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## European ePractice Newsletter

### N. 262 - 13 January 2009

#### >> High Impact Services issue of the European Journal of ePractice

The fifth issue of the [European Journal of ePractice](#) provides insightful reflections on High Impact Services that deploy large scale solutions to millions of users and take into account the size/impact ratio in relation to the share of the total relevant population reached. The invited editor of the issue is Michael Blakemore, Emeritus Professor at the University of Durham and co-director of IDRA Ltd, an information strategy consultancy, and the articles are authored by Trond Arne Undheim and Jochen Friedrich; Bram Klievink and Marijn Janssen; Mauro Cislighi, Domenico Pellegrini and Elisa Negroni, and Sirajul Islam. You may [download the publication here](#).

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Please feel free to forward [eu@epractice.eu](mailto:eu@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.

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### E-procurement in Flanders

The Flemish policy for eProcurement means a roll out of three modules: esourcing and eNotice (summarized as e-notification), etendering and econtract. For the front office modules the Flemish administration is using the federal applications. Flemish effort is focused on the development of e-contract (a management contract system).

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### Digital sign language dictionary

Doncaster College for the Deaf is involved in a partnership to develop a website for deaf people wanting to visit or work in a different European country. The European International Project has developed a new digital/visual dictionary showing a wide range of everyday signs and vocational signs used in Woodwork, Construction, Catering and Hospitality. The site is user friendly, just search for a word and then click on the flag of the country to

view the sign for that word in Czech, English, Lithuanian, Spanish, Swedish or Portuguese. 'Spread the Sign' is a pilot project and is supported through the European Commission's Leonardo da Vinci Language scheme. The aim of this project is to enhance job and travel opportunities for Deaf people who want to experience working or holidaying in other European Countries. Future development includes more countries being invited to contribute and additional vocational areas being added to the website. You can find the website at: [www.spreadthesign.com](http://www.spreadthesign.com)

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## **Health-e-Child**

**Mission** There is a compelling demand for the integration and exploitation of heterogeneous biomedical information for improved clinical practice, medical research, and personalised healthcare for the citizens of the EU. **Aims** The Health-e-Child project aims at developing an integrated healthcare platform for European paediatrics, providing seamless integration of traditional and emerging sources of biomedical information. The long-term goal of the project is to provide uninhibited access to universal biomedical knowledge repositories for personalised and preventive healthcare, large-scale information-based biomedical research and training, and informed policy making. **Focus** The Health-e-Child project focus will be on individualised disease prevention, screening, early diagnosis, therapy and follow-up of paediatric heart diseases, inflammatory diseases, and brain tumours. The project will build a Grid-enabled European network of leading clinical centres that will share and annotate biomedical data, validate systems clinically, and diffuse clinical excellence across Europe by setting up new technologies, clinical workflows, and standard Objectives \* To gain a comprehensive view of a child's health by vertically integrating biomedical data, information, and knowledge, that spans the entire spectrum from genetic to clinical to epidemiological; \* To develop a biomedical information platform, supported by sophisticated and robust search, optimisation, and matching techniques for heterogeneous information, empowered by the Grid; \* To build enabling tools and services on top of the Health-e-Child platform, that will lead to innovative and better healthcare solutions in Europe: \* Integrated disease models exploiting all available information levels; \* Database-guided biomedical decision support systems provisioning novel clinical practices and personalised healthcare for children; \* Large-scale, cross-modality, and longitudinal information fusion and data mining for biomedical knowledge discovery.

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## **PLYCA implementation (products and services) in Burgos Municipality**

The Municipality of Burgos, with the encouragement and support of the Castilla y Leon Regional Government, has been working during this year 2008 and throughout 2009 in the implementation of a system of Electronic Public Procurement, which not only meets the standards imposed by law Spanish 30/2007 (transposition of Directive 2004/18/EC), but to improve the relationship with citizens and businesses around public procurement process. Among the main objectives we can find the following: (Manchester ministerial declaration about public procurement) • Provide the Municipality of Burgos of a tool that allows the complete electronic processing of the procurement files and their subsequent archive by electronic means • To provide businesses and civil servants of Burgos municipality of the tools and services that would allow the electronic relationship of the Municipality with the enterprises (in public procurement) To meet the objectives with economic resources, planning and necessary guarantees, it was decided the introduction of the products and services from PLYCA (developed by the company Nexus-IT). The product suite of PLYCA is formed by the following parts: Back-office: is the part that brings together people, processes and technologies that are required by the administration to prepare for the online procurement and electronic processing. It consists of a single module, PLYCA-FILES Front-office: this part of the global model has two modules: procurement portal and catalogue, PLYCA-PORTAL and PLYCA-CATALOGUE. These modules contain elements that the administration needs to define and empower the electronic relationship with economic operators (broadcasting-publishing-, communication and processing). Enterprises: Software for companies, is a set of specifications, included in a simple tool. This tool, PLYCA-ENTERPRISES, allows companies to understand and establish an electronic relationship with contracting authorities in terms of what the authorities are calling them for (tender, contract, invoice, order, certificates), including features like digital signature and electronic archiving

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## **Cross-border digital signature**

Establishing a company in a foreign country usually proves to be a very difficult and cumbersome process (especially for SMEs). In order to overcome at least some of the obstacles on the way – Portugal and Estonia started an innovative co-operation process in order to allow online cross-border establishment of companies in either Portugal or Estonia by using electronic signatures of both countries. Both countries have established electronic company registration – 'Portal da Empresa' and 'Ettevõtjaportaal' are equally recognised as best-practice all over Europe. Also secure authentication using electronic (digital) signature has been established in Estonia as well as in Portugal. Today, we have come to the point that it is now possible for the holders of Estonian

electronic signature to start a business in Portugal and vice versa without leaving their homes – i.e. one does not need to travel to the other country any more. All one needs is a computer, ID-card and valid PIN passwords that come with the ID-card to sign the petitions digitally. The whole project has been carried out in very business friendly solution. Now a company can be founded in the Estonian Company Registration Portal of the Commercial Register on the Internet also with a Finnish, Lithuanian (Mobile-ID) and Belgian ID-card.

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### **Tryggur - Social Insurance Administration eServices**

The aim of Tryggur.is is to make all the information and services of the Social Insurance Administration available on the web. Customers should have easy access to information about themselves and their applications and cases. "Think big, start small, scale fast" is the method with this 5 year project. Also making sure we are not reinventing the wheel and using and reusing what others have done when possible. Tryggur is up and running with authentication in cooperation with island.is and the tax authorities. Right now payment slips can be accessed and income estimates can be made and preliminary assessment of payments are available. According to plan we are providing services to users as soon as they become available.

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### **100 % web-based eProcurement system**

OPIC tendsign is the leading e-Procurement system in Sweden, with more than 60 customers from the public sector. OPIC tendsign is a 100 % web-based e-Procurement system. The purchaser or the supplier doesn't need any installation at all when using the system. In this system you are working with web-based database specifications. The suppliers answer directly on-line. The system follows a natural process through the whole procurement. The system has five important head blocks, which are: Planning: At this block you create a time plan, template groups, select types of procurement, contract form etc. At all steps you have a reminder function. Specifications and templates: At this block you build up your electronic specification. You can also use finished templates. If you want you can also choose to attach word files, PDF-file or excel etc. It's up to you as purchaser. Advertising and competitor survey: From this block you advertise in TED and other publicly accessible databases. All this functions is automatically integrated in the system. Electronic handling of queries, responses and supplements. Tendering: Individual tender accounts for suppliers. Guaranteed response to compulsory requirements. You can't miss answering questions without warning from the system. Evaluation, awards and contracts: Locking of tenders prior to opening. Automatically created opening protocols. Transparent and simple evaluation and rating. Contract created subsequent to evaluation, and data conveyed to contract.

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### **Citizenlink eParticipation Awards**

In 2008 in The Netherlands for the first time a national eParticipation Awards scheme was organised. Its aim is to reward successful initiatives in the field of eParticipation and to inspire potential followers. eParticipation is conceived of as using ICTs to involve citizens in improving public service delivery, the democratic process and societal inclusion. There are two categories: an initiative by Government and an initiative by Society. Selection is based on compliance with the Dutch eCitizen Charter. Out of 32 cases an independent jury nominated 10, and choose two winners. The Awards are organised by Citizenlink on behalf of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Citizenlink (Burgerlink) is an initiative of the Dutch Government to improve the performance of the public sector by involving citizens. To that end Citizenlink promotes quality standards, measures citizen satisfaction and stimulates eparticipation. Citizenlink will run from 2008-2010 and is part of ICTU, the Dutch implementation organisation for ICT and government. The awards were granted by the Secretary of State for Internal Affairs at the Government 2.0 Conference on December 4th, 2008. The 2 winners were RotterdamIdee in the category Government and Buurtlink in the category Society. RotterdamIdee was first because it provides citizens the possibility of co-decision in projects to improve their city. This opportunity was used widely and other cities can easily copy this approach. Buurtlink wins because it provides a ready made format for a neighbourhood website. It makes use of available applications and its basic postcode structure facilitates citizens meeting one another.

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### **Flexible Working for SMEs**

The project focusses on flexible working, particularly with smaller businesses. In depth before and after data has been collected from participant businesses and employees to monitor the impacts of flexible working practices on business productivity, employees and the environment. A comprehensive online toolkit has been prepared to assist businesses and employees implement flexible working practices at [www.flexible-working.org](http://www.flexible-working.org). It addresses management, legal, technical and HR challenges and illustrates the benefits with over 25 detailed case studies. There is also a collection of videos showing case studies and conference presentations by leading experts. The

project was mainly funded by the SWRDA with additional matched funding from Cornwall County Council, Objective One ERDF and BT (British Telecom).

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## Latest News

- [DE: Website of the German Islam Conference launched](#) 13 January 2009 | Germany
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  - [LT: Launch of Electronic ID cards](#) 12 January 2009 | Lithuania
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  - [MK: Launch of new online system to facilitate cross-border trade](#) 7 January 2009 | FYR of Macedonia
  - [HR: Broadband Internet access for over 9 000 new users](#) 7 January 2009 | Croatia
  - [EU: Call for tender – Economic and social impact of software and software-based services](#) 6 January 2009 | EU Institutions
  - [GR: Municipalities to get open source platform for electronic services](#) 6 January 2009 | Greece
  - [UK: New website means faster information for Environment Agency customers](#) 5 January 2009 | United Kingdom
  - [ESEU: Valencia publishes FASTeTEN software test and installation plans](#) 23 December 2008 | EU Institutions, Spain
  - [INT: W3C Web Standard defines Accessibility for Next Generation Web](#) 23 December 2008 | International Organizations
  - [FR: Personal eGovernment services account launched](#) 23 December 2008 | France
  - [FR/EU: French core components based on UN/CEFACT developments now available on SEMIC.EU](#) 22 December 2008 | EU Institutions, France
  - [EU: Data for GMES Services now available on the European Space Agency website](#) 22 December 2008 | Pan European
  - [EU: First version of the eProcurement map now available](#) 22 December 2008 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: INSPIRE Regulation on Metadata adopted](#) 18 December 2008 | EU Institutions
  - [EU: Online consumer education programmes launched in Bulgaria and Romania](#) 18 December 2008 | Bulgaria, EU Institutions, Romania
  - [EU: eGov-Share – Making it easier to share eGovernment Resources – Call for comments on draft CWA](#) 17 December 2008 | Pan European
  - [LV: eID card introduction plan unveiled](#) 17 December 2008 | Latvia
  - [BE: Better access to Federal websites for persons with disabilities](#) 17 December 2008 | Belgium
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### DE: Website of the German Islam Conference launched - 13 January 2009

The German Islam Conference (*Deutsche Islam Konferenz - DIK*) now has its own [website](#) where the DIK presents itself and informs on its work. In addition, this website will offer all citizens the possibility to participate in an online discussion on the topics debated by the DIK.

The following objectives are to be pursued:

- Increasing public attention and transparency with regard to the consultations and recommendations of the DIK;
- Enhancing acceptance of the DIK dialogue by creating more possibilities for participation;
- Increasing the objectivity of the German debate on Islam;
- Promoting academic debate on the topics of the DIK.

The new website contains information on the composition, the tasks, the working methods and recommendations of the DIK. The aim is to make this institutionalised process of dialogue more transparent.

The heart of the new website is formed by the list of topics with [online discussion](#) which is moderated by an editorial staff: they propose topical issues for discussion and provide objective editorial and academic background material.

**Further information:**

- [Website of the German Islam Conference \(in German\)](#)
  - [Discussion forum of the German Islam Conference website \(in German\)](#)
  - [Statement by Federal Minister of the Interior Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble – 8 December 2008 \(in German\)](#)
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## **EU: Revolutionising Diagnostics with Some Help from Nature - 13 January 2009**

*Scientists from the EU-funded RECEPTRONICS project are turning to nature, and combining what they learn with the latest in nanotechnology, to find new ways of diagnosing cancer.*

The project, funded by the EU with 1.99 million Euros under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), brings together experts from four European countries in the fields of biochemistry, bioengineering, nanotechnology and information technology.

Receptronics aims to develop a revolutionary new hybrid technology that will offer the possibility of detecting diseases right at inception. The aim of the immediate future is to develop the technology which will enable every doctor's surgery to have a small, inexpensive device that can test blood on the spot and warn of impending illness before any symptoms become apparent.

The project's coordinator Professor Marco Tartagni of the University of Bologna in Italy explains: "The idea is to use bioengineering to harness the natural biological process for molecule recognition, and to put it together with state-of-the-art electronics."

At the heart of the process is molecule recognition, a process that a healthy human body performs continually. For medical purposes, the type of molecule that needs to be recognised is called a biomarker, and its presence can indicate that a disease is starting well before there are any other symptoms. In order to recognise biomolecules, nature has developed receptors, which are mirror images of the molecules being sensed. Every single type of biomolecule has its own receptor in nature.

Professor Tartagni explains how their technology works: "The front end of the system is composed of bioengineered receptors that are very similar to those generated by nature and specifically designed to target molecules, put together with man-made microelectronic systems at the back end. The results are very promising and we could soon unveil the best and most precise method ever developed of sensing single molecules."

Professor Tartagni points out it could be months or even years after the first biomarkers have appeared before full-blown cancer develops. "What is needed is a very smart sensor which can precisely detect concentrations of a wide range of molecules, and the only way to get the required precision is to count molecules one by one. Nature has developed a way to do this, and we are trying to do exactly what nature does," he says.

While the three-year project officially ended in September 2008, the partners are so enthused by the results they have already achieved that they have agreed to self-fund at least another year of working together.

**Further information:**

- [Official, full press release – eHealthNews.eu](#)
  - [Receptronics Project official website](#)
  - [Sixth Framework Programme \(FP6\)](#)
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## **EU: PharmaNews.eu - Dynamic European Pharmaceutical News Engine - 12 January 2009**

*[PharmaNews.eu](#), an advanced web-based news project targeting the European pharmaceutical domain, has been launched.*

The project was developed to directly connect, promote and disseminate the European Industry and Research pharmaceutical achievements with additional focus on the European Commission (EC) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) news.

Many pharmaceutical companies and research organisations are experiencing continual gaps in disseminating their news. Ruslan David, owner of the PharmaNews.eu, reported: "News dissemination is a practical necessity for many existing pharmaceutical businesses and research organisations. On the other side, pharmaceutical domain is requiring up-to-date and accurate information."

"PharmaNews.eu is an ambitious project focused on the European pharmaceutical industry, research and EC/EMA achievements. It has been designed to serve as an advanced source for the European pharmaceutical news, and it will be continuously open for our readers' contributions, comments and suggestions - a real Pharma (Web) 2.0 approach." he added.

At this stage, the PharmaNews.eu project contains Industry News from a (growing) group of the leading pharmaceutical companies, Research and Development News articles, Conferences and Events News, EMA News, and EC Pharmaceuticals News.

All interested Internet users are invited to explore the PharmaNews.eu project where they are welcome to register free of charge for regular updates and news alerts.

**Further information:**

- [PharmaNews.eu website](#)
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## **LT: Launch of Electronic ID cards - 12 January 2009**

*The Migration Office of Republic of Lithuania has started accepting applications for the new personal identity cards (ID cards) on 5 January 2009. ID cards will be used to identify the person in cyberspace, and will allow the secure signing of electronic documents.*

The new ID card has both contact and contact-less chips integrated. The contact chip will hold a person's identification data and a qualified certificate for eSignature, issued by the Residents' Registry Service under the Ministry of Interior.

The contact-less chip will carry the biometric data; one's facial image and fingerprints, which will also hinder the counterfeiting of ID cards and reduce the possibility of its use by other persons.

"The identity card will allow a safe identification of a person, it will give individuals the opportunity to use secure electronic signatures for electronic documents (contracts, declarations, etc.), access to national and European public electronic services. Such service providers will be able to safely and reliably identify and authenticate people in cyberspace" - said the Interior Minister Raimundas Palaitis while presenting the new ID cards.

**Further information:**

- [Press release – Ministry of Interior \(in Lithuanian\)](#)
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## **SE: Major eGovernment reform announced - 12 January 2009**

*In September 2008, on the occasion of the presentation of the State Budget for 2009, Mats Odell, the Swedish Minister for Local Government and Financial Markets, announced a major reform of the eGovernment management in Sweden.*

This is part of a move to enhance and streamline several activities within the Public Administration. In particular, the Government intends to further prioritise eGovernment issues by creating an "operational e-Delegation" responsible for implementing the '[National Action Plan for the Swedish eGovernment](#)' which was unveiled in January 2008.

The primary objective of the Action Plan for eGovernment is for Sweden to regain, by 2010, a leading position within the eGovernment area by becoming 'the world's simplest Administration'. In other words, the Administration should be as simple as possible for as many as possible.

In the so-called 24-hour strategy, IT issues were delegated to managers, which led to a series of common corporate issues. Thus, by creating the operational e-Delegation, the Government aims to strengthen its corporate governance in the IT field.

Apart from guaranteeing the implementation of the Action Plan for eGovernment, the new e-Delegation will ensure the follow-up of the authorities' IT costs; promote the interaction between the Government, public bodies, counties, municipalities and businesses; and coordinate IT standardisation activities within the State.

Furthermore, a Strategic Skills Council will be established to provide the Government with staff support while promoting and developing the common values of the State. In addition, the monitoring and investigation functions of the Swedish Agency for Public Management (Statskontoret) will be reinforced, and its resources will be increased.

"In order to develop tomorrow's management, we need a more streamlined organisation than the one we have today. The Government must also guide the development of management in a clearer manner. Our efforts aim to improve Government service to citizens and enterprises and help to promote growth and development in Sweden," Minister Odell said.

It is worth noting that the Swedish Administrative Development Agency (Verva) which, among other tasks, was supporting the 24-hour Public Administration model by coordinating and managing national eGovernment initiatives, has ceased to exist since 31 December 2008.

**Further information:**

- [Official, full press release – Government Offices of Sweden \(in Swedish\)](#)
  - [National Action Plan for the Swedish eGovernment – ePractice Library](#)
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## **MK: Launch of new online system to facilitate cross-border trade - 7 January 2009**

*EXIM, an online application system for export/import licences and quotas, has been officially launched on 22 December 2008 in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).*

The USAID funded eGov Project has provided technical assistance to the Government of FYROM and the Customs Administration to streamline the complex and complicated procedures for export/import licences and quotas by introducing the EXIM application.

The result is a tool that will enable businesses to engage in cross-border transactions much faster and at a much lower cost than before.

The EXIM system will enable FYROM companies involved in foreign trade to electronically apply and obtain import, export and transit licences from fifteen government institutions involved in foreign trade regulation.

This application is part of the Trade Facilitation Single Window initiative implemented by the Government of FYROM. The Project is coordinated by the Customs Administration.

The EXIM system was implemented in close collaboration with sixteen government institutions and it included the harmonisation and simplification of the legal and administrative procedures, as well as the transformation of the application and approval process from paper to electronic.

**Further information:**

- [Official press release – eGov Project](#)
  - [EXIM system website \(in Macedonian\)](#)
  - [Customs Administration of FYROM](#)
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## **HR: Broadband Internet access for over 9 000 new users - 7 January 2009**

*Over 9 000 new users from the areas of special State concern and from mountainous regions have gained broadband Internet access.*

Owing to the broadband development incentive programme, 21% of the users have been connected to the newly-constructed infrastructure.

The Croatian Post and Electronic Communications Agency - the carrier of the Government's project of incentives for the development of broadband Internet access in areas of low interest - has been paying the operators between 370 HRK (approximately €51) and 7 000 HRK (approximately €961) per user, out of a total amount of over 16 million HRK (approximately €2 million) destined for incentives.

The amount received by the operator depends on the connected user, and more precisely, on the type of access and whether the user is connected to the newly-constructed or existing infrastructure.

It is to be noted that 10 operators who have met the basic and technical terms and conditions prescribed by the tender, have obtained the right to this grant for each newly-connected user.

Croatia had, at the end of September 2008, a total of 623 thousand broadband Internet access connections. This number has been continuously increasing.

**Further information:**

- [Official Press release – Central Administrative Office for e-Croatia](#)
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**EU: Call for tender – Economic and social impact of software and software-based services - 6 January 2009**

*The European Commission has opened a call for tender on “the economic and social impact of Software and software based Services”. The submission deadline is 2 February 2009, at 16:00 CET.*

The purpose of the study will be:

- to identify the potential economic and/or social impact of the European software and services industry on Europe –now and in the future – and the elements that are determinant for its growth and competitiveness;
- to assess the future market impact and expected market transformation due to the emerging Internet of Services;
- to derive policy recommendations to remove barriers and foster the development of the software industry.

Most of the current studies of economic and social impact are related to the ICT industry and market in general, but do not identify the software and services specific industry and/or market segments. However, the software and services industry is expected to drive the evolution towards the online service economy.

Thus, a re-appraisal of the sector is required to better understand the sector itself, its issues, its evolution considering both (1) the traditional lack of detailed taxonomies and statistics of the sector and (2) the rapid expansion and diversification of software and services technologies, and to identify the related policy issues and required actions.

The study is expected to provide a substantial result, directly applicable through policy actions, after considering the state of the software and services sectors throughout the EU.

The results of this study will contribute to the discussions on the follow-up to the i2010 initiative for the next decade, and to the Future Internet. It is part of a plan for the development of a European Software Strategy, and is accompanied by other parallel activities.

**Further information:**

- [Europe's Information Society Thematic Portal](#)
  - [Contract notice – Tenders Electronic Daily](#)
  - [Details of the relevant call \(2008/S 248-330011\) on the CORDIS website](#)
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**GR: Municipalities to get open source platform for electronic services - 6 January 2009**

*Greek municipalities are building an open source platform to offer citizens and small and medium-sized business (SMEs) access to their services. This Local Government Application Framework (LGAF) will be developed by the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDKE).*

LGAF will allow citizens and SMBs to pay taxes and fines, add and modify their public administration records and purchase permits and licences. The system will also offer information on public health, social care, the environment, sport and cultural activities.

The municipal services can be accessed using the Internet or by a voice response system. KEDKE is also planning to build-in an SMS gateway that can inform users via text messages.

LGAF will be made available to all Greek municipalities at no cost, according to a statement published by KEDKE. "All municipalities will be able to build on the experience of the sixteen communities. KEDKE will however charge for technical support." The organisation hopes the platform will become a reference for other interoperability projects.

KEDKE will use open source software such as the content management system BetaCMS to offer access to legacy IT systems. The system will also be based on the Greek Government Internet backbone, Syzefxis that links all municipalities.

The LGAF project website was launched in June 2008.

**Further information:**

- [Original press release – OSOR.EU](#)
- [LGAF project website \(in Greek\)](#)

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## **UK: New website means faster information for Environment Agency customers - 5 January 2009**

*The UK Environment Agency has launched its [new website](#) which will provide more reliable services for its customers and be easier to use for millions of people at risk of flooding.*

The new website is faster, easier to navigate and more reliable at times of high usage - which is especially important for flood warnings. It is now more resilient and can serve three times as many people at times of high demand.

The Environment Agency's responsibilities range from providing environmental permits, pollution and hazardous materials advice and vital flood warnings, to rod and boat licences. The new website will not only make it easier for householders to find information relevant to them, but also make it easier for business customers to find out about environmental regulations and to submit information to the Agency.

Independent research commissioned by the Environment Agency identified five main types of visitor to the website, and the most common tasks they each came to the website to do. Over 50 000 pages of content has been re-written and streamlined to around 13 000 pages - weeding out any out of date or irrelevant information. Focus groups of the Agency's customers were involved in each stage of the development, from validating the site structures, testing prototypes and getting views on the design, which makes the Agency confident that the re-launched site will see a huge increase in its effectiveness.

Adrian Long, Director of Communications at the Environment Agency said: "Our website is an important channel in communicating information about the work of the Environment Agency to our many customers as well as an efficient way to do business with them."

"The new website provides better access to flood warnings - a vital part of our service to the public - and also makes it simpler for our customers to do business with us. During the project the dedicated team undertook in-depth research into the needs of our customers, a complete re-design of the website, an upgrade of the technology that we use to improve overall performance and a major review of the content of the website to make it more efficient and relevant to its audiences."

"We already have over one million visitors to our website every week and the new website will make it easier for all our customers to complete their online tasks more quickly and easily."

The website re-launch follows an overhaul of the Environment Agency's staff intranet earlier in 2008.

**Further information:**

- [Official press release from the UK Environment Agency](#)
- [Website of the Environment Agency](#)

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## ES/EU: Valencia publishes FASTeTEN software test and installation plans - 23 December 2008

The [Regional Government of Valencia](#), a partner in the [FASTeTEN](#) project which is supported by the European Commission, has published a software test plan and details of the installation and configuration procedures that will allow the FAST bundle of services to function on the Valencia eProcurement platform.

FASTeTEN is a project to deploy a series of services for secure electronic document exchange across Europe. [FAST](#) (Fournisseur d'Accès Sécurisés Transactionnels - Secure Access Gateway) – has already been successfully developed and piloted in France. As part of this project, funded by the European Commission's [eTEN](#) programme, two different applications of FAST are being trialed: in eProcurement in Valencia, Spain, and in educational services in Sheffield, United Kingdom.

The Valencia software test plan sets out the tests that are to be performed in order to ensure that the requirements for the FAST Valencia application are fulfilled as far as the FAST platform is concerned. The tests deal with electronic signatures, authorisation, signature validation, archiving, and provision of proofs that electronic documents have been received.

The plan setting out the installation and configuration procedures in Valencia examines how the FAST services can be integrated with the regional government's eProcurement platform. This is being done using open source software.

In Valencia, FAST will allow bidders for regional government contracts to securely submit their bids in electronic format, and receive secure responses in the same way. FAST offers a number of services to enable this:

- identity management;
- administration of digital certificates;
- rights management and authentication;
- time stamping;
- document validation;
- encryption and archiving.

### Further information:

- [Original press release on the FASTeTEN official website](#)
- [FASTeTEN Project official website](#)
- [Portal of the Regional Government of Valencia](#)
- [eTEN Programme official website](#)

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## INT: W3C Web Standard defines Accessibility for Next Generation Web - 23 December 2008

On 11 December 2008, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) announced a new standard aimed at helping web designers and developers create websites that better meet the needs of users with disabilities and older users.

Drawing on extensive experience and community feedback, the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#) improve upon W3C's initial standard for accessible Web content.

This new standard from the W3C's [Web Accessibility Initiative \(WAI\)](#) will advance accessibility across the full range of web content (such as text, images, audio, and video) and Web applications. WCAG 2.0 can be more precisely tested, yet it allows web developers more flexibility and potential for innovation. Together with supporting technical and educational materials, WCAG 2.0 is easier to understand and use.

WCAG 2.0 addresses barriers to accessing the Web experienced by people with visual, auditory, physical, cognitive and neurological disabilities, and by older Web users with accessibility needs.

WCAG 2.0 explains how to make content:

- Perceivable (for instance by addressing text alternatives for images, captions for audio, adaptability of presentation, and color contrast);
- Operable (by addressing keyboard access, color contrast, timing of input, seizure avoidance, and navigability);
- Understandable (by addressing readability, predictability, and input assistance);
- Robust (for instance by addressing compatibility with assistive technologies).

"Because WCAG 2.0 applies to all Web technologies, it can help ensure that the Web stays open to people with disabilities even as we continually introduce new technologies. We incorporated feedback from thousands of comments received during the development of WCAG 2.0 regarding user needs, and technical feasibility," said Dr. Gregg Vanderheiden, Co-Chair of WCAG Working Group, and Director of the Trace R&D Center at the University of Wisconsin.

"WCAG 2.0 represents the outcome of a major collaborative effort, and its final form is widely supported by industry, disability organizations, research and government. This balance is important in order for WCAG 2.0 to serve as a unifying international standard for Web accessibility" he added.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international consortium where Member organizations, a full-time staff, and the public work together to develop Web standards and guidelines designed to ensure long-term growth for the Web. Over 400 organizations are Members of the Consortium. W3C is jointly run by the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (MIT CSAIL) in the USA, the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM) headquartered in France and Keio University in Japan, and has seventeen outreach offices worldwide.

**Further information:**

- [Official, full press release – W3C](#)
- [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#)
- [Web Accessibility Initiative](#)

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## **FR: Personal eGovernment services account launched - 23 December 2008**

*'[Mon.Service-Public.fr](#)' is now live throughout the French territory, aiming to provide citizens with unified, personalised and secure access to online Government services.*

Those wishing to use the new portal first need to create a personal account which will enable them to securely manage their administrative procedures online, while accessing personalised, customised information. This way, the access to online services has been drastically simplified, since the user does not need to remember several passwords.

As of December 2008, the first eServices available on 'Mon.Service-Public.fr' included:

- For those employing home-workers: online declaration of employment, possibility to check and edit employment certificates and tax certificates;
- For public services agents: retirement management services online.

More eServices are to be added in the course of 2009.

Another major advantage for users consists in gaining a general overview of all their ongoing administrative formalities online. One can receive at any time, via his/her personal account, alerts on the state of progress of the relevant administrative procedures.

Last but not least, the owner of a personal account has a secure online personal data space at his/her disposal for:

- Entering his/her personal data once and for all (name, address, etc) so as to simplify the filling out of administrative forms;

- Storing eDocuments (eCertificates, income taxes declarations, reimbursements files, birth certificate extract, etc.).

'Mon.Service-Public.fr' was first tested on samples of users over the period 2006-2007 before being launched on a nation-wide level at the end of 2008. The Directorate-General for State Modernisation (DGME) of the Ministry of Budget, Public Accounts and Civil Service is responsible for the coordination and development of the new portal.

**Further information:**

- [Official press release – Service-Public.fr \(in French\)](#)
- ['Mon.Service-Public.fr' Portal \(in French\)](#)
- [Additional information on 'Mon.Service-Public.fr' \(in French\)](#)
- [Directorate-General for State Modernisation \(in French\)](#)

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## **FR/EU: French core components based on UN/CEFACT developments now available on SEMIC.EU - 22 December 2008**

*On 17 December 2008, the Directorate-General for State Modernisation (DGME) of the French Ministry of Budget, Public Accounts and Civil Service enriched the Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe ([SEMIC.EU](#)) repository with 27 new assets.*

The French authorities managed to adapt the UN/CEFACT core component library to national requirements. Different real-life objects were modelled, including organisations, contracts or dimensions. All models belong to the French initiative "[modèle de données communes \(MDC\)](#)" (Common Data Model).

Some of these assets are to be evolved further. However, the possibilities of re-use are high. All developments are published under the French Free Software 'CeCILL 2' licence.

Such concepts are deemed to allow for the improvement of citizens' and business' life. For instance, eServices might become of better quality, and having awareness of interoperability at an early development stage might avoid additional costs.

The semantic building blocks provided consist in UML Models and XML-Files. Other semantic building blocks, the so called "Semantic Interoperability Assets", are planned to soon be added to the repository.

SEMIC.EU is an initiative carried out under the [IDABC programme](#) of the European Commission. Since its launch in June 2008, SEMIC.EU has been aimed at providing a valuable range of services and a collaboration platform for pan-European eGovernment projects. In practice, SEMIC.EU features a repository of interoperability assets which enable data exchange in distributed information systems.

On SEMIC.EU, there is one [forum thread](#) dedicated to each asset. As for the full list of assets, it can be viewed at the following page <http://www.semic.eu/semic/view/AssetSearchList.xhtml>.

**Further information:**

- [Original Press release on SEMIC.EU](#)
- [UN/CEFACT core component library](#)
- [SEMIC.EU Forum on specific assets](#)
- [Presentation of the Common Data Model \(\[modèle de données communes – MDC\]\(#\)\) – in French](#)

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## **EU: Data for GMES Services now available on the European Space Agency website - 22 December 2008**

*On 10 December 2008, the European Space Agency (ESA) announced the launch of a new website through which data for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Services can be obtained.*

The purpose of the [new GMES Space Component Data Access web portal](#) is to provide access and advertise datasets currently available or planned for GMES Service Projects. Many of the datasets disseminated rely on the organisations operating missions contributing to GMES.

The launch of this website marks the start of pre-operations for the GMES Space Component, through which Earth Observation data will be provided for services to manage the environment, mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure civil security.

In addition to the data from ESA, data from more than 25 other European and non-European satellites contributing to GMES will be made available in the coming months, such as data from the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the French Space Agency (CNES), the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), and many more organisations.

**Further information:**

- [GMES Space Component Data Access web portal](#)
  - [Source news article](#)
  - [ESA website – Official press release](#)
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## **EU: First version of the eProcurement map now available - 22 December 2008**

*A map of activities having an impact on the development of European interoperable eProcurement solutions has been issued by the eProcurement Forum Team in cooperation with IDABC.*

The strategic objective of the [eProcurement Forum](#), which together with IDABC promoted the production of this document, is to make the eProcurement experts aware about what is happening in the complex European scenario.

A number of activities are running contemporaneously, addressing different aspects and adopting different approaches. The risk is that they proceed on their own, with no or limited contacts with the other ones, sometimes spending precious effort and time towards the same objectives.

There is a strong need to make all these initiatives aware of the possibility of cooperation and sharing actions. Therefore the eProcurement Forum took the initiative of composing the whole picture and make it available for consultation, revision and integration to as much eProcurement practitioners as possible.

The first version of this picture is proposed in a lively document available at IDABC website. This document will be periodically revised and updated. Those wishing to express comments or to contribute are invited to contact: [eprocurement@epractice.eu](mailto:eprocurement@epractice.eu).

**Further information:**

- [IDABC website](#)
  - [The eProcurement map in the ePractice library](#)
  - [eProcurement Forum](#)
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## **EU: INSPIRE Regulation on Metadata adopted - 18 December 2008**

*The European Commission [Regulation](#) implementing the INSPIRE Directive (“Directive establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community”) as regards Metadata, has been adopted on 3 December 2008.*

The INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) aims to establish a European spatial information infrastructure that delivers to the users integrated spatial information services. These services should allow the users to identify and access spatial or geographical information from a wide range of sources, from the global to the local level, in an interoperable way for a variety of uses. The deadline for its full transposition by Member States into national law is 15 May 2009.

It is expected that the INSPIRE Infrastructure will facilitate the establishment of both the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in Europe and the eReporting system under the European Union (EU) environmental legislation, which is intended to replace conventional paper-based records and reports through efficient electronic data management, in line with international standards.

The Directive provides that the European spatial information infrastructure shall be implemented according to a number of "Implementing rules". The Metadata Regulation is one of these. It sets out the requirements for the creation and maintenance of metadata for spatial data sets, spatial data set series and spatial data services corresponding to the themes listed in Annexes I, II and III to the Directive, as follows:

- Coordinate reference systems; Geographical grid systems; Geographical names, Administrative units; Addresses; Cadastral parcels; Transport networks; Hydrography; Protected sites (Annex I to the Directive)
- Elevation; Land cover; Ortho-imagery; Geology (Annex II to the Directive)
- Statistical units; Buildings; Soil; Land use; Human health and safety; Utility and governmental services; Environmental monitoring facilities; Production and industrial facilities; Agricultural and aquaculture facilities; Population distribution - demography; Area management/restriction/regulation zones and reporting units; Natural risk zones; Atmospheric conditions; Meteorological geographical features; Oceanographic geographical features; Sea regions; Bio-geographical regions; Habitats and biotopes; Species distribution; Energy resources; Mineral resources (Annex III to the Directive)

The INSPIRE Regulation on Metadata can be viewed online in all EU languages on the [Eur-Lex website](#) of the European Union. The regulation will automatically enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union which occurred on 4 December 2008.

A prototype metadata editor is available. It allows users to create metadata compliant with the INSPIRE Regulation on Metadata. The metadata created with this editor are also compliant with EN ISO 19115 and 19119, and have been successfully validated against the INSPIRE Geoportal Catalogue and other catalogue applications (for example Geonetwork).

The developers of related eTools, eReporting tools and eServices, the concerned public authorities and the businesses providing such eTools and eServices are thus invited to abide by this regulation.

#### **Further information:**

- [INSPIRE Metadata Regulation – Commission Regulation no. 1205/2008 of 3 December 2008](#)
- [Press release – INSPIRE Geoportal](#)
- [INSPIRE Metadata Editor](#)
- [Text of the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC](#)
- [SEIS \(Shared Environmental Information System\) and INSPIRE](#)

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## **EU: Online consumer education programmes launched in Bulgaria and Romania - 18 December 2008**

*European Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Meglena Kuneva launched on 8 December 2008 in Sofia, Bulgaria, new Internet programmes designed to help Bulgarian and Romanian adults and children know more about their basic consumers' rights.*

The EU's online consumer education programme ("DOLCETA" [www.dolceta.eu](http://www.dolceta.eu)) sets out clearly – in three levels, for basic to more advanced users - what consumer rights citizens have, on issues ranging from sales contracts, guarantees, to settling disputes and taking out a credit loan.

DOLCETA is designed to be used by trainers and teachers in adult education, as well as in schools for 15-18 year old students, in primary schools, and for training or reference work by consumer organizations, government agencies, NGOs or community education programmes.

The DOLCETA online tools provide basic, easy-to-use information on a range of consumer rights including, with practical everyday examples, questions and answers and quiz questions to test one's knowledge. There are four on line modules covering:

- basic consumer rights (contracts, labeling, distance selling, advertising, redress);
- financial services (family budget, credit, mortgages, saving and investment);
- safety of products and services;

- a special module aimed at teachers with pedagogical materials (intro consumer education, responsible, healthy and safe consumers).

Following their extension to Bulgaria and Romania, the online consumer education tools now exist in almost all EU languages, taking into account national legislation and culture.

Commissioner Kuneva said: "Consumers in the European Union enjoy some of the strongest consumer rights in the world, but too often people don't know their rights, or understand clearly how to use them. Every consumer needs to know what their rights are when they go to return a good, what to do if they don't get what was advertised, where to complain if the bill seems to overcharge, where to get help to settle a dispute if you need it. This is the kind of practical information and training that helps people stand up for their rights and get the quality and service they deserve, online or in the high street."

**Further information:**

- [Original RAPID Press release](#)
- [DOLCETA online consumer education Internet tools](#)

**EU: eGov-Share – Making it easier to share eGovernment Resources – Call for comments on draft CWA - 17 December 2008**

*The CEN/ISSS eGov-Share Workshop has recently published a draft CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) on "Sharing eGovernment resources: a practical approach for designers and developers". The draft CWA is available for public comments until 19 January 2009.*

Public authorities on all levels, from small towns to pan-European institutions, run services for citizens, businesses and other administrations. They offer forms for users to fill out, give access to laws, special databases or other collections of documents – and what is more: they offer a wealth of information on those resources, both online and in internal data stores, to enable users to find and access them.

One of the big challenges across public authorities is to unify the information that is maintained in different places under different mandates and make it accessible for various audiences in a form that is targeted to their specific requirements – all this without data duplication and while still maintaining full local ownership of the material.

In consultation with experts working on European directives like PSI and INSPIRE or in IDABC projects, the eGov-Share Workshop has prepared open, vendor- and application-neutral specifications for sharing information on eGovernment resources across institutions and borders; the [draft CWA on "Sharing eGovernment resources: a practical approach for designers and developers"](#).

Comments on the draft CWA should be sent by 19 January 2009 at the latest to the [eGov-Share Secretary](#).

After the period for public comments, eGov-Share will organise a final meeting in Brussels on 3 February 2009 to present its results. Practitioners and stakeholders from all levels of government and industry will have the opportunity to discuss the specifications with the project team, to learn from the experiences of early adopters, and to give their input.

The CEN/ISSS eGov-Share Workshop has produced specifications and guidelines for designers and developers of eGovernment systems and services, creating a single point of access to users. In addition to developing rules for automatically sharing information, the eGov-Share Workshop defines a common reference ontology and looks at the role of different terminologies that are being used across agencies and countries. It covers cultural elements that play a role in the use of information in different cultural contexts.

The eGov-Share workshop provides hands-on examples on how to realize and to use those specifications, including two distinct, interoperable implementations of the protocols using separate technology stacks. Third parties have already adopted the specifications and developed conforming implementations.

**Background**

CEN/ISSS provides market players with a comprehensive and integrated range of standardization services and products, in order to contribute to the success of the Information Society in Europe. CEN/ISSS was created in mid-1997 by CEN (European Committee for Standardization) as the focus for its ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) activities.

**Further information:**

- [Draft CWA on "Sharing eGovernment resources: a practical approach for designers and developers" – CEN/ISSS eGov-Share Workshop Homepage](#)
  - [Complete press release of the CEN/ISSS eGov-Share Workshop](#)
  - [Final meeting on the results of CEN/ISSS eGov-Share Workshop – Event announcement in ePractice](#)
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## **LV: eID card introduction plan unveiled - 17 December 2008**

*On 10 December 2008, the Secretariat of the Latvian Special Assignments Minister for Electronic Government Affairs has unveiled the eID card solution which will be introduced in Latvia in the upcoming years.*

According to the so-called "eID card concept", the Latvian eID card will be used for proving one's identity in an electronic environment, accessing multi-sectorial eServices and securely signing eDocuments.

Moreover, the card, whose features will comply with the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the relevant regulations of the European Union (EU), will also serve as a travel document, valid at both national and EU levels.

In line with the planned issuance process, the first eID cards could be rolled-out in the first half of 2010. The estimated cost for the introduction of this solution within a five-year period is 711 900 Latvian lats (approx. €1 million). The target is to have produced two million cards by 2013.

The card is expected to cost 5 Latvian lats (approx. €7) for those under 18 and retired persons, against 10 Latvian lats (about €14) for other citizens.

### **Background**

Following the adoption in 2002 of the 'Personal Identification Documents Law' which stated that identification documents shall contain a machine readable zone, in 2004 the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers postponed the introduction of identity cards, pending the adoption of single EU requirements relating to identity card as travel documents and electronic identity tools. Based on the Government's mandate, the Ministry of Interior established in 2007 a working group who agreed that ID cards issued in Latvia will serve as:

1. Identity card and travel documents on the EU territory;
2. The personal electronic identification and authentication tool for information systems;
3. eSignature support.

### **Further information:**

- [Secretariat of the Special Assignments Minister for Electronic Government Affairs – Press release \(in Latvian\)](#)
  - [Latvian eID Card concept \(in Latvian\)](#)
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## **BE: Better access to Federal websites for persons with disabilities - 17 December 2008**

*In the context of the 15th International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2008, the Belgian State Secretary for persons with disabilities in collaboration with the Belgian Prime Minister launched a new proposal in order to improve the access of people with special needs to Federal websites.*

On that symbolic date, the website of the State Secretary for persons with disabilities Julie Fernandez Fernandez, [www.fernandez.belgium.be](http://www.fernandez.belgium.be) received the Belgian web accessibility label "anysurfer", due to the fact that it has already been equipped with signed language communication, audio recording and an easy-to-read version of its content. The site of the [Federal Department for Disabled Persons](#) is another website that has been awarded this label.

Since websites are the newest and fastest means of communication, people that suffer from handicaps should also be able to use the advantages offered by the latest internet technology. In Belgium, many Federal websites are not sufficiently accessible to the disabled.

According to the new proposal, for auctioning the creation of Federal websites, the tender specifications will include the standards used today in the framework of anysurfer. These standards guarantee to all persons with

disabilities (e.g. visually impaired persons, or those with writing impairments) an easy access to the information broadcasted by Federal websites, so as to respond to a relative Memorandum of the Higher Council of Persons with Disabilities.

**Further information:**

- [Official press release - Website of the Belgian Secretary of State for persons with disabilities](#) (in French)
- [Official website of the Federal Department for persons with disabilities](#) (in French, German and Dutch)
- [About the “anysurfer” accessibility label](#) (in French)

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## New Factsheets

The 10th Edition of the eGovernment factsheets for Finland and Malta, the 5th Edition for Turkey, as well as the 2nd Edition for Switzerland are now available online. New releases for the Czech Republic (10.1) and Romania (5.1) have also been made available. We invite you to [visit the relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

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## Latest Publications

- [EU: Browsers barometer](#) 22 December 2008 | Pan European
- [EU: The eProcurement map](#) 19 December 2008 | EU Institutions
- [EU: Roadmap for application of robotics in medicine and healthcare](#) 18 December 2008 | EU Institutions
- [EU: eHealth Monthly Focus – Investigating the potential of Robotics in Healthcare](#) 18 December 2008 | EU Institutions
- [EU: ICT-BIO 2008 – Conference report](#) 18 December 2008 | EU Institutions
- [EU: WHIT08 – Main compilation of the Procurement workshop findings](#) 12 December 2008 | EU Institutions
- [EU: Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health](#) 10 December 2008 | EU Institutions
- [GL: Electronic Prescribing: Building, Deploying and Using E-Prescribing to Save Money](#) 8 December 2008 | Bulgaria, Germany, North America
- [DE: “Open Content – Open Access” report](#) 30 September 2008 | Germany
- [EU: DLR White Paper 2.0](#) 5 August 2008 | Pan European
- [SE: National Action Plan for the Swedish eGovernment](#) 24 January 2008 | Sweden
- [EU: Standard forms for the publication of procurement notices](#) 11 October 2005 | EU Institutions

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### EU: Browsers barometer - 22 December 2008

**Complete title:**

**XiTi Monitor Browsers Barometer**

**Description (short summary):** This report unveils the results of a survey on the respective use of open source and proprietary browsers in 32 European countries. The survey was carried out from 1 to 30 November 2008, and 121 919 websites were audited.

**Original URL:**

<http://www.xitimonitor.com/en-us/browsers-barometer/browsers-barometer-november-2008/index-1-2-3-153.html>

**Number of pages:** 4

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### EU: The eProcurement map - 19 December 2008

**Complete title:**

**The eProcurement Map – A map of activities having an impact on the development of European interoperable eProcurement solutions**

**Description (short summary):** The strategic objective of the eProcurement Forum, which together with IDABC promoted the production of this document, is to make the eProcurement experts aware about what is happening in the complex European scenario. A number of activities are running contemporaneously, addressing different aspects and adopting different approaches. The risk is that they proceed on their own, with no or limited contacts with the other ones, sometimes spending precious effort and time towards the same objectives.

There is a strong need to make all these initiatives aware of the possibility of cooperation and sharing actions. Therefore the eProcurement Forum took the initiative of composing the whole picture and make it available for consultation, revision and integration to as much eProcurement practitioners as possible. The preliminary version of this picture is proposed in this lively document, which will be periodically revised and updated. Those wishing to express comments or to contribute are invited to contact: [eprocurement@epractice.eu](mailto:eprocurement@epractice.eu)

**Original URL:** <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/4720/5874#map>

**Number of pages:** 31

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## **EU: Roadmap for application of robotics in medicine and healthcare - 18 December 2008**

**Complete title:**  
**Robotics for Healthcare – Final report**

**Description (short summary):** This study funded by the European Commission, issues a roadmap of promising applications of robotics in healthcare. Associated R&D was developed, taking into account the state of the art as well as short and long-term future possibilities with a time horizon ending in 2025.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=4624](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=4624)

**Number of pages:** 181

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## **EU: eHealth Monthly Focus – Investigating the potential of Robotics in Healthcare - 18 December 2008**

**Complete title:**  
**eHealth Monthly Focus of December 2008 – Robotics in Medicine and Healthcare – Investigating the potential of Robotics in healthcare**

**Description (short summary):** Robotics for healthcare is an emerging field which is expected to grow in the face of demographic change (ageing), expected shortages of healthcare personnel, calls for improving quality of life for the elderly and disabled, and the need for even higher quality care, for example high precision surgery. All these factors stimulate innovation in the domain of Robotics for Healthcare.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/news.cfm?tpa\\_id=23](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/news.cfm?tpa_id=23)

**Number of pages:** 2

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## **EU: ICT-BIO 2008 – Conference report - 18 December 2008**

**Complete title:**  
**ICT-BIO 2008 (Brussels, 23-24 October 2008) – Conference Report, December 2008**

**Description (short summary):** This report covers all the sessions of the ICT-BIO 2008 Conference which was held under the theme "Computer Modelling and Simulation for Improving Human Health". The conference was jointly organised by two Directorates-General (DG) of the European Commission; DG Information Society and Media and DG Research.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/events/ict\\_bio/2008/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict_bio/2008/index_en.htm)

**Number of pages:** 71

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## **EU: WHIT08 – Main compilation of the Procurement workshop findings - 12 December 2008**

**Complete title:**

**WHIT08 – EC Workshop ‘Procuring for health benefits: Critical Factors for Beneficial Deployment of Innovative eHealth and Telemedicine Services’ – 6 November 2008 – Main compilation of the workshop findings**

**Description (short summary):** Organised by the European Commission, the ‘WHIT 08 – Procurement workshop’ held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 6 November 2008 provided a structured exchange and discussion between all participants on the challenges to improve patient experiences and the quality of care, whilst simultaneously servicing the strategic and efficiency goals of their healthcare and social care systems.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=4610](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=4610)

**Number of pages:** 29

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## **EU: Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health - 10 December 2008**

**Complete title:**

**Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health**

Grünbuch über Arbeitskräfte des Gesundheitswesens in Europa  
Livre Vert relatif au personnel de santé en Europe

**Description (short summary):** There are a number of challenges facing health systems in Europe. People are living longer, new technology is making it possible to increase the range and quality of, often, expensive treatments. There are new and re-emerging threats to health, e.g. from communicable diseases, and citizens have ever-rising expectations about having access to the best possible healthcare.

Developing effective and efficient health systems able to respond to these challenges depends to a considerable extent on having a high-quality health workforce of sufficient capacity and with the right skills, and for the European Union that means throughout the Member States.

In light of the fact that Member States are facing a number of common problems with their health workforces, there is much to be gained by promoting cooperation and common approaches between the Member States. The European Community can add value by supporting this.

The aim of the Green Paper is to increase the visibility of these issues, to generate a clearer picture of the extent to which local and/or national health managers face the same challenges and to engage stakeholders in the debate so as to help those responsible across Europe to address these problems effectively.

The public consultation process sets out to obtain stakeholders' views on a wide range of issues connected with the healthcare workforce and preparing for the care of an ageing population. The results of the consultation will feed in to our consideration of what the EU can do to support Member States in tackling these challenges.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_systems/workforce\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_systems/workforce_en.htm)

**Number of pages:**

EN version: 14  
DE version: 16  
FR version: 16

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## **GL: Electronic Prescribing: Building, Deploying and Using E-Prescribing to Save Money - 8 December 2008**

**Complete title:**

**Electronic Prescribing: Building, Deploying and Using E-Prescribing to Save Money**

**Description (short summary):** Over the past 150 years, the advancements in medicine, public health and the delivery of care have been nothing short of breathtaking. Feats have been routinely achieved that were virtually unthinkable even a generation ago. But one facet persists: paper. A way has to be figured out to move beyond paper record keeping. However, electronic prescribing (eprescribing) is a technology whose time has come. It is

the one technology where all of the key barriers to its adoption are being addressed and progress has been made:

- Experiences prove that e-prescribing saves lives and saves money;
- The technology is inexpensive, and there are many partnerships that offer no-cost solutions to physicians and providers;
- There is a secure, nationwide infrastructure to exchange data;
- Many technical standards have been finalized to achieve uniformity of data transmission; and
- Certification by industry leaders ensures security, privacy and interoperability with hundreds of vendors and products.

This is not to say that challenges do not remain. There are significant, yet achievable steps to the widespread acceptance and use of e-prescribing:

- Bridging the gulf between the technology and incentives to its adoption;
- Implementing technology that meets the needs of physicians and providers;
- Finalizing remaining data standards; and,
- Allowing controlled substances to be prescribed electronically.

The paper refers to two ePrescribing case studies from Germany and Bulgaria.

**Original URL:** <http://www.ehealthnews.eu/content/view/1418/65/>

**Number of pages:** 34

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## **DE: “Open Content – Open Access” report - 30 September 2008**

**Complete title:**

**Open Content – Open Access. Open content as a challenge for business, research and politics**

Open Content – Open Access. Freie Inhalte als Herausforderung für Wirtschaft, Wissenschaft und Politik

**Description (short summary):** The "Open Content – Open Access" report provides a detailed description of the status quo regarding open content and its potential for further development, and explains how the open content principle can be applied to the field of scientific publishing (open access). It particularly focuses on the situation in Baden-Württemberg, which boasts an important publishing industry. The analysis is based on an in-depth desk research project to determine the present standing of open content as well as future trends. Extensive data, third-party studies, company information and press releases were evaluated for this purpose. The research report also discusses legal issues, presents the challenges arising as a result of open content and summarises current market structures together with possible business models. The specific strategies adopted in the higher education sector to deal with open access are illustrated in a case study of Konstanz University library.

**Original URL:** <http://www.fazit-forschung.de/opencontent.html?&L=3>

**Number of pages:** 68

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## **EU: DLR White Paper 2.0 - 5 August 2008**

**Complete title:**

**IT-conversion of the EU Services Directive: Organisation options, framework architecture and technical proposal for solution - DLR White Paper Version 2.0 (August 2008)**

IT-Umsetzung der EU-Dienstleistungsrichtlinie: Gestaltungsoptionen, Rahmenarchitektur und technischer Lösungsvorschlag - DLR White Paper Version 2.0 (August 2008)

**Description (short summary):** The access to the European services market should be simplified, existing bureaucratic barriers should be removed and the cross-border services provision in Europe should be promoted with the EU Services Directive (SD) transferred into national law until 2009. The White Paper of the Fraunhofer-Institute FOKUS presents a technical architecture for the implementation of the directive from a scientific and

trans-national perspective. This architecture is embedded in a demanding vision that does not orient itself towards the minimal requests of a 1:1-implementation, but rather sees it as a catalyst for a real one-stop-government with several development potentials.

The document is written for the SD-project report of Deutschland-Online (DOL), "Blueprint for the IT realization of the Services Directive". In addition to the [version 1.0](#) presented in March 2008, the case, identity and security management are more strongly detailed for this revision. Further components are introduced, based on implementations with different partners in the institute's laboratory. In the coming months, the White Paper will be further improved especially with a view to political specifications of a stage model (Roadmap), and to future experiences through prototypical implementations with FOKUS partners.

This FOKUS White Paper is designed primarily for persons in politics and administration, who are in charge of the IT implementation and the EU services directive, and who have to make architectural as well as investment decisions in the coming months. The paper proposes economic and effective ways of management level-spreading as well as strategic and operational advices to decision-makers and responsible authorities.

**Original URL:**

[http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de/de/elan/publikationen/Infomaterial/white\\_paper/DLR\\_2\\_0/index.html](http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de/de/elan/publikationen/Infomaterial/white_paper/DLR_2_0/index.html)

**Number of pages:** 194

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## **SE: National Action Plan for the Swedish eGovernment - 24 January 2008**

**Complete title:**

**Action plan for eGovernment – New grounds for IT-based business development in Public Administration**  
Handlingsplan för eFörvaltning – Nya grunder för IT-baserad verksamhetsutveckling i offentlig förvaltning

**Description (short summary):** The document highlights the prioritised policy areas until 2010, indicates the responsible Government departments and defines the necessary coordination with municipalities and regions (county councils). The primary objective of the action plan is for Sweden to regain a leading position within the eGovernment area by 2010 by having 'the world's simplest Administration'. In other words, the Administration should be as simple as possible for as many as possible.

With the help of modern technique and other special measures, the Government intends to create an Administration which emanates from the needs of both the citizens and entrepreneurs. The eGovernment action plan is intended to palliate several deficiencies which have been observed during the implementation of the 24-hour Public Administration strategy. The action plan includes a number of action areas aimed at improving the legal, technical and economic conditions for the authorities' contacts with the citizens and entrepreneurs. Among other aspects, the information handling of the authorities will be made more efficient, information security should increase, and automatic IT-support for case handling and procurement will be introduced. The Public Administration shall as much as possible use open standards and gradually free itself from the dependency on single platforms and solutions.

**Original URL:** <http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/8595>

**Number of pages:** 19

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## **EU: Standard forms for the publication of procurement notices - 11 October 2005**

**Complete title:**

**Standard forms for the publication of procurement notices**

**Description (short summary):** The European Commission has moved to make it easier to advertise large public contracts on the Internet. It has adopted new standard forms for such notices mainly for use online. This is part of a wider EU strategy on computerising public procurement procedures in the EU. The procurement Directives require that contracts above certain thresholds must be advertised EU-wide in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union providing all relevant information for a given call for tender.

The greatest advantage of the new forms comes however with online use. If submitted electronically, notices can be published on TED, the EU Tenders Electronic Daily within five days of being sent instead of the former twelve days. In addition, this is expected to reduce significantly administrations' paper handling costs and to facilitate the processing of tender information. The forms are available in all EU languages on the [SIMAP website](#).

The PDF files of standard public procurement forms are provided for reference only. The notices should be sent through the web-based tool [eNotices](#) which simplifies and speeds up preparation and publication of tender notices.

**Original URL:** [http://simap.europa.eu/buyer/forms-standard\\_en.html](http://simap.europa.eu/buyer/forms-standard_en.html)

**Number of pages:**

Contract notice: 7 pages

Prior information notice: 12 pages

Contract award notice: 8 pages

Periodic indicative notice – utilities: 11 pages

Contract notice – utilities: 12 pages

Qualification system – utilities: 8 pages

Contract award notice – utilities: 6 pages

Notice on a buyer profile: 2 pages

Simplified contract notice on a dynamic purchasing system: 3 pages

Public works concession: 6 pages

Contract notice – concession: 5 pages

Design contest notice: 7 pages

Results of design contest: 4 pages

Notice for additional information, information on incomplete procedure or corrigendum: 5 pages

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## Upcoming Events

- [BE: 1st European Conference on Software Services and SOKU technologies](#) 13 - 14 January 2009 | Belgium
- [PT: HealthInf 2009 - International Conference on Health Informatics](#) 14 - 17 January 2009 | Portugal
- [HU: Consultation on ICT for Governance & Policy Modelling](#) 21 January 2009 |
- [HU: FP7 - ICT Proposers' Day 2009](#) 22 January 2009 | Hungary
- [BE: Information Day on Call 3 of ICT PSP \(Policy Support Programme\)](#) 26 January 2009 | Belgium
- [UK: Workshop "Towards Shared Environmental Information in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges for Integrated Research"](#) 28 - 29 January 2009 | United Kingdom
- [DK: PEPPOL Architecture Conference 2009](#) 29 - 30 January 2009 | Denmark
- [BE: SEMIC.EU Methodology Workshop](#) 2 February 2009 | Belgium
- [BE: ICT Solutions using SOA and Web Services](#) 19 February 2009 | Belgium
- [TR: "First International Conference on eGovernment and eGovernance" of TURKSAT](#) 12 - 13 March 2009 | Turkey
- [UK: Patient 2.0 Empowerment - EHR for Personalizing and Improving Care](#) 1 - 3 June 2009 | United Kingdom

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## BE: 1st European Conference on Software Services and SOKU technologies

13 - 14 January 2009

*SSOKU09 – 1st European Conference on Software Services and SOKU technologies*

This conference will set the foundation for an annual European Summit on Software Services and Service Oriented Knowledge Utilities technologies (SSOKU).

More than 200 experts, including high level researchers, top industrial and political representatives from the European Commission and from national authorities, will come together for two days, to discuss the future of Grids & Software and Service oriented Architectures.

The latest results of the European Community for Software & Software Services (ECSS) White Paper on Software and Service Architectures, Infrastructures and Engineering and of the Challengers' Research Agenda and Roadmap on Grids will be presented and will serve as the basis for a fruitful discussion and further evaluation.

The programme will feature:

- Plenary sessions including speakers from the research and business environment and EC representatives;
- Parallel sessions offering the audience an interactive platform to discuss on Research, Business, Standards and Non-Technical Challenges in the S&S and Grid sector;
- Exhibition and networking setting the scene for new collaboration opportunities;
- Closure of the event with an EC information presentation.

Participation is free of charge but subject to [online](#) registration, which is to be performed by 7 January 2009

**Country:** Belgium

**City/Location:** Brussels

**Organiser:** projects 3S and CHALLENGERS

**Event website:** <http://www.eu-ecss.eu/conference>

**Contact Email:** [info@eu-ecss.eu](mailto:info@eu-ecss.eu)

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## **PT: HealthInf 2009 - International Conference on Health Informatics**

**14 - 17 January 2009**

*HealthInf 2009 – International Conference on Health Informatics*

The International Conference on Health Informatics constitutes an event that aims to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) to healthcare and medicine, in general, and to specialised support to persons with special needs in particular.

Databases, networking, graphical interfaces, intelligent decision support systems and specialised programming languages are just a few of the technologies currently used in medical informatics. Mobility and ubiquity in healthcare systems, standardisation of technologies and procedures, certification, privacy are some of the issues that medical informatics professionals and the ICT industry in general need to address in order to further promote ICT in healthcare.

Registration can be performed [online](#). Participation fees range from €330 to €340. Early bird registration rates are also available.

The preliminary agenda of the event can be viewed [here](#). The detailed version of the agenda will also soon be available.

**Country:** Portugal

**City/Location:** Porto

**Organiser:** Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC)

**Event website:** <http://www.healthinf.org>

**Event email:** [secretariat@healthinf.org](mailto:secretariat@healthinf.org)

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## **HU: Consultation on ICT for Governance & Policy Modelling**

**21 January 2009**

*Consultation on ICT for Governance & Policy Modelling*

This event is a unique opportunity for experts to discuss their ideas with representatives from the European Commission and deepen their insight and understanding on the new research area set out in the Objective 7.3 of the new ICT Work Programme for 2009-2010 in the 7th Framework Programme for R&D.

The consultation is taking place on the margins of the [ICT Proposers' Day 2009](#) which is to be held on the following day (22 January 2009).

The participation will be limited to 40 persons due to logistic constraints, and early registration is recommended. Participation is free of charge, but pre-registration is required by sending an email to: [AGabor@corvinno.com](mailto:AGabor@corvinno.com).

In order to facilitate the discussions, attendees are invited to prepare an abstract (max 1 page) summarising their ideas on the topic. They are also encouraged to include scenarios on the possible application of the technologies described in Objective 7.3 in the domain of Governance and Public Services.

More information on ICT for Governance & Policy Modeling is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/egovernance> and on the ePractice community: <http://www.epractice.eu/community/egovernance>.

The event's agenda is as follows:

- 14:00 - Introduction and Welcome
- 14:10 - Presentation from the Commission on Objective 7.3: ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling
- 14:30 - Open discussion - Introduction of the participants and their ideas (2 mn each)
- 15:30 - Individual discussion with the Commission staff (on a case by case) \*
- 17:00 - End of meeting
- Individual discussions can be continued the day after, during the ICT Proposers' Day 2009

**City/Location:** Budapest

**Organiser:** Corvinus University of Budapest

**Event website:** <http://www.corvinno.hu/web.nsf/do?open&lang=en&tpage=hirekconsultation>

**Event email:** [AGabor@corvinno.com](mailto:AGabor@corvinno.com)

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## **HU: FP7 - ICT Proposers' Day 2009**

**22 January 2009**

*FP7 – ICT Proposers' Day 2009 – European ICT Research & Development*

ICT Proposers' Day is a unique networking forum for stakeholders interested in building long-term, international cooperations within the framework of ICT WP 2009-2010 of the 7th Framework Programme for R&D. However, the one day event offers more than just networking. It is a unique opportunity for already existing and future project participants to familiarize themselves with the research challenges and objectives of ICT WP 2009-2010 and to form project consortia for participating in calls for proposals.

The event aims to connect key industrials and R&B actors, research institutes and universities, large science and technology based multinationals, high-tech SMEs. About 2500 participants are expected.

It will be organized as information fair and therefore no formal agenda is set. There are no structured sessions or panels, however, there will be:

- seven scenes dedicated to the seven challenges of the 2009-2010 work programme (to learn more about the challenges and objectives go to [2009-2010 priorities](#)),
- additional scenes dedicated to horizontal and other activities,
- series of 'networking booths', each corresponding to the objectives of one of the challenges,
- other large areas, snack bars and cafeterias to facilitate a more informal way of establishing partnerships,
- a 'library' provided by the Commission to supply information on relevant topics.

Registration is open and free of charge. Further information on how to [register](#) as well as for [submitting comments and proposals ideas](#) is available online.

**Country:** Hungary

**City/Location:** Budapest

**Organiser:** The European Commission's Information Society and Media and Directorate-General, in cooperation with the Hungarian National Office for Research and Technology

**Event website:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/events/budapest\\_2009/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/budapest_2009/index_en.htm)

**Event email:** [INFSO-ICTPROPOSERSDAY@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-ICTPROPOSERSDAY@ec.europa.eu)

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## **BE: Information Day on Call 3 of ICT PSP (Policy Support Programme)**

**26 January 2009**

### ***Information Day on the third Call for Proposals of the ICT Policy Support Programme (part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme)***

The ICT Policy Support Programme (or ICT PSP) aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses particularly. The approach is based on leveraging innovation in response to growing societal demands. The programme will facilitate the development of lead markets for innovative ICT-based solutions notably in areas of public interest and will open a wide range of new business opportunities in particular for innovative SMEs.

The ICT PSP is part of the [Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme](#) (CIP). The CIP is a coherent and integrated response to the objectives of the renewed Lisbon strategy and runs for the years 2007-2013 and is organised around three multi-annual specific programmes:

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- The Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)
- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

The Programme builds on the aims of the previous [e-TEN](#), [Modinis](#) and [e-Content](#) programmes and will support the aims of the new integrated strategy [i2010 - European Information Society 2010](#).

The [draft ICT PSP WorkProgramme 2009](#) has been agreed by the Programme Committee on 21 November 2008. It remains subject to formal approval by the Commission in January 2009. Budget amounts foreseen are under the conditions that the appropriations foreseen in the preliminary draft budget for 2009 are adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The third call for proposals should open from 29 January till 2 June 2009.

The agenda of the event can be [downloaded](#) and registration can be performed [online](#). Additional details about call for proposals and guidelines will shortly be available in the [call pages](#).

**Country:** Belgium

**City/Location:** Brussels

**Organiser:** European Commission

**Event website:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm)

**Event email:** [info-ict-ppsp@ec.europa.eu](mailto:info-ict-ppsp@ec.europa.eu)

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## **UK: Workshop "Towards Shared Environmental Information in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges for Integrated Research"**

**28 - 29 January 2009**

*Workshop "Towards Shared Environmental Information in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges for Integrated Research"*

The recent Communication from the European Commission '[Towards a Shared Environmental Information System \(SEIS\)](#)' as well as the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) do not only provide for the first time ever a genuine European policy driver for environmental informatics, but also a considerable challenge for research organisations involved in environmental monitoring, data provision and modelling.

The overall aim of the workshop is to discuss the opportunities and challenges for research that are posed by the development of European-wide environmental information systems such as SEIS. The workshop will brainstorm on how research institutes and higher education institutions - either in their role as data holders or as science providers - can help making environmental information sharing in Europe a reality.

The workshop further aims at connecting the research community, sharing experiences and best practices and discussing the development of new tools and methodologies. Thus, the event will help researchers and practitioners get up to speed with the state-of-the-art in this fast-changing business, looking in a holistic way at the whole process from collecting and managing data to delivering and using environmental information. While it is not the intention to focus on the technical development or implementation of SEIS as such, the workshop will generate ideas which may add value to the SEIS concept.

There will be four thematic sessions, namely:

- **SHARED** : Making environmental datasets talk to each other: Novel approaches to data sharing, data harmonisation and interoperability;
- **ENVIRONMENTAL**: Being smart in getting environmental data: Strategies for integrated environmental monitoring and observation;
- **INFORMATION**: Transforming environmental data into environmental information: Delivering data to meet user needs;
- **SYSTEM**: Letting environmental data work: Platforms for integrated environmental modelling and scenario-building.

Paper submissions within these thematic sessions can be submitted online by 31 October 2008 via the following link: <http://www.ceh.ac.uk/SEIS/presentation.aspx>

The target attendees are primarily (but not exclusively) scientists from the PEER and AGILE member organisations and EEA staff members dealing with environmental monitoring, informatics, and modelling. Furthermore, the event is aimed at practitioners within national and European organisations dealing with shared environmental information.

Participation is free of charge. Registration is to be performed [online](#) by 15 December 2008. The workshop being limited to 100 participants, early registration is recommended.

**Country:** United Kingdom

**City/Location:** Wallingford

**Organiser:** Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER), Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe (AGILE) and the European Environment Agency (EEA)

**Event website:** <http://www.ceh.ac.uk/SEIS/PEER-EEA-AGILEworkshop.html>

**Event email:** [jmuller@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:jmuller@ceh.ac.uk)

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## **DK: PEPPOL Architecture Conference 2009**

**29 - 30 January 2009**

*International Pan-European Public Procurement Online (PEPPOL) Architecture Conference 2009*

The vision of the PEPPOL project is that any company and in particular SMEs in the EU can communicate electronically with any European governmental institution for the entire procurement process. The project will set up integrated pilot solutions across borders. The final outcome of PEPPOL will be an interoperational environment build upon national systems and infrastructures supporting the full cycle of eProcurement activities.

At the PEPPOL Architecture Conference 2009 the PEPPOL pilot will be nine months old and important decisions regarding the technical architecture as well as the business models supported will be made.

Discussions are aimed at decision makers in public and private sector responsible for establishing technical infrastructures to support efficient and interoperable eProcurement solutions (CTOs and IT architects). Debates will be organized in a workshop manner in order to review and facilitate discussion and feedback on the proposed architecture and its components.

Registration is to be performed [online](#) at the event's website. Attendance to the conference is free, but there is a limited number of seats.

**Country:** Denmark

**City/Location:** Copenhagen

**Organiser:** Danish IT and Telecom Agency

**Event email:** [conference@peppolinfrastucture.com](mailto:conference@peppolinfrastucture.com)

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## **BE: SEMIC.EU Methodology Workshop**

**2 February 2009**

*SEMIC.EU Methodology Workshop under the theme 'Modelling eGovernment Entities – Methodologies and Experiences under Review'*

This first pan-European meeting will gather initiatives and experts from Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland. Chosen out of the [Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe \(SEMIC.EU\)](#) pool of experts, several speakers will share their experiences in modelling semantic building blocks for eGovernment applications in their country.

The overall objective of the workshop consists in transferring knowledge by showing hands-on experiences when modelling these eGovernment entities. In particular, the following questions will be addressed:

- For what purposes is the UN/CEFACT Core Component Technical Specification the right approach?
- What are the parameters to identify the right strategy?
- What other modelling methodology has been proven by practical implementations?
- How can we facilitate mutual support and fruitful exchange of solutions?

Besides sharing views on advantages and pitfalls of the different national and international methodological approaches, the event is meant to be a good networking opportunity for attendants from different countries.

Full details regarding the speakers and sessions can be found in the [workshop's agenda](#).

Attendance is free of charge. The application for participation is to be performed [online](#) by 22 January 2009. Applications of those who are already registered as users on the SEMIC.EU website will be considered in priority. Due to the limited number of seats, places will furthermore be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Country:** Belgium

**City/Location:** Brussels

**Organiser:** Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe (SEMIC.EU) together with the IDABC unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Informatics

**Event website:** <http://www.semic.eu/semic/view/snnav/Infopool/Workshop.xhtml>

**Event email:** [contact@semic.eu](mailto:contact@semic.eu)

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## **BE: ICT Solutions using SOA and Web Services - 19 February 2009**

*eGovernment Workshop Brussels – Public Finance: ICT Solutions using SOA & Web Services*

The objective of this one day Workshop is to introduce ICT solutions in the context of public finance, including tax, benefits and payments, and exchange experience amongst professionals of use cases focusing on SOA [Service Oriented Architecture] and web-based services.

The Workshop will bring together tax and finance specialists with eGovernment policy professionals and officials from a wide range of ministries and different countries concerned with tax, revenue and related public finance issues. Representatives from technology companies and members of European and international secretariats as well as staff from industry and trade associations are also expected to participate.

The OASIS eGovernment Member Section has developed the Workshop to promote interoperability and the use of open standards in this rapidly expanding sector, which is forecast to continue to grow despite the financial crises afflicting major markets.

The four main themes will be:

- Advancing Open Standards in Government using SOA and web services;
- Exchange of SOA Experience in the revenue and tax sector;
- International Cross-border use cases;
- Practical Solutions for Consumers/Citizens and Tax-payers.

This meeting is open to both members and non-members of OASIS with an interest in the use of open standards for eGovernment.

Participation in this Workshop is at no cost, but registration is essential. Details on registration can be viewed [here](#). Places are limited to 50.

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

**Country:** Belgium

**City/Location:** Brussels

**Organiser:** OASIS eGov Member Section and the Belgian Federal Ministry of Finance

**Event website:** <http://events.oasis-open.org/home/egov-brussels-workshop/2009>

**Event email:** [events@oasis-open.org](mailto:events@oasis-open.org) .

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## **TR: “First International Conference on eGovernment and eGovernance” of TURKSAT**

**12 - 13 March 2009**

*"First International Conference on eGovernment and eGovernance"*

The first International Conference on eGovernment and eGovernance of TURKSAT (Turksat Satellite Communication Cable TV and Operation Inc.) will provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to gain an understanding of real-world eGovernment and eGovernance issues.

The conference will consist of keynote addresses, a plenary session, technical sessions and a panel discussion covering a wide range of topics in the eGovernment and eGovernance areas. It has been organised by and for an audience of leaders, bureaucrats, technocrats, researchers, practitioners and academic across the globe to present and discuss on their research findings and experiences in the field of the specific domain areas.

Registration is to be performed by filling out the [dedicated form](#) available at the event's website. The conference fee is €70, which is payable in advance and should be received by December 19, 2008.

**Country:** Turkey

**City/Location:** Ankara

**Organiser:** SoSReS (Social Sciences Research Society)

**Event website:** <http://icegov.info/>

**Event email:** [icegov@sobiad.org](mailto:icegov@sobiad.org)

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## **UK: Patient 2.0 Empowerment - EHR for Personalizing and Improving Care**

**1 - 3 June 2009**

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

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

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

The main themes of the conference are as follows:

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

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

**Country:** United Kingdom

**City/Location:** London

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

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

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

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