



eGOVERNET

European Government Research Network

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Summary

Significant efforts have been made during the lifetime of the eGovernment project to ensure that the eGovernment Research Agenda becomes increasingly prominent in the European Union. During the 24 months of the project, progress has been made towards a European agenda for eGovernment research management. Awareness of the vital importance of eGovernment research is increasing in Member States, but Research is not an item on the EC Work Programme for 2007. The output of the eGovernment project will help to reinforce the need to include eGovernment Research as an issue for further consideration at a central level in the European Union.

The core principle of the dissemination policy has been to ensure that the Project's objectives, aim and scope were effectively disseminated to the widest audience possible, and that progress was made towards an integrated and co-ordinated research agenda for eGovernment with common visions. This core policy was implemented through the following mechanisms:

- setting up and maintaining a project web site
- organising workshops and roundtables on topics that are central to the project
- a presence at and contributions to major eGovernment related conferences during the project duration, primarily workshops and tutorials
- an active participation in the ongoing EU consultation processes on eGovernment research and EU policy
- active ties with existing relevant Networks of Excellence (NoE) projects, and
- trade press articles and a project web portal.
- Defining an agreed use plan based on the knowledge gained of eGovernment research and the eGovernment research community during the project.

All of these mechanisms have been used to target and communicate with the following groups; academia, industry, citizens, policy makers and decision makers. All of these groups are stakeholders in this Project and will benefit from an integrated and co-ordinated European eGovernment Research Management agenda, a Who's who directory, comprehensive knowledge resource directory, eGovernment research impact indicators, studies of state-of-the-art, best practice in eGovernment, and framework for a common eGovernment research agenda.

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1. Introduction

Significant efforts have been made during the lifetime of the eGovernment project to ensure that the eGovernment Research Agenda becomes increasingly prominent in the European Union. During the 24 months of the project, progress has been made towards a European agenda for eGovernment research management. Awareness of the vital importance of eGovernment research is increasing in Member States, but Research is not an item on the EC Work Programme for 2007. The output of the eGovernment project will help to reinforce the need to include eGovernment Research as an issue for further consideration at a central level in the European Union.

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2. Dissemination

2.1 External Dissemination

In order to immediately improve the Project visibility, a logo was designed and has been used in all the dissemination tools, ranging from the website to fact sheet and posters.

The first dissemination task was the creation, in January 2006, of a dedicated web page; the eGovernment website (<http://www.egovernment.com>) has been created to provide various information and documents related to the project. It includes a restricted area (intranet) for the consortium, mainly used as a document repository, and a public section. From a public perspective, this website outlined the goals and objectives of the project, and also provided information on its ongoing activities and initiatives. This website was created and is maintained by the Project co-ordinators, VINNOVA.

An eGovernment brochure and leaflet was also produced – this leaflet was a one A4 page project synopsis that set out the objectives of the Project, detailed the consortium members, and what was expected of the Project. In addition, the Project co-ordinators produced a brochure setting out the information contained in the leaflet as well as detailed contact information for the Project.

2.2 Internal Dissemination

The goal of this internal dissemination has been not so much to broaden the target audience but rather to develop the links between the partner organisations, while building a sense of partnership among participants.

Each partner of the eGovernment Project has been promoting it within their own organisations/institutes. For example, there has been an external Programme Committee for the VINNOVA R&D Programme with experts from society, research and businesses. They are informed about the project development on a regular basis. In Italy, there is a periodical issue of articles and reports with the state of art of eGovernment project on www.crcitalia.it website (informative portal on eGovernment and Information Society at the European, national and local level) and related newsletter. In addition, there is a sharing of information on the eGovernment project through the knowledge management tools of the RCC Project.

Information available in the restricted area for members of the Project website includes:

- project meetings (announcement, minutes)
- management reports and documents
- administrative and financial guidelines
- working documents
- workpackage details and deliverables
- project proposal
- presentations on the Project delivered to conferences
- calendar of events
- contact details of partners

In addition, there is an Interest Group Project Space on the website which is a closed area available only to the registered network. The portal will give access to important information etc. The portal provides interaction and communication in the network. The Interest Group project space has also been used for mailing out invitations to eGOVERNET events and to give opportunity to review eGOVERNET deliverables.

The eGovernment project has engaged in a significant number of events in a wide range of countries – outlined below – which has ensured that the eGovernment research agenda has been communicated very widely.

2.3 Project Activities

Several activities that strengthen the overview, communication and cooperation between governmental funding agencies and other authorities have been undertaken. These included building overviews of relevant policies, funding schemes and research instruments, mapping ongoing eGovernment research strategies and research programmes and bringing key funding representatives together in Interest Group meetings and workshops.

The project successfully organised 16 workshops which attracted 600 people, with a strong participation of senior persons representing regional authorities, research organisations, public agencies and ministries. Awareness of the importance of eGovernment research was raised, especially in the countries where workshops took place.

An ongoing cooperation has been established with two of the eGovernment FP6 projects; e-GOV RTD2020, DEMO-Net. The cooperation includes exchange of experiences and views on eGovernment research as well as participation from these projects in eGovernment activities and vice versa.

The first version of the “Who is who directory” was launched. This is a web-based catalogue of relevant stakeholders, accessible for the public. This is the first catalogue of its kind within the EU.

For the first time, the project collected the data on the dispersed funding of eGovernment research, and on the key actors involved in the funding process. Also, the specific needs of the research programme managers were mapped.

Procedures used for evaluating projects of research for e-Government have been reviewed and specific features of evaluation methods used for projects within e-Government-dedicated programmes have been identified

Work with the Interest Group has opened up communication between stakeholders who might otherwise not have reached each other. A Network of key stakeholders from EU and EEA countries, as well as the USA and Israel is established and continuously expanding. Events have been arranged in order to maintain the network. Network includes representatives of eGovernment FP 6 projects eGOV 2020 RTD and DEMOnet.

eGovernet partners have made presentations at around 60 conferences in total during both the first and second period, thereby reaching over 10 000 stakeholders. The project participants have also compiled a list of 900 relevant names which is used for distributing project information as well as invitations to project events.

Due to an increasing interest in the project, the eGovernet coordinator was invited to participate in, and attended as speaker at 20 international conferences in both years during the period, including eChallenges 2006 and 2007, Networking sessions at IST-conference 2006, the CEC Project Fair 2006, EISCO 2007 and Global Forum 2007.

The Coordinator has approached partner countries' embassies in Stockholm and informed them about the initiative and progress of the project. An eGovernment Ambassadors Alliance was pre-launched during the eGOVERNMENT Interest Group meeting in Vilnius in December 2007 and the official launch was done in conjunction with the high level eGovernment event in Brdo, Slovenia, on the 11:th-13:th of February 2008. This initiative indraws on the evidence of the eGOVERNMENT and R4eGov EC research projects, and other initiatives, to create a network linking the results of European research with the needs of national public authorities. The Coordinator has also been involved in discussions on eGovernment with representatives from ministries in EU-countries that are not represented in the project consortium; France, Germany, Denmark, Island, Estonia, Greece, UK, Austria and Finland. Fruitful discussions have also been carried out with high level representatives of regional government and public administration in Catalonia, Brittany and Emilia Romagna.

The Coordinator and other Partners have been active in discussions with senior high level stakeholders and policy makers from public sector at national level, as well as business, including for example representatives of the World Bank, OECD, CISCO, and HP. Work on networking with existing conferences and EU-projects to build bridges between academic researchers and the eGovernment community has also been successful.

2.4 Events

The first Dissemination and Use Plan outlined possible fora at which project objectives and results could be presented. The following list outlines the various activities that have been undertaken 2006 - 2007. The project's objectives, progress and views have also been disseminated to policy-makers, academics and other interested parties through informal communication channels at a local level.

ACTIVITY	DATE	PARTNER
Kick-off event	16 th January 2006	Consortium
Round table; exchange of best practice, Rome	2 nd February 2006	VINNOVA, CNIPA
eGEP conference, Vienna	8 th February 2006	VINNOVA
2006 Scandinavian Workshop on eGovernment Norway	13-14 th February 2006	RCN
Needs Analysis work shop, Stockholm	24 th March 2006	VINNOVA
Nedds Analysis work shop, Warsaw	29 th March 2006	Consortium
Work shop Needs for eGov research, Warsaw	31 st March 2006	Consortium
Eastern European e Gov Days Prague Czech Republic	25 th April 2006	ASCR
Lithuanian stakeholder group meeting, Vilnius	25 th April 2006	ISDC
European conf on eGov, Marburg	27-28 th April 2006	IPTS
Dg:o 2006 The 7 th Annual International Conference on Digital Research, San Diego, USA	21-24 th April 2006	RCN
Round Table Needs Analysis, Krakow	23 rd May 2006	Consortium

Networking work shop in Baltic Dynamics 2006	25 th May 2006	ISDC
Lithuanian stakeholder meeting	29 th May 2006	ISDC
The Public Room Conference Sundsvall Sweden, Round Table	30 th May 2006	VINNOVA RCN
Needs Analysis work shop, Athens	5 th June 2006	VINNOVA
NATO Advanced research work shop, Bulgaria	9-14 th June 2006	ASCR
Commission Project Fair Brussels	20 th June 2006	VINNOVA
FP6 eGovernment Project Fair Brussels	20 th June 2006	VINNOVA
Work shop and round table; Needs Analysis, Brussels	21 st June 2006	Consortium
Needs Analysis work shop, Krakow	26 th June	Consortium
eGOVRTD2020, Rome	28 th June 2006	CNIPA
EGOS,Norway	6-8 th July	RCN
Round Table:Research programme management nees map, Ljubljana	27 th July 2006	VINNOVA, SLOMIS,CNIPA
Dexa, Krakow	4-8 th September 2006	ASCR
XVI Econ Forum, Zdroj, Poland	6-8 th September	ACSR
EUPAN,Helsinki	15 th September 2006	CNIPA
Meeting Italian chamber of Commerce, Stockholm	20 th September 2006	VINNOVA
EU/i2010-“Towards a Ubiquitous European Information society’ Espoo Finland	20 th September 2006	VINNOVA
4QC CONFERENCE, Tampere, Finland	27-29 th September 2006	VINNOVA
Round Table, Sustainable network building, Vilnius	6 th October 2006	VINNOVA, ISDC
CISCO eGov Think Thank, Issy-les-Molineaux, France	18 th October	VINNOVA
Work shop Swedish Research network, Linköping, Sweden	11 th October 2006	VINNOVA
Brokerage (ATVN-EU-GP-FP6) of eGOV project proposals ,Warszaw	20 th October 2006	ASCR
Work shop, Beginning a	24 th October 2006	Consortium

Framework for eGov research, Barcelona		
eChallenges Conference Barcelona	25-27 th October 2006	Consortium
Word eGov Forum Issy-les Molineaux France	19-20 th October 2006	VINNOVA
Global Forum, Paris	9-11 th November 2006	VINNOVA
Interest Group Meeting, Helsinki	20 th November 2006	Consortium
IST Conference, Helsinki	21-23 rd November 2006	VINNOVA
CKU meeting, Stockholm	29 th November 2006	VINNOVA
Swedish administrative development Agency- Directors general meeting	29 th November 2006	VINNOVA
TAFTIE annual meeting, Stockholm	30 th November 2006	VINNOVA
CISCO French Embassy, Stockholm	8 th December 2006	VINNOVA
Interest Group meeting, the Hague	14 th December 2006	Consortium
eGOV RTD 2020 High level WS, Brussels	12 th January 2007	VINNOVA
CISCO Think Tank	30 th March 2007	VINNOVA, RCN
EISCO, Hämeenlinna, Finland	17 th April 2007	VINNOVA
Eastern European e Gov Days Prague Czech Republic, Workshop	24 th April 2007	Consortium
Norwegian Interest Group meeting, Oslo	4 th May 2007	RCN, VINNOVA
Interest Group meeting in Milan, Italy	7 th May 2007	Consortium
dg.O 2007, Philadelphia, USA	20-23 rd May 2007	VINNOVA, RCN
The Public Room conference, Örebro, Sweden	30-31 st May 2007	VINNOVA
eGovernment Workshop Donegal Ireland	14-15 th June 2007	Consortium
Launch eGov Research Programme, Berlin	17 th July 2007	RCN, ISDC
Ministerial eGovernment Conference – Research Track Lisbon	19 th September 2007	VINNOVA, RCN

Quality Fair Gothenburg Sweden	22-24 th November 2007	VINNOVA
Interest Group Meeting in Issy les Molineaux, France	3 rd October 2007	Consortium
World eDemocracy Forum, Issy	3-4 th October 2007	Consortium
eChallenges, the Hague	21-23 rd October 2007	Consortium
Global Forum, Venice, Italy	5-6 th November 2007	Consortium
Workshop in Vilnius, Lithuania	6-7 th December 2007	Consortium
International round tables; Putting ideas to work	12 th December 2007	VINNOVA
5th Scandinavian Workshop on eGovernment KÖPENHAMN SWEG2008	4 th February 2008	VINNOVA
The Specific Interest Group (SIG) of Government Executives	5 th February 2008	VINNOVA
Alliance with users, Brdo, Slovenia	11 th February 2008	VINNOVA
Interest Group Meeting in Bled, Slovenia	12 th February 2008	Consortium

3. Use Plan

3.1 Web Portal

The development of an eGovernment Research Portal provides a clear way of ensuring that the eGovernment agenda can regain momentum at an EU level and this will, in turn, help to promote the eGovernment agenda at a local level. The portal, which will be populated by user generated content – from Partners in the first instance – will provide a repository of information and a channel of communication for the research community, whether that is the researchers or the users of research.

The main responsibility of the lead Partner in developing the portal (DEPTAO) was to provide a mechanism to access research. Now that mechanism is in place it is important for the project coordinators to decide on how users can use the portal.

An Administrator and Co-Administrator are responsible for the ongoing administration of the portal, including making decisions on what rights will be given to users in terms of editing rights. As the key input in terms of data-load will be by the creators of content, the Administrators will need to deal with questions of authorisation and moderation with regard to user generated content. To assist in this process, the portal developers (LGCSB) have agreed to host a tutorial for the Administrators on using the portal and to provide manuals (basic and advanced) for the Administrators. This was held in Dublin on the 17th of January 2008.

Once the Administrator is in place, it is possible for users with the appropriate status to upload content - a first page of the Wiki should be designed which will provide a template. Administrators will guide users. The portal is accessible at the URL: www.egovcommunity.net

All eGovernet partners have been consulted in relation to this Dissemination and Use Report and were invited to provide information on four key questions:

3.2 How to exploit the Project results?

The exploitation of the results of eGovernet can be pursued through a number of channels. In the first instance, Partners may decide to promote the use of the portal and framework in their own countries. Interactive participation in the portal will facilitate future evolution of the eGovernment Research agenda. Individual Partners should look to continue

the active dissemination of project results across the research community and Public Administrations.

International cooperation remains an important factor in pursuing the eGovernment Research Agenda. Other fora could be used to further progress this important agenda. Several Partners will participate in “Noria-net eGovernment” with other Nordic-Baltic countries for the year 2008, while building on eGovernment results. Similarly, some Partners will aim to continue working with other governments to form an ERA Net for eGovernment

At a European level, individual Partners can participate – or liaise with participants - in EU eGovernment groups, with a view to examining the possibility of including e-government themes in the future research work programmes.

The eGovernment project has developed networks to facilitate the exchange of best practice, experiences and ideas. The continuation of these networks on an informal basis will help promote awareness of the research agenda.

3.3 The project achievements

Achievements include active participation in the network on eGovernment research; successfully coordinating and contributing to the eGovernment Framework; gaining recognition as part of stakeholders community in the eGovernment research field; maintaining active dialogue with other government agencies interested in eGovernment research both nationally, internationally and with the European Commission.

Involvement in the project has also helped Partners and others who engaged in the process to gain a deeper and more structured knowledge about who is doing what in the eGovernment research field. This has, in turn, resulted in a better understanding of the eGovernment research map in Europe at a national level.

3.4 The next steps (at the end of the project)

There is a possibility for networking for common calls and programmes of eGovernment research between interested nations – for example, in the Nordic-Baltic countries – either bilaterally or multilaterally. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation will complement eGovernment R&D competence and achievements

If these initiatives are to be successful it would be useful to consider initiating and contributing to work for a common set of indicators for eGovernment research and programme management achievements.

The promotion and further development of the EU eGovernment Research Barometer will be useful. It will also be important to promote the maximum exploitation and use of a national version.

Some Partners will be in a position to advise their governments on international achievements and possible transfer and cooperation gains, potentially leading to higher standards of international eGovernment research cooperation and improving the quality of eGovernment research for all interested parties. The consolidation of the knowledge gained about the eGovernment research and evaluation of the possibility of establishing a formal mechanism of coordination among the actors (research centres, universities, public administrations) identified will be useful.

3.5 Risks

A number of key risks have been identified, including:

- No national funding of continued network activities
- No national funding of relevant research funding activities
- No funding of transnational eGovernment research cooperation
- The end of the project could bring to a loss of momentum with respect to the relevance and awareness on e-government research has gained thank to the project activities

3.6 Sustainability

Information on sustainability is beyond the remit of this report, but is available in the report under WP4 deliverable D4.1.7 Sustainability Plan.