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European ePractice Newsletter N. 307 – 15 December 2009

The European ePractice Editorial Team wishes you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! The next issue of this newsletter will be disseminated on Tuesday 12 January 2010.

Latest Cases

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DL Interoperability, Best Practices and Modelling Foundations

The goal of the DL.org, Coordination Action on Digital Library Interoperability, Best Practices, and Modeling Foundations, is to create a framework where key representatives from major initiatives and on-going Digital Library related projects may collaborate, discuss experiences, exchange expertise, work on interoperability of their solutions, promote shared standards, and provide the DL community with a deeper understanding of key issues and new directions. The ultimate objective will rapidly advance research and development techniques thus facilitating the creation of a European Information Space. In using the DELOS Digital Library Reference Model as its conceptual and operational basis the project will be making an innovative attempt to achieve the above and concrete, far-reaching results that will be much broader and have a much more significant impact than any other similar effort in the past. DL.org will be active at a crucial time by executing coordination actions that target the essence of integration amongst a series of many DL efforts that are currently on-going, each one acting in isolation and adopting ad-hoc solutions and methodologies. The main instrument of the project to promote interoperability among all relevant efforts consists of six thematic Working Groups composed by DL.org partners and representatives from prominent DL projects and organisations. Key expected outcomes of DL.org include

- (i) a "Digital Library Technology and Methodology Cookbook" providing a portfolio of current best practices and patterns to facilitate cross-fertilization between existing systems and their enhancement in terms of critical interoperability issues;
- (ii) a consolidated and enhanced version of the DELOS Digital Library Reference Model;
- (iii) workshops, summer schools, eCourses and dissemination activities to communicate the impact of DL.org achievements to relevant communities.

Context Based Digital Personality CBDP

"Within the next decade, as digital technologies become increasingly pervasive, we might find ourselves living with almost invisible, intelligent interactive systems - an 'Ambient Intelligence' - that will form part of our everyday existence and *ecology*. The implications of this development are far reaching for individuals, businesses and communities. Ambient Intelligence could lead to great opportunities. But as with all new technologies, we know that the technology itself is neither good nor bad. It is how we might use it that makes the difference. The main challenge at this moment is to guarantee that the new Ambient Intelligence technologies are appropriate, sustainable and meet people's individual and social needs."

Devices' UI are becoming increasingly complicated (more functions/more interfaces) which increases the challenge for configuring and controlling them for home users, office users and professional devices installers. The CBDP project suggests creating a digital personality which eases this task by linking the digital personality of the user to the different devices and making runtime updating of the behavior of the different devices.

The CBDP solution is applicable to all sectors of society: public and private offices, public and private buildings, schools, public administration, factories, etc.

Digital Personality as proposed in this project refers to the capability of capturing in digital form personality characteristics of people. By personality characteristics we are referring both to physical related as topsychological conditions of people. The objective is to parameterize the user preferences according to a hierarchical categorization, that will be defined in the project, in her/his digital personality, the services to be offered and the actuators to act on. The user's information received from the sensors will be sent to the hosted digital personality in order to be processed taking into account those preferences to generate the data, in order to allow providers to offer services and to be sent to the different actuators. The digital personality will be a unique real identification for each person with information about preferences, tastes, the sensors that we allow collecting information from us and the actuators where the preferences can be applied.

When we are talking of Context Based Digital Personality, we are considering different contexts, home domain, building sites and mobile services provision. But the project solution is applicable to any context in which there is an intercommunication need among people and devices like the public administration and his public relations with citizens, with others administrations or like the private services.

The solution proposed focuses in the creation of the Digital Personality based on single or group of people. When there is a group of people, reasoning mechanisms defined will take into account the individual digital personalities and will provide the adequate environment that benefits the majority.

After the project's completion, the digital surroundings will be fully user oriented since most of the interaction with the user will be in the form of Digital Personality. The user will have to update their Digital Personality and this will be capable of automatically interface with the different devices in any digital surroundings in any place.

Semantic Evaluation At Large Scale

Semantic technologies are at the heart of the future Web providing ways to express knowledge and data so that it can be properly exploited. These technologies will empower a new class of Information and Communication Technologies that will be much more scalable, interoperable, and with a higher degree of process automation support that will fulfil the needs of an emergence market exceeding 7 billion euros (10 billion \$) by 2010.

This is a very active research area, currently supported by more than 3 000 individuals integrated in 360 organisations which have produced around 700 tools, but still suffers from a lack of standard benchmarks and infrastructures for assessing research outcomes. Due to its physically boundless nature, it remains relatively disorganized and lacks common grounds for assessing research and technological outcomes.

The goal of the SEALS project is to provide an independent, open, scalable, extensible and sustainable infrastructure (the SEALS Platform) that allows the remote evaluation of semantic technologies thereby providing an

objective comparison of the different existing semantic technologies. This will allow researchers and users to effectively compare the available technologies, helping them to select appropriate technologies and advancing the state of the art through continuous evaluation.

The SEALS Platform will provide an integrated set of semantic technology evaluation services and test suites. They will be used in two public and worldwide evaluation campaigns. The results of these evaluation campaigns will be used to create semantic technology roadmaps identifying sets of efficient and compatible tools for developing large-scale semantic applications.

The semantic technology evaluation services will initially be available for five different types of technologies (ontology engineering tools, storage and reasoning systems, matching tools, semantic search tools, and semantic web service tools) and for different evaluation criteria (interoperability, scalability, etc.). The platform will provide easy and free access to the evaluation services and to the results of the evaluations performed.

Editor's Choice of the week: [Integrated online portal for SMEs](#)

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- [IT: Ortona municipality to do eCommerce through MEPA](#) | 9 December 2009 | Italy

BE: Web portal on general practitioners' security goes live - 15 December 2009

In 2008, 557 complaints were lodged with the Belgian Police regarding offenses committed against general practitioners (GPs) in their surgery. The Federal Departments of the Interior and of Public Health hence launched a campaign coupled with a [new website](#), whose aim is to inform general practitioners on how to avoid specific situations.

When GPs refuse to write a prescription or to issue a sickness certificate, they often face verbal and/or physical aggression. 44 tickets were given in 2008 for violent offenses against property, mainly vandalism. A few cases of criminal fires were also reported.

The real figures are assumed to be much higher as most of the GPs do not lodge complaints because they know the patients. The new campaign and the relating website seek to raise the GPs awareness of the existing risks.

A study has shown that in almost half of the reported cases, their patients were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The study's results are the outcome of the declarations made online by the country's GPs via an electronic system put in place in 2007 by the two Federal Departments with the purpose of better drawing the scope of the offenses committed by patients. The GPs responded massively to the survey; all reactions and suggestions were discussed with the experts.

As a result of this consultation process, the website details all the prevention measures that GPs can take as well as how to react in front of an aggression, while addressing specific questions such as the scope of professional secrecy in such cases.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Belgium.be portal \(in French\)](#)
- [Web portal on the GPs' security \(in Dutch and French\)](#)

UK: eBorder system installed at Manchester Airport - 15 December 2009

Any UK or European passenger aged 18 or over, who has an electronically chipped biometric passport, issued since 2006, can choose to use the self-service facial recognition gate instead of queuing at traditional manned passport controls.

Passengers returning to the UK via Manchester International Airport are being encouraged to use the new facial recognition gates -recently launched at Terminal 2 after their successful installation at Terminal 1 last year- when crossing the border. It provides legitimate travellers with an automated, secure route through the UK border.

The gates take seconds to scan each passenger's face against the digital photo recorded in their passport. If there is a match, the gates allow the traveller across the border. The system is monitored at all times by UK Border Agency officers. Individuals are checked against international watch-lists before they can pass through the gates. More than 300 000 people have already used them at the airport.

The Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, Phil Woolas, speaking on a visit to Manchester International Airport on 26 November 2009 stated: "Britain's border security controls are among the toughest in the world, and by using the latest technology we are continuing to improve our ability to ensure only legitimate travellers and goods enter Britain". "The new facial recognition gates here at Manchester Airport will improve our service to the public and help to make the UK safer". He also added: "We have also introduced fingerprint visas (which check everyone who wants to come to the UK against immigration and crime databases), identity cards for foreign nationals and the £1.2 billion (approx. €1.3 billion) e-Borders system, which targets terrorist suspects, criminals and would-be illegal immigrants before they can reach the UK."

The gates are being operated in partnership between the UK Border Agency and Manchester International Airport. The technology has already proved popular at Birmingham, Stansted and Bristol airports, with 860 000 passengers having used the service so far.

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - UK Border Agency - Website](#)

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EU: The European Parliament approves new EU telecoms rules - 14 December 2009

The European Parliament has approved a major overhaul of EU telecoms rules, which will strengthen the rights of phone users and internet surfers and boost competition among telecoms firms. The new rules to be implemented, will enhance consumer rights, safeguard internet freedom, protect data, boost competition and modernise radio spectrum use.

"This legislative package is a prime example of how the work we are doing as European legislators, has an impact on the daily life of citizens. I am delighted that we have contributed to strengthening the rights of users of electronic communications and the internet." said EP President Jerzy Buzek, who signed the telecoms package on 25 November 2009 together with the Swedish minister for communications, Åsa Torstensson.

Regarding Internet access safeguards, a user's internet access, according to the new EU rules, may only be cut off if "appropriate, proportionate and necessary within a democratic society" and only after "a prior, fair and impartial procedure" which gives users the opportunity to state their case and respects the principles of presumption of innocence and the right to privacy. The Members of the European Parliament have thus succeeded in affording internet access an equivalent legal protection to that of a fundamental right by adding the world's first "internet freedom provision" to the EU framework law for electronic communications networks and services. Member States will have to adapt their national legislation to comply with these safeguards by 24 May 2011.

The telecoms directive also includes rules to:

- harmonise radio spectrum management across the EU, especially with a view to the switchover from analogue to digital TV by 2012;
- improve co-operation among Member States' telecoms regulators; and,
- allow "functional separation", i.e. rules requiring dominant operators to separate their network infrastructure from business units offering services that use this infrastructure.

In addition, the European Parliament and the Council had already agreed on the other two parts of the telecoms package (telecoms regulators and citizens' rights), which were approved by the Members of the European Parliament, on 6 May 2009 and by the Council, on 26 October 2009.

The directive on citizens' rights aims to:

- improve consumer rights, e.g. by allowing customers to have their mobile telephone number transferred within one working day when changing operators;
- strengthen personal data and privacy protection, e.g. by requiring the user's consent to the use of cookies.

The Members of the European Parliament have also agreed with the EU's telecommunications ministers to set up a European body bringing together all 27 national regulators - the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC).

Further information:

- [Official press release of the website of the European Parliament](#)
- [Related ePractice News item, Political agreement reached on EU Telecoms Reform](#)

IT: Legal documents booking service takes off in Varese Province - 14 December 2009

The website of the Varese Tribunal now provides an online service enabling citizens to request online 33 different types of legal documents.

The documents covered include: statutory declarations, certificates, decrees, judgments and minutes in the framework of testamentary, family, real estate and bankruptcy affairs.

Although law does not permit the online delivery of the requested documents, this new booking service offers considerable benefits for the citizens, who for instance will not need to visit the Tribunal several times. Likewise, the waiting time to obtain the document will be reduced drastically, from 2/3 months to only 3 days for statutory documents.

The eService has been available since 27 November 2009. It is the result of an agreement concluded by the Government of the Varese Province and the Varese Tribunal. Many municipalities of the Province are involved; they will assist those who do not have an Internet connection in accessing the service.

The initiative is one of the most important elements of the work of the 'Permanent Provincial Conference'. It has been devised in the aim to promote and expand the use of eServices.

Background information

Permanent Provincial Conferences are bodies providing assistance to the prefect of a given Italian province. The Permanent Provincial Conference allows the prefect, as the representative of Central Government, to carry out his/her mission consisting of coordinating the activities of the decentralised State Administration while ensuring a loyal collaboration with the representatives of Local Government.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Ministry of the Interior \(in Italian\)](#)

FR: Accessibility and Interoperability Frameworks are both in force - 14 December 2009

A few days after the approval of the [Administrations' General Accessibility Framework](#) by means of a ministerial order, [Version 1.0 of the General Interoperability Framework](#) was made official by a Prime Minister order dated 9 November 2009.

The Administration's General Accessibility Framework (RGAA - '*Référentiel Général d'Accessibilité pour les Administrations*' in French) was approved in October 2009. It aims to allow any person to access the online services and contents provided by national and local government, regardless of possible disabilities.

Since a decree of 14 May 2009, the various levels of government and the public bodies have had from two to three years to comply with the RGAA. The latter invites the Administrations to give priority to implementing the relevant accessibility requirements on the occasion of websites overhauls.

The version of 1.0 of the General Interoperability Framework (RGI - '*Référentiel Général d'Interopérabilité*' in French) contains recommendations that are based on regulations and standards enabling the promotion of interoperability between the information systems. The Directorate-General for State Modernisation (DGME) specified that the RGI does not create new standards; it only lists those that have been acknowledged at international level.

The 'Ordinance on electronic interactions between public services users and public authorities and among public authorities' of 8 December 2005 (no. 2005-1516) under its article 11, defines the RGI as well as the data directories and standards that the public authorities must use. The RFI concerns all information systems, including: messaging, directories, network protocols and document formats for phones.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Localtis.info \(in French\)](#)
 - [French eGovernment reference documents \(in French\)](#)
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EU/INT: OECD analysis confirms boost of eGovernment due to financial crisis - 11 December 2009

According to the new OECD analysis released on 19 November 2009, the squeeze on public budgets in the wake of the economic crisis is driving governments to rethink their approach to online government services or 'e-government'.

As stated in the report, many countries are using the crisis to refocus and speed up their e-government programmes. Germany and Korea, for example, have increased government spending on technology as part of their stimulus packages in order to stimulate the private sector and boost the long-term competitiveness of their ICT sectors.

According to the same report Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States had increased their spending in 2009 and anticipate further increases in the years ahead. On the other hand, Austria, Hungary, Iceland and the United Kingdom cut spending on e-government in 2009 and will maintain a lower level of spending going forward. In Iceland, the e-government budget fell by 16.5% in 2009 and is expected to fall a further 18% in 2010.

The crisis has led governments to re-prioritise their e-government strategies. The US, for example, is using technology and the Internet to enable people to see more quickly and directly where taxpayers' money is being spent as part of the stimulus package. Korea and the United Kingdom also cited e-government as part of a broader initiative to improve transparency.

"The challenge for governments will be to boost the take-up of e-government services," said OECD Deputy Secretary-General Aart de Geus at the 5th Ministerial EU Conference, in Malmö, Sweden. "Despite massive investment over the past decade, there remains a large gap between governments' ambitions and results. Overcoming this will be vital to achieving the cost-savings and improved quality of public services that e-government can deliver."

Further information:

- [Original source - Organisation for the Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\), Website](#)
 - [OECD's work on e-government](#)
 - [Related ePractice Library item, The Impact of Financial and Economic Crisis on eGov in OECD countries](#)
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AT: Vendor dependency forces Vienna to renew proprietary office licences - 11 December 2009

The Administration of the Austrian capital Vienna is forced to spend €1.5 million on licences for proprietary office applications.

The city council decided on 2 December 2009 to renew its current proprietary office licence contract for three more years.

Vera Layr, spokeswoman for the 14th municipal IT department, explained to an Austrian newspaper on the same day that the decision was made because "for certain applications there are no open source alternatives available".

Ms. Layr said on 10 December 2009 that the city administration needs two more weeks to provide details on the type of applications that are forcing Vienna to stay with the proprietary office software.

Regional councillor Barbara Novak of the Austrian Social Democratic Party (SPÖ)'s comment on the renewal of the deal: "The question is no longer if we are to move to open source. The current open source applications and those of proprietary software firms are quite complementary."

The ruling SPÖ party in Austria said in a statement that despite the licence deal, it will continue to support open source. It refers to the "Open Source for Vienna" promotional program as an example.

Child care

Layr explained to the Austrian newspaper that the decision will not have any influence on the open source desktop plans of the city. Public administrators can continue to use the Linux based desktop distribution Wienux and or OpenOffice if they so choose.

The city has always said that the use of the Wienux desktop is voluntary.

Of the city's total 32 000 PCs, just a thousand run the open source desktop system. Some 15 000 PCs in the city have OpenOffice installed.

In 2008, the city was forced to renew proprietary operating system licences for some seven hundred of these Wienux PCs. The deal was necessary for all of the Wienux PCs used in child day care centres, in order to run an application testing language skills that can only work with a proprietary browser.

Sustainability

In a request for tender published recently, the city of Vienna explains that using open source contributes significantly to the sustainability and efficiency of the city. Vienna is seeking support for the city's open source implementations.

"Already since 1989, we have been using open source software with much success. Examples include the use of this type of software for print and file servers, Internet and intranet sites and for running major parts of the security infrastructure. In 2007 we spent about €600 000 on open source projects", the city writes in the introduction to the tender.

Further information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)

EU: Visa free travel for citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia holding a biometric passport - 11 December 2009

On 30 November 2009, the Member States of the European Union (EU) adopted a decision allowing the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia holding a biometric passport to travel to all countries of the Schengen area without visa. They will be able to do so before Christmas, as of 19 December 2009.

European Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot underlined the political importance of this decision for the mobility of the citizens of the three countries concerned; he emphasised the reforms put in place during the last two years by these countries, which covered the main areas of Justice, Freedom and Security.

"By simplifying the mobility of the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, the EU will further foster the contacts between the Union and these countries and open a new era in our cooperation," said the Vice President.

"Today's decision reflects the clear European perspective of the Western Balkan countries and is the result of the hard work of the countries concerned to meet the requirements for visa liberalisation," said Olli Rehn, the Commissioner for Enlargement.

The new visa free regime will apply to all holders of biometric passports, who can now travel to the Schengen area for up to 90 days per six-month period. The Schengen area is made up of 28 European countries - all EU Member States except the UK and Ireland, as well as three non-EU members, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

Persons who do not hold a biometric passport and the residents of Kosovo holding a Serbian passport issued by the Coordination Directorate in Belgrade will still need a visa. The same goes for the persons who intend to work during a short stay or who want to come for more than 90 days; they need visas and work permits.

The European Commission started the visa liberalisation dialogue in early 2008 with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Centrepieces of the dialogue have been the European Commissions roadmaps, setting out the conditions that each country had to meet. In July 2009 the European Commission proposed lifting the visa obligation for the first three countries. The European Parliament gave a positive opinion in November 2009.

Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are also covered by the visa dialogue, are not included in the decision, as the latest assessment of the Commission showed that they did not yet meet all the requirements. The Commission has intensified its assistance to both countries in implementing the necessary reforms. A new evaluation will be made during the period of December 2009 to February 2010. As soon as the two countries achieve the necessary progress in implementing the roadmaps, the Commission will be ready to propose visa free travel for their citizens.

Further information:

- [Original news article - European Commission - European Website on Integration](#)

DK: Launch of national local climate map - 10 December 2009

The [Local Government Denmark \(LGDK\)](#) has recently launched the **Danish Local Climate Map**, a source of information for everyone in the municipal world working on climate change issues.

The [map](#) allows users to learn about the efforts of Danish municipalities in the field of climate change; it is an opportunity for someone to find inspiration for the work that needs to be done in his/her municipality.

The Danish version of the Local Climate Map in question has been online for some time already. Therefore, Local Government Denmark has chosen to launch an English version in order to provide inspiration to municipalities abroad that face same climate challenges.

Currently there are 18 municipalities in the map and more are coming. The municipalities offer many different solutions to the problem of climate change, both regarding mitigation as well as adaptation to climate change.

Further information:

- [Original source - Local Government Denmark \(LGDK\) Website](#)
- [Danish Local Climate Map](#)

MT: Three-Year Strategic Plan launched by MITA - 9 December 2009

On 3 November 2009 the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA) published its three-year strategic plan setting out its priorities and work programmes until December 2012.

The strategic plan outlines how the Agency will work towards fulfilling its role as the central driver in developing Malta into a world class information society and economy, nurturing the growth of a strong global knowledge workforce and transforming public services through innovation.

In his presentation, MITA's Chairman, Claudio Grech, said that "the successful implementation of this Plan will mark a quantum leap in the local ICT ecosystem, taking it to the next level of sophistication, once again enabling us to be ahead of the curve in policy-making for the digital age, nurturing Malta's global reputation as an advanced information society and one of the European ICT pioneers."

Hon. Minister Austin Gatt said that "as a nation, we have shown the ability and willpower to shape our future and this has led us into being one of the most successful small nations worldwide." He reiterated that Government's 2015 vision has identified ICT as one of the seven pillars which will give the Maltese islands a comparative advantage.

Background

MITA is the prime Government agency with a mandate spanning from ICT policy to programmes and initiatives in Malta. MITA is also responsible for the propagation of ICT within society and the economy and to promote and deliver programmes with the intention of enhancing ICT education and the use of ICT as a learning tool.

Further information:

- [Original source - Malta Information Technology Agency Website](#)
- [Related ePractice Library item, MITA Strategic Plan 2009-2012](#)

ES: Cenatic campaign: ten reasons for using open source in education - 9 December 2009

Using open source software offers schools a unique opportunity to advance an information society that is fair and free, says Cenatic, Spain's resource centre on open source and open standards.

Cenatic published on 4 December 2009 a brochure entitled 'Ten reasons for using open source in education'. It is meant to show the country's autonomous regions the benefits of open source software, and to ensure they consider the use of this type of software when schools modernise their programmes.

The brochure will be sent to all of Spain's secondary schools.

In favour of free and open source software are objective arguments, technical, social and cultural, explains Miguel Jaque, Cenatic's director in a statement. "Open source is a model in itself, free, democratic, sustainable and technologically competitive. It helps to educate people to be free, independent and critical and shows them that they are able to make their own technological choices."

In the brochure, Cenatic documents how easy it is to adapt open source tools to different languages, showing how this was done in the autonomous regions of Galicia, Valencia and Catalonia.

The document also gives examples of the sharing of educational material among different regions and countries. Spain's ministry of Education and the Janet, the UK's education and research network, started earlier in 2009 a collaboration on the development of 'Proyecto Agrega', a software that allows teachers, pupils and parents to use and share educational applications and information.

Spain's schools are forerunners in the use of open source. In the Andalusia autonomous region, for example, some 300 000 school desktop PCs are running the Guadalinux Linux distribution and this year another 180 000 netbook computers will be added that also use this operating system.

The use of free and open source software in its schools has helped the region save more than €180 million, says Cenatic. "Apart from cost savings on implementation, maintenance and management, the advantages include faster product development, allowing innovation and supporting local businesses."

Further information:

- [Original news article - OSOR.EU](#)
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GR: New laptops for students through the 'Go Digital 2.0' Action - 9 December 2009

Through the 'Go Digital 2.0' Action the Hellenic Ministry of Education offers students a new laptop with a maximum subsidy of €400, free access to 100GBytes of 'online' storage area via the [PITHOS+](#) service, and access to new open source educational software.

25% of the newly introduced students to all University Departments and Technological Institutes during the academic year 2009-2010, can benefit from the programme according to their entry results. Additionally, students with serious illnesses entering University and Technological Institutes in the academic years 2008-10 may also participate in the programme with the maximum subsidy set at €800.

Students can acquire their new laptop between 21/12/2009 - 23/1/2010 by showing their identity card, their student certificate or and their 'personal identification number' which will be sent to them through an information letter. Students will then be able to obtain the laptop of their choice from any computers store, paying only its remainig value.

Any company willing and able to supply laptops may take part to the programme

Further information is available on the [programme's website](#) and through the assistance telephone line, 801-11-85-100.

The Action is funded by the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) and National Resources, through the [Operational Programme \(OP\) 'Digital Convergence'](#).

Further information:

- [Original source, 'Go Digital 2.0' programme Website \(in Greek\)](#)
 - [PITHOS+ service Website \(in Greek\)](#)
 - [Operational Programme \(OP\) 'Digital Convergence'](#)
 - [European Regional Development Fund](#)
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TR: Developing a national search engine - 9 December 2009

As the chairman of Turkey's Information Technologies and Communication Board, Tayfun Acarer, said on 5 December 2009, Turkish engineers are working on developing a national Internet search engine destined to be launched in 2010.

So far all major search engines used worldwide were based in foreign countries, which according to Tayfun Acarer, was a risk for communication, as they could not meet Turkey's needs and sometimes did not comply with the country's sensitivities. Problems occurred also because Turkish letters do not exist in the English alphabet.

Tayfun Acarer seemed confident that Turkic and Muslim countries will trust the national search engine.

In the context of the search engine project, a different project, the 'Anaposta', was also initiated aiming to provide 70 million citizens with an email address with a quota of 10 gigabytes. "Every child will have an email address written on his/her identity card since birth. So, will have a mobile network that can be used thanks to id number match and foreign networks that, will not be used anymore. The software infrastructure of the project has been completed and it is now being tested", he stated.

Further information:

- [Original source - Anadolu Agency, General Directorate Website](#)
-

IT: Ortona municipality to do eCommerce through MEPA - 9 December 2009

Following the approval of a specific regulation by its local council, the municipality of Ortona in the south-east of Italy has become able to directly purchase online through the [Public Administration eMarketplace \(MEPA\)](#) the goods and services whose value is inferior to the community threshold (€206 000).

The public authorities registered in www.acquistinretepa.it can purchase the products of accredited suppliers. As explained by the Ministry of Public Administration and Innovation, this system simplifies the purchasing process by streamlining its various phases - search for products and suppliers, negotiations, contract stipulation, sending and archiving - which are conducted exclusively online.

Furthermore, as the Economy & Finance Ministry owned company Consip assures, for such contracts whose value is inferior to the above-mentioned threshold, the MEPA makes it possible to avoid following the public procurement procedures, while enabling the purchase of eco-compatible certified products.

Thus, the municipality of Ortona which has been already benefiting from various Consip conventions provided on specific products will now be able to enjoy the advantageous conditions offered by national and international-level negotiation as that provided by the MEPA.

A new horizon is therefore opening up to the Public Administrations who have at their disposal an institutionalised eCommerce platform which moreover allows administrative staffs to save time.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Municipality of Ortona \(in Italian\)](#)
 - [MEPA \(in Italian\)](#)
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Latest Publications

- [UK: Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government](#) | 7 December 2009 | United Kingdom
- [EU: The socio-economic impact of interoperable electronic health record and ePrescribing systems in Europe and beyond](#) | 2 December 2009 | EU Institutions
- [EU: eHealth monthly focus on the applicability of existing Community legal framework to telemedicine services](#) | 16 November 2009 | EU Institutions
- [MT: MITA Strategic Plan 2009-2012](#) | 3 November 2009 | Malta
- [INT: Empowering Persons with Disabilities through ICTs](#) | 31 October 2009 | International Organizations

- [UK: The UK Report on the Re-use of Public Sector Information 2009](#) | 20 July 2009 | United Kingdom
 - [UK: Digital Britain: The Final Report](#) | 16 June 2009 | United Kingdom
-

UK: Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government - 7 December 2009

Description (short summary):

The action plan 'Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government' sets out how the British Government will improve public service outcomes, while achieving the fiscal consolidation that is vital to helping the economy grow.

This action plan has three central actions:

- to drive up standards by strengthening the role of citizens and civic society;
- to free up public services by recasting the relationship between the centre and the frontline, and;
- to streamline the centre of government, saving money for sharper delivery.

Much of the work outlined in this document applies across the UK, in those policy areas where government responsibilities extend across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. However, many other aspects of policy highlighted in the document, including frontline services such as delivery of healthcare and education, and local government, are devolved, in differing settlements, to the administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is the benefit of devolution that the Devolved Administrations can tailor their policies and thus deliver public services to meet the specific needs of their citizens.

The Government and the Devolved Administrations will continue to work closely together to build a more prosperous, stronger, fairer UK, while recognising their particular and varying responsibilities. Equality is a fundamental principle of fair and effective government. The actions and policies set out in 'Putting the frontline' first aim to be consistent with the requirements of current and future public sector equality duties.

Number of pages: 70

Related news article: [UK: Action plan to improve frontline services by making government 'smarter'](#)

EU: The socio-economic impact of interoperable electronic health record and ePrescribing systems in Europe and beyond - 2 December 2009

Description (short summary): The European Commission Electronic Health Record Impact (EHRI) study investigates the socio-economic impact of interoperable EHR and ePrescribing systems in Europe and beyond. The goal of the study is to support ongoing initiatives and implementation work by the European Commission, Member States governments, private investors, and other actors. The study aims to improve awareness of the benefits and provide new empirical evidence on the socio-economic impact and lessons learnt from successfully implemented systems. This final report addresses the conceptual framework for understanding and interpreting the study results, the study design and approach, and the essence of the impact analysis results.

Number of pages: 54

EU: eHealth monthly focus on the applicability of existing Community legal framework to telemedicine services - 16 November 2009

Description (short summary):

This article focuses on the applicability of the existing Community legal framework to telemedicine services.

Telemedicine can help increase accessibility to healthcare for patients living in remote geographical areas, allow patients with chronic diseases to be monitored at home and involve patients in the management of their own healthcare.

However, despite the potential benefits identified and the potential for market growth, the use of telemedicine applications in everyday medicine is still relatively low. One of the reasons identified is the lack of legal clarity. In view of enhancing legal clarity regarding telemedicine services, the Commission will publish in 2010 a Staff Working Paper (SWP) on Community legal framework applicable to telemedicine.

Number of pages: 2

MT: MITA Strategic Plan 2009-2012 - 3 November 2009

Description (short summary):

This is the three-year strategic plan (2009-2012) of the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA). It sets out its priorities and work programmes until December 2012.

Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government

The five strategic priorities for 2009-2012 are:

- serve as the central driver of information and communications technology policy, programmes and initiatives in Malta;
- deliver and manage the execution of all programmes related to the implementation of information technology and related systems in Government with the aim of enhancing public service delivery;
- provide efficient and effective information and communications technology infrastructure services to the Government;
- proliferate the further application and take-up of information and communications technologies in society and the economy;
- promote and deliver programmes aimed at enhancing ICT education and the use of ICT as a learning tool.

The strategic plan has adopted an inclusive approach and a number of strategic principles have been applied. These include the value that the Agency bestows towards its human capital; the prioritisation of National targets; a continuous investment in technology to sustain Government's aspirations; a zero-tolerance approach towards its role as the primary guardian of public data held within the Government, the excellent relations with the ICT Industry; and the leading role which the Agency has assumed in the development of the knowledge-based workforce.

Number of pages: 36

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Related news article: [MT: Three-Year Strategic Plan launched by MITA](#)

INT: Empowering Persons with Disabilities through ICTs - 31 October 2009

Description (short summary):

UNESCO promotes the concept of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory. It furthermore promotes better understanding of issues related to disability and mobilises support for the recognition of the dignity, rights and well-being of the disabled, and of the benefits of their integration in society. This publication outlines how ICTs improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities - for example, in accessing education and healthcare - by providing access to information and knowledge, new employment and socialisation opportunities. The empowerment of those persons, particularly through the effective use of ICTs, is the fulfilment of fundamental human rights. ICTs provide opportunities for flexible learning, for sharing information and for networking with disability advocates in other countries, for facilitating employment and self-sufficiency and, most importantly, for increasing independence. ICTs are particularly effective tools in the outreach to marginalised communities both in terms of accessing information and knowledge and of encouraging the participation in the development of ICT content and applications for the disabled. Even in the absence of a well-coordinated and well-planned infrastructure, ICTs can offer to people with disabilities new opportunities to compensate for physical and functional limitations, access to knowledge by adapting media to their impairment, and furthermore enhance their social and economic integration.

Number of pages: 11

UK: The UK Report on the Re-use of Public Sector Information 2009 - 20 July 2009

Description (short summary):

As this report demonstrates, progress is being made across a broad front. Convincing cases have been made for the economic benefits that will flow from making information available for re-use. Reports such as the [Power of Information](#) and [Digital Britain](#) show how public sector information underpins a wide range of innovative and exciting web based services that help people find out more about the communities in which they live and work.

The current report charts the progress that has been made so far. Engaging the wider public sector on this issue remains a challenge. It is also vital that government keeps the pace and continues to use online tools that make the process of re-using PSI as simple and streamlined as possible. Finally, the bar needs to be raised in terms of establishing new standards of best practice that helps the UK maximise the potential that the PSI agenda offers.

Number of pages: 74

UK: Digital Britain: The Final Report - 16 June 2009

Description (short summary): The Digital Britain Report is the Government's strategic vision for ensuring that the UK is at the leading edge of the global digital economy. It is an example of industrial activism in a crucial growth sector. The report contains actions and recommendations to ensure first rate digital and communications infrastructure to promote and protect talent and innovation in our creative industries, to modernize TV and radio frameworks, and support local news, and it introduces policies to maximize the social and economic benefits from digital technologies.

It focuses on the energy and mission of the government in the year ahead on three clear priorities:

- Cleaning up politics and reforming democracy.
- Moving from recession to recovery and planning for a strong economy in the future; and
- Reforming Britain's public services.

