

To EURIM Members and Observers
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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Newsletter October 2007

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1) The Transformational Government Dialogues Gather Pace

The time to jump on the bandwagon is now

14 MPs, MEPs and Peers are now confirmed as participants in our programme to look at those issues critical to the successful delivery of improved public services that are not already being well-addressed by elsewhere. Most have put all three oral “hearings” in their diaries. These are:

- Social Inclusion - 8th November, 14.00-16.00 with Sir David Varney as first witness
- Delivery Partnerships - 22nd November, 14.00 – 16.00,
- Democratising Delivery 6th December, 14.00 – 16.00

Over 20 submissions, including several previously unpublished case studies of joined-up success, are already on www.eurim.org.uk/activities/tgdialogues.php#outputs and the session organisers, Peter Buchanan (for Social Inclusion), Dave Waltho (Delivery Partnerships) and Chris Francis (Democratising Delivery) are in discussion with a further 30 organisations regarding submissions. The organising team also includes volunteers from Accenture, Detica, Experian and Nortel and would welcome further offers of assistance, including with reviewing submissions to identify questions raised but not answered so as to obtain additional or supplementary material as necessary. We have received several offers to organise on-line consultation activities or to pose questions to existing on-line forums. Please e-mail me if you would be interested in helping resource such exercises, including collating and reporting the results.

Computer Weekly, e-Government Monitor and PublicTechnologyNet are among those who have agreed to help co-ordinate press cover, including scanning submissions for good “stories” and potential feature articles. However, for the exercise to achieve its objectives we need to ensure cover in the health and welfare journals, the local press and regional media and the non-technical pages of the national media. Those wishing their submissions to have maximum impact are therefore asked, wherever appropriate and possible, to include “human interest” examples (where possible with eye-catching photographs) to illustrate how those in most need have been helped and/or the impact on those involved in front-line delivery.

The reason for the growing political interest in this programme is because so many wish to see the improvement of service delivery at affordable cost placed firmly in the mainstream of political debate. The best way to achieve this is to publicise ways of working that better help constituents receive what they need, when and where they need it. Striking photographs with meaningful captions will draw in a much wider audience and multiply the impact of the message. Please contact Dave Wright davywright2@ntlworld.com if you would like to join the organising team or volunteer evidence.

2) Parliament and the Internet

Mapping reality and moving from debate to action

EURIM members and observers who have not yet received an invitation for the conference on "Parliament and the Internet" on 18th October, should e-mail eurim@eurim.org by return.

This is planned as an occasion for substantive discussion, not just networking, with keynotes from Stephen Timms as Minister for Competitiveness, Nicholas Negroponte on the One Laptop per child programme, Philip Graf as deputy chairman of Ofcom and Commander Sue Wilkinson as Head of Child Abuse Investigation and Economic and Specialist Crime at the Metropolitan Police. The workshop sessions are on: the Impact of social networking on politics (organized by PITCOM), The challenge of next generation broadband (by the Broadband Stakeholders Group), The issue of "bad" Internet traffic and P2P (by ISPA), Fostering and preserving confidence in the on-line world (by EURIM), The regulation of premium rate services on the Internet (by ApComms) and The future of voice over IP (by ITSPA).

The draft technical appendices to the background papers for the EURIM session are at <http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/outputs.php#2>] and summarise the current UK situation (players and initiatives) with regard to e-crime reporting and intelligence, skills and training, awareness, prevention and investigation. On the 18th the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP will present proposals for a partnership approach to creating safety and security on-line. Commander Sue Wilkinson will respond for ACPO and explain the complementary work of the proposed Police National eCrime Unit, Professor Michael Levi will explain the links between efforts to tackle fraud and the challenge of cybercrime, Charles Cox of EDS will give an industry response and Emily Taylor of Nominet, will set the ideas into International Context.

3) Protecting children or Going Through the Motions?

Is the British model of government-industry co-operation under threat from competitive initiatives?

The draft "map" of on-line child protection initiatives and players, now in the member's area of the website, http://www.eurim.org.uk/members/comms/EURIM_Online_Child_Protection_Report.pdf indicates that much valuable work is underway but there is a risk that new and duplicated initiatives could divert attention from those that already help protect children from harm. There is a clear desire on the part of industry, including those who are funding most of what is already happening, to see much greater cross-department co-operation. The planning sub-group met on 9th October to review the draft and agreed a programme of revision to enable it to be used to support political briefings on the current situation and plans.

Plans are also under way for a cross-party group of MPs to attend the Internet Governance Conference in Rio De Janeiro to help publicise the best of British practice and promote the idea that organising effective international co-operation on Child Protection is the best way for the IGF to demonstrate that it is more than a talking shop. Those plans are being supported by Nominet, whose best practice awards event (covering other areas as well, not just child protection) is on 11th October.

4) Promoting Confidence in Information Sharing

Building on and spreading best practice, rather than re-inventing square wheels

The draft report and recommendations of the EURIM Data Sharing sub-group were reviewed with observers from the Office of the Information Commissioner and the Ministry of Justice at a meeting on 21st September. That meeting also looked at possible EURIM inputs to the consultation on the ICO Framework Code. A final draft is expected to be ready for circulation and review by EURIM members and observers by the end of October.

The main recommendation is expected to be a call for one of the "Regional Centres of Excellence", (created to lead good practice in Local Government), be tasked to do so with regard to information sharing, in co-operation with Cabinet Office, Ministry of Justice and Information Commissioner's Office, including the production of an exemplar "standard" against which other protocols can be

benchmarked and audited. Assuming that recommendation is agreed, the group would be reconstituted to help develop the exemplar, using material from the best of the existing operational protocols and the ICO Framework - which has gone down well with the members of the group.

It may well be that the work of this group overlaps with that of one or more of the working groups set up to help the IMSG (see below). If so that will also affect future plans. Please e-mail Dave Wright davywright2@ntlworld.com if you are interested in participating in the next phase of work.

5) Enabling Interoperability between Identity Management Systems

A dialogue of the disparate

The Identity Management Strategy Group comprising senior officials from across Government and chaired by Sir David Normington, the Permanent Secretary of the Home Office, is preparing a delivery plan for the cross-Government identity management strategy. A key component of this work programme is the establishment of a comprehensive set of identity management standards, to be delivered by a cross-Government Identity Management Standards Policy Group. On 20th July the EURIM Personal Identity Group met with the Identity and Passport Service to discuss the plans in this area and five working groups were subsequently created to enable experts from the public, private and third sector to contribute to this work with regard to scoping, technical standards, data standards, process standards and identity assurance standards.

This topic is of great interest to EURIM corporate members, several of whom already operate global identity management services that are larger and more complex than those envisaged by HMG, whether as partners whose systems need to interoperate with those of the UK public-sector, or as potential suppliers of products, services or expertise. We are therefore in discussion with IPS as to how they can best help at the practical level as well as ensuring the political support that will be necessary for success. Please e-mail Dave Wright davywright2@ntlworld.com to participate.

6) Spectrum Wars

How many jobs are at risk in your constituency?

Spectrum allocation is usually seen as a subject for technical committees but global leadership in the transition to mobile broadband and all the jobs and revenues that will go with that leadership, are said to be at stake over the few months. The topic has, therefore, moved rapidly up the political agenda and there is a need to brief MPs and MEPs as to why decisions that could once be delegated to regulators could soon be the subject of intense international negotiations - because EU satellite footprints embrace Russia, the Middle East and North Africa. Similarly there is need to educate officials that first movers into new markets can gain unassailable economies of scale. Therefore delayed decisions on domestic or regional spectrum allocations can put UK/EU content producers, as well as technology suppliers, at a permanent competitive disadvantage.

Little wonder then that some of our Corporate members (large suppliers of technology and equally large users whose businesses depend on spectrum) are discussing how best to brief MPs and MEPs on what is at stake. This topic was not in the EURIM work plan for 2007 and any activity will depend on others volunteering to do what is necessary. Please let me know if you would like to help progress action in this area and I will put you in touch with those who are already planning action.