



<http://epractice.eu/>

European ePractice Newsletter

N. 257 - 18 November 2008

>> Call for Papers on eParticipation

eParticipation is arguably one of the fastest growing areas in the eGovernment domain. Featuring as one of the eGovernment i2010 Action Plan's five main objectives, a number of initiatives and trials has mushroomed over the last few years. Against this background the [European Journal of ePractice](#) invites contributions of both an empirical and theoretical nature, from a policy and/or technical perspective, and/or which address current issues or look into the medium term of mass collaboration and the use of Web 2.0 and even Web 3.0 tools. The deadline for article submissions is 8 December, 2008. More [information here](#).

>> Last week to enter in the webcam giveaway

All registered members are suitable to be the next winner of the ePractice.eu webcams giveaway just by maintaining an active involvement within the portal, posting a good practice case or proposing news, for example. The last day to participate in the draft will be next Sunday, November 23. For more information and detailed campaign conditions, please visit epractice.eu/info/86

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

- [ICTforALL.NET](#) 13 November 2008 |

Editor's Choice of the week: [Spain's Change of Address Communication System](#)

ICTforALL.NET

Our network is called ICTforALL.NET and its motto is "ICT for Employment Against Exclusion". ICTforALL.net's main target is to assist exclusion prone communities in using simple ICT solutions in order to create work and employment opportunities. ICTforALL is an open, not for profit and democratic community. The only condition for participation is to be related in your everyday activities to disabled, old people, immigrants or unemployed.

Latest News

- [IT: Government unveils new Strategic Plan for Innovation](#) 17 November 2008 | Italy
- [UK: National Health Service websites join up to show the choices on offer](#) 17 November 2008 | United Kingdom
- [MT: Biometric passports launched](#) 14 November 2008 | Malta
- [EU: Expert workshop on 'Procuring for health benefits' – Presentations now online](#) 14 November 2008 | EU Institutions
- [EU: eHealthServer.com - New Project For and By the International eHealth Community](#) 14 November 2008 | Pan European
- [FR: Preliminary declaration to the police online](#) 14 November 2008 | France
- [DE/EU: Commission approves €45 million state aid to increase broadband availability in rural Germany](#) 14 November 2008 | EU Institutions, Germany
- [EU: Re-opening of the call for tenders "Study on monitoring eAccessibility"](#) 13 November 2008 | EU Institutions
- [ES: Avanza supports the introduction of new technologies in SMEs](#) 13 November 2008 | Spain
- [UK: New sudden cardiac death database could save lives](#) 12 November 2008 | United Kingdom
- [NL/EU: European Electronic Invoicing Platform introduced](#) 12 November 2008 | Netherlands, Pan European
- [EU: Dorie – New database of Commission's archives on EU institutional issues](#) 12 November 2008 | EU Institutions

IT: Government unveils new Strategic Plan for Innovation - 17 November 2008

The new Strategic Plan for Innovation of the Italian Government has been presented on 4 November 2008 at a conference promoted by the Ministry Public Administration and Innovation.

Launched last June 2008, the new plan intends to switch the orientation of the innovation strategy from the supply logic it followed over the past years (through the experimentation of over 1 000 "excellence projects"), to a demand-based logic. The new plan thus provides for 60 joint initiatives structured around the concrete needs of both central and local governments.

Likewise, focus is now placed on services to businesses and companies instead of prototypes, and on standardisation rather than on experimentation. At operational level, the plan foresees the following:

- The conclusion of 12 agreement protocols with central administrations departments;
- The conclusion of 42 agreement protocols with regions and capital communes;
- 2 infrastructure programmes;
- 2 specific programmes.

These will operate in parallel to an initiative aimed at standardising technical requirements and procedures.

The first infrastructure programme will seek to promote the Public Administration's network – the 'Public Connectivity and Cooperation System' (SPC) – as a tool for cutting costs while carrying out complex projects aimed at citizens and businesses.

The second infrastructure programme is dedicated to broadband. The document states that "in spite of massive effort to achieve an efficient broadband Internet covering the entire country, the network is today under-used or obsolete." "The achievement of the next generation Internet is estimated at a €10 to €15 million cost which cannot be fully supported neither by the State, nor by businesses."

In substance, the document concludes that the Public Administration will decisively contribute to developing broadband through the digitisation of services for citizens and businesses, but "funding must be searched through project financing or co-financing, provided that services with a very wide spread potential are localised (such as eCare, digital assistance, info-mobility and entertainment)."

Further information:

- [Press release – Regional Competence Centres for eGovernment and Information Society \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Strategic Plan for Innovation of the Italian Government \(in Italian\)](#)

UK: National Health Service websites join up to show the choices on offer - 17 November 2008

Patients looking for information on the choices available for their healthcare will now be able to find it all on one National Health Service (NHS) website.

UK's Department of Health has informed in a recent press release that 'NHS Choices' and 'NHS Direct', two of the country's leading health websites, are joining forces to provide the public with all the health information they need in one place.

The public are now able to access all of the NHS's health content from an easy to navigate website, 'NHS Choices' at <http://www.nhs.uk>. This site will offer trusted advice and information so that the public can understand and exercise their choice on health and healthcare.

According to the Department of Health "This move means the NHS will have one of the most comprehensive online health information services in the world." "Health is one of the most searched for subjects on the Internet and it is crucial the NHS provides safe and accurate online information to meet this demand by creating a single front door to all its knowledge and services."

Now 'NHS Choices' offers the public access to: self-help guides, comparative information on hospitals, guides to long-term conditions, practice profiles to help find General Practitioners (GPs) and much more.

Health Minister Ben Bradshaw, said:

"By putting all our online health information on <http://www.nhs.uk>, the public will easily be able to find out the most suitable health options for them, from where to have their treatment to the best ways of keeping fit and healthy". "This single site will make it easier for the public to find reliable health information quickly and will give relevant and accurate advice that will help them to make their own decisions and choices about their health and healthcare."

Note: Crown copyright material reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO).

Further information:

- [Official, full press release from the UK's Department of Health – New Distribution Service for Government and the Public Sector](#)
- ['NHS Choices' website](#)

MT: Biometric passports launched - 14 November 2008

Online newspaper "timesofmalta.com" reports that the Maltese Passports Office has started issuing biometric passports, thus providing holders with a more secure travel document.

"timesofmalta.com" indicates that the launch was made last October by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, Austin Gatt, who said that the new passports were being produced in line with international requirements.

Mr. Gatt explained that the new passports contain the same information as the old ones, but the information is held in a more secure manner in a chip embedded in the document. In the future, the chip will also carry an image of the holder's fingerprint.

The Minister added that the introduction of the new passports was also an important step made by Malta to meet US requirements for eligibility to the visa waiver programme.

The Maltese Passports Office has also revised the tariffs for passports. A new passport for those aged over 16, valid for 10 years, now costs €70, a jump from just under €28. The minister explained that an empty passport previously used to cost the Passport Office €3 and it now costs €30. The Office has also invested over €12 million on the new equipment to input the details on the passports.

Passports Office officials said that existing valid passports need not be replaced until they expire.

Additional information may be found in the [original article](#) by "timesofmalta.com".

Further information:

- [Source –timesofmalta.com \(full article\)](#)
 - [Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Press release](#)
-

EU: Expert workshop on 'Procuring for health benefits' – Presentations now online - 14 November 2008

The presentations of the expert workshop "Procuring for health benefits: Critical factors for beneficial deployment of innovative eHealth and telemedicine services" have been made available online.

The workshop has been organised by the European Commission on 6 November 2008 within the framework of World of Health IT 08 Conference & Exhibition held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 4-6 November 2008.

The workshop's objectives were to identify and share valuable recommendations for beneficial deployment of larger scale (e.g. regional scale) eHealth and telemedicine services.

The stakeholders first shared their experience in the field. An open discussion on "Strategic decision making and the role of procurement" took place afterwards among the panelists.

The [workshop's presentations](#) can be found on the Financing eHealth website.

Further information:

- [Financing eHealth website](#)
-

EU: eHealthServer.com - New Project For and By the International eHealth Community - 14 November 2008

The eHealthNews.EU Portal has launched a new project named '[eHealthServer.com](#)'. The project's goals are the dissemination, awareness creation and advanced promotion activities addressed to the international eHealth Industry and Research domains of the wider eHealth Community.

The eHealthNews.EU portal administrator, Ruslan David, qualifies this project as the result of numerous citizen's requests and suggestions throughout the years to reflect the international eHealth achievements in European projects. Mr. David expresses his confidence that the new HealthServer.com will become a recognizable voice in the international eHealth domain in the near future.

Currently, eHealthServer.com presents the latest eHealth news articles comprising 'Research & Development', 'Industry', 'Products' and 'Conferences & Events' categories, as well as the 'Publications' section, featuring the leading eHealth publications available for download in PDF format. Readers can also subscribe (free of charge) by email to the portal's news alert service or subscribe by RSS feed reader to the published RSS news channel.

Mr. David indicates that any feedback as to the current web appearance of the project is welcomed, stressing that the team's "core mission is to design a project not only 'for', but in special, a project 'by' the international eHealth Community." In this light, those interested are invited to register on eHealthServer.com to keep in touch with the project's latest achievements and improvements. Registration onto the portal is free-of-charge.

Further information:

- [eHealthServer.com](#)
 - [Original eHealthNews.EU article](#)
 - ["Accelerating the Development of the eHealth market" – Viviane Reding's speech at WoHIT 2008](#)
-

FR: Preliminary declaration to the police online - 14 November 2008

Since 1 November 2008, the residents of two French departments (Charente-Maritime and Yvelines) have been able to make preliminary declarations to the police online within the framework of a [pilot eService](#).

This pilot service is aimed at those who have been victims of an offence against their property (e.g. theft, damage, swindling) and who do not know the offender. The web service allows these to determine online the location of the police station to which they wish to lodge their complaint.

Once the online form has been filled in, it is conveyed to the selected police station. The user's preliminary declaration is attributed a reference number and an appointment is fixed, so as to allow the complainant to sign and register an official declaration at the chosen police station.

It is to be noted that the online preliminary complaint also reaches the 'Operational Departmental Centre' so as to allow for a possible intervention in cases of emergency.

An assessment is planned to be conducted after a period of six months with a view to generalise the eService.

Further information:

- [Press release – Service-Public.fr \(in French\)](#)
 - [Preliminary declaration to the police online service \(in French\)](#)
-

DE/EU: Commission approves €45 million state aid to increase broadband availability in rural Germany - 14 November 2008

The European Commission has endorsed under the EC Treaty state aid rules additional €45 million aid to foster the availability of widespread and affordable broadband services in the three German Länder of Sachsen, Niedersachsen and Bayern.

The support targets areas where such services are currently not available, and complements a €141 million federal scheme approved in July 2008 to help bring broadband to rural areas of Germany (see [RAPID Press Release IP/08/1096](#)). The regional aid schemes are expected to provide additional impetus to increase broadband coverage in these regions. The Commission found the schemes to be compatible with the state aid rules, because state support is foreseen only where the market cannot provide broadband coverage and the distortions of competition brought about by the aid are limited by adequate safeguards.

Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes commented: "I am satisfied that the regional measures were designed in accordance with the federal broadband scheme that we recently approved. Only well-designed state aid measures are able to reduce the digital divide between rural and urban areas and allow European citizens to enjoy the full benefits of a knowledge based economy."

As the "digital divide" in Germany is one of the highest among EU Member States, the three Länder decided to mobilize additional public funding of around €45 million over the next seven years to close this gap. Sachsen, Niedersachsen and Bayern have designed their own measures, taking into account local specificities and fully incorporating all safeguards already requested by the Commission in the federal level broadband scheme.

The schemes ensure that public funding will only be used if no electronic communication operator is able to bring affordable broadband services to local citizens on market terms. The Commission's examination confirmed that state aid would be used only to the extent that is absolutely necessary and that distortions of competition would be limited by a thorough market research to identify the problematic areas and by granting the aid through open tenders. Furthermore, open, non-discriminatory wholesale access to the new networks would allow several broadband service providers to offer competitive services.

The Commission has therefore concluded that the aid was in line with EU state aid rules allowing aid to facilitate the development of certain economic areas or activities, provided it does not unduly affect trade between Member States (Article 87.3.c of the EC Treaty).

Further information:

- [RAPID Press Release IP/08/1662](#)
- [RAPID Press Release IP/08/1096](#)

EU: Re-opening of the call for tenders "Study on monitoring eAccessibility" - 13 November 2008

Following the non-award of this tender, the European Commission has re-opened its [call](#) on the monitoring of both the status and progress of eAccessibility. The new deadline for submission is 15 January 2009, 4 pm CET.

The tender specifications have been re-published in the Official Journal with slight modifications. New paragraphs have been added comprising the following elements:

- Reference to the online public consultation on web accessibility and other eAccessibility issues that took place mid-2008;
- Reference to the two studies carried out in the field of eAccessibility for the Commission (available at: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/index_en.htm);
- Reference to the ePractice portal for networking and dissemination purposes.

The main tasks pertaining to this study are synthesised as follows:

- Task 1: Provide an "eAccessibility implementation report" on the current status of eAccessibility in selected countries based on both the legislative and the non-legislative environments. This task includes an annual reporting of the active status of eAccessibility.
- Task 2: Ensure a direct and active interaction with relevant actors involved in implementing and monitoring eAccessibility in practice. In this light, the revised tender specifications outline that "the contractor should align its work with other efforts of the Commission regarding coordination and cooperation with Member States and other stakeholders". This task comprises the organisation of workshops to collect information for task 1 and task 3 from correspondents and to stimulate the exchange of experiences among decision makers in selected countries thus building on the findings of task 3.
- Task 3: Define, develop and apply a benchmarking framework for monitoring and comparing progress over time and between countries on eAccessibility through the approaches and mechanisms cited above.

As regards the three tasks, the updated tender specifications clarify that "particular attention should be paid to web accessibility". Lastly, the maximum subcontracting amount for the contract has been removed from the specifications.

Further clarification regarding the tender specifications and/or the model contract can be requested by email to INCLUSION-TENDERS@ec.europa.eu.

Further information:

- [Details of the Call for Tenders \(SMART 2008-0066\)](#)
- [ePractice news 'EU: Call for Tenders – Study on monitoring eAccessibility' \(18 June 2008\)](#)

ES: Avanza supports the introduction of new technologies in SMEs - 13 November 2008

The Plan Avanza has mobilised €1 800 million in 2006-2008 to facilitate the introduction of new technologies in Spanish SMEs.

David Cierco, Director General for Development of the Information Society within the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade unveiled this information on the occasion of the presentation of the Prointur project (*Profesionalización del Turismo de Interior*), a project funded under the Plan Avanza.

The programme 'Avanza SMEs' of Plan Avanza endeavours to increase the ICT level of adoption by SMEs through the introduction of sectoral solutions and eBusiness, including the introduction of eInvoicing. The implementation of these measures has been done through calls for aid, agreements with regional governments and ICT loans.

Avanza SME has several lines of action:

- outreach programmes to expand the use of the Internet and new technologies;
- provision of technological advice;
- training and awareness-raising on the efficient use of ICT;
- implementation of projects and actions to develop and adopt business solutions;
- preparation of studies and analysis;
- programmes for content creation;
- provision of computer equipment.

Mr. Cierco reminded the audience that the new plan Avanza2, "the normal evolution of the Plan Avanza," pursues qualitative and specific objectives, through five areas of action: infrastructure, security and trust, technological training, digital content and services and industrial development.

Printur is a project of the foundation Fundetec whose aim is to promote the use of Information Technologies and Communication Technologies (ICT) within the internal and rural tourism accommodation sector, as an instrument to professionalize the business management while increasing the activity. The initiative is funded jointly by Fundetec, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade - through the Plan Avanza - and the European Union.

Further information:

- [Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Press release \(in Spanish\)](#)

UK: New sudden cardiac death database could save lives - 12 November 2008

eHealthNews.eu reports that the UK's Department of Health (DH) launched on 7 November 2008 a new database to help identify the incidence and causes of sudden cardiac death.

Designed by pathologists and cardiologists, and funded by the Department of Health, the database will be a key instrument for understanding the incidence and causes of inheritable conditions that can cause sudden cardiac death.

The new database will help pathologists record cases referred to them by coroners. This information will ultimately allow doctors to better understand where and why these inheritable heart conditions have occurred, thus helping to save lives.

With a greater knowledge of the incidence, prevalence and causes of sudden cardiac death, doctors will be able to better identify people at risk because of one of these conditions and help them have access to the services they need. Close family members of victims of sudden cardiac death will be able to refer to specialist inherited cardiac conditions centres where they will be offered counselling and support.

Health Minister Ann Keen said, "Today's announcement shows that the Government is continuing to build on the very significant progress already made in the prevention of cardiovascular disease. We met our pledge to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease by 40 per cent five years earlier than the 2010 target and are committed to going still further."

"By funding this database, the Department of Health is committing to recommendations in the Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) National Service Framework (NSF) to reduce mortality from sudden cardiac death and improve services for families who have had the tragic experience of losing a close relative," she added.

Further information:

- [Original/Full version of this news article in the eHealthNews.EU Portal](#)
- [UK's Department of Health](#)

NL/EU: European Electronic Invoicing Platform introduced - 12 November 2008

Following its eInvoicing initiative 'Platform ELFA' in the Netherlands, Dutch-based [Factuurwijzer.nl](#) has recently set off activities in the European eInvoicing field. The aim is to raise awareness of eInvoicing while improving its implementation through the [European Electronic Invoicing Platform](#) (EEI).

The growth of eInvoicing allows everyone to benefit from the great advantages of electronic invoicing compared to paper invoicing. The EEI Platform aims to support the implementation of eInvoicing through online participation and cooperation between individual companies, trade organisations and the public sector.

In addition, participants will benefit from the results achieved by a wide range of activities, namely, publicity, implementation, standardisation, accreditation and promotion.

Currently, a lot of effort is devoted to composing a strong international group of Founding Partners which will form the roots of this initiative. Meanwhile, over ten organisations have signed up as Founding Partners, or participants with the EEI Platform.

EEI Platform is a variant of the Dutch Electronic Invoicing Platform (ELFA), a grouping of organisations directly or indirectly linked to electronic invoicing: software providers, industry associations, government institutions and users.

In the Netherlands, the ELFA platform plays an important part in the implementation process of eBilling while providing substantial information, news and background documentation through its interactive website. In addition, it is possible for audiences to communicate with each other on eInvoicing and related topics via several social tools.

Participation in the EEI Platform is not only suitable for specialists such as billing service providers. It is also possible for users, banks, public institutions, educational institutions and industry associations to join and benefit from this initiative. Furthermore, organisations whose activities are neighbouring the main sectors, such as credit-management organisations and financial institutions, are also invited to participate.

Further information:

- [European Electronic Invoicing \(EEI\) Platform](#)
- [Factuurwijzer \(in Dutch\)](#)
- [Business case of the EEI Platform](#)
- [ELFA Platform \(in Dutch\)](#)

EU: Dorie – New database of Commission's archives on EU institutional issues - 12 November 2008

The Dorie (Documentation and Research on European Institutional Issues) database is an online collection of documents gathered over the years by the European Commission. It is aimed at a specialized audience interested in European institutional issues.

The documents stored in Dorie concern the EU institutions and the decision-making processes, as well as various intergovernmental conferences that have modified the founding treaties.

Until now, only a handful of privileged users, mostly within the Commission, have had access to the collection. Thanks to Dorie external users interested in institutional issues, in particular students and academic researchers, journalists, pressure groups and think tanks can now access the collection.

Dorie's launch is part of the development of an eAdministration which provides reliable processing and storage for the collection of documents compiled by the Commission. It meets the need for a modern, efficient (with fast searches and cross-searches options), transparent, environmentally friendly and low-budget system.

Searching the database gives access to an information sheet for each document and to the document itself, unless the text is protected under copyright law. Help functions are displayed next to most of the search fields to help guide searches. The database can be searched in English and French. No documents need to be translated for Dorie, which provides access to all documents in the version(s) held in the existing collection.

Some 7 000 documents have already been made available on Dorie, but the full collection of documents of the Commission will be made accessible to the public in approximately five years. The general aim is to eventually be able to update Dorie on a daily basis.

Further information

- [Dorie database](#)
 - [Original Europa Press Release](#)
-

New Factsheets

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

Latest Publications

- [RO: Strategy of the Agency for Information Society Services](#) 13 November 2008 | Romania
-

RO: Strategy of the Agency for Information Society Services - 13 November 2008

Complete title:

Strategy of the Agency for Information Society Services

Description (short summary):

This document provides an overview of the eGovernment strategy in Romania. It summarizes the generic and specific principles of the [Agency for Information Society Services \(ASSI\)](#) and it proposes ways to proceed towards the progression of citizen's comfort through electronic means.

Original URL:<http://www.e-guvernare.ro/>

Number of pages: 19

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.

[Administrative burden](#) 25 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)

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

Upcoming Events

- [UK: Promoting Innovation in the Knowledge Economy](#) 25 November 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [BE: IMI Training and Awareness-Raising Days](#) 25 - 26 November 2008 | Belgium
 - [FR: ICT Forum 2008](#) 25 - 27 November 2008 | France
 - [FR: ENEA Networking session on "An affordable and personalized health care system for an independent ageing"](#) 26 November 2008 | France
 - [AT: e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference and EXPO](#) 30 November - 2 December 2008 | Austria
 - [FR: Open World Forum – Paris 2008](#) 1 - 2 December 2008 | France
 - [ES: ableTech'08](#) 10 - 11 December 2008 | Spain
-

UK: Promoting Innovation in the Knowledge Economy - 25 November 2008

Innovative ICT & E-Government Practice – Learning from European Regions

This high profile Pan European conference will bring together experts from business, the public sector, academia and the European Commission.

Its objective is to promote the environment (physical, administrative, social and economic) in which innovative practice in eGovernment, broadband and wireless technologies can be transferred throughout Europe to improve services for citizens.

The conference will profile award-winning models of best practice including:

- urban and rural planning;
- integrated aid management;

- eGovernment and wireless applications.

Business innovators will provide delegates with an insight into revolutionary technological innovations for the delivery of public services in the future.

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

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: Londonderry - Derry (Northern Ireland)

Organiser: Derry City Council

Organisation Type: Public

Event website: http://www.derrycity.gov.uk/economicdevelopment/pan_european_conference3.htm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Registration is now closed.

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

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

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

Contact Email: IMI-conference2008@eurodyn.com

FR: ICT Forum 2008 - 25 - 27 November 2008

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

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

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

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

In particular, ICT 2008 will examine:

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

The event will feature a conference, an exhibition and networking sessions.

Registration is to be performed [online](#) at the event's website. The early bid registration fee, applicable to payments received prior to 31 October 2008, is €450. For payments received between 1 November and 20 November 2008, the registration fee is €550.

Country: France

City/Location: Lyon

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

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

FR: ENEA Networking session on “An affordable and personalized health care system for an independent ageing” - 26 November 2008

“An affordable and personalized health care system for an independent ageing” – Future challenge for healthcare deployment: how to make it happen?

This afternoon networking session is organised in the context of the [ICT Forum 2008](#) which will be held in Lyon, France, from 25 to 27 November 2008. It is supported by the Directorate-General 'Information Society and Media' of the European Commission.

There is a social and market demand for the new, ICT based responses to care and health service provision to improve chronic disease management at home and prolong the possibility of an autonomous, safe and socially fulfilling life. Many current ICT e-health applications focus on the provision of individual clinical services. There is a need for improvement of horizontal applications and for the coordination of services from different agencies and disciplines into tailored and customized packages of provision spanning both health and social care. It is essential to understand if the national healthcare systems can integrate these innovative services and if a European cooperation could help facilitating this process.

The ENEA networking session will gather experts of the healthcare and enterprise interoperability sector. After a short overview of the EU Programmes on ICT for eHealth (FP7, CIP, AAL) and practical case studies (OLDES project, COIN project, etc.), the experts will discuss how innovative eHealth services, as the ones developed by projects like OLDES, can be integrated in healthcare systems in a sustainable manner. Issues around standards are also expected to be addressed by the panel discussion.

The objective of the session is to share experiences and common pathways between the healthcare sector and experts from the enterprise interoperability world, with the final aim of learning from each other and build possible partnerships for future activities, as well as collaborative solutions, taking into account also the eHealth standardization aspects.

The [final agenda](#) of the networking session has been made available.

Those interested in participating are invited to send their expression of interest by email to monica.ibido@bruxelles.enea.it. Registration to this session is free of charge, but requires participation in the ICT Forum in line with the normal registration rules, including the payment of the [Forum's subscription fees](#).

Country: France

City/Location: Lyon

Organiser: OLDES (older's people e-services at home) Consortium, coordinated by the Italian National Agency for New Technology, Energy and the Environment (ENEA)

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cf/item-display.cfm?id=690

Contact Email: monica.ibido@bruxelles.enea.it

AT: e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference and EXPO - 30 November - 2 December 2008

European Ministerial e-Inclusion Conference

The European Ministerial e-Inclusion Conference 2008 aims at accelerating progress towards an information society for all (digital inclusion), in order to combat social and economic exclusion. The conference will acknowledge the many actions that are taking place all over Europe during 2008 and that contribute to the European e-Inclusion Initiative. It will also take stock of future challenges and renew the commitments to achieve inclusion in the information society for all.

The conference will be attended by eInclusion leaders from industry, academia and voluntary sector and will address topics as diverse as shaping European e-Accessibility environments, investing in information technology for sustainable elderly care, digital literacy and insights into future technology perspectives. European Ministers will come together to measure progress, refresh the Riga vision, and gain valuable insights from cutting-edge initiatives.

As the draft conference programme is continually being updated, sessions and speakers may still be subject to change. A preliminary programme outline is available [online](#) as well as in [PDF](#) format.

The event will be complemented by a large scale [exhibition](#) of around 100 stands, which will be open from 30 November until 2 December 2008. The exhibition will feature among others a projects showcase, a digital story gallery, country pavilions, an experience space, commercial displays, an eInclusion theatre and the eInclusion Awards finalists village. The latter one will host the finalists of the [European eInclusion Awards](#) competition, which is organised within the framework of European Commission's "e-Inclusion: Be part of It" initiative and is aimed at celebrating the best and most imaginative uses of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to reduce digital and social exclusion.

Event email: EINCLUSIONEVENT2008@ec.europa.eu

Country: Austria

City/Location: Vienna

Organiser: Jointly organised by the European Commission and the hosting Austrian Government, in cooperation with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/e-inclusion/2008/index_en.htm

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

FLOSS, Innovation and Competitiveness

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

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

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

More details on the Forum's programme are available at the following page <http://www.openworldforum.org/en/program/>.

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

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

Country: France

Event website: www.openworldforum.org

ES: ableTech'08 - 10 - 11 December 2008

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, within the main conference, the European Project CompanionAble will organise a workshop aimed at sharing experience with other European projects involved in Cognitive Robotics and Ambient Intelligence Technologies and developing a closer collaboration between the various Consortia Partners involved in Research and Innovation on such technologies.

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

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

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

Country: Spain

City/Location: Bilbao

Organiser: TECNALIA

Event website: www.abletech.org

Event email: abletech08@robotiker.es

The European ePractice Newsletter is published under a contract with the European Commission. The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on its behalf is responsible for the use that might be made of the information provided.