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European ePractice Newsletter

N. 220 - 30 January 2008

>> 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

>> ePractice.eu workshop on European eidentity experiences

On February 14 ePractice.eu will celebrate a free 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. More information at epractice.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 Bidegaine, 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. For more information visit epractice.eu/workshop/usersvoice

>> eHealth workshop postponed

The eHealth ePractice.eu workshop originally scheduled on March 6th has been postponed to July. New details regarding the change of date and venue will be soon available at epractice.eu/workshop/eHealthmanagement. We apologize for the inconveniences.

>> Municipal eGovernment workshop: change of date

The Municipal eGovernment ePractice.eu workshop has been changed from July 10 to March 6, 2008. Registration for this free event to be held in Brussels is already open at epractice.eu/workshop/MunicipaleGovernment.

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

- [ECHO 14 Points: Humanitarian Aid Reporting System](#) 30 January 2008 | EU Institutions
- [Building activity notification dematerialized and on-line](#) 28 January 2008 | Italy
- [Multi-channel Participatory Budgeting](#) 25 January 2008 | Central and South America
- [Acquisti On line Piemonte](#) 24 January 2008 | Italy
- [Consensus citizens in network](#) 23 January 2008 | Spain
- [eTEN Procure](#) 23 January 2008 | Czech Republic, France, Spain, Sweden
- [Somerset Broadplaces](#) 23 January 2008 | United Kingdom
- [The new way of working and e-government](#) 23 January 2008 | Netherlands

Editor's Choice of the week: [My File: consulting personal data in the National Register \(Belgium\)](#)

ECHO 14 Points: Humanitarian Aid Reporting System

ECHO 14 POINTS is a web-based telematic network which supports the electronic exchange of information between the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), European Union Member States and UN-OCHA, concerning governments' funding decisions in the humanitarian aid sector. The need to develop such a system is due to the notable increase in the frequency of serious crises in the world. It also reflects the EU's willingness to play an integral coordination role in international humanitarian actions. It is against this background that the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) was established in 1992. The ECHO 14 POINTS system allows remote data entry directly by the Member States, via a telematic network. Using web technologies Member States can directly enter and modify data remotely. This allows rapid dissemination through the Internet as soon as the information is posted by a Member State, meeting the operational coordination requirements of other Member States and interested parties. A password protected module allows Member States to exchange information on their plans using the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol. The system periodically transfers ECHO's and Member States' input to OCHA's consolidated international database, further reducing manual data entry and encoding errors by each public administration.

Building activity notification dematerialized and on-line

The starting point of the "DIA on-line project" was the so called "Electronic management of building authorization". However the experiences and lessons learnt suggested the City of Prato to select a simpler administrative procedure among all kind of building authorisations to address mainly specific categories of already skilled and motivated users, in order to try to achieve a full de-materialisation in that field. The final result of this new experience is a completely on-line and dematerialised service

supporting the Administrative procedure of the so called “Starting building activity declaration”, which is the most frequently used one and also the simplest one in relation to the kind of documents that have to be managed in an electronic way. The entire process of: a) declaration submission; b) management of agenda of appointment with city civil servants for technical discussion and clarification; c) city planning data and regulation consultation; d) sending of city council acceptance/refusal; e) receiving any alerting via SMS and e-mail related to all the events that can occur during the process, and f) performing any related payment, can be now managed on-line.

Multi-channel Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting (PB) - where citizens participate in the decision-making process of budget allocation - has been considered as one of the main innovations that aim to reinforce accountability at local and regional level. Since 2001, the city of Ipatinga (Brazil) has used the Internet as a supplementary means for citizens to indicate public works that they wish to see submitted to vote at PB (in loco) meetings, whereas prior to 2001 community leaders collected written indications from citizens during neighbourhood gatherings. In 2005, supported by an intense media campaign (TV, radio, newspapers), the city administration launched a pioneering experiment in four of its nine districts using mobile and telephony in its PB as a supplementary information and consultation tool. The results of this experience provides practitioners with empirically grounded policy-lessons in multi-channel eDemocracy.

Acquisti On line Piemonte

The eProcurement project was launched by Piedmont Region in 2002 and became operational in 2003, with the aim of setting up a regional service targeting all the Public Administration regional offices able to manage electronically, over the Internet, calls for tenders and their awarding, electronic catalogues and Framework agreements. The service, developed and set up in collaboration with CSI-Piemonte, the supporting partner, offers a web purchasing portal and a specific IT platform to manage tenders via Web, consultancy and user assistance services, training included (traditional and e-learning).

Consensus citizens in network

Consensus is an e-Participation platform for the local administration area. Impulsed by Jaume Bofill Foundation, Localret Consortium and the Catalan Institute of Technology in 2000, it is currently used by 73 catalan municipalities. It is designed with the aim of informing, consulting and allowing citizens' participation through the Internet in in-person processes developed in the municipalities. It has several applications and functionalities adaptable to the city council needs in order to facilitate citizen participation.

eTEN Procure

The PROCURE project aims at enabling the dissemination of the e-tendering platform used in Burgundy in others European regions creating thus a first interregional network of mutualised e-procurement platforms. By strengthening access to information and making possible direct e-tendering and e-bidding, these interregional mutualised platforms would simplify both the work of persons in charge of public procurement and local economic operators (especially SME's) with public bodies. PROCURE will also explore cross-borders issues linked to interoperability and legal framework in compliance with the Lisbon Agenda. Weak dissemination and lack of concurrence are the main problems that the public entities have to tackle while organizing calls for bids. Also, many firms and especially the smallest of them are often prone not to participate in the public supplies because of fragmented announcements and complicated formalities. However, the communication technologies allow a new approach to the public purchasing, leveraging on the dematerialization of procurement procedures. The PROCURE project has for main objective to adapt, develop and deploy the existing Burgundy public procurement dematerialization service (www.e-bourgogne.fr). By launching new regional e-procurement sites, this solution will provide a wide range of new useful tools such as a trans-European functionality or an electronic safe for the tender's legal documents. To ensure the effective adoption of the solution by local actors, the deployment will be preceded by the studies on local law and on the market issues in each region. Then, all appropriate channels will be used to communicate with the targeted groups. Furthermore, experiments are conducted simultaneously in all of the regions, but

with individualized management providing speedy feedback and adjustments which will permit the PROCURE solution to remain as close as possible to local market expectations.

Somerset Broadplaces

Somerset Broadplaces helps individuals in rural parts of Somerset to experience and learn about the Internet and computers. PC-based equipment and a broadband connection is provided to selected communities at the venue of their choice. The venue could be a village hall, community shop or pub. Training courses are held in a variety of topics to equip individuals to make full use of the Internet. A major funder is Somerset Rural Renaissance, who have this page describing the project: <http://www.somerset-rural-renaissance.co.uk/projects-somerset-broadplaces.html>

The new way of working and e-government

In order to improve the provision of services to the civilians, many municipalities are implementing new technologies for their operating processes. Often insufficient light is shed on what this means to the work of the municipal officials. The A+O fund Municipalities gave the assignment to carry out a research at nine municipalities to examine what had changed with regard to the work of employees as a result of the implementation of new technologies. The research demonstrates that the work of the employees will change radically, however, the precise effects are difficult to describe.

Latest News

- [EU: Europe-wide mobilisation to celebrate Data Protection Day 2008](#) 29 January 2008 | Pan European
 - [UK: eService helps make the most of government care](#) 28 January 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [ES: Electoral register on-line](#) 28 January 2008 | Spain
 - [UK: Checking for fingerprints – the new UK visa system](#) 28 January 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [PT: Education portal launched](#) 28 January 2008 | Portugal
 - [UK: London launches new 'Olympic' eProcurement site](#) 28 January 2008 | United Kingdom
 - [IT: Fire Service answers questions on-line](#) 28 January 2008 | Italy
 - [AT: eVoting contest – which system is safest?](#) 28 January 2008 | Austria
 - [IT: On-line monitoring of work permit applications](#) 28 January 2008 | Italy
 - [MT: National ICT Strategy 2008-2010 launched](#) 24 January 2008 | Malta
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EU: Europe-wide mobilisation to celebrate Data Protection Day 2008

The Council of Europe has celebrated the Data Protection Day on 28 January 2008 with the support of the European Commission. A majority of EU Member States and candidate countries, several EFTA countries as well as the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) have engaged in the initiative by organising or committing to organise awareness-raising events during or around that day.

On 26 April 2006, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to launch a Data Protection Day of the Council of Europe (CoE) to be held each year on 28 January. The 2008 Data Protection Day marks the second edition of the initiative.

The CoE's initiative originates from the following observation: Despite the presence of data protection issues (including their cross-border dimension) in citizens' lives, European citizens are generally unfamiliar with these issues and unaware of their rights in this respect.

The ultimate goal of the Data Protection Day is to inform citizens from all over Europe of their rights and

of good practice in the field of Data Protection, thereby enabling them to exercise these rights more effectively. In this light, each interested CoE member state as well as national or international bodies have been invited to organise awareness-raising events on a voluntary basis and at their level, with their own resources.

The list of participating countries and organisations is available under “Activities 2008” at the [Council of Europe](#) website.

Further information:

- [Data Protection Day 2008](#)

UK: eService helps make the most of government care

The [City of Edinburgh Council](#) has introduced a new on-line service – CareBooking – aimed at improving both access to, and optimal use of, the care services provided by the local authorities.

At some point in their lives, many people find themselves becoming full-time carers for a sick or disabled member of the family. This may be a husband or wife, a parent or a child. Whatever the situation, this is often a heavy burden for the person concerned, so being able to hand over their responsibility to a care centre for a short period of time is a vital form of support.

The provision of ‘respite’ or ‘short-break’ care is a key priority for many local authorities in the UK which recognise the need for this type of service. However, many of them suffer from a severe underutilisation of the services on offer, with occupancy rates of just over 50 % being commonplace. This results in wasted funds, with purchased provision not being used and clients missing out on care services.

The introduction of the on-line booking and management system, provided by [OLM](#), has already led to significant improvements for the City of Edinburgh. Suitable care is now located and allocated much faster, cancelled beds are rebooked and detailed market intelligence is collected to inform future commissioning strategies. Some €185 000 worth of care beds that were previously being lost through cancellation are now being rebooked and further efficiencies are being made in staff time and communication.

In due course, the aim is to extend the services covered by the system to include areas such as childcare services, home care and other social support services.

Further information:

- [PublicTechnology.net](#)
- [The City of Edinburgh Council](#)
- [OLM](#)

ES: Electoral register on-line

In the run-up to elections this March, Spanish voters can go on-line to check their entry in the electoral register.

The service is being provided over the electoral campaign period by Spain’s [National Statistical Institute](#) so that voters can be sure that their correct details are on the register. Initially, the current electoral roll will be available. Later on, it will be replaced by a corrected version which takes account of voters’ amendments. Entries can be checked on-line in any of five national and regional languages.

Two options are available to those consulting the register on-line. If a digital certificate is used, the voter will be able to see his or her own full entry on the electoral register. In the absence of a digital certificate, the site can still be accessed. However, for reasons of security and confidentiality, the only information visible will be the date and place at which the person concerned should vote. So those who do not yet have a digital identity card will have to check the electoral roll the old-fashioned way – by going round to the town hall or phoning the registrar's office.

The service will remain on-line at <https://censoelectoral.ine.es/> until national elections are held to the Spanish parliament, the Cortes Generales, on 9 March. The vote concerns all 350 seats in the lower house, the Congress of Deputies, as well as the 208 directly elected seats in the upper house, the Senate.

Further information:

- [Ministry for Public Administrations – Press release \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [National Statistical Institute](#)
- [Electoral register on-line \(in Spanish\)](#)

UK: Checking for fingerprints – the new UK visa system

The UK [Home Office](#) has announced that it has completed its global system for checking the fingerprints of visa applicants, ahead of both time and budget.

Home Office Minister, Liam Byrne, announced biometric checks are already being carried out on UK visa applications. The system currently covers visa applications from 133 countries, approximately 75 % of the world's population. In place since the beginning of January, biometric cross-checking with UK databases has already helped the Home Office identify nearly 500 cases of identity fraud, it claims. So far, fingerprints have been taken from more than a million visa applicants, 10 000 of whom were found to have previous immigration or asylum cases.

Byrne said that fingerprint checking was a key part of the largest shake-up of UK border security and immigration system for 40 years. Other changes announced by the minister include the introduction of compulsory ID cards for foreign nationals by the end of the year. They are also pressing ahead with plans for a biometric ID card for UK citizens, despite opposition from politicians and civil liberties groups and concerns over spiralling budgets.

Further information:

- [Kable news](#)
- [UK Home Office](#)

PT: Education portal launched

More than 30 education sites will be grouped in a new education portal to be launched by the Portuguese [Ministry of Education](#) in spring 2008.

The aim is to ensure “rapid, easy access to content that is useful to citizens” by avoiding information overlaps. Significant cost savings are expected from efficiency gains in the use of human, technical and financial resources. Accessibility for citizens with special needs is one of the priorities set for the portal. The final design should be ready by the end of March.

The portal is also seen as a platform for eLearning. Its functions will include content sharing, distance learning and communication between teachers and pupils outside school hours. Teachers will be able

to download exercises and use digital textbooks, while pupils will have a digital portfolio of their work.

It is all part of Portugal's [Technological Plan for Education](#) which aims to place it among the five most advanced European countries in the technological modernisation of teaching. By 2010, Portugal plans to have one internet-connected computer for every two pupils in its schools. The current Portuguese figure is 12.8 pupils per internet-connected computer, and the EU-15 average in 2006 was 8.3 pupils.

Other future steps under the plan include a 'School Card' which will serve as an electronic purse for pupils as well as enabling checks on their arrivals and departures and their presence in class. It may also give them access to electronic banking.

Further information:

- [Portuguese Ministry of Education \(in Portuguese\)](#)
- [Technological Plan for Education \(in Portuguese\)](#)

UK: London launches new 'Olympic' eProcurement site

A new on-line service, providing businesses with information on and access to the many business opportunities linked to the [London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games](#), was launched on 17 January 2008.

[CompeteFor](#) was developed by the [London Development Agency](#) (LDA) in close collaboration with the [London Business Network](#) and London 2012. Its aim is to improve access to London 2012 business opportunities for enterprises of all sizes, and to increase the transparency and ease of the procurement process.

The London 2012 games are expected to generate around 7 000 direct contracts which, including the suppliers further down the chain, will represent around 75 000 opportunities for business and over €8 billion in potential revenue.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and London Organising Committee (LOCOG) will advertise their direct contract opportunities on the site, and contractors appointed will also be encouraged to advertise their supply-chain opportunities through the system. Companies using the system will be required to complete a 'business profile' which will be checked against a number of minimum standards requirements. Where standards are not met, companies will be automatically referred to their local [Business Link](#) support service which will help them to refine their offer.

The London Business Network will make efforts to ensure that this initiative is advertised as widely as possible in the business community, and a 'Get Set 2012 Roadshow' will visit every London borough over the next three months to increase awareness in small and medium-sized London companies.

Further information:

- [PublicTechnology.net](#)
- [Kable](#)
- [CompeteFor](#)
- [London Development Agency](#)
- [London Business Network](#)
- [London 2012](#)
- [Business Link](#)

IT: Fire Service answers questions on-line

Sixty of Italy's regional fire services have introduced an on-line system for answering questions about the prevention of fires. The service is aimed at companies and professionals, as well as the general public.

Continuing the Italian Fire Service's efforts to make greater use of the internet, 60 regional commands are now able to receive questions on-line about fire prevention. They will respond to any queries connected to compliance with the law on the prevention of fires. In particular, they will give advice on planning, waivers and the issuing and renewal of fire-protection certificates. The website (www.vigilfuoco.it) also includes general information on procedures for fire prevention, applicable to and accessible throughout the whole of Italy.

Once logged on to the site, members of the public, professionals and companies are able to proceed from the Service's home page to areas dedicated to their needs. There is also a more general public consultation area which includes a detailed guide to the new on-line services. This resource will run in tandem with that on the Civil Service's website for companies (www.impresa.gov.it), which answers questions specific to the activities of firms in relation to fire prevention.

Further information:

- [eGovernment portal for citizens – Press release \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Ministry of the Interior – Press release \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Fire Brigade – Press release \(in Italian\)](#)
- [eGovernment portal for business \(in Italian\)](#)

AT: eVoting contest – which system is safest?

What is the best Open Source solution for secure eVoting? To find out, a unique competition has been launched in Austria.

Anyone, anywhere who is interested in electronic voting and election systems can enter the eVoting Competition 2008 – “especially young programmers, enthusiasts from the community, university groups and the like”. But it is strictly Open Source. Businesses or people who are commercially active in the field of eVoting are barred.

The winning projects will be “available for licence-free use”. The challenge is to solve “the problem of distinctly identifying the elector while securing the anonymity of the vote”. The three finalists will face the toughest test. In a hacking contest on 6 August 2008, experienced hackers will do their level best to break into them.

Organising the competition is the Competence Center for Electronic Voting and Participation – [E-Voting.CC](#) – an Austrian-based charity which advises on eVoting techniques and provides election observers. Between 6 and 8 August 2008, it will be holding the Third International Conference on Electronic Voting in Bregenz, Austria. The eVoting competition will be the curtain-raiser for that event. Also behind the contest is the [Internet Foundation Austria](#) (IPA), a non-profit organisation set up by Austria's internet service providers.

The competition rules and other details are available in German and English at www.e-voting-competition.at/. Entries should be e-mailed to 2008@e-voting-competition.at. The site itself does not give a closing date, but according to the Austrian broadcaster ORF, entries must be in by 13 June 2008.

Further information:

- [E-Voting Competition 2008](#)
 - Contact email for the 2008 e-voting competition 2008@e-voting-competition.at
 - [Competence Center for Electronic Voting and Participation](#)
 - [Internet Foundation Austria](#)
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IT: On-line monitoring of work permit applications

As part of a new law aimed at better managing the influx of non-EU workers into Italy, the Ministry for Internal Affairs has launched an [on-line service](#) which will make it possible to check the status of an application to hire extra-Community workers electronically.

As of 18 January 2008, a new link on the website of the Ministry of the Interior enables prospective employers to check the current status of their applications to hire non-seasonal workers from outside the European Union, within the remit of the 2007 Decree on immigration flows (decreto flussi 2007).

The decree provides for a quota of 170 000 non-EU citizens to take up work legally in Italy in 2008. Within this overall figure, there are specific allocations for a number of countries which have signed co-operation agreements with Italy. The task of processing the applications is a huge one. By the time the system came on-line, nearly 700 000 applications had already been made. The highest number of these (117 593) concerned Moroccan workers. Under the decree, only 4 500 Moroccans will be granted work permits.

The launch of the on-line system for status checking follows on from the change to make the application process an on-line one. Those employers who do not have access to the Internet can make free use of various employer and business associations when completing and monitoring their applications, which can be submitted until 31 May.

Further information:

- [eGovernment portal for citizens – Press release \(in Italian\)](#)
 - [Ministry of the Interior – Press release \(in Italian\)](#)
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MT: National ICT Strategy 2008-2010 launched

In December 2007, Austin Gatt, Malta's Minister for Investment, Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), launched the new National ICT Strategy (2008-2010) under the heading 'Malta: The Smart Island'.

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. In the Smart Island's vision, the application of information and communication technology (ICT) will be ubiquitous, the Internet will be a social equaliser and the ICT industry will be a main pillar of the economy.

"The Smart Island vision needs to be read in the context of the Prime Minister's vision for Malta for 2015, which among others aims at establishing Malta as a regional ICT services hub alongside with healthcare, education, financial services, logistics and the maritime sectors." said Minister Gatt.

The new strategy seeks to address pro-actively the major challenges which the country's development in this sector shall inevitably face, including: new digital divides which will emerge in the coming years,

successful application of technologies in the enhancement of quality of life and the constantly moving target of becoming (and remaining) a leading ICT industry in the region.

Based on a series of five strategic parameters among which is the EU i2010 action plan, Smart Island defines seven streams for mapping out the path towards the 2010 vision. One of these streams highlights the need for 'Re-inventing government by transforming public delivery and enhancing governance'.

Further information:

- [Malta's national ICT Strategy 2008-2010 at the ePractice Library](#)
- [Smart Island website](#)
- [TimesOfMalta.com – News article](#)
- [The Malta Independent Online – News article](#)
- [ePractice news – MT: Government consults on ICT strategy for 2008-2010](#)

Latest Publications

- [UK: An e-Government Truth](#) 18 January 2008 | United Kingdom

UK: An e-Government Truth

Complete title:

An e-Government Truth

Potential CO2 efficiencies from online provision of local government services

Description (short summary): This is a world-first independent study report commissioned through Communities and Local Government's 'Connect to your Council' Take-Up Campaign, designed to identify potential CO2 efficiencies arising from increased public take-up of online local authority services.

The report reveals that online council services can contribute to big cuts in CO2 emissions. People who use the Internet to contact their local authority, instead of writing or driving to council offices, could help to save the equivalent of millions of air miles in carbon emissions.

Original URL:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/carbonefficiencies>

Number of pages:

34

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)
- [eGovernment Conference 2008 – Alliance with Users](#) 11 February 2008 | Brdo (Slovenia)

- [eldentity workshop](#) 14 February 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [elInclusion: Users voice](#) 21 February 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [eGovernment Mobile Services](#) 3 March 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [eHealth Management](#) postponed to July
- [Municipal eGovernment](#) 6 March 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [elInclusion: Ageing well](#) 14 April 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [ePractice](#) 19 May 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [elInclusion: Digital literacy](#) 16 June 2008 | Barcelona (Spain)
- [elInclusion: Special needs groups](#) 25 September 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [Administrative burden](#) 23 October 2008 | Bremen (Germany)
- [European elInclusion initiative: results and future steps](#) 13 November 2008 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [eGov services to business: the state of the play](#) 17 November 2008 | Cork (Ireland)
- [Service Deployment](#) 9 February 2009 | Brussels (Belgium)
- [ePractice.eu Final Workshop](#) 26 February 2009 | Brussels (Belgium)

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

Upcoming Events

- [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
- [BE: CEN/ISSS open meeting – Final report on eGovernment standards](#) 19 February 2008 | Belgium
- [CH: Net-ID 2008](#) 3 - 4 March 2008 | Switzerland
- [DE: CeBIT 2008](#) 4 - 9 March 2008 | Germany
- [DE: Public Sector Parc Forums at CeBIT 2008](#) 4 - 9 March 2008 | Germany
- [DE: 4th International Conference I-ESA'08](#) 25 - 28 March 2008 | Germany

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.

Event website:

N/A

Venue:

Magna Centre
Sheffield Road
Templeborough
Rotherham
South Yorkshire S60 1DX

Contact:

E-mail: shaun.topham@ukonline.co.uk.

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

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

Venue:

European Commission
Charlemagne Building

170 Rue de la Loi (Wetstraat)
BE-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Contact:

E-mail: ENTR-ICT-STANDARDISATION@ec.europa.eu

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

BE: CEN/ISSS open meeting – Final report on eGovernment standards

19 February 2008 | Belgium

Open meeting to validate Focus Group final report on eGovernment standards

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) along with Information Society and

Standardisation System (ISSS) has created a Focus Group to map the various activities in the field of eGovernment standardisation and to discuss a roadmap for the future.

This Focus Group, after having obtained funding support from the European Commission and European Free Trade Association (EFTA), is working on an eGovernment standards report to be presented during an open meeting in Brussels on 19 February, with the scope to obtain a general validation of its findings.

Participation in this open meeting is free-of-charge but subject to prior registration (by e-mail to [Françoise Wanson](mailto:françoise.wanson@cen.eu)).

The final report is expected to be available by the end of January. It will determine the role that standards should play in eGovernment, produce an overview of standards and specification available and based on this overview, prepare proposals and/or recommendations to CEN and other standardisation bodies, the European Commission and its agencies, national administrations and industry and other market players concerning standardisation issues in the field of eGovernment.

A draft of the report is [available](#).

Event website:

<http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/sectors/sectors/iss/activity/e-government.asp>

Venue:

Diamant Conference & Business Centre
Bd. A. Reyerslaan 80
B-1030
Brussels
Belgium

Event E-mail: françoise.wanson@cen.eu

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

DE: CeBIT 2008

4 - 9 March 2008 | Germany

'Where Zeros and Ones turn into Billions'

CeBIT Hannover is the worlds largest exhibition and trade fair showcasing digital IT and telecommunications solutions for home and work environments. CeBIT's key target groups are users from industry, the wholesale/retail sector, skilled trades, banks, the services sector, government agencies, science and all users passionate about technology.

CeBIT offers an international platform for comparing notes on current industry trends, networking, and product presentations. Deutsche Messe AG has organised CeBIT in Hannover each spring since 1986.

CeBIT 2008, which will take place over 6 days from 4 March 2008, will build on the success of its previous editions. It will feature the main display categories of:

- Business Solutions;
- Public Sector Solutions to be presented and discussed at the [Public Sector Parc](#);
- Home + Mobile Solutions;
- Technology + Infrastructure;
- Special Displays.

Those wishing to attend CeBIT 2008 may register and book online at the [MyCeBIT](#) section of the event website.

Event website:

http://www.cebit.de/homepage_e

Venue:

Hannover Deutsche Messe AG
Messegelände
D-30521 Hannover
Germany

Contact:

E-mail: N/A

DE: Public Sector Parc Forums at CeBIT 2008

4 - 9 March 2008 | Germany

Solutions for the Public Sector at CeBIT 2008

CeBIT Hannover is the world's largest exhibition and trade fair showcasing digital IT and telecommunications solutions for home and work environments. CeBIT's key target groups are users from industry, the wholesale/retail sector, skilled trades, banks, the services sector, government agencies, science and all users passionate about technology.

[CeBIT 2008](#), which will take place over 6 days from 4 March 2008, will build on the success of its previous editions. It will feature the main display categories of Business Solutions, Public Sector

Solutions, Home + Mobile Solutions, Technology + Infrastructure, and Special Displays.

Staged under the patronage of Germany's Federal Ministry of the Interior CeBIT's 'Public Sector Parc' (PSP) has served as a key information and communication platform for administrative modernisation and public sector management. Two major themes will be addressed by the PSP this year:

- Citizen-centric, cost-effective and staff-oriented public administration;
- Geoinformatics: a sweeping international trend.

This edition of the PSP will feature three new forums where 30-minute lectures with Q&A sessions will take place along with presentations on best-practice solutions. The primary aim is to bring solution-seeking public officials in even closer touch with reference users and the right providers. The three forums are as follows:

- Forum 'Local Government': Practical themes and solutions designed to meet the needs of towns and cities, parishes, local districts and municipal undertakings;
- Forum 'National & Regional Government': Strategic concepts and case studies at the federal and regional level and in other parts of the public sector;
- Forum 'Technology & Solutions': Innovative solutions and processes as well as efficient and effective technologies for modern public-sector IT systems.

CeBIT will also host the 'Telehealth 2008' event, an International Conference & Exhibition for ICT solutions in the Health Sector (7-8 March 2008).

A [registration form](#) is available for those wishing to participate in the Public Sector Parc. A contact form is also available at the PSP Forums' page.

Event website:

http://www.cebit.de/publicsector_e

Venue:

Hannover Deutsche Messe AG
Messegelände
D-30521 Hannover
Germany

Contact:

E-mail: N/A

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

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