

To EURIM Members and Observers
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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Newsletter January 2007

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1) Changes to Membership Services, including Newsletter

EURIM Members have different requirements but it appears that most prefer to receive short e-mails with the option to ask for more. Many then prefer to print the result to read later, rather than browse on screen. It is also apparent that the newsletter is widely valued as covering developments and background that is not otherwise communicated to those affected because of the narrow segmentation of most consultation lists.

We are therefore piloting a change of approach, sending short e-mails pointing to material on the website, including a more detailed downloadable newsletter (of which this is the first issue), a forward timetable of relevant events¹ schedules of consultations and opportunities for influence² and links to recent reports and white papers etc.³ Printed copies of the downloadable newsletter will be mailed to members who have requested this.

The consultation and report pages collate material previously sent as one-off e-mails but not filed for future reference or spread across the working group sections. Subject to your feedback, we also plan to expand the service we offer to observers and partners, forwarding succinct notices according to the interests that you have registered on our contacts database at the same time as placing consultation and report details on the website.

Please therefore send me your views by e-mail to eurim@eurim.org. If you valued the interpretive comments in the newsletter, collating contributions from a variety of authoritative sources (to whom I have been most grateful over the years) and would like these to continue, whether in the newsletter or as a moderated blog (to facilitate attributable contributions) please let me know.

There is a form⁴ for registering your interests in the members' area of the website. Observers are reminded that consultation notices sent to eurim@eurim.org will normally be placed on the website inside 24 hours and e-mails sent to those who have registered interest at the same time.

We are also extending the EURIM contacts database to make it easier to identify who has which policy related responsibilities and/or expertise among our members, observers and partners. Requests to eurim@eurim.org for such information will, however, only be processed if the contact concerned agrees to the approach. Requests should therefore include the reasons for the request, the means of authentication and be in a format suitable for forwarding.

¹ www.eurim.org.uk/whats_new/latest_timetable.php

² www.eurim.org.uk/whats_new/consultations.php

³ www.eurim.org.uk/whats_new/uk_eu_reports.php

⁴ www.eurim.org.uk/members/EURIM_group_registration_form.doc

2) EURIM Plans for Quarter 1 – 2007

The objectives and deliverables in the business plans approved by the EURIM Council on 16th January can be found in the members' area of the EURIM website.⁵ Please e-mail admin@eurim.org if you have lost your log-in details. Note that the reply will be sent to your registered e-mail address. The main change is to focus the working group activities on setting political priorities and publicising good practice while organising monitoring and response as separate membership services.

- **Knowledge Economy** The overall objective is unchanged: to “ensure UK/EU is a location of choice for industries that could be based anywhere in the world”. The first deliverable for 2007 is a parliamentary briefing, focussed on the employment implications for key constituencies of the messages in *A Flourishing Innovation Economy*.⁶ This will be organised in close co-operation with major employers and trade associations in the main knowledge based industries: financial services, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, education etc., as well as those who supply them with ICT based products and services. Please e-mail emma.fryer@eurim.org or chris_godwin@uk.ibm.com to discuss participation and follow up plans.
- **Skills** The overall objective remains: to “ensure a globally competitive UK workforce skills base (all levels) and lifelong learning networks”. The first target deliverable for 2007 is a round table of knowledge economy employers and skills providers to discuss political co-operation in support of the action plans being developed with and through the relevant sector skills councils and professional bodies. Please e-mail virgo.philip@eurim.org if you wish to participate.
- **Transformational Government** The overall objective has been refined and is now: to “build trust that ICT can delivered joined up, socially inclusive public services and help set realistic expectation”. The main deliverable for 2007 will be a series of dialogues, bringing together politicians, suppliers and delivery partners, including the third (charitable and/or voluntary) sector to publicise good ideas and practice. Please e-mail Dan Mount mountd@parliament.uk to participate.
- **E-Crime** The long-term objective is unchanged: to secure cross-cutting national strategies to reduce risk and enhance confidence in on-line transactions and to help make the UK a location of choice for e-business. But these will only be effective if supported by high-level co-operation between those seeking to promote the use of on-line communications products and services and their peers in financial services, e-commerce and government, to bridge the gap between “enterprise” and security. Please e-mail virgo.philip@eurim.org for details.
- **Personal Identity and Data sharing** The long term objective has been refined and is now: to secure an “over-arching identity management and information sharing strategy, with rationalisation of codes of practice, guidance, initiatives, legislation & governance, lifting unnecessary barriers to improving service delivery & efficiency.” The programme of round tables will continue, with the next on progress to date with Government Connect. Work is progressing well with an exercise to collate current codes of practice and test the use of public consultation to remove mythology. Please contact Dave Wright davywright2@ntlworld.com for details.
- **Communications Regulation** The overall objective remains to ensure democratically accountable and effective regulation to address emerging problems without distorting the evolution of competitive products and services. There are, however, a great many players now active in this space, most representing specific sectoral (usually supplier) interests, as well as a plethora of current and would-be application and content regulators. The most valuable deliverable would therefore appear to be a converged monitoring service that cuts across the sectoral boundaries. Exploring the practicality of this with suitable partners is therefore the prime task for the first quarter of 2007.

⁵ www.eurim.org.uk/members/councilreports/2007q1_objectives_deliverables.pdf

⁶ www.eurim.org.uk/members/ukcomp/KEdraft.doc

3) Current Consultations⁷

Treasury: Comprehensive Spending Review Consultation

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/spend_csr07_index.cfm

This and the multitude of supporting documentation are well worth reading to put the debates on Identity Management and Transformational Government into context. Those proposing anything other than incremental change within existing spending levels (i.e. falling after allowing for inflation) are likely to be disappointed.

DTI: consultation: Disclosure of information for civil proceedings under Enterprise Act 2002,

www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/page35922.html

Responses by 31 January 2007

Does not appear to be significant.

Commission consultation: Safeguarding electronic networks against attack or other disruption

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3141

Responses by end April 2007.

This is particularly interesting as the first consultation to put the issues of vulnerability and resilience into context. Terrorists and hackers have so far done less damage to electronic networks than “mother nature”, accidents and unforeseen consequences. The consequences for large scale centralised systems that are critically dependent on the functioning of communications through major choke points need much more serious consideration at international as well as national level.

Commission Consultation: Collective cross border management of copyright and related rights for legitimate online services

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/docs/management/monitoring_en.pdf

Responses by 1 July 2007 or via janette.mcneill@patent.gov.uk by 1 June for input to UK response.

4) Recent Reports⁸

Lord Leitch: Prosperity for all in the global economy - world class skills

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/523/43/leitch_finalreport051206.pdf

This report may not be perfect but it has been widely welcomed and the main concern is a perceived lack of urgency regarding the need to action the recommendations.

Sir David Varney: Service transformation: A better service for citizens and businesses, a better deal for the taxpayer

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/53D/F2/pbr06_varney_review.pdf

This report has also been widely welcomed and the EURIM Transformational Government and Personal Identity groups are focused on removing some of the obstacles on the critical path.

National Audit Office Report on Delivering successful IT-enabled business change

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/060733-i.pdf

This report illustrates how success is obtained, using 24 case studies. The first recommendation “for departments undertaking IT-enabled change to have the maximum chance of success”, is to ensure Ministers are fully briefed at a sufficiently early stage. However, some departments have far to go to catch up with adequate, let alone good, practice. Only half the “Senior Responsible Owners” discussed progress with their minister at least once a quarter and 21% had no such progress discussions at all.

Most of the recommendations are concerned with improving management and monitoring processes and skills, long been known to be the main cause of failure. The key questions for departments embarking on IT-enabled business change begin with: “Is the board able to make informed judgements about the department’s capacity to manage change?” and “Does the department have in place a decision-making structure that will ensure strong and effective leadership of the IT-enabled change?”

⁷ www.eurim.org.uk/whats_new/consultations.php

⁸ www.eurim.org.uk/whats_new/uk_eu_reports.php

These questions are particularly important with 53% of the “Senior Responsible Owners” for government’s 91 mission critical and high-risk programmes and projects in this role for the first time. Meanwhile 71% of those running departmental centres of excellence are concerned about “a lack of skills and proven approach to project management and risk management in their departments” and 23% did not received copies of its gateway reviews, nor did 45% of audit committees.

National Audit Office Report on Central government's use of consultants

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607128.pdf

This report illustrates very clearly how the use of consultants is no substitute for the lack of in-house skills. The clear conclusion is that, unless and until the professional skills base of the Civil Service has been rebuilt, few departments have the skills to make effective use of outside consultants.

Transformational Government Enabled by Technology Annual Report 2006

www.cio.gov.uk/documents/annual_report2006/trans_gov2006.pdf

For those depressed by the NAO reports this summarises what has been achieved to date. Some it very impressive, especially to those who had no illusions as to the scale of the challenges faced. The cull of duplicated effort on websites, balanced by the appreciation that not all duplication is bad, is particularly welcome.

HM Government Policy Reviews

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy_review/public_services/index.asp

These are particularly important for those wishing to understand the political context of the drive for responsive and socially inclusive, not just joined-up, services

5) EURIM Deliverables from 2006

The report to council on the deliverables and target for 2006 is in the members’ area of the website⁹. At first sight it appears very impressive; most of the achievements were joint exercises, with those who deserve the credit working through multiple channels in parallel. While it is not often that we can truly say “It was EURIM wot dun it”, we can say what we set out to achieve and what happened.

The Knowledge Economy, Transformational Government and Personal Identity Groups all achieved more than was originally targeted, save that the planned programme on Intellectual Property Rights was cancelled because it would have duplicated the work of others.

The Skills group was “monitoring only”, albeit material from previous years was input to a number of policy studies, sometimes direct, sometimes in partnership with others, to apparent good effect. There was a similar situation with the Communications Regulation group.

The material produced by the E-Crime Group for the EURIM–ippr study on “Partnership Policing for the Information Society” was widely used by those working on national and regional proposals for addressing E-Crime as well as for EURIM submissions to the Internet Governance Forum and the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee enquiry into Personal Internet Safety.

6) Forward Timetable¹⁰

Apart from programme planning meetings notified direct to working group participants, the Parliamentary group visit to Washington and the 23rd February Personal Identity Group meeting on progress with Government Connect, all meetings in the course of February are joint with others.

Please note that the AGM will be on 17th April followed by our annual reception with the Computer Weekly 500 Club (Chief Information Officers in the Times Top 500, plus their unquoted and public sector equivalents). This is the one occasion when the “user voice” is represented en masse at Westminster, hence the strong attendance of MPs and officials in the past. Invitations will be sent out early in March to those eligible to attend.

⁹ www.eurim.org.uk/members/councilreports/2006_objectives_deliverables.pdf

¹⁰ www.eurim.org.uk/whats_new/latest_timetable.php