

To EURIM Members and Observers
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The Information
Society Alliance
EURIM



EURIM Newsletter December 2008

1) Review of Guidance on Public Procurement

Planning meeting on the morning of 17th December

Mark Todd MP (on the Treasury Select Committee), has agreed to chair the parliamentary side of this exercise. The first non-parliamentary meeting, to discuss objectives, terms of reference, deliverables and timetable, will be in the City Marketing Suite (entrance in Basinghall Street) on the morning of 17th December, 09.30 - 11.30. A particular topic of interest will be the state of current procurement guidance with regard to innovative, socially inclusive, service delivery in co-operation with, for example, voluntary organisations and charities, especially where these are linked to objectives for local re-skilling, employment and neighbourhood regeneration. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org if you would like to attend the planning meeting or otherwise participate in this exercise.

2) DWP Dragon's Den Planning Meeting

The reconvened planning meeting for the Dragon's Den on innovation will take place in Committee Room 20, Palace of Westminster on Tuesday, 9th December from 1300-1500. It will be chaired by Margaret Moran MP and attended by Alan Cave, the Delivery Director, and David Smith, the Commercial Director for the DWP Right to Bid team. Please email fairbrother1@parliament.uk if you plan to attend.

3) Delivering Digital Inclusion

An Action Plan for Consultation

Lucy Fairbrother and I attended the London workshop to launch the consultation on the Digital Action Plan www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/deliveringdigitalinclusion. A wide range of organisations working in the area of social inclusion were represented, but few of those present were involved with the suppliers of the relevant digital products and services. I believe it is important that we help bridge the gap. Please e-mail me c/o eurim@eurim.org if you plan to submit comments to the consultation (by 19th January).and/or would like to contribute to any EURIM response.

4) Directors' Round Table Forum on Information Governance

Too important to be left to politicians, regulators and retired professionals

We had a full house on 24th November and a report is currently being produced. In the meantime, the meeting to plan the follow up is scheduled for Thursday 18th December, 10.30-12.30 in Portcullis House. The offers of leadership and support received to date would enable three work streams within the EURIM Information Governance Group:

- to agree basic principles (perhaps "ten commandments") on Information Governance and Accountability as a basis for policy debate and professional guidance;
- to bring together major users (both public and private) and suppliers to agree common standards (for use in procurement, testing, appraisal, monitoring etc.) to enable products and services (people as well as technology) to be brought together in systems that provide "security by default";

- to agree frameworks for co-operation, building on the Group's current work programme (FAME, Kudos etc.).

The streams are not intended to be exhaustive. Additional suggestions are welcomed from those willing to not only propose, but to help organise and resource, the work necessary to deliver results. Given that EURIM is an alliance, we are particularly looking for suggestions for co-operation which allow us work with and through other groups with the skills, resources and contacts needed, rather than ourselves doing that which others might be better able to deliver.

The group will also continue to monitor policy initiatives and consultations in the Information Governance/Data Sharing and Security space, ensuring the group adds value where appropriate, e.g. round tables with those running consultations to enable members to make better informed responses. Please e-mail Dave Wright davywright2@ntlworld.com if you would like to attend one on the IPS consultation on draft secondary legislation: www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf

5) The New Political Economy

How change in Local Communities is altering priorities for MPs and Election Candidates

The event hosted by IBM on 26th November with the Bow Group, Young Fabians and Intellect/BCS Young Professionals was very well attended. Among the surprises were the constituencies that are likely to be hit hardest by the current economic downturn. To learn who they are, you will have to volunteer to help test the on-line service on which CISCO will be working with Local Futures as part of the follow up. Three prospective parliamentary candidates have already agreed to do so. Please email eurim@eurim.org for an invitation to participate in this group.

Ian Stewart MP has agreed to take over from Chris Mole MP as parliamentary chair of this group and will be joined by Tim Boswell MP to provide political balance. Both are on the DIUS Select Committee and share a strong interest in the workforce skills that will be needed.

6) Testing the Partnership Approach to E-Crime Reduction

Targeting and harnessing the latent support

Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org for an invitation to join the round tables on partnerships to address the needs of the elderly, schools and small firms. The first round table is expected to be that on small firms, organised in co-operation with the Cybersecurity Knowledge Transfer Network and the Business Crime Reduction Centre. The Cybersecurity KTN event on 27th November on the state of privacy enhancing technologies was well attended. The presentations should be on their website shortly. A key point was that most of the technologies needed are already available - the problem is deploying them in support of robust people processes. After lunch we had an excellent summary of the current state of play with regard to public sector security.

7) Online Retail to Children

Introducing age verification to tame the Wild West

Margaret Moran MP introduced in January this year her Ten Minute Rule Bill "Online Purchasing of Goods and Services (Age Verification)", which would require online retailers and those who facilitate the sale of goods and services online to abide by the laws of the land in respect of age-restrictions. The Bill is intended to encourage the online retail industry to take positive steps to ensure age compliance and to close the loophole which is allowing youngsters to buy age-restricted goods over the internet which they could never get from a shop on the High Street. The Bill is about to be introduced in the House of Lords by Baroness Doreen Massey.

Members of the All Party Groups on Children and Retail, the Trading Standards Institute, Baroness Massey and Cllr. Maureen O'Mara, Chair of the Council Committee responsible for trading standards, have been invited to the meeting on the 9th December, 15.00–17.00 in CR19 with Margaret Moran MP. If you would like to attend, please email fairbrother1@parliament.uk to reserve your place. Among those already expected are the relevant Home Office officials and representatives from the

British Retail Consortium, the Identity and Passport Service, Children's charities and trade associations.

8) EU and UK Communications Policy and Regulatory Structures

Seminar on spectrum for emergency services, 10th December

The 2012 Olympics will require the inter-working of security and emergency services covering venues across the UK, not just London and the South East. The lockdown for the technologies to be used for the games is next year, while the plans for those to support the emergency services around the venues will still be evolving. This has many implications and the workshop on the morning of 10th December in co-operation with CMA, Intellect and others, is now fully booked: with opening speakers from equipment and service suppliers, emergency services and the regulator. Round the table will be a cross section of the others involved. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org if you wish to receive an early copy of the report of the meeting and/or to be involved in the follow up.

9) Industry Critiques Points Based Immigration System

But concerns were more over lack of consultation and preparation than basic principles

The round table organised by Intellect on 18th November revealed serious concerns that the Points Based Immigration System, as currently planned, would make the UK a less attractive base for knowledge based industries while failing to meet the policy objectives. The consensus was, however, that a points based system that genuinely reflected skills in current demand would be preferable to caps or quotas. The latter would, as in the US, be taken up by those running immigration services - as opposed to being available for employers with international career paths, let alone those running global projects which might well require staff to be moved around the world, often at short notice.

Many of the concerns related to tick box routines that were open to abuse and failed to reflect the routines used by reputable employers who expect to cover the accommodation and health costs of those on temporary assignment and their dependents, including schooling costs, as necessary. The concerns were compounded by the lack of preparation in advance of the "go-live" date. The churn among officials had meant that those currently responsible were unaware of previous plans, representations and even commitments.

Intellect is expected to make a submission direct to the Home Affairs Select Committee reflecting these concerns.