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European ePractice Newsletter

N. 249 - 23 September 2008

>> Registration open for the "eInclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities" workshop

Although there is a prevailing view that immigrants and ethnic minorities face particular problems in accessing and using ICTs, this assertion is by no means supported by the evidence. The picture is complex, and it will be analysed in a new ePractice.eu workshop to be held in Brussels on November 13. This hands-on seminar will explore several key themes related to eInclusion and immigration in the EU, which will be illustrated with relevant case studies presentations and interactive discussion groups. If you are interested in this free event, you may register now at epractice.eu/workshop/einclusionresults

>> Free Administrative Burden workshop in Brussels

The final agenda for the ePractice.eu Administrative Burden workshop on November 25 in Brussels is already available online. During this free event, participants will learn about the actions undertaken by the EC for measuring and reducing administrative burden and will be provided with an up to date overview of the latest activities of the Standard Cost Model Network. Keynote speeches will be delivered by senior EC representatives, Mr. Pascal Collotte (DG INFSO) and Ms. Kari Bjorke (DG Enterprise). The workshop will also analyse several good practice cases showing how administrative burden is successfully being reduced for business, citizens and governments along Europe. Register now online at epractice.eu/workshop/adminburden

>> Call for papers: Key enablers for eTransformation?

The European Commission's eGovernment Action Plan considers innovations in eIdentification, interoperability and open source software to be eGov key enablers. Will these initiatives make possible the efficient and correct operation of public administration eServices? What does the evidence suggest? Against this background, the European Journal of ePractice invites contributions that marshal empirical evidence, such as case studies, surveys or ethnographic studies of the effectiveness of OSS. The deadline for article submissions is 1 October, 2008. For more information, please visit the [call for papers](#).

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

Latest Cases

- [E-Billing and E-Payment for local communities](#) 18 September 2008 |

Editor's Choice of the week: [Digitising Austria's Code of Reimbursement](#)

E-Billing and E-Payment for local communities

eGovernment applications have to benefit both the citizen and the administration. www.buergerportal.at is an internet portal in service since 2003 aiming to be the interface between the administration and the citizen. Today, about 350 Austrian communities use this internet portal as an interface with their citizens, who can receive their bills via internet signed with a digital signature and download several forms. Among the benefits for the local administrations using this service are back-office integration and cost/time efficiency.

Latest News

- [EU: eLearning Papers calls for contributions on Digital Literacy](#) 22 September 2008 | EU Institutions
 - [IT/EU: Eldy releases Linux version](#) 22 September 2008 | Italy, Pan European
 - [RO: The new voice of public websites](#) 22 September 2008 | Romania
 - [CH: Guiding eGovernment architecture](#) 22 September 2008 | Switzerland
 - [EU/FR: Handinnov Europe Prize 2008 – Call for applications](#) 19 September 2008 | France, Pan European
 - [PL: Poles ePay for public services](#) 19 September 2008 | Poland
 - [EU: Vice-President Kallas launches new online eProcurement helpdesk](#) 18 September 2008 | EU Institutions
-

EU: eLearning Papers calls for contributions on Digital Literacy 22 September 2008

Digital publication 'eLearning Papers' is calling for contributions to enhance the European learning communities' approach to the 21st century Literacies' Agenda. The deadline for the submission of the articles is 10 November 2008.

eLearning Papers invites the members of the European and international research and practice community to submit papers which would – indicatively and not exhaustively - address the following themes:

- Digital Literacy, Information Literacy and Media Literacy: defining competencies and skills;
- Digital Literacy as a Key Competency: positioning in the set of other (basic/key) Competencies;
- Digital Literacy and School Curriculum;
- The Learning-to-learn Competency development agenda: the relation to Digital Literacy;
- The Social (e)inclusion agenda in the lifelong learning perspective;
- Digital Literacy, eSkills and Professional Development;
- eSkills and the Learning Organization;
- Digital literacy and critical thinking.

The eLearning Papers publication has been created as part of the 'elearningeuropa.info' portal. This portal is an initiative of the European Commission to promote the use of multimedia technologies and the Internet at the service of education and training.

Further information:

- [eLearning Papers' call for contributions \(original article\)](#)
 - Contact editorial@elearningeuropa.info
 - elearningeuropa.info portal
-

IT/EU: Eldy releases Linux version 22 September 2008

'Eldy', the first freeware to bring the computer and Internet to the elderly, has released a Linux version, thus allowing a lower cost of ownership for the computer.

Counting over 150 000 users in Italy, Eldy is a java platform enabling seniors to use email, browse the web, chat, get weather information, see digital pictures, streaming, etc, in a clear Graphical User Interface (GUI), with big labels in a friendly language.

Until now, Eldy was for MS Windows only. The release of the Linux version allows the Eldy platform to be used in different environments. Eldy Linux, as Eldy itself, is free of charge and free of commercials.

A particular application is the "trashware", the re-use of old computers for new uses, which typically recalls for the Linux environment. Some computers from Public Administration offices can be easily recycled for library or social

centres, using Linux and Eldy Linux. Lowering the cost of ownership of a computer is seen as an important way to achieve eInclusion.

Further information:

- [Eldy case in ePractice](#)
 - [Eldy website](#)
 - [Eldy Linux](#)
-

RO: The new voice of public websites 22 September 2008

The Romanian Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies (MCIT) has launched a speaking version of its website in a bid to help increase the accessibility of public services.

The speaking version of the MCIT website was officially launched on 3 September 2008, becoming the first 'talking' public authority website in Romania. The content of the pages is read by a voice synthesiser, needing only the keyboard for navigation.

This eAccessibility action is aimed at ensuring equal access for the blind and partially sighted, people suffering dyslexia, and those who did not have proper access to education. According to national statistics, Romania counts approximately 240 000 sight impaired people, whose right to information is the same as that of any other citizen. The new facility also provides visitors with advanced zoomed page visualisation, with/without changing colours, for a maximum contrast suited to each viewer.

Access to public information is one of the basic principles of the state-citizen relationship and the MCIT has committed itself to promoting the 'access for all' concept, aimed at removing all barriers and sources of discrimination. In addition to the launch of this website, MCIT has also published a guide for the development of public authority websites, highlighting accessibility issues in particular. The guide provides an overview of internationally accepted accessibility requirements.

Further information:

- [Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies – Press release \(in Romanian\)](#)
-

CH: Guiding eGovernment architecture 22 September 2008

A new "Swiss eGovernment Architecture Community" (SEAC), bringing together industry, government authorities and academia, aims to set guidelines for next-generation IT architectures in the Swiss public sector.

According to the [Swiss eGovernment Strategy](#) published in 2007, the Swiss eGovernment Architecture is to support, among other targets, the electronic handling of all communications between businesses and public bodies, as well as the electronic information exchange among public bodies.

The Swiss eGovernment strategy further states that this architecture should make it possible for citizens to handle their most important communications with the Public Administration by electronic means. Last but not least, the Swiss eGovernment architecture should facilitate the modernisation of processes within the Swiss Public Administration.

The newly established Swiss eGovernment Architecture Community (SEAC) has been put in place by the Swiss Federal Department of Finance (FED), which has overall responsibility for ICT within the country's Federal Administration.

The main goals to be pursued by the SEAC members are officially reported as follows:

- Participate actively in the eGovernment architecture development process;
- Implement the eGovernment architecture within their local responsibility and their local scope;
- Harmonise their local architectures with the local architectures of other community members;
- Exchange architecture results with the colleagues from the community, even if they are of local scope;
- Review artefacts presented to the community and give appropriate feedback;

- Identify the necessity for additional standards and propose this to the community;
- Provide advising to the “eGovernment Steering Committee” and the “eGovernment Board of Experts”.

It is to be noted that SEAC is “a virtual community” where “regular electronic communication should take place.”

Further information:

- [HERA project website – Official press release](#)
- [Swiss eGovernment Strategy](#)

EU/FR: Handinnov Europe Prize 2008 – Call for applications 19 September 2008

The Handinnov Europe Prize 2008 will be awarded to organisations having introduced exemplary practices in favour of young disabled people, at Member States or at pan-European level. The deadline for applying is 25 September 2008.

Within the framework of the French Presidency of the European Union (EU), the fifth Handinnov competition is open to the 27 Member States of the European Union. As one organisation is awarded per country, there will be 27 awards in total. It is to be noted that trans-European projects will also be acknowledged.

Eligible actions are defined as “Any innovative and good practice enhancing the social inclusion of young disabled people in school, university, working life and society in its broadest sense.”

The competition is open in particular to associations, schools, training centres, local authorities and public bodies. The competitors must be legally registered in one of the Member States of the EU.

Applications from those interested, are to be submitted by email to their national correspondent by 25 September 2008. Additional information regarding the submission procedure can be found [online](#), together with the list of official national correspondents.

All winners will gather in Paris, in November 2008.

Further information:

- [Handinnov Europe competition 2008](#)
- Contact email handinnov@onisep.fr

PL: Poles ePay for public services 19 September 2008

A new PaybyNet service will allow Polish citizens to pay for public services via the Internet.

The Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration’s Public Administration eServices Platform (ePUAP) will soon allow users to pay online for public administration services. The PayByNet system will also contain a system for generating electronic payment receipts.

The PayByNet system, set up by the National Chamber of Settlements, will enable citizens to transfer money directly to the necessary public authority, which means they will be able to handle many official matters without leaving the comfort of their homes.

Prior to this latest development, ePUAP, the platform used by public services to deliver their services online, had no mechanism for online payment. Thanks to PayByNet, every office using ePUAP will be entitled to collect payments from citizens via the Internet.

The platform is set to become the main public eService platform. According to available statistics in August 2008, there are 14 458 ePUAP accounts for R&D institutions, budgetary units, public utility companies, national and private joint-stock companies and general partnerships.

PayByNet will come on stream after testing has been completed and the Ministry and the Chamber give the system their final seal of approval.

Further information:

- [Press release – ePUAP \(in Polish\)](#)

- [Serwis Samorządowy PAP - News article \(in Polish\)](#)
-

EU: Vice-President Kallas launches new online eProcurement helpdesk 18 September 2008

The EU Commissioner and Commission's Vice-President Mr. Siim Kallas announced today (18 September 2008) the launch of the helpdesk service for eProcurement demonstrators. Mr. Kallas was speaking at the conference on cross-border use of eSignature in eProcurement.

This helpdesk targets eProcurement practitioners who are interested in developing or improving their eProcurement systems. It provides assistance in using the [eProcurement learning demonstrators](#), ready-to-use software applications which have been created to help public administrations in Europe to set up their eProcurement system along the lines of the EU legislation.

The eProcurement learning demonstrators simulate functional requirements for public procurement systems based on the Public Procurement Directives and give a look and feel of how such systems could look like. They have the facility to be multilingual and can be easily translated into other languages. On the other hand, the demonstrators are not off-the-shelf software and their adaptation and customisation is needed. The demonstrators are developed in Open Source and are [freely available](#) under the [European Union Public Licence](#).

A new updated version of the eProcurement demonstrators is being prepared at the present and it will be available as from mid-November 2008.

Further information:

- [eProcurement helpdesk](#)
 - [eProcurement demonstrators: detailed description](#)
 - [Conference on cross-border use of eSignature in eProcurement](#)
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Latest Publications

- [BR: e-Participatory Budgeting: e-Democracy from theory to success?](#) 17 September 2008 | Central and South America
 - [GL: Electronic Health Records: A Global Perspective White Paper](#) 5 September 2008 | Asia, North America, Pan European
 - [INT: Towards Information Literacy Indicators](#) 18 July 2008 | International Organizations
 - [EU/US: Report on International dimension of eGovernment – July 2007 version](#) 31 July 2007 | EU Institutions, North America
-

BR: e-Participatory Budgeting: e-Democracy from theory to success? 17 September 2008

Complete title:

e-Participatory Budgeting: e-Democracy from theory to success?

Description (short summary): This paper concerns the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a strategy for reinforcing democratic processes - broadly defined as "electronic democracy" practices - and focuses on the use of ICTs in participatory democracy initiatives. By considering the experience of the e-Participatory Budgeting in the city of Belo Horizonte (Brazil), the aim is to understand some of the possible prospects and limitations offered by ICTs in participatory processes at the local level.

Considering the fact that the e-Participatory Budgeting took place in a city with 1.7 million electors and attained a level of participation of nearly 10 %, the e-Participatory Budgeting of Belo Horizonte is, by any standards, one of the most significant initiatives in the world in the domain of e-democracy to have been implemented so far.

Among other findings, this paper argues that even though the use of ICTs was essential to the success of the initiative, other factors were also crucial in accomplishing such a level of participation, notably: i) the scope of the

public works at stake; ii) the salience of the initiative and iii) citizens' perception of their actual impact in the decision-making process.

It is expected that the outcomes of this incipient research will contribute to the literature on electronic and participatory democracy, as well as providing a policy evaluation of the use of ICTs at the local level in a large-scale participatory initiative.

Original URL: <http://www.edemocracycentre.ch/edcadmin/images/>

Number of pages: 25

GL: Electronic Health Records: A Global Perspective White Paper 5 September 2008

Complete title:
Electronic Health Records: A Global Perspective
August 2008

Description (short summary): Recognizing common threads that affect all Electronic Health Records (EHR) implementations in 15 countries, the Global Enterprise Task Force of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) has released "Electronic Health Records: A Global Perspective." The extensive study reviewed healthcare IT progress in Europe, Asia Pacific, Middle East and North America.

The 16-member task force looked at various EHR components within each country, including, security, quality, financing sources and barriers to adoption. Amid many variations, four common factors emerged that affect implementation of the electronic health record throughout the world. They are:

- Funding
- Governance
- Standardization and interoperability
- Communication

Original URL:
<http://www.himss.org/ASP/ContentRedirector.asp?ContentId=68380&type=HIMSSNewsItem>

Number of pages: 122

INT: Towards Information Literacy Indicators 18 July 2008

Complete title:
Towards Information Literacy Indicators
Vers des indicateurs de la maîtrise de l'information

Description (short summary): This document provides a basic conceptual framework for measuring information literacy and is designed to serve as a reference to facilitate the elaboration of information literacy indicators.

Original URL: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=26596&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Number of pages: 44

EU/US: Report on International dimension of eGovernment – July 2007 version 31 July 2007

Complete title:
Bringing Together and Accelerating eGovernment Research in EU
International dimension: Europe – North America
July 2007 version

Description (short summary): Governments in both the United States and the European Union have understood the beneficial impacts of eGovernment to accomplish reform, by establishing transparent, seamless services of quality, reducing costs and administrative burden, and empowering citizens to participate in the political process. Although priorities and goals do not differ substantially, strategies and action plans present key differences.

Research is considered to be one of those points marking the difference between the USA and the EU. In the EU the main source of support for eGovernment research is the European Commission (EC), while in the USA research is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Moreover, the USA have additional sources of funding from other federal agencies, eGovernment initiatives by State governments, and some industry support. Nevertheless, when comparing research initiatives in eGovernment, one should take into account the fact that the EU consists of a federation of independent Member States, while the USA have a different structure of federation.

In the USA many federal agencies fund eGovernment research, because they have identified a number of specific issues to be addressed. On the other hand, eGovernment research in the EU has been described as visionary but vaguely formulated. A close look at the new EU Member States suggests that eGovernment related funding by the EC supports pure implementation. As a result, the eGovernment efforts of these states concentrate on bridging the gap between themselves and the established countries, particularly the northern and western Member States. Funding implementation rather than research may thus be a convincing argument for the less advanced Member States; however it cannot hold for the northern and western countries, where the reasons for little research remain unclear.

In the EU, high priority has been given to research actions that focus on security and flexibility of large, complex, open and interrelated infrastructures. In the USA after September 11th, security is also considered of high priority in the government's agenda: according to the Federal Chief Information Officer, the eGovernment vision encompasses a Federal Government that strategically, efficiently and effectively uses Information Technology to serve and protect the citizens. In this respect, eAuthentication in Europe and the United States is further analysed within this report.

Original URL:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/egovernment/studies/trendswatch/index_en.htm

Number of pages: 30

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.

- [enclusion: People with disabilities](#) 25 September 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [FASTeTEN secure infrastructure workshop](#) 15 October 2008 | Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)
- [enclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities](#) 13 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [Administrative burden](#) 25 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [Service Deployment](#) 9 February 2009 | Brussels (Belgium)

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

Upcoming Events

- [BE: Ambient Assisted Living \(AAL\) Policy Workshop](#) 25 - 26 September 2008 | Belgium
- [AT: FIS 2008](#) 28 - 30 September 2008 | Austria
- [DE: E-Invoicing & EBPP – 4th European EXPP Summit 2008](#) 29 - 30 September 2008 | Germany
- [AT: EDem2008](#) 29 - 30 September 2008 | Austria
- [BE: FoCus Final Conference](#) 29 September 2008 | Belgium
- [SI: 8th Festival for third life period](#) 30 September - 2 October 2008 | Slovenia
- [UK: Open Standards Forum 2008](#) 30 September - 3 October 2008 | United Kingdom
- [BG: Conference “Improving Performance and Innovation in Public Administration”](#) 1 - 2 October 2008 | Bulgaria
- [FR: Conference “Internet of Things - Internet of the Future”](#) 6 - 7 October 2008 | France

- [DE: 4th Conference on eServices in European Civil Registration](#) 9 - 10 October 2008 | Germany
 - [FR: Connecting Public Services Communities](#) 15 October 2008 | France
 - [ES: Public Launch of OSOR.EU](#) 20 October 2008 | Spain
 - [IT: ESIG 2 – 2nd European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment](#) 20 - 22 October 2008 | Italy
 - [PT: 3rd International Strategic Procurement Conference](#) 12 November 2008 | Portugal
 - [DK: World of Health IT 08 – Conference & Exhibition](#) 4 - 6 November 2008 | Denmark
 - [FR: ICT 2008](#) 25 - 27 November 2008 | France
-

BE: Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Policy Workshop

25 - 26 September 2008

Joint AAL Association / AALIANCE Workshop on Ambient Assisted Living Policy in Europe

The goal of this workshop is to create a comprehensive vision of the R&D and policy needs for ambient assisted living technologies and to suggest strategies that may serve as a roadmap for industry, service providers, academia and policy makers. An intensive exchange of ideas shall support the building of an Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) community that may gather as project consortia in the future.

The workshop will consist of keynote speeches and four consecutive round table discussions, each opened by dedicated impulse speakers:

- Older people at home;
- Aging in Society;
- Aging at Work;
- AAL Community building.

Experts are asked to prepare short statements on different aspects of ambient assisted living technology trends in the different user domains, social-institutional aspects and R&D support and AAL community building.

In order to ensure a high intensity of discussion, participation in this workshop will be limited to a total of about 80 persons. Interested experts are asked to apply for participation (including a description of their proposed contribution) on the AALIANCE website. Experts will be carefully selected based on the relevance of their announced contribution to the discussion on the workshop topic and taking into account the importance of their attendance for the workshop goal.

Participation to this event is free of charge. Applications are to be performed [online](#) by the deadline of 5 September 2008.

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: AALIANCE in collaboration with the European Commission

Event website: <http://www.aaliance.eu/public/policy-workshop>

Event email: aaliance@aaliance.eu

AT: FIS 2008

28 - 30 September 2008

Future Internet Symposium 2008

The programme of first Future Internet Symposium will be international in scope, and focused on research, especially that which crosses the traditional boundaries of our field. It will host:

- Original research papers;
- Invited talks from leading academic and industrial researchers;

- Workshops;
- Panel sessions;
- Tutorials.

The symposium will be highly interdisciplinary, open to all scientific areas, with an emphasis on the technologies driving the development of Web 3.0: semantics and services. Research should address the key challenges facing the Internet:

- Scalability in the face of peer-to-peer traffic, decentralisation, and increased openness;
- Trust when government, medical, financial, personal data are increasingly trusted to the cloud, and middleware will increasingly use dynamic service selection;
- Interoperability of semantic data and metadata, and of services which will be dynamically orchestrated;
- Pervasive usability for users of mobile devices, different languages, cultures and physical abilities;
- Mobility for users who expect a seamless experience across spaces, devices, and velocities.

Country: Austria

City/Location: Vienna

Event website: <http://www.fis2008.org/>

Contact Email: j.b.domingue@open.ac.uk

Event email: j.b.domingue@open.ac.uk

DE: E-Invoicing & EBPP – 4th European EXPP Summit 2008

29 - 30 September 2008

E-Invoicing and Electronic Bill Presentment & Payment – 4th European EXPP Summit 2008

The European congress about E-Invoicing and Electronic Bill Presentment & Payment (EBPP) is intended to give companies dealing with E-Invoicing a broad overview and essential know-how for their own E-Invoicing projects.

First-rate speakers from the European Expert Group for Electronic Invoicing, Finnish and Spanish Government, The Netherlands Tax and Customs Administration, Swedbank, Royal Bank of Scotland, British Telecom and many more will report on their successful experiences with E-Invoicing.

Topics to be addressed cover, among others: the optimisation of Procure-to-Pay and Financial-Supply-Chain; Standards; Legal requirements; Market rollout; Interoperability.

Key insights include:

- Market trends and perspectives;
- Workflow-based processing of incoming invoices;
- Electronic Invoicing initiatives of Spanish Banks;
- Value Added E-Services for Shared Services Clients;
- E-Invoicing and VAT management;
- Workflow-based processing of incoming invoices;
- How to break through in B2C E-Billing;
- VAT compliance and E-Signatures;
- Panel-Discussion: Roll-Out Strategies.

In addition, delegates will have access to the exhibition area where 30 of the leading solution and service providers present state-of-the-art E-Invoicing solutions. 350-450 delegates from 30 countries are expected. Registration can be performed [online](#) at the event website. Attendance fees range from €1 050 to € 1 400.

ePractice members can profit of **10 % discount** on the registration fee simply inserting "epractice.eu" in the Registration Code field of the registration form.

Country: Germany

Event website: <http://www.expp-summit.com/>

Contact Email: stephan.mayer@expp-summit.com

Event email: stephan.mayer@expp-summit.com

AT: EDem2008

29 - 30 September 2008

International Conference for Electronic Democracy

An event organised by the Centre for e-Government of the Department for Governance and Public Administration, of the Danube University of Krems (Austria) in cooperation with the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, the conference EDem 2008 will take place on 29-30 September 2008 in Krems.

Various existing eDemocracy applications encompass the entire democratic process. In this context several questions arise, including:

- To what extent can eDemocracy support and enrich our democracy?
- What and where are the interfaces and methods that can be used to integrate eParticipation in present politics public administration processes?
- How can we ensure that the greatest number of people are reached and are able to use the means of participation?
- How can the modern media support political education?
- How can the Internet increase participation in political discussion?
- What are the limitations and the risks of eDemocracy?

The EDem2008 conference is intended to provide the opportunity to look into these questions and discuss the answers. During the conference, experiences will be collected, examples of good and bad practice analysed, and the State-of-the-Art and future scenarios will be presented and discussed.

The [final programme](#) of the event has been made available.

Participation to the conference will require the payment of a €95 fee. Those wishing to participate as guests should contact noella.edelmann@donau-uni.ac.at by email. Registration can now be performed [online](#) on the event website.

Event website: <http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/de/departement/gpa/telematik/veranstaltungen/id/11094/index.php?URL=/de/departement/gpa/telematik/11094>

Venue:

Danube University of Krems
Department for Governance & Public Administration
Centre for E-Government
Dr.-Karl-Dorrek-Straße 30
3500 Krems
Austria

Contact email: noella.edelmann@donau-uni.ac.at

BE: FoCus Final Conference

29 September 2008

Regional e-Business policies – Training multipliers in the field of e-Business support

Main objective of the FoCus project is to foster synergies between public policies in support of eBusiness for SMEs. More precisely, it focuses on development and implementation of trainings for multipliers and capacity building with regard to planning and implementing eBusiness support measures.

In this context, guidelines and training material for regional actors in the field of e-Business policies were developed and implemented. Those guidelines and training material give regional actors the opportunity for self-assessing their knowledge in a short amount of time and reflecting on current e-business policies in the region.

Besides the training modules FoCus also provides face-to-face training workshops and helpdesk sessions in Second Life. In training workshops participants are trained in planning, implementing and evaluating e-business policies.

At the FoCus final conference, partners will present project's results, including the FoCus Training Concept and information on the regional workshops. The event's preliminary agenda is available online at the [event's website](#).

Participation to the conference is free of charge. Interested participants are invited to contact grillea@mfg.de for registering to this event.

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: MFG Baden-Württemberg mbH

Event website: http://www.focus-project.eu/focus_conference.html

Event email: grillea@mfg.de

SI: 8th Festival for third life period

30 September - 2 October 2008

8th Festival for third life period – 'For tolerant and social coexistence of all generations'

With over 100 000 visitors expected, this festival is the biggest of its kind in Europe, with more than 120 exhibitors, as well as 60 participating associations and groups. Almost all of the major Slovene governmental and non-governmental organisations dealing with problems of ageing population will be taking part in the Festival.

Organised within the framework of the "e-Inclusion: Be Part of It!" campaign, this year's edition will feature around 20 lectures and 20 roundtables presenting experts knowledge and good practice with regard to the quality of life, the promotion of social and eInclusion of the elderly and the invention of new positive approaches on intergenerational cooperation. One of the most important parts of this year's edition is the 'Park of solutions for a better life' whose aim is to present the good readymade solutions and services, as well as good practice.

The 'Park of solutions for a better life' will consist of two main parts, as follows:

- Exhibition of ICT based-solutions and services for a better life for the elderly and people with disabilities. To be presented are e.g.: text to voice software, finger operated household, telerehabilitation, telediagnosics, etc. Some of these solutions are produced by Slovene High-tech companies;
- Educational events for the general public and expert public. The covered subjects will have to do with the economical aspect of the usage of technological solutions for long-term health and social care, from technology to solutions, as well as the European good practices pertaining to the usage of technology-based solutions in social and health care, etc.

Besides the exhibition of high-tech products, solutions and possible services, an international round table entitled "[Information Society for All: Inclusion of elderly people and disabled persons in eServices](#)" will take place on 1 October; many Slovenian experts and experts from abroad will participate, together with representatives of the European Commission and civil society, as well as providers of computer equipment and technological solutions.

The round table participants will present examples of European practices; they will exchange their opinions and experiences and point out new ideas that could be useful for Slovenia's policy for involving elderly people and disabled persons in the programme.

The main topics of the round table are:

- Social and economical meaning of involvement of elderly people and disabled persons in the programme of eServices;
- Needs of elderly people and disabled persons as users of contemporary eServices;
- Motivation and qualification of elderly people and disabled persons;
- Examples of good practices from European Union and international cooperation;
- Opportunity for developers and service providers;
- Slovene vision and short presentation of the project, financed by Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

The visit of the festival and the participation in the round table are free of charge and open to all. All participants are invited to register using the online registration form available at the event website.

Country: Slovenia

City/Location: Ljubljana

Organiser: Inštitut Hevrekla!

Event website: <http://www.f3zo.si>

Event email: simona.bezjak@f3zo.si

UK: Open Standards Forum 2008

30 September - 3 October 2008

Open Standards Forum 2008 – “Security Challenges for the Information Society”

In today's Internet and in many large private network infrastructures, heterogeneity and diversity are the rule rather than the exception. Security infrastructures need open standards and interoperability to scale to the huge deployments that are being rolled out. Many security standards support a model where identity authentication, access control, digital signature processing, encryption and key management are provided as services that can be distributed and shared.

The 2008 Open Standards Forum is intended to give those who are evaluating or deploying security infrastructures an opportunity to explore the current and future state of security services, standards and products. The three days event features a wide range of plenary sessions, keynotes and panels which cover, among others topics: Digital signatures, Security & Access Management, Working across borders; eIdentity, eID interoperability, Privacy & Trust, Federated Technologies etc. For more information, the [preliminary schedule](#) has been made available.

The Forum's program is specifically directed to IT leaders and professionals, including:

- Security Project/Programme Managers;
- IT Architects;
- Lead Designers;
- Identity / access control specialists;
- Information Systems Security Professionals;
- Security Officers;
- Telecom, healthcare, government sector IT specialists.

Advanced registration is open until 29 August 2008 and can be performed [online](#) at the event website. The advanced registration fee is \$500 (approx. €315) for OASIS members and \$800 (approx. €504) for non members.

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: Berkshire (near London)

Organiser: Open standards consortium OASIS

Event email: events@oasis-open.org

BG: Conference “Improving Performance and Innovation in Public Administration”

1 - 2 October 2008

“Improving Performance and Innovation in Public Administration: analysis and researches among European eGovernment experiences”

After the international conference held in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 8 October 2007 in collaboration with the local Government, the organisers continue to carry out a programmed series of conventions in Europe coinciding with the annual publication of the e-Government Volume. As every year, the publication is supported by the European Union and many EU Member States.

The edition 2008 “Improving Performance and Innovation in Public Administration: analyses and researches among European eGovernment experiences” will be presented in this event in Sofia in collaboration with the local Ministry of State Administration and Administrative Reform and the Italian Department of Public Administration.

The [conference](#) will be an opportunity to consider the provision of knowledge and skills concerning local ICT development in Bulgaria, but also an important occasion to illustrate a qualified analysis of different experiences gained by European Public Administrations in the field of technological innovation. Moreover, in order to give the event a more scientific value, a commission of authoritative characters and experts from universities and businesses will be asked to take part.

Apart from supplying a complete and well-constructed overview of the current developments and trends in eGovernment sphere, the conference will be specifically aimed at:

- Introducing the European public the e-Government Volume published every year;
- Introducing the best know-how of Bulgaria and foreign Public Administration institutions and private sector undertakings, while exchanging opinions and networking with representatives of the institutions of EU Member States;
- Introducing the condition and the developmental guidelines pertaining to eGovernance in Bulgaria and discuss multifunctional solutions that could boost a dialogue between public administration institutions, businesses and citizen, as well as impact on effective implementation of both the eGovernance and eEurope concepts;
- Discussing objectives, criteria, and methods to be used in eGovernance policy in order to achieve better effectiveness for the Bulgarian public sector and a greater competitive ability for the state.

Registration to this open event is to be performed by email sent to progetti@eurospacegroup.com or to comunicazione@eurospacegroup.com by 15 September 2008. There is no attendance fee.

Country: Bulgaria

City/Location: Sofia

Organiser: Eurospace s.r.l.

Event website: www.eurospacegroup.com

Event email: progetti@eurospacegroup.com

FR: Conference “Internet of Things - Internet of the Future”

6 - 7 October 2008

Building tomorrow's Internet together

The conference “Internet of Things – Internet of the Future” held under the auspices of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, is the third event in a series of major European expert conferences. The event reflects one further step in the evolution towards the Internet of the Future. It will concentrate on the following two areas:

- aspects related to the development of the mobile Internet;
- the industrial and technological perspectives necessary for the development of the Internet of Things.

Its objectives are as follows:

- to identify and discuss the technological state-of-the-art, future trends, as well as opportunities and challenges;
- to stimulate the creation of an industrial initiative in the area of value added Internet services while promoting research and development at a European level in order to further develop the necessary technologies;
- to provide the opportunity to strengthen the links between the European partners. This rapprochement underlines the symbolic importance of the creation of a European framework for the development of the Internet of the Future.

The conference sessions will address, among other topics:

- Which right to privacy in the light of the Internet of Things?
- Main areas of application of the Internet of Things;
- Challenges & technological perspectives;
- Applications and services of the mobile Internet;
- Interoperability and standards: development scenarios;
- The governance of the Internet of Things.

Participation to the conference is free of charge. Those wishing to register may complete and submit the dedicated [online form](#).

Country: France

City/Location: Nice

Organiser: French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Employment in co-operation with the European Commission

Event website: <http://www.internet2008.eu/>

Event email: contact@items-int.eu

DE: 4th Conference on eServices in European Civil Registration

9 - 10 October 2008

4th Conference on eServices in European Civil Registration

The 4th Conference on eServices in European Civil Registration will focus on the strategies and solutions which have been produced in the Member States to meet the challenges in a future-oriented European civil registration. As a platform for stakeholders in European civil registration, representatives of local, national and EU administrations and cooperating industries, this conference aims to communicate the visions and the answers found.

For the first time the conference offers this year an exhibition of companies and organisations involved in civil registration. The exhibition gives the opportunity to deepen issues of the conference and to discuss topics with experts in more detail. The conference topics include:

- Latest developments in European population registration systems;
- Population registration: Central or decentralised approaches?
- Enforcing cross-border data protection in Europe;
- Existing and future European registry information services;
- EU Services Directive and European eIdentity Management.

More details on the programme have been made available [online](#). Participating to the conference requires the payment of a fee of €75 for representatives of public bodies, and €300 for attendees of private organisations. Registration is open until 30 September 2008.

Country: Germany

City/Location: Berlin

Organiser: RISER consortium

Event website: <http://www.riserid.eu>

Event email: conference@riserid.eu

FR: Connecting Public Services Communities

15 October 2008

General Workshop “Connecting Public Services Communities” – eGovernment Cross-Border Interoperability Policy Shaping Action

Taking place within the [World e-Democracy Forum 2008](#), this half day event is organised on the occasion of the presentation of the exclusive edition of the European Review of Political Technologies, dedicated entirely to Cross-Border Interoperability.

“Connecting Public Services Communities” is an initiative launched with the aim of stimulating debate and promoting the exchange of good practices among the EU Member States and eGovernment stakeholders, to successfully meet the challenges raised by the Lisbon [eGovernment Ministerial Declaration](#) with regard to Cross-Border Interoperability; an essential pillar for the set-up of pan-European eGovernment services, and a key enabler for an Internal Market without electronic barriers.

Besides the presentation of the publication, this event will bring together high-level representatives from the EU Member States, the European Commission, experts from the academia and research centres, as well as representatives from the private sector, who will participate in a discussion panel sharing their views, experiences and opinions on Cross-Border Interoperability.

More details on the event’s programme are available on the dedicated [brochure](#).

Attendance to the event is free of charge and open to the participation of everyone interested. Those interested are invited to send an informal email to j.castillo@eipa.eu indicating their interest in participating.

Country: France

City/Location: Issy-les-Moulineaux, Paris

Organiser: European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) in cooperation with the Politech Institute

Event email: j.castillo@eipa.eu

ES: Public Launch of OSOR.EU

20 October 2008

Public Launch of the Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations (OSOR.EU)

The event will mark the official launch of OSOR.EU, the [Open Source Observatory and Repository for European Public Administrations](#), a platform actively supporting the sharing of OSS-based eGovernment applications and experiences across Europe – connecting EU services and Member States.

This one day event is part of the [Open Source World Conference](#) (20-22 October 2008), organised by the Junta de Extremadura and the Junta de Andalucía, Spain. The day's sessions are dedicated to presenting:

- The OSOR project, platform and services;
- A small panel of users of the platform and the interactions with other European Commission projects related to Open Source.

One separate session will feature a workshop on public procurement and Open source Software. This workshop aims at presenting and discussing the OSOR Guidelines on public procurement and FLOSS (Free Libre Open Source Software). In addition to providing specific guidance on how to handle FLOSS, some of the questions intended to be answered are:

- How is FLOSS treated by public procurement?
- What are the current practices in Member States?

For more information, the [draft agenda](#) has been made available. Registration for this event is now closed.

Country: Spain

City/Location: Málaga

Organiser: Directorate General for Informatics (IDABC) of the European Commission

Event website: <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7735>

IT: ESIG 2 – 2nd European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment

20 - 22 October 2008

ESIG 2 – 2nd European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment

ESIG 2 is the second edition of the European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment; the [first summit](#) was held on 22-24 November 2006 in Valencia, Spain. An [interim conference](#) also took place last year in Rome, Italy, on 11-12 October 2007. The Second Summit is intended to be an unprecedented occasion for:

- Enhancing the role of European regions with respect to the priorities of Interoperability as a key element for the efficient, sustainable and equal development of eGovernment and for the creation of an intelligent and innovative European Government, fostering the development of the Knowledge Society, a higher European integration, a substantial increase of competitiveness and productivity of the EU in the international scenario;
- Analysing the European Interoperability Framework produced by IDABC, as a model for the adaptation and comparison of the single European regional frameworks for Interoperability;
- Verifying the state of the art and promoting successful initiatives in the field of Interoperability in Europe;
- Proceeding concretely in the constitution of ERNI (European Regional Network for Interoperability) and the other European tools proposed by the Valencia Declaration.

Furthermore, during the Summit, the [iG 2.0 Award](#) will also be given to the most outstanding action or initiative in the field of interoperability. Participation to the Summit is open and free-of-charge. Registration can be performed [online](#) at the event website.

Country: Italy

City/Location: Rome

Organiser: Lazio Region, Regional Ministry for Consumer Protection and Administrative Simplification

Event website: <http://www.esiig2.it/esiig2/index.php>

Contact Email: esiig2@regione.lazio.it

Event email: esiig2@regione.lazio.it

PT: 3rd International Strategic Procurement Conference

12 November 2008

3rd International Strategic Procurement Conference – Compras 2008

The objectives of the 3rd International Strategic Procurement Conference are as follows:

- To present new concepts and operational tools of strategic procurement;
- To share the most recent practices and trends of strategic sourcing and eProcurement;
- To highlight winning experiences and their key success factors;
- To present the global trends of strategic procurement;
- To identify the procurement competitiveness factors in the private sector;
- To debate the challenges related to the new Public Procurement Code of Portugal (DI n° 18/2008 of 29 of January 2008);
- To promote a commercial relationship platform with the Angolan market.

The event is free of charge and open to the participation of all interested persons, but the number of seats is limited. Therefore, those interested are requested to confirm their participation by 7 November 2008, by email sent to info@leadership-bc.com or by phone at +351 213 581 060. Registration can otherwise be performed via the [online form](#) (only available in Portuguese currently). More details on this conference will soon be made available in English on a dedicated website.

Country: Portugal

City/Location: Lisbon

Organiser: Leadership Business Consulting

Event website: <http://www.conferencia-compras.com/>

Contact Email: info@leadership-bc.com

Event email: info@leadership-bc.com

DK: World of Health IT 08 – Conference & Exhibition

4 - 6 November 2008

Connecting Leaders in Technology and Healthcare

Because the adoption of IT in healthcare is a global initiative, this conference will focus on the role and impact of Health IT on the health sector in Europe and other parts of the world, including the Middle East and Africa (EMEA).

The event is being designed by and for clinicians and other health professionals; health IT users and buyers; directors and administrators; informatics professionals; academicians; relevant standardisation and competent authorities on an international level and national level, and vendors such as software and hardware development companies and professional services firms. Topics to be addressed in the conference include:

- eHealth as a Key Enabler in Integrated Healthcare and Citizen Empowerment;
- Organisational Readiness for Transformation in Healthcare;
- Investing for eHealth Deployment;
- Innovation and eHealth.
- The conference will offer the following:
 - Keynote addresses by leading healthcare experts, practitioners, and officials from EU and national governments;
 - Education sessions about timely healthcare IT trends and issues;
 - Best practices and real-world case studies from throughout the EMEA region;
 - A trade exhibition where companies can showcase their products/services.

The educational sessions will primarily address experiences from deployed services, and focus on proven benefits in quality and efficiency. The demonstration activities and exhibition will give insight into the practical aspects of IT systems and their connectivity. All proposals for the call for papers must be submitted [online](#) by Monday, 11 February at 17:00 CET.

Country: Denmark

City/Location: Copenhagen

Organisers: European Commission's General-Directorate for Information Society and Media together with the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), the European Institute for Health records (EuroRec), the European Health Telematics Association (EHTEL), the European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry (COCIR) and the Health Information Network Europe (HINE).

Event website: <http://www.worldofhealthit.org/>

Event email: jbartley@himss.org

FR: ICT 2008

25 - 27 November 2008

"I's 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. The call for proposals for networking sessions will remain [open](#) until 16 June 2008. The registration details will be available later in the year at the dedicated section of the event website.

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

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