

FriKomPort, as the portal was called, as a free software application under the GPL. The portal today is used by more than 50 organisations, and practically all users are very confident about the solution. For the future the FriKomPort leaders hope to share the portal with even more municipalities by publishing an English version.

Mobile Adaptive Procedure

MAP is an intelligent system that accumulates experiences and knowledge on a daily basis and makes these assets available when interacting with citizens in emergency situations whether from fixed sites or mobile circumstances. Through MAP:

- it is possible to receive information using one's voice;
- access information in the field using a PC, Smart Phone or PDA;
- establish contact in emergency situations;
- share information between operators;
- offer real time assistance;
- provide short cuts to access information that is not readily available.

MAP is a complete set of very flexible services that could be adapted to existing scenarios with the aim to facilitate (on the move too), the work for civil servants in two main ways:

- Providing shortcuts to common practices, one-stop-shop and procedures;
- Capitalising the experience among the working team transforming them in "practices".

MAP initial deployment is going to address services in three main areas:

- Civil security;
- Social services;
- Citizen Relationship Office (CRO).

MAP services, for the above areas are going to:

- Support public civil servants during interaction with citizens (CROs);
- Improve quality, speed and efficiency in gathering answers and operational information (all areas);
- Remove employee skill barriers among internal departments within the public administration through advanced collaboration and communication services (all areas);
- Integrate data from diverse sources (laws and decrees repositories, procedures and guidelines) seamless and transparent (all areas);
- Capitalise knowledge through the possibility to store and share retrieval paths and the contribution by other employees tracing the problem resolution process and expert advice (all areas).

MAP services will be deployed to public administrations in France and Italy.

Services addressed will be focused in France on social services and citizen relationship management, and in Italy on civil security and citizen relationship management

Editor's Choice of the week: [Supplier e-procurement training desks](#)

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EU: SEMIC.EU approaching the 200th interoperability asset - 14 July 2009

The repository of the Semantic Interoperability Centre Europe (SEMIC.EU) currently counts 192 downloadable interoperability solutions. SEMIC.EU calls for further contributions helping to provide the 200th asset of interoperability!

Despite the richness of content, many fields are still uncovered and many more data models, code lists, taxonomies and ontologies must be taken into consideration for the clearing process.

Currently, a number of new contributions are announced or already in preparation. Yet it is not predictable what kind of asset will push the count above the important 200 mark.

Examples of the repository's current content include:

- [Examination results](#) (France)
- [Natural person](#) (Germany)
- [Marital status](#) (Ireland)
- [Causes of death](#) (European Commission)
- [XML structures for personal data](#) (Austria)
- [Financial accounts](#) (Finland)
- HR-XML, e.g. [Competency types](#), [Assessment catalogue](#), [Enrollment](#), [Military history](#)
- [eOrdering and eInvoicing](#) (by IDABC)
- [eTendering and eAwarding](#) (by IDABC)
- [MoReq2](#) (generic requirements catalogue)
- [NACE](#) (Business classification)
- [Naming and Design Rules](#) (Danish OIOXML)
- [Semantic Support](#) (OASIS)
- [SDMX](#) (Eurostat's Statistical Data Exchange Formats)
- SEMIC.EU's own [taxonomy of eGovernment domains](#)

Further information:

- [SEMIC.EU website](#)

- [SEMIC.EU complete list of assets](#)
-

NO: New open format IT standards for the state sector - 13 July 2009

The Norwegian Government has adopted new obligatory IT standards for the state sector. Users can now have equal and easier access to information material offered by the Government - graphics, videos, sound or picture material - regardless of the type of software and technical equipment they choose to use.

This decision means that the users are able to watch or download multi-media material from the State in open format; that is, formats not locked to specific suppliers in the market, reform minister Heidi Grande Røys says.

This is the second step in a long term effort by the Norwegian Ministry of Government Administration and Reform to establish recommended and obligatory IT standards to be used by public institutions and enterprises. Details on the new obligatory standards can be found in the Reference catalogue, accessible on the government website www.regjeringen.no (in Norwegian) which contains obligatory document formats for web publication. The purpose of the standards is to provide simpler and more effective electronic interaction within the public sector and between public institutions and the users.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Website of Ministry of Government Administration & Reform](#)
 - [The official website of Government Administration & Reform - Reference catalogue on IT standards](#) (in Norwegian)
-

EU: Cyrillic and Greek characters to be displayed under .eu domains - 10 July 2009

On 25 June 2009, the European Union announced the adoption of new EU rules making it possible for internet users and businesses to register domain names under .eu, using characters of all the 23 official languages of the European Union, now including Cyrillic and Greek scripts.

Later this year, when this plan will enter into force, .eu will also be available in the Greek and Bulgarian alphabets and in any other EU member State's alphabet that has special characters, which currently cannot be displayed. At present, Czechs can only use 27 out of 42 characters, and Lithuanians 23 out of 32; additionally, domain names registered under the .eu top level domain could only contain the characters "a" to "z", digits "0" to "9" and "-". In the future, it will be possible for citizens and businesses to register names using characters such as "à", "ą", "ä", "ψ" or "д" under ".eu".

In the light of this initiative, the EU Commissioner for Information and Media, Ms. Viviane Reding stated the following: 'It is only natural then that the domain names chosen by Europeans be permitted to be as diverse as Europe itself. This is why we have decided that .eu should become available in all alphabets used in the Member States and allow for all characters used in the 23 official languages of the European Union.'

Outlining the advantages of using the .eu domain the Commissioner also added: 'Three years after its launch, .eu has become the valued option for an increasing number of businesses and citizens who want to choose a European internet identity. Opting for .eu is a very simple way for businesses to show that they are established in one of the 27 EU countries and subject to the high standards of EU legislation, particularly when it comes to data protection, consumer rules or the EU's financial market regulations.'

To mark this initiative, the website of the incoming Swedish EU Presidency, www.se2009.eu, is the first to choose the European domain instead of a national one.

Further information:

- [Original Press Release - Europa Rapid - Official Website](#)
-

HU: Establishment of PSI re-use Task Force - 10 July 2009

A Task Force has been established in Hungary with the objective of facilitating the access to and the re-use of Public Sector Information (PSI) in the country. It will place particular focus on the spatial data provided by the Land Administration.

The inaugural meeting was hosted by the Department of Land Administration and Geoinformation in the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on 6 May 2009.

The Task Force activities will be mainly related to the geographic information (GI) which is produced, maintained and used in land management - including surveying, mapping, cadastre and land registration, remote sensing - and serviced by relevant spatial data infrastructures. From an economic point of view, the uniform land registration system operating in Hungary is one of the most important databases of the country.

The Task Force has been created based on an initiative of the Hungarian Association for Geo-information (HUNAGI), a non-for-profit, non-governmental, interdisciplinary umbrella organisation. HUNAGI's major objectives are to encourage and facilitate the availability, sharing, accessibility and usability of geographic information according to the INSPIRE legislation framework, for the benefit of the GI community in Hungary.

The founding core of the Task Force includes high-level representatives of the four following entities:

From the Governmental side:

- **Department of Land Administration and Geoinformation**, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FVM FTF).
- **Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI)**, registered by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission as a "Legally Mandated Organisation" (LMO) - Supervised by FVM FTF, the Land offices and FÖMI provide legal and cadastral mapping information, data and other services for external users and citizens, for a fee generally. The majority of the INSPIRE Annex I and Annex II datasets belongs to the responsibility of FÖMI.

From the NGO/private sector and academia side:

- **Hungarian Association of e-Content Industry (MATISZ)** - Its main objective is to foster the further development of the Hungarian Information Freedom in a way to make PSI re-use easier for the business sector (including in the field of GIS). Therefore, thanks to the support of the Government and its membership and partner organizations, MATISZ has been carrying out PSI-related activities such as defining financial, economic and legal-environment requirements and raising awareness on PSI by organising e.g. workshops or open days.
- **Hungarian Association for Geo-information (HUNAGI)** - HUNAGI's interdisciplinary community has 101 member institutions and organisations including governmental institutions, NGOs, academia and private sector representatives. HUNAGI has been registered as a "Spatial Data Interest Community" by the JRC. HUNAGI is working closely with MATISZ.

The new Task Force will be a driver of HUNAGI's anticipated contribution to the planned Legal Aspects of PSI (LAPSI), if this project is approved by the European Union. Forthcoming events such as the National EURADIN Workshop (Budapest, 2 September 2009) or the Intersectorial Roundtable discussion on Spatial Data (Budapest, 4 September 2009) will be also used by HUNAGI for raising awareness of and disseminating best practices found in ongoing e-Content projects such as eSDI-Net+ and the PSI Platform.

Further information:

- [Original news article - ePSI platform](#)
-

LT: Modernising criminal records - 9 July 2009

On 3 July 2009, Lithuanian Minister of the Interior Raimundas Palaitis attended a meeting which presented the modernisation project of the national Register of Criminal Offences in view of the latter's connection to the future European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).

The modernisation of the national criminal register has been deemed necessary as it will improve the exchange of national criminal records among information systems and allow the Lithuanian register to be connected to the ECRIS, thus preparing the transition to a fully electronic information exchange between Lithuania and the courts, tax administrations and law enforcement authorities of the other EU Member States.

"Last year, the bodies responsible for criminal records issued approx. 300 000 paper reports. This represents huge costs in terms of time and resources. In addition, up to ten days are needed for one to obtain his/her criminal records certificate. The upgraded register will make it possible for such certificates to be delivered in just a few minutes via the Internet. The speed of the data acquisition and transmission process will be increased and the data will be better protected" said Minister Palaitis.

The register's modernisation project is managed by the IT and Communications Department of the Ministry of the Interior. It is partly funded by the European Commission with over 9 million LTL (approx. €2.6 million) under the European Union's specific programme 'Criminal Justice' 2007-2013.

The specific programme 'Criminal Justice' has been adopted as part of the General programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice'. With a total budget of €196.2 million for the period 2007-2013, it provides financial support for activities promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters (exchange of information and best practice) and thus contributing to the creation of a genuine European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual confidence.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania \(in Lithuanian\)](#)
-

EU: A Virtual Physiological Human will enhance healthcare services - 9 July 2009

A total of 13 institutions from 7 countries are involved in the [Virtual Physiological Human Network of Excellence \(VPH NoE\)](#), whose foremost objective is to coordinate and facilitate the development of personalized patient computer models for the predictive healthcare of the future.

The network once established, will allow a wide range of academic, clinical and industrial researchers to investigate the human body as a single complex system. A major step towards its establishment was made at the University of Nottingham at the end of June with the organization of a study group funded by the VPH project itself.

A revolution in healthcare treatment and diagnosis may be imminent with the VPH pan-European personalised healthcare project, whose main goal is to support and progress European research in biomedical modelling and simulation of the human body. This project is funded with €72 million under the 'Information and Communication Technologies' Theme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7); should this initiative bring successful results, the need for animal testing and patient drug trials will be significantly reduced.

The VPH project will also be used as a constantly expanding knowledge database in order to develop better patient diagnosis and treatment. A postgraduate VPH training programme at the University of Nottingham in the United

Kingdom will help scientists from diverse disciplines perform collaborative studies across the European Union. Mathematicians and medical researchers who use mathematical modelling will work together to find solutions on how to tackle complex biomedical problems. Dr. Bindi Brook of the University of Nottingham's School of Mathematical Sciences stated that 'this study group is one of the prototypes for the sort of collaborative study which will be a key feature of our new VPH training programme. The course will allow postgraduates to train within the VPH network of European universities and, crucially, to access and contribute to a virtual VPH academy online.'

Employing emerging technologies such as genomics means that researchers in all areas can make use of massive amounts of crucial and detailed physiological data. At the same time, advances in ICT will make it easier for this information to be used in order to create genetic profiles of patients. It is hoped that over the next 10 years these advances will include treatments for both cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Note: Adapted from the original published on:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=30974. Responsibility of the adaptation lies entirely with epractice.eu.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - Seventh Framework Programme \(FP7\) - European Commission's CORDIS Official Website](#)
- [News Article - University of Nottingham - Official Website](#)
- [Virtual Physiological Human Network of Excellence \(VPH NoE\) - Website](#)

MK: e-Gov Project's assistance for eGovernment development continues - 9 July 2009

The e-Gov Project continues to support the process of eGovernment development in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by providing capacity building assistance to the Ministry of Information Society as the main government institution responsible for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policies.

The framework for future assistance activities is provided in a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation signed on 2 July 2009 between the e-Gov Project and the Ministry of Information Society.

"E-government services significantly ease the administrative and financial burden on companies and increase the transparency of government operations. E-government includes much more than just software development. It requires reforms in the government processes and procedures, as well as radical changes in the traditional perception for doing business with the government. All parties involved in e-government development must be aware of this" said the e-Gov Project Chief of Party Gordana Toseva.

Assistance will include but will not be limited to the following areas: training, on-the-job mentoring, preparation of strategic documents, strengthening of the coordinating role of the Ministry with regard to ICT policy development, etc. The main goal is to provide the Ministry with the experience and expertise accumulated from the e-Gov Project and to increase the capacity of the Ministry.

In the last five years the e-Gov Project has changed the eGovernment landscape in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by supporting the development of relevant applications, such as eProcurement, EXIM (the on-line system for issuing export and import licenses), online registration of job opportunities, eTax, as well as by generally improving the environment for the implementation of eGovernment services. In addition to financially supporting the development of the software for the respective applications, the Project also worked with its partners to simplify procedures, re-engineer processes and change the legal environment to ensure successful implementation of the applications.

Background information:

The [USAID](#)-funded e-Gov Project is implemented by media development NGO 'Internews Network' in the period 2004-2010. The project's main goal is to implement modern eGovernment solutions in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that will increase the efficiency and transparency of public sector management and open new channels for doing business in an open and secure manner, thus making the country more attractive to the investment community.

Further information:

- [Official press release - e-Gov project website](#)
 - [Homepage of the e-Gov project](#)
-

GR: The new website of EL/LAC - 9 July 2009

In the last few weeks, the new ellak.gr website, an open source software development and use model, has been on a trial period.

New features have been implemented in the organisation and presentation of the content and priority has been given to ensure that registered users have the ability to:

- publish and comment on articles;
- collaborate in formulating texts in wiki;
- interfere in fora; and
- register in lists of Free Software / Open Source Software (EL / LAC) (Open Source, One Laptop Per Child (OLPC), Creative Commons and ellak-advisory).

The purpose of the probationary period is to assess the functionality of the new website in order to improve the interface.

The new ellak.gr incorporates social networking features among the 4 000 members of its community and serious work has taken place regarding its content, namely, cataloguing useful software.

The Open Source Software, thanks to continuous improvements and ever increasing user-friendliness, is constantly gaining new friends worldwide. In education, public administration and enterprises, stakeholders are informed and acquire tools that are particularly attractive, reliable, and stable when operating; also free from major acquisitions and enhancement costs required to upgrade commercial, off the shelf (COTS) software. All the more resources are allocated to technical support with significant benefits for local and national economies.

Background Information:

The EL/LAC was founded, in 2008, by 25 universities, research centres and technical colleges. The EL/LAC is a non-profit organisation which aims to contribute to the promotion and development of Free Software/Open Source Software in education, public sector and businesses in Greece.

Free Software/Open Source Software (EL/LAC) is an alternative model of software development and use based on freely available source code, which allows for changes or improvements to meet specific needs. This software can be freely used, copied, distributed and modified according to the user's needs.

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - Website of knowhow.gr](#) (in Greek)
- [Official website of EL/LAC](#) (in Greek)

FR: Launch of the online Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin - 9 July 2009

The French [Institute for Public Health Surveillance \(Institut de Veille Sanitaire - InVS\)](#) launched the first online issue of the Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin ([Bulletin épidémiologique hebdomadaire BEH-WEB](#)).

BEH-WEB constitutes a new source of rapid dissemination of scientific information, including all the latest news related to epidemic issues. It proposes, in a form of short articles, reviews on the surveillance and the acquired knowledge regarding the pandemic of Influenza A (H1N1), from the outbreak until the middle of June 2009.

Moreover, given the rapid evolution of the disease, both in France and around the world, the BEH-Web provides a link -which is regularly updated by the InVS website- to a variety of national and international reports. The first issue entitled "The chronicle of a new pandemic" is -as expected- dedicated to influenza A (H1N1).

Further information:

- [Original News Article - Regional Agency of Technologies and Information Society - Official Website](#) (in French)
- [Institute for Public Health Surveillance \(Institut de Veille Sanitaire\) - Official Website](#) (in French)

IT: Sapermangiare.mobi: an interactive website on nutrition is launched - 9 July 2009

[Sapermangiare.mobi](#): the first Italian interactive website on nutrition launched by the National Research Institute for food and nutrition, with the support of the Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies. Its official presentation by the President of INRAN took place, on 2 July 2009, at Pescara, on the occasion of the Mediterranean Games.

This website is an innovative free tool for communication, accessible to all from computers and mobile phones. Questions on proper eating habits can arise at any place and any time of the day. Sapermangiare.mobi intends to assist users on finding the lifestyle that suits them best by guiding the users' choices on a daily basis and providing the best information available. Its recommendations are based on the best national and international research, constantly updated, independent of commercial interests and customised to the users' needs.

The users will enjoy services and resources to build a lifestyle that is not simply related to nutrition but that reconciles taste, shape and well-being. All questions on nutrition, available on website, are answered in real time and have the guarantee of a scientific public body which runs an exclusive research on food and nutrition.

"As the President of Inran and a consumer, affirms prof. Cannella Carlo, I truly believe in the proactive role that institutions need to play in protecting the community, using the most effective means to reach people and prevent errors in nutrition. This is a challenge for Sapermangiare.mobi: To give everyone the opportunity to eat what they like, in the right quantity. That is to say, to learn to "know how to eat" not only for taste but also for their well-being. "

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - Italian Agriculture \(Agricoltura italiana\) online](#) (in Italian)
- [Official website of sapermangiare.mobi](#) (in Italian)
- [Official website of National Research Institute of Food & Nutrition](#) (in Italian)

EU/SE: Swedish Presidency R&D information service launched on CORDIS

- 9 July 2009

The Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) launched a new internet portal under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The site will present information on research and development (R&D) activities that take place under the Swedish Presidency.

The new service highlights two of the Swedish presidency priorities in R&D, the governance of the European Research Area (ERA) and the pro-innovation research policies. Moreover, the service provides an up-to-date overview of related news and events, helpful links and contact addresses.

Sweden took over the presidency in July and will be in charge until the end of December 2009. Supporting the new presidency service, the Swedish national service presents R&D news regarding Sweden along with related country information.

Note: Adapted from the original published on:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=30978. Responsibility of the adaptation lies entirely with epractice.eu.

Further information:

- [Original News item, CORDIS, Official Website](#)
- [CORDIS Web service of the Sweden Council Presidency of the EU Website](#)

IT: Two fingerprints in new Italian passport - 8 July 2009

As from 29 June 2009, the citizens of the Italian provinces of Grosseto and Potenza requesting for a passport will receive the biometric passport containing the prints of both their index fingers.

Italy is thus gradually entering phase II of the implementation of the European Union's [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2252/2004](#) of 13 December 2004 on "standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States". Phase I - concluded in 2006 - marked the inclusion in the new passports of a first biometric identifier; the holder's facial image in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) format.

In practice, only the police stations and headquarters are qualified to collect fingerprints. The municipalities receiving a new passport request will therefore have to forward it to the police. The police officers will collect the fingerprints and store them in encrypted mode on a chip embedded in the document. In the coming months, the police headquarters of the remaining Italian provinces will become equipped with the relevant setup and software for undertaking the inclusion of their holder's fingerprints on the new passports.

The Department of Public Security of the Italian Police explains that the passport keeps the same look and feel; the holder's biometric information is stored in protected mode in an invisible microchip. The fingerprints collected will not be saved in any database; they will be sent to the central systems for the necessary checks and will be filed there for no longer than the strict duration of the preliminary inquiry.

Once the passport is issued and when it has been made sure that it is working properly, the fingerprints will be deleted from the central archive and from the police headquarters. They will remain solely in the electronic passport. The new passport is hence deemed more secure with regard to counterfeiting. It becomes a primary identification tool since fingerprints are unique and unrepeatable.

The fingerprints will be collected for all passports applicants who are above 12 years old.

The Central Directorate of General Affairs of the State Police and the Electronic National Centre (Naples) are the responsible authorities for implementing this phase of the electronic passport project.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Italian State Police \(in Italian\)](#)
-

IT: National cyber crime centre comes to life - 7 July 2009

A new national centre aimed at protecting the Italian critical infrastructure against cyber crime was unveiled on 23 June 2009.

Present at the official launch were the Minister of the Interior Roberto Maroni, the Minister of Justice Angelino Alfano, the undersecretary to the Council Presidency Gianni Letta and the Head of the Police Antonio Manganeli.

The Centre (Cnaipic - Centro nazionale anticrimine informatico per la protezione delle infrastrutture critiche) is an operational component of the 'Post and Communications Police'. It will serve the goal of preventing and handling potential cyber attacks conducted against the country's critical infrastructures.

This move is a response to the genuine challenge posed by potential and concrete large scale cyber attacks, such as the one which rendered all the Estonian Government websites - and the infrastructure connected to these - unreachable in April-May 2007.

The Cnaipic is made up of a technical and an operational unit. It makes use of cutting-edge technology and has a highly skilled and specialised staff; the 'Post and Communications Police' investigators have been already involved in the fight against cyber crime, cyber terrorism and industrial espionage for the past years.

The organisational structure of the Cnaipic has been conceived to meet the need for internal security, in cooperation with the organisations which use national critical infrastructure under the framework of public private partnerships and in connection with similar international structures.

The Centre's jurisdiction covers the ministries, the government agencies and the entities active in the field of international relations, security, justice, defence, finance, communications, transport, energy, environment and health, as well as the Bank of Italy, the counties and the municipalities of more than 500 000 inhabitants dealing with communications, transport, energy, health and waters affairs.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Italian Government \(in Italian\)](#)
-

IT: Tuscany: a new procurement database now available online - 7 July 2009

An online database has been created and is available to all the subscribers of the regional observatory on procurement and public contracts. This database constitutes a significant aid for institutions and governments that intend to outsource the work.

It incorporates over four million technical documents, texts on administration, law, housing, urban planning and land management; vademecum on supplies and services, environmental protection and safety on the job.

This news has recently been available on the intranet of a procurement observatory on the official website of the Tuscany region. The vice president of the regional Tuscan municipality committee, Federico Gelli, states: "In this term, we have set certain priorities. Rules, among other priorities, must be clear, transparent and uniform as well as

more streamlined between government and businesses, as far as procurement and transparency at work are concerned. To achieve these objectives, we approved a specific law two years ago. This database together with the archive has already been available on the website and contains all the related data on procurement stations and contracts in progress. It will serve to reach objectives even faster, allowing the Government to dispel any doubts and provide faster access to the necessary information".

The database is edited by an Italian magazine specialising in Finance and supplied by the regional procurement observatory in collaboration with the library sector of the Region. To render consultation easier, the documents were divided into modules. The Regional Procurement Observatory is accessible at the following website: <http://www.e.toscana.it/e-toscana/it/appalti.wp>.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Official website of the Region of Tuscany](#) (in Italian)
- [Official website of Regional Procurement Observatory](#) (in Italian)

IE: The Minister for Integration launches a new website on migration issues - 7 July 2009

On 25 June 2009 the Irish Minister for Integration John Curran, T.D., launched a new [website](#) with the main objective of becoming a key source of information for migrants and also informing any other stakeholders on the latest developments in integration and diversity management sectors.

More precisely the website aims at:

- highlighting the work of the Office of the Minister for Integration;
- informing migrants and interested stakeholders on any developments in integration and diversity management at a national and international level;
- providing information on European and national funding streams managed by the Office of the Minister for Integration;
- providing useful links to relevant national and international websites;
- becoming a key source of information for migrants.

The launch of the Irish website coincides with the recent launch of the European [website](#) on Integration by the European Commission (EC). The EC website has a variety of sections such as documentary library, "best practice" content, country information on integration of Third Country Nationals from across Europe, while trying to build an online community of integration practitioners.

Further information:

- [Original News Article - Citizens Information - Official Website](#)
- [European Web Site on Integration](#)

FI: Fingerprints: Part of the new biometric national passports - 7 July 2009

As from 29 June, all new passports issued in Finland have to include fingerprints. According to the Council Regulation on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and other travel documents, all Member States had to introduce fingerprints in their respective national passports and travel documents by the end of June 2009.

Fingerprints are the second biometric identifier to be included in national passports. Since 2006, passports have included an electronic chip containing the passport holder's facial image.

Fingerprints stored on the passport chip will improve passport security and contribute to establishing a more reliable link between the travel document and its holder.

Fingerprint data will also be entered in a national register which will help authorities to reliably identify people who apply for a passport or in situations where people need to travel. The aim of registration is to protect people's identity, improve personal security and prevent identity misuse that violates the right to privacy. Fingerprints taken of the applicant and stored in the register may also be used to prepare a document that the applicant has applied for.

Fingerprints stored on the passport chip may only be read by passport, police and border check authorities where and when necessary to verify the authenticity of the travel document and the identity of the document holder. The police may moreover use fingerprint data, should this be necessary to identify victims of natural disasters, major accidents or other disasters and victims of crime or unidentified victims. The police do not, however, have the right to use fingerprint data stored in the register to solve crimes.

The new passport will cost 48 Euros.

Further information:

- [Official news article - Suomi.fi](#)
- [Press release - Ministry of Interior](#)

Latest Publications

- [EU: Promoting Skills Development in Challenging Times](#) | 1 July 2009 | Pan european
- [UK: Making eGovernment Pay: Realising benefits from ICT](#) | 26 June 2009 | United Kingdom
- [EU: The Small Business Act](#) | 25 June 2008 | EU Institutions

EU: Promoting Skills Development in Challenging Times - 1 July 2009

Description (short summary):

In economically challenging times, investment in skills development - like all spending - comes under pressure, and those who are convinced of the importance of skills must work harder to make a compelling case, competing for a smaller pool of funding. But what are the key arguments that must be made? These relate to keeping skills at the centre of all capital investment projects, emphasising the relative importance of e-Skills in driving economic recovery, and promoting the long-term benefits of social cohesion through broad-based e-Skills development.

Number of pages: 2

UK: Making eGovernment Pay: Realising benefits from ICT - 26 June 2009

Description (short summary):

The article explores three challenges that could maximize the return from investing in eGovernment:

- Ensuring that all benefits claimed in business cases are robust and realizable.

- Capturing all forms of potential value.
- Leveraging the capacity and capability established to create value.

The article ultimately shifts the emphasis from optimism in planning and pessimism in implementation to realism in planning and enthusiasm in implementation.

Number of pages: 3

EU: The Small Business Act - 25 June 2008

Description (short summary):

The 'Small Business Act' for Europe (SBA) reflects the Commission's political will to recognise the central role of SMEs in the EU economy and for the first time puts into place a comprehensive SME policy framework for the EU and its Member States.

It aims to improve the overall approach to entrepreneurship, to irreversibly anchor the "Think Small first" principle in policy making from regulation to public service, and to promote SMEs' growth by helping them tackle the remaining problems which hamper their development.

The Small Business Act for Europe applies to all companies which are independent and have fewer than 250 employees: 99% of all European businesses.

The document is a set of 10 principles which should guide the conception and implementation of policies both at EU and national level. This is essential to create a level playing field for SMEs throughout the EU and improve the administrative and legal environment to allow these enterprises to release their full potential to create jobs and growth.

The main aims of the SBA are:

- to create an environment within which entrepreneurs can thrive and entrepreneurship is rewarded;
- to design rules according to the "Think Small First Principle";
- to adapt public policy tools to SME needs;
- to facilitate SMEs' access to finance;
- to help SMEs to benefit more from the opportunities offered by the Single Market and third-country markets.

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ePractice Workshops

- [PIKE project workshop](#) | 24 September 2009 | Belgium
- [Re-thinking eProcurement According to SMEs](#) | 2 October 2009 | Italy

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

Upcoming Events

- [BA: Medical Informatics in a United and Healthy Europe - MIE 2009](#) | 30 August - 02 September 2009 | Bosnia and Herzegovina

- [AT: Eighth international EGOV conference 2009](#) | 30 August - 02 September 2009 | Austria
 - [IT: AAATE 2009 Conference](#) | 31 August - 02 September 2009 | Italy
 - [RO: E-Health and Bioengineering Conference 2009](#) | 17 - 18 September 2009 | Romania
 - [FR: Smart Event 2009](#) | 22 - 25 September 2009 | France
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BA: Medical Informatics in a United and Healthy Europe - MIE 2009 - 30 August - 02 September 2009

Medical informatics at current development stage belongs to highly specialized science. Simultaneously, this scientific discipline causes numerous dilemmas and confusion. Even though, human knowledge and skills are constantly expanding, it is not clear if the current technological process will be able to accommodate all kinds of existence and humankind as a whole. The Medical Informatics Europe (MIE) Congress is the main scientific event in health informatics, held every two years in Europe. Around 500-1000 participants from 32 European member countries of the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) attend the event. Several scientists from other parts of the world also participate.

The main theme of MIE 2009 is to develop new bridges and medical informatics between western and eastern parts of the world. For this purpose, a panel of high level scientists will be invited to participate and to give keynote speeches, tutorials and workshop discussions. Thematic tracks will contain selected full papers on specific topics, such as bio-informatics, ontological approaches, and knowledge representation; image processing and feature extraction; electronic health records and information systems. Workshops will cover debates and presentations under the leadership of EFMI working groups or established entities.

The registration is open and can be performed [online](#) with the payment of a fee.

Event email: loc@mie2009.org, spc@mie2009.org

Event website: <http://www.mie2009.org/index.php?NAV=home>

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

City/Location: Sarajevo

Organiser: European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI)

AT: Eighth international EGOV conference 2009 - 30 August - 02 September 2009

The international EGOV conference 2009, organized within the [DEXA conference cluster](#), presents the state of eGovernment and eGovernance research and practice, providing valuable guidance in this fast-developing sector.

The EGOV conference brings together leading researchers and professionals from all over the globe and from many disciplines. The 2008 conference attracted some 130 participants from more than 30 countries from all over the world including developing countries.

The eighth EGOV conference includes, but is not limited to the following topics around eGovernment and eGovernance and other fields of ICT application in the public sector:

- Research theories and frameworks for public sector modernization with the support of ICT;
- Research methods, method integration and technique;
- Analysing and assessing contemporary research in eGovernment and eGovernance;
- Designing systems for the public sector: innovative cases and systems;
- Studying ICT usage, acceptance and performance of technology-supported public sector activities: methods and contemporary case analyses;
- Future directions in research and practice of ICT in the public sector;
- Innovation management, change management and complexity management in shaping public sector advancements;
- Transformation, customer-driven public sector reengineering and change management;

- Mass collaboration of stakeholders in government modernization: participative governance, simulation, animation, gaming and policy modelling;
- Customer-driven public sector reengineering;
- New ways of innovative developments: crowd sourcing, grid computing, social software etc;
- Economics, evaluation and stakeholders;
- Theories, concepts and solutions to deal with specific challenging topics in the application field: complexity, system dynamics, evolution, change management, mobile technologies, information preservation, trust and privacy, information management, ICT4D, information quality, adaptability and agility, integration and interoperation, systems and enterprise architecture, domain-specific social networking cases and solutions, semantic technologies, etc;
- Crises management, emergency and disaster response, public-private cooperation, transnational government;
- Education, training courses, and curricula.

The EGOV Conference Series is open to all and free of charge. The conference also includes a PhD student colloquium providing doctoral students with an international forum for presenting their work, networking opportunities and cross-disciplinary inspiration.

Moreover 2009, EGOV will be co-located for first time with [ePart, the new International Conference on eParticipation](#), which will be dedicated to topics on eParticipation and eDemocracy. ePart will start right after EGOV, 3-4 September 2009 at the conference venue.

Event email: office@dexa.org

Event website: <http://www.egov-conference.org/egov-2009>

Country: Austria

City/Location: Linz

Organiser: Organized within the DEXA 2009 Conference cluster

IT: AAATE 2009 Conference - 31 August - 02 September 2009

The main aim of the 10th European Conference for the Advancement of Assistive Technology is to bridge the gap between two complementary approaches; the meaning of eInclusion and its use in order to achieve wider inclusion objectives. The Conference will provide an opportunity to clarify the differences and the common points between those two approaches and to better define a way for the future.

A non-exhaustive list of relevant discussion topics includes:

- Technological innovation in Assistive Technology;
- The need for interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approaches to the development of integrated solutions;
- The contribution of Assistive Technology and Design for all towards inclusion;
- Equipment interconnectivity and compatibility, covering hardware, software and wireless, to favor integrated solutions to inclusion;
- The need for standardization (formal, informal and de facto);
- Cultural aspects: e.g. acceptance of different approaches, designs and aesthetics of AT devices and inclusive living environments, high tech versus low tech, creative solutions for complex problems;
- Social aspects: penetration of AT and integrated approaches, the role of Europe in building up inclusion competence in emerging and developing countries, etc.;
- Technology transfer, towards not only AT industry, but also mainstream industry. Participation is open to all but it requires the payment of a fee.

Registration can be performed [online](#) through the conference management tool.

Over 300 attendees are expected.

Event email: p.l.emiliani@ifac.cnr.it, l.burzagli@ifac.cnr.it

Event website: <http://www.aaate2009.eu>
Country: Italy
City/Location: Florence
Organiser: Institute of Applied Physics "Nello Carrara" (IFAC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Event email: ehb2009@bioinginerie.ro
Event website: <http://www.bioinginerie.ro/ehb2009>
Country: Romania
City/Location: Constanta
Organiser: "Gr. T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iasi, the Romanian Society of Medical Bioengineering and "Ovidius" University of Constanta

FR: Smart Event 2009 - 22 - 25 September 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Event email: info@strategiestm.com

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

Country: France

City/Location: French Riviera

Organiser: Strategies Telecoms and Media

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