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European ePractice Newsletter

N. 237 - 3 June 2008

>> eHealth management workshop

ePractice.eu invites eHealth practitioners to participate in the one day workshop which will take place in Barcelona on June 9. The free seminar will review IT management issues with a core focus on eHealth, providing an in-depth analysis of a set of interesting good practices in the field. The objective of the event is to provide a broad view of how IT is changing the health landscape. For registration and agenda details, please visit epractice.eu/workshop/eHealthmanagement

>> Digital Literacy workshop in Barcelona

On June 16 ePractice.eu will organise a new hands-on free workshop on eInclusion. The event, to take place in Barcelona, will address issues around digital literacy and e-competences, a key element of the 2006 Riga Ministerial Declaration. Three themes of particular relevance have been selected to provide a platform for discussion: Content and delivery, Usability and accessibility, and Motivation and sustainability. Each theme will be illustrated with reference to a relevant case study presentation, followed by three interactive discussion groups. For a detailed agenda, information about the speakers and free registration, please visit epractice.eu/workshop/digitalliteracy

>> Article - The eHungary Program 2.0 - Building an Army of eCounsellors to fight against digital illiteracy

The article written by Marianne Posfai and Andrea Fejer shows how in Hungary professional and individualised training is provided to help people make effective use of eGovernment services. The article describes the development of an eCounsellor network in which trained local professionals provide assistance to people living in small, isolated, rural communities to help in the effective use of the Hungarian eGovernment portal. The full article is available in the [European Journal of ePractice](#).

>> Call for papers: High Impact Services

The European Journal of ePractice invites contributions in the area of High Impact Services for eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth. We are looking for articles and case studies that provide critical insight into the development, implementation, evaluation and success factors of services or projects in areas such as pan-European job searching, company registration and VAT rebates or electronic identification and interoperability. The deadline for article submissions is 25 July, 2008. For more information please contact editorial@epractice.eu

>> European Interoperability Framework - Information Day in Brussels

On June 25, the IDABC unit of the European Commission will organise an Information Day on the novelties of the upcoming new version of the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) which is currently under preparation. The EIF supports the EU's strategy of providing user-centred eGovernment services by facilitating, at a pan-European level, the interoperability of services and systems between public administrations, as well as between administrations and the public (citizens and businesses). This new version will be available in July 2008 on the IDABC website, for stakeholders to comment on it. More details on the Info Day can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7649>

>> European Commission launches the 2008 European eInclusion Awards

The European Commission has just launched the first ever European eInclusion Awards, which will celebrate the best and most imaginative uses of ICT to reduce digital and social exclusion. The awards are open to organisations in the public, business and voluntary sector or civil society. There are seven competition categories: Ageing Well; Marginalised Young People; Geographic Inclusion; Cultural Diversity; Digital Literacy; e-Accessibility and Inclusive Public Services. Entries will close on September 12, 2008. Five finalists in each category will be invited to exhibit at the Ministerial Conference to be held in Vienna in December as part of the "eInclusion: Be Part of It!" campaign. For more information visit www.e-inclusionawards.eu

Please feel free to forward [epractice.eu/newsletter](mailto:practice@epractice.eu) to whom it may be of use. You are welcome to send suggestions that may help us to improve the portal and enrich its content. We invite you to [become a member](#) of ePractice.eu in order to use all our services.

Latest Cases

- [Lazio e-Citizen: an inclusion project for all](#) 29 May 2008 |

Editor's Choice of the week: [Pilot for the effective health monitoring in remote areas](#)

Lazio e-Citizen: an inclusion project for all

The Lazio e-Citizen programme developed e-citizenship in the Lazio region of Italy. Responding to European Directives on the Lisbon Strategy, Lazio e-Citizen's objectives were to increase the residents' awareness of the importance of digital literacy, the benefits that e-skills bring to their personal and professional lives, and to fight against social exclusion. The project developed a strategy to bridge the digital divide based on specific criteria: gender, age and skill levels. It provided free computer skills training to approx. 1700 regional inhabitants (which exceeded the original target of 1200), focusing in particular on women, people over the age of 45 and immigrants, yet open to all citizens who wished learn the skills needed to use web-based services (such as e-government, home-banking, e-commerce, e-mail) and access online information. 100 training courses were organized and 42 local centres of the Lazio region were actively involved.

Latest News

- [EU: Cross-border recognition of national eID – Launch of the STORK pilot project](#) 3 June 2008 | Austria, Belgium, Estonia, EU Institutions, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
 - [HU: Successful trial of the farmers' support application system](#) 2 June 2008 | Hungary
 - [EE: New eID awareness campaign tries for world record](#) 2 June 2008 | Estonia
 - [PT: Compras in English](#) 2 June 2008 | Portugal
 - [LT: eDeclarations replace paper versions](#) 2 June 2008 | Lithuania
 - [BG: eTax returns triple, but remain low](#) 30 May 2008 | Bulgaria
 - [CZ: eCode of Law to bring citizens up to date on legislation](#) 30 May 2008 | Czech Republic
 - [HU: Official Journal on the Internet](#) 30 May 2008 | Hungary
 - [EU: Supreme court cases on ICT and Media law online](#) 27 May 2008 | Pan European
-

EU: Cross-border recognition of national eID – Launch of the STORK pilot project (3 June 2008)

The European Commission has unveiled a pilot project called STORK (Secure idenTity acrOss boRders linKed) whose aim is to ensure the cross-border recognition of national electronic identity (eID) systems in 13 Member States, so as to enable the cross-border provision of online services.

The European Commission is working on this Large Scale Pilot with Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as Iceland (as a member of the European Economic Area).

The project will establish a number of trans-border pilot projects based on existing national eID systems. In practice, some of the most useful eID services will be tested by defining a set of common specifications allowing for the recognition of different national eIDs between the participants.

Without replacing national schemes, the new system will allow citizens to identify themselves electronically in a secure way using their national electronic identity (eID via electronic cards or other means), and deal with foreign public administrations either from public offices, from their PC or ideally from any other mobile device. The solutions developed and the experience gained by the project team will be shared with all states, whether they are participating or not in the pilot.

The project is supported by the Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP). STORK will run for three years and will receive €10 million funding from the European Commission's Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), as well as an equal contribution from the participating parties.

Further information:

- [Full press release on the Europa website](#)
 - [STORK project factsheet – ePractice Library](#)
-

HU: Successful trial of the farmers' support application system (2 June 2008)

For the first time, Hungarian farmers have had the possibility this year to use the system (eSAPS) serving the electronic submission of their area-based support requests. The new service proved to be successful, with 95 % of the applications submitted in an electronic way.

During the application period, 183 493 area-based support request forms, representing areas of almost five million hectares in total, were submitted to the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA). Most (95 percent) of the forms were submitted in an electronic way.

The electronic application system, which was tested in a pilot operation by the biggest farms in 2007, has been made available to all of the Hungarian farmers this year. Access to the system was either direct, through a Client Gate registration (providing the necessary identification for the use of electronic public services) or, in lack of identification, via agents to whom the farmers could send their applications. The local farming experts, members of the network keeping contacts between the farmers and the ARDA played a decisive role in the electronic filling in and submission of the forms.

József Gráf, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, welcomed the success of the service, and also stressed that the electronic solution means easier submission, easier procession and so the quicker payment of supports for the farmers.

Miklós Margittai, President of the ARDA, also said that the number of the formally mistaken applications can practically be reduced to zero since the control function built in the system allows an application to be confirmed only in case it is properly filled in. Margittai added that the development of the continuously growing system cost about HUF 100 million (approx. €41 437), which equals the expenses of the paper-based procedure of 2007 (printing and posting 700 000 block maps, etc.).

Further information:

- [eSAPS system website \(in Hungarian\)](#)
 - [COMPUTERWORLD.hu – News article \(in Hungarian\)](#)
-

EE: New eID awareness campaign tries for world record (2 June 2008)

In a bid to promote the wide-scale take-up of the eSignature in Estonia, the [Estonian Informatics Centre \(RIA\)](#) launched a national eID awareness campaign on 22 May 2008.

As part of the information campaign, which will run until the end of June, RIA will attempt to establish a new world record – the most digital signatures to a single document. The Centre will collect as many signatures as possible over the coming month and submit them to the Guinness World Records team. If the record is accepted, the lucky participants will have their names cited in the record books! The target is to collect at least 50 000 signatures on the www.id.ee/record site set up for this purpose.

The aim of the campaign is to encourage anyone who has yet to use the eSignature facility on their eID card to take their first steps towards the use of secure eServices and digital signing. The eID card guarantees the personal signature of the holder, is forgery-proof, and is considered equal in law to a handwritten signature. The campaign will provide several possibilities for people to use their eSignature for the first time and staff will be on hand in the offices of the main Estonian bank, Hansapank, to assist and advise clients on the use of the ID card. A video clip promoting the campaign can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM-pdXJoNR4>.

Further information:

- [Estonian Informatics Centre \(RIA\)](#) (in Estonian)
- [e-eesti - news](#) (in Estonian)
- [e-eesti - news](#) (in Estonian)
- [Signatures submission website](#) (in Estonian)
- [Campaign promotion video](#) (in Estonian)

PT: Compras in English (2 June 2008)

The Portuguese public eProcurement portal, [Compras](#), is now also available in English.

The procurement section homepage in English gives an overview of the services on offer. These include a searchable database of notices of active procurement procedures, an e-mail alert service for notices, on-line forms for publishing a notice in Portugal's official gazette, on-line preregistration of suppliers which are potentially interested in Portuguese public contracts, and access to public procurement catalogues, notably the Public Telematic Supply Catalogue run by the National Public Purchasing Agency.

However, at this stage, most of these onward links are to Portuguese-language pages. Also, somewhat discouragingly, access to the Public Telematic Supply Catalogue requires prior registration via a [Portuguese-language form](#). For those wishing to fill it in, the information required, in the order requested, is: type of organisation (drop-bar choice of "public body" or "enterprise"), company name ("denominação social"), company registration number, address, postcode, phone, fax and e-mail.

Other features in the English version include a searchable news and press release section, international best practice guides, a searchable database of Portuguese and European commercial legislation, and links to EU-level eProcurement sites. There is also a good collection of international eProcurement links.

Compras, by the way, simply means "Purchases".

Further information:

- [Compras](#) (in Portuguese)
- [Compras](#) (in English)
- [Registration form](#) (in Portuguese)

LT: eDeclarations replace paper versions (2 June 2008)

The [Lithuanian State Tax Inspectorate](#) has announced that over 844 000 taxpayers submitted their income tax declarations on-line this year, bringing the percentage of on-line declarations to 88 %.

The Inspectorate also received 59 000 on-line asset declarations and almost 530 000 applications for the allocation of a 2 % tax rebate. The new features this year included an increase in the amount of data provided in the pre-filled tax forms, an on-line calculator of tax-free income, and the option to fill in or amend

the declaration on-line. All these features further encouraged Lithuanians to switch from hard-copy declarations to the electronic version, bringing the percentage of on-line declarations up to 88 % from 75 % last year.

On-line declarations have become the standard method of declaring an income in Lithuania, while the hard-copy declarations are now almost a thing of the past. The Inspectorate is rightly proud of this achievement, claiming that the on-line declaration system has not only facilitated the process of declaring income, but has also reduced errors, cut processing and storage costs and has significantly reduced the amount of paper wastage.

It has calculated that, if all residents had filled in hard-copy declarations, they would have used 20 tonnes of paper. By submitting eDeclarations, the Lithuanian taxpayers have preserved a small grove of more than 300 trees this year, it reveals.

Another development in 2008 was that a higher number of eDeclarations were submitted from 'public hotspots' in rural areas. The Tax Inspectorate has established a successful co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior and the Association of Public Hotspots, which allows people with no computer or internet access to use the hotspots for free in order to submit their tax declarations. Over 5 000 declarations were submitted this year through this service, which is twice as many as last year.

Further information:

- [Lithuanian State Tax Inspectorate –News](#) (in Lithuanian)
 - [Lithuanian State Tax Inspectorate](#) (in Lithuanian)
-

BG: eTax returns triple, but remain low (30 May 2008)

The Bulgarian [National Revenue Agency \(NRA\)](#) has announced that on-line income tax declarations have tripled this year, compared to eTax returns in 2007.

Over 11 500 on-line income tax declarations were submitted to the NRA by this year's deadline of 30 April. As the deadline approached, the agency reports that eTax returns were streaming in, with 3 000 submissions received in just the last few days.

Despite this positive trend, however, take-up of the on-line facility is still very low at less than 5 % of all expected submissions. In order to encourage wider use of this service, the NRA offered a special 5 % discount to those who submitted their declarations on-line. Part of the reason for this low take-up may be that the submission of an on-line declaration requires the use of an eSignature. Taxpayers who want to use this service must first obtain a universal eSignature certificate from one of the four authorised eSignature service providers in Bulgaria. They must also register with the NRA's on-line service.

In addition to tax returns, the NRA accepts other eForms, such as VAT and VIES declarations and registration of employment contracts.

Further information:

- [National Revenue Agency \(NRA\)](#) (in Bulgarian)
 - [National Revenue Agency \(NRA\)](#) (in English)
-

CZ: eCode of Law to bring citizens up to date on legislation (30 May 2008)

The Czech Parliament is presently examining a draft Bill of Law which would introduce an electronic Code of Law – an on-line resource providing public access to all current national laws, in their unabridged version and complete with amendments.

At present, it is quite difficult for citizens in the Czech Republic to identify the latest unabridged version of a national law. This is due to the large number of amendments that are made to existing laws, which are virtually impossible to integrate fully into the printed texts. Even the most important laws are not published with all the latest amendments, which sometimes poses a major problem.

Amendments can often involve major changes in legislation and yet can go unnoticed even by those in the legal profession. This happened last year with an increase in the VAT rate which was published as an

amendment and hidden among numerous other amendments. This situation poses a particular problem for businesses which are bound by law to comply with the latest versions of legal texts, including all amendments. In many cases, they are forced to seek the relevant information from private companies which charge for their services.

Faced with discontentment within the business sector, the state is proposing to update its present on-line databases and provide an electronic Code of Law which would allow full-text searches and easy access to the latest versions of current laws. The technical details of how the system would be set up, and all the relevant data transferred, are still to be resolved, as is the question of the legal status of the on-line version of a law. It is hoped, however, that people in the Czech Republic will soon have easier access to national laws.

Further information:

- [eStat.cz \(in Czech\)](#)
-

HU: Official Journal on the Internet (30 May 2008)

In case the Parliament accepts an amendment to the law on electronic information freedom, the electronic version of the Official Journal would become the only authentic source of legal texts.

The Official Journal of Hungary contains the legal regulations, international contracts, decisions and legal directives of the Parliament and the Government, as well as the principles and theoretical decisions of the Supreme Court and the decisions made in personal matters (e.g. the honours granted by the President of Hungary or the Government).

In order to promote the availability of legal texts and regulations for everyone, the present law states that the electronic versions shall be considered as an information source complementing the authentic paper-based solutions.

If the amendment proposed by the Prime Minister's Office is passed, the two forms of publication would be maintained, but the electronic version would become the only authentic source in the future. The reasoning is that the latter one is easier and quicker to be spread, being for instance accessible after the working hours. Another important aspect is that level of Internet access is much higher than the number of shops selling the printed version of the Official Journal.

The digital Official Journal of Hungary would be published on the governmental portal, and the constitutional dignitaries and the major public libraries would receive the authentic copy of this page. For those not possessing an Internet access, the paper-based version would be distributed.

At the same time, the Official Journal would become a unified official journal since the ministry announcements published in the official journals of the ministries so far would be published there too. Furthermore, the user rights of the data bases connected to the official journals and the official regulation registries would pass to the Prime Minister's Office.

Further information:

- [Origo.hu – News article \(in Hungarian\)](#)
-

EU: Supreme court cases on ICT and Media law online (27 May 2008)

Caselex has started its roll-out of national Supreme Court cases within the fields of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) law and Media law.

The European Information Society has developed rapidly. Today, there are two main areas of Information Society regulation at European level, namely Transmission and Content. Caselex does now offer national Supreme Court cases interpreting this regulatory framework.

Caselex is an information service providing access to the most important national and European case law linked to EU law. An easy to use online service holding exclusive case digests in English allows legal professionals to easily use foreign cases relevant to their work or study. Full texts and case digests can be translated from any European source language on demand.

The Caselex project is an eTEN-funded project which is coordinated by the Institute of Legal Information Theory and Techniques (ITTIG) of the National Research Institute in Italy. The project has won the European Information Association's 2008 'EIA Award for excellence in European information provision (electronic sources category)'.

Further information:

- [Website of Caselex](#)
 - [Website of the Institute of Legal Information Theory and Techniques \(ITTIG\) – Italy](#)
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New Facsheets

The 9th Edition of the eGovernment factsheet for Denmark is now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) at the portal for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [EU: eHealth Monthly Focus on SemanticHEALTH](#) 30 May 2008 | EU Institutions
 - [EU: Factsheet of STORK – elidentity pilot project](#) 30 May 2008 | Austria, Belgium, Estonia, EU Institutions, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
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EU: eHealth Monthly Focus on SemanticHEALTH

Complete title:
eHealth Monthly Focus on SemanticHEALTH

Description (short summary): Healthcare services are an essential part of the European social model, and the right to access high quality healthcare is at the essence of European citizenship. The values of universality, equity, solidarity and quality are shared by all Member States of the Union.

Economic and social trends challenge the sustained pursuit of these values. eHealth applications have proven to be key means in support of meeting such challenges; and they can open up even new opportunities for the further development of national and regional health systems.

But to meet the policy goals of further improved patient safety, comprehensive chronic disease management or mobile and homecare, the safe, meaningful recording, sharing and combining of patient data, medical knowledge, and recommendations for treatment have become mandatory.

In a multi-cultural, multi-language European environment, such requirements pose tremendous challenges which must be met to reap the expected benefits from eHealth. Semantic interoperability (SIOP), which will not only allow electronic "machines" to exchange and manipulate patient data, but also all those involved in health services to understand and act on patient information in a collaborative manner, will have to play a pivotal role in order to realise this vision.

Building on an extensive review of the latest R&D efforts in Europe and around the world, the SemanticHEALTH project - a specific support action (SSA) funded by the European Commission within its Framework Programme 6 (FP6) - develops a roadmap for further research and deployment of workable Semantic Interoperability solutions across the EU healthcares systems, in the short and medium term.

Original URL: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/health/index_en.htm

Number of pages: 2

EU: Factsheet of STORK – elidentity pilot project

Complete title:
eID – Easier access to public services across the EU

Description (short summary): Several barriers to the free movement of workers still exist in the EU: for example, it is not easy to access public services while working or living in another country.

The European Commission launched the STORK (**S**ecure **i**den**T**ity **a**cr**O**ss **b**o**R**ders **l**in**K**ed) pilot project in order to remedy this situation with an EU-wide system for the recognition and authentication of electronic identity (eID via electronic cards or other means). It will enable businesses and citizens to securely use their national electronic identities and get help from public administrations in any Member State they live in or travel to.

The present document provides a description of the objectives, structure and expected impacts of this pilot project.

Related article(s): [EU: Cross-border recognition of national eID – Launch of the STORK pilot project](#)

Original URL: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/infocentre/detail.cfm?id=4147

Number of pages: 2

ePractice Workshops

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

- [eHealth Management](#) 9 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [eInclusion: Digital literacy](#) 16 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [Innovative Cities for the Next Generation - ICING final event](#) 26 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [eInclusion: Special needs groups](#) 25 September 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop](#) 15 October 2008 | Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)
- [Administrative burden](#) 23 October 2008 | Bremen (Germany)
- [European eInclusion initiative: results and future steps](#) 13 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [eGov services to business: the state of the play](#) 17 November 2008 | Cork (Ireland)
- [Service Deployment](#) 9 February 2009 | Brussels (Belgium)

Co-branding your event with ePractice.eu is possible. Please read our terms at epractice.eu/workshops

Upcoming Events

- [UK: Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008](#) 4 June 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [AT: BRZ Client and Partner Event 2008](#) 5 June 2008 | Austria
 - [AT: International Conference on the DAD project](#) 5 June 2008 | Austria
 - [SI: 21st Bled eConference on 'eCollaboration'](#) 15 - 18 June 2008 | Slovenia
 - [BE: SEMIC.EU Launch Conference](#) 17 June 2008 | Belgium
 - [BE: Info Day on the new European Interoperability Framework](#) 25 June 2008 | Belgium
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UK: Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008

4 June 2008

'National Conference on Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008'

The 'Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008 Conference', to be hosted by the [eGovernment Bulletin](#), will take place following the [Shared Services Online Summit](#) (3-9 March 2008). The Conference will aim to provide insights into the benefits and challenges of sharing systems and services, to identify good practice

and to provide a forum to share experience amongst those involved with planning the move towards shared services.

The Conference programme will include a wide range of roundtable discussion groups and small group presentations to enable interaction and exchange of good practice.

Topics to be addressed during the Conference will be the following among others:

- Analysing the strategic drivers for shared services in the public sector;
- Comparing different shared service and outsourcing models;
- Creating the framework for successful contracts;
- Issues to be resolved before consolidating or outsourcing services;
- Lessons learned from experience of sharing services and outsourcing;
- Practical challenges faced by organisations restructuring shared services;
- Strategic role of shared services in transformational government.

Proposals and contributions to the programme are welcome, particularly in relation to:

- Issues to be resolved before consolidating or outsourcing services;
- Lessons learned from experience of sharing services and outsourcing;
- Practical challenges faced by organisations planning or developing shared service initiatives.

Registration is available online at the following link: <http://195.40.181.94/sharedservices08/registration.asp> and prices for registration vary as follows:

- Public Sector: £295 + VAT (approx. €220) including Conference Pass, Networking, Lunch & Refreshments;
- Private Sector: £395 +VAT (approx. €295) including Conference Pass, Networking, Lunch & Refreshments;

Please note there is an Early Bird Offer of £100 (approx. €133) discount, valid until the end of February.

Event website: <http://www.headstar-events.com/shared-services08/>

Event email: claire@headstar.com

Venue: New Connaught Rooms
61-63 Great Queen St
London, WC2B 5DA

AT: BRZ Client and Partner Event 2008

5 June 2008

Bundesrechnungszentrum (BRZ) Client and Partner Event 2008 – “e-Government goes Europe”

Austrian and European clients, partners and keynote speakers will present their projects and discuss E-Government and its technological backbone.

Approximately 400 guests from political institutions, public administration management and the IT-sector as well as representatives from Austrian and European IT organisations, scientists and researchers, media representatives and opinion leaders are expected to participate in the event.

The main topics of the event are:

- Pan-European Collaboration “PEPPOL” (Pan European Public Procurement OnLine), CEN/BII as an example;

- The EU Service Directive in the internal market – Efficient cross-organisational and cross-national E-Government;
- E-ID – There is no security without continuous identification!
- Portals – How many portals does public administration need?
- Networking of the “European Alliance of Government IT-Service Providers”.

Invited guests are requested to fill in the [online registration form](#).

Event website: www.brz.gv.at

Contact Email: event08@brz.gv.at

Venue: Palladium, Vienna
Donau-City-Straße 15
1220 Vienna
Austria

AT: International Conference on the DAD project

5 June 2008

International Mid-term Event of eTEN-Project DAD

This international conference focuses on "How fathers-to-be discover parenting". Speakers from Austria, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Sweden will give an international perspective on topics such as motivating fathers to engage in childcare and the influence and acceptance of paternity leave.

The event will feature a presentation of the eTEN funded EU-Project “DAD - a digital guide for fathers-to-be”. The project partners will show the localised versions of DAD-guides in Czech, Dutch, Polish and Romanian. The event is scheduled right after the first successful evaluation phase of DAD within the EU-Project.

As DAD touches many different fields, such as parenting, the father’s role in society, parental leave in Europe, baby’s health and baby’s safety, international experts from these different areas will present their views and perspectives.

Among other topics, the distribution of healthcare information in Europe will be addressed. For more information, the [agenda](#) of the conference has been made available online.

All interested people can attend this free-of-charge event. Those wishing to sign up for the conference must send an email with their contact details to dadevent@webeducation.cc. The seats will be allocated on first come, first served basis.

Event website: <http://www.webeducation.cc/web/internationale-dad-konferenz-in-wien.html>

Event email: dadevent@webeducation.cc

Venue: Federation of Austrian Industry (Industriellenvereinigung)
Room Urbansaal and Spiegelsaal
Schwarzenbergplatz 4
1031 Vienna

SI: 21st Bled eConference on ‘eCollaboration’

15 - 18 June 2008

‘eCollaboration: Overcoming Boundaries Through Multi-Channel interaction’

The 21st edition of the Bled eConference will be held during the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union. It will address all aspects of eCollaboration among all the “e” actors, featuring the following sessions:

- May 15: Pre-conference event on eParliament, with “eEU panels” focused on bridging the gap in the EU and between decision-makers and citizens in the Parliaments, with the participation of members of the European Parliament;
- May 16: Plenary session I - Overcoming Boundaries by eCollaboration: Government, Parliament, and University;
- May 16: Plenary session II – Overcoming Boundaries by eCollaboration: eInteroperability, eBusiness, eInclusion and eUniversity;
- May 18: Plenary session III – eGovernance: Coordinating and Managing the Digital Economy:
- Several panels and workshops addressing a wide range of topics, among which interoperability, eProcurement, eBusiness and eMarketplaces, user-centric services convergence, mobile value services, etc.
- "Connecting Public Services Communities" Roundtable, which will gather key stakeholders from the public and private sectors as well as from the academia, with the aim to stimulate the exchange of good practices in the field of cross-border interoperability across the European Union.

The conference attracts speakers and delegates from business, government, information technology providers, as well as researchers working in all aspects of “e”. There will be a variety of keynote speakers from industry, government and Academia.

The full participation fee amounts to €450 in case of early registration, until May 5 (€225 for students) and to €500 for registrations performed after that date (€250 for students).

Those interested in attending are requested to complete the [online registration form](#).

Event website: <http://bledconference.org>

Contact Email: neja@albatros-bled.com

Venue: Golf Hotel Bled
Cankarjeva 4
4260 Bled (Slovenia)

BE: SEMIC.EU Launch Conference

17 June 2008

Launch conference of the Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe

The European Commission, Directorate General for Informatics (IDABC), is organising a conference on the occasion of the launch of SEMIC.EU, the Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe, on 17 June 2008, in Brussels.

The conference will be a meeting point and networking opportunity for professionals of all sectors. Participants will introduce their projects to their peers in poster sessions, and in a panel discussion on Visions of the Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe.

Keynotes:

Karel de Vriendt, Head of IDABC unit, European Commission
Jan Timmerman, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Netherlands
Steven Capell, Technical Director, Red Wahoo, Australia
Dr. Wilfried Bernhardt, Federal Ministry of Justice of the Federal Republic of Germany

The Conference programme is available [online](#).

SEMIC.EU establishes an open repository for interoperability assets. The project offers coaching services and opportunities for exchange of ideas and best practices. It creates a central resource of interoperability solutions produced by and provided to European eGovernment projects.

If you are interested in participating, please fill in the [call for expression of interest](#) by 31 May. The privacy statement can be downloaded [online](#).

Further information on the SEMIC program is available at the following link: [Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe \(SEMIC.EU\)](#)

Event website: http://www.semic.eu/events_conferences.html

Event email: conference@semic.eu

Venue: Jolly Hotel du Grand Sablon
Rue Bodenbroekstraat 2/4
Brussels

BE: Info Day on the new European Interoperability Framework

25 June 2008

Info Day on the new European Interoperability Framework (EIF)

The European Interoperability Framework (EIF) supports the European Union's strategy of providing user-centred eGovernment services by facilitating, at a pan-European level, the interoperability of services and systems between public administrations, as well as between administrations and the public (citizens, businesses).

The EIF document defines the general rules and principles for collaboration on interoperability between Member States and European Institutions.

The IDABC unit of the European Commission is currently preparing a revised version of the EIF.

In this context, the EIF Info Day will focus on the novelties of the upcoming revised version, aiming to inform on the developments implemented since the original version.

The draft of the new version of the EIF will be available on the IDABC website July 2008, for external stakeholders to comment on it.

The new EIF will represent an official Commission position with the publication of a Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the Parliament.

Those interested in attending the Info Day must fill in the dedicated [form](#) online by 13 June 2008.

Further details, as well as the draft agenda of the event, will be made available shortly at the event website.

Event website: <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7649>

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Venue: Tour Madou
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