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European ePractice Newsletter

N. 230 - 15 April 2008

>> eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth professionals invited to a Mid-Term workshop

The ePractice.eu portal will celebrate on May 19 a special Mid-Term workshop which aims to bring together representatives of public authorities, policy-makers, IT experts, academics and industry managers to discuss best practices in e-transformation from the European perspective. The one-day event will be held in Brussels, with the presence of high-level officials responsible of the eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth European policies and relevant experts from the private and public sectors. Designed as a hands-on learning and networking event, eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth professionals are expected to contribute with their expertise to one of the three working groups of the seminar, where real-life good practice cases will be evaluated. More information at epractice.eu/workshop/ePracticeMidTerm

>> Article: “Best practices in eGovernment - on a knife-edge between success and failure”

The article written by Trond Arne Undheim is an in-depth exploration of three best practice cases in eGovernment. Findings from the Norwegian portal Mypage, the Austrian portal Help and the Dutch Horeca1 project, all European Award winners, indicate that even successful projects face significant challenges. The article is tailored to an audience of eGovernment practitioners across sectors and is available in the latest issue of the [European Journal of ePractice](#).

>> Last call for papers: Efficiency and effectiveness

The August issue of the *European Journal of ePractice* wants to reflect the progress achieved in making efficiency and effectiveness a reality in services provision. What has been achieved? What needs to be done? Reducing administrative burden is one of the key policy objectives of the i2010 eGovernment Action Plan. The EC digital publication invites practitioners and academics to submit contributions analysing the organisational and ICT actions undertaken to improve service provision, as well as the measurement or economic valorisation of their impact. The issue-editor is Cristiano Codagnone. The deadline for submissions is next Tuesday April 22. For more information, please visit the [Call for Papers](#).

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

Latest Cases

- [Creating a municipal company guide](#) 15 April 2008 |
- [eRepresentative:A Virtual Desktop for the Mobile Elected Official](#) 14 April 2008 |
- [Strategic Program Battle against the digital divide in Ghent](#) 10 April 2008 |
- [European Approaches to Inter-Generational Lifelong Learning](#) 9 April 2008 |
- [Community Office: Development of Information & Communication Technologies](#) 8 April 2008 |

Editor's Choice of the week: [Multimedia healthcare information systems](#)

Creating a municipal company guide

The responsibility for economic policy is shared by the Belgian government (federal economy), the Flemish, Walloon or Brussels government (regional economy) and last (but not least) by the municipalities themselves (local economy). At the moment a conclusive overview of all companies in a municipal area is missing which logically results in: No (good) data equals no (good) policy. Creating a municipal company guide fills the gaps of data between the municipal and Flemish government and the companies by creating a platform in which data is contributed by all the partners, and so creating a full overview of the economic partners working in a municipality. More details and benefits for citizens, companies and the municipality are described in the additional document.

eRepresentative: A Virtual Desktop for the Mobile Elected Official

eRepresentative: Virtual Desktop for the Mobile Elected Official” is a research and development project that will create a virtual desktop to support the mobile elected representative. The focus of the application is the legislative process, and mainly the scrutiny of legislation through relevant committees. The rationale for this development is grounded firstly in current eGovernment research priorities, which seek technology support for improvements in the efficiency, inclusiveness, openness and accountability of public services and democratic processes. The technological rationale is that, while most of the assemblies are well served by intranet access to databases of legislative documents, these are either not available remotely (intranet/extranet) or, if they are, they are not designed to provide access on mobile devices. The more specific project objectives are: 1) To understand what it means to be a mobile elected representative and model the associated legislative services needed by them and the tasks they need to undertake. 2) To appreciate and model the information and information systems associated with legislative scrutiny of legislation and policy. 3) To specify and develop a virtual desktop environment for secure mobile working. 4) To deploy the “eRepresentative” desktop in a number of national, regional and local elected assemblies. 5) To critically evaluate its potential and usefulness for elected representatives and the impact on legislative services. The functional scope of the desktop in terms of top-level use cases: • to provide Inter-assembly search and retrieval • to track committee legislative actions • to provide committee events notification • to provide a secure discussion space • to provide remote e-polling for committees • to provide e-voting support for individual ballots

Strategic Program Battle against the digital divide in Ghent

The digital divide is defined as the difference in gradation and combination of access to digital communication means (internet, cell phone, computer, digital television...), the information, communication possibilities and services that are accessible digitally. The program battle against the digital divide of the city of Ghent is a horizontal means of solving a problem through the services of the city, OCMW (social welfare agency) and other social organisations in the city. Together we work out a diversified multi-channel and multi-action solution that takes account of the different reasons of non-use with maximal encouragement for an effective communicative and cohesive use of ICT.

European Approaches to Inter-Generational Lifelong Learning

EAGLE is an ‘Observatory’ project, supported under the EC Grundtvig Programme that is collecting, analysing and showcasing examples of inter-generational learning. Many of the examples entail the use of ICTs to support collaborative working and knowledge creation between generations. This will lead to the formulation, selection and implementation of European action research based pilot experimentation. These experiments throughout Europe will test new ways of promoting inter-generational learning.

Community Office: Development of Information & Communication Technologies

CODICT proposes to create a 'Community Office' prototype, which not only provides people with access to knowledge, education and training in one building, but also acts as a single access point to all public services, to encourage social cohesion, the acceptance and diffusion of innovation and the development of local communities, with the objective of empowering individuals to participate more fully in the creation of the Knowledge Society in 2010. The term 'people at risk of exclusion' does not only apply to the elderly and people with physical and cognitive disabilities and the socially disadvantaged, but to the broader

concept of any individual lacking digital competence or access to digital information. The proposal is based on solutions focused on the inclusion of the individual in society, rather than concentrating simply on people with special needs. The object is to respond to the requirements of any European citizen suffering from the effects of the digital divide. Solutions will be offered which culminate in the publication of definitions 'guidelines' – or 'best-practice procedures' – based on user requirements, accessibility and usability studies related to the management, application and presentation of information and therefore knowledge.

Latest News

- [EU: Over 300 000 .eu web domains created in 2007](#) 14 April 2008 | Pan European
 - [INT: OOXML approved as an ISO/IEC standard](#) 14 April 2008 | International Organizations
 - [NL: Secure USBs for defence civil servants](#) 14 April 2008 | Netherlands
 - [DE: New eDemocracy site](#) 14 April 2008 | Germany
 - [EU: Commission to boost online debate on Europe](#) 14 April 2008 | EU Institutions
 - [DE: eGovernment means business](#) 11 April 2008 | Germany
 - [CH: Ministry reports eGovernment progress](#) 11 April 2008 | Switzerland
 - [NL: Rotterdam named best eGovernment authority](#) 11 April 2008 | Netherlands
 - [NL: Website is best public innovation](#) 11 April 2008 | Netherlands
 - [UK: Northern Ireland launches electronic patient records](#) 11 April 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [EU: Access-eGov completes first pilot trials](#) 11 April 2008 | EU Institutions, Germany, Poland, Slovakia
 - [ES/Latin America: eLearning for tourism](#) 11 April 2008 | Central and South America, Spain
 - [EU: Towards a Shared Environmental Information System \(SEIS\)](#) 10 April 2008 | EU Institutions
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EU: Over 300 000 .eu web domains created in 2007

On 7 April 2008, the .eu Top Level Domain celebrated its second anniversary with more than 2.8 million European internet identities secured by businesses, NGOs and EU residents, with the benefit of a pan-European online presence.

Two years after its launching, the .eu domain is the fourth most popular Top Level Domain in Europe and the ninth worldwide competing with long-established identities such as .com, .net or .org. Registrations for .eu domains have been growing continuously following the first boom year. In addition, subscriptions for 80% of domain names have been renewed for their second year, which is a vote of confidence for .eu.

In terms of number of registrations Germany continues to lead with 31.4 %, followed by the Netherlands (13.4 %), the United Kingdom (13.3 %), France (7.3 %) and Italy (5.1 %) whereas the overall growth is at 11% with leading countries Poland where registrations increased by 48.6% in 2007, followed by Lithuania (48.4 %) and Finland (39.9 %).

The management of the .eu registry is entrusted to the European Registry of Internet Domain Names (EURid), an independent non-profit organisation.

Further information:

- [Rapid press release IP/08/530](#)
 - [European Registry of Internet Domain Names \(EURid\)](#)
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INT: OOXML approved as an ISO/IEC standard

The International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) has officially announced on 2 April 2008 that Office Open XML (OOXML) received enough votes to be ratified as an international standard ISO/IEC.

This is the outcome of a procedure which officially started in December 2006, when the Ecma International' as an ICT standardization organization adopted Microsoft's Office Open XML Formats as an

Ecma standard ([ECMA-376](#)) and submitted it for adoption through a fast-process procedure to the joint ISO/IEC technical committee: JTC 1 – Information Technology (JTC 1).

At the end of the 5-month fast-track procedure in September 2007 OOXML failed to meet the approval criteria with 56 % of positive votes from the national bodies participating in the JTC 1 (below the required 66.66 %) and 26 % of the national bodies objecting (more than the required 25 % maximum).

A ballot resolution meeting (BMR) was held in Geneva during the last week of February 2008 in compliance with the rules of JTC 1. The BMR participants discussed on comments made by national members on the draft standard, in particular those pertaining to accessibility, date formats and conformance issues.

The national bodies had 30 days after the BMR to come back on their initial votes. At the end of this process the approval criteria have been eventually met, thus marking the approval of OOXML as an ISO/IEC standard; the voting record shows that 75 % of JTC 1 participants voted to approve and 14 % of national member bodies voted against.

If no formal appeals raise from the ISO/IEC national bodies within the coming two months, the International Standard will be given the green light for publication.

Further information:

- [Official statement from the ISO](#)
 - [ePractice news \(September 2007\) - OOXML temporarily rejected as an ISO/IEC standard](#)
 - [ePractice news \(July 2007\) - INT: Launch of the <No>OOXML campaign](#)
 - [Microsoft Presspack – Highlight “Ecma Office Open XML Document Format Wins Approval as an ISO/IEC Standard”](#)
 - [The Register.co.uk – news article “EC probes OOXML standards-setting process”](#)
 - [Grocklaw website](#)
 - [CNET.com – news article “Challenges coming to ISO Open XML vote?”](#)
 - [Betanews – news article “Now an official ISO standard, Microsoft's OOXML invites controversy”](#)
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NL: Secure USBs for defence civil servants

The Dutch Ministry of Defence has introduced secure USB sticks for its personnel to use.

From 1 April 2008, defence ministry staff have been required to carry all work-related data on secured USBs only. Two types of USB stick are now in use at the ministry. One is for information classed as protected or highly protected. On the other, only non-secret and public information can be stored.

The sticks are password-protected. They are on loan to the users and can be traced back to them. To receive one of the USBs, a staff member has to apply to an information manager or somebody at a similar level within the ministry’s hierarchy. Other, insecure USBs will be banned from its premises. Spot checks will be carried out, and any staff member found in possession of an unauthorised USB stick will be deemed to have caused a security incident. That is a prosecutable offence.

For unclassified information, the USB issued by the ministry is the Kingston Data Traveller Elite Secure Privacy Edition. Data classified as strictly confidential or higher (i.e. secret and top secret) will be kept on Kobil MIDentity Basic sticks.

“The new USB sticks stood up very well to testing,” Richard van Campenhout says. He handles internal security for the Dutch civil service. “They certainly proved to be unhackable within a reasonable period of time.” He sees them as useful both for protecting sensitive information and for defusing press stories about security breaches.

Further information:

- [E-overheid News](#)
- [Newspaper of Defence](#)

DE: New eDemocracy site

Boosting citizen participation in politics is the aim of a new eDemocracy site launched by the German state of Sachsen-Anhalt.

Backed by the State Chancellor's Office, the site hopes to give people "an opportunity to discuss politics and so to help shape the state's policies – indirectly, at least". From the start, that aim took on what can only be described as concrete shape. The very first chat on the site was entitled "More education, less concrete? How should the shrinking budget resources be used in future?" In the hot seat was Finance Minister, Jens Bullerjahn.

The site is part of a six-point "democracy offensive" launched by Sachsen-Anhalt at the end of February. It is seen as an important element within the third point of that programme: 'Increasing political participation'. As well as chatting with leading politicians, site users can send in e-mails commenting on draft laws and other initiatives by the state government. And they can use the site's 'policy quiz' to test their knowledge of current government policies. Onward links help them to fill in any gaps. There are also information pages on direct democracy and elections, as well as event diaries giving details of public sittings of the state parliament, local councils and the main political foundations.

Soon to be added are eVotes on a political 'Issue of the Week' and a forum for political discussions between site visitors. One major aim is to get young people more interested in politics.

Further information:

- [Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt](#)

EU: Commission to boost online debate on Europe

In a Communication entitled 'Debate Europe – building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate', the European Commission (EC) has put forward a set of future actions to foster the debate on the future of the European Union among citizens, at both national and EU levels.

This new initiative builds upon the "Plan D" that was launched in 2005 as a response to the no-votes in the French and Dutch Referenda. Between 2005 and 2007, a series of six innovative cross-border citizens' consultation projects coordinated by civil society organisations were co-funded.

As part of "Plan D", the online discussion forum '[Debate Europe](#)' was launched in March 2006. Conceived as an online discussion space where EU citizens can exchange their views and opinions on a variety of EU-related subjects, it was re-launched in an updated version in January 2008. The online forum aims to help the EC and the European citizen to engage in a constructive dialogue while contributing to the development of a European public space on the Internet.

In order to further enhance public participation in the debate on the EU, the Commission has now committed to co-fund a string of new projects throughout 2007-2008, including projects intended to increase the potential of the '[Debate Europe](#)' forum.

Other projects include the launch of online networks which will bring together European, national and regional parliamentarians, journalists and other European opinion-makers to share information, knowledge and ideas on the EU.

Further information:

- [Full press release on Europa](#)
- [Debate Europe online discussion forum](#)
- [EC Communication 'Debate Europe – building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate'](#)
- [Margot Wällstrom's blog](#)

DE: eGovernment means business

A catalogue of public services available on-line to business has been launched by the German state of Brandenburg.

Currently listed in the catalogue are about a hundred business-relevant on-line services available from public administrations. They range from web pages with information content through downloads to full-scale transactions. The main on-line services offered by the Brandenburg Chambers of Commerce are included, too. The portal also links across to a procurement advisory service and to eBusiness competence centres.

The catalogue breaks the services down into six main subject areas: logistics, motor vehicles and transport; staffing, education and vocational training; law, taxation, statistics and security; energy, environmental protection and risk protection; construction, investment, planning and subsidies; and commerce, trades and tourism. Indexes provide fast navigation either to topics or to individual services.

Behind the catalogue is Brandenburg's Ministry of the Interior, in co-operation with the Ministry of Economics and the Chambers of Commerce. The service will be evaluated over the coming months, notably as regards the take-up rate by local businesses. There are also plans to involve further partners – for example, the scientific community.

“Today, businesses expect rapid processing of their dealings with public administrations,” commented Chamber of Commerce President Dr Stimming. “Often, a click of the mouse can replace a visit to an administration.”

Further information:

- [Federal State of Brandenburg – Online Service Catalogue](#)
-

CH: Ministry reports eGovernment progress

Technical regulations for Switzerland's new eHealth cards came into force at the beginning of April. The federal authorities used the occasion to report progress on other eGovernment projects.

Everybody covered by the Swiss health insurance is due to receive one of the new electronic entitlement cards by the end of 2009. The regulations brought in by the Federal Department of the Interior on 1 April complete the preparations for the scheme. The rules specify the administrative and medical data for the card and the on-line system to be used, as well as laying down the graphical presentation of the card. Patients will have to present it in doctors' surgeries, hospitals and pharmacies, where it will be used for paperless billing.

The card will include data such as name, age and the new 13-digit social security identification number. If the holder wishes, medical data that could be of immediate importance may be added – for example, on allergic reactions to anaesthetics. This information is protected by a PIN and cannot be viewed by the health insurers. By 2015, electronic patient files may hold other 'treatment-relevant' data such as x-rays, test results and medication details.

The health card regulations were announced by Pascal Couchepin who heads the Federal Department of Home Affairs. He also reported progress on a wide range of eGovernment initiatives now under way within his department. These include a unique identifying number for enterprises and the extensive use of IT for the next national census in 2010.

Further information:

- [Technical regulations](#)
 - [Swiss Confederation](#)
 - [20 minutes – News](#)
-

NL: Rotterdam named best eGovernment authority

The eGovernment service of the city of Rotterdam has been named as the best in The Netherlands.

Each year, central and local eGovernment achievements are surveyed under a programme sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior. As well as the annual rankings, Overheid.nl Monitor conducts continuous eGovernment assessments, which include elements of self-assessment and self-improvement by the authorities concerned.

An evaluation of the websites run by local, provincial and central government was the main feature of the 2007 annual survey. The sites were checked for transparency, participation and accessibility. For local but not central government, the level of services linked to each site was also assessed. Rotterdam emerged as the top municipality, with 91.40% of the available points. It has put almost all of its proclamations, permit procedures and regulations on-line. It also keeps citizens informed about processing times and complaints procedures. And almost all of its 34 'municipal products' are electronically accessible. Zeeland was the best eGovernment province, while the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport topped the central government category.

The annual surveys also analyse each administration's e-mail responses, measure the 'digital service provision percentage', and look at client satisfaction with the eServices on offer.

Further information:

- [Advies Overheid.nl \(in Dutch\)](#)
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NL: Website is best public innovation

The Regelhulp.nl website in The Netherlands has won two national awards for the best innovation by a Dutch public authority.

Regelhulp sees itself as an on-line 'route planner' for the chronically ill, people with handicaps and older people. It helps them to track down the care provisions they need. These can range from a specially adapted bicycle or wheelchair to help with financial entitlements such as healthcare reimbursements and social security allowances.

The site points users to the right provisions, gives a short description of each one, tests if the person qualifies for a particular service, provides the application forms and lists organisations that can give more help.

The starting point will usually be the 'My situation' page, which currently lists eight main categories: chronic illness; a handicap or limitation; a child with an illness or handicap; age-related limitations; looking after somebody; just out of hospital; mental or psychiatric problems; and loss of a loved one. A click on any of these leads into a pyramid of options, depending on the kind of help needed. The site also functions as a one-stop shop, enabling people to apply for several different provisions where appropriate.

Regelhulp is an initiative of the health and social affairs ministries, together with the social security institutions. Three pilot boroughs helped to develop the scheme. It won both the jury's and the public's prizes at the annual fair held in March by InAxis, the Dutch Commission for Innovation in Public Administration.

Further information:

- [Regelhulp website \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [Ministry of Public Health, Well-being and Sport – Press release \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [InAxis website \(in Dutch\)](#)
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UK: Northern Ireland launches electronic patient records

A new electronic patient-record system, the NI Emergency Care Record (NIECR), has been launched by the Northern Ireland Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey. The system is intended to improve emergency care for patients attending accident and emergency (A&E) departments and 'out-of-hours' doctors' services.

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust will be the first in Northern Ireland to introduce the NI Emergency Care Record (NIECR). It will initially be introduced on a pilot basis in the areas of Amagh and Dungannon, but full roll-out across Northern Ireland is expected by the end of the year.

Based on the Scottish ECR, which has been in operation since 2005, the NI Emergency Care Record will, for the first time, provide 'out-of-hours' and A&E staff with key information from the patients' medical records. "Most people imagine that if they need medical help in the night or at a weekend and are treated by staff in an out-of-hours setting, or at an A&E department, the staff there will have access to their medical records. This is not the case," said the minister.

Welcoming the system, Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Colm Donaghy, said: "The Emergency Care Record will give staff working in the out-of-hours service more detailed medical information about their patients, enabling them to make more informed decisions in their treatment and give them the best possible care."

Only health service staff involved in treating the patient will have access to their records and stringent measures have been put in place to control access and protect patient confidentiality. In addition, letters have been sent out to all households in the pilot area providing patients with the opportunity to opt out of the system if they so wish.

The new system is expected to improve services to some 1.2 million patients attended to every year by Northern Ireland's five 'out-of-hours' doctors' services and 11 A&E departments.

Further information:

- [Official press release](#)
 - [Department of Health for Northern Ireland](#)
-

EU: Access-eGov completes first pilot trials

The EU-funded [Access-eGov](#) project, aimed at testing a new platform for the better integration and interoperability of eGovernment services, has successfully completed its first pilot trials in Germany, Slovakia and Poland.

Access-eGov is an EU-funded research and development project that aims to increase accessibility to public administration services by providing a platform which is able to integrate not only eServices but also 'traditional' government services, thus providing a complete service to both citizens and business.

The platform will provide two basic categories of service: it will identify all administrative procedures/services relating to the user's particular situation, whether electronic or 'traditional'; and it will generate a checklist of all the processes necessary in a particular 'scenario'. In many cases, these 'scenarios' are likely to be of a hybrid nature, involving both electronic procedures and written or face-to-face procedures.

The intention is also to provide a virtual personal assistant who will guide the user through the scenario (reminding him/her of deadlines, providing support information, initiating eServices, etc.). Special attention is paid in the project to the issue of eInclusion so as to guarantee the accessibility of the platform to disadvantaged groups of users.

The project's first pilot trial cycle has recently been completed and the results from the three pilot sites in Germany, Poland and Slovakia are now available on the project website. Each pilot addressed a specific area: Germany focused on services related to 'marriage', Slovakia addressed 'obtaining a building permit', and Poland targeted 'setting up a business'. The feedback from all three pilots was positive, with some real benefits emerging. Some constructive criticism was also received and this will be taken onboard in the second development cycle, due to start shortly.

Further information:

- [Press release at PRLog](#)
 - [Access-eGov – Project website](#)
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ES/Latin America: eLearning for tourism

Spain's Ministry for Tourism is to provide on-line distance-learning courses for Latin American tourism officials.

Sustainable tourism is the focus of the initiative which, during its first semester, will provide three on-line courses for the Spanish-speaking Americas. It is targeted at Latin American professionals who have, or could take on, responsibility for the quality of tourism management – “preferably within public tourism administrations at the national, regional or local level”.

Specialists in environmental protection and local planning, as well as tourism itself, are encouraged to take part. They may come from either the public or the private sector, or the universities. An eight-week course from April to June will teach “the creation and management of competitive cultural tourism products and destinations”.

Offering the on-line courses is Spain’s General Secretariat for Tourism. It is part of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade which is one of the driving forces behind the expansion of eGovernment in Spain.

The teaching and technical support will come from a government-backed foundation, the Distance Learning Centre for Economic and Technological Development ([CEDDET](#)). It aims to share with other countries “the experience, knowledge and know-how built up by Spanish public administrations, teaching centres and enterprises”. And its chosen medium is “the new information and communications technologies”.

Further information:

- [Spanish Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade - Online courses \(in Spanish\)](#)
 - [CEDDET \(in Spanish\)](#)
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EU: Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

In a Communication adopted in February 2008, the European Commission proposed to improve and streamline the European system for collecting, analysing and reporting environmental information by establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

Timely, reliable and relevant information on the state of environment is essential for sound policies. This includes information on how the climate is changing, whether European waters are improving and how nature is reacting to pollution and changing land use. Such information should be made available to all and be easily understood.

The proposed SEIS will offer EU Member States an efficient electronic system to fulfill their reporting obligations on EU environmental policies and legislation. The new system will be especially helpful in avoiding the duplication of reporting efforts, the streamlining of data flows, and reducing monitoring and reporting costs.

In return SEIS will provide Member States and EU institutions with more coherent environmental information to facilitate the drafting, implementation, and effectiveness of environmental policies. European citizens will also be empowered by SEIS, as it will provide them with useful environmental information in their language and thus enable them to make informed decisions on their environment and influence public policy.

A detailed implementation plan for the SEIS is to be presented in the course of 2008. The system will build upon efforts that are being already undertaken in Europe to create integrated information systems such as the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), the European information and observation network (EIONET) as well as the 2007 INSPIRE directive on access and interoperability of spatial data and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative on Earth monitoring data from satellites.

Further information:

- [Full press release on the EC Communication – Europa website](#)
 - [Official website of the SEIS initiative](#)
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Latest Publications

- [EU: Report on the ePractice.eu "eInclusion: the User's Voice" Workshop](#) 31 March 2008 | EU Institutions
 - [EU: Connecting People through satellite-based Telemedicine Solutions](#) 31 March 2008 | Pan European
 - [UK: National Programme for IT in the NHS – Benefits Statement 2006/07](#) 17 March 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [EU: Sustainable Telemedicine: paradigms for future-proof healthcare](#) 14 March 2008 | Pan European
 - [EU: Pre-report to the Financing eHealth study](#) 1 December 2007 | EU Institutions
 - [DK: The Danish eHealth experience: One Portal for Citizens and Professionals](#) 29 October 2007 | Denmark
-

EU: Report on the ePractice.eu "eInclusion: the User's Voice" Workshop

Complete title:

Report – ePractice.eu "eInclusion: the User's Voice" Workshop

Description (short summary): Although significant progress is being made towards realising the objective of an 'inclusive knowledge society' – through the Riga Ministerial Declaration, the 'eInclusion: be part of it' initiative, and the Ministerial Conference on eInclusion in Lisbon – there is still a significant proportion of EU citizens – over 40 % – who are not actively engaged in using ICTs.

The reasons for this are complex, encompassing factors such as lack of access, cost, cultural and family circumstances and lack of motivation. Against this background, there is a view that industry and government simply do not listen to the user view – or the 'untapped' user view - enough. There is a prevailing argument that so-called 'Web 2.0' technologies will change this situation. Social networking technologies make culture less monolithic and more diverse, allowing the 'user voice' to be heard, and allowing an unprecedented role for the 'consumer voice'.

However, there is also evidence to suggest that significant numbers of people remain at the margins of the 'knowledge society' – not least because the complexity and diversity of their lives, and their roles in a 'technologically rich' society, remain poorly understood. The ePractice.eu User's Voice workshop held in Brussels on 21 February 2008 explored these and other issues that lie at the heart of engaging users in the evolving knowledge society.

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

Number of pages: 18

EU: Connecting People through satellite-based Telemedicine Solutions

Complete title:

**Connecting People through satellite-based Telemedicine Solutions:
Scenarios and Practical Experiences from the Healthware project**

Description (short summary): Healthcare today makes extensive use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and (secured) broadband networks are often used to exchange medical information like reports and X-ray images. Furthermore care can be extended to mobile patients and to the patient's homes by using telemonitoring and teleconferencing facilities. The collaboration between health professionals is improved by teleconsulting and related services. In addition, the teaching of students and the further education of health professionals benefit from real-time transmission of medical interventions and results like histology specimens.

Real-time teleconsulting, diagnosis from a remote location and the transmission clinical data and multimedia medical content are particularly needed when the access to medical services is difficult like in geographically dispersed locations.

This is the starting point for the Integrated Project "Standard and Interoperable satellite solution to deploy HEALTH care services over Wide AREa" (Healthware)

Original URL: <http://healthware.alcasat.net/>

Number of pages: 11

UK: National Programme for IT in the NHS – Benefits Statement 2006/07

Complete title:

**National Programme for IT in the National Health Service
Benefits Statement 2006/07**

Description (short summary): Patients and organisations of the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS) are feeling the benefits of investment in new IT to improve the way information is stored and shared.

The Statement announces that "Based on evidence of cash savings collected for the period to 31 March 2007, the NHS has made over £208 million (€260.5 million) of one off savings through its central purchasing power and delivery of systems to date."

Original URL: <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/about/benefits>

Number of pages: 36

EU: Sustainable Telemedicine: paradigms for future-proof healthcare

Complete title: Sustainable Telemedicine: paradigms for future-proof healthcare A Briefing Paper

Description (short summary): With this Briefing Paper, EHTEL intends to offer all stakeholders, i.e. politicians, citizens/patients, health professionals, healthcare providers, health insurers and many others with a snapshot of the state of the art at European, national and regional levels, with a focus on sustainable services.

Based on a summary of what has been achieved – particularly in the form of routinely used (but often still small scale) telemedicine services across Europe – a set of recommendations towards a "Vision for Europe 2020: Integrated Telemedicine Services" is established.

Original URL: <http://www.ehtel.org>

Number of pages: 37

EU: Pre-report to the Financing eHealth study

Complete title:

Pre-report on: Financing opportunities available to Member States to support and boost investment in eHealth – Version 1.0

Description (short summary): The Financing eHealth study was commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate-General Information Society and Media, unit ICT for Health, with the aim to assess different financing opportunities against the financing needs of eHealth investment. The overriding goal is to provide assistance to Member States and the European Commission in their efforts to meet the eHealth Action Plan objective of "supporting and boosting investment in eHealth".

This pre-report is the deliverable D2.1 of the Financing eHealth study. It addresses financing opportunities available to Member States to support and boost investment in eHealth. The deliverable is based primarily on preliminary results of desk research and focuses on the supply side of financing eHealth investments. The next section is dedicated to different organisations and initiatives that provide financial support, including support for eHealth. These financing sources are the current tools that Member States and the European Commission have at their disposal to boost investment in eHealth. They are presented descriptively, highlighting their specific relevance to eHealth.

Chapter 3 deals with various financing arrangements for securing the financial resources for healthcare and eHealth projects. This report provides a thorough basis for upcoming research under the study which includes further information on financing sources and financial arrangements, as well as insights into boosting, protecting, and managing investments in eHealth.

Original URL: <http://www.financing-ehealth.eu/downloads/reports.html>

Number of pages: 73

DK: The Danish eHealth experience: One Portal for Citizens and Professionals

Complete title:

The Danish eHealth experience: One Portal for Citizens and Professionals

Description (short summary): This booklet provides a synthetic insight into the history and components of both the Danish eHealth portal (<http://www.sundhed.dk/>) and its backbone, namely the Health Data Network.

Original URL: <http://www.sundhed.dk/>

Number of pages: 8

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. Registration, agenda and participant bios are available online before each workshop.

- [Linking up eGovernment: Building a Digital Europe](#) 6 May 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [ePractice Mid-Term workshop](#) 19 May 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [eHealth Management](#) 9 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [eInclusion: Digital literacy](#) 16 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [ICING workshop](#) 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)
- [ePractice.eu Final Workshop](#) 26 February 2009 | Brussels (Belgium)

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

Upcoming Events

- [LU: Med-e-Tel 2008](#) 16 - 18 April 2008 | Luxembourg
- [BE: CIRCABC - IPM Conference 2008](#) 17 April 2008 | Belgium
- [IT: PAAL 2008](#) 17 - 18 April 2008 | Italy
- [FR: eTEN Procure Plenary meeting](#) 17 - 18 April 2008 | France
- [IN: eSangathan International Conference](#) 17 April 2008 | Asia
- [IT: UBL International 2008](#) 21 - 24 April 2008 | Italy
- [ES: 3rd International Public eProcurement Seminar](#) 23 - 24 April 2008 | Spain
- [UK: e-Access'08 – Conference & Exhibition](#) 23 April 2008 | United Kingdom
- [PL: Seminar “Local problems of eInclusion in Poland – National Challenge”](#) 23 April 2008 | Poland
- [BE: Information day on the ICT PSP Call for Proposals 2008](#) 23 April 2008 | Belgium

- [ES: e-STAS – 3rd Symposium on Technologies for Social Action](#) 24 - 25 April 2008 | Spain
 - [UK: Purchasing Card Forum meeting](#) 30 April 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [SI: International Conference e-Justice & e-Law 2008](#) 1 - 3 June 2008 | Slovenia
 - [UK: Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008](#) 4 June 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [PL: 12th “Cities on the Internet” Conference](#) 25 - 27 June 2008 | Poland
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LU: Med-e-Tel 2008

16 - 18 April 2008 | Luxembourg

Med-e-Tel – The International Educational and Networking Forum for eHealth, Telemedicine & Health ICT

The 6th edition of Med-e-Tel will take place in the city of Luxembourg from 16 to 18 April 2008. Supported among others by the government of Luxembourg and the European Commission, the event brings together stakeholders from the industry, healthcare providers, government representatives, research organisations, health insurers, etc. from around the world.

An international meeting and conference focusing on eHealth, telemedicine and health ICT, Med-e-Tel 2008 will feature a wide variety of eHealth and telemedicine cases, experiences and research projects. Topics likely to be addressed include: use of ICTs in independent living for the ageing and disabled; mobile ehealth solutions; interoperability and standardisation; eLearning.

Some additional events are being planned to take place in conjunction with the main conference, including some workshops/meetings organised by international organisations such as the European Commission and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

Registration information and conditions are soon to be available at the event website.

Event website: <http://www.medetel.lu>

Venue:

Luxexpo Exhibition & Congress Center
10 circuit de la Foire Internationale
L-1347 Luxembourg

Contact: info@medetel.lu

BE: CIRCABC - IPM Conference 2008

17 April 2008 | Belgium

Fifth CIRCABC and IPM Conference

To all of those who wish to manage surveys, the European Commission proposes IPM ("Interactive-Policy Making"), its web-based survey management system.

CIRCABC (Communication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations, businesses and Citizens) is an open-source, web-based application which enables widespread collaborative groups to share information, documents and resources in private workspaces over the web.

The CIRCABC-IPM Conference aims to bring together all parties that are interested in the further development of CIRCABC and IPM. Like its previous editions, the fifth CIRCABC - IPM Conference is intended to be a valuable forum for discussing current issues and future perspectives of CIRCA/BC while consolidating the community of a CIRCABC-IPM stakeholders.

The event has been designed in particular for IDABC PEGSCO members, IDABC PEGSCO Technical Working Group members, CIRCA Licensees, IPM Licensees and experts group members, IRMs and CIRCA administrators.

Mr. Henrik Hololei, Head of Cabinet of Vice President Siim Kallas, will address the Conference. The main topic of the conference will be the presentation of CIRCABC 1.0 OSS and IPM 2.1.1 OSS. More details on the agenda can be viewed [here](#) (Draft meeting agenda).

Registration to this free event is to be performed [online](#) not later than 10 April 2008.

Venue: European Commission
Berlaymont Building
200 rue de la Loi
Room SCHUM (Robert Schuman), Mezzanine
1049 Brussels

Event website: <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7547>

Event email: digit-circabc-oss@ec.europa.eu

IT: PAAL 2008

17 - 18 April 2008 | Italy

Second Conference on Open and Free Public Administration – PAAL 2008 – From Open Technologies to the Free Movement of Digital Content

The focus of this year's conference is the production and diffusion of free contents in digital form. During the two-day event, the most significant ongoing experiences at local level will be presented.

Particular attention will be paid to the following topics:

- the type of contents that have been made usable;
- the quality and availability of open technologies;
- the evolution of the copyrights legislation;
- the use of Creative Commons within the public sector.

The event is open to the participation of all those interested, in particular political decision-makers, managers, providers and IT researchers for the public administration.

Registration is free-of-charge and is to be performed [online](#).

Venue: Sardinia Research
Edificio 2
Località Piscinamanna
09010 Pula
Cagliari

Event website: <http://www.paal2008.it/>

Event email: raimandis@gmail.com

FR: eTEN Procure Plenary meeting

17 - 18 April 2008 | France

eTEN Procure Plenary Meeting

The eTEN Procure project aims at validating the deployment of an eProcurement solution at the regional level across the EU and enabling simple bidding and procurement management, including cross- and trans-border, for both SMEs and local administrations.

Relying on the platform developed in the Burgundy region for the e-bourgogne project, PROCURE consists in experimenting the deployment in 5 pilot regions (Uddevalla, Catalonia, Central Bohemia, Brittany and Guadeloupe), to prepare a greater dissemination in interested European regions.

The eTEN Procure Plenary Meeting is being organised as the project is entering its operational phase. The event will be the opportunity for all the project partners to meet physically and to exchange their views on the project progress, but also to put forward other successful experiences across Europe and to learn from them.

This event is organised by the project coordinator, the Regional council of Burgundy, under the patronage of its vice president in charge of procurement and of the e-Bourgogne service, Martine Vandelle. It will host speakers from ministries, local authorities and companies across Europe.

This free-of-charge event is designed primarily for project consortium partners, but will welcome public on the first day and on the morning of the second day. However, the last afternoon will be closed to the public, as partners will then work in groups.

The agenda of the meeting is now [available](#)

The preferred registration mode is by email, to contact@eten-procure.com.

Venue: Regional council of Burgundy
17 Boulevard de la Trémouille
21000 Dijon

Event website: <http://www.eten-procure.com>

Event email: contact@eten-procure.com

IN: eSangathan International Conference

17 April 2008 | Asia

A Conference on 'Impact of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) on Ageing Workforce'

eSangathan is a FP6 EU-funded project from the IST programme. It is a two-year project dedicated to the inclusion of the ageing workforce in the Information Society. The eSangathan project has officially started on October 1, 2006. The work is concentrated on a specific segment of the population: the ageing knowledge workers.

The ambition of this project is to find out if the good practices learned in India with respect to the ageing knowledge worker, combined with the most advanced usages of collaborative working tools in Europe, can result in new and better perspectives for the ageing workforce.

eSangathan experiments with two pilots, in India and in the Öresund region of Sweden, how the active aged workers could benefit from using collaborative tools for remaining longer in the labour market with good working conditions. This work contributes to the i2010 strategy aiming at having 50 % of the ageing workforce included in the labour market.

The objective of this conference is to communicate the first findings of the project and debate on the inclusion of the ageing knowledge workers in the Information Society. The event is primarily aimed at public and business authorities but participants from the Academia and the research community are also welcome. The conference programme is available [online](#).

Registration is free of charge but mandatory, through the event website at <http://www.esangathan-conference.in/registration.asp>

Venue: Taj Lands End Mumbai
Band Stand, Bandra (West)
Mumbai, 400 050 (INDIA)

Event website: <http://www.esangathan-conference.in/>

Event email: event@esangathan.eu

IT: UBL International 2008

21 - 24 April 2008 | Italy

3rd UBL International Conference 2008 – Symposium and courses

Following its first two editions respectively held in 2006 in Copenhagen, Denmark, and in 2007 in Madrid, Spain, the 3rd Universal Business Language (UBL) International Conference will provide a training

summit bringing together worldwide [Universal Business Language OASIS Standard](#) expertise to deliver the following:

- A full day of free symposium presentations (21 April);
- A full and half-day lectures and hands-on courses from commercial training companies (22-24 April).

Calls for proposals for both symposium presentations and training sessions are still open at the following link: <http://ublintl.expectnation.com/ubli200804/public/cfp>. The deadline for proposals is set for 22 March 2008 and the notification of acceptance will be sent by 29 March 2008.

The symposium attendance limit is set by the number of sponsors who bulk-buy seats. Those considering sponsorship, may contact [FTI](#) as soon as possible since once the Forum is filled there will be no more opportunities to buy seats.

Even though attendance at the symposium is free-of-charge, it is limited to the number of seats supported by sponsors. Registrations for the symposium are now being accepted, but they will only be approved once sponsors have been found to pay for seats.

As per attendance at the commercial training sessions, this is not free-of-charge, and students must contact the training organisations directly for payment and registration.

Venue: Consiglio Nazionale dell' Economia e del Lavoro
Viale Davide Lubin N2
00196 Rome

Event website: <http://www.ublconference.com/200804/index.html>

Event email: info@UBLConference.com

ES: 3rd International Public eProcurement Seminar

23 - 24 April 2008 | Spain

Third International Public eProcurement Seminar, financed by the Basque Government

This 3rd International Public eProcurement Seminar will focus on the innovation taking place worldwide in the field of electronic procurement. A selection of relevant eProcurement cases from European countries will be presented.

The two-day course will bring together various national experts who play a key role in the eProcurement process within their countries as well as EU representatives in order to provide examples of good practice covering the most relevant practical aspects for other government bodies undertaking this experimentation process.

Topics regarding the legal issues of eProcurement as well as the use of bid-e-bonds will be addressed. The course will discuss projects and difficulties encountered in computerising supplier's offers, adopting measures to promote the use of eProcurement by suppliers, using shared eProcurement platforms by different government bodies, and related legal provisions. The provisional programme of the event is [available](#).

The seminar is aimed at procurement experts, solicitors, public and private firms, as well as individuals from the technical and academic communities interested in the innovations taking place worldwide in the field of electronic procurement.

The participation fee is €350 and includes documentation, coffee breaks, two lunches and a certificate of attendance.

Registration to the seminar is open. Registration requests can be submitted [online](#) before 14 April 2008. Confirmation of registration will be forwarded to participants by email upon receipt of the completed registration form.

More information on this event will soon be made available at the Basque Government's eProcurement website: www.contratacion.info.

Venue: Kursaal Convention Centre
Conference Room 2
Avenida de Zurriola, 1
20002 Donostia-San Sebastián

Event website: <http://www.eipa.eu/en/activities/show/&tid=2737>

Event email: n.domenech@eipa-ecr.com

UK: e-Access'08 – Conference & Exhibition

23 April 2008 | United Kingdom

e-Access'08 – Technology for All

The fourth edition of the annual e-Access conference & Exhibition is a one-day event aimed at highlighting the role of technology in the lives of people with disabilities.

The event has been designed for public sector bodies, suppliers of information technology, educational institutions, private sectors provider of goods or services and organisations that provide at least some of their information or services digitally.

Participants will find out more about how to comply with the law, what elements to include in access policies and strategies, and about the latest developments in access technology.

Registration can be performed [online](#). Participating requires the payment of a £195 (approx. €257) +VAT fee for public sector delegates, and £295 (approx. €388) +VAT for private sector representatives.

Discounted rates are available in case of early registration until 8 February: £145 (approx. €191) +VAT for public sector participants, and £245 (approx. €322) +VAT for private sector delegates.

Venue: Church House Conference Centre
Dean's Yard
Westminster
London SW1P 3NZ

Event website: <http://www.headstar-events.com/eaccess08/>

Event email: nicola@entevents.co.uk

PL: Seminar “Local problems of eInclusion in Poland – National Challenge”

23 April 2008 | Poland

Seminar “Local problems of eInclusion in Poland – National Challenge”

The seminar “Local problems of eInclusion in Poland – national challenge” will present good practices and concepts of the projects dedicated to socially excluded people (rural dwellers, disabled people, women or old people), who want to take part in developing the information society on a local level.

The main aim of this conference is to broaden the knowledge on innovative and effective methods of work with the socially excluded and endangered groups in the context of the use of ICT tools. During the meeting, eInclusion actions will be presented - such as mechanisms dealing with social exclusion groups in the poorly developed areas.

Experts will showcase eBank for disabled people, e-accessibility of public administration web sites, training for elderly people and aspects of the exclusion from the information society vs. accessibility to channelised Internet.

The seminar is aimed at non-government organizations experts, public administration and private firms ICT, as well as individual participants (technical and academic communities interested in the innovations taking place worldwide in the field of eInclusion).

Registration to the seminar is open and participation is free of charge. Participation can be submitted by filling in the online registration form at <http://konferencja.mwi.pl/konf2/formularz.php> or by sending an email to s.wilk@mwi.pl. Registration forms have to be submitted by 21 April 2008.

Venue: Hotel Le MERIDIEN BRISTOL
ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 42/44
00-325 Warsaw

Event website:

[http://www.mwi.pl/index.php?id=69&L=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=294&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=66&cHash=b0c8d96316](http://www.mwi.pl/index.php?id=69&L=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=294&tx_ttnews[backPid]=66&cHash=b0c8d96316)

Event email: s.wilk@mwi.pl

BE: Information day on the ICT PSP Call for Proposals 2008

23 April 2008 | Belgium

Information day on the ICT PSP Call for Proposals 2008

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. The second call for proposals of the ICT PSP will open on 29 April 2008 and close on 9 September 2008. The evaluation of the proposals, assisted by independent experts, will take place in early October. Communication of selection results to proposers and start of negotiations are foreseen for November 2008.

The draft work programme which has been approved by the programme committee can be downloaded from the [ICT PSP website](#). The opening of this second call will follow the formal adoption by the European Commission of the Work Programme for 2008.

Online registration is [open](#) for those wishing to participate in the dedicated information day. The event is free and open.

Venue: MCE Management Centre Europe
Rue de l'Aqueduc 118
1050 Brussels

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

Event email: N/A

ES: e-STAS – 3rd Symposium on Technologies for Social Action

24 - 25 April 2008 | Spain

e-STAS – 3rd Symposium on Technologies for Social Action

The e-STAS Symposium focuses on Technologies for Social Action from an international and multi-stakeholder perspective. By providing grounds for all actors involved in the development and implementation of ICTs to exchange experiences and knowledge, it is intended to contribute to putting an end to the digital divide. The Symposium's main aim is to promote, foster and adapt the use of ICTs for social action.

The 3rd edition of the event will feature magisterial lectures breaking down into two main parts:

- 5 themes, as follows: Infrastructures and low-cost tools; Services and contents; The ICT and the Objectives of the Millennium; Corporate Social Responsibility NGO's, Volunteers and ICT; Programmes of access and use of the ICT in groups / areas with the lesser chances for access.
- Geographic Situation: Europe, South America, North America, Asia, and Africa.

The first edition of the Symposium was held in May 2006 and attracted over 200 attendees, with at least a 20% of representatives from international entities.

Targeted attendees range from entities to individuals, including local authorities, companies, NGOs and universities, and all of those involved in the development and implementation of the ICT, by means of social projects.

Both the population with the lesser chances of access to the Information Society and volunteers indirectly benefit from e-STAS, so that the promotion of the use of the New Technologies reaches NGOs and those groups with the higher risk of digital exclusion.

Participation to the event is open and free-of-charge. Registration is to be performed [online](#) at the event website. The number of seats is limited to 250.

Venue: Málaga Trade Fairs and Congresses Centre
Avda. José Ortega y Gasset, 201
29006 Málaga

Event website: www.e-stas.org

Event email: e-stas@cibervoluntarios.org

UK: Purchasing Card Forum meeting

30 April 2008 | United Kingdom

2nd Meeting of the Purchasing Card Forum: "eProcurement - a European Perspective "

The Purchasing Card Forum (PCF) is an independent business forum focusing on the smart card, purchasing card, eProcurement and marketplaces. Its members range from the major banks and issuers to government agencies and suppliers.

The PCF holds regular meetings at which members discuss varying topics relating to P-cards, eProcurement, eInvoicing and their related technologies.

The main topics addressed by the meeting of next April, 30 are:

- Presentation of the eProcurement Forum community and other relevant eProcurement initiatives running across Europe;
- The Invapay ePayment Exchange and its relevance to streamlining purchasing card payments;
- A round table discussion on the potential threat of e-invoicing to purchasing cards and how the two technologies can be integrated;
- Purchasing card schemes – a European footprint (Updates from all three acquirers, Mastercard, Visa, American Express and scheme operators on European initiatives and growth);
- Issues for suppliers signing up to a P-card scheme;
- European P-card case study.

The official agenda of the meeting will be published soon at the Purchasing Card Forum website.

Meeting attendance is traditionally reserved to members of the Purchasing Card Forum, which pay an annual membership fee. However, for this edition of the meeting, two places have been made freely available for eProcurement experts from ePractice. The eProcurement Forum team will assign these two places to people fulfilling the following conditions:

- Have a complete profile on ePractice
- Be members of the eProcurement community
- Have expertise related to the following topics: ePayment, purchasing card and eInvoicing

A first-come first-served policy will be applied if several people are selectable.

ePractice members interested in the free spaces should send a request by e-mail to: eprocurement@epractice.eu by **14 April 2008**, providing explanations on how they fulfill the above conditions.

Venue: Hilton Green Park Hotel
Half Moon Street
Mayfair

London W1J 7BN

Event website: http://www.purchasingcardforum.com/?Meetings_%26amp%3B_Agendas

Event email: tim@smartex.com

SI: International Conference e-Justice & e-Law 2008

1 - 3 June 2008 | Slovenia

International Conference e-Justice & e-Law 2008 - Slovene Presidency of the European Union

This two-day conference is organised by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia during the Slovene Presidency of the European Union.

The conference will focus on the following aspects:

- exchanging opinions concerning the increased efficiency of judicial systems;
- exchanging experience in relation to the latest trends in the world;
- interconnecting services and systems of eJustice at the EU level;
- presenting the latest legal services supported by ICT;
- sharing experience in the management of legal information (eLaw).

More details on the programme are available [here](#).

The event is open. Registration for all those wishing to participate is available [online](#) until 15 May 2008.

Venue: Grand Hotel Bernardin

Obala 2

6320 Portorož

Event website: <http://www.ejustice2008.si/en/>

Event email: helena.jaklitsch@gov.si

UK: Shared Services in the Public Sector 2008

4 June 2008 | United Kingdom

'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

PL: 12th “Cities on the Internet” Conference

25 - 27 June 2008 | Poland

Local authorities as drivers of e-Inclusion initiatives for the digitally excluded and transformational administration in regions

The “Cities on Internet” Conference is an annual meeting for e-Development leaders of the public sector, the most significant in Poland and a well recognised discussion forum in Europe on the topic of harnessing ICTs to enhance the quality of life of inhabitants, transform the public sector and boost local and regional e-Development.

Its 12th edition will focus on the debate over the strategic importance of undertakings and projects enabling indispensable conditions for the civilisation leap of cities, villages and regions. Discussions and debates will revolve around legal, organisational, social and economic aspects of investments in ICT projects in regions, districts and municipalities on the threshold of a new financing perspective for 2007-2013.

Three days of conference presentations, workshops and debates will offer the participants direct access to knowledge, expert advice and consultations on:

- Fostering the potential of modern technologies to boost the quality of life of communities lacking access to digital literacy and e-services [e-Inclusion] and provide a better health care;
- Possibilities to benefit from the European funds, especially structural funds, as well as Community Programmes: INTERREG, 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development [7th FP] and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme [CIP];
- Guidelines of the new cohesion policy for 2007 – 2013, including the issue of information society development as a key element of innovation policy in the frames of the renewed Lisbon Strategy;
- Social emancipation of the Europeans – a “Brave New World” of Web 2.0 solutions.

The problems related to achievement of regional transformation and rural areas development policies based on ICT projects implementation will be discussed thoroughly. Good practices and concepts of projects ensuring fully-fledged participation of the digitally divided (rural dwellers, women, the disabled, and the “third agers”) in the Information Society will also be presented.

The event is intended to ensure the conditions of multi-threaded debate of experts and practitioners representing diverse sectors: public administration (government and local governments), research and development institutions and ICT companies. Their efficient cooperation is a prerequisite of civilisational development achievable through harnessing ICT in innovative projects developed by the government and local authorities.

The conference will provide a setting for joint actions planning, creating projects concepts and gaining technical knowledge thanks to the presence of representatives of regional administrations and local e-Development leaders from cities and rural municipalities.

The participation fee is €520 (VAT included). Registration to can be performed online at <http://formularz.mwi.pl/?lang=english>.

Venue: Mercure Kasprowy Hotel
ul. Szymaszkowa
34-500 Zakopane

Event website: <http://conference2008.mwi.pl>

Event email: conference@mwi.pl

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