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European ePractice Newsletter

N. 263 - 20 January 2009

>> ePractice.eu reaches 15,000 members

The ePractice.eu community registered its 15,000 member on Thursday the 15th of January 2009. This new milestone, together with the record number of 1,000 cases reached in November 2008, proves the growing interest of the eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth professionals in exchanging and sharing good practices. Thank you to all the ePractice.eu users for their contributions to the portal and their active participation in our workshops, communities and forums.

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

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- [The Isaac project - using digital images for communication](#) 16 January 2009 |
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Editor's Choice of the week: [PenalNet: secure e-communication in Criminal Law Practice](#)

Field test of a user friendly toilet prototype

Most of today's toilets in Europe do not meet the actual needs of persons with functional impairments. A quantitative study in several European countries (more than 350 persons) showed that 36% of the respondents can hardly leave home due to lack of adequate toilet facilities. The aim of the FRR project was to develop a more user friendly toilet system. This was done applying a user centred approach, meaning that disabled persons and older people were intensively involved in the project via user boards, focus groups and prototype testing. Ethical guidelines were developed and followed in order to protect the rights of vulnerable users involved in the project.

The Granny-Net Club

Because after a certain age people have more difficulties to understand and learn new technologies and we have given possibility to learn how to learn how to access the web and communicate easier with the external world. After attending the course the participants have learned how to use different functions of a PC and INTERNET by their own (printing, scanning, e-mailing, internet search, photo manipulation). Following this courses, most of the participants have bought their first PC and have created INTERNET access in their homes. We intend to organize these courses as long as elder people are interested to learn the use of PC and INTERNET. The course had an important impact on the groups as they have wanted to created "GRANNY NET-CLUB".

The Isaac project - using digital images for communication

Isaac started out as a tool for development: a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) for differently abled persons. Isaac was developed at Certec and combined in one unit a regular PDA, digital camera, a satellite navigation receiver and cellular phone channels for both voice and data. Today the project is about using pictures as cognitive support and a means of communication.

Equal eLearning

The main goal of the Equal e-Learning project, funded by the Leonardo Da Vinci, is to promote equality at eLearning and ICT, especially among vocational students with special needs. The project is based on an e-learning platform called Severi. Severi was created in a Finnish e-learning project as a tool for students with special needs and now it will be tested and further developed in European context. One of the purposes of the project is to create and further e-learning methods for students and workers with special needs and/or learning difficulties. This way they have better possibilities to benefit from web based learning solutions and can participate the information society as equal members of it. The main goal of the project is to promote equality at eLearning and ICT, especially among vocational students with special needs. Primary target groups are students, who have severe learning difficulties and students with minor education and/or ICT skills for example because of high age or underprivileged circumstances. We want to get people working with these groups to recognize the possibilities of e-learning by offering methods, tools and guidance. During the Equal eLearning project Severi will be translated to all project languages so partner organisations will be able to pilot it. In the beginning pilot teachers will be trained in a common gathering, but later trainings will be held nationally or regionally, also as a part of teacher education. Essential part of the project is also the localized production of new tasks and materials for students with special needs, because no method or tool without contents can be piloted effectively. Piloting Severi both transfers the innovation and gives knowledge of it's applicability with different user groups and in different teaching/learning cultures.

Neighbourhood Empowerment in North London

Neither the social technology nor an understanding of community empowerment issues are sufficient on their own to ensure that communities grow stronger, but together they can change the way the world works. What is Harringay Online? Harringay Online is a neighbourhood network working to strengthen the neighbourhood of Harringay in the north London Borough of Haringey. Through social networking technology Harringay Online provides a virtual high street cafe-cum-village hall, which blends web-based and real world neighbourhood interactions to build stronger more empowered communities. What does Harringay Online aim to do? Harringay Online is focussed on achieving four main outcomes: - Building a sense of place in a neighbourhood – an understanding and appreciation of the neighbourhood to encourage a feeling of belonging and regarding a place as home. - Building social capital in the neighbourhood – building networks, norms and trust that enable people to act together more effectively to pursue shared objectives – simply put building community spirit or neighbourliness. - Empowering local people to take action shape their neighbourhood – working to improve local people's ability to influence local decisions and affect local circumstances - Engaging people in local democratic processes. Ultimately our goal is to increase the wellbeing levels of people in neighbourhoods.

Latest News

- [MT: New Government IT Agency goes online](#) 19 January 2009 | Malta
 - [FI: Local school enrolment online](#) 19 January 2009 | Finland
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MT: New Government IT Agency goes online - 19 January 2009

[MITA](#), the newly established Malta Information Technology Agency now has its own website.

MITA has been appointed by the Government of Malta as the Agency responsible for propagating the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy in the country and for implementing the National ICT Strategy 2008-2010, the so-called "[Smart Island Strategy](#)".

The new Agency reports to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications.

MITA has taken over the functions of several entities, namely: the former Information Society Secretariat; the ICT in Government Unit; the Core ICT Advisory Committee; and the Malta Information Technology and Training Services Ltd (MITTS Ltd, a Government-owned company which was supplying IT systems and services to Government departments).

The new website intends to provide a databank of relevant up-to-date information on national ICT projects and to highlight MITA's contribution towards the achievement of the Smart Island vision for Malta: bringing Malta's Information Society in the world's top 10 by 2010.

Additional information and social media functionalities are planned to be made available on the website over the coming months.

The constitution of MITA was approved by the Cabinet on 4 July 2008, and the Agency's statute was registered through a public deed on 18 August 2008.

Further information:

- [Website of Malta Information Technology Agency \(MITA\)](#)
 - [ePractice news item – MT: New IT Agency set up – July 2008](#)
 - [ePractice library – MT: National ICT Strategy 2008-2010](#)
-

FI: Local school enrolment online - 19 January 2009

In Finland's capital city, children's enrolment in local schools can now be performed by electronic means via the [Wilma system](#).

Children living in Helsinki who have reached the age of compulsory education (7 years old) during 2009 must be officially enrolled in their local school, in which a place has been reserved for each one of them. The relevant local school is indicated in a compulsory education notification which is mailed to the child's parents/guardians at the beginning of 2009.

Electronic enrolment is possible only when the child is enrolled in the local school indicated in the compulsory education notification. The new eService is accessible in English, Finnish and Swedish on the Wilma system of the Education Department of the city of Helsinki. The required user ID and password are indicated in the child's compulsory education notification.

Wilma is directly integrated with the student management systems of comprehensive schools, upper secondary schools and general upper secondary schools for adults. The system is intended to facilitate communication between schools and parents/guardians, as well as between teachers and their pupils/students.

Wilma is not only used by schools to handle matters related to the educational arrangements and the education of pupils and students; it also serves to convey relevant information to parents/guardians, pupils and students while facilitating the interaction of all those concerned.

The online system provides a wide range of services to:

- Teachers, who can include the evaluations given to their pupils/students, follow their performance, assist them in completing the syllabuses or choosing courses for upper secondary school, log absences and keep track of explanations. The student welfare personnel can also take part in this monitoring process.
- Parents/guardians, who can keep in touch with teachers, follow their child's performance, read bulletins, notify illnesses and explain absences, take part in surveys and learn more about the school's strategy. Similarly, teachers, school social workers and psychologists can contact parents/guardians through the system.

- Pupils/students, who can view their own grades and their absences as recorded by the teacher. Like parents/guardians, they can also read messages sent by the teacher, send him/her messages and answer online surveys. Upper secondary school students can furthermore select courses and check their classes' schedule.

Further information:

- [Press release – Citizen portal 'Suomi.fi' \(in Finnish\)](#)
 - [Information on school enrolment – City of Helsinki, Education Department](#)
 - [Wilma system](#)
 - [Additional information on the Wilma system](#)
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CH: Launch of the federal web portal of debt enforcement - 16 January 2009

Creditors (with residence in Switzerland) wishing to initiate debt enforcement proceedings can fill out a debt collection request online on this new portal which furthermore allows finding the competent cantonal or communal debt collection office in Switzerland.

The launch of the portal of debt enforcement ("[Portail des Poursuites](#)" in French, "[Betreibungsschalter](#)" in German and "[Sportello delle Esecuzioni](#)" in Italian) marks an additional step forward in the implementation of the e-LP project developed by the Swiss Federal Office of Justice (FOJ). The portal has been designed, in particular, for creditors who need to launch debt enforcement proceedings on an occasional basis.

The e-LP project (also known as "Projekt eSchKG" in German and "progetto e-LEF" in Italian) aims:

- To use the currently available technical means to ensure data transmission in the field of debt enforcement;
- To assist creditors in filing their debt collection request, via an online portal dedicated to debt enforcement issues.

The web portal indeed guides users on the procedural steps to be followed in the latter case. Once the online form is completed, it must be printed, signed and mailed out to the competent debt collection office whose address is pre-filled in the form. Then, the relevant office will hand in the summons to pay to the debtor.

In addition, any person wishing to obtain information on debt enforcement proceedings brought against him/herself, or against someone else, can also request an excerpt of the debt enforcement register. In order to do so, one must fill out the dedicated online form and send it, in printed form, to the competent debt collection office. The latter reviews the rationale of the request, so as to decide whether to convey the excerpt to the applicant.

Since the summer of 2008, a main debt collector company and the debt collection offices of the canton of Fribourg have been exchanging electronically the entire set of data relating to debt enforcement according to the new e-LP standard. This standard allows major creditor bodies which are members of the e-LP network to direct, from their own information system, debt collection requests to the debt collection office and to receive an electronic copy of the summons to pay.

New offices and creditor bodies are foreseen to join the e-LP network in the course of 2009. Likewise, by 2011 at the latest, the approximately 700 debt collection offices of Switzerland will be equipped with the software enabling the electronic and standardised exchange of data relating to debt enforcement proceedings.

The e-LP project forms part of an important set of IT projects carried out by the FOJ in the aim to implement the Swiss eGovernment strategy. With the creation of the new portal of debt enforcement proceedings, the FOJ continues what it started when it enabled individuals to order a criminal records excerpt online or in a post office.

Further information:

- [Press release – Federal Office of Justice \(in French, German and Italian\)](#)
 - Debt enforcement web portal: in [French](#), [German](#) and [Italian](#)
 - Information about the e-LP project and new e-LP standard: in [French](#), [German](#) and [Italian](#)
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DE: GIS Best Practice Award 2009 – Call for projects - 16 January 2009

The [German Association of Surveying \(DVW e.V\)](#) - Society for Geodesy, Geo-Information and Land Management – recently advertised the [GIS Best Practice Award 2009](#).

The GIS (Geo Information Systems) Best Practice Award 2009 aim at highlighting GIS projects that constitute examples and serve as paradigms/models and references for the future. This prize shall increase the publicity of those projects and foster the cooperation in the field of Geo Information Systems.

The GIS prize is awarded on a yearly basis on the [INTERGEO](#) conference and trade fair, which constitutes a communication platform for geodesy, geo information and land management, covering all the key trends that crop up along the entire value-added chain – from geo-based information surveys and data processing to integrated applications.

This year's prize will be awarded at the INTERGEO 2009 conference, which will take place in Karlsruhe, on 22 - 24 September 2009. The present competition concerns projects from the German Federal States of Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz and Saarland. Participation is open to Enterprises, Authorities and Research Institutions – regardless of whether they are members of the DVW or not. The Award is dotted with a prize of € 5 000.

The winner of the competition shall demonstrate important achievements in at least one of the following areas:

- Technical innovation
- Economic efficiency (e.g. cost savings)
- Social importance (e.g. information for citizens, support of environment friendly support)
- Advancing of the professional image
- New application fields
- Media savvy

Applications for the GIS Best Practice Award 2009 should be formless, containing a meaningful description of the project of maximum 10 000 characters, complemented by relevant screenshots and printouts. The description should also comprise a reference to the project's contribution to the aforementioned fields.

Deadline for applications is 30 June 2009.

Applications should be sent to:

DVW-Arbeitskreis 2
Vorsitz Prof. Dr. Hartmut Müller
FH Mainz University of Applied Sciences
mainz Institute for Spatial Information and Surveying Technology
Holzstraße 36
D-55116 Mainz
mueller@geoinform.fh-mainz.de

Further information:

- [German Association of Surveying \(DVW e.V\)](#)
- [GIS Best Practice Award 2009](#) (in German)
- [INTERGEO](#)

ES: Avanza Plan moves to the next phase - 15 January 2009

The “Avanza Plan” has been successfully completed and a new phase “Avanza2 Plan” will start to adapt to the new challenges in Information Society in Spain.

This new phase, which will run from 2009 to 2012, seeks the further development of the Information Society and will be structured into the following five areas:

Development of ICT sector (SMEs)

- Support companies to develop new products and services with high ICT component and promote Spanish industrial participation in the construction of the Future of the Internet, with particular attention to digital content.

Digital Public Services

- Promote the development and implementation of the Information Society to improve the delivery of electronic public services to citizens and businesses through the use of ICT.

Infrastructure

- Complete the transition to Digital Terrestrial Television
- Improve the scope and speed of broadband in rural and remote areas
- Provide the scientific community with better communications networks, applications and services.

Training of Citizens and SMEs

- Promote access to and the use of new technologies by citizens and SMEs.

Confidence, security and accessibility

- Build trust in ICT, both in people and in business, through public policies on information security.

For the year 2009, the budget allocated by the Government for the development of the Information Society will surpass €1 500 million. Avanza2 will create approximately 45 000 direct and indirect jobs annually over the period 2009-2012. That is, nearly 200 000 high-skilled jobs in the next 4 years.

Background Information: [‘Avanza Plan’](#) (2006-2010). The so-called Plan for the ‘Development of the Information Society and for Convergence with Europe, and among Autonomous Communities and Cities - 2006-2010’ (‘Avanza’) forms part the broader programme [‘Ingenio 2010’](#), aimed at giving new impetus to R&D investment in Spain within the framework of the National Reforms Programme designed by the Government for complying with the EU’s [i2010 initiative](#).

Reaching a fully developed eGovernment is among the main pillars of the Avanza Plan. The Plan Avanza is oriented towards the adequate use of ICTs, so as to contribute to the rise of an economic growth model based on the increase of competitiveness and productivity, social and regional equality and the increase of citizen welfare and quality of life.

Further information:

- [Press release – Plan Avanza \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Avanza Plan official website \(in Spanish\)](#)

NL: Simplified filing of income tax returns - 14 January 2009

As from March 2009, those declaring their income online to the Dutch Tax Administration will be able to access a pre-completed declaration (Vooraf Ingevulde Aangifte - VIA).

The new eService will make use of the information that the Tax Administration already has at its disposal, thus facilitating the filing of tax returns.

The 2008 income tax declaration campaign has been launched on 5 January 2009, and the 2008 income tax declaration programme is now available on the website of the Dutch Tax Administration.

By 1 April 2009, approximately 9 million people will declare their income and/or submit social contributions for the year 2008. Those submitting their declaration prior to 1 April 2009 will receive a response before 1 July 2009.

The pre-completed declaration service will become available on 1 March 2009. With this declaration, the taxpayer can consult information held by the Tax Administration such as citizen service number, birth date, Valuation of Immovable Property Act (WOZ value) and wage data. The Digital Identity system [DigiD](#) is required in order to download the data and to sign the tax declaration.

In addition, during the entire month of March 2009, there will be an income tax declaration phone helpline (0800-0543) available 7 days a week to answer the users’ questions on their declaration.

Further information:

- [Press release – e-overheid.nl \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [Press release – Dutch Ministry of Finance \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [Website of the Dutch Tax Administration \(in Dutch\)](#)
 - [DigiD website \(in Dutch\)](#)
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DE: Open content mainly political, not economic - 14 January 2009

According to a recent study entitled "[Open Content – Open Access. Open content as a challenge for business, research and politics](#)" published in September 2008, open content and open access are important in a socio-political context but at present of negligible economic relevance for the region of Baden-Württemberg.

According to the study carried out by Fazit, Baden-Württemberg's state-sponsored Research Project for Current and Future IT and Media Technologies and Their Use, open access and open content are interesting concepts with definite development potential for enterprises and scientific institutions in Germany, especially in the fields of open movies, open geodata, open scientific publications and educational resources.

Open access is discussed in detail in a case study of the library at Konstanz University. The library is a major example for open access, they write, trying to allow access to recent scientific information while facing increasing subscription rates for scientific journals.

The library case study shows open access needs determined and committed supporters, they conclude. "Patience, tenacity and perseverance are needed. Knowledge about its legal, economic, political, academic and technological aspects is required in order to respond to objections and to dispel fear."

Further information:

- [Original press release – OSOR.EU](#)
 - ["Open Content – Open Access" report in the ePractice library](#)
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New Factsheets

A new release of the eGovernment factsheet for Belgium (10.1) is now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [EU/GL: ICT & Ageing: Study on Users, Markets and Technologies – Preliminary findings](#) 12 January 2009 | Asia, EU Institutions, North America
-

EU/GL: ICT & Ageing: Study on Users, Markets and Technologies – Preliminary findings - 12 January 2009

Complete title:

ICT & Ageing – European Study on Users, Markets and Technologies – Preliminary Findings – October 2008

Description (short summary): This document presents the preliminary findings of an ICT & Ageing study launched by the European Commission in the beginning of 2008. The main goal of the study is to identify and understand the market barriers which currently hinder the uptake of ICT for independent living and active ageing in Europe. For the first time, the study looks into the situation prevailing in 14 representative EU Member States as well as the USA and Japan with regard to the deployment situation of relevant ICTs and policy/market response respectively. It will identify and analyse good practice and show how Europe can learn from the experience in individual countries. This research endeavour will continue until the end of 2009.

Authors:

Study group: Lutz Kubitschke, Karsten Gareis, Felicitas Lull, Sonja Müller (empiricaGesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Technologieforschung mbH), Kevin Cullen, Sarah Delaney, Lauren Quinn Taylor, Richard

Wynne (WorkResearch Centre), Marjo Rauhala (Institute "Integrated Study", Vienna University of Technology (TUW))

Original URL: http://www.ict-ageing.eu/?page_id=246

Number of pages: 45

Upcoming Events

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

21 January 2009

Consultation on ICT for Governance & Policy Modelling

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

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

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

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

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

The event's agenda is as follows:

- 14:00 - Introduction and Welcome
- 14:10 - Presentation from the Commission on Objective 7.3: ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling
- 14:30 - Open discussion - Introduction of the participants and their ideas (2 mn each)
- 15:30 - Individual discussion with the Commission staff (on a case by case) *
- 17:00 - End of meeting

* Individual discussions can be continued the day after, during the ICT Proposers' Day 2009

City/Location: Budapest

Organiser: Corvinus University of Budapest

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

Event email: AGabor@corvinno.com

HU: FP7 - ICT Proposers' Day 2009

22 January 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

Country: Hungary

City/Location: Budapest

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

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/budapest_2009/index_en.htm

Event email: INFISO-ICTPROPOSERSDAY@ec.europa.eu

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

26 January 2009

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

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

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

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)

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

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

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

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

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: European Commission

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

Event email: info-ict-pp@ec.europa.eu

UK: Workshop “Towards Shared Environmental Information in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges for Integrated Research”

28 - 29 January 2009

Workshop “Towards Shared Environmental Information in Europe: Opportunities and Challenges for Integrated Research”

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

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

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

There will be four thematic sessions, namely:

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

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

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

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

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: Wallingford

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

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

Event email: jmuller@ceh.ac.uk

DK: PEPPOL Architecture Conference 2009

29 - 30 January 2009

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

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

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

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

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

Country: Denmark

City/Location: Copenhagen

Organiser: Danish IT and Telecom Agency

Event email: conference@peppolinfrastructure.com

BE: SEMIC.EU Methodology Workshop

2 February 2009

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

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

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

- For what purposes is the UN/CEFACT Core Component Technical Specification the right approach?
- What are the parameters to identify the right strategy?

- What other modelling methodology has been proven by practical implementations?
- How can we facilitate mutual support and fruitful exchange of solutions?

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

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

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

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

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

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

Event email: contact@semic.eu

BE: ICT Solutions using SOA and Web Services

19 February 2009

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

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

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

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

The four main themes will be:

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

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

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

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

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

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

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

Event email: events@oasis-open.org .

TR: "First International Conference on eGovernment and eGovernance" of TURKSAT

12 - 13 March 2009

"First International Conference on eGovernment and eGovernance"

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

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

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

Country: Turkey

City/Location: Ankara

Organiser: SoSReS (Social Sciences Research Society)

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

Event email: icegov@sobiad.org

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

1 - 3 June 2009

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

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

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

The main themes of the conference are as follows:

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

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

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

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

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

Event email: event@icmcc.org

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