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European ePractice Newsletter

N. 251 - 7 October 2008

>> Last days to register for the FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop

ePractice.eu members are invited to attend a free practice workshop on secure electronic document exchange for administrations, hosted by the FASTeTEN project. The event will take place on 15 October, on the eve of the World eDemocracy Forum, in Issy-les-Moulineaux (France). Participants in the workshop will have the chance to meet some of the people involved in the FASTeTEN project and to discuss approaches to secure infrastructure, improved and legally-watertight document exchange, and adaptation of good practice to different European contexts. To register please visit epractice.eu/workshop/FASTeTEN

>> "eInclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities" workshop

The knowledge base on immigrant and ethnic minority use of ICTs is poorly developed and portrays different pictures. Although there is a prevailing view that immigrants and ethnic minorities face particular problems in accessing and using ICTs, this assertion is by no means supported by the evidence. The picture is complex, and it will be analysed in the ePractice.eu "eInclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities" workshop of November 13th in Brussels. This hands-on seminar will explore several key themes related to eInclusion and immigration in the EU, which will be illustrated with relevant case studies presentations and interactive discussion groups. If you are interested in this free event, you may register now at epractice.eu/workshop/einclusionresults

>> Administrative Burden workshop in Brussels

On November 25 ePractice.eu will celebrate a workshop on Administrative Burden in Brussels. During this free event, participants will learn about the actions undertaken by the EC for measuring and reducing administrative burden and will be provided with an up to date overview of the latest activities of the Standard Cost Model Network. The workshop will also analyse several good practice cases showing how administrative burden is successfully being reduced for business, citizens and governments along Europe. For registration and preliminary agenda, please visit epractice.eu/workshop/adminburden

Please feel free to forward epractice.eu/newsletter 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.

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- [Libraries for Innovation - Public access computing in libraries](#) 30 September 2008 |

Editor's Choice of the week: [Business Improvement Package](#)

Innovall, search of patent databases

The Innovall service provides efficient, cost-effective search of patent databases through a user-friendly web site. It uses a methodology that improves on the common word-only search mode, as the user is asked to insert an Action and a Subject (e.g. "reduce friction"), to which synonyms are then added (e.g. "decrease", "reduce", "resistance") to capture conceptually related documents, rather than just the ones where the exact words appear. In this way Innovall's results are more relevant and allow an easier cross-over of industrial property information from different business areas.

Factuurmonitor 2008

Factuurmonitor is an introduction survey to electronic invoicing in Europe and The Netherlands, based on a European study. It is an independent initiative by Factuurwijzer, a Dutch company that aims for the increase of awareness around electronic invoicing and automated invoice processing. The larger awareness of this subject will have a positive influence on the adoption of the e-invoice as a substitute for the traditional paper invoice. It is a fact that most potential users are known with the financial and practical advantages of electronic invoicing. However, the adoption level is low at this point in time. The reasons for this slow progress are diverse, but the general problem is the lack of clarity. Clarity about standards, about fiscal legislation and technical characteristics. When these aspects will be improved and people and companies will be better informed about the beneficial aspects of e-invoicing, the implementation might grow increasingly. Factuurmonitor has the objective to lower the barriers for potential users. This should lead to a higher rate of consideration within the target group to switch to digital invoicing and processing. Factuurmonitor offers an explanatory and clear survey of developments in Europe, illustrated with graphic statistics and an overview of words and expressions that are often used related to the subject. It makes the document an essential publication for every organisation that is involved or interested in the subject.

NETC@RDS for eEHIC ID

The current phase of the NETC@RDS project is aimed at achieving initial deployment of an online service for the "electronification" of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) in 15 EFTA/EU countries. The service has already been successfully tested in 85 pilots across 10 EU member states. This initial deployment project phase now extends the existing implementations to enable, and facilitate healthcare access for European citizens who provide evidence of entitlement in any of the 305 service sites across the 15 participating European countries. This can be via an eye readable EHIC, or a national health insurance electronic card, or via certain National e-ID chip card issued by the responsible government authorities of the participating partners. An online verification provides assurance to support acceptance procedures for both health insurances and health care providers. The application is thus expected to improve administrative healthcare services across Member States as well as the mobility of citizens across the EU/EFTA countries, through the national healthcare systems. The main objective of the demonstration is to show the technical options for substituting the present eye-readable EHIC, for arrangements involving electronic documents and network solutions, and for the implementation of healthcare services across European countries. The NETC@RDS service for the EHIC electronification serves three distinct processes: automatic data capture for identification based on a common set of data elements, on-line verification of entitlement rights via national portals, and minimal data provision which can contribute to subsequent back-office interstate-billing. The deployment of the NETC@RDS service is aimed at achieving a mutual use and recognition of the pan-European standardised eEHIC as a means of validating entitlement to unplanned health care. This will enable to simplify the procedures for the travelling citizens, healthcare workers, and health insurance providers, and thus to promote free movement of people and services in the EU

UK's National Archives' Digitisation Programme

UK's National Archives has embarked on an ambitious and successful programme to digitise the most popular documents in our largely paper-based collection, making these available from anywhere across the globe through instant digital access. We are aiming to digitise over 100 million pages by 2012, which range from iconic documents of such as the Domesday Book, through to the hugely popular census records and government legislation. From a zero base in 2001, almost 10 million National Archives records were downloaded in the month of August 2008. We have used a range of approaches to achieve this strategic goal including: Government funded approaches, Partnership with academic/ other government institutions and Licensing agreements with commercial third-parties. This programme supports our obligation to make records available to the public, but more than that, it represents explicitly the three strands of our vision. First, we guarantee the survival of our documents, and this is key to our efforts to protect them. Second, the programme brings history to life for everyone, as they trace their

own family history, and understand better the social context of their ancestors' lives. Third, it demonstrates our role in leading, transforming and innovating in the management of government information.

National Digital School-Leavers Service

The Netherland's National Digital School-Leavers Service is a national facility to provide data about absence and early school-leaving from educational institutions to municipalities and RMC (regional recording and coordination) regions. The service will contribute to the prevention of absence and premature school-leaving, one of the measures of an action plan to actively tackle school dropout. Next to that the service will reduce administrative burdens for educational institutions and municipalities. With this initiative, schools report absence of their pupils through a single online service, rather than having to identify and report in different formats to the several competent authorities. Municipalities and/or RMC regions can make their own choices about how the data they receive from the service in their own computerised municipal administrative systems for the purposes of enforcement/ service provision. This national facility saves costs to municipalities and RMC regions because they do not have to develop equivalent local and regional facilities.

Libraries for Innovation - Public access computing in libraries

The key aim of the project "Libraries for Innovation" is to achieve, through strengthening and using public libraries' capacities, a considerably better use of information technologies among Lithuanian people, especially in rural areas and among social risk groups, in order to obtain information and communicate. It is expected that within three years most of the Lithuanian public libraries will have launched free of charge public Internet services and librarians' digital competences will improve substantially, which will allow libraries to become a powerful medium helping people and communities while mastering and using information technology capacities.

Latest News

- [BG: Speeding up the development of Information Society](#) 7 October 2008 | Bulgaria
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 - [SE: ODF approved as a national standard](#) 7 October 2008 | Sweden
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BG: Speeding up the development of Information Society - 7 October 2008

The Bulgarian Council of Ministers has adopted a new programme aimed at accelerating the development of Information Society in the country for the period 2008-2010.

The document defines the operational framework of the Bulgarian Information Society model. It addresses in particular the use of new knowledge, technologies and practices necessary for generating and implementing technology transfers.

Furthermore, the new programme focuses on the convergence of information and communication technology (ICT), electronic content and public services, as well as the improvement of the quality of life. In doing so, it takes account of the various options that ICT provide in terms of social and economic development.

It is to be noted that the new programme covers the concept of 'inclusive Information Society' whose application is intended to integrate all layers of society in the Information Society while supporting the development of human capital.

This programme has been prepared by the State Agency for Information Technology and Communications, Bulgaria's public agency tasked with managing IT and communications.

Further information:

- [State Agency for Information Technology and Communications – Press release \(in Bulgarian\)](#)
-

LT: Facelift for government website - 7 October 2008

The Lithuanian Information Society Development Committee (ISDC) has announced plans to update and restructure the main Lithuanian eGovernment website, www.evaldzia.lt, by the end of this year.

Announcing the plans, ISDC Director, Aurimas Matulis, noted that better integration is needed of the different information systems of Lithuanian public institutions in order to speed up the development and delivery of eServices. At present, the Lithuanian public institutions offer only a handful of eServices and restructuration of the main eService portal is now needed in order to make further progress in this field.

The updated website will incorporate a data-transfer system to enable the exchange of data between different public institutions, such as the national vehicle register, the central mortgage office, the state social insurance fund and the national land registry, among others. The new system will make it easier and less expensive for public administrations to set up new eServices. It will also allow Lithuanian citizens to obtain information more easily.

New eServices will already be in operation from the beginning of 2009, including the online registration of residency and submission of child benefit claims. More public administrations are expected to join the system in the near future.

Further information:

- vtv.lv (in Lithuanian)
-

SE: ODF approved as a national standard - 7 October 2008

The OSOR.EU (Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations) reported the approval of the OpenDocument format (ODF) as a national standard in Sweden.

The OpenDocument format (ODF) is a file format for electronic office documents such as spreadsheets, charts, presentations and word processing documents. The OpenDocument standard meets the common definitions of an open standard, meaning that the specification is freely available and implementable.

ODF Alliance, the ODF advocacy organisation indicated that "Sweden now joins Brazil, Croatia, Italy, South Korea, and South Africa as countries whose national standards bodies have formally approved this standard."

SIS press officer Erika Messing called the approval a "routine". SIS was one of the national standardisation organisations that took part in the procedure at ISO to approve ODF, she said. "ISO approved it in 2006 and now SIS has made it a national standard."

Ms Messing added that all standards are voluntary to use. European standards are mandatory to implement as national standards, but they are still voluntarily used.

Further information:

- [Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations \(OSOR.EU\) – Full news article by Gijs Hillenius](#)
 - [SIS website](#)
 - [ODF Alliance website](#)
-

CZ: New government bill opens path for national registers - 6 October 2008

A first step has been made, in the Czech Republic, towards the establishment of online national public sector information registers.

A draft bill on basic registers, presently before the Czech Parliament, represents an important first step towards the establishment of effective online national registers. Once established these could significantly reduce the administrative burden on businesses and Czech citizens who presently still need to physically go from one administration to another to deal with administrative issues.

The bill is the first of six laws that will need to be passed in order to change the situation. As these texts have not all been prepared as yet, it is likely that Czech citizens will still have to wait a few more years before the actual registers can be launched. Nevertheless, the current bill is an important step forward after ten years of discussion on the need for electronic registers.

The main issues to be faced include concern over data protection, confidentiality and the rights of those included in the registers. It is also suggested that the bill should include provisions for the use and reuse of public sector information (PSI), as foreseen by the European Union's PSI Directive.

Further information:

- [eStat.cz \(in Czech\)](http://eStat.cz)
-

EU: Launch of the 'Europe for Patients' campaign - 6 October 2008

On 30 September 2008, the European Commissioner for Health, Ms Androulla Vassiliou launched the 'Europe for Patients' campaign in Brussels. The campaign highlights the different health policy initiatives the Commission intends to adopt in the coming months.

All these initiatives are bound by a common goal: better healthcare for all in Europe. The first initiative under the campaign - the proposed Directive on cross border health care - was adopted by the Commission on 2 July 2008.

The aim of the campaign is to provide a simple entry-point to the often complex world of EU healthcare policies and actions. "This is much more than a communication campaign – I call it a campaign driven by policy. The aim is to provide a tangible and readily understandable communication framework for the many different healthcare policies that we plan to adopt and undertake", Commissioner Vassiliou said.

The campaign will continue throughout the next 6-9 months until the 10 healthcare initiatives undertaken under the campaign are adopted. Among other themes, these initiatives address patient safety, rare diseases, organ donation and transplantation, cancer screening, flu and childhood vaccination, health workforce, antibiotics use, and mental health.

A [Europe for Patients webpage](#) has been set up on the EU Health Portal in 22 languages. It will become an information hub where information on the Europe for Patients initiatives will be regularly updated. Related national and EU-level documents, articles and events will also be posted on the new website.

Further information:

- [Health-EU – the Public Health Portal of the European Union – Webpage of the Europe for Patient Campaign](#)
-

EU: eServices Europa project entering a new phase - 3 October 2008

The [eServices Europa project](#) (eTEN NCP Support Service 2007-2010), an e-service developed with funds from the eTEN programme and operated on behalf of the European Commission pursues a twofold goal.

On the one hand, eServices Europa will offer direct support to a selected number of Trans-European projects focused on eServices within the following six themes: eGovernment, eHealth, eInclusion, eLearning, Trust and Security, and SMEs. Better known as 'eTEN projects', these will receive support over the next three years in the form of training, dissemination, marketing and networking initiatives.

On the other hand, the project will provide support to the network of National Contact Points (hereafter referred to as 'CIP NCPs network') for the ICT Policy Support Programme under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

Only a strong CIP NCPs network, perfectly tuned with the new and expanded objectives of the project, well trained and provided with the marketing, dissemination and networking tools can ensure the necessary mobilisation of local actors around the new challenges brought about by the CIP.

Seven eTEN Projects have now been selected to participate in the first cycle of this services support programme:

- HEALTH OPTIMUM
- RISERid
- FAST
- eParticipate ID
- INNOVALL
- PROCURE

- [NETC@RDS eEHIC ID](mailto:NETC@RDS.eEHIC.ID)

These projects all had the opportunity to benefit from a tailor made training session which took place on the 10 September 2008 in Brussels, with the aim to provide them with the necessary knowledge to further exploit their potential and results. The training materials will be disseminated through the remaining eTEN projects and the CIP NCPs network.

In addition, these projects will participate in a number of marketing activities and networking events where they will be able to interact and present themselves to an audience of private and public organisations, investors and all relevant stakeholders.

Further information:

- [eServices Europa portal](#)
- [Website of the eTEN programme](#)
- [eTEN Project database](#)
- [Website of the ICT Policy Support Programme](#)
- [Website of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#)

EU: Press release: “Commission approves new programme to break down e-barriers” - 3 October 2008

The European Commission has approved a proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers on a new programme for the period 2010–15: “Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations” (ISA).

"In recent years Member States have gradually transformed their administrations to provide public services electronically so that citizens and businesses can communicate fast and easily with their national administrations.

In today's Europe, citizens are free to work in and re-locate to any EU Member State and companies carry out business across the EU. When doing so, they need to communicate with administrations of other Member States. Member States in turn need to communicate with each other to serve the citizens and businesses in the best possible way.

To avoid the creation of electronic barriers (e-barriers) between European administrations, the Member States and the Commission need to strengthen their efforts to ensure barrier-free communication within the internal market.

From red tape to e-barriers: changing challenges

Electronic barriers at national borders are the main challenge of the new era.

When setting up electronic public services to cut red tape and make communication with administrations faster and easier, Member States have mainly been considering the national dimension. However, to serve citizens and businesses in a Europe of mobility, Member States need to be able to communicate seamlessly across borders. Solutions developed without coordination at EU level may prove incompatible and unable to “talk” to each other. This is where the ISA programme steps in.

In response to the need for coordination and cooperation at EU level, the ISA programme proposes to establish and promote commonly agreed solutions to avoid e-barriers at national borders.

From needs to action: implementation of the ISA programme

Over the period 2010-2015, the ISA programme aims to support and promote cooperation between European public administrations.

ISA focuses on providing cross-border solutions for public administrations by making available common frameworks, common services and generic tools and promoting reuse as well as exchange of experience and good practices.

From IDA to ISA: background

ISA is the follow-on programme to the IDABC programme (interoperable delivery of pan-European e-government services to administrations, businesses and citizens) which comes to an end in December 2009.

The IDABC programme was itself launched in January 2005 as the successor of the IDA programme “interchange of data between administrations”.

The IDABC and IDA programmes have clearly provided added value to the exchange of information between administrations compared to what could have been obtained from a separate and uncoordinated approach.

The ISA programme will be based on the achievements of the IDA and IDABC programmes and will, as its predecessors, contribute to the further development and implementation of the European e-government strategy."

Further information:

- [The IDABC programme](#)
 - [Original location of the press release](#)
-

HU: Increasing confidence in eInvoicing - 3 October 2008

The popularity of online payments for utility bills (electricity, gas, water) is increasing in Hungary since the launch of a new eInvoicing service last year by the Díjbeszedő Holding (Utility Fee Collection Holding), despite a persisting reticence to change.

There are now over 50 000 residents in Budapest who choose to pay their utility bills over the Internet. In the summer of 2008, the Díjbeszedő Holding carried out a survey on attitudes to eInvoicing in 1 000 Budapest households. According to the survey, confidence in electronic payment methods has increased. Some 75 % of the population regard purchasing over the internet as secure; 50 % of the respondents use the internet regularly and one-third even use eBanking services.

On the negative side, 20 % reject eInvoicing for security reasons, and 14 % claim to have a strong aversion to eInvoicing. The survey also revealed that 84 % of the population still use the so-called yellow (post office) cheques to pay their monthly bills; 20 % occasionally use bank transfer services to pay their bills; and only 16 % of Budapest's population relies on standing orders.

Although eInvoicing is gaining in popularity, Hungarian citizens still use some 280 million 'yellow cheques' a year to pay their bills at post offices, highlighting a reluctance to change on the part of the population. According to the survey, it is very important to customers (70 on a scale of 1 to 100) to avoid having to change their usual payment methods.

Further information:

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

NL: GovUnited helps the hotel and catering sector in the province of Limburg - 2 October 2008

Limburg is the first Dutch province to connect to [GovUnited](#), a Dutch public sector organisation aiming to improve and standardise both the public services and the internal administration of local governments in the Netherlands.

The Limburg province is participating in "HoReCa1", GovUnited's project for reducing red tape for hotels, restaurants and cafes (Horeca), together with Ondernemend Limburg (Enterprising Limburg), the Chamber of Commerce and Royal HoReCa Netherlands.

"HoReCa is an important part of the economy in Limburg. Currently entrepreneurs have to plough their way through a maze of rules and regulations. Soon they will be able to arrange everything they need to establish or expand a business with just one application form." said Gerdo Peters, the provincial account manager of the 'Other Government' programme.

Catering businesses from three municipalities of the province, represented by the HoReCa Netherlands Limburg Division, are jointly considering the implementation of an integrated HoReCa licence. An advisory group is investigating which burdens the HoReCa businesses would most like to see lifted. This group will also verify whether the integrated licence meets their needs.

"HoReCa1" was originally initiated by the municipality of Amsterdam and was the winner of the European eGovernment Awards 2007. The HoReCa1-model is an environmental licence for the catering business, consisting of several licence applications and a so-called BIBOB-test (an integrity test established by law, so as to prevent the illegal financing of businesses). The integrated HoReCa licence is also one of the services provided by GovUnited's "GU-1" procurement which provides participating municipalities with a complete mid-office suite with a large number of eServices.

GovUnited will take care of the rollout in the participating municipalities. HoReCa1 will shortly be delivered in the municipality of Nijmegen. On its side, The Hague municipality already delivered the integrated licence. The Limburg province plans to have the integrated licence online by the end of the year.

Further information:

- [e-overheid.nl \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [Website of GovUnited \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [Press release – Gov United \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [HoReCa1 – ePractice case](#)
-

NL: Pilot municipalities connect to ‘Government Answers©’ - 2 October 2008

GovUnited is in charge of connecting five Dutch pilot municipalities to the transparency products of Overheid heeft Antwoord© (Government Answers©).

After the implementation of the content management system, these municipalities will be connected to four transparency products, namely: publications, cooperating catalogues, local regulations and licences. These are expected to be online at the beginning of 2009.

Connection to the services of ‘Overheid heeft Antwoord©’ (Government Answers) provides an added service to citizens and businesses; they will be able to find online information on roadworks, local by-laws, passports applications, or to access the requested licences, etc. In other words, the information citizens have to keep their eye out for in their door-to-door weekly newspaper will be made available 24-hours a day, often via a simple catchword.

As a result, it does not matter where the citizen or entrepreneur looks for this information because there is 'no wrong door': Someone searching for a local licence, can, of course, look on the website of the province in question, but also on her/his own municipality's website and on the central eGovernment portal www.overheid.nl. This will result in a considerable expansion and improvement of the digital services at local level.

GovUnited is a public sector organisation seeking to improve and standardise both the public services and the internal administration of local governments in the Netherlands.

Further information:

- [Press release – e-overheid.nl \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [Website of GovUnited \(in Dutch\)](#)
-

HR: Online tour of final high school diploma exams - 30 September 2008

The Croatian Academic and Research Network (CARNet), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sports, has recently released a [new portal](#) aimed at providing students, teachers and anyone else interested with comprehensive information on the country's final high schools diploma exams.

The new portal describes in a simple, user-friendly way everything students and teachers need to know about these exams. Students and teachers can find out what the exams consist of, get to know the mandatory and optional courses, consult the exams' catalogue and the rules governing the diploma, as well as useful information for students to be well prepared and succeed in their exams.

In order to make it easier for students to become acquainted with the stages through high school up to the final diploma, the portal is built around the concept of a bicycle race, under the creative title “Tour de Matour”. The beginning of high school is symbolised by the Start Line, check points stand for the various exams throughout high school, while the Finish line represents the successfully passed final exams.

For those students wishing to continue their studies beyond high school, the portal will provide further information on how the final high school diploma may lead to higher education, together with a list of Universities and their respective programmes. Furthermore, a presentation of the exams systems in Europe and beyond is provided for the specific reference of teachers.

This website is part of [Croatia's portal for schools](#) initiative which targets students, teachers and parents, featuring general information on school education. Both portals link to an online forum, allowing teachers and students to communicate and exchange opinions and experiences on the high school diploma exams.

Further information:

- [Official Press release – e-Croatia portal \(in Croatian\)](#)
- [“Tour de Matour” portal \(in Croatian\)](#)
- [Croatia's portal for schools \(in Croatian\)](#)

LT: Public Internet Access Network now in place - 30 September 2008

Within the framework of Lithuania's "[Development of the Network of Public Internet Access Points](#)" project, a total of 875 public internet access points (PIAPs) has been established throughout the country in August 2008.

Implemented by the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior, the "Development of the Network of Public Internet Access Points" project aims to set up and provide computer services and Internet access mostly to small communities in rural and remote areas of Lithuania. It therefore constitutes the most important source of access to the global information society for 20 % of the population living in the approximately 23 000 villages throughout the country.

"Upon implementation of this project we became the first European country with the highest number of public internet access points per capita," said Minister of the Interior Regimantas Čiupaila.

This project was financed by European Union Structural Funds as well as funds from EU's PHARE programme and the state budget. The entire network of public internet access is connected to the contiguous centralized administration and supervision system. The total project installation and maintenance cost exceeds LTL 21 million (approx. €6 million).

Further information:

- [Ministry of the Interior – Press release](#)
- [Development of the Network of Public Internet Access Points](#)

MK: Electronic System for Management of International Cargo Licenses upgraded - 30 September 2008

The USAID funded eGov Project and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) held a joint press conference on 11 August 2008 to promote the upgraded version of the [Electronic System for Management of International Cargo Licenses](#).

On the occasion of the press conference, Ms. Gordana Tosev, director of the eGov Project, stressed the particular need for an effective transport system in FYROM. FYROM "has no access to the sea, so performance of the transportation system is one of the most important factors of the industry's competitiveness." she said.

Ms. Tosev further described the 'Electronic System for the Management of International Cargo Licenses' application by explaining that "the project makes use of modern information technologies to reflect a transparent process of distribution of yearly-based permissions of transportation of live-stock."

"As result of a successful collaboration between the Ministry and the industry itself, the idea of the project was successfully implemented in 2006. Now, the transport companies can apply for permission using this electronic service and the permissions will be distributed according to clearly defined criteria." she indicated.

Ms. Tosev added that "the Ministry of Transport and Communications will check twice a year all aspects related to the necessary redistribution."

The new online system has been planned to be fully operational as from 15 August 2008. The eGov project moreover reported that as of this date, the use of the application would become mandatory for all transporting companies and for all types of licenses. It is worth noting that a User Manual section, describing the system's functionalities and providing user guidance has also been planned to be set up.

Further information:

- [Homepage of the eGov Project FYROM](#)
- [Electronic System for Management of International Cargo Licenses \(in Macedonian\)](#)

New Factsheets

The 10th Edition of the eGovernment factsheet for Ireland is now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [EU: Connected Health – Essays from Health Innovators](#) 4 October 2008 | Pan European
 - [EU: Commission Communication on future networks and the Internet](#) 29 September 2008 | EU Institutions
-

EU: Connected Health – Essays from Health Innovators - 4 October 2008

Complete title: Thought Leaders – Essays from health innovators – Connected Health

Description (short summary):

This intellectually stretching collection of essays highlights the drivers for changing the way information is used to deliver better, faster, lower cost healthcare – and describes real-world experience. Patient-centric care, advances in hospital information management, the relationship with the surrounding healthcare community, and initiatives that address the strategic needs at regional, national and international levels are discussed in a format that enables both a broad view of e-health activity and specific insight into live projects. A wider perspective on e-health and its importance around the globe is identified in the preface by Dr Kazem Behbehani, Assistant Director General of the World Health Organization.

Kevin Dean, Director of European public sector Healthcare team in Cisco Internet Business Solutions Group, brings together and introduces essays from some of the leading and most influential healthcare organisations that show the range of opportunities and challenges for e-health in the 21st Century.

Original URL: <http://www.ehealthnews.eu/content/view/1347/62/>

Number of pages: 120

EU: Commission Communication on future networks and the Internet - 29 September 2008

Complete title:

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions –Communication on future networks and the Internet

Mitteilung der Kommission an das Europäische Parlament, den Rat, den Europäischen Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuss und den Ausschuss der Regionen – Mitteilung über künftige Netze und das Internet

Communication de la Commission au Parlement Européen, au Conseil, au Comité Economique et Social Européen et au Comité des régions – Communication sur les réseaux et l'Internet du futur

Description (short summary):

This communication reviews existing actions and proposes a coherent policy for preparing Europe's Information Society for the next decade of Internet. It follows on from the [i2010 mid-term review](#) which highlighted future networks and Internet as a policy priority.

Original URL: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm

Number of pages:

EN version: 13

DE and FR versions: 15

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.

- [FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop](#) 15 October 2008 | Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)
- [eInclusion, immigrant and ethnic minority groups](#) 13 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [eGov services to business: the state of the play](#) 17 November 2008 | Cork (Ireland)
- [Administrative burden](#) 25 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [Service Deployment](#) 9 February 2009 | Brussels (Belgium)

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Upcoming Events

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 - [IT: ESII 2 – 2nd European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment](#) 20 - 22 October 2008 | Italy
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 - [DK: World of Health IT 08 – Conference & Exhibition](#) 4 - 6 November 2008 | Denmark
 - [BE: IMI Training and Awareness-Raising Days](#) 25 - 26 November 2008 | Belgium
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BE: 1st OASIS User Forum "Technology for independent living: an OASIS beyond 50" - 8 October 2008

1st OASIS User Forum "Technology for independent living: an OASIS beyond 50"

[OASIS](#) is the acronym of a Large Scale Integrated Project co-financed by the European Commission. The full project name is: 'Open architecture for Accessible Services Integration and Standardization'. OASIS IP aims to develop an open and innovative reference architecture, based upon ontologies and semantic services, that will allow plug and play and cost effective interconnection of existing and newly developed services in all domains required for the independent and autonomous living of older people and their enhanced Quality of Life.

From a technological point of view the OASIS project promises to provide relevant innovations over the state-of-the-art in areas such as:

- Open Reference Architecture and Ontologies;
- Intelligent Agents and AMI Framework;
- Wearable sensors for elderly health and activity monitoring;
- In-home and Domotic Sensors;
- Independent Living Applications and Autonomous Mobility;
- Smart Workplaces Applications.

To reach its aims and objectives, the project is organising the OASIS User Forum "Technology for independent living: an OASIS beyond 50" in the aim to foster discussions between industry, cities and end-users, to ensure the development of technologies and services that meet the needs of older people. Therefore, the organisers encourage multi-stakeholder participation.

More information on the Forum's agenda is available [online](#) at the event website.

It is worth noting that a related event entitled '1st International Workshop –Technology for independent living: an OASIS beyond 50' will take place two days following the User Forum, on 10 October 2008, in Brussels. The dedicated notice can be viewed at the following page of the ePractice portal: <http://www.epractice.eu/document/5011>.

Participation to the Forum is open and free of charge. However, due to space limitation, participation will be on a first-come first-served basis. Those interested in participating are invited to return the [registration form](#) by email to the address mentioned in the form **by 2 October 2008**.

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: OASIS project - www.oasis-project.eu

Event website: <http://www.oasis-project.eu/index.php/lang-en/news-topmenu-19/18-oasis-events/97-1stuserforum>

Event email: info@oasis-project.eu

DE: 4th Conference on eServices in European Civil Registration - 9 - 10 October 2008

4th Conference on eServices in European Civil Registration

The 4th Conference on eServices in European Civil Registration will focus on the strategies and solutions which have been produced in the Member States to meet the challenges in a future-oriented European civil registration.

As a platform for stakeholders in European civil registration, representatives of local, national and EU administrations and cooperating industries, this conference aims to communicate the visions and the answers found.

For the first time the conference offers this year an exhibition of companies and organisations involved in civil registration. The exhibition gives the opportunity to deepen issues of the conference and to discuss topics with experts in more detail.

The conference topics include:

- Latest developments in European population registration systems;
- Population registration: Central or decentralised approaches?
- Enforcing cross-border data protection in Europe;
- Existing and future European registry information services;
- EU Services Directive and European eIdentity Management.

More details on the programme have been made available [online](#).

Participating to the conference requires the payment of a fee of €75 for representatives of public bodies, and €300 for attendees of private organisations.

Registration is open until 30 September 2008.

Country: Germany

City/Location: Berlin

Organiser: RISER consortium

Event website: <http://www.riserid.eu>

FR: Connecting Public Services Communities - 15 October 2008

General Workshop "Connecting Public Services Communities" – eGovernment Cross-Border Interoperability Policy Shaping Action

Taking place within the [World e-Democracy Forum 2008](#), this half day event is organised on the occasion of the presentation of the exclusive edition of the European Review of Political Technologies, dedicated entirely to Cross-Border Interoperability.

"Connecting Public Services Communities" is an initiative launched with the aim of stimulating debate and promoting the exchange of good practices among the EU Member States and eGovernment stakeholders, to successfully meet the challenges raised by the Lisbon [eGovernment Ministerial Declaration](#) with regard to Cross-Border Interoperability; an essential pillar for the set-up of pan-European eGovernment services, and a key enabler for an Internal Market without electronic barriers.

Besides the presentation of the publication, this event will bring together high-level representatives from the EU Member States, the European Commission, experts from the academia and research centres, as well as representatives from the private sector, who will participate in a discussion panel sharing their views, experiences and opinions on Cross-Border Interoperability.

More details on the event's programme are available on the dedicated [brochure](#).

Attendance to the event is free of charge and open to the participation of everyone interested. Those interested are invited to send an informal email to j.castillo@eipa.eu indicating their interest in participating.

Country: France

City/Location: Issy-les-Moulineaux, Paris

Organiser: European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) in cooperation with the Politech Institute

Event email: j.castillo@eipa.eu

DE: Final Workshop – Analysis of the EU Assistive Technology ICT industry - 15 October 2008

Final Workshop – Analysis of the EU Assistive Technology ICT industry

The study “Analysing and federating of the assistive technology ICT industry” is being undertaken by ROBOTIKER–TECNALIA (Spain) for the eInclusion Unit of the European Commission in collaboration with the AAATE (The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe), the IBV (Instituto de Biomecánica de Valencia, Spain) and NG4ALL (Next generation for all, The Netherlands).

The main objective of this study is to carry out an in-depth analysis of the European Assistive Technology (AT) Industry related to ICT products and services, aiming to identify growth opportunities and barriers to its development.

The main questions to be answered in this study are:

- How does the AT ICT industry work?
- Recommendations on how the AT ICT industry can network and better cooperate at EU level.

The conclusions and recommendations of this study will be of use in the preparation by the European Commission of policy actions and recommendations in the fields of eInclusion, eAccessibility and independent living.

The relevant project began in April 2007 and has been completed on 30 September 2008. As part of this project, the team has prepared a series of reports for the European Commission’s eInclusion unit.

The project’s final workshop will be held in the morning of 15 October (10:30 to 13:30) within the [REHACARE 2008](#) Trade Fair and Congress. The workshop will present the final outcome of this study, including the recommendations made.

Over 50 participants are expected. Registration has started and participation is free of charge. Those interested in participating are requested to confirm their attendance by sending an email to jstack@inasmnet.es or lzarate@robotiker.es.

REHACARE 2008 has been selected as the hosting event for this workshop as this Congress is the main venue for assistive technology end-users and industry representatives.

Country: Germany

City/Location: Düsseldorf

Organiser: Robotiker-Tecnalia (Spain), The Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE), IBV (Spain) and ‘Next generation for all’ (NG4ALL - The Netherlands)

Event email: lzarate@robotiker.es

BE: Interoperability in eGovernment: Can technology help? - 17 October 2008

Workshop on Interoperability in eGovernment: Can technology help?

It has become a widely accepted belief among researchers and practitioners alike that the heart of effective eGovernment lies in semantics and the associated interoperability problems.

The Workshop will address the contribution of research in interoperable, integrated eGovernment systems of the future. Main issues to be examined and debated in depth include:

- How can technology help?
- To what an extent can we rely on technological successes such as those of FP6 research?
- What further research is needed on interoperability?

Although contributions on integration and interoperability research for eGovernment are welcome, the Workshop will primarily address results of FP6 projects of the IST priority. Demonstrations of successful applications and lessons learnt are of particular importance.

Areas of interest also include:

- Cross-border data and knowledge management;
- Integration and interoperability;
- Interoperable user-centric services;
- Future research needs on interoperability (roadmap);
- Non-technical aspects of achieving interoperability at European level;
- Socioeconomic consequences;
- Policy measures.

Registration for the Workshop is free and open to all, upon request. Those interested in attending are invited to send an email to egovr@eurodyn.com.

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: Directorate-General Information Society and Media (Unit H2) of the European Commission and the “Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in the EU” study

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/egovernment/studies/trendswatch/index_en.htm

Event email: egovr@eurodyn.com

ES: Public Launch of OSOR.EU - 20 October 2008

Public Launch of the Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations (OSOR.EU)

The event will mark the official launch of OSOR.EU, the [Open Source Observatory and Repository for European Public Administrations](#), a platform actively supporting the sharing of OSS-based eGovernment applications and experiences across Europe – connecting EU services and Member States.

This one day event is part of the [Open Source World Conference](#) (20-22 October 2008), organised by the Junta de Extremadura and the Junta de Andalucía, Spain.

The day’s sessions are dedicated to presenting:

- The OSOR project, platform and services;
- A small panel of users of the platform and the interactions with other European Commission projects related to Open Source.

One separate session will feature a workshop on public procurement and Open source Software. This workshop aims at presenting and discussing the OSOR Guidelines on public procurement and FLOSS (Free Libre Open Source Software). In addition to providing specific guidance on how to handle FLOSS, some of the questions intended to be answered are:

- How is FLOSS treated by public procurement?
- What are the current practices in Member States?

For more information, the [final agenda](#) has been made available.

Registration for this event is now closed.

Country: Spain

City/Location: Málaga

Organiser: Directorate General for Informatics (IDABC) of the European Commission

Event website: <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7735>

Event email: N/A

IT: ESIIIG 2 – 2nd European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment - 20 - 22 October 2008

ESIIIG 2 – 2nd European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment

ESIIG 2 is the second edition of the European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment; the [first summit](#) was held on 22-24 November 2006 in Valencia, Spain. An [interim conference](#) also took place last year in Rome, Italy, on 11-12 October 2007.

The Second Summit is intended to be an unprecedented occasion for:

- Enhancing the role of European regions with respect to the priorities of Interoperability as a key element for the efficient, sustainable and equal development of eGovernment and for the creation of an intelligent and innovative European Government, fostering the development of the Knowledge Society, a higher European integration, a substantial increase of competitiveness and productivity of the EU in the international scenario;
- Analysing the European Interoperability Framework produced by IDABC, as a model for the adaptation and comparison of the single European regional frameworks for Interoperability;
- Verifying the state of the art and promoting successful initiatives in the field of Interoperability in Europe;
- Proceeding concretely in the constitution of ERNI (European Regional Network for Interoperability) and the other European tools proposed by the Valencia Declaration.

Furthermore, during the Summit, the [iG 2.0 Award](#) will also be given to the most outstanding action or initiative in the field of interoperability.

Participation to the Summit is open and free-of-charge. Registration can be performed [online](#) at the event website.

Country: Italy

City/Location: Rome

Organiser: Lazio Region, Regional Ministry for Consumer Protection and Administrative Simplification

Event website: <http://www.esiig2.it/esiig2/index.php>

Event email: esiig2@regione.lazio.it

UK: Porvoo 14 Conference - 23 - 24 October 2008

Porvoo 14 Conference

The [Porvoo Group](#) is an international cooperative network whose primary goal is to promote a trans-national, interoperable electronic identity based on PKI technology (Public Key Infrastructure) and smart cards and chip ID cards, in order to help ensure secure public and private sector e-transactions in Europe. The Group also promotes the introduction of interoperable certificates and technical specifications, the mutual, cross-border acceptance of identification and authentication mechanisms, as well as cross-border, online access to administrative services.

The majority of the Porvoo Group members represent their respective national authorities but representatives of the business community as well as the European Commission and the UN have also contributed to its work. At present, some 30 countries from Europe, the United States, Canada and Asia have representatives in the Group.

The Porvoo Group's two-day conferences are held every six months. The primary objective of the conferences is to bring under discussion "Best practices" in the PKI technology, present on-going PKI projects, follow the progress of standardisation and biometrics in the field of electronic identity, discuss various studies concerning the EU Directive governing electronic signatures as well as draft statements and proposals to the European Commission when deemed necessary.

Themes of the Porvoo 14 Conference include presentations of:

- the situation in the United Kingdom;
- the STORK Project;
- the status of ICAO document 9303 (Part 3);
- the European Citizen Card;
- Mobile signature;
- Cases on the use of biometrics.

Registration to this free and open event is to be performed [online](#).

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: Cardiff, Wales

Organiser: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), supported by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); Cabinet Office and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and the Finnish Population Register Centre

Event website: <http://porvoo14.dvla.gov.uk/>

Event email: porvoo14@dvla.gsi.gov.uk

GR: ICT4JUSTICE - ICT solutions for criminal justice - 24 October 2008

ICT4JUSTICE - ICT solutions for criminal justice

Increase and reshaping of criminal phenomena in the last years pose new challenges to national criminal justice systems: international terrorism, illegal immigration, rise in violent crimes, and the "globalisation" of organised crime are significant examples.

ICT deployment in European judicial systems is a key element to face these challenges and to improve significantly the administration of criminal justice. ICT support to criminal justice opens new possibilities for supporting investigations, prosecution activities, national and international cooperation, trials and management of judicial cases, posing on the counterpart relevant challenges related to privacy, information security, non repudiation and usability of the electronic folders.

The ICT4JUSTICE event aims to give a European-wide view of the present and future synergies between criminal justice and ICT technologies, by bringing together experiences, best practices and perspective activities of judicial and technological actors.

The major topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Cross-border communication between parties to judicial proceedings and integration of registers and records at the EU level;
- Systems supporting lawyers, in legal reasoning, document drafting, negotiation;
- Systems supporting prosecutor offices, judicial police, and judicial cooperation;
- Video-conference in trials and investigations: legal and technological perspectives;
- Introduction of IT in courts and consequent changes in business processes;
- Improvement in communications between courts, citizens and organizations;
- eSubmission and eService;
- Interoperability of judicial services in the EU.

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

Country: Greece

City/Location: Thessaloniki

Organiser: SEERC and partners of JWEB and JUMAS projects consortia

Event website: <http://www.seerc.org/ict4justice>

Event email: jweb@seerc.org

PT: 3rd International Strategic Procurement Conference - 12 November 2008

3rd International Strategic Procurement Conference – Compras 2008

The objectives of the 3rd International Strategic Procurement Conference are as follows:

- To present new concepts and operational tools of strategic procurement;
- To share the most recent practices and trends of strategic sourcing and eProcurement;
- To highlight winning experiences and their key success factors;
- To present the global trends of strategic procurement;
- To identify the procurement competitiveness factors in the private sector;
- To debate the challenges related to the new Public Procurement Code of Portugal (DI n° 18/2008 of 29 of January 2008);
- To promote a commercial relationship platform with the Angolan market.

The event is free of charge and open to the participation of all interested persons, but the number of seats is limited. Therefore, those interested are requested to confirm their participation by 7 November 2008, by email sent

to info@leadership-bc.com or by phone at +351 213 581 060. Registration can otherwise be performed via the [online form](#) (only available in Portuguese currently).

More details on this conference will soon be made available in English on a dedicated website.

Country: Portugal

City/Location: Lisbon

Organiser: Leadership Business Consulting

Event website: <http://www.conferencia-compras.com/>

Event email: info@leadership-bc.com

DK: World of Health IT 08 – Conference & Exhibition - 4 - 6 November 2008

Connecting Leaders in Technology and Healthcare

Because the adoption of IT in healthcare is a global initiative, this conference will focus on the role and impact of Health IT on the health sector in Europe and other parts of the world, including the Middle East and Africa (EMEA).

The event is being designed by and for clinicians and other health professionals; health IT users and buyers; directors and administrators; informatics professionals; academicians; relevant standardisation and competent authorities on an international level and national level, and vendors such as software and hardware development companies and professional services firms.

Topics to be addressed in the conference include:

- eHealth as a Key Enabler in Integrated Healthcare and Citizen Empowerment;
- Organisational Readiness for Transformation in Healthcare;
- Investing for eHealth Deployment;
- Innovation and eHealth.

The conference will offer the following:

- Keynote addresses by leading healthcare experts, practitioners, and officials from EU and national governments;
- Education sessions about timely healthcare IT trends and issues;
- Best practices and real-world case studies from throughout the EMEA region;
- A trade exhibition where companies can showcase their products/services.

The educational sessions will primarily address experiences from deployed services, and focus on proven benefits in quality and efficiency. The demonstration activities and exhibition will give insight into the practical aspects of IT systems and their connectivity.

All proposals for the call for papers must be submitted [online](#) by Monday, 11 February at 17:00 CET.

Country: Denmark

City/Location: Copenhagen

Organisers: European Commission's General-Directorate for Information Society and Media together with the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), the European Institute for Health records (EuroRec), the European Health Telematics Association (EHTEL), the European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry (COCIR) and the Health Information Network Europe (HINE).

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

Event email: jbartley@himss.org

BE: IMI Training and Awareness-Raising Days - 25 - 26 November 2008

IMI Training and Awareness-Raising Days – Towards a smooth administrative collaboration among the Member States

The Internal Market Information System (IMI) is an electronic, multilingual and flexible tool that provides a system for the exchange of information allowing Member States for more efficient and effective co-operation in the implementation of Internal Market legislation. In an enlarged, multilingual European Union where many authorities at local, regional and national level are involved in the implementation of community legislation, tools such as IMI are of particular importance.

Thanks to IMI, important barriers to communication caused by different administrative cultures, structures and languages can be overcome, cross-border activities enhanced and an environment of trust and confidence can be created. IMI will contribute to alleviate many of the present enforcement problems in the Internal Market and will ease administrative burden for everyone involved. Therefore, both citizens and businesses will be able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Internal Market, as the system will contribute to its smooth functioning.

IMI is funded by the IDABC programme (Interoperable delivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public administrations, businesses and citizens), which promotes European eGovernment services.

IMI has already supported information exchanges related to four professions (doctors, physiotherapists, pharmacists and accountants), within the framework of the IMI Professional Qualifications Pilot project which has been running since the beginning of 2008.

The "IMI Training and Awareness Days" take place at a key point in time for the project, when it is intended to extend the IMI system to support information exchanges for additional professions under the Professional Qualifications Directive, notably nurses, dental practitioners, midwives, architects, veterinary surgeons, radiographers and secondary school teachers. The event pursues the following aims:

- To raise awareness of the system amongst stakeholders and future users;
- To train groups of key users who can provide all this know-how to other end-users in their Member State;
- To inform of the progress made in the IMI project;
- To offer networking opportunities.

Participation to this event is free of charge. Those wishing to express their interest in participating are invited to use the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=IMI2008B>. It is to be noted that registration will close on 23 October 2008.

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: European Commission's Directorate General for Internal Market and Services

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/imi_awareness_days_main_en.html

Event email: IMI-conference2008@eurodyn.com

FR: ICT 2008 - 25 - 27 November 2008

"I's to the Future – invention, innovation, impact – An event organised by the European Commission and hosted by the French Presidency of the European Union

The biennial ICT Event (formerly called the "IST Event") organised by the European Commission and hosted by the country presiding the European Union is the most important forum for discussing research and public policy in information and communication technologies at European level. The previous edition of the event took place in 2006 in Helsinki (Finland).

The next ten years will see major transformations in the technological, industrial and business landscapes surrounding information and communication technologies (ICTs). The 2008 edition will set the agenda for ICT research and innovation in Europe during this crucial decade.

The event will bring together researchers, innovators, engineers, policy and business decision-makers and will address topics as diverse as Europe's role in shaping the future internet, ICT's contribution to advancing the sustainability agenda and alternative research paths for future ICT components and systems. These and many other cutting-edge themes will be explored in depth.

In particular, ICT 2008 will examine:

- European Union priorities in ICT research for over €2 billion of funding available in 2009-2010;
- The major current technological trends which impact upon strategic research planning;
- Public research policies to stimulate research and innovation.

The event will feature a conference, an exhibition and networking sessions. The call for proposals for networking sessions will remain [open](#) until 16 June 2008.

The registration details will be available later in the year at the dedicated section of the event website.

Country: France

City/Location: Lyon

Organiser: European Commission's Directorate General Information Society and Media

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2008

FR: Open World Forum – Paris 2008 - 1 - 2 December 2008

FLOSS, Innovation and Competitiveness

The Open World Forum aims to bring together the best of Free, Libre and Open Source Software (FLOSS) at an international level, with keynote presentations, community and technical seminar tracks, covering a wide range of issues, from high-level business strategies to profound technical insights.

The Forum will also play host to a number of associated events and meetings: opportunities for international communities and experts on the use of Open Source to explore business models, public policies, competence centers, governance and legal issues, interoperability, quality metrics, R&D initiatives and next-generation software forges. A special session will feature Brazil as a special guest.

Bringing together international experts working on future planning, scenarios and recommendations, the event will deliver the 2020 FLOSS Roadmap covering all these areas. The first ever worldwide initiative of its kind, the Roadmap will be delivered and debated at the Forum.

More details on the Forum's programme are available in the provisional agenda at the following page <http://www.openworldforum.org/en/program/>. This agenda is currently being finalised and will be made final by 30 September 2008.

The Open World Forum is supported by two worldwide consortiums (OW2 and QualiPSo), several European and French associations, public organisations and competitiveness clusters (Adullact, AFUL, April, Silicon Sentier, Cap Digital and System@tic Paris Region).

Participation to the Forum is open and free of charge. Registration is to be performed [online](#).

Country: France

Event website: www.openworldforum.org

Event email: fml@items-int.eu

ES: ableTech'08 - 10 - 11 December 2008

ableTech'08 – First International Conference on accessible and assistive technologies for dependent people

After four successful editions, ableTech has taken a qualitative leap by going international, with the aim of becoming a key event for sector players. Attendees will be able to gain first-hand knowledge of those international innovative projects breaking ground in the social and technological spheres.

This event aims to be a forum where international stakeholders from the sector of accessible and assistive technologies can exchange their experiences in order to learn from the best practices of other countries. During the two days conference, delegates will debate the following issues:

- To provide a vision of the current situation and trends of the Assistive Technologies Sector and the ageing economy;
- To bring together the different agents in order to be able to exchange experiences and contrast the needs with the existing products and systems;
- To identify the needs of people with disabilities and elderly people for their everyday lives and for improving their quality of life.

Furthermore, within the main conference, the European Project CompanionAble will organise a workshop aimed at sharing experience with other European projects involved in Cognitive Robotics and Ambient Intelligence

Technologies and developing a closer collaboration between the various Consortia Partners involved in Research and Innovation on such technologies.

Over 350 participants are expected. Registration has started since 15 September 2008. Participation is free of charge for people with disabilities (in case of early registration, i.e. prior to 31 October) and students. For other interested persons, the attendance fee ranges from €150 to €250. Registration is to be performed by sending an email to abletech08@marsans.es.

More details on this event can be found on the dedicated [brochure](#).

This Conference has been organised with the support of Public Administrations, Technology oriented organisations, as well as Professional and user organisations. Cooperation efforts have been done with relevant European Projects related.

Country: Spain

City/Location: Bilbao

Organiser: TECNALIA

Event website: www.abletech.org

Event email: abletech08@robotiker.es

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