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European ePractice Newsletter N. 293 – 8 September 2009

>> eGovernment good practices transfer between regional authorities

ePractice encourages its members to take part in the workshop organised by the INTERREG IVC Fast Track network “Promoting Innovation and the Knowledge Economy” (PIKE) on 24 September 2009 in Brussels. During this free event, participants will learn about the award-winning eGovernment and Wireless broadband good practices which form the basis of the PIKE project. The workshop will furthermore be an opportunity to share and discuss the issues surrounding the transfer of good practices into mainstream EU Structural Funds programmes. Registration is open at <http://www.epractice.eu/en/workshops/pike>.

>> Public eID workshop

This free event of the [European eID Observatory](http://www.epractice.eu/en/workshops/publicid) will take place in Brussels on 29 September 2009. It aims to encourage the sharing of good practice in the area of public electronic identity, with a specific focus on citizen-related issues as well as cross-border and cross-sector applications. Abstract submissions are open until 15 September 2009. Online registration has been already made available. Please view the full information on the workshop page at <http://www.epractice.eu/en/workshops/publicid>.

Latest Cases

- [Rising International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics](#) | 7 September 2009 | Pan european | Asia | North America
- [Social Ethical and Privacy Needs in ICT for Older People](#) | 2 September 2009 | Italy
- [Open Negotiation Environment](#) | 28 August 2009 | Ireland | Italy | Romania | Switzerland

Rising International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics

RISE (*Rising pan-European and International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics*) is a 36 month EU funded project which aims at setting up an international initiative to monitor ethical and policy issues raised by biometrics and security technologies. **RISE** aims to deepen, extend to Asian actors and ensure the continuity of European and international dialogue already initiated by the two linked projects BITE (www.biteproject.org) and HIDE (www.hideproject.eu), and by the two previous conferences on ethics and biometrics organized by the EC Research Directorate General and the US Directorate of Homeland Security Privacy Office respectively in 2005 and 2006.

The **RISE** project will involve key European and international actors in an ongoing, policy-related, non-official, dialogue on privacy and ethics of biometrics and security technologies

Social Ethical and Privacy Needs in ICT for Older People

The Social Ethical and Privacy Needs in ICT for Older People: A Dialogue for Roadmap (SENIOR) is a 2 year support action which aims to provide a systematic assessment using dialogue as the key instrument to evaluate the social, ethical and privacy issues involved in ICT and Ageing.

As a result, SENIOR will provide an understanding of how technological trends are responding to the goals of inclusion for the ageing and using lessons learned from those trends as well as plan strategies for the future to closely link these issues to technology at the level of design.

Open Negotiation Environment

ONE will be achieved through a set of technology components which can be tailored to the needs of a specific organization; depending on its business requirements and adapting to its every demand.

The project will deliver an open source platform for negotiation, driven by innovative business models and technologies; it will be implemented mainly as an integration of an innovative research component, delivered within the project, and made possible through off-the-shelf technology using already standardized information models. It will extend and favour a more general purpose digital ecosystem architecture. There will be a general architectural framework developed for negotiation, allowing the adaptation of the platform to many different industry sectors. ONE will provide a negotiation mechanism that is reusable in different application and service domains providing a great level of flexibility and allowing users for example to create negotiation processes also for other goals like for example "qualification" or "certification" processes.

The ONE platform will actively support the human negotiators by exploiting automatic learning techniques applied to the goal of learning the best negotiation strategies in a multi-agent environment. Optimized strategy would be suggested through a learning process based on the observation of user behavior, other partners' actions as perceived by the user and concurrent running negotiations.

ONE supports a model of collaboration and trust based on the idea of "collaborative multi-agent systems", where agents can work and learn with other trusted agents and develop collaborative learning schemes. We will develop models of information and knowledge sharing, taking into account privacy concerns, based on a model of multiple agent clusters, characterized by different levels of trust.

The policy learning algorithms will be based on the observation and storage of real interactions between the user and the negotiation service and between the user and other players (Trust), as these are performed in the Negotiation Execution Environment.

The ONE negotiation environment will support technical and non-technical users in specifying strategies and rules for negotiating terms of service delivery. It will provide a distributed and peer-to-peer platform for fully automated execution of negotiations based on knowledge sharing and self-learning.

Editor's Choice of the week: [Regional EHRs with speech recognition in Galicia, Spain](#)

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HU: elnclusion of the elderly through the 50+ Remembrance Writing Contest - 4 September 2009

On 27 August 2009, the Forum of Hungarian IT Organisations for Information Society (Inforum) rewarded 3 competitors with an award for their highly valuable remembrance writings published on the www.50plusz.net website.

Inforum's contest entitled 'Being in competition with time' called people above 50 to share their remembrances of past. Altogether, 208 works were submitted between 24 March and 30 June 2009. The jury short listed 13 writings which were really valuable and awarded the best there.

The Award Ceremony was organised in the frame of the 2nd '50+ Internet Users Party' where 150 participants enjoyed a show combining poetry reading, jazz music and dance.

Gabor Dombi, Secretary General of Inforum stated in his opening speech that the contest was designed to draw attention to the older generations' values. In the age of short news, the attention and patience towards the longer written texts are vanishing, Inforum explain. Likewise, events are more important than the people behind them.

The aim of the competition was to change this trend while encouraging the older generation to share their values online.

Inforum refers to the generations above 50 as the "hitch-hikers" of the information superhighway; they need help in getting Internet skills and in taking advantage of the Information Age.

Since it created the www.50plusz.net website, Inforum has been seeking to help this generation to use this superhighway. The site provides a virtual place for learning, expressing oneself and exchanging tips.

Further information:

- [50plusz website](http://www.50plusz.net)
-

FR: Ensemble Simplifions - a web 2.0 portal to simplify the French Administration - 4 September 2009

The Directorate-General for the State Modernisation will launch by the end of September 2009 a nation-wide promotion campaign of the new '[Ensemble Simplifions](#)' portal, a web 2.0 site allowing all those interested to voice their opinion and make suggestions on how to simplify the administrative procedures in France.

'*Ensemble Simplifions*' ('Let's simplify together' in English) aims to reverse the administrative simplification policy which has been followed by the Government so far - a modernisation policy which was based on the Administration's own needs and organisation.

The portal '*Ensemble Simplifions*' has been recently launched in the framework of the eponymous programme that was initiated by Eric Woerth, the Minister for the Budget, Public Accounts and Civil Service. It aims to give top priority to the users' experience in order to better identify room for improvement, thus allowing the Government to engage in simplification projects genuinely based on the users' needs.

The portal relies on interactive and collaboration functionalities and targets all the users of the public services. Its sections are thus structured around four categories of users, namely: 'Individuals', 'Businesses', 'Local Government' and 'Non-profit organisations'.

One site, five ways of participating

In practice, for each 'daily life event' of a given portal section (e.g. house moving in the section 'Individuals' or public procurement in the section 'Businesses'), simplification proposals are directed at the portal's users. The latter have the following options:

- to vote on the proposals by rating them;
- to comment on the proposals by expressing their opinion;
- to convey their own simplification suggestions in order to contribute to the work in process and to possibly trigger new concrete proposals;
- to take thematic surveys (in the sections 'Individuals' and 'Businesses');
- to take part in debates through the dedicated online fora (in the sections 'Local Government' and 'Non-profit organisations').

In order to contribute, those interested only need to create a user account in a few mouse clicks. Each section furthermore provides the latest news on simplification projects, reference documentation, an event calendar and information on the '*Ensemble Simplifions*' programme.

It is worth noting that the launch of the portal's promotion campaign on the Internet will coincide with the portal's interfacing with social networking site Facebook, which will allow connecting to one's account on '*Ensemble Simplifions*' directly via Facebook.

Further information:

- ['Ensemble Simplifions' portal \(in French\)](#)
- [Directorate-General for the State Modernisation \(in French\)](#)

MK: A new portal for people with disabilities is launched - 4 September 2009

A new portal for people with disabilities entitled '[I want, I know, I can](#)' was launched in August 2009 by the Ministers of Information Society and Labour and Social Policy.

The Ministers for Information Society and Labour and Social Policy, Mr. Ivo Ivanovski and Mr. Xhelal Biljali respectively, emphasised that the objective of the portal is to enable people with disabilities to have a common point of reference, where they will be able to find information about all important news concerning them, make complaints,

ask questions about their problems and become familiar with their rights, opportunities and all the services offered to them by State institutions.

The portal contains a variety of sections that include news, a wide range of services, a series of mainly legal documents, a section on employment issues, Frequently Asked Questions and a blog. Mr. Ivanovski stated that the portal will be enriched in the future in order to meet the needs of its stakeholders. He also announced that by end of 2009 all Ministers, State Secretaries and directors of public companies and agencies will have to hire at least three people with some sort of disability.

The "I want, I know I can," slogan is -according to the Minister of Information Society- widely accepted and signifies the desire of people with disabilities to actively participate in an open society. The Minister of Labour and Social Policy added that the portal is accessible to all disabled people regardless of their type of disability, including blind and visually impaired individuals.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Ministry of Information Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Website \(in Macedonian\)](#)
- ["I want, I know, I can" - Portal \(in Macedonian\)](#)

IE: A new EU website for Irish citizens is launched - 4 September 2009

The European Commission Representation in Dublin has launched a new website www.talktoeu.ie to inform the Irish citizens on the EU actions and on what the EU can do for them.

'talktoeu' is a programme by the European Commission Representation in Dublin, which aims to engage the Irish citizens and gather their opinions and views, since it is essential to know the people's needs in order to form new policies. This programme will provide pertinent information to people on how the EU functions in order to foster a greater mutual understanding between the Irish people and the European Union.

To attain those objectives, the 'talktoeu' campaign is based on a national series of public discussions, where people are invited to attend and inform themselves about the EU and the EU actions that have been undertaken at the area in which they live. This new website provides the necessary resources and information on the EU, focusing on engaging the Irish citizens with what the EU does.

Further information:

- [Official press release of Citizen Information](#)
- [Official website of "talktoeu"](#)

UK: SMEs gain free access to online information on lower value public contracts - 4 September 2009

In an article entitled "Businesses given free access to new opportunities" the British Computer Society informs that every small business in the UK will now have free access to thousands of lower value government contracts on the Government's website www.supply2.gov.uk.

For three years, Supply2.gov.uk has advertised thousands of public sector procurement opportunities worth up to £100 000 (approx. €115 000), making the website ideally suited to small and medium sized businesses.

The fee that was previously charged to search the site across the UK will now be removed, providing firms with better access to public sector contracts to help their businesses grow.

Business Minister Shriti Vadera said: "Small businesses are facing significant pressure in this downturn and new contracts are essential for their return to growth."

"We want to support small businesses by making it easier to access the thousands of government procurement opportunities that are directly relevant to them. This free service is an interim step along the way to introducing a single website for all public sector contracts next year." she added.

This announcement is a move towards delivering on a key recommendation outlined in the 'Glover Review' - that by the end of 2010 all public sector contract opportunities should be accessible through a single, free online web portal.

Further information:

- [Source and full story - British Computer Society](#)
 - [Supply2.gov.uk](#)
 - [About the Glover Review](#)
-

MK: Internet kiosk to be installed in Dolno Lisice - 4 September 2009

The Minister of Information Society, Ivo Ivanovski, visited "Goce Delcev", a primary school in Dolno Lisice where an Internet kiosk is planned to be installed.

The residents of that area will be granted four years of free of charge wireless Internet access. It will be installed in each of the selected wi-fi points, approx. 680, along with one computer and a wireless antenna of 200 meters of range.

The Government and the Ministry of Information Society have granted subvention to the private sector in rural areas so that citizens in those areas enjoy the same services as citizens in urban areas, Mr Ivanovski has stated. He has also informed that bids for selection of economic operators will open within the next two weeks.

The Minister said that an agreement for laptops for younger students, those from first to third grade, has been signed. Half of the laptops are expected to have arrived by 15 September 2009 and the rest of them will have arrived by 15 December 2009. The two thirds of 22 000 laptops for teachers will arrive next month and the one third remaining will have arrived by 15 December 2009.

Mr Ivanovski said that the placement of an infrastructure computer network in rural schools is underway and it is expected to be installed within a period of two months.

Further information:

- [Official press release of the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)
-

IT: eTransparency operation in the Public Administration - 3 September 2009

The Italian public authorities had until the end of July 2009 to publish several pieces of information relating to their staff via their respective websites.

The information covered by the legal obligation (Law no. 69 of 18 June 2009) includes the curriculum vitae, the income and the professional details (phone, email) of the managers of all units, as well as the presence and absence rates of their personnel.

In order to ensure that the data is provided in a standardised way, a module for the filing of the managers' curricula and remuneration details has been made available [online](#).

Furthermore, a dedicated [guide](#) assists the authorities in filing the résumés and in publishing the relevant information on their websites.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Ministry of Public Administration and Innovation \(in Italian\)](#)
-

EU: Healthcare, the road to robotic helpers - 3 September 2009

Robots are whirring away in factories all over the world, building cars, phones and cookers. Yet they can do so much more. [Robotics](#) for healthcare has been tipped as the next big wave, and Europe should be poised to ride it, according to a European road-mapping study.

One area particularly ripe for robotics is healthcare, according to Arjan Rensma of the Dutch innovation organisation TNO, which he says could be worth anywhere from €40 billion upwards depending on which study you read.

And the reason for all this excitement? It's simple economics: robot helpers promise sustainable and affordable health provision without compromising on the quality of care. The attraction for authorities trying to plan for increasingly ageing societies is palpable.

"Existing technologies like the surgical robot called Da Vinci show that it can be done," says Rensma. But Europe needs a clear road map to transform the current R&D effort - described by experts as still in its infancy - into a leading robotics for healthcare (R4H) movement, he suggests.

The R4H field is very much alive in Europe, according to the World Technology Evaluation Center (WTEC) technology report, with sufficient critical mass to take it forward, but there is a disconnect between R&D prototypes and commercial rollout.

"One of the biggest barriers in the commercialisation of robotics for care is the way healthcare systems are currently funded," notes Rensma. This is a serious and complex challenge, he says, and more effort is needed to overcome it.

It is not a question of throwing more money at just any robotics application, he suggests. "More user involvement is needed to develop the 'right' robotic applications... [starting] with relatively 'easy' applications while keeping an eye on the complex ones in the future."

Further information:

- [Full story - CORDIS - ICT results - Features](#)
 - [R4H Roadmap for robotics in healthcare](#)
 - [Completed studies on eHealth issues - European Commission - Europa website](#)
-

DE: Completion of selection of participants for the electronic identity application tests - 3 September 2009

In June 2009 the Federal Commissioner for Information Technology and Secretary of State Dr. Hans Bernhard Beus, announced the list of candidates selected for participation into a series of application tests concerning the new form of the electronic identity card.

The tests will be carried out by the Federal Government aiming to ensure the electronic proof of someone's identity with the electronic identity card before the latter's introduction in the period from 1 October 2009 to 30 October 2010. With the tests in question the new identity documents enter their implementation phase. The participants of the coordinated application tests were selected in close cooperation with the Ministry of Interior.

The data, which is currently read from the card, will be stored in the future in an ID chip allowing the card holder e.g. to purchase online, to use online banking systems etc. At the same time the user should also own a certificate that will confirm that the website he visits is authorized to retrieve his data.

Nearly 100 candidates expressed their interest for participation to the tests, exceeding the Ministry's expectations and enabling it to plan several test scenarios across many industries.

The list of the selected participants for the application test is available [here](#).

Further information:

- [Original News item, German Ministry of Interior, Official Website](#)
 - [Electronic Identity Cards, German Ministry of Interior, webpage](#)
-

EU: Launching of new Business Application - 3 September 2009

On 3 July 2009 the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Meglena Kuneva, launched a Business Application alerting from now on consumer authorities across all EU Member States about dangerous products discovered in the market.

The [General Product Safety Directive \(2001/95/EC\)](#) requires producers and distributors to only place safe consumer products on the market and to take all the necessary measures to prevent consumer risks.

According to the Directive, the producers and distributors are obliged to notify the [competent authorities](#) in case a product available in the market is found to be dangerous. These notifications are then added to a database and shared with the authorities in the other Member States. Depending on the nature of the risk, the authorities may require further action from the producer or distributor. This could take the form of a warning to the public of the risk connected with the product, the banning of marketing of the product or the withdrawal of the product from the market.

The European Commission will monitor the application of the guidelines, which may be updated based on experience and new developments. Feedback from stakeholders is also welcomed.

The new [Business Application](#), aims to speed up the current process and save lives. As Commissioner Kuneva said, "In this period of economic crisis the introduction of the Business Application represents time and cost savings for business, since they will be able to continue to respect their duties towards consumers with a quicker and easier means of notification."

The 2008 Rapid Alert System for Dangerous Consumer Goods (RAPEX) Report showed that 48% of the 1866 notifications received from across the EU came from businesses. Products posing a serious threat to the health and safety of consumers are published online on the Commission's consumer affairs website and are accessible to all.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - European Commission Website](#)
 - [Business Application webpage](#)
 - [General Product Safety Directive \(2001/95/EC\) webpage](#)
 - [Rapid Alert System for Dangerous Consumer Goods \(RAPEX\) - Operational guidelines \(business level\) - EUROPA webpage](#)
-

EU: Commission issues recommendation on Media Literacy - 2 September 2009

In a [recommendation](#) issued on 20 August 2009, the European Commission calls on the EU Member States and industry to promote media literacy across Europe through activities that help people to access, understand and critically evaluate all the types of media they are exposed to.

The document is based on the premise that in order to participate in today's Information Society, people need to understand how the various media (TV and film, radio, music, print media, the Internet and digital communication technologies) work.

Media literacy training could improve the way citizens use search engines, show school children how a film is made or how advertising works. In some countries (for example Sweden, Ireland, and the United Kingdom), media literacy is already part of the school curriculum. The UK's [kidSMART](#) website teaches young people how to use social networking sites safely. Education is a national competence, but in its recommendation the Commission invited EU countries to open a debate on how to give media literacy a prominent place in schools.

The Commission outlines that people using media need to be aware of the risks connected to the spread of their personal data. The more skilled they are in using these technologies, and the more savvy they are about how online advertising works, the better they can protect their privacy. People who are more media literate will also be more curious about and explore their cultural heritage and recent European cultural works.

Further information:

- [Official press release - European Commission](#)
- [Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report 2009](#)
- [Commission Recommendation on Media Literacy - ePractice Library](#)

DK: eLearning a solution for basic literacy skills improvement - 2 September 2009

The Danish Ministry of Education and Science has initiated a collaboration project for the development of eLearning for adults who want to improve their basic literacy skills. The resulting eLearning tool is expected to be made available for free around late 2010.

It is estimated that at least 800 000 adults in Denmark have reading and writing difficulties which hamper their educational and/or professional career development, from finding a job to switching jobs. Although free of charge reading and writing classes are provided over the entire country, only a small fraction of this population chooses to register every year.

The precise reasons behind this have not yet been fully elucidated. The phenomenon may however be partly due to such causes as a lack of time for attending the lessons, shyness, bad past school experience and/or lack of consideration for the need to read and write.

The initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science is targeted at adults who are not registered in any education institution. It is hoped that the free eLearning offer can motivate these to improve and supplement their basic skills.

eLearning has an inherent flexibility that makes it possible to use the material at a time that best suits the participants and to adapt the learning tasks to the needs of the learner. Last but not least, eLearning takes place in the comfort of the participant's home.

The IT and Telecom Agency has signed a framework contract with five eLearning providers who will be invited to submit a tender for the above assignment.

Further information:

- [Original press release - National IT and Telecom Agency \(in Danish\)](#)

PT: Online access to the status of complaints via the Common Telematic Information Network portal - 2 September 2009

The Common Telematic Information Network portal (RTIC - Rede Telemática de Informação Comum), enters into force on the 17 August 2009, providing consumers with online information about the status of their complaints in the fields of goods and services.

The main objective of the RTIC is to provide information on the handling of complaints sent to the [Regulatory and Market surveillance authorities](#). On this portal, consumers can find all useful information related to the book of complaints, including legislation and links to regulatory and market control, the competent bodies for dealing with complaints.

Those interested in lodging a complaint and then being able to access information on its status, should first of all read the instructions included in the complaint book and then fill in all fields required, especially those regarding the number of passport or photo identification, elements that will provide access to the reserved area. Information about the status of a complaint will be available from the moment that each of the entities receives the communication.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Common Telematic Information Network \(in Portuguese\)](#)
- [Portuguese Consumers' Portal \(in Portuguese\)](#)

EU/INT: New Information Systems to enhance and share knowledge on water issues - 2 September 2009

Two new and updated information systems enhancing collaboration and information-sharing among the international water community, the [EU Water Initiative \(EUWI\)](#) and the [AQUAknow](#), were introduced by the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) during the World Water Week held in Stockholm from the 16 to the 22 of August 2009.

One of the main aims of EUWI is to improve coordination and cooperation and deliver more effective development assistance to the poorest countries of Africa, where internationally agreed goals are far from being reached. During the multi-stakeholder forum, the Executive Secretary of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), Mr. Bai-Mass Taal, underlined that, "we want EU to wholly embrace Africa's needs for water and sanitation, and to improve and strengthen the partnership that already exists between us".

Likewise, the AQUAknow project serves as an essential tool for effective knowledge management and takes into consideration:

- the increasing importance of knowledge as a factor in transforming sector performance;
- the opportunities available through advances in information technology;
- the favourable context for increasing harmonization and aid efficiency.

During the forum, EU Member States, partner countries, civil society, the private sector and local governments from more than 30 countries presented results, reviewed progress made by the EUWI and outlined priorities for the future.

The European Commission, the JRC and EUWI partners will also issue online a set of Water Guidelines for practitioners, which will be used by the African and Latin American Centres of Excellence on Water.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - European Commission - Joint Research Centre - Website](#)
- [EU Water Initiative \(EUWI\) Portal](#)
- [AQUAknow Project](#)

PT: New Pombal Municipality portal integrates eAuthentication via the Citizen Card - 2 September 2009

The new portal of the Pombal Municipality was officially inaugurated on 30 July 2009.

The main novelty consists of the possibility for citizens to e-sign and authenticate documents through the portal by means of their Citizen Card.

Furthermore, the new portal provides more than 50 fully transactional services; for instance, it enables the residents of Pombal to pay their bills or to submit their requests regarding all areas of the municipality's activities. It is thus possible to consult all services provided by the municipality i.e., Water and Sanitation, Fairs and Markets, Social Housing, Construction and Building, etc.

The theme "Integration of the new Citizen Card Portal of the Municipality of Pombal" was the core subject during the official launch of the portal.

About the Citizen Card

The Citizen Card is the Portuguese electronic identity card (eID). It is a smart card that provides visual identity authentication with increased security and electronic identity authentication using biometrics (photo and finger print) and electronic signatures.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Citizen Card website \(in Portuguese\)](#)
- [Municipality of Pombal - Portal \(in Portuguese\)](#)

UK: UK invests on the European Life-Science Infrastructure for Biological Information (ELIXIR) project - 2 September 2009

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) has awarded funding to the European Molecular Biology Laboratory's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) aiming to develop the existing data resources and IT infrastructure of the EMBL-EBI.

According to this pan-European science project €11 411 996 (£10M) will be invested by the BBSRC in order to increase the institute's data storage and handling capacity. The EMBL-EBI is planned to act as a central hub of the emerging European Life-Science Infrastructure for Biological Information (ELIXIR), the cost of which is estimated to be more than €228 257 123 (£200M). BBSRC, MRC, NERC and the Wellcome Trust support UK's involvement in ELIXIR.

32 partners from 13 countries are involved in ELIXIR aiming to establish a sustainable funded infrastructure for biological information in Europe. Life science research will be supported along with its applications to medicine, agriculture and food security, the environment, the bio-industries and society.

According to EMBL-EBI Director and ELIXIR coordinator, Professor Janet Thornton, the investment in ELIXIR is an important milestone in building the infrastructure for biological information in Europe. Next-generation datahandling and storage solutions will be implemented and therefore challenges around the flood of biological data will be handled, fueling future developments in basic biology, medicine, agriculture and environmental sciences.

Also, as Professor Doug Kell, Chief Executive of BBSRC, said: "Biology is an information science that is rich in data. UK science funders and EMBL-EBI are committed to ensuring that our researchers can use the latest computational technologies to store, access and analyse the huge amounts of data generated in contemporary bioscience, and thereby to turn them into knowledge and information."

Further information:

- [Original News Article - eHealthNews.EU portal](#)
 - [EMBL-EBI, webpage](#)
 - [Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council \(BBSRC\) webpage](#)
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FR: Geophysical Data Records now available to the public - 1 September 2009

The OSTM/Jason-2 Geophysical Data Records (GDRs) are now available to the public after one year of calibration and validation by an international team of scientists.

The team from the NASA/French Space Agency Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM) Jason-2 satellite makes available to the public fully-validated, research-quality sea surface height data, which will be primarily used by climate researchers for climate monitoring and modelling. The data in question is the most accurate of the three global OSTM/Jason-2 data products offered to users worldwide and is available within 60 days of being recorded. It is jointly distributed by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) and the French [Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales](#).

Launched on 20 June 2008, OSTM/Jason-2 is extending the climate data record begun by the NASA/French Space Agency Topex/Poseidon satellite and continued by the Agency's Jason-1 satellite, providing a long-term survey of Earth's ocean. It aims to improve the measure of global sea-level change in order to understand shifts in ocean currents as well as sea level rising, both critical parts of global climate change. The data is used around the world to improve weather, climate and ocean forecasts.

Further information:

- [Source - Vector1 Media - website](#)
 - [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - website](#)
 - [Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales - website](#)
-

New Factsheets

The 12th Editions of the eGovernment factsheets for Austria, Germany and Greece are now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [EU: Commission Recommendation on Media Literacy](#) | 20 August 2009 | EU Institutions
-

EU: Commission Recommendation on Media Literacy - 20 August 2009

Description (short summary):

The way people use media is changing and the volume of information they get today is enormous. People need the ability to access, analyse and evaluate images, sounds and texts on a daily basis especially if they are to use traditional and new media to communicate and create media content.

The Commission recommends that all EU Member States and the media industry increase people's awareness of the many forms of media messages they encounter be they advertisements, movies or online content.

Number of pages: 6

Related Article:

[EU: Commission issues recommendation on Media Literacy](#)

ePractice Workshops

- [eGovernment good practices transfer between regional authorities:experiences & challenges of InterregIVC Capitalisation projects](#) | 24 September 2009 | Belgium
- [Public eID: Cross-Border and Cross-Sector applications](#) | 29 September 2009 | Belgium
- [Applying standards in eInvoicing](#) | 5 November 2009 | Belgium

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

Upcoming Events

- [UK: Driving Efficiencies in Public Sector IT](#) | 10 September 2009 | United Kingdom
 - [IT: Communicating Security Using ICT - A new ePractice Community Launch Conference](#) | 15 September 2009 | Italy
 - [DE: Baltic Conference on e-Health](#) | 16 September 2009 | Germany
 - [UK: Techshare Conference 2009](#) | 16 - 18 September 2009 | United Kingdom
 - [RO: E-Health and Bioengineering Conference 2009](#) | 17 - 18 September 2009 | Romania
 - [SI: Workshop on Restrictions in the Implementation of EU Data Protection Directive for Public Interest, Security and Defence](#) | 17 - 18 September 2009 | Slovenia
 - [FR: Smart Event 2009](#) | 22 - 25 September 2009 | France
 - [PL: International Conference on Education for All](#) | 22 - 25 September 2009 | Poland
 - [FR: IDABC Open Source Event 2009](#) | 01 - 02 October 2009 | France
 - [ES: e-Gov 2.0 2009 Conference](#) | 05 October 2009 | Spain
 - [NL: ISSE 2009](#) | 06 - 08 October 2009 | Netherlands
 - [TR: eChallenges e-2009](#) | 21 - 23 October 2009 | Turkey
 - [DK: Pan European eProcurement Conference with PEPPOL](#) | 21 - 23 October 2009 | Denmark
 - [UK: Government 2010 Conference Live](#) | 22 October 2009 | United Kingdom
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UK: Driving Efficiencies in Public Sector IT - 10 September 2009

This conference will not address the efficiency questions of old but will explore innovative new ways to drive efficiencies and save money. It will look into new roles, new systems, and new ways of working to examine how IT can enable change and support organisational objectives.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Discover practical strategies for cutting costs, whilst maintaining delivery levels.
- Ensure that IT departments are taking a pro-active approach towards enabling change and maximising cost savings.
- Learn how recession can be used in order to drive innovation and how new ways of working can be found.
- Interact with delegates and speakers in discussion sessions designed to help address personal challenges.
- Explore how new technologies can save money.
- Be prepared in order to take the appropriate steps to make savings.

- Learn how to get the most from a supplier base, using effective partnership working and procurement.

More information about the programme of the event can be found [here](#).

The number of attendees is expected to be around 100. Registration can be performed [online](#) with a payment of a fee.

Event email: lizzi.geary@guardian.co.uk

Event website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/drivingefficiencies>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: Kable

IT: Communicating Security Using ICT - A new ePractice Community Launch Conference - 15 September 2009

This conference aims to present the new epractice community "Communicating Security Using ICT". This Community will be a network in which the members of the European Police forces working in the External relations/Public relations field will be able to communicate in real time among them on the ways to communicate security to the citizen using ICT and to inform them about security issues.

The Community's members will be able to share suggestions, projects and best practices on how to communicate the security to the citizens and the initiatives taken for making feel them more secure using ICT means (police websites, intranet, community, electronic newspapers, mailing lists, advertising campaigns about security and so on).

The participants to the launch conference in Rome will be explained how the Community works and how to create their personal account to join it.

Participation in the event is **upon invitation only** and free of charge.

Event email: mauro.valeri@interno.it

Country: Italy

City/Location: Rome

Organiser: Italian Police, External Relations Office

DE: Baltic Conference on e-Health - 16 September 2009

The Baltic Conference on eHealth will present a well-balanced mix of best practices and strategy-oriented presentations from various countries. The participants including representatives from hospitals, governments, health insurance organizations, service providers and media will have the opportunity to exchange views and experiences among all those involved in health management. "To learn from each other - to work with one another" shall be conference's main aim.

The conference program will focus on the following topics:

- Cross-Border Healthcare (experience and knowledge transfer, best practices, interoperability/interconnectivity, globalization, business intelligence/consulting and quality management).
- Optimization of clinical and business processes as well as of hospital information and communication systems in order to increase the quality and economics of patient care.
- Telemedicine.

Moreover, the link between eHealth and medical engineering will be discussed.

The conference will not only include several presentations and workshops but also an exhibition of international IT solution providers and a [pre-opening session](#) on 15 September, at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf - UKE).

Detailed information about the agenda of the conference can be found [here](#).

The conference is expected to host around 150 participants. Registration is open and can be performed [online](#) with a payment of a fee.

Event email: event@common-sense.biz

Event website: <http://www.baltic-conference-on-ehealth.com/eng/index.html>

Country: Germany

City/Location: Hamburg

Organiser: Baltic Sea Forum e.V. - Baltic SeaStates Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC), Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, IBM, in cooperation with University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf

UK: Techshare Conference 2009 - 16 - 18 September 2009

The Techshare 2009 conference will bring together professionals interested in technology and in the role it plays for people with disabilities in learning, at work and generally, in the society. Moreover, leading organisations and technology companies will have the opportunity to share their research, products and services with the international community.

This year's event will include expert-led pre-conference workshops, presentations on innovative digital access technology, a networking drinks reception and a conference dinner. There will also be an exhibition of leading digital products and services for people with disabilities.

More information about the programme of the conference can be found [here](#).

The conference is expected to host around 200 and 300 delegates. Registration can be performed [online](#) with the payment of a fee.

Event email: techshare@rnib.org.uk

Event website: http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/code/public_rnib004057.hcsp

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) in partnership with AbilityNet, Action for Blind People, Age Concern and Help the Aged, JISC TechDis

RO: E-Health and Bioengineering Conference 2009 - 17 - 18 September 2009

The main focus of EHB 2009, the second edition of the EHB conference, is placed on ehealth and bioengineering in general. Its goals are to promote concepts and advanced hardware and software technologies in the emerging domains of ehealth, telemedicine, medical devices/equipment, medical informatics, biomechanics, biomaterials, biotechnologies and healthcare management.

Another objective is to strengthen the interdisciplinary synergy between medical and technical researchers and practitioners, within the generous framework of medical bioengineering, in order to establish and promote advanced scientific concepts, methods and technologies for medical services and healthcare in Romania and enlarged Europe. In this respect, a special attention will be granted in the next years to targeting research to the real needs of patients, through different national and international projects and partnerships.

Last but not least, EHB 2009 represents a new "official" occasion to show that telemedicine in Romania and particularly in Iasi exceeds the level of other more or less theoretical approaches and demonstrative issues. Its maturity was already proven by real time transmission and analysis of some vital biosignals of patients, performed by using the facilities offered by the first Romanian Telemedical Regional Centre located at the Faculty of Medical Bioengineering of the "Gr.T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Iasi, which was developed by a local team within two research pilot projects - TELMES and TELEMON - financed by the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research.

The intention is therefore to promote procedures for teleconsultation, telediagnosis and telemonitoring, providing an alternative to be employed in the healthcare system that could be made available "every time and anywhere" for those persons who need such a public service.

The [topics to be covered](#) and the [full papers' submission guidelines](#) can be viewed online.

The organisers expect to attract over 200 attendees. The registration fee is 300 RON (approximately €70).

Event email: ehb2009@bioinginerie.ro

Event website: <http://www.bioinginerie.ro/ehb2009>

Country: Romania

City/Location: Constanta

Organiser: "Gr. T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iasi, the Romanian Society of Medical Bioengineering and "Ovidius" University of Constanta

SI: Workshop on Restrictions in the Implementation of EU Data Protection Directive for Public Interest, Security and Defence - 17 - 18 September 2009

This problem-solving workshop is being organised in the context of a European Commission funded project called [Homeland Security, Biometrics Identification & Personal Detection Ethics - HIDE](#).

Its aim is to bring together individuals and representatives from the European governmental and non-governmental organisations, with the emphasis on the new EU Member States and the Balkan countries in order to identify and discuss ethical and other issues related to the restrictions of the scope of rights in the implementation of EU data-protection principles, when such restrictions constitute the necessary measures to safeguard important public interests, security and defence.

More information about the programme of the workshop can be found [here](#).

Although registration for this workshop is free, the number of participants is limited; therefore, the completed [registration form](#) should be submitted no later than 1 September 2009, either by [email](#) or by fax.

Event email: simon.dobrisek@fe.uni-lj.si

Event website: <http://luks.fe.uni-lj.si/hide/>

Country: Slovenia

City/Location: Ljubljana

Organiser: Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship (CSSC) and the University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Electrical Engineering, in collaboration with HIDE partners

FR: Smart Event 2009 - 22 - 25 September 2009

Smart Event is as an international forum of knowledge-sharing, learning and networking in the fields of e-ID, e-mobility and Smart Security. It has proven to be a meeting place for world-class researchers, innovators, developers and business decision-makers. The event encompasses 3 international conferences covering complementary areas:

- The future of digital security technologies, e-Smart.
- The building of trusted mobile applications, Smart mobility
- The next generation of e-ID management technologies and services, World e-ID.

The relevant calls for papers are open until 13 March 2009.

Smart Event features contents combining scientific and strategic presentations of Industry experts, researchers and academics, as well as governmental and institutional representatives.

The *Smart University* advanced educational programme as well as a series of workshops and meetings complete the agenda.

Smart Event 2009 addresses high level professionals that foster research and innovation the e-ID, e-mobility and Smart Security fields. Based on a steady growing audience, the target for 2009 exceeds 800 attendees. Regardless their activity - Academia, eGovernment, Institutions, Standardisation, Research, Integrators/Consultancy, Manufacturer/hardware, Security Solutions Providers, Content Service & Telecoms Operators - they all play an important and crucial influence on major decisions in the mobility, trusted technologies and services marketplace.

Registration will be performed online with the payment of a fee, and it will commence in April 2009.

Event email: info@strategiestm.com

Event website: <http://www.strategiestm.com/conferences/smart-event/09/index.htm>

Country: France

City/Location: French Riviera

Organiser: Strategies Telecoms and Media

PL: International Conference on 'Education for All' - 22 - 25 September 2009

The conference will be divided into three sessions. During the conference there will be an Exhibition of Assistive Technology and Adaptive Solutions.

- Universal design - more than just architecture:
 - making graphics accessible to persons with vision dysfunction;
 - accessibility of mathematical notation;
 - DAISY standard as a new tendency in creating books adapted for the blind;
 - designing outdoor activities for students with disabilities;
 - methodology of practice in mainstream classes with one child with disability taking into consideration the needs of people with sight impairment in building planning;
 - environment safe for everyone, etc.
- Beyond the borders of traditional disability:
 - the conference intends to become a platform for spreading solutions and good practices, the aim of which is to equalize the educational opportunities of the abovementioned groups of students and pupils.
- Inclusive education - can it become a fact?:
 - university studies as an example of inclusive education;
 - a blind pupil on a geography lesson - is full participation possible?
 - physical inclusion versus social inclusion in primary schools;
 - how to fight the stereotypes- social inclusion as the greatest challenge for inclusive education;
 - legal solutions - an enemy or a supporter of inclusive education;
 - methods of preparing teachers to inclusive education; who needs special education schools, etc.

Further information about the programme of the conference can be found [here](#).

The event is expected to host around 250 participants. The registration can be performed [online](#) with the payment of a fee.

Event email: disability@uw.edu.pl

Event website: <http://www.disability.uw.edu.pl>

Country: Poland

City/Location: Warsaw

Organiser: University of Warsaw, Office for Persons with Disabilities

FR: IDABC Open Source Event 2009 - 01 - 02 October 2009

The IDABC Open Source Event 2009 will focus on why and how European Public Administrations invest in Open Source Communities, from multi-stakeholder management to expected outcome. It will highlight these key aspects of Free, Libre and Open Source Software (FLOSS) sustainability and present seven practical cases, closing with a panel discussion. The keynote of the day focuses on the economical aspects of sustainability.

For a detailed list of planned presentations the agenda of the event can be downloaded from [here](#).

The event is part of the [Open World Forum](#) taking place in Paris on 1-2 October 2009.

In this international event people will be able to:

- Participate in a worldwide initiative bringing together Open Source players and decision-makers from 5 continents.
- Explore the future of FLOSS with Innovation [Awards](#), Trends Radars, and recommendations around a unique forward-looking initiative: the [2020 FLOSS RoadMap](#).
- Share insights and best practices with many of the most respected Open Source experts and entrepreneurs worldwide.
- Network with 1,500 CxOs, CIOs, IT Managers, architects, developers, academics and investors from more than 20 countries.

Registration to the one-day IDABC event can be performed by filling in the respective [form](#). In case that other members of a project or institution are interested, the form should be filled in separately.

In order to access the IDABC event, [registration to the Open World Forum](#) is necessary.

Event email: N/A

Event website: <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7804>

Country: France

City/Location: Paris

Organiser: IDABC Programme unit, Directorate General for Informatics, European Commission

ES: e-Gov 2.0 2009 Conference - 05 October 2009

After the international convention, held in Bulgaria, Sofia on 1st and 2nd October 2008, 'Improving Performance and Innovation in Public Administration', Eurospace continues with its programmed series of conventions in Europe coinciding with the annual publication of its volume on eGovernment. The conference will gather some of the leading international researchers and professionals coming from the European Commission and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA); some regional European Administrations, as well as some of the most prestigious European universities are also expected to participate in this event.

The edition 2009 of the Volume "e-Gov 2.0: pave the way for e-Participation" will be presented in Spain, Madrid, on 5 October 2009 in collaboration with the City Hall of Madrid.

Participation is the fundamental principle of democracy. The creation of a more open, user-oriented and democratic administration whereby both citizens and businesses are able to easily access and to directly influence the political choices of the governors, is the mission of every government involved in a process of modernisation. The Web 2.0 technologies can offer support in this sense. Tools such as thematic blogs, wikis, on-line polls, discussion fora, on-line communities and social networks allow Government to establish an open two-way consultation and feedback-generation channel through which citizens can take up a more active role in the shaping of policy.

The great opportunities offered by the new technologies explain the reason why today eParticipation is the prominent theme of the new eGovernment research focus. Numerous are in fact the initiatives and the exercises that have mushroomed in the latest years even though eParticipation is yet an area which involves a further research.

The conference will be an opportunity to look into the following questions and discuss the possible answers:

- To what extent can ICT tools effectively support and enrich the democratic processes?
- What are the limitations and the risks connected with this new usage of ICT?
- Where can a misuse of this technology lead? May it even become a threat to basic principles and human rights?
- Is society really ready to accept and effectively exploit the new participatory possibilities offered by the ICTs?
- What is the role played by interoperability in the construction of this participatory framework?

Registration to this open event is to be performed by sending an email to progetti@eurospacegroup.com or comunicazione@eurospacegroup.com, by 20 September 2009. There is no attendance fee.

Event email: progetti@eurospacegroup.com, comunicazione@eurospacegroup.com

Event website: http://www.eurospacegroup.com/eng/pubblicazioni_news.php

Country: Spain

City/Location: Madrid

Organiser: Eurospace

NL: ISSE 2009 - 06 - 08 October 2009

Founded in 1999 as an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate General for Information Society, ISSE is intended to be "Europe's only independent, interdisciplinary security conference and exhibition".

ISSE provides a forum for sharing real life experiences and learning from experts in the field and it is renowned for its rich educational content and unbiased perspective. It is designed to educate and inform ICT security professionals, policy makers, and industry leaders on the latest developments in technology, solutions, market trends and best practice.

Now in its eleventh year, ISSE 2009 will attract over 400 representatives from across Europe providing an informal and stimulating environment for attendees to learn, share experiences and explore solutions with their European counterparts, focusing on security and related issues like cost of ownership, risk management and interoperability.

By attending ISSE 2009, participants will benefit from the following:

- Educational programme featuring the latest developments in information security, with a special emphasis on European directions and regulations.
- Expert advice on emerging threats and the key challenges ahead.
- Bespoke itinerary allowing choosing from more than 80 individual sessions.
- Hands-on demonstrations of the latest solutions from specialist suppliers.
- Complimentary entry to the ISSE Networking Event.
- Networking opportunities with peers, European security experts and leading industry suppliers.
- Complimentary lunch and refreshments.

The key security topics expected to be addressed at the conference may be viewed [here](#). Further information regarding the fees is also [available](#). Details on registering to the event can currently be provided by mailing isse@cirldata.com.

Event email: nicola@revolution-events.com

Event website: <http://www.isse.eu.com/index.htm>

Country: Netherlands

City/Location: The Hague

Organiser: Revolution Events

TR: eChallenges e-2009 - 21 - 23 October 2009

The eChallenges e-2009 Conference & Exhibition bring together over 650 delegates from leading commercial, government and research organisations around the world to bridge the Digital Divide, by sharing knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and good practice.

Main thematic areas are, but not limited, to the following:

- ICT for Networked Enterprises
- eGovernment and eDemocracy
- eHealth
- Technology Enhanced Learning

- Intelligent Content, Collaborative Working Environments
- eInfrastructures
- High Performance Computing Applications
- Smart and Virtual Organisations
- Mobility & Security and Identity Management
- Geographic IT in Public Service
- eIdentity and eSecurity

eChallenges e-2009 provides an international forum to increase awareness of exploitable ICT research results and applications, whether funded privately or publicly. The conference also provides its participants the opportunity to identify partners and opportunities to cooperate in international research projects co-funded by the European Commission under the ICT Programme of FP7, as well as discussing proposal ideas with European Commission officials representing different units from Information Society and Media Directorate General.

Further information regarding the programme of the conference can be found [here](#). Registration is open and can be performed [online](#) with a payment of a fee.

Event email: secretariat@eChallenges.org

Event website: <http://www.echallenges.org/e2009/default.asp?page=home>

Country: Turkey

City/Location: Istanbul

Organiser: International Information Management Corporation Ltd (IIMC)

DK: Pan European eProcurement Conference with PEPPOL - 21 - 23 October 2009

The objective of the [PEPPOL](#) project is to set up a pan-European pilot solution that, conjointly with existing national solutions, facilitates EU-wide interoperable public eProcurement. It envisages that companies and, in particular, SMEs in the EU will be able to communicate electronically with any European government institution for the entire procurement process.

There are three main objectives of the conference:

- Day 1 - PEPPOL executive day: to inform and promote the business opportunities in the PEPPOL Pilot and the PEPPOL Infrastructure to executives and decision makers from:
 - private service providers (eProcurement, banks, etc.);
 - public sector organisations worldwide;
 - suppliers of middleware products who offer products that can help organisations;
 - connect to the PEPPOL Infrastructure.
- Day 2 - PEPPOL architecture day: to engage IT project managers, IT architects and programmers from the above organisations in the technical aspects of the PEPPOL Infrastructure.
- Day 3 - PEPPOL middleware demonstrations and programmers "Hands-on": to allow existing suppliers of middleware to demonstrate their PEPPOL compliant products and to educate programmers in the software libraries provided.

The content offered during the conference addresses different audiences; executives and decision makers are recommended to participate only the first day; IT project managers, IT-architects and programmers are recommended to participate on day 2 and 3.

The agenda of the event may be viewed [here](#).

The event is free of charge and registration can be performed [online](#). However, there is a limited number of free places which are reserved for solution and platform providers, public sector entities, PEPPOL consortium members, service providers and related EU initiatives. The organiser has therefore reserved the right to allocate places and to refuse applications once the number of complimentary places has been exceeded.

Event email: conference@peppolinfrastructure.com

Event website: <http://www.peppol.eu/News/events-1/peppol-innovation-conference>

Country: Denmark

City/Location: Copenhagen

Organiser: The Pan European Public Procurement Online (PEPPOL) Project

UK: Government 2010 Conference Live - 22 October 2009

Government 2010 is a live free-to-view online video conference from the heart of London.

It is about improved government communications and more rapid delivery of services to citizens via the web and web-enabled channels; laying special emphasis on citizens doing it for themselves. It will examine how next generation government is set to change in the light of social, media and technology change.

The Government 2010 series of live streamed conferences will bring together thought leaders to debate how government will embrace this generation web technologies to create next generation government.

This event will bring together parliamentarians, civil servants, technologists, bloggers, academics and researchers to discuss and debate on what it should be done in response to the changes facing the Government and the public service.

Viewing the event online will be free of charge. Those wishing to follow the live broadcast have to pre-register [online](#) at the event website.

There will however be a very limited number of spaces available for those interested to attend the live event. Potential participants are invited to contact the organisers via the [online form](#).

Delegate places will be £850.00 each (approx. €997.18) (£977.50 including VAT (approx. €1170.23)) for commercial companies or £595.00 plus VAT (approx. €698.03) (£684.25 including VAT (approx. €802.73)), for government bodies, NGOs or charities. All delegates will have to provide photographic ID upon registration.

The latest agenda of the event can be viewed [here](#).

Event email: jeff@quadco.co.uk

Event website: <http://www.g2010.co.uk>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: Quadriga Consulting / Switch New Media / IBM

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