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>> ePractice.eu assisted workshop - Third meeting of the e-Forum privacy working group

The [ePractice.eu assisted workshop](#) 'Third meeting of the e-Forum privacy working group' will be held in Brussels, on **8 December 2010**. A neutral meeting space for all interested parties from all sides, the event is organised in the context of FASTeTEN, an EU-backed project dealing with secure information exchange and that involves privacy issues. Crucial questions will be explored, such as: Are privacy rights in the EU being left behind? In the move online, will data protection concerns be fully addressed, or is there a concern that privacy rights could be left behind, as official agencies try to get the maximum benefit they can from the huge data collection capabilities offered by current technologies?

For more information and free-of-charge registration, please visit the workshop's page announcement at: <http://www.epractice.eu/en/events/2010-e-forum>.

>> ePractice.eu assisted workshop - STORK Industry Group Workshop

The STORK (**S**ecure **i**dentit**y** **a**cr**O**ss **b**o**R**ders **l**in**K**ed) Industry Group Workshop, an [ePractice.eu assisted workshop](#), will be held in Brussels, on **14 December 2010**. It will focus on the effort to emphasize the benefits of STORK for industry stakeholders, to discuss possible ways to get the results of STORK taken up by Industry, as well as to enhance the Industry stakeholders' confidence towards the STORK solution. Exchange of knowledge, viewpoints, ideas, active participation as well as constructive and fruitful discussion with the Industry stakeholders will be promoted. In addition, industry stakeholders will have the opportunity to learn about progress made and the solutions being offered by the STORK consortium.

For more information and free-of-charge registration, please visit the workshop's page announcement at: <http://www.epractice.eu/en/events/2010-stork>.

>> Call for articles for the 11th and 12th Editions of the European Journal of ePractice

The 12th edition of the European Journal of ePractice will be devoted to the theme '**The Openness of Government**', aiming to determine what is an appropriate openness strategy for government. Given the broad scope of the openness topic, the call for papers for this edition provides a list of non-exhaustive topics for potential authors to think about. The Issue Editors are [Trond Arne Undheim](#) and [Paul Waller](#). Contributions of both an empirical and theoretical nature, from policy, organisational and/or technical perspectives are welcome. The submission deadline is **30 December 2010**.

Please, note that paper submissions are still accepted for the 11th Edition of the European Journal of ePractice entitled '**eGovernment for the Economic Crisis**'. The Issue Editor is [Jeremy Millard](#).

For more information, both calls are available at <http://www.epractice.eu/en/node/288847>. Proposed papers can be submitted at epractice@eurodyn.com or at editorial@epractice.eu.

Latest Cases

- [eQSF - European Quality Framework for ICT in Learning](#) | 26 November 2010 | Ireland | Italy | Poland | United Kingdom
 - [EduTubePlus*](#) | 24 November 2010 | Austria | Belgium | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Hungary | Italy | Portugal | Romania | Spain | United Kingdom
 - [eMPOWER*](#) | 23 November 2010 | Greece | Italy | Portugal
-

eQSF - European Quality Framework for ICT in Learning

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays an increasing role in education and learning. Research shows that ICT has a great potential to significantly increase learning outcomes for students. The majority of education and training providers already use some form of ICT in teaching. However, there is evidence that many education and training providers use ICT in an ad-hoc rather than strategic way that does not necessarily add quality to the learning experience for learners or worse, may even be detrimental to it.

eQSF is a new Quality Standards Framework for the use of ICT in learning that aims to ensure that ICT in learning and education is being explored to its full potential. eQSF supports training and education providers in a process of assessing, reviewing and improving the way they make use of information technology in their work.

eQSF Quality Standards

eQSF consists of 13 interrelated standards across three different pillars that were developed and tested by training and education providers across four different Member States in a European project funded under the European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme.

Project Resources

eQSF project partners have developed a range of useful tools that support an organisation during the eQSF process. The following resources are available:

- The **eQSF User Guide** explains in detail the different steps of the eQSF self-assessment process. It includes a range of useful templates that organisations can use, such as planning templates or a template for a SWOT analysis;
 - The **eQSF Standards Framework** describes the different quality standards for effective education provision using ICT in teaching and learning;
 - The **eQSF Online Tool** allows an organisation to do the self-assessment and planning online.
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EduTubePlus*

*Full title: A European curriculum related video library and hybrid e-services for the pedagogical exploitation of video in class

EduTubePlus is a European curriculum-related video library and hybrid eServices for the pedagogical exploitation of video in class.

The EduTubePlus project aims to develop a European hybrid, multilingual video-based service for schools. This service will integrate thousands of multi-lingual curriculum-related video-clips by major European educational TV & video providers, with tools enabling educators to enrich the library with user-generated clips. The EduTubePlus service will enable users to develop, translate and share video-based learning scenarios and lessons, to search resources using terms related to their national curriculum and to use video in a pedagogically relevant manner in-class.

eMPOWER*

*Full title: Empowering citizens to influence the decision-making & policy formulation on environmental issues

eMPOWER is an eParticipation Trial Project co-funded by the European Commission under the EU eParticipation Preparatory Action.

eMPOWER is aiming to motivate and strengthen the involvement of NGOs and citizens in the decision-making process on environmental issues at a National and European level by providing methods and tools for supporting citizens' participation and collection of signatures to promote relevant public initiatives and demands of civil society. The project uses eParticipation ICT tools to enable transparent, interactive and democratic communication processes, the results of which will be joint proposals, initiatives and viewpoints of NGOs and citizens regarding environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity, the nuclear power industry and the management of dangerous waste, sea pollution, the management of water resources and many others. At the same time, it strengthens the role of National News Agencies as promoters and supporters of relevant initiatives, securing thus the broader spread of the results of the program.

Editor's Choice of the week: [European Spatial Data Infrastructure with a Best Practice Network](#)

Latest News

- [LT: Vilnius psychiatric hospital launches free online counselling](#) | 7 December 2010 | Lithuania
- [MK: Information Society Ministry to assume responsibility for Public Administration](#) | 7 December 2010 | FYR of Macedonia
- [EU/INT: EC President welcomes ECDL Foundation's commitment to key objectives of the 'Digital Agenda for Europe'](#) | 6 December 2010 | EU Institutions | International Organizations
- [BG: Ministry of Health initiates public discussion on the development of eHealth](#) | 6 December 2010 | Bulgaria
- [NL: Vendors work together to achieve interoperability of radiology IT systems](#) | 3 December 2010 | Netherlands
- [EU: OLDES project nominated for the IT @ Networking Awards 2011](#) | 3 December 2010 | Belgium | Czech Republic | Germany | Italy | United Kingdom | EU Institutions | North America
- [NO: All regions and nearly all municipalities now use open source](#) | 3 December 2010 | Norway
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- [SE: eServices for study visas and residence permits are gradually introduced](#) | 2 December 2010 | Sweden
- [EE: Tartu University invites patient views on health digitisation](#) | 1 December 2010 | Estonia
- [RO: Biblionet programme promotes easier access to eGovernment services through public libraries](#) | 1 December 2010 | Romania
- [PT: New portal contains videos dedicated to healthy living](#) | 1 December 2010 | Portugal

LT: Vilnius psychiatric hospital launches free online counselling - 7 December 2010

It was announced in November 2010 that [Republican Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital \(Respublikinė Vilniaus psichiatrijos ligoninė - RVPL, in Lithuanian\)](#) has started to provide free psychological counselling and information services over the Internet.

The aim of this initiative is to ensure better information about mental health and mental health services available to citizens, and to improve the prevention of mental disorders.

Target recipients include:

- discharged hospital patients undertaking counselling, their families and relatives;
- people with mental disorders, their families and relatives; and,
- anyone looking for information about mental disorders, their prevention, management or what options exist.

The benefits of the online consultation service are the following:

- users can save time, since they can apply and receive online consultation from any place (home or office);
- their confidentiality is ensured;
- they can receive a written response, if they send their request via email or text messages; and,
- they do not have to pay for the advice.

The consultation takes place using a software application which enables free voice calls between two computers. It is available during two hours every week, from 11.00 to 12.00 on Wednesdays and from 18.00 to 19.00 on Tuesdays.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Lithuanian Ministry of Health \(in Lithuanian\)](#)
- [Online Counselling Service - Republican Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital \(in Lithuanian\)](#)
- [Republican Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital \(in Lithuanian\)](#)

MK: Information Society Ministry to assume responsibility for Public Administration - 7 December 2010

The [Ministry of Information Society](#) of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is prepared to take responsibility for Public Administration.

On 5 November 2010, Minister for Information Society Ivo Ivanovski said this move is in accordance with the recommendations of the European Union.

Minister Ivanovski outlined indeed that [SIGMA](#) - a joint initiative of the EU and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) supporting the public administration reform in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia among other countries - recommended alternatively the establishment of a new institution, the Ministry of Public Administration or the increase of the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Information Society by giving it responsibility for public administration.

Following a Government decision, a new institution called the 'Ministry for Information Society and Administration' will be created; the following entities will be placed under its umbrella: the Agency for civil servants, a part of the General Secretariat managing policies aimed at civil servants, a part of the Ministry of Justice and the Secretariat of European Affairs.

"We are ready for the challenge that comes before us in view of implementing projects within the chapters of eGovernance and eGovernment and the legal reform in the Public Administration, both at central and local levels" the Minister said.

Reforms in the administration are really necessary, according to the Minister who deems that it is essential for an effective public administration to be based on knowledge. This requires more active training for all the employees of the public administration, so that the civil service institutions are more efficient, more accountable to citizens and more transparent.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#)
- [Ministry of Information Society](#)
- [SIGMA](#)

EU/INT: EC President welcomes ECDL Foundation's commitment to key objectives of the 'Digital Agenda for Europe' - 6 December 2010

The ECDL Foundation sent on 27 September 2010 an [open letter](#) to the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso committing itself and its network of in-country partners to the delivery of a number high-level objectives, as part of its actions to support the EU Commission's flagship initiative '[A Digital Agenda for Europe](#)'.

These key aims include:

- To significantly reduce the number of Europeans who do not possess the required Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills to use the Internet and to participate fully in an increasingly digital society;
- To promote digital skills and literacy programmes within the EU and the Member States' national education policies to ensure that young Europeans will be suitably equipped for the demands of tomorrow's labour market;
- To take special measures in order to ensure that marginalised groups, such as the unemployed, elderly people, people with disabilities, and those living in remote communities, are empowered to participate fully in the Information Society.

The European Commission re-affirms the crucial role of digital skills and literacy as drivers of economic recovery in the creation of a smart, sustainable, and inclusive Europe.

In response to ECDL Foundation pledging its support, and that of its pan-European network to the aforementioned aims, President Barroso expressed his gratitude for this proactive and concrete response to the Commission's call for action and cooperation in the promotion of digital literacy in Europe, adding: "The Commission welcomes your commitment to contribute to that objective, through the targets you mention. Indeed, fostering digital literacy and skills across Europe requires having all relevant stakeholders on board, in particular those active in the field such as the ECDL Foundation. It is in this spirit that the Commission is putting considerable emphasis and efforts in opportunities for them to share the actions they intend to put in place and their contributions to the Digital Agenda for Europe."

In its open letter to President Barroso, ECDL Foundation also welcomed other EU flagship initiatives, such as '[Youth on the Move](#)', and '[An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs](#)', and affirmed the importance of independently validated certification programmes to benchmark the competencies of ICT professionals within Europe.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - European Computer Driving Licence \(ECDL\) Foundation](#)

- [Related ePractice Publication - EU: A Digital Agenda for Europe - Commission Communication](#)
 - [Youth on the move](#)
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BG: Ministry of Health initiates public discussion on the development of eHealth - 6 December 2010

The Bulgarian Ministry of Health announced in November 2010 that it was inviting ideas and comments on how eHealth should be developed in the country.

The development of eHealth is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Health. The main objectives of the Ministry are:

- to create an integrated information system to communicate and exchange data among existing institutions such as the National Health Insurance Fund (Национална здравноосигурителна Каса - [НЗОК](#), in Bulgarian), the National Social Security Institute (Национален Осигурителен Институт - [НОИ](#), in Bulgarian), the Ministry of Health (Министерство на здравеопазването - [МЗ](#), in Bulgarian), the National Revenue Agency (Национална агенция за приходите - [НАП](#), in Bulgarian);
- to develop electronic patient files, records and telemedicine services.

For this purpose the Ministry of Health has set up a working group to lay the foundations for the development of eHealth in Bulgaria.

In view of the public importance of this activity and its interdisciplinary nature, the Ministry would like to receive feedback from all potential participants in the development, implementation and use of eHealth. Comments should be sent to: ez@mh.government.bg by 15 December 2010.

The feedback will be summarised by the working group and will be presented together with the vision of the institution at a round table early in 2011.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Bulgarian Ministry of Health \(in Bulgarian\)](#)
-

NL: Vendors work together to achieve interoperability of radiology IT systems - 3 December 2010

On 1-2 November 2010 the second Dutch eRadiology test event took place at St. Antonius Hospital in Utrecht. The purpose of this test event was to bring together pre-competitive vendors in order to solve at an early stage any possible integration problems in information technology (IT) systems and thus, to achieve interoperability among them.

During the event, following the international 'Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise' (IHE) Connectathon, a number of international IHE profiles from the so-called IHE IT Infrastructure domain were tested, with country-specific added elements. The Netherlands' specificity lies within the provision of a personal unique service number for citizens (Burgerservicenummer, in Dutch), which is sent in messages.

The results demonstrated that radiological examinations can be sent from one digital system to another in a vendor-independent way. The St. Anthony Hospital is in favour of increasing interoperability in healthcare through the consistent application of open standards and open source software.

The results of this test will be presented at the '[Picture archiving and communication systems \(PACS\) and eRadiology](#)' conference on 8 December 2010, along with some live demonstrations.

The Dutch eRadiology test event consists of an interoperability test where various health IT systems are connected together and tested according to IHE integration profiles. It is an opportunity for interoperability between clinical IT systems to be tested.

The importance of a professional market to organise systems of the highest possible quality is thus guaranteed more than the individual interest of a single supplier. For vendors, it is an efficient way of testing, since any deficiencies are quickly identified and can be solved. The advantage for users is that interoperability is demonstrated in advance and thus setting up and managing system integration becomes easier.

This event was made possible thanks to the close cooperation among the vendors, the IHE Netherlands and the National IT Institute for Healthcare in the Netherlands (Nictiz).

Further information:

- [Original News Article - National IT Institute for Healthcare in the Netherlands \(in Dutch\)](#)
- [Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise \(IHE\)](#)
- [Conference on 'Picture archiving and communication systems \(PACS\) and eRadiology'](#)

EU: OLDES project nominated for the IT @ Networking Awards 2011 - 3 December 2010

It was announced in November 2010 that the **OLDES project** has been nominated for the **IT @ Networking Awards 2011 (IT @ 2011)**, to be held in Brussels from 19-20 January 2011.

The Older People's e-Services at Home (OLDES) project aims to offer new technological solutions to improve the quality of life of elderly people, through the development of a very low-cost and easy-to-use entertainment and healthcare platform, designed to ease the life of the elderly in their homes.

The project aims to plan and develop an innovative technological system for tele-assistance and tele-accompany, thanks to the joint work of 11 EU partners. The OLDES system is being used in two test pilots, in Bologna (Italy) and in Prague (Czech Republic). The Bologna pilot involves more than 100 elderly people who have been supplied with a home gateway comprising a set-top-box (a small, low-cost PC) and a remote control in order to access the services.

The IT @ 2011 award is organised by the [European Association of Healthcare IT Managers \(HITM\)](#) and the [European Association of Hospital Managers \(EAHM\)](#). The OLDES project is one of 25 nominees selected following peer review evaluation.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Europe's Information Society Thematic Portal](#)
- [OLDES project \(in English and Italian\)](#)
- [Related ePractice case - Old people's e-services at home \(OLDES\)](#)
- [Related ePractice publication - EU: eHealth Monthly Focus on the OLDES Project](#)
- [Related news article - IT @ Networking Awards 2011](#)

NO: All regions and nearly all municipalities now use open source - 3 December 2010

Public administrations in Norway are increasingly turning to open source, says Martin Bekkelund, business developer at [Friprog](#), the country's open source competence centre. This year, all nineteen county administrations are using open source in some form, compared to 76 percent in 2005.

Uses vary from server operating systems, content management systems to OpenOffice. A recent example is the procurement of an open source telephone system based on Asterisk in the county of Akershus. "Moreover, now 75 percent of all 430 municipalities are using this type of software, including for example OpenOffice in high schools and a complete stack of server software."

Five years ago [2005], a little less than 60 percent of the municipal governments used open source. In Norway there are roughly a thousand public offices, which include government offices, municipalities and counties; now, more than 60 percent uses open source, compared to 34 percent in 2005.

Bekkelund says public administrations should work together to reuse data, knowledge and software. Failing to collaborate on this will result in increasing IT costs and mounting bureaucracy. "This in turn leads to decreasing quality and a loss of knowledge."

"On the other hand, forcing public administrations to switch to open source is not the way to go, public sector need to see the benefits of sharing and collaboration for themselves." This explains why Friprog is working on incentives to make open source more attractive. The centre has created a site where public administrations and IT service providers can work together, called '[Delingsbazaren](#)'.

A similar website named '[Kunnskapsbazaren](#)' focuses on sharing documentation, research, case studies and data. Friprog also organises conferences, such as the GoOpen conference taking place in Oslo in March 2011. "Free and open source has become a natural part of the market."

Bekkelund presented Friprog's progress on 25 September 2010 at the Software Freedom Kosova conference that was held in the city of Pristina.

Further information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
- [Friprog \(in Norwegian\)](#)
- [Presentation at Kosova Software Freedom](#)
- [Delingsbazaren \(in Norwegian\)](#)
- [Kunnskapsbazaren \(in Norwegian\)](#)
- [GoOpen conference](#)
- [Software Freedom Kosova Conference](#)

PL: Poznań city's eGovernment platform built on open source components - 3 December 2010

The administration of the Polish city of Poznań is using many open source tools, allowing it to provide a variety of eGovernment services to citizens, civil workers and politicians. "Free and open source software, open access and open standards allow us to create open government services."

Examples include the audio streaming of city council sessions, using the Ogg Vorbis open standard. The city also offers websites that combine city maps with city planning and provides public Internet access points. Using open source furthermore allows Poznan's citizens to submit information to the Municipal police, in combination with digital maps.

"The city's approach to services driven by free and open source is very pragmatic", says Bartosz Lewandowski, leader of the eGovernment team from the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre ([PSNC](#)) providing IT services to the city on the basis of long term agreement.

For its IT strategy, the city takes advantage of the flexibility of open source components, enabling it to deliver faster and cheaper online services for mass audiences. "The idea behind our approach is to provide the city inhabitants with the services of the information technology society, including eGovernment, telemedicine, digital libraries on the basis of PSNC's research and development expertise."

Lewandowski presented Poznań's open source activities at the Free Open Source Academia Conference ([Fossa](#)), that took place in Grenoble, France, on 9 November 2010. Using the open source database management system Postgresql and Postgis, a Postgresql-based geographic information system, the PSCN built a [website](#) offering all kinds of information on the city. "These open source tools are a good basis for a whole range of complex eGovernment services."

The city is for instance working on interactive maps of cemeteries. Poznań also offers public Internet access points, administered by PSCN, based on the Fedora Linux distribution. "We are following the EU directive on the re-use of applications and data. The more public administrations base their work on open standards, the easier it will be to combine activities."

Further information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
- [Bartosz Lewandowski's presentation](#)
- [Free Open Source Academia Conference](#)
- [Poznań city guide - Official portal of the City of Poznań](#)
- [Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center](#)

FR: Vendor independence helps city of Arles save money - 3 December 2010

The [Arles City Council](#) decided to increase its use of open source in 2006, following a report by its IT department. It calculated that the move to an almost complete open source IT environment would require an investment of about €780 000, excluding maintenance costs of €50 000 per year.

The total cost savings are impossible to calculate, says François Raynaud, responsible for service development at the IT department. The city finds it installs a lot more free software applications than it would have in the case it was restricted to proprietary software. The city now uses open source systems for groupware, workflow, content management and blogs. "Anyone who wants it gets [advanced image editor and image manipulation software] GIMP, but we would only have had budget for a handful of licences for its proprietary alternative, which costs €1500."

The city decided to gradually move to open source, replacing proprietary software where possible. Today [November 2010], five hundred of all seven hundred desktops in use in the city's offices run OpenOffice, replacing a proprietary office suite that dated from 1996. Also, already thirty desktops are running the Ubuntu Linux distribution.

The IT department gives the civil servants the choice between a proprietary desktop system and an Ubuntu Linux desktop. So far, most go for the proprietary system. "OpenOffice is a success, but with Ubuntu we're less successful, so far," says Raynaud.

On the servers, the city uses three Debian and one Suse Linux server. The city's workers now use thirty open source business applications, mostly from the OpenMairie software development project. These applications include openReglement, a tool to manage identity cards and passports, openVieAssociative, software that helps manage volunteer organisations and not-for-profit associations and OpenCimetiere, an application for managing concessions at cemeteries. Moreover, Arles uses OpenMairie's tools for its financial reporting, billing and land &

property registry. To manage the workflow and documents for the Arles City Council, the IT department uses PloneDeliberation. The city's Reattu Museum is using the PMB open source document management system.

Raynaud adds: "This year [2010] we're adding applications developed for the police, as well as public transportation to and from schools. Next year [2011] we will replace the proprietary mail server with the Zimbra open source mail server and we will start deploying an open source Geographic Information System based on the Postgresql database. And I hope to find time to work on geolocation, getting OpenStreetmap working on some of the smart-phones that we use here."

Further information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
- [Arles - City Council \(in French\)](#)
- [OpenMairie \(in French\)](#)
- [PloneDeliberation - Project description at OSOR.EU](#)
- [PMB](#)

ES: Jaén Hospital introduces new automated drug dispensing system - 2

December 2010

The Pharmaceutical unit of the Hospital Complex of Jaén, a province in South-central Spain, has introduced a new system for the computerised dispensing of medication. This will speed up the dispensing procedures while enhancing the security of the medicines' preparation and their dispatch between admitted patients.

An automated rotary apparatus has been installed in the medical surgical hospital for the storing and the dispensing of medicines in order to increase the efficiency and the security of the preparation of single-doses for each patient. At the same time, the device prevents possible errors that can occur with manual dispensing.

At the beginning of November 2010, this single-dose dispensing system was 100 % available in the neurotrauma and the Doctor Sagaz hospitals, while it was nearing full availability in the mother-infant and in the medico surgical hospital with 80 % and 85 % respectively. Therefore, the system will soon be operational in all the rooms of the Jaén Hospital Complex.

"The pharmaceutical units are responsible for the correct, secure and efficient use of the medicines in the health establishment and this means, among other [consequences], that they are accountable for the dispensing of the medication prescribed." said head of the pharmaceutical unit of the hospital complex Florentina Horno, adding that one of the strategies worth adopting in this context is "the installation of an efficient and secure system for the dispensing of medicines, such as the Medication Single-Dose Dispensing System."

The Jaén Hospital Complex has gradually been introducing electronic prescriptions in all its clinical units. The experience started in 2008 in the internal medicine unit and brought positive results thanks to the collaboration of the different wards. ePrescribing has already been in use in the following units: neurology, internal medicine, cardiology, nephrology, haematology, ophthalmology, pain, vascular surgery and thoracic surgery. By the end of the year 2010, ePrescribing should cover 50 % of the hospital complex following the planned expansion of this system to the oncology and general surgery units.

In practical terms, the doctor performs the prescription through an office computer, thus integrating the order (medicines, nurse care, diet, etc) directly into the patient's records. Once the pharmacist has validated the medical prescription, the automated dispensing system receives the validation order and prepares the medication under the control and supervision of a nurse who finally prints the administrative file of each patient.

ePrescribing offers many advantages, such as: paper and data transcription are no longer needed; the prescription is perfectly readable and complete; doctors can benefit from the system's assistance - not only does the programme automatically inform them of the drugs available in the hospital, it also proposes a standard dose and guidelines,

which prevents potential prescription errors; the implementation of the prescription can take place as soon as the prescription is issued.

Further information:

- [Official news article - Health Portal of the Autonomous Government of Andalusia \(in Spanish\)](#)
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IT: Recent Italian eHealth achievements - 2 December 2010

At an event held in Rome on 26 October 2010, Renato Brunetta, the Italian Minister for Public Administration and Innovation presented the latest Italian eHealth developments.

Italy's eHealth policy targets are laid down in the Sectoral Objective IV of the e-Gov Plan 2012, a management summary of which may be found [here](#). These targets are as follows:

- The digitisation of prescriptions and sickness certificates;
- The citizens' electronic health records;
- Online booking for specialist consultations with the spread of the extraterritorial systems of Unified Booking Centres (Centri Unificati di Prenotazione - CUP, in Italian);
- Innovation within health authorities to increase digital innovation in their internal organisation processes and in view of the delivery of services to citizens.

The document unveiled by Minister Brunetta shows concrete progress towards such targets. First of all, the central system for the transmission, by the INPS ('Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale', the state body which coordinates national insurance funds) doctors, of the sickness certificates for private and public staff has been online since April 2010; the distribution of the access credentials for doctors has actually been completed. Likewise, since January 2010 the central system for the electronic transmission of the data of medical prescriptions has been available.

Moreover, the guidelines relating to the electronic health records' infrastructure, content and privacy information have been devised.

As for the project enabling children recovering in hospital to attend school remotely (teledidattica, in Italian), it has been completed in four hospitals, i.e. Rome's Bambino Gesù Paediatric Hospital, the Meyer Children's Hospital of Florence, the Padua Hospital and the Gaslini Children's Hospital of Genoa.

Having a look at the '2010 calendar of achievements', which was established by Minister Brunetta, one can note the achievement - yet not fully complete - of the project pertaining to the digitisation of prescriptions and sickness certificates. The other projects are still pending, except for some autonomous initiatives conducted here and there by health authorities.

Further information:

- [Official news article - Telemeditalia \(in Italian\)](#)
 - [Related ePractice publication - IT: eGovernment Plan 2012 - Management Summary](#)
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SE: eServices for study visas and residence permits are gradually introduced - 2 December 2010

The Swedish Migration Board ([Migrationsverket](#)) has launched electronic services enabling visiting students to apply for entry visas and residence permits online.

The service will be initially introduced on a small scale, but gradually electronic services will be set up in Swedish embassies and consulates. Two groups of applicants can now use the electronic services:

- Those who do not need an entry visa for Sweden can apply for a residence permit for visiting years via the Migration Board's website. Applications are processed in Sweden and the permits will be issued by the foreign authority indicated by the applicant.
- Those who must apply through the Swedish embassy in Beijing for a visa to visit Sweden or for a residence permit in case they are visiting students. Applicants can submit all their information online and pay the application fee electronically before the mandatory visit in the embassy premises, making the application process quicker and smoother.

The Swedish Migration Board has developed technical solutions for these electronic services. The aim is to achieve a rapid and safe handling of the electronic applications. Because an electronic application must be complete to be submitted, applicants expect a quick decision on whether they are entitled to visa entry or residence permit.

"With this initiative, the Migration Board has taken another big step towards faster and better services for applicants. We hope that the new groups that now have access to eServices will use them to the same extent as those who today seek [Swedish] citizenship using electronic means" said Christina Werner, Head of the Division for Visas, Work and Residence Permits.

The Swedish Consulate in Shanghai has started introducing electronic applications for visas and residence permits for visiting students since November 2010. Several other relevant overseas authorities will gradually put eServices into operation.

In 2009, the Swedish Consulate in China received a total of nearly 2 500 applications for visas for visiting students. 16 900 people from various countries around the world have applied.

Applicants can find these electronic services and further information on these at the Migration Board website under the sections '[Studying in Sweden](#)' and '[Visiting Sweden](#)'.

Further information:

- [Official News Article - Swedish Migration Board \(in Swedish\)](#)
- [Studying in Sweden - Swedish Migration Board](#)
- [Visiting Sweden - Swedish Migration Board](#)
- [Related ePractice news article - SE: Online citizenship application service](#)

EE: Tartu University invites patient views on health digitisation - 1 December 2010

The Centre for Ethics at the University of Tartu (the second largest city of Estonia) is conducting a study analysing the effects of the digitisation of health data and of patient-doctor communications. To such end, it is collecting the viewpoints of patients.

Over the past few years, much health-related information moved to the Internet in Estonia - e.g. paper prescriptions have been replaced by digital prescriptions and patient data are collected into a single national information system that is open to patients, who can view and monitor their own health data.

In this context, the Centre for Ethics invites all those who have visited the Estonian [Patient Portal](#) during 2010 to check their health records, to participate in focus group interviews. The past experience of patients and doctors will be explored. More specifically, the participants will be requested to give their views on, among other questions, the following ones: What is your opinion, both in terms of digital opportunities and challenges, on digital prescriptions? on the patient portal?

The focus group interviews will take a maximum of two hours and the answers collected will be used in a generalised, non-nominative way. The focus groups are scheduled for 6 December and 14 December 2010, at the Tartu University premises. People interested in participating are invited to fill in the [online registration form](#).

Background information:

The Patient Portal - launched on 26 October 2009 - enables patients to access their medical data regardless of time and place. The patients can use the Patient Portal to exercise their right to set the restrictions of access to their health data. When doing so, they will be informed by the system that it is dangerous for their health to provide healthcare services based on insufficient information. In case of an emergency situation, the patients will take full responsibility regarding the possible consequences that may arise from banning access to their data.

Further information:

- [Official news article - Estonian eHealth Foundation \(in Estonian\)](#)
 - [Contact for the eHealth study, University of Tartu](#)
 - [Registration form \(in Estonian\)](#)
 - [Patient Portal \(in Estonian\)](#)
-

RO: Biblionet programme promotes easier access to eGovernment services through public libraries - 1 December 2010

The Minister for Communication and Information Society, Mr. Valerian Vreme signed a memorandum of cooperation with the International Research & Exchanges Board Foundation in Romania (**IREX**) and the National Association of Public Libraries and Librarians (**Asociația Națională a Bibliotecarilor și Bibliotecilor Publice din România - ANBPR**, in Romanian), aiming to promote the Biblionet programme.

The purpose of the programme is to make public libraries centres of information resources and access points to eGovernment services.

The Biblionet programme is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a total of \$26.9 million (approx. €19.6 million). It was launched in 2009 and it is being run by the IREX Romania Foundation for a period of five years. So far, 795 public libraries have been equipped with 3 318 computers with public access to the Internet. Furthermore, training in IT was provided to 905 librarians.

As the public libraries that participate in Biblionet are equipped with computers, printers, scanners, projectors and Wi-Fi networks, they are already operating as hotspots and thus complement the programme of the Ministry of Communications and Information Society (MCSI) to install hotspots sites all over the country. Hence, a higher proportion of the population will have access to the Internet and to the respective information.

Following the memorandum, the MCSI will use an already existing Internet access network, therefore the country will not have to invest more in a parallel network. Moreover, given that libraries are public institutions that offer free services to communities, the digital divide between urban and rural areas will be reduced. A characteristic example of this is the Neamt county (in the northern-east part of Romania), where farmers were able to complete forms for getting grants online using the Biblionet infrastructure of the libraries.

"The MCSI will synchronise with IREX Romania and the ANBPR in the field of the informatisation of society by appointing a person to maintain permanent contact with both organisations. We will also identify financing paths from EU funds for the national libraries of Romania, as well as for associated NGOs." Minister Vreme said.

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - Ministry of Communication and Information Society \(in Romanian\)](#)
- [Biblionet \(in Romanian\)](#)

- [IREX Romania](#)
 - [Biblionet - Global Libraries Romania - IREX Romania](#)
-

PT: New portal contains videos dedicated to healthy living - 1 December 2010

Launched in November 2010, the '[VITEM - Videos for Healthy Living](#)' portal serves as an online platform for disseminating best practices for a healthy lifestyle.

The portal has been developed by the [Faculty of Sciences and Technology](#) of the University of Coimbra under the Support System for Administrative Modernisation (Sistema de Apoios à Modernização Administrativa - SAMA, in Portuguese), which is co-funded by the National Strategic Reference Framework (Quadro de Referência Estratégico Nacional - [QREN](#), in Portuguese).

According to the information available on the portal, in addition to posting online videos related to best health practices and well-being that are already available on the Internet, the platform provides thematic areas for questions as well as forums among users, which are open to the intervention of health professionals. Doctors and other health professionals monitor the website, so that users can obtain concrete answers to their questions.

The portal is an open access platform; however, if users wish to participate in the forums, authentication is required, which can be obtained via a search engine; this will allow the users to create a personal account where they will be able to store their preferences and lists of discussions, alerts on the availability of new videos on topics of their interest and other personalised information.

In their personal accounts, users may access a primary healthcare network, particularly for alerts and announcements, without having their personal clinical data stored. In the future, such access will be made available using the Citizen Card ([Cartão de Cidadão](#), in Portuguese).

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Citizen's Portal \(in Portuguese\)](#)
 - [VITEM \(in Portuguese\)](#)
 - [National Strategic Reference Framework \(in Portuguese\)](#)
-

New Factsheets

The 2nd Edition of the eInclusion factsheet for Portugal is now available online. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [DK: Telemedicine - An important option for patients](#) | 17 November 2010 | Denmark
- [IT: Digital technology as a tool for the integration of refugees](#) | 16 November 2010 | Italy
- [IT: Modernising the Public Administration - A Study on Italy](#) | 15 November 2010 | Italy
- [GL: Global E-government Web Accessibility: A Case Study](#) | 17 September 2010 | Pan european | Africa | Asia
- [UK: Summary of Telecare Services in Scotland](#) | 30 March 2010 | United Kingdom
- [UK: Telehealthcare in Scotland: Education and Training Strategy 2010-12](#) | 31 March 2010 | United Kingdom
- [FR: The part of telemedicine in the organisation of healthcare](#) | 30 November 2008 | France

DK: Telemedicine - An important option for patients - 17 November 2010

Description (short summary):

Telemedicine solutions are widely implemented in healthcare. The purpose of the deployment of telemedicine solutions should never be limited to a question of savings, it must be part of the quality development of healthcare. Health services should be developed so that they keep up with patient needs and desires.

In this context, Danish Patients - an umbrella organisation for 15 patient associations in Denmark representing 810 000 members - calls for to the establishment of mandatory national standards so that there is action behind the good intentions on the development of telemedicine.

Number of pages: 9

IT: Digital technology as a tool for the integration of refugees - 16 November 2010

Description (short summary):

The ultimate goal of this book is to illustrate the good practice experienced and implemented by non-profit organisation 'Fondazione Mondo Digitale' through a structure called the 'Enea Centre', with regard to the use of digital technology as a tool to facilitate the integration of refugees in Italy.

The intervention of the Fondazione Mondo Digitale (hereafter, 'the Foundation') is part of the broader framework formed by all those who cooperate in the Enea Centre (hereafter, 'the Centre') initiative; the present work therefore provides evidence and data collected in other areas.

In particular, this book focuses on four areas that are critical to the success of the project:

1. The conditions in which the good practice is implemented: the delicate status of refugees, the situation of refugees - especially in Rome; the organisation and the ideas behind the Centre; the services offered by the various actors at the Centre; the logistics and equipment the Foundation has at its disposal within the Centre; the degree of motivation of the refugees; the language difficulties encountered by the refugees, etc.
2. The administration of the rooms managed by the Foundation within the Centre - the refugees' registration and access to the rooms, time management, organisation of courses, the enrollments management and paper work, the roles of the collaborators of the Foundation, the maintenance, etc.
3. The teaching delivered by the Foundation at the Centre - spontaneous activities, different types of courses, the types of classes, social learning, personalised learning, manuals, certification, support activities, etc.
4. Research and evaluations to enable continuous learning - questionnaires, feedback, ongoing research, etc.

The intersection of these four areas provides an integrated model of good practice, which is implemented and analysed in order to facilitate as much as possible the fast and effective integration of refugees.

The book follows the sequence of the four major areas, starting with the 'conditions under which the good practice has been implemented' and ending with 'research and evaluation'. The initial source of the book is the project proposal, complemented with the massive research conducted and the observations on the field.

Finally, this book is a major reference point for the managers of integration policies and the actors of the field at the European Commission, in collaboration with the National Contact Points on Integration.

Number of pages: 172

IT: Modernising the Public Administration - A Study on Italy - 15 November 2010

Description (short summary):

This study on public administration reforms in Italy describes what has been achieved in the last two years by the Italian government within the framework of the Public Administration Reform (the 'Brunetta Reform'). It examines, in particular, the policy tools adopted in light of reform objectives, national context, and international good practice.

This study is therefore intended as preparatory work for a more thorough comprehensive review of Italian public administration reforms to assess their implementation, and ultimately, their impact.

The OECD Public Governance Reviews help countries assess their public governance arrangements from an international comparative perspective in terms of their ability to deliver on government objectives for the whole-of-government, and their preparedness to meet current and future challenges.

This study was prepared at the request of the Italian Minister for Public Administration and Innovation also with a view to conduct in the future a comprehensive OECD Public Governance Review.

Following the launching of this study on 28 October 2010 in Rome at the Seminar 'A Reform for Growth and Innovation, Modernisation and Productivity in the Public Administration', the paper was presented to OECD Ministers responsible for Public Administration during the Public Governance Committee Meeting at the Ministerial level held in Venice on 15-16 November 2010.

Number of pages: 136

GL: Global E-government Web Accessibility: A Case Study - 17 September 2010

Description (short summary):

The number of persons with disabilities accessing eGovernment is growing, although this growth has not come without issues. Although some countries have legal protection to ensure equal access to websites, including eGovernment sites, the mere presence of a law does not guarantee compliance.

This research examines the accessibility of eGovernment websites for 12 developing and developed countries. The research found that there were serious accessibility issues for all eGovernment sites, even those whose governments claimed adherence to accessibility standards or legislation. The results show a variety of accessibility problems with the sites, but most issues were centered on a minority of specific industry checkpoint errors, such as lack of providing alternate text for images. It is suggested that Web developers implement design recommendation provided in industry standards to improve the accessibility rankings of their sites and provide more open sites to people with disabilities.

Number of pages: 16

UK: Summary of Telecare Services in Scotland - 30 March 2010

Description (short summary):

This report collates information relating to telecare/telehealthcare developments led by Local Partnerships, providing a summary of currently available services and planned activity. The information reflects development during the first three years of activity, up to September 2009. 31 of the 32 partnerships have voluntarily taken part in this exercise, providing a comprehensive picture of services available across Scotland.

However, it is recognised this is not an exhaustive summary, as telecare initiatives have also been progressed by other organisations outwith the national programme. The report also seeks to identify common themes and issues which have emerged for local partnerships, with a view to informing the direction of future strategy and policy.

Number of pages: 132

Related ePractice publication:

[UK: Telehealthcare in Scotland: Education and Training Strategy 2010-12](#)

UK: Telehealthcare in Scotland: Education and Training Strategy 2010-12 - 31 March 2010

Description (short summary):

This strategy outlines the first phase of a comprehensive approach to the development and delivery of telehealthcare education and training opportunities for staff and other key stakeholders who are, or will become, involved in the delivery of telehealthcare services in Scotland. The actions arising from it are intended to support the development and delivery of high quality, effective, and integrated telehealthcare services.

It has been developed by the Joint Improvement Team as part of the national Telecare Development Programme (TDP), in association with the Scottish Centre for Telehealth (SCT).

The strategy focuses primarily on the training needs of social care, health and housing staff working with telehealthcare technologies in community based settings. It has been through a long consultation phase and is now intended to be a robust and pragmatic document which identifies a series of actions to ensure that staff working in these settings have access to appropriate and well designed education and training.

The Telecare Development Programme and the Scottish Centre for Telehealth have agreed to work in partnership on activities where their work streams converge. This is recognised as being particularly important around workforce development. The TDP and SCT have committed to a further phase of education and training strategy development, which will be undertaken during 2010/11, which will identify specific telehealthcare training needs of staff working in acute health settings.

Number of pages: 47

Related ePractice publication:

[UK: Summary of Telecare Services in Scotland](#)

FR: The part of telemedicine in the organisation of healthcare - 30 November 2008

Description (short summary):

The reason behind this report is the will of the health authorities to proceed to the operational deployment of telemedicine in France, after more than ten years of experimental studies and pilots.

First, the team of experts who worked on the report specified the deontological and legal framework of the responsibilities held by the various actors on the occasion of medical care using telemedicine means. The authors

then made an exhaustive inventory of the experimental studies and pilots conducted in France and in Europe as well as in other world regions over the past ten years.

The authors then sought to draw the attention of the government on the priority fields of telemedicine: remote regions (islands, mountains, rural areas), penal establishments where telemedicine will improve the treatment of the prisoners, reference centres for rare diseases and pre-hospital emergency units to optimise the medical regulation of care permanence.

The longer term benefits relating to the development of robotised mini-invasive interventions cannot be denied, in particular in patients suffering from an accumulation of chronic diseases. The current cost of such technology is high.

The report then analyses the obstacles to the operational deployment of telemedicine in France. It concludes that telemedicine deployment in the country has become a public health necessity and recommends a set of actions to the government in order to achieve this:

1. To take a clear policy commitment on telemedicine towards health professionals and citizens;
2. To renew the legal framework;
3. To better define existing practices;
4. To enlarge the current telemedicine development scope;
5. To give priority to the development of telemedicine in remote areas, as well as in penal establishments;
6. To clearly identify financing to accompany the deployment of telemedicine;
7. To speed up the implementation of technological environments that promote the deployment of telemedicine in insufficiently equipped areas;
8. To implement a telemedicine use training programme for health professionals;
9. To support users and patients in the use of ICT;
10. To implement management and assessment tools.

Number of pages: 160

Upcoming Workshops and Events

- [Assisted workshop: e-Forum privacy working group third meeting](#) | 8 December 2010 | Belgium
- [UK: Bio in the City: Medical Imaging Technology](#) | 8 December 2010 | United Kingdom
- [NL: IDentity.Next 2010 Unconference](#) | 8 December 2010 | Netherlands
- [FI: National Virtual Teaching Days](#) | 8 - 9 December 2010 | Finland
- [FI: CONFIDENCE 2010](#) | 9 - 10 December 2010 | Finland
- [FR: National BRIDGE-IT Seminar](#) | 10 December 2010 | France
- [AE: Special Session on Medical Informatics and e-Health at ICTITA Ajman 2010 conference](#) | 11 - 13 December 2010 | Asia
- [UK: Transforming Healthcare through Mobile and Wireless Technologies](#) | 13 December 2010 | United Kingdom
- [Assisted workshop: STORK Industry Group Workshop](#) | 14 December 2010 | Belgium
- [UK: eHealth & Telemed 2010](#) | 13 - 14 December 2010 | United Kingdom
- [BE: ServiceWave 2010](#) | 13 - 15 December 2010 | Belgium
- [MA: eHealth 2010 Conference](#) | 13 - 15 December 2010 | Africa
- [UK: ICTD London 2010](#) | 13 - 16 December 2010 | United Kingdom
- [BE: Flemish Conference on Local e-Government](#) | 14 December 2010 | Belgium
- [BE: Lift-off Towards Open Government Conference](#) | 15 - 16 December 2010 | Belgium
- [US: Digital Health Summit and Exhibition at the Consumer Electronics Show 2011](#) | 6 - 9 January 2011 | North America
- [IT: HEALTHINF 2011](#) | 26 - 29 January 2011 | Italy

Assisted workshop: e-Forum privacy working group third meeting - 8 December 2010

The third meeting of the e-Forum Working Group on Privacy will be held in Brussels on 8 December. The meeting will be held in follow up to the highly successful two previous meetings, which took place in Brussels and in Sheffield (UK) in February and April respectively.

The third meeting will take place in Hotel Silken Berlaymont Brussels, 11-19 Boulevard Charlemagne 1000 Brussels - Belgium Brussels. The meeting is hosted by e-Forum in the context of authentication and concerned with privacy issues. A packed agenda will see discussion of concepts of personal data, the notion of online consent and privacy by design, among other topics.

At the privacy working group's first two meetings, we began to work on a number of privacy topics, most fundamentally to attempt to define the personal sphere in the internet age, and in the context of political initiatives such as the European Union's Stockholm Programme, an initiative on freedom, security and justice policy. We will continue to ask the crucial question: are privacy rights in the EU being left behind? In the move online, will data protection concerns be fully addressed, or is there a concern that privacy rights could be left behind, as official agencies try to get the maximum benefit they can from the huge data collection capabilities offered by current technologies?

The European Commission has now published a consultation document as part of a planned review of the EU data protection framework (this document is available at http://ec.europa.eu/justice/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_0006_en.htm), with proposed legislation to be published in 2011. We will incorporate consideration of this in the work of the privacy working group, and the third meeting will be an opportunity to find out more from European Commission officials.

The e-Forum Privacy Working Group examines privacy issues especially as they relate to applications vital to eGovernment (e.g. electronic identity, e-authentication, retention of personal data), and to exchange of data between governments. The group is a **neutral meeting space** for interested parties from all sides - campaign groups, companies, academics and officials. A number of organisations have already backed the initiative, and further expressions of interest are welcomed.

For more information contact Baudouin de Sonis, director of e-Forum at: baudouin.de-sonis@eu-forum.org. For any travel enquiries, also contact Baudouin de Sonis. For background information on the e-Forum Privacy Working Group, go to http://www.eu-forum.org/article.php3?id_article=1063.

The detailed agenda is available at: http://www.eu-forum.org/article.php3?id_article=1141.

Event website: <http://www.eu-forum.org/>
Country: Belgium
City/Location: Brussels
Organiser: European Dynamics, S.A.

UK: Bio in the City: Medical Imaging Technology - 8 December 2010

OBN are presenting speakers selected from new spinouts from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and Imperial College London together with global industry players in medical imaging healthcare, who will be showcasing innovative technologies and projects with great potential in improving or revolutionising clinical care and treatment of various healthcare areas from cardiology, neuroscience, to cancer.

The pharmaceutical industry has already recognised the benefits of reliable imaging technology in improved monitoring of the effect of new drugs in clinical trials. Medical imaging technology uses a variety of powerful techniques to create internal images of the human body for medical diagnosis, allowing clinicians to gain a more immediate and accurate understanding of a patient's condition than ever before. As a key technique for the medical community and pharmaceutical industry, the world market for medical imaging equipment is expected to grow 9.8 % per year from 2005-2015, to become a \$37 billion (approx. €27.9 billion) worldwide business.

This Bio in the City is also designed to keep investors, biotech, pharma, and other industry stakeholders informed as to the state of the art in this highly important and exciting sector.

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: events@obn.org.uk

Event website: http://www.obn.org.uk/obn_/eventdetails.php?r=OIX505507141

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: OBN not-for-profit business network which provides comprehensive support for biotech and medtech companies in the Oxford and South-East England biocluster and beyond, providing networking, partnering, and group purchasing

NL: IDentity.Next 2010 Unconference - 8 December 2010

IDentity.Next 2010 Unconference - 'Digital Me in the age of the New Normal'

IDentity.Next is a facilitated, user-driven conference on digital identity and its future. It aims to serve as a platform for leading Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and business professionals, policy-makers, academics, administrators and industry innovation leaders to educate, inform and exchange knowledge and experience on the latest developments and trends in digital identity. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to the stakeholders and main actors in the eldentity field.

The themes that will be discussed during the event include:

- The Social consumer: How will social identity turn around the new value chain?
- Mobile Me: Where is my DigitalMe and who should know?
- Private eye: Who owns and controls the privacy problem and should we really care?
- eCitizen: Next generation eGovernment and its identity issues.

Information on the conference agenda can be found [here](#).

Event email: info@identitynext.eu

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

Country: Netherlands

City/Location: The Hague

Organiser: IDentity.Next in cooperation with the European Association for eldentity and Security (EEMA) and the city of The Hague

FI: National Virtual Teaching Days - 8 - 9 December 2010

National Virtual Teaching Days - 'New times, new days'

The Finnish National Virtual Teaching Days organised under the theme 'New times, new days' aims to promote the use of ICT for teaching and learning and to introduce new possibilities and applications from the pedagogical point of view.

The target audience for this event consists of teachers, head teachers and curriculum directors, IT managers, education and training representatives, training teachers, training education staff, related professional organisation representatives and others interested in the subject.

Among other topics to be addressed is teachers' skills development. The detailed event programme may be found at the event website (in Finnish).

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: anita.varsa@oph.fi

Event website: <http://db3.oph.fi/koulutuskalenteri/ophtilaisuus.asp?ID1=1074>

Country: Finland

City/Location: Helsinki

Organiser: Finnish National Board of Education (FNBE)

FI: CONFIDENCE 2010 - 9 - 10 December 2010

CONFIDENCE 2010 International Conference - 'Open Doors to ICT for Ageing and eInclusion'

Information and communication technologies (ICT) in the fields of ageing, eInclusion, and ambient assisted living (AAL) aim at supporting older people to remain independent for as long as possible, to maintain an active participation in society and to improve their quality of life.

The conference aims at disseminating current research and development activities carried out within the [CONFIDENCE project](#) as well as with other research projects within the European Union Framework Programmes, but is not limited to them. Most importantly, the conference will literally 'open the doors' of these research and development activities to older people, stakeholders, and society.

Participants will be able to experience first-hand the ability of the CONFIDENCE prototype to discern alarming situations, such as falls, from normal behaviours which allow the system to be silent while the user is confident that help will be summoned when it is urgently needed.

Researchers and ICT developers, public and private social care, business representatives should attend. A central role in the conference is given to the older people, formal and informal care providers, and other stakeholders. Researchers or *presenters* will disseminate their results through their participation in the conference and poster sessions. Older people, users, and stakeholders or *guests* will be able to learn about the current situation in this area. Through moderated interactive round tables and informal occasions the older people and stakeholders will be able to discuss their points of view with the researchers and to transmit their interests for now and for the future. The mission of these user-researcher interactive opportunities is to establish a compromise towards a user-driven development of ICT.

Registration for the event is needed and can be performed by filling the [registration](#) form (to be made available shortly at the event website) or calling Ms. Maria Alonso (Spain) at +34 943 21 28 00, extension 2980 or Ms. Anna Kämäräinen (Finland), at +358 (0)14 260 4611.

The Call for Abstracts is open until 4 October 2010. More details about the Call for Abstracts may be found [here](#).

Event email: narciso.gonzalez-vega@jyu.fi

Event website: <http://www.jyu.fi/confidence2010>

Country: Finland

City/Location: Jyväskylä

Organiser: Agora Center, University of Jyväskylä

FR: National BRIDGE-IT Seminar - 10 December 2010

French National BRIDGE-IT Seminar

The [BRIDGE-IT Thematic Network](#) is a European project gathering experts in the fields of education, employment and civil society working on ICT for social integration and cultural diversity, with an emphasis on immigrants and ethnic minorities. This event is the French national seminar organised within the Network's framework.

In France, the DAREIC (academic delegation for European and international relations and cooperation) is a partner of BRIDGE-IT. This working group has as an objective to provide the European Commission with analysis elements and proposals on the global theme of social integration and cultural diversity, with regard to the priorities set down in the Lisbon programme, in particular the digital inclusion of migrants and ethnic minorities in the European space.

The DAREIC is active in the fields of education and lifelong learning; it brings its expertise regarding the mobility of students in the European Union and the conditions promoting their integration in the French educational system. The use of ICT to help students in the frame of language and cultural learning process is a national and academic priority, in which the DAREIC takes an active part within the BRIDGE-IT Group.

The French national seminar will bring together all the stakeholders concerned with the themes of BRIDGE-IT as direct actors, experts, disseminators and multipliers in the three relevant domains (education, employment and civil society). Practical examples and tools selected by the BRIDGE-IT Expert Group will be presented on this occasion in order to consider their implementation in each of the three domains. The seminar aims to explore collaboration tracks between participants in such domains. An event report will then be transmitted to the European Commission.

The event is organised in line with a pre-set framework for a [set of national BRIDGE-IT seminars](#) that will also take place in Germany, in [Italy](#), in Spain and in the Czech Republic.

The event agenda may be found at the following link: http://www.lmi.ub.es/bridgeit/documents/Bridge_IT_seminar_FR_programme.pdf.

For all enquiries, interested persons are invited to contact [Claude Beaudoin](#). The number of participants is limited.

Event email: [Claude Beaudoin](#)

Event website: <http://bridge-it.factorsim.es/seminars-and-guidelines>

Country: France

City/Location: Paris

Organiser: BRIDGE-IT Thematic Network along with the DAREIC (academic delegation for European and international relations and cooperation)

AE: Special Session on Medical Informatics and e-Health at ICTITA Ajman 2010 conference - 11 - 13 December 2010

Special Session on Medical Informatics and e-Health at the International Conference on Trends in Information Technology and Applications (ICTITA) Ajman 2010

This event takes place in the frame of the ICTITA Ajman 2010 conference, which aims to be an international forum for the discussion and presentation of original research ideas and recent advances in various areas of information technology and its applications. It aims to strengthen relations between industry, research institutions, and universities.

The topics of the special session on Medical Informatics and e-Health include, but are not limited to:

- Health Care Information Systems
- Clinical Information Systems

- Medical Image Processing
- Medical Intelligent Systems
- Medical Expert Systems
- Applications in Medical and Health Sciences
- Bioinformatics and Biostatistics
- Telemedicine Software, Portals, Devices and Telehealth
- Web-based and Remote Medicine
- Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery in Medicine
- Application of Machine Learning in Medicine
- Artificial Intelligence Techniques in Health Sciences
- Medical Databanks, Databases, and Knowledge Bases
- Neurocomputing in Medicine
- Ontology and Medical Information Science
- Bioethics and Health informatics
- Robotics in Medicine
- Biosignals Approaches to Behavioral Biometrics

The registration link will be made available online at the event website.

Event email: [Amina Abou Sharkh](mailto:Amina.Abou.Sharkh@ajman.ac.ae)

Event website: <http://www.ictita.org/ICTITA2010/sessions.htm>

Country: Asia

City/Location: Ajman, United Arab Emirates

Organiser: Ajman University of Science & Technology

UK: Transforming Healthcare through Mobile and Wireless Technologies - 13 December 2010

Transforming Healthcare through Mobile and Wireless Technologies

This Conference explores the application of new technologies in the health service and how they contribute to the National Health Services (NHS) efficiency saving target of £20 billion (approx. €22.8 billion).

Those who have already invested in mobile and wireless solutions are reaping the benefits of less administration, improved workflow, reduced travel needs and increased communication between clinicians, teams and patients.

With tightening budget constraints there has never been a greater need to build the business case for spending to save with new technology, and to present demonstrable returns on investment.

Bringing together policy makers, healthcare professionals and technology suppliers, this conference covers the key issues including:

- Putting together a strong case for investing in technological solutions;
- Analysing mobile and wireless project outcomes and evidencing value for money;
- Case studies of successful applications across acute, primary and community health settings.

Those who will attend will gain valuable insights and advice from those at the forefront of delivering new ways of working using mobile and wireless technologies. They will also learn how to tailor these innovations to improve service delivery and achieve significant efficiency savings in their organisations.

The detailed event programme may be found here.

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: capita.conferences@capita.co.uk

Event website: <http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/health-social-care/full-conference/article/transforming-healthcare-through-mobile-and-wireless-technologies-1.html>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: Capita, with the support of the National Health Service (NHS), NHS Connecting for Health Programme

Assisted workshop: STORK Industry Group Workshop - 14 December 2010

The Workshop will be held on: December 14th 2010 from 2.00pm to 4.30pm in Square Brussels Meeting Centre Rue Ravenstein 2 B-1000 Brussels.

Workshop's Overview:

STORK implements an EU-wide interoperable system contributing to mutual recognition of eID and eID-based services like authentication that enables citizens and businesses to use their national eIDs in any Member State involved. The six STORK pilots ("Cross-border authentication platform for electronic services", "Safer Chat", "Student Mobility", Electronic Delivery", "Change of Address" and "ECAS Integration") are now live and are testing common eID specifications for several applications that have a substantial impact on eGovernment across Europe. In particular, the technologies and services developed and tested within STORK project are key enablers to provide interoperable electronic identification management (eIDM) for access to eGovernment services across Europe. This eID interoperability is an essential key factor for economic growth and employment in the EU. STORK's role is to provide workable pilot applications that can be extended to cover additional countries and other fields of application. Thus, STORK infrastructure, pilots and services are considered as an important innovative solution, as well as an attractive, effective and sustainable solution for Member States and also for Industry and SMEs. It is a common understanding amongst STORK partners that an interoperable eID infrastructure can provide the basis for innovative applications in an open and competitive market where various stakeholders are being active. Industry and SMEs can look forward to accessing new markets (new services – new customers), even at a time when many sectors are in recession.

This Workshop focuses on the effort to emphasize the benefits of STORK for industry stakeholders, to discuss possible ways to get the results of STORK taken up by Industry, as well as to enhance the Industry stakeholders' confidence towards the STORK solution. These issues will be presented by persons of expertise and further discussed with the participants. This Workshop focuses on the exchange of knowledge, viewpoints, ideas, the active participation as well as on the constructive and fruitful discussion with the Industry stakeholders. In addition, the objective of the Industry Group meetings is to offer industry stakeholders the opportunity to learn about progress made and the solutions being offered by the STORK consortium. There will be also given the opportunity for a Q&A session with key representatives.

Presentations:

- Arvid Welin - STORK infrastructure, pilots and services: a "live" breakthrough
- Antonio Lioy - eID Common Specifications: uptake by new national governments
- Vasilis Koulolias - A few words on sustainability of STORK
- Roger Dean - New business opportunities offered by STORK

The major part of the workshop will be dedicated to open discussions with the audience. After the presentations of the speakers and for the remaining time there will be an engagement with the audience on the previously addressed issues and presentations, which will complete the Workshop.

For more information about this workshop, please visit the pertinent page: http://www.e-forum.eu/article.php3?id_article=1143 or contact Baudouin De Sonis: baudouin.de-sonis@eu-forum.org and Gregory Liogaris: gregory@gov2u.org for more information.

Country: Belgium
City/Location: Brussels
Organiser: European Dynamics, S.A.

UK: eHealth & Telemed 2010 - 13 - 14 December 2010

eHealth & Telemed 2010 - 'Evidence in Action'

Telemedicine continues to develop both clinical and telehealth applications to improve patient healthcare. There is an increasing global focus on empowering patients in their own medical management. eHealth & Telemed 2010 will present the evidence for the benefits of eHealth, given in a series of academic and clinical presentations by the people working in the frontline to deliver these innovative services.

Key issues for the conference are expected to include:

- Benefits for patients and professionals
- How they are being integrated into healthcare services
- Supporting healthcare in developing countries
- Responding to emergencies

The conference programme can be viewed [here](#).

Event email: telemedicine@rsm.ac.uk
Event website: <http://www.rsm.ac.uk/telemed10/index.htm>
Country: United Kingdom
City/Location: London
Organiser: The Royal Society of Medicine

BE: ServiceWave 2010 - 13 - 15 December 2010

ServiceWave 2010

The third edition of ServiceWave 2010 brings together industry and academia to share advances and future opportunities in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and related services.

This three day conference provides networking opportunities, four workshops, from cloud computing to emergency services, keynote speakers from private companies, the European Commission, the University of Vienna and the Engineering School of Milan (Politecnico di Milano), 24 live demonstrations, 15 scientific papers' presentations and two panels on services deployment infrastructures and security in the cloud.

Social events are organised every evening and included in the conference fee.

The event is part of the [Future Internet Conference Week \(13-17 December 2010\)](#), taking place just before the [Future Internet Assembly \(FIA\)](#), this is an opportunity to meet the stakeholders active in building the future Internet of Services.

A preliminary event agenda is available [here](#) and details about important dates are available [online](#).

Registration for the conference can be performed [online](#).

Event email: servicewave@paluno.uni-due.de
Event website: <http://servicewave.eu/2010/>
Country: Belgium
City/Location: Ghent

Organiser: Industry forum on Software, Services and Systems (NESSI), eMobility, Networked and Electronic Media (NEM) and Industrial Systems Institute (ISI), European Technology Platform on Smart Systems Integration (EpoSS) and Engineering Ingegneria Informatica

MA: eHealth 2010 Conference - 13 - 15 December 2010

eHealth 2010 Conference - 3rd International Conference on Electronic Healthcare for the 21st century - 'eHealth Web Intelligence'

Building on the success of its previous editions, the aim of eHealth 2010 is to bring together experts from academia, industry and global healthcare institutions such as World Health Organisation (WHO) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to stimulate cutting-edge research discussions, share experience with real-world healthcare service providers and policy makers as well as to provide numerous business opportunities.

Swine flu epidemics in 2009 demonstrated a breakthrough in the use of web intelligence, harnessing and mining user-generated content in social networks / Web 2.0 tools for rapid healthcare information dissemination and outbreak detection. In addition, despite substantial budgets spent on eHealth in recent years, existing healthcare services do not sufficiently address the issue of patient privacy and trust, nor the potential of eLearning and web mining for delivering 21st century healthcare systems.

The key topic of eHealth 2010 will be investigating a realistic potential for Web 2.0 and Web Intelligence to provide evidence-based healthcare information, assisting in outbreak detection and control and providing quality-assured and effective interventions for patients and global users.

Apart from web intelligence, the conference programme will cover the following topics:

- Privacy, trust and security;
- Healthcare ontologies and knowledge management systems;
- eLearning, educational games and the impact of information delivery on patients and professionals;
- Web 2.0 in healthcare, well-being and online communities of practices;
- Performance Monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: registration@icst.org

Event website: <http://www.electronic-health.org/>

Country: Africa

City/Location: Casablanca, Morocco

Organiser: Institute for Computer Sciences, Social Informatics and Telecommunications Engineering (ICST)

UK: ICTD London 2010 - 13 - 16 December 2010

International Conference on Information and Communications Technologies and Development

The conference is the latest in the series of successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.

Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, and demos, including sessions in Spanish. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds.

The detailed event programme may be found [here](#).

Event email: [Peter Dell'Osa](mailto:Peter.Dell'Osa)

Event website: <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: Egham, London

Organiser: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair in Information and Communications Technologies for Development (ICT4D) and the College Centre for ICT4D

BE: Flemish Conference on Local e-Government - 14 December 2010

Flemish Conference on Local e-Government

How can national governments and the European Union (EU) support and promote the development of ICT and eGovernment in local authorities? This interesting and often overlooked issue affects all EU Member States. Developing good eGovernment services is feasible for large cities, but a nearly impossible task for small communities.

The conference, which the Flemish government will hold during the Belgian EU Presidency in 2010 will provide answers to this question. This one day conference will be followed by the '[Lift-off towards Open Government: Putting eEurope in practice](#)' conference hosted by the Belgian federal government on 15 and 16 December 2010 in Brussels where the European Union will present its Digital Agenda Europe.

During the event, participants will have the opportunity to learn about examples from several European countries exploring the theme of 'eGovernment for local authorities'. These presentations and case studies will also be of interest to an international audience. The conference programme has been developed in association with the European 'Smart Cities' project and the Linked Organisation of Local Authority ICT Societies (LOLA).

Furthermore, a statement on the European policy on local eGovernment will also be presented and discussed.

The purpose of the conference is to exchange good practices. A key theme in the presentations will be identifying relevant 'shared services' that can be used by smaller municipalities with limited resources. A small panel consisting of representatives from local authorities will conclude the presentations by reviewing how the conference's presentations and findings may be relevant for their work.

This is an open and free-of-charge conference. However, registration is mandatory and it should be performed online via the [event's website](#), which is to be released in September 2010.

Event email: egovernment@vlaanderen.be

Event website: <http://www.opengov2010.be/>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Ghent

Organiser: Flemish eGovernment Coordination unit (CORVE)

BE: Lift-off Towards Open Government Conference - 15 - 16 December 2010

'Lift-off Towards Open Government' - A conference hosted by the Belgian Presidency of the European Union

The first ever Ministerial eGovernment Conference was held in 2001; this Conference aims to show the achievements of past European eGovernment efforts to date and their impact for citizens and businesses. The main theme of the conference will be '**Open Government**', with an emphasis on the implementation of cross-border interoperability in practice.

The conference programme will prominently feature a number of large international projects (Secure Identity Across Borders Linked - [STORK](#); Simple Procedures Online for Cross-border Services - [SPOCS](#); Pan-European Public Procurement Online - [PEPOL](#); and European Patient Smart Open Services - [epSOS](#)) and present the Action Plan 2015, Europe 2020 and [The Digital Agenda](#). The detailed event programme may be found [here](#).

The organisers expect that the two days full of breakout-sessions, a 'Battle of the CEO's', a gala dinner and an exhibition will ensure that this conference is an excellent networking event.

It is worth noting that a [pre-conference](#) will be held in Ghent on 14 December 2010. Registration for both the pre-conference and the main conference can be performed [online](#).

Event email: secretariat@opengov2010.be

Event website: <http://www.opengov2010.be/>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: Belgium's Federal Government Service for Information and Communication Technology (FedICT)

US: Digital Health Summit and Exhibition at the Consumer Electronics Show 2011 - 6 - 9 January 2011

Digital Health Summit and Exhibition at the Consumer Electronics Show 2011

The Digital Health Summit at the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show (CES 2011) focuses on the booming market of consumer-based health and wellness innovations that sit at the convergence of technology and healthcare.

In addition to diagnosing and battling disease, today's generation of high-tech healthcare products and services will be the catalyst for better managed healthcare, patient/doctor communication, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery time, lowered costs for health insurance, early prevention and detection, digital patient information records, medical attention over distances, and so much more.

This event will expose developers, manufacturers, distributors and service providers to the opportunities, partnerships, business models, distribution channels and standards of the rapidly evolving industry of digital health technologies. The daylong Summit on 7 January 2010 will feature speakers and thought leaders who will provide attendees with an understanding of how their organisation can capitalise on this high-growth market. The conference will also showcase technology to improve patient care, as well as present cutting-edge technologies that empower consumers to take charge of their own wellbeing.

Among other technologies to be presented will be:

- Telehealth Systems
- Therapeutic & Diagnostic Medical Devices
- Remote Monitoring Devices
- Mobile Health Applications
- Secured Wireless Communication Medical Devices
- Medication Monitoring Equipment
- Mobile Health Devices
- Robotic Prosthetics
- Personal Health Records
- Communications Networks
- Telemedicine Systems

The detailed Summit agenda may be found [here](#).

Registration can be performed [online](#) via the CES 2011 registration page.

Event email: summitinfo@digitalhealthsummit.com
Event website: <http://digitalhealthsummit.com/>
Country: North America
City/Location: Las Vegas, Nevada, United States
Organiser: Ms. Robin Raskin, Ms. Jill Gilbert and Ms. Linda Nessim-Rubin

IT: HEALTHINF 2011 - 26 - 29 January 2011

HEALTHINF 2011 - International Conference on Health Informatics, part of the International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies (BIOSTEC)

The purpose of the conference is to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) to healthcare and medicine in general and to the specialised support to persons with special needs in particular.

Databases, networking, graphical interfaces, intelligent decision support systems and specialised programming languages are just a few of the technologies currently used in medical informatics. Mobility and ubiquity in healthcare systems, standardisation of technologies and procedures, certification, privacy are some of the issues that medical informatics professionals and the ICT industry in general need to address in order to further promote ICT in healthcare. In the case of medical rehabilitation and assistive technology the use of ICT has had important results in the enhancement of the quality of life, contributing to a full integration of all citizens in the societies they are also part of.

Some of the conference topics to be discussed include but are not limited to:

- eHealth
- Telemedicine
- Medical and Nursing Informatics
- Design and Development Methodologies for Healthcare IT
- Interoperability
- Semantic Interoperability
- Confidentiality and Data Security
- Knowledge Management
- Databases and Datawarehousing
- Decision Support Systems
- Wearable Health Informatics
- Mobile Technologies for Healthcare Applications
- Therapeutic Systems and Technologies
- Healthcare Management Systems
- Human-Machine Interfaces for Disabled Persons
- Development of Assistive Technology
- ICT, Ageing and Disability
- Practice-based Research Methods for Healthcare IT
- Electronic Health Records and Standards
- Software Systems in Medicine
- Pervasive Health Systems and Service
- eHealth for Public Health
- Clinical Problems and Applications

Further information about the conference topics may be found [here](#).

Event email: healthinf.secretariat@insticc.org
Event website: <http://www.healthinf.biostec.org/>
Country: Italy
City/Location: Rome
Organiser: The Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC)

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