professionals, policy makers, and industry leaders on the latest developments in technology, solutions, market trends and best practice.

Now in its eleventh year, ISSE 2009 will attract over 400 representatives from across Europe providing an informal and stimulating environment for attendees to learn, share experiences and explore solutions with their European counterparts, focusing on security and related issues like cost of ownership, risk management and interoperability.

By attending ISSE 2009, participants will benefit from the following:

- Educational programme featuring the latest developments in information security, with a special emphasis on European directions and regulations.
- Expert advice on emerging threats and the key challenges ahead.
- Bespoke itinerary allowing choosing from more than 80 individual sessions.
- Hands-on demonstrations of the latest solutions from specialist suppliers.
- Complimentary entry to the ISSE Networking Event.
- Networking opportunities with peers, European security experts and leading industry suppliers.
- Complimentary lunch and refreshments.

The key security topics expected to be addressed at the conference may be viewed [here](#). Further information regarding the fees is also [available](#). Details on registering to the event can currently be provided by mailing [isse@circdata.com](mailto:isse@circdata.com).

Event email: [nicola@revolution-events.com](mailto:nicola@revolution-events.com)  
Event website: <http://www.isse.eu.com/index.htm>  
Country: Netherlands  
City/Location: The Hague  
Organiser: Revolution Events

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