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European ePractice Newsletter N. 309 – 19 January 2010

>> 'Government 2.0: Hype, Hope, or Reality?' - Call for contributions to the next issue of the European Journal of ePractice

The ninth edition of the European Journal of ePractice will conduct an in-depth critical reflection on Government 2.0, taking stock of the lessons learnt from the implementation so far and designing the emerging trends. The article contributions sought for can be of both an empirical and theoretical nature, from a policy or technical perspective and from different disciplines; in particular, they can bring relevant input in the definition of European policies on eGovernment.

The submission deadline is **8 February 2010**.

For more information, please visit the full call online: <http://www.eppractice.eu/en/node/288847>.

Latest Cases

- [Electronic Infrastructure for Thalassaemia Research Network](#) | 15 January 2010 | Cyprus | Czech Republic | France | Greece | Italy | Malta | Netherlands | Romania | Spain | Switzerland | Turkey | United Kingdom | Africa | Asia
- [Io partecipo - The eParticipation community in Emilia-Romagna](#) | 14 January 2010 | Italy
- [U2010](#) | 8 January 2010 | France | Germany | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Slovakia | Slovenia | United Kingdom

Electronic Infrastructure for Thalassaemia Research Network

ITHANET is a Euro-Mediterranean network of research centres conducting molecular and clinical research of thalassaemia and related haemoglobinopathies.

Participants of ITHANET include all major European research institutions active in haemoglobinopathy research and a number of collaborating partner institutions from non-EU Mediterranean and Black-Sea countries.

The main goal of ITHANET Coordination Action is to enhance the scientific potential of this research community using infrastructures and tools of European Research Networks. ITHANET aims to harmonise and develop these resources for the coordination of existing research activities as a base for future collaborative projects. Using eInfrastructure tools to consolidate and strengthen a research community with a specific geographic distribution and research topic, ITHANET strives to create new opportunities for high-impact collaborative research in the European Research Area.

Project Objectives:

The specific objectives of ITHANET are:

- to stimulate the development of common research strategies and pooled resources in the field of haemoglobinopathy research, based on the efficient and effective use of electronic research infrastructures (research networks, grids).
- To create an inclusive research environment and provide access to pertaining research resources.
- To promote the efficient dissemination of research results in the field of haemoglobinopathies and provide support to improving quality and availability of health care services offered to the European population.

ITHANET will set up a common information and communication environment in order to facilitate and provide support for common and collaborative research activities, exchange of data, protocols, research results, and their effective exploitation.

The specific actions of ITHANET are focussed on:

- Introduction of media broadcasting and streaming technologies into conferences and teaching courses on haemoglobinopathies.
- Implementation of a European portal for thalassaemia and associated haemoglobinopathies, targeting researchers, specialist doctors, and the general public.
- Creation of a common publication scheme for haemoglobinopathy case reports, that will prepare the ground for a new e-journal of thalassaemia case reports.
- Creation of repositories of methods, protocols and data descriptions that will initiate the pooling of data and further resources relevant for studies relating genotypes to thalassaemia phenotypes.
- Setup of a database of genetic mutations associated with thalassaemia and related haemoglobinopathies, linked with geographical information on specific mutations.

Io partecipo - The eParticipation community in Emilia-Romagna

Io partecipo – I participate – is the new project set up by Emilia-Romagna Region to provide its citizens with information services, listening/open communication channels, aiming at promoting participation in public life. The main access channel is the web area www.iopartecipo.net which uses the e-democracy open source kit developed and used by a consortium of regional agencies, within the framework of the Partecipa.net project.

MISSION: setting up of a system of permanent and meaningful relations with citizens in Emilia-Romagna Region, with methods and tools fostering participation in regional policies. The goals of Io Partecipo are translated into specific services delivered online. **INFORMING:** iopartecipo.net delivers customized information: at the basis of the services, there is the identification of users' groups having specific interests and needs. **SUPPORTING:** iopartecipo.net offers customized consulting services. Experts in different fields answer directly to specific citizens' questions and, if they are of general interest, publish them on the web. All the consulting services are delivered free of charge. **CONSULTING:** iopartecipo.net carries out poll taking on specific themes, which represent a venue for direct and active participation of users according to their interests and needs.

The goal consists in creating a two-way relation with users, based on a concrete and constant mutual exchange of data between the administration and its citizens. **DIALOGUE:** iopartecipo.net activates periodical online forums to open a direct dialogue with citizens on issues and topics of particular public relevance. In a virtual space, different subjects discuss together, and have the opportunity to exchange opinions and points of views. **COOPERATING:** iopartecipo.net offers citizens the opportunity to become editors! Through a specific form they can send news, indications and articles to the Io partecipo editing room.

U2010

Ubiquitous IP Centric Government & Enterprise Next Generation Networks, Vision 2010 is an Integrated Research Project of the 5th Call of the 6th European Research Frame Program coordinated by the University of Luxembourg, including 16 partners from 10 European Countries.

The overall objective of the project is to provide the most capable means of communication and the most effective access to information to everybody required to act in case of accident, incident, catastrophe or crisis, while using existing or future telecommunication infrastructures.

The U-2010 project will address the public safety issues by researching new emergency and crisis management solutions investigating on innovative and state-of-the-art communication technologies based on the current and new Internet technologies (i.e. Internet Protocol version 6) that could be put to use and realize this vision.

Technologies in operations and under evaluation provide an Enhancement of availability by:

- Interconnecting existing services and networks.
- Leveraging redundant communication channels.
- Using automatic redirection and/or service transformation in case of failures.
- Using new research results in the area of wireless ad-hoc networks.

Editor's Choice of the week: [eProcurement System of the Republic of Cyprus](#)

Latest News

- [ES: Hospital in Seville acquires equipment to produce digital mammography images](#) | 19 January 2010 | Spain
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- [EU/US: GoPubMed - A search engine specialised in the biomedical field](#) | 13 January 2010 | EU Institutions | North America
- [EU: iSAC6+ project goes live](#) | 13 January 2010 | Pan european
- [UK: Proposals for accessibility to Ordnance Survey data](#) | 13 January 2010 | United Kingdom
- [UK: New web-based and mobile service to support patients with epilepsy](#) | 12 January 2010 | United Kingdom

ES: Hospital in Seville acquires equipment to produce digital mammography images - 19 January 2010

The Merced Hospital of Osuna in Seville has purchased two hardware elements to make the mammography images produced in its premises entirely digital. The investment amounts to €38.5 thousand.

Each workstation consists of, on the one hand, a high definition monitor enabling optimal quality and resolution image analysis and, on the other hand, a second monitor to work on the patients' data. The new equipment will start operating in the Radio-diagnosis unit by the end of January 2010.

Coupled with the digitisation process of all X-ray tests that have been performed in the hospital, the use of this equipment will contribute to reducing the use of printed mammography films while facilitating comparisons with previous mammography images through the monitor.

Thanks to the technological choices it made, the Merced de Osuna Hospital has made the X-ray tests performed in its Radiology unit 100% digital. The digitisation process was launched in 2007 in the hospital's Emergency and Intensive Care units; it was extended to all other X-rays performed in the hospital two years later. In 2009, the number of digital X-rays tests reached a total of 101 988.

Mammography was however the only type of imaging that could not be examined through the hospital's current monitor, due to the fact that their analysis requires high definition. Hence the incorporation of the newly purchased equipment in the hospital will do away with need to print the image, unless the latter needs to be sent to other medical centres.

Further information:

- [Original news article - Health Portal of the Autonomous Government of Andalusia \(in Spanish\)](#)

EU: Outcomes of the eParticipation Conference - 19 January 2010

On 15 December 2009, **MOMENTUM**, a Support Action to the eParticipation Project co-funded by the European Commission, organised in Brussels the '**eParticipation Conference: Current State of Play & Future Directions at the European Parliament**'.

The Conference turned to be a success thanks to prominent speakers and a total of 124 participants. The latter were welcomed by Anna Triantafillou, MOMENTUM's Project Coordinator, Mechthild Rohen, Head of the Unit 'ICT for Government and Public Service' of the European Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Information Society and Media, and Thanassis Chrissafis, coordinator at the same European Commission DG.

The event was structured around 3 plenary sessions and a discussion:

- Plenary Session 1 - eParticipation Research and Practice Concerning Environmental Issues (moderated by Dr. Julia Glidden)
- Plenary Session 2 - Digital Policy Making (moderated by Dr. Julia Glidden)
- Plenary Session 3 - Using the Digital Channel to Have Your Say and Be Heard (moderated by Fraser Henderson)
- Discussion - Future Direction (moderated by Dr. Maria Wimmer)

The conference attendees were also joined via video conference from Strasbourg by Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Paul Rübige and by Christophe Nonnenmacher, Press Officer to MEP Sandrine Belier. Both of them presented their insight and view on the importance of eParticipation projects and ICT solutions towards greater involvement of the EU citizens in the decision-making processes.

The theme of the Conference and of the respective plenary sessions proved particularly interesting for the participants as a most of them actively participated by asking the speakers engaging questions. In addition, the attendees had time for networking and for finding out more about the eParticipation Project during an exhibition of the projects and a cocktail reception, which concluded the Conference.

Videos from the Conference may be watched on [MOMENTUM's YouTube Channel](#). Pictures from the conference may be seen in the dedicated [photo album](#); the Conference proceedings can be downloaded from [here](#).

Further information:

- [eParticipation Conference - Proceedings](#)
- [MOMENTUM Project](#)

BE: Human medication - Prescription and use information online - 19 January 2010

The Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (AFMPS) has launched a [public website](#) whose purpose is to render available online all the patient information leaflets and the product characteristics summaries of the drugs for human use that are authorised and marketed in Belgium.

The 'Summaries of Product Characteristics' (SPC) are specifically designed for health providers, whereas the 'Patient Information Leaflets' (PIL) contained in the drug package are aimed at medication users. Both documents form the basis for the correct and safe prescribing, dispensing and use of the relevant medication.

The Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products provides this service via a search engine through which visitors simply need to log in the name of the medication sought for, regardless of whether the drug is dispensable by prescription or not. They can then view and print the documents. The patient information leaflet is available in Dutch, French and German, while the SPC is readable in Dutch and French.

Although each document featured on the site bears the date of its last update, the AFMPS warns the users that the data contained on the portal is for information purposes; it cannot be considered as 100 % reliable in terms of completeness and conformity with the approved data at the time of the marketing authorisation or the registration. The patients are thus clearly invited to always ask for their doctor's or pharmacist's advice before using any medication.

The absence of medicine on the portal does not mean that it is not marketed or that its use is not recommended. The [database of the authorised medicines](#) allows the users to check if the medicine they are looking is authorised or registered. For those who do not have the access program required to view this database or those who want to receive the patient information leaflet or the SPC of an authorised medicine that is not in the list published on the site, they can send an information request to: info.medicines@fagg-afmps.be.

A similar information service is available for veterinarian drugs.

Further information:

- [Original press release - Belgium.be portal \(in Dutch and French\)](#)
- [AFMPS human medication information portal \(in Dutch, English and French\)](#)
- [Database of the authorised medicines](#)

EU: A Virtual Liver to improve surgical outcomes - 18 January 2010

The [PATient Specific Simulation and PreOperative Realistic Training for liver surgery \(PASSPORT\) project](#) is to further develop the work on virtual liver initially carried out by the EUREKA Project named 'Odysseus'.

The PASSPORT project aims via the further development of the Virtual Liver to improve the prospects of recovery for patients with diseases such as liver cancer and cirrhosis of the liver that kill around 90 000 people in Europe every year.

Doctors currently use two-dimensional (2D) images to diagnose whether to completely remove the diseased tissue, while ensuring that the patient still has enough healthy liver tissue to survive. However, interpreting these 2D images is rather difficult, as is their examination and analysis with other experts, who are not present in person.

This is where the Odysseus project turned into a great help. Not only had it developed software that can generate a three-dimensional (3D) image of a patient's liver but also allowed it to be shared by experts in different locations. The software provides doctors with detailed information on the shape of the patient's liver and the location of blood vessels in the organ. These details should lead to an increase in the number of patients who are considered eligible for surgery and help doctors plan their operations. The 3D modelling software reveals that in fact up to 50 % of patients have a liver structure that differs markedly from that of the old model.

In this regard, the Professor of the French [Research Institute against Digestive Cancer](#) (*Institut de Recherche contre les Cancers de l'Appareil Digestif*- IRCAD) stated that "thanks to the 3D modelling, the future of liver surgery has gained more precision through accurate definition of the liver's blood vessels."

Two mimic simulators even allow surgeons to practice the planned surgery on the virtual liver before operating on the patient. Users comment that it is hard to tell the difference between the simulator images and photographs of surgery, with the texture and resistance of liver tissue being so close to the real one. The simulators can also be used to train surgeons.

PASSPORT - funded with €3.6 million under the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Theme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) - will add biological, mechanical, dynamic and appearance information to the geometric model developed by Odysseus. The project partners have already made improvements to the software and have made it freely available on the Internet.

Further information:

- [Original news article - eHealthNews.eu Portal](#)
 - [EUREKA project](#)
 - [Odysseus](#)
 - [PASSPORT project](#)
 - [Research Institute against Digestive Cancer \(in French\)](#)
-

DE: New electronic identity cards by November 2010 - 15 January 2010

The design of the future German identity card has been unveiled. Credit-card sized and made of polycarbonate, it will be issued from November 2010 on. The new card aims to ease the citizens' transactions with government and businesses and to increase security as well as to enhance public confidence in electronic services.

The front side has the image of the federal eagle, whereas on its reverse side the Brandenburg Gate is depicted. The new card contains numerous security features in order to increase protection against forgery. A special feature is that the holder's details are digitally stored. It is also capable to carry a digital signature. Both features will allow card holders to complete commercial online transactions as well as official business with government offices.

Additionally, vending machines will support the use of the new ID card, mainly for age identification purposes, for example when purchasing cigarettes. The well-known functions as ID card, however, remain intact.

Great emphasis will be put on privacy, data security and the citizens' ability to self-determine the extent of access to their personal data. All information and transactions will be securely protected by means of internationally recognised and established encryption techniques.

An access system based on authorisation certificates issued by the state regulates who can access which identity data stored on the card. The ID card holder keeps full control as to what information will be sent over the Internet to relevant service providers, by authorising access to selected data categories and by using a six-digit PIN number.

Access to particularly sensitive information, such as the digital photograph or the fingerprints, is available only to the explicitly competent authorities. In addition, the ID card must be presented physically in order to prevent unnoticed access. In any case, biometric data cannot be transferred to any commercial service providers or via the Internet.

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - Federal Office for Information Security - Ministry of Interior](#) (in German)
 - [Presentation of the new ID card](#) (in German)
-

ES: National Interoperability and Security Frameworks approved - 14 January 2010

The Spanish Council of Ministers approved on 8 January 2010 two Royal Decrees that regulate the National Interoperability Framework and the National Security Framework respectively. Both will be published shortly in the [Official Gazette of the State](#).

Together with the 'Law on Citizens' Electronic Access to Public Services' of 2007, these two frameworks pave the way to a more secure and more efficient eGovernment in Spain; they establish the minimal requirements that every Public Administration shall apply in order to (1) provide a genuinely seamless public eService to citizens and (2) generate the citizens' confidence in electronic communication means to exercise their rights and fulfil their obligations. Citizens will be able to access and enjoy a Government service without having to know which public authority is competent.

The [National Interoperability Framework](#) (*'Esquema Nacional de Interoperabilidad'* in Spanish - ENI) is a set of technological criteria and recommendations applying to the conservation and standardisation of information, as well as the formats and applications that the Public Administrations shall take into account when making decisions impacting on the interoperability of systems. Furthermore, the ENI lays down the conditions that are needed in order to ensure an adequate level of interaction among the Public Administrations.

The ENI moreover addresses questions that are fundamental for eGovernment progress, such as: the dimensions of interoperability, the communications between Administrations, technology re-use and transfer, interoperability in the framework of the eSignature policy, the recovery and conservation of electronic documents, and the constant update of the Interoperability Framework itself.

The [National Security Framework](#) (*'Esquema Nacional de Seguridad'* in Spanish - ENS) sets out a security policy for the use of electronic means. It formulates the basic principles and the minimal requirements that guarantee the appropriate protection of the information through measures ensuring the security of the systems, the data, the electronic communications and the eServices. The ENS pays particular attention to the proportioned protection of the information which is managed and the services that are delivered by categorising the information systems. The need to perform regular security audits is also enshrined in the security framework; it provides for the regular performance of an audit, every two years at least.

Last but not least, the ENS defines the methodology to respond to incidents affecting security and outlines the important part played by the National Cryptology Centre, either as the editor of the Security Guides for the Administration or as the main actor of the coordination of response to security breaches.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Ministry of the Presidency \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Information on the National Interoperability Framework \(in Spanish\)](#)
- [Information on the National Security Framework \(in Spanish\)](#)

UK: Northern Ireland's new medical imaging system to bring real benefits to patients - 14 January 2010

On 26 November 2009, Northern Ireland's Health Minister Michael McGimpsey launched the new 'Picture Archiving and Communications System' (NIPACS) in the Ulster Hospital in Dundonald (Belfast, county Antrim).

NIPACS is a regional radiology information system which permits the sharing of all radiology images and associated reports at any authorised location.

Speaking at the [launch] event, Michael McGimpsey said: "I have been very impressed by the magnificent equipment which really is of the highest specification, and its marvellous potential for improving services. The availability of these facilities will deliver real benefits to patients."

"This new technology, which will cost £31million [*] over 10 years, will link together Picture and Archiving systems throughout Northern Ireland and will allow doctors to see images in other hospital sites. This will result in quicker diagnosis and treatment for patients, and will contribute to a much more efficient and productive health and social care system.

"Over the course of next year [2010], all Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland will have this state of the art equipment installed, which will improve efficiency and productivity within the health and social care sector."

According to Northern Ireland Executive, this development is yet another example of how it is investing in the Health Service to ensure that patients and clinicians see real improvements.

[*] approximately €35 million

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Further information:

- [Official press release - Northern Ireland Executive](#)

FR: Amélie and 'ameli-direct' guide people through the healthcare system - 14 January 2010

Since mid-December 2009, the French [public health insurance website 'ameli.fr'](#) has been hosting a virtual assistant named '**Amélie**' to assist the site's visitors in their searches. Moreover, a new service called '**ameli-direct**' helps them find the contact details and the fees of healthcare providers, based on their care criteria.

Available 24 hours, 7 days a week, to answer administrative questions, Amélie is an animated character designed as a smart interface between the users and the website. She is able to converse with the users about health insurance matters.

Amélie's knowledge directly derives from the questions most frequently asked by the users to the public health insurance's phone service. There are four main recurrent themes: changes in the situation of the insured persons; leaves due to sickness, maternity and invalidity (allowances and rights); reimbursement of medical costs; the personal health card "Vitale".

General Practitioners (GPs), nurses, hospitals, pharmacies...In order to make informed choices, the contact details and fees of the healthcare professionals have been made accessible through the 'ameli-direct' service, with two core search options: (1) the search for a healthcare provider (by name, profession, type of care provided, city, zip code or county); (2) the search for healthcare establishments (by name, speciality, city, zip code or county). The designation of each type of care has been simplified. For instance, in order to find in a single click the list of practitioners performing echocardiography, the user only need to indicate this specific type of act and to specify the name of the city or the zip code.

It is planned that the administrative data (health insurance rights and obligations information) and the healthcare/health prevention data will be split in two websites in the course of January 2010. The site dedicated to health and prevention will be entitled 'ameli-santé'.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Service-Public.fr portal \(in French\)](#)
- [Get in touch with virtual assistant Amélie](#)
- ['ameli-direct'](#)

NO: Modernisation of health registers to provide better health - 13 January 2010

The Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services opened on 21 December 2009 a broad consultation on its proposal of strategy and action plan for the modernisation of the national health registers.

"Healthcare will face enormous challenges in the years to come. It is essential that we have the best possible knowledge base for managing the service and for preventing diseases. We need updated, electronic information from all health services for better treatment and prevention." said Health and Care Services Minister Anne-Grete Strøm-Erichsen.

In a press release, the Ministry indicated that Norway has many good health registers that are used as a basis for health surveillance, quality improvement and research. For instance, the knowledge obtained from the Cancer Register data has, over the past decades, helped to raise the quality of treatment and survival for many groups of cancer patients.

For many other patient groups, however, there is no corresponding knowledge in Norway today.

Furthermore, the Auditor General controlled the Cause of Death Register, the Medical Birth Register and the Vaccination Register at the National Public Health Institute, as well as the Patient Registry at the Norwegian Directorate of Health; the Auditor's report found that these registers are incomplete and not updated. This can lead to wrong treatments and to important health decisions being made on the basis of erroneous data. Likewise, medical records systems are not adapted to the needs of data reporting, while much of this reporting is still made on paper.

The draft 'Strategy for the modernisation and coordination of the central health records and medical quality records 2010-2020' and the associated Action Plan rest on existing national health registers and on the work already underway to develop joint technology solutions. The efficient use of the same data for multiple purposes and a clearer national leadership should be the strategy's supporting principles throughout the relevant implementation period.

Patients' privacy will be well taken care of in the modernisation of health registers. "We will manage to improve the records without compromising privacy," said Minister Strøm-Erichsen.

The draft strategy contains two main measures: (1) common registers as an organisation model and (2) a unified model of technological solutions. For a given disease area, all the national health registers related to this disease will be collected and form a common register. The existing Cancer Register can be described as such common registry because in addition to containing the main national index, it also consists of complementary quality records for the individual cancer types. A long-term goal stated in the draft is that there shall be shared registers that include all major disease groups and treatments.

A first step to the long-term goal of a comprehensive model of technological solutions is the introduction of electronic reporting for all health records.

The draft strategy states that for its ten years of implementation, relevant action plans will be adopted for a two-year duration. The first phase (2010-2011) will include the establishment of a common framework for national health registers, as well as the relating organisation, legislation, technology and financing. Moreover, it is proposed to start working on a number of development projects, including a register for cardiovascular diseases, the database from primary care and the electronic daily news service of the Death Register, as well as to start the planning of common registers.

Further information:

- [Official press release - Ministry of Health and Care Services \(in Norwegian\)](#)
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EU/US: GoPubMed - A search engine specialised in the biomedical field - 13 January 2010

20 000 unique users are visiting each day a free knowledge-based search engine named [GoPubMed](#), on which biomedical texts and details of experts of the biomedical field can be found.

The chief executive officer and co-founder of the company that supports the search engine, Mr. Michael R. Alvers, stated that the well-known search engines are encountering several difficulties in providing users with the exact information they need. For instance, according to Mr. Alvers, if users type in a search engine the words 'IT investment' and 'Germany', they will come up with a plethora of articles that might not be relevant, since a standard search engine cannot find a specific article on a new investment in Dresden; this is due to the limited ability of a regular engine to 'understand' that Dresden is located in Germany.

In this regard, the 'Semantic Grid Browser for the Life Sciences Applied to the Study of Infectious Diseases' ([Sealife](#)) - a Dresden-based project funded by the European Commission's (EC) Sixth Research Framework Programme - aims to help search engines understand what they are actually looking for. This is a great benefit for companies and researchers, since it will help them organise their vast knowledge resources. Building on results of the Sealife project, an intelligent, 'semantic' browser that is now being marketed to companies has been developed. There are, however, certain applications freely available on the internet.

The free public website GoPubMed is based on the standard database PubMed, provided by the US National Library of Medicine. PubMed is widely used among biomedical researchers. "PubMed returns some 50 000 articles if you enter 'heart diseases'. In reality, though, there are more than 800 000 articles on this topic. Most of them do not use 'heart diseases' as a key word, so the standard PubMed search engine won't find them," Alvers explains.

What GoPubMed does to considerably expand the query is to add what Mr. Alvers calls 'ontologies'. An ontology is a kind of a dictionary or a vocabulary. GoPubMed uses the [Medical Subject Headings \(MeSH\)](#), an international medical vocabulary, and the Gene Ontology (GO) to better understand and identify which basic research articles are related, for example, to heart disease.

But having to choose from more than 800 000 articles instead of only 50 000 is not necessarily a big leap forward for the user. This is why GoPubMed goes a step further by narrowing down the choice of articles via a tree-like user interface, based on the same ontologies used to expand the query. Mr. Alvers added that "after few clicks, the user arrives at a choice of articles that is both far more comprehensive and far more precise than what would be offered by a standard PubMed search."

The combination of an extended database query with an intuitive interface also convinced the jury of the Red Dot communication design award, with the GoPubMed beating more than 6 000 competitors in the 2009 award.

"In an age of ever growing online resources, there is undoubtedly a need for semantic browsing," states the project officer for the Sealife project from the European Commission, Mr. Joel Bacquet. "The SeaLife project convinced us because it combined an elaborate technical approach to a common problem in many industries and research branches, the problem of information overload, with a comprehensible business plan."

Further information:

- [Original news article - HealthTech Wire Website](#)
- [GoPubMed Website](#)
- [Sealife Project Website](#)
- [Medical Subject Headings \(MeSH\) Website](#)

EU: iSAC6+ project goes live - 13 January 2010

iSAC6+, the 'Interactive Services with Attentions to the Citizens' project seeks to ease citizens' interaction with the public sector and to reduce administrative burdens. Not-for-profit Association e-Forum participates in the project.

The initiative is promoting and setting up at European level an innovative ICT solution that aims to increase the capacity for administrations to respond to citizens' requests and to provide information services. iSAC's main objectives are to:

- improve administrations' efficiency and capacity in responding to citizens' requests;
- reduce the time, money, stress and resources invested by both citizens and companies (especially SMEs), when it comes to obtaining information from their local administration;
- work towards a Single European Information Society for all by installing a common online citizens' information service in different European contexts.

iSAC has already been installed in, and tested by, five local administrations in the Spanish autonomous region of Catalonia (L'Escala, Celrà, [Sant Cugat del Vallès](#), Salt and [Terrassa](#)).

The main challenges for iSAC6+ will consist of carrying out localisation and integration tasks, and testing iSAC's scalability to the European level. In this light, five different pilot scenarios have been selected: the South Yorkshire Police in England, the city council of Bremerhaven in Germany, the commune of Prato in Italy, the local authority of St Médard en Jalles in France and one non-governmental organisation, the European Institute of Women's Health in Ireland.

Further information:

- [Official Press Release - e-Forum Website](#)
- [iSAC6+ Project Website \(in Catalan and in Spanish\)](#)
- [ePractice Related Community](#)

UK: Proposals for accessibility to Ordnance Survey data - 13 January 2010

On 23 December 2009 the Communities Minister of UK, Ian Austin, has outlined proposals regarding the enhancement of the public's accessibility to Ordnance Survey mapping data from 2010.

As part of the Smarter Government and 'Making Public Data Public' initiative, the Prime Minister and the Communities Secretary, John Denham, have previously announced the move to free up data, aiming thus to improve transparency.

In December 2009 the Communities and Local Government have launched a [consultation](#) according to which the Ordnance Survey datasets can be made freely available to support digital innovation and democratic accountability.

The proposals aim to harness the world-class expertise that [Ordnance Survey](#), a Government Department with Executive Agency and Trading Fund status, has in the production, maintenance and application of high-quality geospatial information. The deadline for responses is 17 March 2010. Government Departments and agencies will contribute to the costs of these proposals in order to ensure that the changes are fiscally neutral and Ordnance Survey will have a sustainable funding mechanism to ensure the on-going quality of its data.

The possible range of products under consideration for release as part of the 'Ordnance Survey Free' includes:

- 'Raster' products that will enable developers to produce an application that overlays their information on a map and to zoom-in from a national view down to the street level;
- Definitive gazetteer, boundary and postcode information that will enable widespread use of these commonly used geographies and act as a link between other government data sets which reference the same geography;

- Small-scale vector mapping products which would enable developers to link between boundary, postcode and mapping data.

Further information:

- [Original News item - Communities and Local Government Official Website](#)
- [Related ePractice Library item: UK: Consultation on Policy options for Geographic Information from Ordnance Survey](#)
- [Ordnance Survey Official website](#)

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UK: New web-based and mobile service to support patients with epilepsy - 12 January 2010

The London-based National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN) along with a provider of mobile health solutions launched in December 2009 a new web-based service to support people with epilepsy.

This innovative service has as a main objective to help the NHNNs' epilepsy patients improve the management of their condition using web and mobile based technology.

More precisely the service aims to offer to people with epilepsy the following support:

- Medication Support - it is a service that uses text messages to remind patients of their medication or of adjusting dosages, when planned changes to medication are due to take place. Patients will be able to choose the level of personalised medication support, depending on preference and medical / social need. In case of an intense medication support, patients will have to confirm that their medication has been taken by sending a reply text; if the medication support service does not receive a confirmation text message, then an alert to their nominated carer is sent.
- The Patient Diary - it aims to assist in recording essential information for epilepsy monitoring. Patients will have the opportunity to record seizures, injuries and medication profiles if they wish by using a secure, password protected, web interface. The web service will also allow patients to update some of this information directly via their mobile phone. Patients will be able to run reports over a specific period and bring this information along to their consultations.

Funded by a pharmaceutical company and the National Hospital Development Foundation, this service will be free to epilepsy patients of the National Hospital of Neurology and Neurosurgery.

Professor John Duncan, Professor of Neurology, mentioned that: "Most individuals with epilepsy have to take medication regularly in order to achieve the best possible control of their seizures but remembering to take medication can be problematic for some. Taking medication accurately can become quite complicated when it is adjusted as this is usually done in gradual steps over a period of time. We hope that the additional support provided by this service will help some people to manage their medication more effectively which could help to improve the control of their epilepsy."

Anthony Linklater, Epilepsy Specialist Nurse, added the following: "After a long period of preparation we are excited to be launching this service which we believe will be of great benefit to our patients. We have developed a holistic medication support package using both mobile phone technology and the internet which will support people to manage their medications better. If the service is positively evaluated, we are hopeful that it will grow in scope and sophistication over the next few years."

"We believe there is a huge need for low cost telehealth services in the United Kingdom and elsewhere," says the chief executive officer of the healthcare solutions company, Mr. Tobias Alpsten. "We have always struggled with the notion that telehealth should require custom built hardware. By delivering a service to devices that patients already own we dramatically reduce costs, reduce barriers to usage while delivering solid health outcomes."

Further information:

- [Original news article - eHealthNews.eu Portal](#)
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New Factsheets

The 12th Edition of the eGovernment factsheet for Estonia as well as the 7th Edition for Romania are now available online. Furthermore, a new release for Luxembourg (12.1) has also been made available. We invite you to visit the [relevant section](#) for regular and/or ad hoc updates related to the factsheets.

Latest Publications

- [UK: Consultation on Policy options for Geographic Information from Ordnance Survey](#) | 23 December 2009 | United Kingdom
 - [EU: Benchmarking Digital Europe 2011-2015 - A conceptual framework](#) | 9 November 2009 | EU Institutions
 - [GL: The Emergence of Personal Health Systems](#) | 19 October 2009 | Pan european | North America
 - [EU: Towards a Healthier Europe](#) | 19 August 2009 | Pan european
-

UK: Consultation on Policy options for Geographic Information from Ordnance Survey - 23 December 2009

Description (short summary):

The document sets out for public consultation the proposals made by the Prime Minister on 17 November 2009 aiming to make available certain Ordnance Survey datasets for free and without any restrictions on their re-use. It does this, in the context of the broad long-term strategic options for Ordnance Survey. The purpose of the consultation is to receive feedback on these proposals. A list of specific consultation questions can be found in Annex A. Instructions on how to respond to the consultation are also included in the document.

The Government will take into account the responses that will be received; the decisions taken in the light of this consultation along with a summary of responses and a full, final stage Impact Assessment will be published on the [Communities and Local Government \(CLG\) website](#). The closing date for responses is 17 March 2010.

Number of pages: 91

Related ePractice News item: [UK: Proposals for accessibility to Ordnance Survey data](#)

EU: Benchmarking Digital Europe 2011-2015 - A conceptual framework - 9 November 2009

Description (short summary):

This document proposes a conceptual framework for the collection of statistics on the Information Society as well as a list of core indicators to be used for benchmarking in the future European Digital Agenda.

Starting in 2011, it will replace the current [i2010 benchmarking framework](#), which was endorsed by the i2010 High Level Group in April 2006.

Number of pages: 21

GL: The Emergence of Personal Health Systems - 19 October 2009

Description (short summary): The ability to monitor patients from a distance, using electronic devices to record and send measurements of patients' vital signs, has been a mainstay in the use of medical technology for years. But the needs and expectations of patients with chronic conditions and of healthcare professionals who care for those patients have changed considerably since remote patient monitoring devices were first introduced. To fulfill these needs, emerging technologies must go far beyond simply monitoring standard vital signs, or just adding new technical features. Instead, they must be able to address the needs of patients as people-connecting patients, caregivers, physicians, nurses, and others in an integrated, systematic, and interoperable way that has not been done on a broad scale.

Fortunately, telehealth technologies are evolving to provide both patients and healthcare professionals with real-time, interactive, data-rich health management systems that can engage both patients and their care management teams more fully in the treatment of their conditions. And just as important, research that focuses more clearly on how people interact with technology has led to a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to designing technology systems.

This paper explores the ways in which the next generation of telehealth technology can help satisfy the needs of patients in the years ahead, a time that will be marked by significant growth in the number of people who live with chronic conditions. This technology will be particularly useful in working with the chronically ill because it can be used to create a more integrated approach to patient care through the inclusion of all the key people involved, from the patient and their physician, to their nurse, family caregiver or other healthcare professionals.

Number of pages: 8

EU: Towards a Healthier Europe - 19 August 2009

Description (short summary): Information and communication technologies (ICT) have the potential to change the face of healthcare. In the US, President Barack Obama has put computerisation and the electronic patient record at the heart of his push for reform. In Europe, there is a vision and understanding of the central role of ICT in improving the delivery of health services and its role as the glue that will hold together an array of medical technologies, improving care while curbing costs. This paper explores a vision of health-focused information technology, or eHealth, built upon a culture of partnership and collaboration.

Number of pages: 16

ePractice Workshops

- [Service Oriented Architecture pushed to the limit in eGovernment](#) | 17 February 2010 | Belgium
- [Uptake of pre-awarding phases in eProcurement](#) | 22 February 2010 | Austria
- [eProcurement in Large International Organizations](#) | 23 February 2010 | Luxembourg
- [Telemedicine and Legal Aspects](#) | 2 March 2010 | Belgium

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

Upcoming Events

- [SI: SEeHealth: The Road from Concept to Practice](#) | 19 - 21 January 2010 | Slovenia
 - [UK: MISC 2010 Conference](#) | 20 - 22 January 2010 | United Kingdom
 - [FR: ETSI Security Workshop 2010](#) | 20 - 22 January 2010 | France
 - [DE: CEN Workshop on 'Multilingual eCataloguing and eClassification in eBusiness'](#) | 25 January 2010 | Germany
 - [UK: Healthcare IT Exchange 2010](#) | 03 - 05 October 2010 | United Kingdom
 - [SE: Conference on Implementing eProcurement with PEPPOL](#) | 09 - 11 February 2010 | Sweden
-

SI: SEeHealth: The Road from Concept to Practice - 19 - 21 January 2010

This event is the first seminar of the eGovernance Academy 2010 series and will be dedicated to the contemporary issues of implementing eHealth in European countries, including the EU Member States and countries of South East Europe.

The two-day seminar will focus on presenting the cost-effectiveness of eHealth systems, legal regulations and policy environment necessary to successfully implement eHealth solutions, and to showcase European and regional state of the art solutions and good practice cases.

Several prominent speakers are planned to participate in the event, including representatives of the European Commission, representatives of the Government of Slovenia, and also representatives of international and regional ICT solution providers. The seminar will moreover host speakers, who will deliver presentations on cases from countries with well developed eHealth systems, such as Denmark, Portugal, Slovakia and Austria.

The objective of this seminar is to provide the participants with the knowledge, cases and solutions, which may be of assistance to their countries and organisations in creating modern ICT supported health care and thus be able to tackle the prevailing demographic, economic and social issues burdening all health care systems in Europe.

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

The event is free of charge. As seating is limited, registration is advised to be performed early by filling in a [participation form](#) and sending it to info.cegd@cegd.eu until 10 January 2010.

Event email: tina.vuga@cegd.eu, tit.neubauer@cegd.eu

Event website:

<http://www.cegd.eu/Lists/Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=12&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cegd.eu%2Fdefault.aspx>

Country: Slovenia

City/Location: Ljubljana

Organiser: Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD) for South East Europe (SEE)

UK: MISC 2010 Conference - 20 - 22 January 2010

While emerging technologies and practices are leading towards a more person-centric Internet (social networks, user generated contents, ePortfolio, personal health records, vendor relationships management systems, Web 2.0, etc.) the current Internet architecture, which is still organisation-centric, leads to increased fragmentation of personal data across an ever growing number of services and places. This fragmentation ultimately leads to loss of privacy and loss of trust in personal and business relationships.

Moreover, while legislation states that the right to rectify personal records hosted by service providers, this is rarely enforced, simply because it is impossible to keep track of all the places where we leave and abandon personal data. Furthermore, legislation does not state someone's right to personal data sharing, e.g. someone's right to share personal health record or bank credit record with the preferable service: the personal data remains under the control of organisations, not the individuals.

The objective of the conference is to explore the means to create an open and trustworthy architecture based on the strict separation between hosting of personal data and their exploitation by web services and move towards a person-centric architecture.

The MISC conference is about exploring the current changes in technologies and practices towards individualisation and socialisation through digital identity, connectivity and mobile technology in a perspective of lifelong learning and employability.

Its goal is to bring together researchers and practitioners working in a variety of fields (education, employment, healthcare, policy, technologies etc.) to facilitate exchanges and foster future collaborations. It aims at offering a forum where these researchers and practitioners can discuss theoretical as well as practical aspects, open issues, and explore the latest advances in the state of the art digital identity construction and personal data management.

The draft agenda of the event can be found [here](#).

Registration can be performed [online](#) with the payment of a fee. Expected number of participants is around 100-150.

Event email: serge.ravet@eife-l.org

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

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: European Institute for E-Learning (EifEL)

FR: ETSI Security Workshop 2010 - 20 - 22 January 2010

The ETSI Security Workshop has become an annual international security standardisation workshop, bringing together international Standards Developing Organisations (SDOs) and security experts to discuss recent developments, share knowledge, identify gaps and co-ordinate on future actions and work areas. The workshop will include overviews of the work being done in the area of security across standards and technical bodies, along with presentations from major organisations involved in security initiatives.

Participants in the workshop will:

- Assess and spotlight ongoing work on ICT security standards
- Localise the gaps and duplication in security standardisation
- Start to define new work areas
- Sharing ideas and proposals on security innovation, prioritisation of efforts and implementation evaluation

Presentations should have a focus on Security Innovation, in particular:

- Next Generation Networks security
- Mobile Telecommunications systems
- ICT trustworthiness and integrity
- Research and Innovation
- RFID and NFC Security issues
- Internet of Things
- Identity Management and your Privacy
- Cryptography
- Smart Cards and future trends
- Quantum Key Distribution
- Machine to Machine communication
- Standards prioritisation and evaluation

Further details on the agenda of the event are available [here](#).

Attendance to the workshop is free and open to anyone interested upon registration which can be performed [online](#).

Event email: events@etsi.org

Event website:

http://www.etsi.org/WebSite/NewsandEvents/2010SECURITYWS/2010_SECURITYWORKSHOP_HOME.aspx

Country: France

City/Location: Sophia Antipolis

Organiser: European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)

DE: CEN Workshop on 'Multilingual eCataloguing and eClassification in eBusiness' - 25 January 2010

The event will introduce basic elements of eCI@ss, United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC), GS1, Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV), mapping tools used to map among these classifications, recommendations for improvement and how businesses use the classifications in their processes. It will also present tutorial on eBusiness standards targeting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), based on the experience of the [Prozeus project](#).

Launched in 2002 to address issues related to the use of electronic catalogues used for eBusiness in a multilingual environment, the scope of the Workshop eCAT was extended to include harmonisation of product classification schemes and their application to electronic catalogues. This Workshop has already produced [six CEN Workshop Agreements \(CWAs\)](#) dealing with different aspects of eBusiness Cataloguing and Classification.

In 2009 and 2010, two projects are carried out within Workshop eCAT. The first project, electronic Product Property Server (ePPS) deals with guidelines for the design, implementation and operation of a product property server. A pilot test case will be run in an industry sector (heating ventilation, air conditioning sanitary- ware). The second project, classification and catalogue systems for public and private procurement (CC3P) focuses on the basic elements of the classification systems used in Europe for public procurement (CPV) and in the private sector (UNSPSC, GPC and eCI@ss). The CC3P project will propose harmonisation, mapping methodologies and tools, recommendations on their use in electronic catalogues, as well as areas of improvement in the CPV.

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

The event is free of charge and registration can be performed [online](#).

Event email: barbara.gatti@cen.eu

Event website: http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/sectors/sectors/isss/activity/wsecat_epps.asp

Country: Germany

City/Location: Cologne

Organiser: European Committee for Standardization (Comité Européen de Normalisation, CEN)

UK: Healthcare IT Exchange 2010 - 03 - 05 October 2010

The Healthcare IT Exchange has been designed to showcase the leading initiatives in Healthcare Services today, combining practical discussions on cutting edge technologies. The Healthcare IT Exchange has compiled speakers with brand new case studies from some of the largest trusts and experts across the UK and Europe.

Through the conference sessions, discussions will be facilitated on a wide array of strategically driven Healthcare IT issues such as:

Strategy:

- An update on the Department of Health's plans for the National Programme for IT
- Forward Planning: Making efficiencies and maximising cost savings
- Innovation - selling your ideas to the board
- Engineering an innovative culture within your IT department
- Health IT: Learning from Europe

Technology:

- Connecting health professionals for a collaborative NHS
- Securing patient information
- Capitalising on legacy systems
- Implementing and realising the benefits of shared services
- Mobile technologies for a mobile work force
- Digitising patient records
- Looking to the future: Does cloud computing have a silver lining?

Senior executives responsible for providing strategic IT guidance to overall business strategy for their trusts will be invited.

The conference programme for the event is currently being developed.

Participation to the event has no cost, however, registration is mandatory and can be performed through [event's website](#). The expected number of the participants is around 150.

Event email: exchangeinfo@iqpc.com

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

Country: United Kingdom

City/Location: London

Organiser: International Quality and Productivity Centre (IQPC) Exchange

SE: Conference on Implementing eProcurement with PEPPOL - 09 - 11 February 2010

The participants of the PEPPOL conference will have the opportunity to:

- learn how large buying organizations in the public and private sector can benefit from connecting to PEPPOL;
- discover the business applications available for eProcurement;
- see how suppliers are connected through service providers;
- get the business overview or dive into the details of the standards.

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

The conference is hosted by the Danish National IT and Telecom Agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, offering free admission to interested parties registered before December 15th. Registration can be performed [online](#). The number of participants expected to attend the event is around 250.

Event email: conference@peppolinfrastructure.com

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

Country: Sweden

City/Location: Malmö

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

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