



<http://eppractice.eu/>

## European ePractice Newsletter

**N. 218 - 22 January 2008**

### **>> ePractice.eu workshop on European eidentity experiences**

On February 14 ePractice.eu will celebrate a high-level workshop on eidentity. The hands-on seminar will analyse several eID European experiences and secure online eGovernment services with the help of Mr. Miguel Alvarez Rodriguez, from the Spanish Ministry of Public Administrations; Mr. Luc Smet, advisor of the Belgian Federal Public Service Home Affairs, and Mr. Tarvi Martens, Development Director of SK, Estonia. Mr. Gzim Ocakoglu, IDABC Unit coordinator of security activities, will deliver the keynote speech. Cases can already be consulted on the ePractice.eu portal, where all your comments are welcome. We encourage you to sign up for this unique event free of charge at [eppractice.eu/workshop/eidentity](http://eppractice.eu/workshop/eidentity)

### **>> eInclusion workshop exploring the users voice**

Registration is open for the workshop "eInclusion: Users voice" to be held on February 21st. In this new ePractice.eu free event, participants will have the opportunity to explore some of the main issues that lie at the heart of engaging users in the evolving knowledge society. Targeted to high level practitioners from the eInclusion domain, the agenda has been divided in three working themes: 1) Articulating the voice of the vulnerable, 2) Putting the 'participation' in partnerships, and 3) User-driven technologies for eInclusion. Ms. Helen Mcquillan, from the Dublin Institute of Technology; Ms. Else Kuipe, from Web in Neighbourhoods (WiN), and Mr. Antoine Bidegain, expert in ICT for Education, will explain the challenges of three recognized best practices in order to identify the key problems and invite participants to elaborate possible solutions. Places are limited. Register now for this interactive workshop [eppractice.eu/workshop/usersvoice](http://eppractice.eu/workshop/usersvoice).

### **>> HANDS, elected eTEN Project of the year 2007**

The Helping Answers Decision Service (HANDS) initiative has been elected as the eTEN Project of the year 2007 in an online public voting open at ePractice.eu between 21 December 2007 and 21 January 2008. Having received almost one third of all the votes submitted by professionals in eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth, [HANDS](#) is an online service designed to facilitate and ameliorate communication between citizens and Public Bodies. Second came eBooks on Demand (EOD / DoD), a service network making millions of books available online due to the close cooperation between 13 libraries from eight European countries. EUropean PAYment circuit (EU Pay), a multi-channel payment collection mechanism for public authorities, was third. Thank you to those who voted and congratulation to the winners! For more information, please visit [eppractice.eu/cases/etenawards](http://eppractice.eu/cases/etenawards).

### **>> Call for papers: Inclusive eServices**

The May issue of the [European Journal of ePractice](#) digital publication wants to highlight what has been achieved and what still needs to be done in order to complete the European Commission's i2010 eGovernment Action Plan. We therefore invite practitioners and academics to submit their contributions

analysing the take-up and use of inclusive eServices across member states. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2008. For more information, please visit [Call for Papers](#) or contact us at [editorial@epractice.eu](mailto:editorial@epractice.eu)

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

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## Latest Cases

Editor's Choice of the week: [A Population-Wide ID card \(Estonia\)](#)

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## Latest News

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  - [EU: Commission proposes new initiative to unlock innovations in eHealth](#) 16 January 2008 | EU Institutions
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## BG: Bulgaria begins eRegistration of companies

*In a bid to simplify the system for setting up a company in Bulgaria, a new system of eRegistration came into operation on 2 January 2008.*

Until now, the registration of a company for operation in Bulgaria has been a complex and frustrating task. Decisions were made by a court, a procedure incurring long waiting times and the submission of numerous documents, some of which were difficult to obtain. Once the court had ruled in favour of the entity, it was still necessary to register the company individually with a number of other institutions, including the tax, social security and statistics services. After many months in the making, and several delays in implementation, the electronic commercial register is now operational. Run by the newly created Registry Agency ([www.registryagency.bg](http://www.registryagency.bg)), the on-line commercial register ([www.brra.bg](http://www.brra.bg)) is a single portal, enabling the establishment and later reorganisation, restructuring and liquidation of a company, as necessary. The agency then passes this information on to the relevant institutions, thus easing the obligations of the company itself. The portal also serves the role of a database, as all key details of a company, including articles of association and other corporate by-laws, are made available to the general public.

Although the system is an on-line one, it is not fully automated, as the final decisions will still have to be

taken by a human. All applications are decided upon by Registration Officers, rather than a judge. It will also still be possible to make applications in paper form, especially for those companies not in possession of an eSignature certificate.

The changeover to the new system will be a major undertaking, as the register will not only include newly created companies, but existing companies will have to re-register. It is expected that this process will take around three years to complete, but will serve the purpose of purging from the register those companies that no longer exist.

**Further information:**

- [Ministry of Justice](#)
  - [Netinfo.bg](#)
  - [Dnes.bg](#)
  - [Registry Agency](#)
  - [On-line commercial register](#)
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## **UK: Parents can expect regular electronic school reports by 2010**

*The UK Minister of State for Schools and Learners Jim Knight has announced plans to have 'real-time' electronic school reporting systems up and running in all secondary schools by 2010, and in all primary schools by 2012.*

The UK [Department for Children, Schools and Families](#) (DFES) is working in collaboration with the government's technology agency, BECTA, to help schools throughout the country improve and adapt their existing technology with a view to providing all parents with access to [real-time reporting](#) systems, at the latest by 2012.

Real-time reporting will mean that parents will be able to access frequently updated information on their children's achievement, progress, attendance, behaviour and special needs wherever and whenever they want – using secure, on-line systems. Other services could include text alert systems, school intranets, e-mail or even video-conferencing. Many schools already have some form of eReporting system, but the aim is to make these standard in all schools.

Mr Knight also announced plans to address the potential risk of exclusion. These include a further investment of £30 million (€39.7 million) over the next three years to help low-income families to buy computers and connect to broadband internet for school work; and a £600 000 (€794 000) pilot project, run by Becta in co-operation with key industry players, specifically looking at lowering the cost of devices and connectivity and informing parents about the educational benefits of a home computer.

He further confirmed that the government's 'Home Access Taskforce', set up last year, will issue clear recommendations in April on making universal home access a reality – particularly in disadvantaged areas. "We have to find a way to make access universal, or else it's not fair. More than a million children – and their families – have no access to a computer in the home," he added.

The UK government has invested £5 billion (€6.6 billion) in school ICT since 1997, with another £837 million (€1 107 million) earmarked over the next three years – leaving it with the highest levels of embedded technology in classrooms in the European Union and one computer for every three pupils.

**Further information:**

- [Department for Children, Schools and Families \(DFES\) – Press notice](#)
  - [Department for Children, Schools and Families \(DFES\)](#)
  - [BECTA – Schools](#)
  - [BECTA](#)
  - [Real-time reporting](#)
  - [Department for Children, Schools and Families \(DFES\) – eConsultation](#)
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## HU: One-stop job portal for civil servants

*The beginning of the year has seen the launch of a new on-line service in Hungary aimed at centralising the recruitment of civil servants through an on-line 'one-stop' job portal – [Kozigallas](#).*

The Human Resources Department of the Prime Minister's Office launched the new website at the beginning of January, announcing it as a real milestone in the modernisation of Hungarian public administration. The site lists all vacancies in the Hungarian civil service, providing a single point of contact for all those interested in pursuing a career in public administration.

The aim of the new service is to help make the application process for jobs in public administration easier and more transparent, and to provide a service for the public administration job sector that matches services already available in the private sector.

Any Hungarian citizen of legal age, and with at least a secondary education, can use the on-line services offered. Both would-be civil servants and those looking to change their job can search the database for vacant positions. They can also register as job-seekers so that public bodies with positions available can contact them. For certain vacancies, it will be possible to send applications electronically, or to submit a letter of motivation on-line.

### Further information:

- [Job portal](#) (in Hungarian)
  - [KSZK](#) (in Hungarian)
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## LT: Launch of Electronic Servicing System for insurers

*In a first for a Lithuanian state institution, the Lithuanian Social Insurance Fund – [SODRA](#) – is introducing a new on-line system for communicating with its clients using certified eSignatures.*

Users will be able to employ the new Electronic Servicing System for Insurers (EDAS) to find information in the SODRA databases and to submit their social insurance notifications and applications. Access to the service is limited to those whose identity has been verified by way of eBanking systems or a qualified electronic certificate.

In order to make full use of all of the EDAS' functions, an insurer must first obtain a qualified electronic certificate (Class 3), the necessary secure equipment for Generation eSignature and a contract with one or more Lithuanian banks for the provision of eBanking services. However, for the simple submission of applications or the location of relevant information on the 'Insurer's Portal' it is necessary only to be a user of eBanking services.

Once logged into the insurer's section of the system, a user is able to draft electronic social insurance notifications, as well as to track the status of submitted social insurance notifications, and to find information on contributions paid, employed and dismissed employees and other records in the database. They may also submit applications for various certificates issued by SODRA.

Technophobic insurers need not worry, however: the new system will not entirely supersede the previous one. As SODRA Director Mindaugas Mikaila points out: "Insurers who are still not ready to communicate with SODRA on-line can submit their signed social insurance notifications in hard copies to the territorial offices of SODRA, as before."

### Further information:

- [Vtv.lt](#) (in Lithuanian)
  - [Lithuanian Social Insurance Fund \(SODRA\)](#)
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## HU: New eAlert service for citizens

*The Hungarian Central Office for Administration and Electronic Public Services has announced a new service to provide citizens with free e-mail alerts reminding them of deadlines for the renewal of official documents.*

By the end of January, clients of the government's central portal or 'Client Gate' ([Ügyfélkapu](#)) will start receiving free e-mail alerts about their expiring documents: ID cards, driving licences and passports. Three e-mails will be sent at different intervals before and on the expiry date. Each person with a 'Client Gate' account will receive the e-mail alerts automatically, although it is possible to both unsubscribe and re-subscribe at a later date. The service will be provided by KEKKH, a new government agency that was set up on 1 January 2007. Client Gate (Ügyfélkapu) is a standard eGovernment citizen portal and identification system that went on-line on 1 April 2005. As of early January 2008, it held over 570 000 registered accounts, with some 5 000 to 7 000 accounts being added to the system every week.

In addition to this new service, other services already available include taxation, customs and excise, state pension and health funds, plus at least 30 different services offered by municipalities. Enrolment forms for higher education institutions can also be submitted electronically.

According to a government official of KEKKH interviewed on state television last week, their office is currently streamlining the Client Gate website to make it more user-friendly. The intention is also to introduce a whole new range of eForms later this year. Secure electronic payment for eServices used is expected to become available sometime around December 2008.

### Further information:

- [Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services - Electronic Administration](#)
- [Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services](#)
- [Ekk](#)
- [Prim Online](#)
- [Mtv](#)
- [Hungary.hu](#)

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## HU: Going, going, gone – Hungarian Inland Revenue Office introduces eAuctions

*[APEH](#), the Hungarian Inland Revenue Office, has introduced eAuctions allowing the on-line sale, to the highest bidder, of goods seized by the tax authorities.*

As of 1 January 2008, an amendment to the Hungarian Act on Taxation makes it possible for the Tax Office to conduct auctions electronically. Available on the Tax Office website, the Electronic Auction Page is a virtual auction hall offering for sale movable property seized by the Tax Office from individuals and businesses with important tax arrears.

Auctions are free, open to anyone and are conducted anonymously. Participants must have a Client Gate account (a voluntary eAdministration service provided by the government) and must accept auctioning terms and conditions. Each item is available for a period of eight days. The highest bidder must pay a duty (10% of the item) and can subsequently collect the item at the competent regional tax office.

The objective of eAuctions is to combat the legal but unfair practice of auctioning companies and individuals colluding to drive down prices. In eAuctions, the prices start at 50% of the appraised value. In addition to ensuring fair play at auctions, eAuctioning is expected to increase state revenues. The first items were uploaded to the site on 7 January; bidding will start on 23 January and end on 30 January.

According to a Tax Office representative, if eAuctions of goods proves to be successful, the system may be extended to include real estate in January 2009.

**Further information:**

- [Hungarian Inland Revenue Office \(APEH\)](#)
  - [Origo – News Release](#)
  - [Electronic Auction Page](#)
  - [Ingatlanmagazin.com](#)
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**BG: New anti-corruption portal for citizens**

*The Bulgarian government has launched a new ‘anti-corruption portal’ aimed at providing citizens with a convenient – and anonymous – means of reporting incidences of corruption.*

Officially announced just before Christmas, the government's anticorruption portal – [www.anticorruption.bg](http://www.anticorruption.bg) – had already received 90 corruption reports by mid-January. Complainants are given the option to decide whether they wish to identify themselves or not. The government guarantees anonymity and has assured users that it has not installed any software capable of tracking down the source computer. The greatest number of complaints received to date concern medical professionals, policemen and customs officers. School teachers, managers of state-owned enterprises and municipal officials are also among those reported for corruption offences. However, so far there have been no complaints against senior government officials. Most of the cases reported seem to concern small-scale corruption. The web portal has implemented measures to ensure that each case is properly followed up. Once submitted, a corruption report cannot be erased from the system. The site offers track-and-trace functionality enabling complainants to see what happens next. Once the ball starts rolling, it becomes quite serious. Rather than just being published, the submitted reports are forwarded to the internal compliance units of the institutions concerned (known as inspectorates) for detailed investigation. There is a statutory period of two months within which the inspectorates must provide feedback. The period can be extended for cases of greater complexity.

At the end of the day, if the circumstances of the case are duly verified and confirmed, the wrongdoer is penalised. Depending on the gravity of the case, sanctions can vary from administrative measures to imprisonment.

The site is sponsored by USAID and forms part of the government's overall anti-corruption strategy. Other key state institutions in Bulgaria also maintain their own facilities for citizens to submit corruption complaints. These include the Ministry of Interior (<http://nocorr.mvr.bg/>), the Ministry of Defence (hotline), and the Commission for Protection of Competition (<http://www.cpc.bg/public/index.php?id=2363>).

**Further information:**

- [Government Portal](#) (in Bulgarian)
  - [Anticorruption Portal](#) (in Bulgarian)
  - [Ministry of Interior](#) (in Bulgarian)
  - [Commission for Protection of Competition](#) (in Bulgarian)
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**MT: Maltese Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) goes digital**

*The [Maltese Environment and Planning Authority](#) (MEPA) has introduced an on-line applications system for planning permission which brings together different platforms and technologies to provide a single, user-friendly service.*

The new MEPA portal provides access to electronic documents and correspondence on planning applications, registrations and notifications as required by the Development Planning Act, the Environment Protection Act and the relevant subsidiary legislation. Users are able to view application details, submit and pay for applications on-line and send/receive correspondences digitally, thus increasing participation, efficiency and transparency.

MEPA Chair Andrew Calleja, noted that the new system has already resulted in financial savings due to the reduction of paper use and lower postal costs. It has also facilitated the processing of application fees and freed up staff for other duties.

Access to the system is controlled by eID. There are different levels of access depending on the user, with architects having more extensive access to files and services than the general public. Transparency is a major concern, however, and the aim is to allow greater public participation in sometimes sensitive planning processes. To this effect, any architect registered with the authority will be allowed to access the details of an application, not just the architect directly concerned.

Minister for Industry, Investment and Information Technology Austin Gatt welcomed the new service as one of the most ambitious eGovernment services to be introduced in Malta to date. He noted that it is "part of an evolutionary process and is the reflection of a constantly evolving customer-centric programme that aims to provide the Maltese public with one of the most sophisticated eGovernment services available anywhere in Europe".

**Further information:**

- [MaltaMedia](#)
  - [Maltese Environment and Planning Authority \(MEPA\)](#)
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## **PL: eDeclarations introduced for Polish taxpayers**

*The new [eDeclarations system](#), introduced in Poland on 1 January 2008, will make it possible for every Polish taxpayer to submit their tax declaration electronically.*

Until now, only major taxpayers were able to submit their declarations on-line. With the new system, anyone with an electronic signature, and who has registered as an on-line client with the tax office, will be able to do so. The registration form can be downloaded from the eDeclaration site, but must be submitted in paper form. Once the registration request has been approved, the tax office will issue an eCertificate allowing the taxpayer access to the on-line services.

The eDeclarations site provides access to interactive on-line forms which, once completed, may be submitted electronically using an electronic signature. The site also provides regular news, a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section, and contact details for further assistance. Alternatively, certain software programs for financial management and accounting already provide options for the electronic submission of tax declarations directly from the taxpayer's system.

**Further information:**

- [Ministry of Finance](#) (in Polish)
  - [eDeclarations](#) (in Polish)
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## **SI: Farmers gain eAccess to Agricultural Holdings Registry**

*The Slovenian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Food has introduced a new service – the [eRKG](#) – allowing farmers and agricultural landowners on-line access to information held in the various national agricultural databases.*

Using their qualified digital certificates, owners of agricultural holdings can now have easy access to the data held on these holdings in the Registry of Agricultural Holdings and other national databases. The [eRKG](#) makes it possible for those concerned to browse through the information held in these databases, including records on land use, common pastures, registered wine and grape producers, etc. The new service covers the following main databases:

- the registry of agricultural holdings;
- the records on graphical units of land use;

- the common pastures registry;
- the registry of hops producers;
- the registry of olive producers;
- the registry of intensive fruit producers;
- the registry of extensive fruit producers (meadow orchards);
- the registry of grape and wine producers.

**Further information:**

- [e-uprava](#)
  - [Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food - eRKG](#)
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## **HU: New eInclusion initiative by NGOs**

*Coinciding with the launch of a Europe-wide eInclusion campaign, Hungarian NGOs are pushing for more investment and greater efforts to be put into this area.*

With the European Union inaugurating its 'eInclusion, be part of it!' campaign aiming to halve digital illiteracy by 2010 at the European Ministers' Meeting in Lisbon on 2-3 December 2007, NGOs in Hungary have taken the opportunity to highlight the situation in their country. Although Hungarian internet penetration figures are rapidly improving – last year the number of households making use of the internet rose by 14 % – it has been argued that it is easy to boost figures when they start from a low point. The total percentage of households with some access to the internet stands at a mere 35 %, and Inforum (the NGO coordinating the effort) has highlighted the lack of investment in eInclusion projects. Hungary has no digital social inclusion programme and the total funds spent on eInclusion for the disadvantaged (including the elderly, minority groups and the disabled) since 1989 is less than the cost of 300 metres of motorway construction.

To set the campaign in motion, on 29 November 2007, an eInclusion plan was presented to the IT subcommittee of the Hungarian Parliament's Economic and IT Committee. This led to the issuing of a statement of commitment to eInclusion by all five Hungarian parliamentary parties, in conjunction with Inforum, on 8 January this year. This was followed on 10 January by a statement from Inforum, in its capacity as a member of IVSZ (the Association of Hungarian IT Companies), calling for supporters for its campaign. A major exhibition focusing on IT for the over 50s has been scheduled to take place in Budapest this May.

The hope is that internet use will grow in the same way as mobile phone ownership has. Fifteen years ago, mobile phones were considered a luxury only the rich could afford – now mobile phone penetration in Hungary has reached 100 %.

**Further information:**

- [IVSZ Network](#) (in Hungarian)
  - [eInclusion.hu](#) (in Hungarian)
  - [minok](#) (in Hungarian)
  - [eInclusion.hu – Year of e-Inclusion 2008, Hungary](#) (in Hungarian)
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## **EU: Commission proposes new initiative to unlock innovations in eHealth**

*As part of the EU's broad-based innovation strategy, the European Commission has recently proposed the 'Lead Market Initiative for Europe' (LMI) in the aim to unlock market potential for innovative goods and services. Among the six promising markets selected in this framework is the eHealth market.*

The five other markets proposed to be covered by the LMI are: protective textiles, sustainable construction, recycling, bio-based products and renewable energies. The underlying approach for selecting such markets is demand-driven. Indeed, it has been assessed that eHealth and these other areas have a strong market potential within a rather short time frame.

The LMI's main features would consist of improving legislation, encouraging public procurement and developing interoperable standards in the selected market areas. For each of the six lead markets, the Commission calls for urgent policy coordination through an ambitious action plan.

The focus of the eHealth lead market action plan would be placed on ICT solutions for patients, medical services and payment institutions as these can help to deliver better care for less money. Other cornerstones of this action plan would be those of standardisation (e.g. of various information exchange formats), certification of systems and large-scale demonstration projects that could help to cope better with the issues arising from an 'ageing' Europe.

As a result of the LMI, European enterprises would profit from fair and better chances of entering new fast growing world-wide markets with a competitive advantage as lead producers. In particular, the initiative is expected to improve benefits for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), those being the dominant drivers of innovation. In addition, LMI would rapidly bring visible advantage for Europe's consumers in key welfare domains.

**Further information:**

- [PublicTechnology.net – Press release](#)
- [Rapid Press release](#)
- [Lead Market Initiative for Europe](#)
- [Accelerating the Development of the eHealth Market in Europe – ePractice Library item](#)

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## Latest Publications

- [MT: National ICT Strategy 2008-2010](#) 23 December 2007 | Malta

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### MT: National ICT Strategy 2008-2010

**Complete title:**

**The Smart Island**

**The National ICT Strategy for Malta 2008-2010**

Building upon the achievements of the previous [ICT Strategy 2004-2006](#), the National ICT Strategy for Malta 2008-2010 sets out a vision for Malta by 2010, that of the 'The Smart Island', one of the top 10 information societies in the world. According to the vision, in the Smart Island, the application of information and communication technology will be ubiquitous, the Internet will be a social equaliser and the ICT industry will be a main pillar of the economy.

After describing the successes of the past strategy in a chapter entitled 'State of Play', the present document maps out the path for achieving the 2010 vision. In this light, it identifies seven streams as follows:

- Delivering a next-generation ICT environment – An infrastructure that enables the pursuit of excellence;
- A Connected Society that bridges the last and the news miles – Making ICT a social equaliser;
- Developing the potential for a smart workforce – Investing in people and nurturing their abilities;
- Putting the 'e' in everything – Using IST for better quality of life;
- Re-inventing Government – Transforming public service delivery and enhancing governance;
- Taking care of e-Business – Creating wealth through ICT;
- Developing a world-leading ICT industry – Making ICT a pillar of the economy.

For each identified stream, the strategy establishes qualitative and quantitative targets for 2010 and a range of related actions and initiatives to be taken.

Original url: <http://www.miti.gov.mt>

Number of pages: 64

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## ePractice Workshops

ePractice.eu combines online and offline activities. Workshops are held on a monthly basis, giving participants the opportunity to discuss the latest issues and cases face-to-face. Registration, agenda and participant bios are available online before each workshop.

[eProcurement Forum Kick Off Workshop](#) 31 January 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[eIdentity workshop](#) 14 February 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[eInclusion: Users voice](#) 21 February 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[eGovernment Mobile Services](#) 3 March 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)  
[Management - eHealth](#) 6 March 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[eInclusion: Ageing well](#) 14 April 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[ePractice](#) 19 May 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[eInclusion: Digital literacy](#) 16 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)  
[Municipal eGovernment](#) 10 July 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[eInclusion: Special needs groups](#) 25 September 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)  
[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)

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

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## Upcoming Events

- [UK: Mobile and Flexible Working in the Public Sector](#) 23 January 2008 | United Kingdom
  - [ES: Second European Observatories Summit](#) 24 - 25 January 2008 | Spain
  - [UK: Conference 'Yorkshire Digital Eco-system'](#) 31 January 2008 | United Kingdom
  - [PL: Interoperability: Key to International Business](#) 6 - 7 February 2008 | Poland
  - [BE: Open meeting on the European ICT standardisation policy](#) 12 February 2008 | Belgium
  - [SI: Mid-term IDABC Conference 2008](#) 12 - 13 February 2008 | Slovenia
  - [CH: Net-ID 2008](#) 3 - 4 March 2008 | Switzerland
  - [DE: 4th International Conference I-ESA'08](#) 25 - 28 March 2008 | Germany
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## UK: Mobile and Flexible Working in the Public Sector

23 January 2008 | United Kingdom

*2008 edition of the conference on 'Mobile and Flexible Working in the Public Sector'*

Mobile working helps staff work out and about in the community, closer to the citizen; and flexible working practices ensure that services can be tailored to the citizen and delivered 24-7, as required by the United Kingdom's Transformational Government Agenda. With the new environmental agenda that makes cutting down on travel a necessity, and the constant need for efficiency savings, the productivity gains made possible by mobile and flexible working are vital to all modern public sector bodies.

This conference, to take place in London on 23 January 2008, aims to assist all public sector managers and their private sector partners interested in learning more about implementing flexible working

strategies enabled by new technologies, based on case studies. Communication and legal issues will also be addressed.

Registration can be performed [online](#), and participation requires the payment of a £295 fee (approx. € 413) plus VAT for public sector delegates, and £395 (approx € 553) plus VAT for private sector representatives. Those registering before 25 December 2007 will be offered a £100 (approx. €100) discount.

**Event website:** <http://www.headstar-events.com/flexible08/>

**Venue:** RIBA  
66 Portland Place  
W1B 1AD London  
United Kingdom

**Contact:** E-mail: [nicola@entevents.co.uk](mailto:nicola@entevents.co.uk)

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## **ES: Second European Observatories Summit**

24 - 25 January 2008 | Spain

*'Measuring the Information Society'*

The Spanish Telecommunications and Information Society Observatory red.es is organising the 2nd European Observatories Summit: 'Measuring the Information Society', to be held in Madrid, Spain, on 24-25 January 2008.

The main objective of the event is for the participating ICT Observatories and Institutions to find synergies by sharing studies, experiences and methodological initiatives and to reach an agreement regarding methodological strategies and harmonised ICT indicators. The following topics will be covered:

- Core indicators and measurement of ICT, and best practices in coordination experiences;
- Studies on: eGovernment, eBusiness, eInclusion, eHealth, eLearning, eCommerce, eSkills, ICT Sector, etc.

Top-level speakers from the most representative Institutions involved in the measurement of ICT in Europe, as well as experts from ICT Observatories, research centres and other related Institutions will be present at the event.

Registration to the event is available [online](#). Those interested in presenting paper(s)/communication(s) during the Summit must complete an [online](#) form and bear in mind the criteria established for the papers/speeches.

The Summit's draft programme is now available [online](#).

**Venue:** Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade  
Paseo de la Castellana, 160  
28071 Madrid  
Spain

**Contact:** E-mail: [secretaria@2ndeuropeansummit.com](mailto:secretaria@2ndeuropeansummit.com)

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## UK: Conference ‘Yorkshire Digital Eco-system’

31 January 2008 | United Kingdom

*“Yorkshire Digital eco-system” – removing the barriers*

This one-day conference aims to define answers to overcome barriers to eGovernment at local level by demonstrating recognised EU best practices and assessing the results of current EU- funded projects. It will demonstrate how a new regional initiative currently being developed with the support of Yorkshire Forward will help create a "digital eco-system".

Work carried out by EASY Connects, culminating in the winning of the EU Best Practice Award, will be the focal point and will be complemented by demonstration from several other EU funded research projects, contributing to the evolution of the digital eco-system; [FASTeTEN](#), [W-SPES](#) and [EU-Pay](#) projects.

Further initiatives and new project proposals will be discussed in order that this initiative will remain at the cutting edge in the future and to be always ahead of the EU strategy in order to maintain the lead which this initiative will give the local economy.

A key part of the event will be revealing the strategy to allow SMEs to be truly interoperable between themselves as well as with public bodies by directly tackling existing problems of compatibility between different accounting systems. The event flyer is [available](#) for more information on the issues to be covered.

The event is free-of-charge, but those wishing to participate may send their name, organisation, position within the organisation and email contact to [shaun.topham@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:shaun.topham@ukonline.co.uk).

This one-day conference aims to define answers to overcome barriers to eGovernment at local level by demonstrating recognised EU best practices and assessing the results of current EU- funded projects. It will demonstrate how a new regional initiative currently being developed with the support of Yorkshire Forward will help create a "digital eco-system".

Work carried out by EASY Connects, culminating in the winning of the EU Best Practice Award, will be the focal point and will be complemented by demonstration from several other EU funded research projects, contributing to the evolution of the digital eco-system; [FASTeTEN](#), [W-SPES](#) and [EU-Pay](#) projects.

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## **PL: Interoperability: Key to International Business**

6 - 7 February 2008 | Poland

*'Interoperability: Key to International Business – the role of ICT Standards'*

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN), in collaboration with the European Committee for Electro technical Standardization (CENELEC), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) are organising a conference on 'Interoperability: Key to International Business – The role of ICT standards', to be held in Warsaw (Poland) on 6-7 February 2008.

The event is officially supported by the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Secretariat, and hosted by the Polish Committee for Standardization (PKN).

The Conference will provide an international platform for business and technical decision makers and other stakeholders to exchange views and anticipate necessary interoperability developments in standardisation that will help market-driven solutions.

Key conference themes will include:

- Home and Building Electronic Systems;
- eBusiness Interoperability;
- Radio Frequency Identification Devices;
- Entertainment Applications;
- Case Studies on Interoperability - eHealth, eLearning, eSkills, eGovernment;
- Technical Interoperability and Quality of Standards.

About 250 participants are expected to attend. Registration is available [online](#) and the registration fee for attending is €100.

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

**Venue:** Intercontinental Warszawa Poland  
49 Ul. Emili Plater str.  
PI- 00-125, Warsaw  
Poland

**Contact:** E-mail: [info@cenelec.org](mailto:info@cenelec.org)

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## **BE: Open meeting on the European ICT standardisation policy**

12 February 2008 | Belgium

*'European ICT standardisation policy at a crossroads: A new direction for global success'*

The European Commission is organising an open meeting in Brussels on 12 February 2008 on the European ICT standardisation policy. Mr Günter Verheugen, the European Commission Vice-President responsible for Enterprise and Industry will open the conference.

Information and Communication Technology services and applications are developing fast in today's global economy. At the same time, ICT products and services have become an integral part of our everyday life. Europe must create an environment which meets both industry's needs and society's

expectations; to promote the competitiveness of European industry while ensuring that all citizens can further benefit from the opportunities created by the Information Society.

The European standardisation system aims to balance industrial requirements with society's expectations and to provide public authorities with the standards they need to help them implement legislation in support of agreed policies. However, there were concerns that the European ICT standardisation policy could not respond to these expectations to the degree required. The European Commission therefore launched a study on '[The specific policy needs for ICT standardisation](#)' in order to analyse the current state of the European ICT standardisation policy and to present recommendations for its future development. First discussions on the results of the study, including its recommendations for a new policy direction, have been held with a number of key stakeholders.

Given the critical importance of an efficient European ICT standardisation policy, the European Commission is therefore organising this meeting with a view to present and discuss the study recommendations more widely with all interested parties.

The meeting will be held in English. However, there will be simultaneous translation to French, German, Italian and Spanish if it is required by the attendants in their registration form before 31 December 2007. Participation is free-of-charge and registration is available [online](#). Deadline for registering is set for 15 January.

**Event website:** [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/cf2008\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/cf2008_en.htm)

**Venue:** European Commission  
Charlemagne Building  
170 Rue de la Loi (Wetstraat)  
BE-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

**Contact:** E-mail: [ENTR-ICT-STANDARDISATION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ENTR-ICT-STANDARDISATION@ec.europa.eu)

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## **SI: Mid-term IDABC Conference 2008**

**12 - 13 February 2008 | Slovenia**

*European eGovernment Services Conference: IDABC and beyond*

The mid-term IDABC conference is a part of the eGovernment days (11-13 February 2008) organised jointly by the Slovenian Government and the European Commission. The eGovernment days will first feature the [Slovenian Presidency's eGovernment conference "Alliance with users"](#) on 11 February. The IDABC mid-term conference will follow on the next two days (12-13 February). Both conferences will be held in the same venue.

Taking place under the theme "IDABC and beyond", the mid-term IDABC conference aims to demonstrate the achievements of the IDABC programme so far and to introduce a vision for a possible future follow-on programme. Two plenary sessions will cover both aspects.

Keynote speeches are to be delivered by Mr. Virant, Slovenia's Public Administration Minister, Mr. Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission, and Mr. García Morán, Director General for Informatics of the European Commission.

Topics to be covered are likely to include eIDs, the mutual recognition of eSignatures, European Interoperability Framework, Services Directive, the new ePractice portal, Projects of Common Interest, Open Standards, etc. Furthermore, a set of three parallel sessions will respectively address the themes of: Security & Infrastructure; European eGovernment Services; and Collaborative platforms.

The expected number of participants of the mid-term IDABC conference is 250. Registration for the event will be on-line, by invitation only. In case places are available, registration will open as of January 2008 to the public.

More information is to be available shortly at the IDABC website.

**Event website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/conference2008>

**Venue:** Brdo  
Slovenia

**Contact:** E-mail: N/A

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## **CH: Net-ID 2008**

**3 - 4 March 2008 | Switzerland**

*European Conference Net-ID 2008 – Identity, Trust, Privacy and Security in Europe*

The 2008 Net-ID conference on 'Identity, Trust, Privacy and Security in Europe', will take place on 3-4 March 2008, in Basel, Switzerland, during the Swiss year of computer sciences. The previous editions respectively took place in Cologne, Germany (Net-ID 2005) and Berlin (Net-ID 2006 and Net-ID 2007).

This fourth edition of Net-ID will provide an overview on topical concepts, methods and experiences in Identity Management. Beside industrial aspects, focus will be placed this year on eGovernment projects and solutions.

All speeches will be held in English by worldwide high-level experts.

**Event website:** <http://www.computas.de/html/netid08.html>

**Venue:** Ramada Plaza  
Messeplatz 12  
Basel, CH 4058  
Switzerland

**Contact:** E-mail: [info@computas.de](mailto:info@computas.de)

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## **DE: 4th International Conference I-ESA'08**

**25 - 28 March 2008 | Germany**

*4th Conference on Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications – Science meets Industry*

I-ESA'08, the fourth in a series of conferences on Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications, will take place in Berlin, Germany, from 25 to 28 March 2008. Under the motto "Science meets Industry", this I-ESA edition is organised by Fraunhofer IPK and jointly promoted by the European Virtual Laboratory for Enterprise Interoperability ([INTEROP VLAB](#)) and the Enterprise Interoperability Centre – [EIC](#).

I-ESA will bring together international researchers and practitioners in the area of enterprise interoperability. Participants will be provided with a forum for the exchange of visions, ideas, research results and experiences, dealing with a wealth of interoperability research subjects for business, enterprise applications and software.

The call for submissions is now open in the following areas (non restrictive list): Business Aspects of Interoperability; Interoperability Scenarios; Systems engineering in the context of interoperability; Specification and Implementation; Architectures and Frameworks; Enterprise Modeling for Enterprise Interoperability; SW – Platforms; Semantics for Enterprise Interoperability.

Interested parties are also invited to submit proposals for workshops to be held in conjunction with the main conference. Workshops proposals should explore new interoperability issues that are not covered by the main conference; problems and solutions in areas coming from not only enterprise software and applications, but also from eHealth, mobile services, as well as end-user software and applications to social and financial issues related to the introduction of interoperability.

Full paper submission deadline is 30 September 2007. Author notification is due for 31 October 2007.

**Event website:** <http://www.i-esa.org>

**Venue:** Production Technology Centre  
Technical University  
Global Production Engineering  
Pascalstrasse 8-9  
D-10587 Berlin  
Germany

**Contact:** E-mail: [I-ESA@ipk.fraunhofer.de](mailto:I-ESA@ipk.fraunhofer.de)

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