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European ePractice Newsletter N. 355 – 11 January 2011

>> Happy New Year!

On the occasion of the first ePractice newsletter of 2011, the ePractice team wishes all the portal members a Happy and Prosperous 2011!

>> The ePractice workshop report on '[eInclusion Days-Inclusive eGovernment](#)' is now available online and can be accessed by visiting the announcement's section '**Presentations & Documents**' at http://www.epractice.eu/en/workshop/329856/workshop_presentation_documents?page=1, under file name SMART 0109 SC01-eInclusion Days-Inclusive eGovernment workshop report.doc.

>> The Assisted workshop report on '[Innovative Public Services for an Inclusive Society](#)' is now available online and can be accessed by visiting the announcement's section '**Presentations & Documents**' at http://www.epractice.eu/en/workshop/353775/workshop_presentation_documents, under file name ADD-ME Wrap-up & Conclusions_0.doc.

Latest Cases

- [The Bridge-IT Thematic Network](#) | 10 January 2011 | Pan european
 - [DALOS project](#) | 10 January 2011 | Italy | Netherlands | Spain | United Kingdom | EU Institutions
 - [European Web Site on Integration](#) | 10 January 2011 | Pan european | EU Institutions
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The Bridge-IT Thematic Network

The Bridge-IT is a thematic network, co-financed by the European Commission, working on ICT for social integration and cultural diversity, with emphasis on ICT for migrants and ethnic minorities (IEM) in Europe.

The Bridge-IT is a consortium of a broad array of organisations aiming to:

- Raise awareness among relevant stakeholders on the potential of ICT for social integration and cultural diversity.

- Facilitate networking activities for a better understanding among the key players of the value chain, whether at a local, national or European level.
- Provide key players with a better vision and tools of how to improve/deploy their own activities at a larger scale, or of how to transfer initiatives from other countries.
- Promote the development of better and more accessible ICT solutions, services and content that can contribute to the social integration of immigrants and to cultural diversity in Europe.
- Develop policy recommendations based on several project outputs.

A literature review as well as in-depth analysis of 60 good practices were produced in 2009, while the updated version is expected in March 2011. The Network organised three transnational seminars over the future guidelines on Civil society, Education, Labour Market. National groups have also worked to deliver six national seminars. Reading material, photos and videos are provided on the [Bridge-IT-net website](#) and the [NING platform](#), both open to everybody.

DALOS project

The main purposes of the DALOS project is ensuring that legal drafters and decision-makers have control over the legal language at national and European level, by providing law-makers with linguistic and knowledge management tools to be used in the legislative processes, in particular within the phase of legislative drafting. This will contribute to the harmonisation and coherence of legislative texts. Moreover, once the text is delivered, ontological knowledge will facilitate retrieval for European citizens and also interpretation and implementation of legal documents.

These results, besides a well structured multilingual domain-specific ontology require a set of computer tools, clustered around such ontology. Such tools will allow to monitor the connection between the language and terminology used in the text and the harmonised concept repository, thus allowing the law makers to get immediate feedback on the quality and accessibility of the language used. On the other hand, tools for terminology extraction and ontology learning can help the expansion of existing ontologies and terminological repositories in a controlled and harmonized way. In DALOS project such tools are expected to manage multilingual issues: they will be addressed to harmonize legal concepts and related terminologies used in European legislation as well as in the legislation of different European countries.

To obtain this result the project will exploit linguistic-ontological resources developed within previous European project experiences. In particular to guarantee the feasibility of the project, the ontological-terminological resources developed within LOIS project (EDC 22161), will be made available for integration within the drafting tools, used by legislative offices, through a defined standard interface, thus without interfering in the chain of legislative production, but nevertheless guaranteeing the improvement of the law making activity and the final products of the legislative processes. Using such resources legislative drafters will be able to query linguistic and ontological resources, searching for appropriate and standardized terms or locutions, corresponding to specific legal concepts.

The above resources will be integrated with T2K ("Text-to-Knowledge"), an ontology learning tool jointly developed at CNR-ILC and Pisa University (Department of Linguistics) which combines linguistic and statistical techniques to carry out the ontology learning task. Starting from a document collection, T2K acquires domain terminology (both simple and multi-word terms) and organizes the set of acquired terms into a) taxonomical chains (reconstructed from their internal linguistic structure), and b) clusters of semantically related terms (inferred through distributionally based similarity measures). Moreover the GATE tool developed by the University of Sheffield Computer Science Department will be integrated as well. It supports advanced language analysis, data visualisation, and information sharing in many languages. GATE has facilities for viewing, editing, and annotating corpora in a wide number of languages (based on Unicode) and has been used successfully for the creation, semi-automatic annotation and analysis of many electronic resources. It contains many modules for the annotation of textual material, such as part of speech information, lemmatization, conceptual indexing and semantic annotation.

The expected results will be measured in terms of quality of the produced legal texts. To measure the impact of the DALOS prototype European directives on protection of consumers' economic and legal interests, on internal market and the "rejected" Constitutional treaty will be used as case study. In particular all these data will try to testify the importance for the people to understand laws and naturally pose the constitutional treaty as an ideal test bed to verify the capacities of the DALOS system.

European Web Site on Integration

The European Web Site on Integration is the European Commission's Portal, under the responsibility of the [Directorate-General Home Affairs](#), for information on Integration. The aim site is to help improve the effectiveness of integration policies and practices in the European Union by sharing successful strategies and supporting collaboration and cooperation.

EWSI is intended as a tool for people working in the field of integration, both in non-government and government organisations.

EWSI provides stakeholders with content organised as follows:

- A broad range of information and documents relevant to immigrant integration: official and up-to-date EU information; documents (legislation, policy papers, articles, etc); news; events; links.
- An impressive collection of good practices.
- Information on funding opportunities for integration practitioners: EU funding opportunities; funding programmes run by Member States; and by private foundations.
- Multilingual content: English, French and German.
- Country information sheets: overview of key information per Member State.
- A powerful search engine.

Information on EWSI is structured around six key themes:

- Active Citizenship: residence and work permits, civic citizenship, naturalisation, political participation, volunteering and third-sector, consultation, mediation and dialogue platforms, civic education;
- Economic Participation: employment, recognition of qualifications and skills assessment, vocational training and career development, workforce diversity and capacity-building, self-employment and entrepreneurship, supplier diversity;
- Social Cohesion: housing and urban development, social inclusion, social protection, health, other services;
- Education and culture: school education, out-of-school education including lifelong learning and distance education, language competencies, E-learning, intercultural dialogue including interreligious dialogue, cultural activities and diversity;
- Anti-discrimination and equality: antidiscrimination at work, anti-discrimination in service provision, access to justice, equal opportunities, positive action;
- Tools and Techniques: benchmarking, indicators, evaluations and impact assessments, mainstreaming, infrastructure, media, awareness-raising.

Editor's Choice of the week: [KASKOSAN](#)

Latest News

- [GL: Need for wider application of Telemedicine and AAL systems](#) | 11 January 2011 | Denmark | Germany | Netherlands | Asia | North America
- [GL: Survey shows that mHealth applications will be distributed through traditional healthcare channels by 2015](#) | 10 January 2011 | Pan european | Africa | Asia | Central and South America | North America | Oceania
- [DK/EU: Implementation of 'eSkills for the 21st century' - Denmark among frontrunners](#) | 10 January 2011 | Denmark | Finland | Sweden | EU Institutions
- [EU: Directorate-General for External Relations publishes crisis data mining tools as open source](#) | 10 January 2011 | EU Institutions
- [GR: AMEA hotspotting portal provides people with disabilities with useful accessibility information](#) | 7 January 2011 | Greece
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- [PL: Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre presented its telemedicine project](#) | 5 January 2011 | Poland
- [ES/INT: Cibevoluntarios Foundation a finalist at Stockholm Challenge 2010 Award](#) | 5 January 2011 | Spain | International Organizations
- [SE: New look, feel and services for the national eHealth portal](#) | 4 January 2011 | Sweden
- [HR: First eHealth services to be made available as from January 2011](#) | 3 January 2011 | Croatia
- [DE: 'Think Big Media College' now under the patronage of the Federal Minister for Family Affairs](#) | 3 January 2011 | Germany
- [RO: Taxpayers will be able to use ePayment platform](#) | 28 December 2010 | Romania
- [RO/SI: Enhancing eGovernment cooperation](#) | 27 December 2010 | Romania | Slovenia
- [FI: National Digital agenda 2011-2020 focuses on increasing productivity through the development of Information Society](#) | 23 December 2010 | Finland
- [AT: 'FINANZOnline' service ranks second in German eGovernment competition in the category 'the most sustained eGovernment project of the decade'](#) | 22 December 2010 | Austria
- [FR: eGovernment achievements and future roadmap presented](#) | 21 December 2010 | France
- [EU: Agenda for new skills and jobs highlights the role of ICT skills in enhancing employability](#) | 20 December 2010 | EU Institutions
- [EU: Release of the Open e-PRIOR v. 1.1 - Accelerating uptake of eProcurement across Member States](#) | 20 December 2010 | EU Institutions
- [MK: Certified IT training for 80 unemployed](#) | 17 December 2010 | FYR of Macedonia
- [IT: Telemouse project resumes in Rome](#) | 17 December 2010 | Italy
- [EU: Europeana now provides online access to over 14 million items of Europe's cultural heritage](#) | 16 December 2010 | EU Institutions
- [ES: Guidelines for the safe use of national eID card on the Internet published](#) | 15 December 2010 | Spain
- [LT/EU: EC's customs information service online introduced to Lithuanian traders](#) | 15 December 2010 | Lithuania | EU Institutions
- [PL: Online social campaign for digital education - Anyone can join](#) | 15 December 2010 | Poland

GL: Need for wider application of Telemedicine and AAL systems - 11 January 2011

Germany has a very diverse and rich research and development pace in the field of Telemedicine and Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) systems, but broad application is often difficult to be implemented.

This was the conclusion of the international forum 'Technology.Social.Health' ('Technik.Soziales.Gesundheit', in German) organised by the Institute for Work and Technology, in Bremen, in early December 2010, as part of the conference 'Knowledge.Language.Technology - Care connects' ('Wissen.Sprache.Technik - Pflege verbindet' in German).

As the international contributions showed in the forum - supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research - the Netherlands, Denmark, South Korea and Japan although they started the development of telemedicine and AAL-solutions later than Germany, they were faster in their implementation. The reasons for this greater drive vary. The fact that technical solutions are not seen as an end but as a means for developing social and organisational solutions is of great importance.

The renowned 'Smart Ageing International Research Centre of Tohoku University', in Tokyo, Japan tries, through new ways of memory training, to prevent mental confusion in elderly people and for this has achieved success in medical studies. Currently, the team works in this field in order to find ways in which this kind of approaches of training memory could be widely used with the assistance of smart phones and other similar applications. During the conference, an interest in German-Japanese cooperation was also expressed.

The contributions from the Netherlands and Canada in particular showed successful links between social and technical components in remote care, not only of elderly people. In the course of the conference, the representatives discussed the aspect of technology and social issues and hoped for a close co-operation with prospective future projects.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Institute for Work and Technology \(in German\)](#)
-

GL: Survey shows that mHealth applications will be distributed through traditional healthcare channels by 2015 - 10 January 2011

A global survey entitled 'Mobile Health Market Report 2010-2015 - The Impact of Smartphone Applications' conducted by a Berlin-based market research company shows that 'mHealth' applications for smartphones will be predominantly distributed through traditional healthcare channels by 2015.

Leading mobile health application developers and healthcare companies answered a survey regarding their forecasts of market trends. Respondents predicted mHealth applications would cease to be primarily distributed by applications' (app) stores. At the moment, app stores are still the distribution channels of choice, but traditional healthcare distribution channels like hospitals and specialised healthcare product vendors are expected to become the predominant distribution channels.

This would represent a significant shift when compared to the market today, as the smartphone app store model has been the key driver behind the initial success of mHealth applications over the last two years.

53 % of all respondents believe that currently app stores are the best distribution channels followed only by healthcare websites (49 %). Traditional health distribution channels like doctors (34 %), hospitals (31 %) and pharmacies (16 %) are ranked as second and third tier distribution channels today. Despite the fact that mobile operators are regarded as players who will help the mHealth market grow, they are not seen as appropriate distribution channels neither now nor in the future.

In five years' time survey participants anticipate that the traditional distribution channels like hospitals (68 %), doctors (65 %) and traditional healthcare websites (56 %) will become the main platforms on which to sell mHealth solutions. Generally speaking all distribution channels will grow in importance, but developers envision that in just 5 years' time the major distribution channel will be doctors prescribing or suggesting applications to patients as a component of treatment.

The survey was conducted between August and September 2010.

Further information:

- [Original news article - British Journal of Healthcare Computing and Information Management](#)
-

DK/EU: Implementation of 'eSkills for the 21st century' - Denmark among frontrunners - 10 January 2011

According to a recently published [evaluation study](#), Denmark is at the forefront in Europe when it comes to the implementation of the European Commission's long-term agenda on IT skills for the 21st century.

This agenda is laid down in the Commission Communication of 7 September 2007 entitled '[e-Skills for the 21st Century: Fostering Competitiveness, Growth and Jobs](#)'; it included five major action lines at EU level for the 2008-2010 period.

The evaluation study assessed the 27 EU Member States in relation to how effectively they have implemented the agenda. The study divided Europe into three different and equal sized categories (frontrunners, followers and laggards) along digital literacy and eskills policies and initiatives activity indexes.

Denmark, Sweden and Finland together form the group that has very high levels in terms of digital literacy and eskills availability in the workforce (expressed by high value Networked Readiness Indexes - NRI -ranging from 5.85 to 5.53) and with no recent modification of past activity levels.

In the three Scandinavian countries, people generally have good IT skills, the study found. Of the three countries, however, Denmark is the one where the state provides the highest number of ongoing activities aiming to strengthen the IT skills of the population.

Likewise, digital literacy among the population and the workforce is rather commonplace in the three countries as a result of successful policies launched in the past and an education and training system taking care of digital literacy.

Nevertheless, the report outlined that these countries still have rather significant eskills gaps (especially in the area of qualified ICT practitioners), as reported by industry. This should result in higher levels of policy initiatives by national governments which surprisingly is not the case, the study concludes.

Further information:

- [Original news article - National IT and Telecom Agency \(in Danish\)](#)
- [e-Skills for the 21st Century: Fostering Competitiveness, Growth and Job - Commission Communication](#)
- [Related ePractice publication - EU: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Commission Communication on e-Skills for the 21st Century](#)

EU: Directorate-General for External Relations publishes crisis data mining tools as open source - 10 January 2011

The Crisis Room at the European Commission Directorate-General for External Relations (DG-RELEX) published on 10 December 2010 three open source data mining tools aimed at providing real-time support for early warning and crisis response.

The main tool, Tariqa 3.0, is an open source search platform that uses and combines information from search engines, information databases and geographic information sources, including satellite images. According to Tariqa developers, its advanced information retrieval tools make it possible to distinguish useful knowledge from the masses of information that are available.

Tariqa is developed using mainly open source components, including web server scripting language. It uses the open source MySQL database for its internal storage and parts of it are written in a proprietary programming language, thus allowing the application itself to be used in a web browser on any platform. Developers indicate that this makes the solution cost-effective since users only need an active web browser in order to operate it.

The project name is a Sufi term which in Arabic means the 'path' or the 'initiation voyage', but can also mean 'brotherhood' or 'the community'.

Tariqa was originally announced on [OSOR.EU](#) in the summer of 2010, following the development of its 3.0 version during the same year. The target users, civil administrators at the European Commission, began its use on 10 December 2010, while the software was made publicly available during the week of 20 December 2010. The DG for External Relations sought for the project to be released under the European Union's public licence (EUPL).

DG-RELEX published two other tools in the summer of 2010: mDownloader, a download tool, and mAggregator, a tool to aggregate RSS feeds.

Further Information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
 - [Tariqa Project](#)
 - [mDownloader Project](#)
 - [mAggregator Project](#)
-

GR: AMEA hotspotting portal provides people with disabilities with useful accessibility information - 7 January 2011

The **AMEA** hotspotting is an online platform that aims to disseminate complaints about poor infrastructure in public places for the use of people with disabilities who encounter difficulties in accessing them.

In many cases, elevators in metro stations remain unrepaired for many days causing difficulties to people with disabilities. Likewise, traffic lights for the blind people may not work even in busy streets. Up until recently, if someone wanted to address this kind of problems, they should report them to the service in charge without being able to make sure that the report would not stay in a drawer and thus leaving the problem unresolved.

Thanks to the AMEA portal - ('Άτομα με ειδικές Ανάγκες' - ΑμεΑ, in Greek - 'People with special needs' in English) - users from all over Greece can now record by themselves any problems they notice regarding limited infrastructure that impedes accessibility. No special technical knowledge is needed for the user to register a complaint. Users who wish to submit an event of this kind, should fill in the respective form online, describing the problem, indicating the place and time so that the relevant reference can be posted online on the electronic map of the website. Photos and videos can also be uploaded.

Although the application is still in a trial period, "the ultimate goal is to create a community of users around the AMEA hotspotting platform that will consistently enrich the list of poor infrastructure, for people with disabilities to access public spaces", highlights Mr. Constantinos Stathakos, a volunteer programmer who developed this platform. Such platforms that allow citizens to report everyday problems have been successfully used for years abroad. For example, the British website [FixMyStreet.com](#) and the American [SeeClickFix](#) receive about 900 reports a week - mostly for damaged roads, litter in public places, and poor signage.

"Since they can inform other users whether the respective public bodies have responded to their requests, users can exert pressure on and control the state and the municipal agencies," adds Mr. Stathakos. This is also evidenced by the fact that the [FixCyprus](#) website (the Cypriot portal equivalent to FixMyStreet) has received over 150 comments from official officers.

The AMEA hotspotting inventory of limited infrastructure enables people with disabilities to plan their daily transfers, thus minimising the risk of coming across unpleasant surprises. The developer of the platform is also optimistic about the platform's future judging from the wide spread of similar initiatives across the country.

The AMEA hotspotting platform is built on free and open source software, called 'Usahidi, whose history shows how the Internet and new technologies can help citizens participate actively in society.

Further information:

- [News Article in Greek - 50plus Greece](#)
- [AMEA hotspotting \(in Greek\)](#)

NL: Webcams in the neonatal unit of the Willem-Alexander Children and Youth Centre - 7 January 2011

Since 8 December 2010, parents whose newborn infants are still in the neonatal care unit of the Willem-Alexander Children and Youth Centre (Willem-Alexander Kinderfonds - [WAKF](#), in Dutch) of the Leiden University Medical Centre (Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum - [LUMC](#), in Dutch) can view them via a webcam service.

Webcams are hanged above all incubators of the Intensive, High and Medium Care, broadcasting live pictures 24 hours a day. "Of course both parents are trying to be close to their child as often as possible", said Maria de Taeye, head nurse in Neonatology and adds that "in practice this not always possible at any time."

"The idea has been around for a long time. But we felt it is important to implement it safely and thus guarantee privacy. We succeeded. We have already piloted it and parents are very enthusiastic", stated De Taeye.

The live images are transmitted via a secure Internet connection. Typing a username and password is sufficient in order for the parents to be able to get connected from any computer or mobile phone to the webcam and see their child. The camera remains off only when a baby receives daily care or is undergoing a medical procedure. The videos are not saved or stored. Furthermore, the webcams are silent.

The baby cams - an advanced system with 31 cameras - were officially launched at the hospital by pressing a button; the system was jointly conducted by a graphic designer Kees Verkade, the administrator Aad Kuiper (Hunter Douglas) and Prof. Dr. Frans Walther, head of the neonatal centre of Willem-Alexander Children and Youth Centre. Verkade and Kuiper financially contributed the project.

On the same day, a multipurpose room for parents was inaugurated in the Children and Youth Centre of the LUMC. This room is intended for parents, giving them some moments of rest as well as the opportunity to fill bottles with breast milk, to have an appointment with the doctor or nurse, for emergency purposes or even to stay overnight.

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - Leiden University Medical Centre \(in Dutch\)](#)
- [Related News Article - Willem-Alexander Children and Youth Centre \(in Dutch\)](#)

IT: Puglia region makes open source and standards mandatory - 7 January 2011

The Italian region of Puglia will make the use of open source software and open standards mandatory for its public administrations. A law, adopted on 2 December 2010 by the regional administration, instructs regional and local public administrations to use open formats for the electronic dissemination of documents and, wherever possible, to use free and open source software.

According to the law, public administrations will have to explain why they are using document formats that are not open, or why they are using applications that are not open source.

The bill is intended to increase the electronic interaction between citizens and government, aid the region's scientific and technological development and maximise the amount of software published as open source by public administrations.

In a statement published on 6 December 2010, the region's president Nichi Vendola, who also is the leader of the Left Ecology Freedom (*Sinistra Ecologia Libertà* - SEL, in Italian) political party, wrote: "I feel the duty and responsibility to choose, for the technological development of my administration and local authorities in Puglia, the more secure, convenient and open options."

During the a few weeks (in November and December 2010), advocates of free and open source software had been criticising Puglia's president Vendola, for his signing of a memorandum of understanding with a vendor of a proprietary Personal Computer (PC) operating system and office applications. The software vendor is to invest in an Information Technology (IT) competence centre that will focus on the use of IT in public administrations, by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and in schools.

Vendola, in a statement published on his party's website, defended the memorandum by writing that the region favours open source, "but does not close the door to large international competitors who respect the region's technological neutrality and will help make the South a centre of excellence."

In a reply to the [Pirate Party of Italy \(*Partito Pirata Italiano*, in Italian\)](#), Vendola referred to the open source law adopted by the region. The bill will strengthen the migration to open source by all public administrations in the Puglia region, Vendola stated. "It is more than just a statement of principle. We will finance the ICT services of public administrations only if they convert to open source."

Further Information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
- [Statement on the open source law - SEL \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Press release on the open source law - Puglia Region \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Draft of the open source bill \(in Italian\)](#)
- [Press release of the Puglia region on the memorandum of understanding \(in Italian\)](#)

FR: Group of NGOs support social and solidarity digital media in Nantes - 6 January 2011

Training in free software, computer recycling, promotion of eDemocracy...New technologies can be used in a way to respond to social cohesion and solidarity needs. In order to raise awareness of these aspects among the general public, eleven French non-profit organisations based in the French city of Nantes and belonging to a group named '[Les acteurs du numérique social](#)' ('Social digital media actors', in English), were present at the sustainable trade and tourism Christmas market of Nantes, 'L'Autre Marché' ('the other market', in English) during December 2010.

The group 'Les acteurs du numérique social' pursues the following goals: knowledge sharing; lessening the social, geographical and technological divide; the development of responsible digital activities; the promotion of participatory democracy and political transparency.

The group was created at the beginning of 2010 under the leadership of the non-profit association '[LiberTIC](#)'. Claire Gallon, the head of development of Libertic explained that as she did not know much about the social digital media sector in the city of Nantes, she met all the actors of this sector. "We realised that they would face the same issues but that they would try and fight them on their own. We thus organised a meeting to suggest the creation of a group and to develop collective communication."

Thanks to the aid granted by inter-communal structure 'the Urban Community of Nantes', the group could be present at 'L'Autre Marché' to launch its first communication activity. Apart from having a stand, it published posters, flyers and free-of-charge CD-ROMs for installing free software kits.

Getting equipped digitally can be expensive. Among the members of the group of NGOs involved, [Alis 44](#) gives a new life to second-hand computers and sells them for €50 only. Likewise, almost all possible software exist as 'software libre' and without charge: one only needs to get familiar with them and adapt to a new environment. In order to find out more about this, several participating non-profit associations can guide people through this world.

[Linux Nantes](#), as its name implies, is a Linux specialist. Constantly improved since its creation in 1991, this operating system is no longer the reserve of experts. Its user friendly interface is as accessible as that of proprietary systems, but it is entirely free-of-charge, just like free software. Linux Nantes promotes free software through

introduction sessions that are scheduled on a regular basis. Free software is the main focus of NGOs [Fabrique du Libre](#) and [Lileo](#), which specialises in the provision of IT services revolving around free software. Lileo is furthermore the organisation that initiated the social and solidarity network [soliless.net](#) (launched in May 2010).

"More and more aspects of our lives go through the digital media: the citizens' relations with the Public Administration, for instance....even love life!" In the group, [Médiagraph](#), [PiNG](#) and [Ceméa](#) thus devote themselves to providing training to the target audiences who are the most concerned with the digital divide and who feel excluded, such as seniors, inhabitants of disadvantaged areas, etc...

[Ressources solidaires](#) and [Social Planet](#) along with LiberTIC work on information sharing as a means to develop citizenship. The first two organisations are active in the field of social and solidarity economy at national and European levels, while LiberTIC advocates for making the data collected by governments available to citizens. It is "the only association in France which targets the opening of public data."

"Knowledge is collective. Free software is based on the principle of knowledge sharing, and it is also the basis for social and solidarity economy." Claire Gallon concluded.

Further information:

- [Original news article - terri\(s\)toires \(in French\)](#)
- [Les acteurs du numérique social - blog \(in French\)](#)
- [L'Autre Marché 2010 \(in French\)](#)

UK: Funding of telemedicine services for a better acute stroke care - 6 January 2011

The Welsh Minister for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Edwina Hart announced that the Welsh Assembly Government funds with £350 000 (approx. €411 000) new equipment that will enable stroke patients to have faster access to clot-busting drugs.

The funding will be used for telemedicine equipment that will help clinicians reach a diagnosis of stroke, based on a visual assessment of the patient, wherever they may be in Wales. This means that clinicians will be able to make prompt decisions on whether to provide patients with thrombolysis treatment after seeing the results of the patient's computed tomography (CT) scan.

Thrombolysis is the breakdown of blood clots using 'clot- busting' drugs. By breaking down the clot, the process can be arrested or the longer-term complications reduced but patients need to be assessed for thrombolysis within a crucial timeframe of three hours.

Portable, telemedicine units will enable consultants in a different location to give virtual assessments for stroke patients via a video camera and screen. The equipment allows health professionals to interview patients and relatives while simultaneously being able to see test results and scans to help them make a decision on treatment. It will help consultants because not every acute stroke patient will benefit from thrombolysis.

The roll-out of this new technology will happen in phases, developing into an all-Wales service. It is anticipated that sites across Wales will be linked to an on-call consultant rota offering 24-hour access to diagnosis and treatment. Equipment can also be used to reduce travel times particularly in rural areas, providing equitable access to thrombolysis services across all Health Boards.

Mrs Hart said: "Stroke can have devastating impact on individuals and their families. "This investment in new equipment will reduce the need for patients to travel to receive the best treatment." She also stated that: "By speeding up access to clot-busting drugs in all parts of Wales, we will reduce the consequences of a stroke. This should allow patients to recover quicker and improve quality of life."

Welsh Assembly Government Clinical Lead for Stroke, Dr Anne Freeman, said: "We are delighted and welcome the Minister's decision to fund telemedicine for acute stroke services in Wales." She added: "This will support the clinical assessment of patients, including the delivery of thrombolysis, the clot-busting drug, and other essential elements of acute stroke care. It will ensure that the more rural areas of Wales will also benefit. It will enable the Welsh Stroke Development programme to take another important step forward towards achieving a world class service."

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Further information:

- [Official Press Release - The Welsh Assembly Government](#)
-

PL: Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre presented its telemedicine project - 5 January 2011

On 29 October 2010, in the framework of the [eChallenges e-2010](#) conference, the [Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre](#) (PSNC) presented its 'Wielkopolska Centre of Telemedicine' (Wielkopolskie Centrum Telemedycyny - [WCT](#), in Polish) project, whose aim is to create an information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure that will provide a number of telemedicine services in the region.

The WCT project was presented by Michał Kosiedowski in his speech 'Wielkopolska Centre of Telemedicine: case study'. The WCT infrastructure is expected to link at least 26 hospitals from the Wielkopolska region (west-central Poland) with seven clinical departments located in Poznań (the capital of Wielkopolska region); this will allow the medical staff from clinical departments of the Poznań University of Medical Sciences to share knowledge and experiences with other professionals of the health care system in the region.

More specifically, the WCT project aims to provide the following telemedicine services to the Wielkopolska health care system:

- medical tele-consultation;
- medical tele-education;
- clinical decision support;
- reporting for specialised supervision institutions.

The pilot medical domain for which the infrastructure of WCT will be enabled is trauma surgery. The launch of the WCT infrastructure is planned for April 2011.

On the same day, the 'Virtual Laboratory of Interactive Teaching' (Wirtualne Laboratorium Interaktywnego Nauczania - [WLIN](#), in Polish) project was also presented. Its main objectives were demonstrated by Filip Koczorowski in a presentation titled 'New Technologies in Nature Science Teaching - Virtual Laboratory of Interactive Teaching'. WLIN is one of the cornerstones of the project entitled: 'Building a learning network for the environment and the protection of hermit beetle within the Natura 2000 network Biedrusko PLH 300001', conducted by the National Forests in Łopuchówko. The WLIN implementation is based on environmental monitoring.

The PSNC projects that were submitted to this year's conference perfectly suited the 'eChallenges e-2010' educational nature. The idea of the conference is to promote development of new trends and solutions in the field of Internet technologies used in various areas of life.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre](#)
- [Wielkopolska Centre of Telemedicine Project](#)

- [About the Virtual Laboratory of Interactive Teaching Project - Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre \(in Polish\)](#)
 - [ePractice Related event announcement- PL: eChallenges e-2010](#)
-

ES/INT: Cibevoluntarios Foundation a finalist at Stockholm Challenge 2010 Award - 5 January 2011

The **Cibevoluntarios Foundation** participated with its **CIBERMIX** programme in the **Stockholm Challenge 2010 Award**, a global competition rewarding social entrepreneurs active in the field of ICT applications for social development. **Cibevoluntarios** ranked as a finalist in the 'Education' category.

Since 1994, when the City of Stockholm launched the first competition whose purpose was to challenge the cities in Europe to show their best ICT applications for people and society, the Stockholm Challenge has rewarded social entrepreneurs in the field of ICT.

The **Stockholm Challenge** has been a pioneer in promoting the use of ICT tools and technologies for the development of individuals and society. The 'Challenge', now owned by the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, pursues the overall goal of helping counteract social and economic disadvantage, wherever it occurs, by promoting the use of ICT for development. It is mostly targeted towards developing regions and community or social sectors such as gender equality and minorities with the greatest needs.

In 2010, more than 290 projects from 90 countries joined the Stockholm Challenge. Organisations and projects could apply in six categories, taking into account the most significant areas of social and economic life, namely:

- Public Administration
- Education
- Economic Development
- Culture
- Health
- Environment

It is worth noting that these categories have been selected to match United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The winners were presented on 1 December 2010. All winners and finalists of the Education category may be viewed here: <http://www.stockholmchallenge.org/challenge-2010/education>.

The Cibevoluntarios Foundation, finalist in the Education category of the Stockholm Challenge 2010 Award, is a non-profit organisation made up of social entrepreneurs passionate about new technologies, communication and volunteering; the Foundation members work day by day with the main objective of using new technologies to promote social innovation and citizen empowerment. They seek to maximise the rights, opportunities and capabilities of each person within their environment through the use of new technological tools and applications that are available for them.

The Foundation's biggest asset is the Cybervolunteers, i.e. social change agents who contribute to promoting the use and knowledge of technological tools among people with fewer opportunities to access ICT and train in their use. The cybervolunteers play an important role, half-way between local and global Information Society; the way they contribute is usually innovative and creative in order to detect problems and give solutions to the needs and demands within their area of expertise.

Launched two years ago, the Foundation's **CIBERMIX** programme aims:

- to spread the daily use of technology among citizens of rural areas in a striking and demonstrative manner, by mixing contents, leisure time and services with administrative, business and social aspects.

- to lessen the digital divide
- to intensify the knowledge and use of broadband in rural areas;
- to highlight the usefulness, the social dimension and the closeness of technology;
- to raise awareness of the contents, public/private services and tools the Internet offers.

Over 80 towns in Spain are committed to these objectives. More specifically, CIBERMIX consists of technology dissemination and awareness raising events organised during week-ends in rural towns of Spain. For a week-end, the town turns into an advanced technology place, showcasing ICT benefits for citizens, officials and organisations. The programme has received support from the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade through the [Avanza Plan](#).

Further information:

- [Original news article - Cibervoluntarios Foundation \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Stockholm Challenge](#)
- [CIBERMIX website \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [CIBERMIX project - Cibervoluntarios Foundation \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Cibervoluntarios - Stockholm Challenge 2010 - Award Finalist in the Education category](#)
- [Avanza Plan website \(in Spanish\)](#)

SE: New look, feel and services for the national eHealth portal - 4 January 2011

At the beginning of December 2010, the national eHealth portal of Sweden [1177.se](#) was re-launched with an updated design and a wider range of services.

Thanks to its updated version, users can now seek for health care centres throughout Sweden, ask for advice and obtain knowledge on health matters as well as use their local eServices to contact healthcare services.

1177.se has been in operation for over ten years and contains information about diseases, related tests and medicine. What is also new is that each county and region has its own webpage, with news and links to the eServices that concern it. Another online service that has been added is the '[Find and compare health care](#)' service that enables users to search for and find information about care units across the country, such as their contact details and opening hours.

"There are some services that are not fully developed yet and next year [2011] the responsible of the portal will be working in order to enrich the portal with even more content. During 2011, we will also create two major thematic areas within the 1177.se portal that will contain information about cancer both for parents - children", stated Ellen Hyttsten, chief executive officer (CEO) of the company that runs the portal.

Another feature of the updated 1177.se is that it is possible for counties and regions to complement the national texts with regional content. In the regional content users can find information about the local rates for a mammography, for instance, and then investigate its rates, where this exam can be done and what age groups should do it.

"The development of 1177.se will continue with new eServices and information. In the longer term users will also be able to have access to their health records via 1177.se", said Lars-Olof Hensjö medical director of the company.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - 1177.se \(in Swedish\)](#)

HR: First eHealth services to be made available as from January 2011 - 3 January 2011

From 1 January 2011 Croatia will start the implementation of its eHealth policy.

Starting on 1 January 2011 patients will be able to schedule doctors' appointments online; moreover, all paper referrals, prescriptions and test results will be replaced by electronic forms.

In the beginning only primary care will be linked to an integral information system; the rest of the operations of all healthcare institutions are expected to be completed within the next year [2011].

So far 10 counties of the Republic of Croatia are participating in the project with the remaining ones expected to join by 15 October 2011.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - Croatian Times](#)
 - [Related ePractice news article - HR: Primary healthcare practices going paperless](#)
-

DE: 'Think Big Media College' now under the patronage of the Federal Minister for Family Affairs - 3 January 2011

The Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Dr. Kristina Schröder has assumed patronage over the 'Think Big Media College' project. A joint programme of the German Children and Youth Foundation (Deutschen Kinder- und Jugendstiftung - [DKJS](#), in German) and a telecommunications company in Germany, the Think Big Media College aims to encourage media literacy among young people.

Social network fan or bookworm? According to the Shell Youth Study 2010, the social environment of 12 to 25 year-old young people strongly determines which activities occupy their free time. Young people from wealthier families read a lot, are creative and spend time developing their social connections, compared to those of the same age from socially disadvantaged families who spend significantly more time in front of the television or computer. This is not to be considered as a weakness; this technical expertise should be rather used in a positive way for potential life and job prospects, an approach followed by the Think Big Media College.

Under the Think Big Media College project, young people are introduced to life and job prospects through the creative use of new media. They are encouraged to become active in the new media area, to improve their digital skills and develop their creative potential. During this process the young people are supported with education and training; the technical equipment is also provided.

The Minister stated in this regard: "Computers are an indispensable part of the world of young people. Therefore, what I particularly like about the Think Big Media College project is that it fits directly into their world. This strengthens their potential, gives them new perspectives and creates new opportunities for their development."

René Schuster, CEO of the telecommunications company in Germany said: "We are delighted that the Europe-wide 'Think Big' initiative is now being supported in Germany by Minister Schröder."

Dr Heike Kahl, Executive Director of the German Child and Youth Foundation added: "In the Media College, young people are able to use their talents and get group projects off the ground. It is wonderful feedback for them that the Federal Minister for Family Affairs has assumed patronage of the programme."

Further information:

- [Original News Article - Diskutiere.de \(in German\)](#)
 - [German Children and Youth Foundation \(in English and German\)](#)
 - ['Think Big Media College' \(in German\)](#)
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RO: Taxpayers will be able to use ePayment platform - 28 December 2010

On 24 November 2010, the Government approved a Decision on the development and the implementation on the National Information System for Tax Payment Online (Sistemului Național Electronic de Plată Online a Taxelor, in Romanian).

The main purpose of the ePayment platform is the elimination of queues at the taxation office desks. Thus citizens, businesses and the public administration will save both time and costs.

The development and implementation of the system has been performed by the Ministry of Communication and Information Society (MCSI) through the National Centre for the Management of Information Society (CNMSI), in collaboration with the Association for Electronic Payments in Romania (APERRO).

The information system has been developed by APERRO with private funding exclusively, hence at no costs for the Romanian State. Likewise, collaboration between the MCSI and APERRO is free-of-charge; the allocation of public funds is not required and public procurement legislation does not apply.

All Romanians established abroad will be able to access the system and in the first stage, payments with any enrolled Visa or MasterCard cards will be allowed. In no way will citizens be compelled to pay taxes on the platform; it will still be possible to go to the taxation office desks to pay by traditional means as an alternative.

In November 2010, the system had been fully implemented on the MCSI-CNMSI servers and its functionality and security tests had been completed. Thus, the system is ready for the enrolment of other public institutions. Operating costs will depend on the results of public procurement procedures to be carried out by each public institution to negotiate part of the transaction commissions.

The public institutions involved in the collections of taxes are required to register in the National Information System for Tax Payment Online, according to the following schedule:

- Step 1 - Registration of Counties and Municipalities / Cities with a population of more than 150 000 inhabitants, within seven months after the entry into force of the aforementioned Government Decision.
- Step 2 - Registration of Municipalities / Cities with a population of less than 150 000 inhabitants, within five months following the completion of Step 1 but not later than one year after the date of the Decision.
- Step 3 - Registration of other public bodies within 6 months after the conclusion of Step 2 but not later than eighteen months after the entry into force of the Decision.

In case a public institution would express their intention to register to the system faster, registration procedures could be accelerated with the approval of the MCSI.

Further information:

- [Original press release - Ministry of Communication and Information Society \(in Romanian\)](#)
- [CNMSI](#)
- [APERRO](#)

RO/SI: Enhancing eGovernment cooperation - 27 December 2010

At the meeting of the Joint Slovenian-Romanian Commission for Economic Cooperation on 24-25 November 2010, in Bucharest, the representatives of the two countries exchanged their eGovernment experiences to further their cooperation in the field.

On the first day of the meeting, participants reviewed their current economic cooperation discussed possibilities for enhancing it in future. On day two, a business conference on the information technology sector took place; it was attended by representatives of Romanian institutions as well as of the Slovenian Society for Information Technology (ZITEX), the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and the Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration.

The purpose of the conference was to enhance Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and eGovernment cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Aleš Dobnikar, the Managing Director for eGovernment and administrative processes at the Ministry of Public Administration in Slovenia gave a detailed presentation of his country's Development Strategy for eGovernment and future plans for electronic services. He also highlighted the relevant strategies and documents of the European Union (EU) with which EU Member States need to conform. Several Slovenian companies were presented and business discussions took place with representatives of Romanian companies.

The Romanian hosts said they were very pleased with the presentation of the Slovenian eGovernment achievements; they stressed that this experience will help them to develop their electronic services.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration \(in Slovenian\)](#)

FI: National Digital agenda 2011-2020 focuses on increasing productivity through the development of Information Society - 23 December 2010

The Finnish Government adopted a report entitled 'Productive and innovative Finland - Digital agenda for the years 2011-2020' ('[Tuottava ja uudistuva Suomi - Digitaalinen agenda vuosille 2011-2020](#)'), which was submitted to the Parliament on 26 November 2010.

The development and digitalisation of information society play a key role in sustaining Finnish well-being and in increasing productivity. The efficient use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in different sectors of society leads to increased productivity.

The report defines the future objectives for the development of Information Society along with measures necessary to achieve them. It also discusses the current situation of Information Society and provides a description of related projects carried out by the public administration during this Government's term of office.

The key objectives for the upcoming years include:

- the opening up of access to public data and their efficient use;
- promoting user-oriented service development;
- securing the position of ageing people as active citizens; and,
- supporting sustainable development solutions by adopting new technologies.

Having been the first country in the world to define a 1-Mbit Internet connection as a universal service, Finland continues to pioneer in the field of Information Society development. The Government aims to make high-speed, 100-Mbit broadband connections available to nearly all permanent residences, businesses and public administration bodies by the end of 2015.

Moreover, content and services play a major role in the development of Digital Finland. Services need to be user-friendly and secure and designed in such a way to meet the needs of everyday life. Aspects such as multi-lingual versions of services and their accessibility need to be considered early, at the planning stage.

Finland supports the development of the Digital Market in the internal market of EU and at the global level. Freer circulation of web content and services makes supply more flexible and paves the way for the emergence of creative economy business models.

The Government's aim is to develop a set of measures for Information Society that will be based on network-thinking and will be extended across sectors. The needs of people and society provide the starting point for service development. Efforts are also made towards discarding overlapping functions and closed information systems. Another key area is to open up access to public data in order to make it available to everyone and to enable new type of innovations.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications](#)
- [Productive and innovative Finland - Digital agenda for the years 2011-2020 \(in Finnish\)](#)

AT: 'FINANZOnline' service ranks second in German eGovernment competition in the category 'the most sustained eGovernment project of the decade' - 22 December 2010

FINANZOnline - the electronic data exchange platform of the Austrian Financial Administration - received the second place at the German **eGovernment 2010 competition** in the category of 'the most sustained eGovernment project of the decade'.

"Austria and the Ministry of Finance managed again to succeed internationally in eGovernment. With this award, we show once more that Austria has the eGovernment leadership of financial management", said the Minister for Finance, Josef Pröll during the award ceremony that took place on 10 September 2010. He added: "I am particularly pleased that the aspect of sustainability of FINANZOnline has been noticed and recognised, as it is only this way that we will be successful in advancing towards a modern, streamlined and efficient administration."

Especially in terms of sustainability - apart from the quality of the offer - the reduction of the environmental and climate impact of paperless administrative procedures also needs to be emphasised: 9 million electronic applications or declarations a year mean savings of about 1.4 million litres of industrial wastewater, 90 tons of wood, 630 MWh of electricity and 180 tons of goods in transit. Commenting on this, Mr. Minister Pröll said: "This shows once more that the Austrian Financial Administration not only offers first class services, but it also uses its innovative force in such a way that points out its social responsibility in terms of climate and environmental protection."

The competition, which is supported by a management and technology consultancy and a technology provider in Germany, honours annually the most innovative IT projects and concepts as well as public institutions active area. Federal, state and local governments from Germany, Austria and Switzerland were invited to participate. A top-class jury of experts in the field of administrative modernisation awarded the winners of each category.

Through the services offered by the FINANZOnline and eCustoms (**e-Zoll**), the Austrian Ministry of Finance expanded its pioneering role in eGovernment, thus providing a model for modern management structures. Citizen-friendly and yet cost-efficient eGovernment solutions are key to administrative reform.

Meanwhile, a third of the total employees' tax assessments is handled via the FinanzOnline platform each year. With respect to businesses, this value is much higher and on the rise. The financial benefits of online Government as an innovative solution are on the one hand, huge cost savings and, on the other hand, the positive effects for

taxpayers, i.e. time efficiency, prompt issuing of tax assessments, online views of the tax records and more transparency. Hence, 2.5 million regular users currently enjoy the high quality of online financial services.

Moreover, the services of other administrations such as justice's, states' or communities' administrations are also being further developed. There has been a strong cooperation for years between the tax authorities and communities in various tax related processes such as the community tax, which is constantly extended with modern eGovernment solutions. The current phase enables communities to access the tax bases of the standard tax value through the FinanzOnline service.

Further information:

- [Official News Article - Austrian Ministry of Finance \(in German\)](#)
- [FINANZOnline \(in German\)](#)
- [eGovernment 2010 competition \(in German\)](#)

FR: eGovernment achievements and future roadmap presented - 21 December 2010

François Baroin, the French Minister for the Budget, the Public Services, Public Accounts and State Reform presented a communication on eGovernment on the occasion of the Council of Ministers of 24 November 2010.

In the document the Minister introduced many themes such as the development of online services, the streamlining of the number of governmental websites, the rating of online services by their users and the access to dematerialised public data.

In the framework of the General Review of Public Policies, the Government launched in 2007 an action plan to improve the quality of public services and to develop eGovernment. First significant results include:

- for the first time this year [2010] the threshold of 10 million taxpayers who filed their tax returns online was exceeded;
- most of the administrative forms have been digitised and made available on eGovernment portal '[Service-public.fr](#)', thus allowing over 1.2 million form downloads per month;
- up to 84 % of medical care expenses reimbursement has been dematerialised thanks to the spread of health card 'Vitale', i.e. that over 1 billion medical receipts have been transmitted by electronic means.

In order to keep the eGovernment development momentum, the Government has followed the proposals made by MP Franck Riester in February 2010, thus deciding to simplify the digital environment of the State to ensure better readability. The number of central government websites will be divided by ten in two years. By 2012, the whole information and all the services of the Public Administration will be gathered in approximately 60 websites.

Moreover, the French Government has decided to speed up the development of personalised services for citizens and businesses. By the beginning of 2012, user accounts on personalised eGovernment portal '[Mon.service-public.fr](#)' will be expanded to taxation accounts and the Employment Agency (Pôle Emploi, in French), so as to enable French people to connect with the same login to the main eGovernment services.

Users, furthermore, will be able to provide their assessments of public websites thanks to a common and permanent evaluation tool that will be piloted in January 2011. The system will then be spread to all sites later in 2011.

Last but not least, a single portal of public sector information named 'Etalab' will be created with the purpose of promoting the re-use of public sector data by private sector parties. A project manager is expected to be appointed shortly in order to drive the process towards the publication of this portal by the end of 2011.

Further information:

- [Official news article - State Modernisation Portal - Directorate-General for State Modernisation \(in French\)](#)
 - [eGovernment portal - Service-public.fr](#)
 - [Personalised eGovernment portal - Mon.service-public.fr \(in French\)](#)
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EU: Agenda for new skills and jobs highlights the role of ICT skills in enhancing employability - 20 December 2010

The European Commission (EC) launched on 23 November 2010 its flagship initiative '[An Agenda for new skills and jobs](#)', stressing the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) skills in boosting the employability of Europeans.

To make Europe's labour markets function better, the EC proposes 13 concrete actions that will help to:

- To give people and businesses the right incentives to invest in training to continuously upgrade people's skills in line with labour market needs. The Commission will soon launch an 'EU skills panorama' which will forecast the skills that will be required in future and help to ensure people have the right mix of skills (ICT and languages, for example) to boost their job prospects and adaptability. The Agenda puts forward a proposal to develop a shared interface - European Skills, Competences and Occupations classification - to bring together more closely the worlds of employment, education and training. The Commission also calls for reforms to ensure the recognition of professional qualifications and proposes to develop a European Skills Passport, to help citizens record their skills in a transparent and comparable way;
- To reform labour markets in order to improve their flexibility and security ('flexicurity');
- To ensure decent working conditions while improving the quality of employment legislation;
- To ensure the right labour market conditions are in place for job creation;
- The Agenda for new skills and jobs complements the Commission's recently launched '[Youth on the Move](#)' initiative, which aims to help young people to gain the knowledge, skills and experience they need to make their first job a reality.

'An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs', as part of the [Europe 2020 - Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth](#), is the Commission's contribution to reaching the EU employment rate target for women and men of 75 % for the 20-64 years age group by 2020. The strategy also highlights the EU's targets to reduce the early school leaving rate to under 10 % and increase the number of young people in higher education or equivalent vocational education to at least 40 %. Getting more people into work is key to sustaining Europe's social model and welfare systems as the EU working age population will soon start to shrink.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Europa Press Releases Rapid](#)
 - [An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment - Communication from the European Commission](#)
 - [Europe 2020 - Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth - Communication from the European Commission](#)
 - ['An Agenda for new skills and jobs' - Citizens' summary](#)
 - [Youth on the Move](#)
-

EU: Release of the Open e-PRIOR v. 1.1 - Accelerating uptake of eProcurement across Member States - 20 December 2010

The Release of the Open e-PRIOR 1.1 was published on the Open Source Observatory and Repository for European public administrations ([OSOR.eu](#)) on 14 December 2010. This release provides a new 'Retrieve request' web service allowing users to retrieve an XML version of any document stored in the system, as well as a full implementation of the submit and validate catalogue features (with email notification support

to users), as described in the accompanying 'Central Catalogue Management System Software Architecture Document (SAD)'.

Open e-PRIOR v1.1 also adds partial support of the LIME profile (Send documents only) between lightweight clients and PEPPOL Access Points. More details on LIME profiles are available on the [PEPPOL website](#).

Finally, release 1.1 also packs an updated test suite that integrates the new features mentioned above.

The full list of web services provided by Open e-PRIOR v1.1 is the following:

- Submit Invoice *
- Submit Credit Note *
- Submit Attached Document *
- View document
- Query Request
- Status Request
- Retrieve Request
- Submit Order *
- Submit Catalogue

* The service is also available through the use of the PEPPOL Access Points.

Interested parties can find further information about Open e-PRIOR by:

- [Registering at the OSOR website](#) and participating in the OSOR community;
- [Downloading the latest version of Open e-PRIOR](#) from OSOR.eu;
- [Reading the documentation](#) about Open e-PRIOR, including a guide on how to get Open e-PRIOR running and the Software Architecture document;
- Contacting the dedicated e-PRIOR team either via e-mail: DIGIT-EPRIOR-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu or in the forum at OSOR: http://forge.osor.eu/forum/?group_id=188.

Background:

Open e-PRIOR is a cross-border eProcurement solution developed by the European Commission (DIGIT) for the European Union Member State administrations, which can use it to exchange catalogues, orders, invoices and credit notes with their suppliers over the PEPPOL infrastructure.

Open e-PRIOR provides an opportunity to reuse the open-source version of a solution that is now operational at the EC. It is also a great opportunity to share practical experiences and lessons learned with the aim of accelerating uptake of eProcurement across Member States.

Further Information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
- [Open e-PRIOR project](#)
- [PEPPOL project](#)
- [Related ePractice news item - EU: Open e-PRIOR v1.0 released - Accelerating uptake of eProcurement across Member States](#)

MK: Certified IT training for 80 unemployed - 17 December 2010

On 5 November 2010, 65 unemployed people signed contracts to attend an IT training programme organised under a joint project between the Ministry of Information Society and the Employment Agency of

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The budget, funded by the Government, is about MKD 7.4 million (approx. €12 000).

When he received the contracts, Minister for Information Society Ivo Ivanovski said that this is a new project for professional advancement in the field of information technology; the course will consist of trainings in programming languages/tools for unemployed persons.

The project is the result of research conducted on the situation of the labour market. It is thus deemed consistent with the needs of the country's IT sector and it is supported by the chambers of commerce and by the national Association for Information Technology (MACIT, in short).

"The idea was prompted by the private sector and this is a pilot project from which we expect positive results given that the ICT market in the country has continued to grow. Last year [2009], for the first time, the number of employees in the ICT sector was higher than that of employees in the communications sector," Minister Ivanovski said.

According to an analysis by the MACIT, he added, from 2009 to 2011, the need for people who work as technical support, administrators and database designers, as well as people trained in Microsoft/ Linux tools, Java developers and Oracle database designers is expected to increase.

Minister Ivanovski said that he informed the Director of the Employment Agency, Biljana Jovanovska, that candidates from several cities would be selected based on a test to which 180 persons registered.

The training will be managed by three licensed companies selected following a tender and courses participants will receive vouchers for taking the certification exam. The value of the package of seven classes provided ranges between €800 and €1 800. Under the pilot, a selection of an additional 15 persons will take place for another training group.

The implementation of a similar project is envisaged for 2011. It would be funded by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), i.e. the financial instrument 2007-2013 for the European Union pre-accession process.

Upon completion of the trainings, these people are expected to actively engage in the ICT market, where there is a need for staff.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Ministry of Information Society \(in Macedonian\)](#)

IT: Telemouse project resumes in Rome - 17 December 2010

In November 2010 in Rome, schools of all types and levels re-opened the doors of their computer laboratories to elderly people for the period 2010-2011, under the Telemouse project.

TeleMouse is a two-year digital literacy-enhancement programme (September 2009- June 2011) aimed at seniors. It is an initiative of non-profit organisation 'Fondazione Mondo Digitale' with the collaboration of an Italian telecommunications provider.

In Rome, the programme has involved schools and elderly centres. Following the model of the 'Grandparents on the Internet' ([Nonni su Internet](#), in Italian) project, school computer labs are used to teach seniors how to use a PC with the help of young tutors.

In the elderly centres, thanks to over 50 Internet Corners provided by the telecommunications provider, over-sixty students who participated in the school courses can continue practising their news skills independently, outside of the classroom but with the support of more experienced seniors.

The list of the 61 participating schools in Rome may be found [here](#).

Further information:

- [Original news article - Fondazione Mondo Digitale](#)
 - [Related ePractice news article - IT: A web-trip for the Elderly of Vitinia](#)
 - ['Grandparents on the Internet project' - Description](#)
 - [The role of the elderly centres \(in Italian\)](#)
-

EU: Europeana now provides online access to over 14 million items of Europe's cultural heritage - 16 December 2010

Europe's digital library, [Europeana](#), now provides Internet access to over 14 million digitised books, maps, photographs, paintings, film and music clips from cultural institutions across Europe, it was announced in November 2010. This well exceeds the European Commission's initial target of 10 million works by 2010.

Over 1 500 cultural institutions from across Europe are contributing material. Digitised photographs, maps, paintings, museum objects and other images make up 64 % of the Europeana collection. Another 34 % comprises digitised texts, including more than 1.2 million complete books that can be viewed online and/or downloaded. The texts cover thousands of rare manuscripts and the earliest printed books (incunabula) from before 1500. Video and sound material represents less than 2 % of the collection.

New items added this year include: a Bulgarian parchment manuscript from 1221, a very important early example of the Bulgarian language; the first Lithuanian book, 'Catechismusa prasty szadei' (The Simple Words of Catechism, in English), published in 1547; a 1588 copy of Aristotle's *Technē rētorikēs* (Art of Rhetoric, in English) in ancient Greek and Latin; paintings by the 17th century Dutch painter Jan Steen; the complete works of German authors Goethe and Schiller; 1907 footage of festivities for the Danish Constitution Day; and a series of pre-World War I photographs of the Glendalough monastery in Ireland. More examples can be found here [MEMO/10/586](#).

The potential for using Europeana in schools was demonstrated by entrants in the recent [eLearning Awards](#) organised by European Schoolnet. The [winning project](#), from Portmarnock Community School in Ireland, involved pupils creating their own blogs about figures from history using digital resources.

Next year Europeana intends to experiment with user-generated content and will invite users to contribute material to Europeana around the theme of World War I.

Even though Europeana has exceeded its current targets, the European Commission is striving to make even more material available. It has set up a Reflection Group (the 'Comité des Sages' - Maurice Lévy, Elisabeth Niggemann, Jacques de Decker) to explore new ways to bring Europe's cultural heritage online ([IP/10/456](#)). The Comité des Sages' report is due to be published at the beginning of 2011.

Although all EU Member States have contributed items to Europeana, input is still uneven. France is still the largest contributor (18 % of total items), and Germany has increased its share to 17 %. To ensure Europeana represents a true cross-section of Europe's cultural heritage, it needs further quality material from all Member States.

There is also a lack of in-copyright material. This is due mainly to the difficulties and cost of rights clearance to digitise and give access to such material (even for material that is no longer commercially distributed or out of print) or material whose potential copyright holders are unknown (orphan works). As a result, much of the material accessible through Europeana is older and out of copyright.

Neelie Kroes, Vice President of the European Commission for the Digital Agenda, said: "Europeana is a great example of how cooperation at European level can enrich all of our lives. 14 million objects available online is good news for all Internet users who want to have access to cultural material from Europe's libraries, museums and archives. But Europeana could be even better if more cultural institutions digitised their collections and made them

accessible through this European portal. I trust the Comité des Sages will soon give us ambitious recommendations to speed up that process."

Background Information

Europeana is a collaborative endeavour of Europe's cultural institutions. It was launched as a prototype in November 2008, and initially had two million cultural objects available online ([IP/08/1747](#)). The Europeana office is hosted by the [National Library of the Netherlands \(in English and Dutch\)](#) in The Hague. It is run by the Europeana Foundation and is 80 % financed by the EU.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Europa Press Releases Rapid](#)
 - [Europeana portal](#)
 - [Further information on Europeana - Frequently Asked Questions - Europa Press Releases Rapid](#)
 - [Related ePractice Article - EU: Europe's Digital Library doubles its size](#)
-

ES: Guidelines for the safe use of national eID card on the Internet published - 15 December 2010

On 22 November 2010, the Spanish National Institute of Communication Technologies (INTECO) and a consulting company published practical guidelines for the safe use of the national electronic ID card (eDNI) on the Internet.

The aim of this publication is to show the functionalities provided by the electronic version of the national identity card in order to carry out administrative procedures and business over the Internet.

The document seeks to give the keys to the functioning and use of the card while analysing the protection means it offers against attacks through the web. Finally the guide explains how electronic signature and electronic certification through the eDNI guarantee one's identity as they imply compliance with a number of security and privacy criteria.

The full version of the guidelines has been made available in Spanish and English, while a summary can be found in Catalan, Basque, Galician and Valencian.

Further information:

- [Original notice - INTECO](#)
 - [Full guidelines and summaries in all the available language versions](#)
 - [eDNI \(in Spanish\)](#)
-

LT/EU: EC's customs information service online introduced to Lithuanian traders - 15 December 2010

At the meeting of the Lithuanian Customs Consultative Committee held on 12 November 2010, officials from the European Commission (EC) introduced Lithuanian trade representatives to electronic services provided by EC's Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD).

DG TAXUD was represented by Ms. Iris Dahlke and Mr. Robert Cibulla, who introduced the audience to, among other EC eServices, the [European Customs Information portal](#), relating electronic databases and eTraining modules.

The European Customs Information Portal (ECIP) is intended for trade representatives who import goods into or export them from the European Union and face legal acts regulating international trade. Traders willing to start international trade will find on the Portal the scenarios of the customs procedures, explaining each stage of the import, export or transit procedures.

A lot of the practical information needed for performing customs formalities is published on the Portal in a clear and comprehensive manner; databases and legal acts required for assessing taxes as well as the contact information of the customs authorities of all EU countries are readily available on the website.

The eTraining modules assist traders in understanding more clearly the implementation of the EU customs legislation. Many eTraining modules have been developed in close cooperation between the customs authorities and trade representatives.

On the stand of DG TAXUD located in the lobby of the Customs Training Centre, the traders had a possibility to test in practice the electronic services delivered.

The Lithuanian Customs Consultative Committee was established in 2000. Important subjects are analysed, the novelties of the customs activities are introduced, and discussions on better forms of cooperation between the customs authorities and business entities take place at its meetings.

Further information:

- [Official news article - Lithuanian Customs](#)
- [European Customs Information Portal](#)
- [Related ePractice news article - EU: New European Internet Portal: Customs info in a few clicks](#)

PL: Online social campaign for digital education - Anyone can join - 15 December 2010

The Polish Cities on the Internet Association together with the Information Society Development Foundation and the Polish Computer Training Foundation launched on 9 November 2010 a social campaign for the digital education of adult Poles.

The campaign is carried out through a social networking website and it aims to mobilise support towards the design and implementation of a nation-wide adult digital education programme (Ogólnopolski Program Edukacji Cyfrowej Dorosłych- [PCRS](#), in Polish).

Research shows that close to 13 million Poles are lacking the elementary skills in order to profit from the content and services offered by the Internet; at the same time, they lack fundamental knowledge on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in daily life and work. As a consequence, in the context of a knowledge led economy, Polish opportunities for growth and global competitiveness are impaired.

Krzysztof Głomb, President and initiator of the Cities on the Internet Association noted: "We can overcome this barrier - all the necessary tools are in our hands and... heads".

The action came to life in June 2010, when a number of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and programme initiatives with national reach signed a Memorandum entitled 'Digital Poland of Equal Opportunities'. Among the signatories of the Memorandum were:

- The Polish Information Processing Society
- The Rural Development Foundation
- The National Chamber of Electronics and Telecommunication
- The Coalition for the Development of Information Society (KRESI)
- The Polish Electricians Association

- The Federation of Education Initiatives
- The Association of Knowledge Management Practitioners
- The Business Centre Club (BCC) ICT and Information Society Commission
- The FLOSS Foundation
- The Coalition for Open Standards (KROS)

In the fall of 2010 support for the 'Digital Poland of Equal Opportunities' programme was voiced by distinguished representatives of the Polish scientific, social and public circles: Prof. Danuta Hübner, Chair of the European Parliament's Regional Development Commission and former Regional Development Commissioner; Dr. Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, former Prime Minister of Poland; President of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the first Information Technology Development Minister Prof. Michał Kleiber; the President of the Polish - American Freedom Foundation and former Ambassador to the USA Jerzy Koźmiński. All of them signed the appeal to the government and took on the role of 'Digital Poland of Equal Opportunities' ambassadors (here-after, the PCRS ambassadors).

It is a common belief of all organisations supporting PCRS and of the PCRS ambassadors that the realisation of such a programme ought to become the priority of public authorities in the 2010-2015 period.

In November 2010, the organisers of the campaign extended their call to citizens, representatives of NGOs, entrepreneurs, local authorities, artists, scientists and everyone else sharing the belief that concrete actions are needed to raise the digital competences of adults, to support the 'Digital Poland of Equal Opportunities' initiative on a social networking website or to contact the organisers at: pcrs@mwi.pl.

Further Information:

- [Original news article - Cities On Internet Association](#)
- [PCRS Initiative \(in Polish\)](#)
- [Related article - Polish Innovation Portal - Ministry of Economy \(in Polish\)](#)

New Factsheets

The 2nd Editions of the eInclusion factsheets for Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, and Norway are now available online. Furthermore, a new release for the Netherlands (2.1) has also been made available. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

- [BE: Continua European Symposium 2011](#) | 17 - 18 January 2011 | Belgium
- [BE: SmartPersonalHealth Workshop](#) | 18 January 2011 | Belgium
- [US: Winter Health IT Summit](#) | 19 - 20 January 2011 | North America
- [NO: eInvoice Conference 2011](#) | 20 January 2011 | Norway
- [IN: e-Gov World 2011](#) | 20 - 21 January 2011 | Asia
- [BE: ETNO Innovation Day 2011 on eHealth](#) | 25 January 2011 | Belgium
- [BE: CPDP 2011 - Event on eHealth and Privacy](#) | 25 January 2011 | Belgium
- [IT: HEALTHINF 2011](#) | 26 - 29 January 2011 | Italy
- [IT: 2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems](#) | 28 - 29 January 2011 | Italy
- [DE: Forum and Workshop in the Medical Device & Technology Test Expo 2011](#) | 8 - 10 February 2011 | Germany
- [US: 'Medicine Meets Virtual Reality' Conference](#) | 8 - 12 February 2011 | North America
- [EU: Get Online Week 2011](#) | 28 February - 5 March 2011 | Pan european

BE: Continua European Symposium 2011 - 17 - 18 January 2011

Continua European Symposium 2011 - 'We're making It Personal - Are You?'

This symposium will bring healthcare professionals, researchers companies, entrepreneurs, policy makers, health ministries and other stakeholders together for an in-depth look at a variety of Personal Connected Health solutions and how these tools and services will fit into Europe's current and future model of healthcare.

The symposium will be divided into three tracks:

- Chronic Condition Management: Are personal health solutions the right prescription?
- Ageing Independently: Can personal health solutions support active ageing?
- Health & Wellness: Are personal health solutions on your menu?

The event will explore the question as to how these areas will impact the current model of healthcare in Europe. Attendees and presenters will also explore emerging business models, preventative healthcare, best practices and examples of personal connected health at work and through policy.

Symposium attendees will be able to register - for free - to the [SmartPersonalHealth workshop](#) on 18 January 2011.

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: admin@continuaalliance.org

Event website: <http://www.continuaalliance.org/events/upcomingIndustryEvents.html>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: Continua Health Alliance

BE: SmartPersonalHealth Workshop - 18 January 2011

Enabling smart integrated care: An interactive workshop to develop and review policy recommendations on promoting interoperability of personal health solutions

Drawing on the experience of the three stakeholder workshops in Barcelona, Belfast and Berlin, the SmartPersonalHealth project has developed draft recommendations for European, national and regional level policy makers to promote the adoption of interoperable personal health systems. The draft recommendations are based on three stakeholder consultations in March, June and September 2010 with healthcare professionals, device and personal health system (PHS) vendors, and procurers.

This workshop is co-located with the [Continua European Symposium 2011](#) and it will re-convene the stakeholders to review and refine recommendations to:

- Improve exchange and cooperation among stakeholders (improving cooperation and information exchange with key stakeholders, especially with groups previously excluded from dialogue);
- Encourage standards adoption and uptake (focusing upon concrete needs and priorities for measures to improve adoption of standards);
- Create a supportive environment (the structures and organisations, measures and processes to support standards development, certification and uptake)

The discussions will start from a diagnosis of the current situation, identify complications and issues, and present recommended actions for regulators, national and regional decision-makers, professional stakeholders, industrial stakeholders, and patients.

Following a welcome and a keynote, there will be three consecutive panels each consisting of an impulse statement and an interactive feedback session with invited panel members.

The preliminary agenda may be viewed at the event website.

The event is invitation-only but those interested in attending are requested to ask to join the waitlist by sending an email to SPH@edelmanthecentre.com.

Event email: SPH@edelmanthecentre.com

Event website: <http://sph.continuaalliance.org/eventsBrussels.html>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: the SmartPersonalHealth project along Continua Health Alliance along with 'The Centre'

US: Winter Health IT Summit - 19 - 20 January 2011

Winter Health IT Summit - Quality, Safety and Efficiency: Transforming Healthcare through Health IT

Attendees of this Summit will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the ongoing requirements and challenges of meaningful use with health care professionals from all over the country in a convivial and professional atmosphere;
- Understand the evolving responsibilities and differences between meaningful use and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Action (HIPAA) for patient privacy and Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) security;
- Collaborate and network with national thought leaders to define best practices for utilising health IT resources to improve patient safety, quality of care and outcomes.

The topics that will be discussed include:

- Meaningful use in action: Leveraging meaningful use to improve outcomes and patient care;
- Managing through the transition of national healthcare reform;
- Connecting with care givers and consumers: Maximising the potential of health information exchange (HIE);
- Securing Electronic Personal Health Information: Strategies for minimising security risks;
- Planning for the Future: HIE sustainability and interoperability;
- Protecting against data breaches: Understanding the evolving responsibilities under the HITECH Act;
- Choosing the right Electronic Health Records (EHR): Understanding the significance of Certification;
- New Frontiers in Telehealth: Mobile applications in the health care continuum.

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

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: Robert@ihealthtran.com

Event website: <http://www.ihealthtran.com/hitwintersummit.html>

Country: North America

City/Location: Phoenix, Arizona

Organiser: The Institute for Health Technology Transformation (iHT2)

NO: eInvoice Conference 2011 - 20 January 2011

eInvoice Conference 2011 Norway

The Norwegian public sector must be able to receive and handle invoices electronically from July 2011.

- How to deal with this new requirement?

- How can electronic invoicing be profitable?

Both questions will be answered during the conference.

The detailed programme is on the event website at: <http://www.difi.no/filearchive/e-fakturakonferansen2011.pdf>.

Participation is free-of-charge. Registration is to be performed [online](#) by 15 January 2010.

Event email: elektronisk.faktura@difi.no

Event website: <http://www.difi.no/artikkel/2010/11/konferanse-om-elektronisk-faktura-20.-januar-2011>

Country: Norway

City/Location: Oslo

Organiser: Norwegian Ministry of Government, Administration and Church Affairs and the Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

IN: e-Gov World 2011 - 20 - 21 January 2011

E-Gov World 2011 - the 5th International Summit on e-Governance and Mobile Governance

Started in 2004 as one of the flagship initiatives of The Society for Promotion of e-Governance, e-Gov World is South Asia's first and one of the most reputed platforms for the government practitioners, industry, academia and civil society organisations to share their learning practices and develop the foresight for transforming public services for inclusive development and sustainable growth.

The focus of this year's deliberation will be on Innovative Mobile Applications for Government Services, Open Solutions for Public Administration and Performance Management Strategies. The Mobile Applications Lounge for Showcasing m-solutions and the release of Mobile Governance Roadmap for India are some of the key features of this year's summit.

The key Thematic Areas of the e-Gov World 2011 Conference are:

- Mobile Governance Roadmap for India and global best practices in mobile applications for inclusive development and sustainable growth;
- Open Solutions for Public Administrations;
- e-Governance cooperation framework for South Asian countries - Developing next millennium public services collectively;
- Performance Management of Governance and Development Projects (Workshop).

Details on the important dates regarding the conference can be found on the [event's homepage](#).

Registration for the event can be performed [online](#) until 20 December 2010.

Event email: vikaskanungo@egovindia.org

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

Country: Asia

City/Location: New Delhi, India

Organiser: The Society for Promotion of e-Governance (SPEG)

BE: ETNO Innovation Day 2011 on eHealth - 25 January 2011

European Telecommunications Network Operators (ETNO) Association's Innovation Day 2011 - 'eHealth: an answer to EU healthcare and demographic challenges' - Interactive conference and exhibition

Healthcare is one of the sectors that can benefit the most from broadband-enabled innovation. eHealth applications and solutions which are currently developed and marketed throughout the EU by ETNO members have the potential to increase quality and efficiency of healthcare and improve its access for all. eHealth applications will encourage more people to connect to broadband and thereby contribute to the success of the Digital Agenda.

The ETNO Innovation Day 2011 will see the participation of Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission for the Digital Agenda.

The themes of the conference are:

- How can eHealth applications contribute to meeting the healthcare challenge: address civilisation and chronic diseases (diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases) and improve access to healthcare?
- How can eHealth solutions address demographic and ageing challenge?
- What are the main obstacles to the take-up of eHealth applications?
- What are the business models that would enable a wide deployment of eHealth applications? What conditions need to be met to ensure the commercial success of eHealth?
- In line with the digital agenda, what actions are needed at the EU and national levels to enable a wider usage of eHealth applications by medical community and users?

The draft programme has been made available at the event website.

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: diEU@etno.be

Event website: <http://www.etno.eu/Default.aspx?tabid=2283>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO)

BE: CPDP 2011 - Event on eHealth and Privacy - 25 January 2011

Event on eHealth and Privacy in the frame of the Annual Conference Computers, Privacy & Data Protection (CPDP 2011)

CPDP 2011 is a three-day conference where academics, practitioners, policymakers and activists can meet, exchange ideas and discuss emerging issues of information technology, privacy, data protection and law. The Event on eHealth and Privacy takes place on the morning first day of the conference.

On 15 March 2010, during the eHealth week, the [Barcelona Declaration 'European co-operation on eHealth'](#) was accepted by the Member States of the EU. It addressed the following points: political and strategic involvement; work on trust and acceptance; legal and ethical clarity; ensuring the protection of personal data; solutions for interoperability; connecting the eHealth policy with competition, innovation and research and also with cohesion and inclusion policy. The Declaration addresses a number of important legal issues for eHealth, especially privacy issues.

These issues will come back in the topics that are discussed in depth during the panels at the eHealth event. The detailed ehealth event programme may be found [here](#).

Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: info@cpdpconferences.org

Event website: <http://www.cpdconferences.org/index.html>

Country: Belgium

City/Location: Brussels

Organiser: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Université de Namur, the Universiteit van Tilburg, the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique and the Fraunhofer Institut für System und Innovationsforschung

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)

IT: 2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems - 28 - 29 January 2011

2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems (MIAD 2011)

The 2nd International Workshop on Medical Image Analysis and Description for Diagnosis Systems (MIAD 2011) is organised in conjunction with 4th International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies - [BIOSTEC 2011](#).

MIAD 2011 aims to bring together researchers and practitioners working in medical and biomedical images processing domain. The workshop will also offer the opportunity to fill the gap between academic researchers, practitioners and industrial parts.

Authors were encouraged to submit papers describing original work, including methods, techniques, advanced prototypes, recent advances in acquisition devices (CT-Scan, MRI, 3D Ultrasound, molecular imaging), applications, diagnosis systems and tools. The call for papers is now closed.

Event email: biostec.secretariat@insticc.org

Event website: <http://www.biostec.org/MIAD.asp>

Country: Italy

City/Location: Rome

Organiser: Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC)

DE: Forum and Workshop in the Medical Device & Technology Test Expo 2011 - 8 - 10 February 2011

Forum and Workshop in the Medical Device & Technology Test Expo 2011

At the Medical Device & Technology Test Expo attendees will find the tools and resources they need to get ahead of the competition and reduce the chances of costly product recalls and alerts.

In parallel to the Expo, an open technology Forum and Workshop will take place over the three days, highlighting areas of key interest to engineers and technicians working in the medical device and technology industry.

The programme of the forum can be viewed [here](#) and of the workshop [here](#).

Event email: info@totalworldmedia.com

Event website: <http://www.medicaldevicetestexpo.com/>

Country: Germany

City/Location: Cologne

Organiser: Total World Media Ltd

US: 'Medicine Meets Virtual Reality' Conference - 8 - 12 February 2011

Medical Education Conference for Physicians (MMVR18-NextMed) - 'Medicine Meets Virtual Reality'

MMVR is organized to be an educational environment that stimulates communication and collaboration among scientists, engineers, physicians, surgeons, educators, students, military, government, and industry. It supports the development and adoption of advanced medical technologies for medical care and education. Its goal is improved precision, efficiency, and outcomes in patient care, practitioner training, and public health. The MMVR curriculum, by combining rigorous assessment with speculative vision, aims to create forward-thinking solutions to health problems.

Presentations are chosen to educate participants on:

- Simulation advances that, supported by haptics and modeling, are transforming medical education, procedural training, psychotherapy, rehabilitation, and other areas of healthcare;
- The novel imaging, visualisation, and data fusion techniques that are revolutionizing diagnosis and therapy.
- Robotics and sensors that extend the reach of healthcare providers in patient assessment and treatment.
- Intelligence networks that inform provider decision-making and foster a collaborative medical environment.
- Broader goals, accomplishments, and challenges in the development and application of novel devices and methods for medical care and education.

The initial event programme may be found [here](#). Registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: MMVR18@NextMed.com

Event website: <http://www.nextmed.com/index.html>

Country: North America

City/Location: Newport Beach, California, United States

Organiser: MMVR Organising Committee

EU: Get Online Week 2011 - 28 - 5 March 2011

Get Online Week 2011

Following the success of [Get Online Day 2010](#) when almost 70 000 people were reached, Telecentre-Europe is organising a new campaign - Get Online Week 2011. This event is a Europe wide campaign to get new computer users online. It helps to get people through the doors of their local telecentres, enabling staff to build people's confidence to move on into more structured learning.

The Get Online Week 2011 campaign aims to:

- bring people online (focus on the offline Europeans, those who have never accessed Internet before);
- raise awareness with the press and the stakeholders of digital inclusion benefits;
- promote and increase usage of telecentres across Europe;
- demonstrate telecentres eInclusion impact at the European level.

The expected outcomes of the Get Online Week 2011 are:

- Over 100 000 beneficiaries from at least 20 nations;
- Over 1000 telecentres involved;
- High PR and visibility across Europe and in each individual participating nation.

Further information about the event can be found online in a detailed [presentation](#).

Registration to the event is free-of-charge and can be performed [online](#).

Event email: info@telecentre-europe.org / laurentiu.bunescu@telecentre-europe.org

Related ePractice News Article: [EU: 100 000 Europeans to get online in a week](#)

Event website: <http://getonlineweek2011.wordpress.com/>

Country: Pan european

City/Location: Various cities throughout Europe

Organiser: Telecentre-Europe

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