



EGOVERNET Workshop:
Beginning of a framework on e-government research
Barcelona (E), 24th October 2006

E-government research programmes in Europe: an
overview

First results of eGovernet WP3

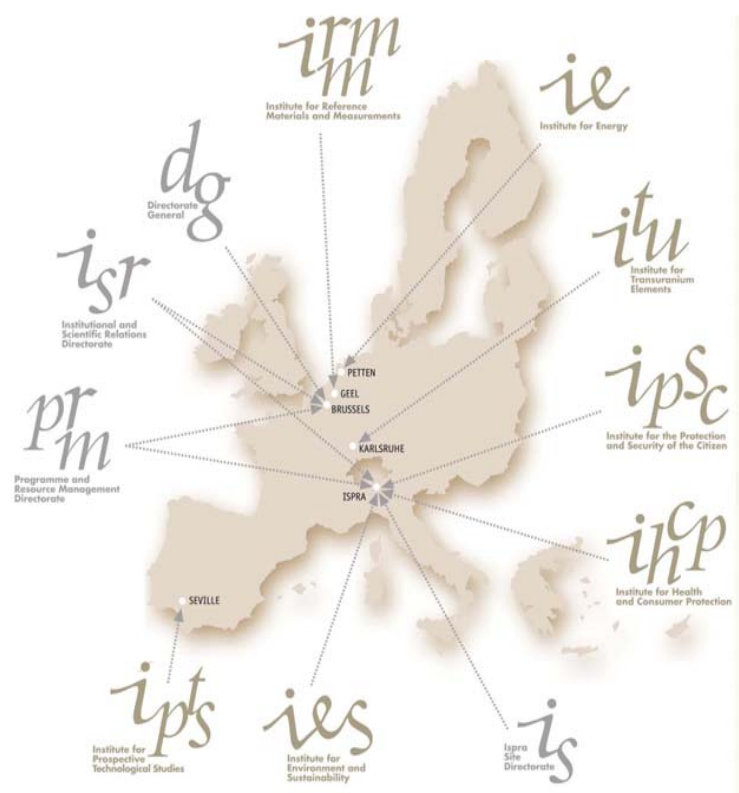
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Institute for Prospective Technological Studies

Joint Research Centre



Part of the DG Joint Research Centre of the EC (Commissioner J. Potočnik):
7 Institutes across Europe

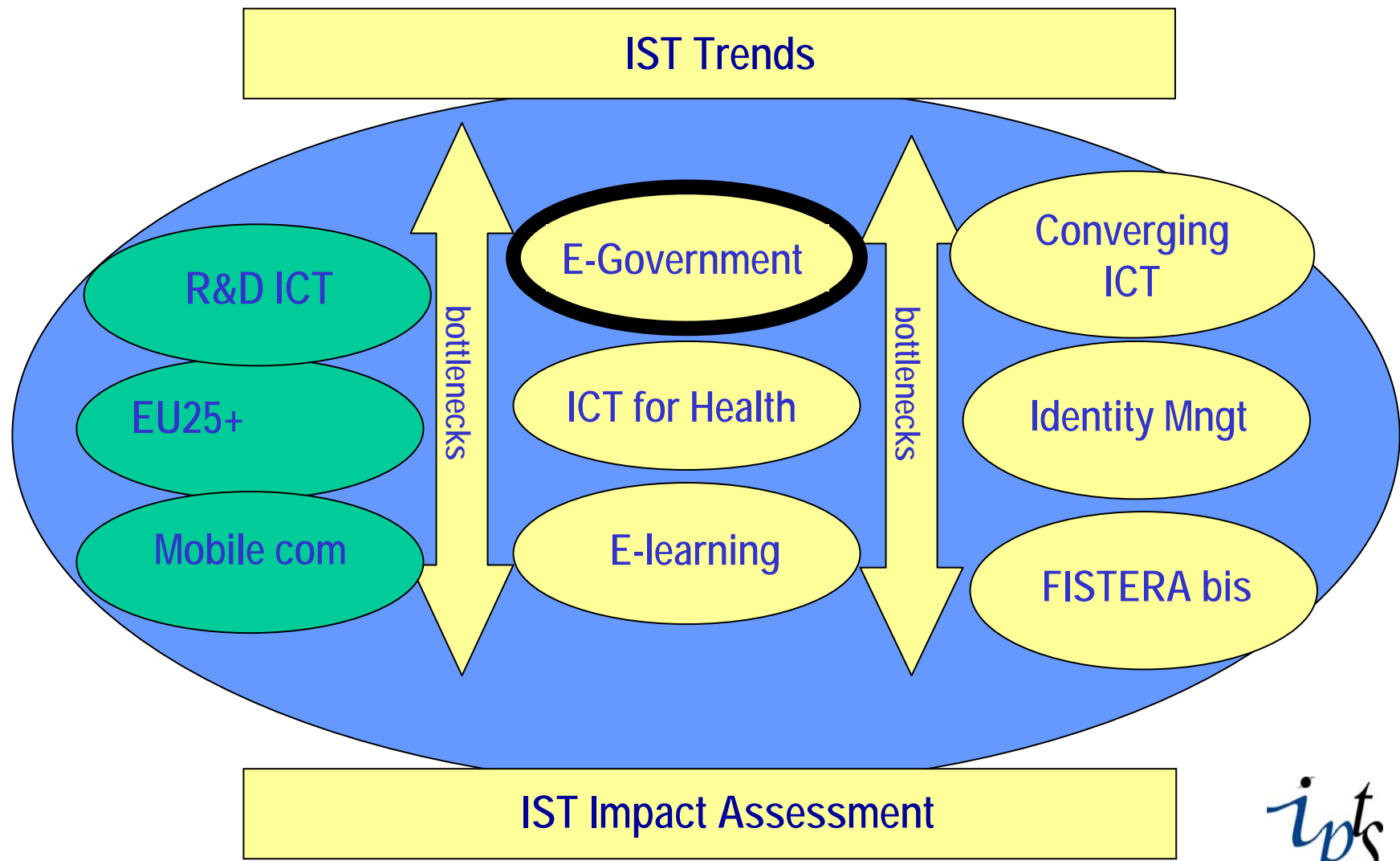
IPTS mission: “to provide customer driven support to the EU policy-making process by researching science-based responses to policy challenges that have both a socio-economic as well as a scientific/technological dimension”





IPTS – ICT unit activities

Joint Research Centre





Content

- A. Aims and method
- B. Country-analysis
- C. A cross-country view
- D. Conclusions and future work



Aims of WP3

- E-government research is fragmented, but is undergoing a process of consolidation
- Research funding not only stimulates research, but helps bringing together the different actors
- Egovernet WP3 aims:
 - To assess state-of-the-art and future eGovernment research programmes,
 - To investigate best practice in eGovernment research programmes, in the different countries represented in the project,
 - To integrate these national results into a synthesis view at the EU level.

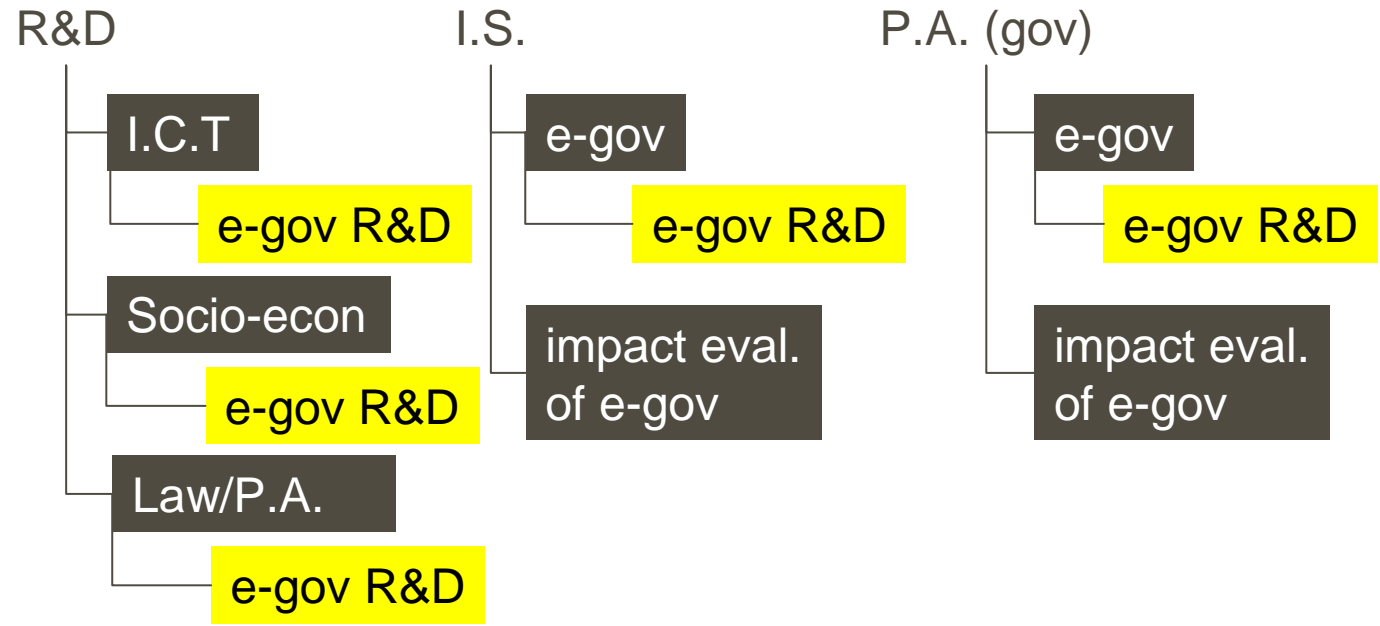


Operational definition of eGovernment research

- Includes different disciplines with equal relevance, with ICT as a key enabler
- Includes different stages of research, from basic research up to action oriented research and the innovative integration of existing solutions. Does not include the adoption of ICT in the public administration and the actual implementation of e-government
- Is carried out in both the public and the private sector, but eGOVERNET focuses on research funded through Public sector programmes
- Does not include the activities of the public sector that are specific only to the health and education sectors



National, regional and local R&D programmes



E-Gov R&D can be funded by different programmes, typically: Research and development policy; Information Society policy (including e-government policy) and Public Administration (modernisation of public administration, etc).



Methods

- Partners' input
- Key institutional contacts (interest group)
- CISTRANA, eGOVRTD2020
- ERISA
- Monitoring conferences and literature
- Survey of researchers (ECEG participants)



A note of caution

- "The national landscape for R&D in Europe is extremely diverse, both in terms of relative investment in R&D and the systems for implementing national programmes. The organisational systems in the larger countries are particularly complex and research programmes can be found in ministries, research councils and agencies. At the other extreme, smaller countries often have a much simpler system with a single framework programme and/or agency. The situation is much more harmonised and coordinated in basic research than in industrial and societal programmes. This is not only because the scientific community culture is more open and international but also because there are more coordination and facilitating frameworks. The bottom-up ERA-NET Coordination Actions have significantly increased networking activity across all types of programme but there is still a lack of high-level, strategic action to increase the alignment and coordination of national programmes. "

Optimat, 2005, "Examining the Design of National Research Programmes"



Results: 4 groups of countries

1. With no dedicated programme, but some priorities of the IST research programmes which are potentially relevant for e-gov (e.g. research on workflow management systems)
 2. With some specific priorities of e-gov (e.g. e-identity) as a priority of the research programme
 3. With e-gov as a dedicated priority within other research programmes
 4. With dedicated e-gov research programmes
- But in reality, each country is a mix of the different forms



1. Some research priorities of potential relevance for e-gov

- Italy, the National Research Programme: "The PNR does not contain specific reference to the field of e-government. Nevertheless, there are a number of research areas, in particular in ICT, that are potentially relevant for e-government. But they are not connected explicitly to e-government R&D. Some projects financed within the framework of PNR (collected through a bottom-up approach) are related to e-government key research area, but they are not part of a coordinated research initiative (programme or part of a programme) in the e-government field" (Network technologies, e-democracy, Quality of services (to final users), Knowledge management, Open Source Software)
- Poland, the National Computerisation Plan: ""The part does not include initiative/programme on eGov research but underlines the importance on eGov research. The plan does not introduce any financial mechanism to support the implementation of the NCP"
- Czech Republic, Slovenia, UK, Greece, and all others...
- Northern Ireland – Peace II project
- E-gov research is funded also here! In these countries, important role of EU funds



2. Specific e-gov issues as areas of IST research

- Netherlands:
 - AVB AVB is a research network / think-tank of the Dutch Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations in co-operation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and eight academic research institutes. Each year a number of studies is carried out concerning fundamental questions about the role, position and functions of the (e-) government:
 - Organizational Innovation
 - Identity Management
 - User Interaction
 - eDemocracy
 - Modernisation of public Administrations
 - ICT Regie – ICT research programme, E-government is a possible aspect, but not yet a priority.
- Ireland: DERI (with e-gov research on semantic interoperability) funded by IST research programme



3. e-gov as a priority area of research within IST

- Spain: National programme for service technology of Information society
- Germany: IT – Internet basics and services
- France: Programme “Société de l'information”
- Regione Friuli, Regione Toscana, Province of Trento (Italy)

- But how is it then implemented? Need for follow-up
- What are the implication of different way of funding?



4. Dedicated research programmes on e-government

- Sweden
- Norway
- Belgium (AGORA) – Flanders (IBBT)
- Emilia-Romagna region (Italy)



Sweden

- eService in the public administration (2005-2009): managed by Vinnova - Swedish Innovation Agency
 - 4 M Euros on a four year period (+4 M private co-financing)
 - Open calls, proposals led by public administration
 - Action oriented, need oriented, always multy discipline
 - “Innovative Development of Cross-boundary public e-services” and “Cross-boundary public e-services for businesses
 - Applied research, down to prototype
 - Extensive stakeholder consultation
- Other programmes include e-gov as potential area, also from foundation and local authorities



Norway

- Research for innovation and renewal in the public sector (FIFOS): managed by Norwegian research Council
 - ICT challenges in government and to innovations in the health sector
 - 10 million Euros over a six year period (2002-2008)
 - The projects must have matching funds up to 70% of the total budget.
 - Action oriented, need oriented, always multi discipline
 - Open calls - projects from the calls are evaluated and ranked by an external Expert Committee.
- BIA – User driven research based innovation (includes also e-gov)
- Høykom. Piloting Broadband Services for Local Government – not research but pilot
- DEMOSREG – Democracy and Governance in Regional Context
- IT Funk – ICT for the Disabled - Research for the development of universal design
- Other include e-gov as potential area



Flanders (Belgium)

- IBBT as virtual research institute by joining up existing research groups of 5 different Flemish universities
- Research programme on e-government - 4M Euros budget
- Open call + yearly brokerage event to define research priorities
- Demand driven definition of research priorities
- Joint Basic Research, with a more local scope and in close co-operation with a number of enterprises with complementary business models, 50/50% co-financed by these enterprises
- Evaluated by external experts (IWT)
- 5 themes:
 - Multi-channel delivery
 - Security and identity
 - Integration and interoperability
 - Monitoring
 - Impact on users
- Not just technological research, but combined with research into the economical, legal and societal aspects



Belgium

- AGORA is a permanent program managed by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office, with an annual recurrent budget of 2.500.000 EUR.
- The research programmes of the Federal Science Policy Office and of other institutions frequently call on the databases possessed by the federal departments, whether they involve research with regard to employment, social security, criminology, poverty or other subjects. Aware that, for a variety of reasons, these federal databases are not all usable, or even accessible, the Federal Science Policy Office decided to support their development, constitution or valorisation via AGORA.
- AGORA finances measures of scientific support at the service of other departments and federal parastatal institutions, in order to constitute, improve and/or valorise their socio-economic databases.
- Each year, the federal public institutions are invited to submit projects. Those which are judged by the ICC to have priority form the object of a call for implementation among the research centres of the non-commercial sector. The teams interested by a project are evaluated by foreign experts who determine their ability to implement the project.



Emilia-Romagna

- Within the regional ICT strategy, a specific action is towards ICT research, mainly on public sector (eGov eHealth eLearning)
- Participating universities, in partnership with industry and local authority
- 8,5 M€ form regional gov - total 21,5 M€
- Open calls, Applied research and development.
- Themes: Mobile services in eGovernment; multi-channel, ambient intelligence for urban spaces; User interaction; integration of social and health care
- Mostly technological research



Other cases

- Procurement of research (Slovenia, IPTS, and all)
 - Specifically to support policy-making
 - Focus on socio-economic research, policy impact, foresight
- Creation of dedicated research centres (Ireland, Flanders, Toscana, Estonia, etc.)
 - public private partnerships
 - Strong relation with e-gov deployment



A first view across country

- Rethorics vs reality: according to Cistrana, 15 countries indicate e-gov as a priority research area, but then no operational programme includes it.
- Grey area between innovation and research: the importance of e-gov deployment programme as drivers of innovation
- Various institutional setting (R&D, innovation, e-gov)
- Generally recent, and evaluation not yet completed
- Thematic priorities: defined with different levels of granularity
- Different degrees of multidisciplinary
- Demand-led, role of public authorities but proposers can also be universities and companies
- Significant leverage of private investment
- Significant role of regional/local government
- On evaluation : keep in mind the double dividend! Societal goals and ICT competitiveness



Conclusion and future work

- E-gov research is a general political priority
 - Many technical priorities potentially relevant for e-gov
 - Many projects on the ground
 - But few programmes deliberately supporting e-gov research!

- E-gov research happens everywhere, but in different ways
- It has to be framed in the context of European Research area (see www.cordis.lu/erawatch)

- Validation and completion of data
- Analyze qualitative information, such as on impact, barriers, stakeholders involvement
- Analyze overlaps, differences etc. and provide an integrated EU view

- Feed into building the common framework!



Thanks and
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