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## European ePractice Newsletter

**N. 234 - 13 May 2008**

### >> CAMSS Info Day

A special event on CAMSS will take place on 28 May 2008, in Brussels. CAMSS, an initiative of the European Commission's IDABC programme, aims at initiating, supporting and coordinating the collaboration between volunteer Member States in the definition of a "Common Assessment Method for Standards and Specifications" and sharing of the assessment study results for the development of eGovernment services. The event will focus on the presentation of CAMSS and its achievements, and will be open to discussion with the stakeholders. More information [here](#).

### >> IDABC Event - launch of SEMIC.EU

The Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe (SEMIC.EU) project aims to build a platform for interoperability assets and services available to the public sector and its stakeholders in Europe, focusing on semantic (ie. Content) interoperability. The official launch of the SEMIC.EU website will be in Brussels on June 17. The new virtual communication platform will facilitate the creation of expert communities, and will provide a public web repository on semantic interoperability issues. Learn [more here](#).

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

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## Latest Cases

- ["Digital Identity", Who are you on the Internet?](#) 9 May 2008 |
- [Remote assessment In Assistive Technology](#) 7 May 2008 |

Editor's Choice of the week: [Public Internet Centres and Education of Adults](#)

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## "Digital Identity", Who are you on the Internet?

"Digital Identity" is an exhibition held at the Sa Nostra Cultural Centre (Palma) which presents the concepts and the basic tools for creating and managing a digital identity. Following the sentence from Anil Dash, "I am the primary and principal source of information on myself", "Digital Identity" is a representation of ourselves, "auto constructed" on the web when we create a web domain, publish texts, photos, video, geographical localisations or simply when we leave traces of ourselves on the Internet through interactions, communications or interventions which we carry out with other digital individuals. The project includes the use of web spaces by a mannequin called Josomid, the host and reporter of the project. In all those virtual spaces, Josomid has been finding out about the construction of digital identity and has been reflecting on the topic. It has published photographs and videos on fotologs and Youtube. In addition, to further promote social relationships over the Internet, it is working on its positioning in cyberspace through spaces for content and relations, like Twitter and Orkut. It is also profiling its digital identity based on the music listened to via LastFM.

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## Remote assessment In Assistive Technology

The aim of the project is to increase awareness of how computers can be adapted to suit a wide range of users needs and thus open up access to computers to more people. It also provides two types of assessment of ICT need, one can be self accessed and the other one is over the internet. Both assessments provide reports for the end user to help them adapt existing technology or to inform them about alternatives.

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### Latest News

- [PT: On-line tax declarations soar](#) 13 May 2008 | Portugal
  - [DE: eGovernment cost-effectiveness software updated](#) 13 May 2008 | Germany
  - [LI: eGovernment strategy assessed](#) 13 May 2008 | Liechtenstein
  - [CH: Business takes to eGovernment](#) 13 May 2008 | Switzerland
  - [GR: New drive to equip schools for the Information Society](#) 8 May 2008 | Greece
  - [GR: Telemedicine in remote municipalities](#) 8 May 2008 | Greece
  - [BE: Social security goes electronic](#) 7 May 2008 | Belgium
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### PT: On-line tax declarations soar (13 May 2008)

*In this year's first phase of Portuguese income tax declarations, electronic submissions have risen by 24 %.*

The first wave of declarations had to be in by 15 April. This year, 1.9 million of them arrived on-line. That is 370 000 more than for the same period in 2007, when the number of electronic declarations overtook the paper ones for the first time ever. The trend is all the more remarkable because for first-phase declarations (by those whose income is derived solely from waged employment or pensions), there is absolutely no requirement to submit them on-line.

So the rapid shift towards electronic declarations shows that taxpayers have understood the advantages of this method, the Finance Ministry says. One big benefit is that some major sections of the electronic declaration do not need to be filled in at all. These concern information that is already known to the tax administration – notably the income that the declarant gained from pay or pensions in the previous year. Four-fifths of the electronic declarations this year made use of this time-saving shortcut.

On-line users now also get clearer advice on how to fill in the declaration, together with free text search facilities in case of doubt. There is an electronic 'facilitator' to help the declarant, and a calculator. And the system sends the user an 'alert' if statements or values given in the return do not tally with those already known to the tax inspectors. This, as the Ministry delicately puts it, helps to "avoid divergences and a subsequent need for taxation".

#### Further information:

- [Ministry of Finance and Public Administration – Press release \(in Portuguese\)](#)
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### DE: eGovernment cost-effectiveness software updated (13 May 2008)

*The German Interior Ministry has released a new version of the software for WiBe, its method and tool kit for evaluating the economic efficiency of eGovernment investments in ICT.*

Version 1.3.1 of the WiBe 4.0-2005 software is available immediately, free of charge, for all German public administrations. It can be downloaded from the site of the Interior Ministry's [KBSI](#) (Federal Government Co-ordination and Advisory Agency for IT in the Federal Administration). Or it can be ordered on a CD-ROM.

The content of the software has been expanded. It has also been made more user-friendly and flexible. It can now run under both Windows and Linux. Java programming makes it easier to further develop and

maintain the application. Installed as a stand-alone version with security management, it can now be used with supported external databases (Oracle, MySQL and MS SQL servers).

The new version enables data to be imported from WiBe 21, the Interior Ministry's detailed "recommendation on the application of economic considerations in the federal administration, particularly in the use of IT". WiBe is an abbreviation of the German word for "economic considerations". WiBe 4.0-2005 can also now export projects and catalogues of criteria in XML.

Other updates to the software include changes to the WiBe user manual, the technical manual, the installation instructions and the readme file.

**Further information:**

- [KBSSt website – WiBe 4.0 \(in German\)](#)
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## **LI: eGovernment strategy assessed (13 May 2008)**

*The government of Liechtenstein has reported to parliament on its eGovernment strategy up to 2011.*

The government wanted to keep parliament informed of progress to date on its IT and eGovernment strategy, as well as on some current changes and updates. Approval is also needed for two supplementary credits in 2008 to pay for the ambitious plan. The extra loans will add up to CHF1 125 000 (approx. €694 700).

It is well worth it, in the authorities' view. eGovernment, they point out, is "often a synonym for modern and efficient administration". It enables Liechtenstein's national administration to "supplement the traditional means of service provision with electronic access for a broad section of the public". In recent years, the Internet has contributed to "major qualitative progress in communication between the national administration and its customers – i.e. business, citizens and administrations".

The report, and an accompanying motion put to parliament, analyses the current eGovernment situation in Liechtenstein as well as giving detailed presentations both of strategy implementation and of individual projects. The aim is to create a wide range of user-friendly basic services by 2011. According to the government, the national administration's clients should, in future, "be able to accomplish as many administrative processes as possible easily and fast by electronic means, without needing any particular knowledge of who is responsible, nor any special technical know-how".

**Further information:**

- [Information Authority of the principality of Liechtenstein - News article \(in German\)](#)
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## **CH: Business takes to eGovernment (13 May 2008)**

*Swiss firms are stepping up their use of eGovernment services, a new survey shows.*

Commissioned by the federal government, the survey quizzed 1 004 firms in January of this year. In every sector except agriculture, it found a growing trend towards on-line contact with the authorities. Companies with 250 employees or more have increased their eGovernment take-up particularly fast since 2006. But smaller firms with nine employees or less are catching up: 44 % of them now favour the on-line processing of their administrative contacts with the authorities – a 9 % increase over last year's figure.

As well as sectoral information, companies tend to go for the authorities' on-line provision of accident insurance, legislative texts, administrative directories and business news. Swiss firms' wish-list for eGovernment includes the expansion of the national administrative directory and more on-line guidance about social insurance, as well as a simplification of value-added tax.

The Swiss cantons' websites are now better known in business circles. Of those surveyed, 24 % mentioned them (up 7 % on last year), and 15 % were aware of municipal sites (also up 7 %); 34 % said they use the cantons' on-line services (up 20 %) and 2 1% use those of the boroughs (up 13 %); 74 % rated the cantonal services as very or fairly good (up 4 %); while 65 % said the same about the municipal services (up 3 %). The approval rating for federal eGovernment services also rose to 61 % (up 2%). However, 31 %

of those interviewed could not comment on the federal services as they were unaware of them. The health, construction and manufacturing sectors gave eGovernment the highest scores.

**Further information:**

- [Information portal of the Swiss Federal Administration](#)
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**GR: New drive to equip schools for the Information Society (8 May 2008)**

*The Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (Hellenic MoE) in a coordinate effort has endeavoured to establish the utilization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and their incorporation into the daily educational procedure.*

This effort is carried out within the framework of the third Community Support Framework mainly emanating from the Operational Program of Information Society, under the direct supervision of the General Secretary of the Hellenic MoE and with the support of the Hellenic MoE Information Society Office and the "Strategy for ICTs in Education" Committee.

This initiative is mainly based upon four actions:

- Installation and support of network and computational equipment;
- Development of software and digital content for educational and administrative purposes (educational software, information systems, Internet content, etc);
- Training of the educational community on ICTs, targeting to the utilization of the above areas);
- Modernization of administration areas.

Its primary objectives are:

- The incorporation of ICTs in the teaching process;
- The support of Informatics as a lesson in high schools, senior high schools and technical schools;
- The support of every cognitive area through the use of ICTs;
- The elimination of digital illiteracy and variations on ICT skills.

Three new programmes have furthermore been presented by the Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr Alogoskoufis and the Minister of National Education and Religious Affairs, Mr Stylianides.

More precisely, those new programmes are: "Get Digital", "Portable Computer for every Student" and "Blog out". All the above actions aim to promote Broadband Internet and incorporate new technologies' learning to the various levels of education.

**Further information:**

- [Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs – Main page of the Information Society Office](#)
  - [Observatory for the Greek Information Society – News article \(in Greek\)](#)
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**GR: Telemedicine in remote municipalities (8 May 2008)**

*More than 20 remote municipalities in Greece participate in a pioneer telemedicine programme organised by the Intermunicipal Health Network.*

Through telemedicine devices intended to be installed in rural and municipal Medical Centers participating in this programme, valuable consulting services are provided that would contribute to upgrading the health services already in use.

The programme was presented within the framework of the 4th Annual Panellenic Conference of the Intermunicipal Health Services Network and the Local Authorities Social Solidarity Network (which took place on 11-12 April this year in the Cultural Conference Center of the Municipality of Argroupoli).

In his speech, the Minister of Health, Mr Avramopoulos, laid special emphasis on the importance of providing prevention services and prehospital healthcare at municipal level thanks to structures that already operate within the framework of the local authorities' bodies. He also referred to new structures which are formed and which have acquired the necessary operational institutional framework of the Ministry's Bill on Primary Healthcare. It has already been implemented in collaboration with the Municipal Authorities, an extensive plan of upgrading older hospital buildings for housing urban type Medical Centers, Healthcare Institutes and Municipal Services.

The Chair of the Intermunicipal Health Network and Mayor of the Municipality of Maroussi, Mr G. Patoulis, mentioned that resources from the Ministry of Health and other Ministries (the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity) could also be used to support this programme.

More resources may also be added, provided by municipalities and coming from the proper valorisation of European Programmes such as the 4th CSF (Community Support Framework) which intends to fund actions on Prevention and the Promotion of Public Health. Private sponsoring should also be considered as a possible way to fund actions and initiatives regarding prevention when abiding to specific principles and rules.

**Further information:**

- [News article – “A Telemedicine pioneer programme \(in Greek\)”](#)
  - [News article – “Telemedicine upgrading in Municipalities” \(in Greek\)](#)
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## **BE: Social security goes electronic (7 May 2008)**

*eGovernment is moving forward in Belgium's social security system, a progress report to the country's Council of Ministers says. The ministers approved further measures.*

The report focuses on the progress of the main eGovernment projects related to social security in 2007. It was produced by the working group “Modernisation of the management of social security” which is composed of representatives of Federal departments and strategic cells of the ministries.

The working group has already achieved several modernisation projects. Apart from the electronically readable social security card containing the identification number and the social insurance status of its bearer (SIS card), several types of online declarations to social security institutions, made by employers or the self-employed, have already been available.

As regards the immediate declaration of recruitment and discharge (DIMONA) and the quarterly declaration of wages and labour time (DMFA), the report states that both the treatment and the checking of data are regularly following their course. The report also informs on the results of the integrated electronic declaration for foreign workers ([LIMOSA](#)), as well as actions carried out in the aim to improve both data quality and errors monitoring.

Other projects are still being tested, among which those aimed at granting social security institutions with an access to the data of the Finances department of the Federal government, and vice versa.

On the occasion of the report's presentation, the Council of Ministers agreed on the continuation and upgrade of some ongoing projects while giving the green light for the launch of new ones. Among other measures, the ministers set the deadline of 2010 for the switch to a fully electronic declaration of social risks. They also approved the implementation of a feasibility study within the framework of a one-stop shop for the employment of foreign workers ('Working in Belgium').

**Further information:**

- [Presscenter.org – Full press release \(in French\)](#)
  - [Crossroads Bank for Social Security](#)
  - [LIMOSA case at ePractice](#)
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## New Factsheets

The 4th Edition of the eGovernment factsheet for Norway is now available online. We invite you to visit [the relevant section](#) at the portal for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

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### Latest Publications

- [EU: The Portorož Declaration – eHealth 2008 Conference Declaration](#) 7 May 2008 | EU Institutions, Pan European
  - [DE: White Paper: Healthcare Industry in Germany](#) 6 May 2008 | Germany
  - [EU: Encouraging innovation-friendly procurement in eHealth](#) 25 April 2008 | EU Institutions
  - [GL: e-Agora, The White Book of the Local eDemocracy](#) 23 April 2008 | Belgium, Central and South America, France, Pan European
  - [EU: eHealth Monthly Focus on Financing eHealth](#) 21 April 2008 | EU Institutions
  - [US: Local e-Democracy Initiatives in the United States](#) 1 March 2007 | North America
  - [EU: e-Democratic Experimentation in Europe: The Case of e-Voting](#) 1 February 2007 | Pan European
  - [IT: Not all the online political forums are futile: The case study of the “radical community”](#) 31 December 2005 | Italy
  - [EU: Survey on e-Invoicing and e-Archiving](#) 14 November 2005 | Pan European
  - [GL: Parliaments in the Digital Age. Exploring Latin America](#) 1 January 2005 | Central and South America
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### EU: The Portorož Declaration – eHealth 2008 Conference Declaration

**Complete title:**

**The Portorož Declaration**

**eHealth 2008 Conference Declaration**

**eHealth in a Europe “without frontiers”: Building New Initiatives – Working Together**

**Description (short summary):** At the [eHealth 2008 Conference](#) held in Portorož, Slovenia, and organised by the Slovenian Ministry of Health and the European Commission, the EU Member States have agreed on the present declaration.

The Member States and the European Commission commit to support together the deployment of high-capacity infrastructure and infostructure for health and social care information networks and services such as telemedicine (teleradiology, teleconsultation, telemonitoring, telecare), ePrescription and eReferral. With continued commitment from all the actors involved, European-wide cooperation on electronic health services will lead to the successful formation of a European health information area. As a result, the health of European citizens and the sustainability of European health care systems will benefit considerably.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=4094](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4094)

**Number of pages:** 2

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### DE: White Paper: Healthcare Industry in Germany

**Complete title:**

**White Paper Healthcare Industry in Germany**

**Structural Change and Consequences for ICT Applications**

**Description (short summary):** The German healthcare industry is increasingly becoming a focus of media interest, a trend driven by developments such as statutory liberalization, the mergers of medical service providers, and IT solutions that improve the efficiency of paying authorities and service providers. The structural change in the industry that gives rise to these developments demands the support of appropriate Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The present white paper seeks to identify the structural characteristics of the healthcare industry and to present various ICT-related trends for the future as well as to draw attention to the high ICT market potential of this industry.

**Original URL:** <http://www.ehealthnews.eu/content/view/1132/65/>

**Number of pages:** 17

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## **EU: Encouraging innovation-friendly procurement in eHealth**

**Complete title:**

**Encouraging innovation-friendly procurement in eHealth**

**Description (short summary):** An important success factor for meeting the challenges of health and social care in a sustainable, cost-effective way is to address these through mid- to long-term strategic approaches that not only make use of the latest inventions and innovations but that also help steer the development of new solutions. This 2 page document presents the main actions foreseen as well as the latest position of the European Commission on the topic.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=4073](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=4073)

**Number of pages:** 2

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## **GL: e-Agora, The White Book of the Local eDemocracy**

**Complete title:**

**e-Agora, The White Book of the Local eDemocracy**

**Description (short summary):** Compilation of reflections on eDemocracy having as bold experimentations of local eDemocracy in France, Brazil, Chile and Belgium.

**Original URL:** <http://www.epractice.eu>

**Number of pages:** 69

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## **EU: eHealth Monthly Focus on Financing eHealth**

**Complete title:**

**Financing eHealth – Boosting investment in eHealth across Europe**

**Description (short summary):** In the aim to provide new insights on wise decision-making, sources of financing, and good practices for securing success and sustainability of eHealth investments, and thus give stakeholders the opportunity to learn from existing experience, the Financing eHealth Study examines investments in eHealth across Europe. It is essential that eHealth investment is integrated into mainstream strategic decisions on total healthcare development.

The Financing eHealth Study was commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate-General Information Society and Media, unit ICT for Health. It aims to assess different financing opportunities against the financing needs of eHealth investment. The Study focuses on providing insights and specific recommendations on:

- Developing the supply side of eHealth finance to optimise the use of resources available for boosting investment in eHealth, including ways to add value through collaboration between Member States;
- Placing eHealth investment in an integrated strategic context to enhance and refine the demand for eHealth in improving healthcare capacity and performance.

The recommendations of the Study will help close the gap between supply of, and demand for, eHealth financing, and thus help Member States and the European Commission to support and boost investment in eHealth.

**Original URL:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/news.cfm?item\\_type=library](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/news.cfm?item_type=library)

**Number of pages:** 2

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## **US: Local e-Democracy Initiatives in the United States**

**Complete title:**

**Local e-Democracy Initiatives in the United States**

**Description (short summary):** This paper offers an investigation of practices of eDemocracy at the local level in the United States. This case study is purposefully limited in two ways. First, investigations of e-democracy in the local level have the significant advantage of higher participation per capita since the issues addressed are quite immediate. Second, the US has one of the highest rates of internet penetration and is home to nearly 20 % of the world's internet users. As the oldest surviving democracy, it is also confronted with many problems characteristic of most western democracies. An investigation into the practices of eDemocracy in the US, therefore, can offer many archetypal insights into how the digitalization of the relationship between citizens and governments affects the age old assumptions of democracy.

**Original URL:** <http://edc.unige.ch/inner.php?table=Publications&linkid=123&head=e-DC%20Working%20Papers>

**Number of pages:** 28

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## **EU: e-Democratic Experimentation in Europe: The Case of e-Voting**

**Complete title:**

**e-Democratic Experimentation in Europe: The Case of e-Voting**

**Description (short summary):** This paper argues that a focus on small-scale forms of political experimentation, such as eVoting, can overcome certain methodological difficulties related to undertaking cross-national comparative analyses of larger-scale eDemocratic experimentation.

**Original URL:**

<http://edc.unige.ch/inner.php?table=Publications&linkid=123&head=e-DC%20Working%20Papers>

**Number of pages:** 23

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## **IT: Not all the online political forums are futile: The case study of the “radical community”**

**Complete title:**

**Not all the online political forums are futile: The case study of the “radical community”**

**Description (short summary):** This paper draws insights from several interviews (40) that online forums can play important democratic functions within political organizations. It focuses on the case study of the Italian party “radicali italiani”, and analyses three aspects: i) the technical and organizational characteristics of the forum; ii) the reasons for participating (or not) in the forum; iii) the functions that forum fulfills for the different political actors (leaders, activists and sympathizers).

**Original URL:**

<http://edc.unige.ch/inner.php?table=Publications&linkid=123&head=e-DC%20Working%20Papers>

**Number of pages:** 12

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## **EU: Survey on e-Invoicing and e-Archiving**

**Complete title:**

**e-Invoicing and e-Archiving – Taking the next step  
A European Survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers**

**Description (short summary):** The survey investigates what the current state of adoption is in Europe with regard to eInvoicing, eArchiving and the scanning of supplier invoices. It gains insight into what companies see as advantages, and also as barriers, to the success of their projects.

Authors have gathered 108 responses from medium to very large organisations in ten European countries, from industries associated with high invoice-volumes. The survey states that about half of European companies with high invoice-volumes are in the process of implementing or have plans to implement eInvoicing and eArchiving in the next 12 months, while no fewer than one-third are already operating eInvoicing. Companies that have done so are satisfied and over 70 % have experienced increased efficiency, with more than 60 % noting cost reductions. And yet, they are not fully exploiting the potential this might offer.

**Original URL:** [http://www.pwc.fr/european\\_e-invoicing\\_and\\_e-archiving\\_survey.html](http://www.pwc.fr/european_e-invoicing_and_e-archiving_survey.html)

**Number of pages:** 28

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## GL: Parliaments in the Digital Age. Exploring Latin America

**Complete title:**  
**Parliaments in the Digital Age. Exploring Latin America**

**Description (short summary):** Within the framework of incipient electronic governance, this article aims at exploring the ways in which Latin American parliamentary actors use new technologies, especially the Internet. Therefore, regional modalities regarding the use of this means for the strengthening of democratic institutions are outlined herein. Thus, upon the introduction of electronic parliaments, the author identifies development patterns regarding the initiatives of parliaments and political parties with parliamentary representation on the Internet. Further, the author registers the features thereof, evaluates their properties according to their potential in terms of electronic democracy and eventually, and analyses the variables of influence within the different paths chosen.

**Original URL:**  
<http://edc.unige.ch/inner.php?table=Publications&linkid=123&head=e-DC%20Working%20Papers>

**Number of pages:** 28

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## ePractice Workshops

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

- [ePractice Mid-Term workshop](#) 19 May 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [eHealth Management](#) 9 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [eInclusion: Digital literacy](#) 16 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [Innovative Cities for the Next Generation - ICING final event](#) 26 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [eInclusion: Special needs groups](#) 25 September 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop](#) 15 October 2008 | Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)
- [Administrative burden](#) 23 October 2008 | Bremen (Germany)
- [European eInclusion initiative: results and future steps](#) 13 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [eGov services to business: the state of the play](#) 17 November 2008 | Cork (Ireland)
- [Service Deployment](#) 9 February 2009 | Brussels (Belgium)

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

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## Upcoming Events

- [UK: GIS in the Public Sector: the Countdown to INSPIRE](#) 14 May 2008 | United Kingdom
  - [GR: Conference on 'Bridging the digital divide in Rural Communities'](#) 15 - 16 May 2008 | Greece
  - [BE: Workshop 'eParticipation in Europe: current state and potential'](#) 16 May 2008 | Belgium
  - [IT: Workshop 'Towards the constitution of the IGF Italia'](#) 19 May 2008 | Italy
  - [UK: 3rd eVoice International Forum on eDemocracy](#) 22 - 23 May 2008 | United Kingdom
  - [GR: International workshop on 'Future skill needs in health care'](#) 22 - 23 May 2008 | Greece
  - [BE: IDABC CAMSS Info Day](#) 28 May 2008 | Belgium
  - [BE: Consultation meeting on FP7 'ICT for governance and policy modelling'](#) 28 May 2008 | Belgium
  - [UK: Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008](#) 4 June 2008 | United Kingdom
  - [BE: SEMIC.EU Launch Conference](#) 17 June 2008 | Belgium
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## UK: GIS in the Public Sector: the Countdown to INSPIRE

14 May 2008

*Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in the Public Sector: the Countdown to INSPIRE*

The European Union's INSPIRE Directive lays down the ground rules to enable spatial data from separate databases to be combined seamlessly and to be made widely available, paving the way for all geospatial data to be shared by public bodies across the EU. This directive is set to come into full force in the UK in May 2009.

The objective of the GIS in the Public Sector event is to inform on the implications of the INSPIRE directive. Expected attendees are representatives from the public or private sectors involved in the collection, management and use of geospatial data.

Bookings can be performed [online](#). The public sector delegates fee is £295 +VAT (approx. €376 +VAT) and it is £395 +VAT for private sector delegates (approx. €504 +VAT). A £100 discount (approx. €127) is granted to those registering until 11 April 2008.

**Venue:** Royal Institute of British Architects  
66 Portland Place  
London W1B 1AD

**Event website:** <http://www.headstar-events.com/gis08/>

**Event email:** [claire@headstar.com](mailto:claire@headstar.com)

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## GR: Conference on 'Bridging the digital divide in Rural Communities'

15 - 16 May 2008

*Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Communities – Practical solutions and policies*

The "Urban/rural digital divide" refers to those set of people without an enhanced data capability which will lead them to be unable accessing the expected benefits of information and communication technologies, particularly in relation to health and education.

This divide concern is seen to be greatest in relation to those living and working in rural and remote areas since the lower rates for data access for these consumers place them at a disadvantage in comparison to metropolitan consumers. For these citizens the problems of missing infrastructures, incentives and computer literacy (the factors leading to the digital divide) are bigger and more difficult to solve.

In this context, The "Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Communities" international Conference is bringing together academics, agents of applied research, field practitioners, and policy makers from Europe and

beyond, who share an interest in promoting the utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Services by rural citizens of all ages.

Conference participants will present the outcomes of their applied projects or academic endeavours, share their experiences from this work, and discuss towards drawing common conclusions and formulating recommendations for the future. Particular emphasis will be placed on bringing academic research and field-based initiatives and projects into close contact, mutually productive and beneficial exchange.

Speakers will include, among others, renowned international academics and EU representatives. A limited number of papers will be selected and presented, covering the following aspects of the Digital Divide problem in rural territories:

- Support mechanisms;
- Infrastructure;
- Services;
- Education - Training - Lifelong Learning.

Deadline for submitting papers is 7 March 2008. Participation to the event is open to all and free-of-charge.

**Venue:** Athens

**Event website:** [www.teleaccess.org/conference](http://www.teleaccess.org/conference)

**Event email:** [digitaldivide@ea.gr](mailto:digitaldivide@ea.gr)

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## **BE: Workshop ‘eParticipation in Europe: current state and potential’**

**16 May 2008**

*1st project workshop-eParticipation at European level: current state and potential*

The workshop is organised by the European eParticipation Study, a project funded by the European Commission. The major focus of the European eParticipation Study is eParticipation used by European level organisations, including the European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, as well as trans-national civil society networks and other forums, political parties and interest groups.

The main issues to be covered in the workshop are:

- Initial views of the major factors shaping eParticipation across Europe, the main benefits of eParticipation at this level, and an overview of the state of play amongst the European level and other trans-national organisations in Europe;
- A framework for understanding and evaluating eParticipation initiatives and comparing good practice case studies in order to highlight what works and what does not work in eParticipation;
- A number of invited short case study vignettes and demonstrations designed to illustrate what is happening at European level today.

Those wishing to register may go to the project website (<http://www.european-eparticipation.eu/>), clicking on “Workshops” and then on “Please register here” for the first workshop.

Participation in the workshop is free-of-charge but places are very limited. Therefore those interested are requested to confirm their participation as soon as possible and not later than by 9 May 2008. Further workshop details will be sent to registered persons.

Those wishing to make a presentation may mention it in the comment field in the online registration form.

All of those interested in eParticipation issues are furthermore invited to visit and join for free the ePractice community "eParticipation and eDemocracy Network" (<http://www.epractice.eu/community/eParticipation>) where a lot of activity is already taking place.

**Event website:** [www.european-eparticipation.eu](http://www.european-eparticipation.eu)

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## IT: Workshop 'Towards the constitution of the IGF Italia'

19 May 2008

*The Internet System: 'Towards the constitution of the IGF Italia'*

The main objective of ISOC Italy is to sensitize the Italian Internet community on the Internet Governance. This one-day workshop aims at consulting all interested parties on related issues.

The topics to be discussed during the event are on the following subjects:

- Critical Resources;
- Access;
- Diversity;
- Openness;
- Security;
- Emerging Issues;
- Internet Bill of Rights.

Registration to the event is available [online](#) and participation is open to all and free-of-charge.

**Venue:** Conference Room of the National Research Council  
Piazzale Aldo Moro, 7  
00185 Rome

**Event website:** [http://www.isoc.it/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=341&Itemid=463](http://www.isoc.it/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=341&Itemid=463)

**Event email:** [web@isoc.it](mailto:web@isoc.it)

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## UK: 3rd eVoice International Forum on eDemocracy

22 - 23 May 2008

*3rd eVoice International Political Forum on eDemocracy*

Delegates will hear from experts from around the North Sea Region on work carried out during the eVoice project (<http://www.evoice-eu.net>) and future challenges for local government in developing eParticipation projects. The event and the eVoice project have been funded by the INTERREG IIIB North Sea programme.

Those wishing to participate can choose among the four following workshops:

- Workshop 'strengthening offline local democracy by eParticipation';
- Workshop 'social computing, social networking and the possibilities of Web 2.0';
- Workshop 'eConsultations and ePetitions';
- Workshop 'community websites'.

Furthermore, part of the event will mark the launch of the eVoice project book. More details on the event programme are available [here](#). The Forum is an open and free-of-charge event. Bookings are to be performed [online](#).

**Venue:** Maid's Head Hotel  
Tombland  
Norwich NR31LB

**Event website:** <http://www.evoice-eu.net/content/events/apply.cfm>

**Event email:** [bureau.walburg@iaf.nl](mailto:bureau.walburg@iaf.nl)

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## **GR: International workshop on 'Future skill needs in health care'**

22 - 23 May 2008

*International workshop on 'Future skill needs in healthcare'*

The aim of this workshop is to identify the key trends and future skill needs in the health care sector. It will look in particular at interaction between technology, ICT and skill needs, management of health care and education and training needs in the sector.

By doing so, the workshop attempts to enhance an evidence based development and policy-making at both national and European levels. More information can be found on the draft outline and agenda that are available at the event website.

Participation to the workshop is free-of-charge. The registration form is to be returned by 30 April 2008 either by email to [roula.panagiotou@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:roula.panagiotou@cedefop.europa.eu) and/or [yvonne.noutsia@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:yvonne.noutsia@cedefop.europa.eu) or by fax: +30 2310 490 117.

**Venue:** European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)  
Europe 123  
Thessaloniki (Pylea)

**Event website:** <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/index.asp?section=3&read=3275&sub=1>

**Event email:** [skillsnet-team@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:skillsnet-team@cedefop.europa.eu)

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## **BE: IDABC CAMSS Info Day**

28 May 2008

*IDABC CAMSS Info Day*

[CAMSS](#), an initiative of the European Commission's [IDABC programme](#), aims at initiating, supporting and coordinating the collaboration between volunteer Member States in the definition of a 'Common Assessment Method for Standards and Specifications' and sharing the assessment study results for the development of eGovernment services.

This one day event aims to present CAMSS project and its achievements. It is organised in the frame of phase 1 of the project activities, defining a common set of guidelines for the assessment of standards and specifications based on national best practices.

The morning session will feature an introduction to the project by the European Commission and a presentation of use cases by Member States. The afternoon session will be dedicated to the presentation of the CAMSS project by the contractor, followed by panel discussions on possible future works.

The draft CAMSS will be published on the IDABC website in June 2008. External stakeholders will be invited to comment on it.

The ones interested in attending the CAMSS Info Day must fill in [a call for expression of interest](#) no later than **13 May 2008**. Participation is free-of-charge and the privacy statement is available [online](#).

**Venue:** Centre Albert Borschette  
36 Froissart street  
1040 Brussels

**Event email:** [Serge.novaretti@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Serge.novaretti@ec.europa.eu)

**Event website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7572>

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## **BE: Consultation meeting on FP7 'ICT for governance and policy modelling'**

28 May 2008

*Consultation meeting on FP7 'ICT for governance and policy modelling'*

This consultation meeting is organised in the context of the preparation of the Work Programme for 2009-2010 of the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7). It is targeted at those interested in policy modelling, opinion visualisation, mass collaborative platforms and large-scale societal simulations.

Those wishing to receive additional details may log in frequently on [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/egovernment/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/egovernment/index_en.htm) where more information will be announced on this initiative and on FP7 research activities.

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

**Event email:** [INFSO-eGOV-FP7@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-eGOV-FP7@ec.europa.eu)

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## **UK: Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008**

4 June 2008

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

The 'Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008 Conference', to be hosted by the [eGovernment Bulletin](#), will take place following the [Shared Services Online Summit](#) (3-9 March 2008). The Conference will aim to provide insights into the benefits and challenges of sharing systems and services, to identify good practice and to provide a forum to share experience amongst those involved with planning the move towards shared services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Event email:** [claire@headstar.com](mailto:claire@headstar.com)

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## **BE: SEMIC.EU Launch Conference**

**17 June 2008**

*Launch conference of the Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe*

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

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

### **Keynotes:**

Karel de Vriendt, Head of IDABC unit, European Commission

Jan Timmerman, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Netherlands

Steven Capell, Technical Director, Red Wahoo, Australia

Dr. Wilfried Bernhardt, Federal Ministry of Justice of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

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

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

Further information on the SEMIC program is available at the following link: [www.semic.eu](http://www.semic.eu)

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

**Event website:** [http://www.semic.eu/events\\_conferences.html](http://www.semic.eu/events_conferences.html)

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

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