SECOVIA NEWSLETTER / 12.2013

Cloud-computing "the current technological trend": it enables the implementation of "computing on demand". The key feature of cloud is that it has an unprecedented flexibility in the use of IT resources. Other advantages can also be detectedFrom this can be derived the other advantages : new opportunities, new interpretations of freedom, new playing fields.

Cloud-based, virtualised IT platforms & infrastructures offer a strong potential to deliver cost-effective, scalable digital public services and to unlock regional growth and competitiveness. EC promotes a common EU Cloud Strategy as a means to help governments and citizens to access and develop advanced online services.

The South East Europe (SEE) area suffers from great inadequacies in the provision of eGovernment services to citizens (G2C) and businesses (G2B). This cohesion gap sets economic and administrative barriers that hinder access of citizens and businesses to digital public services. As a result, regional development and competitiveness in SEE remains an unfulfilled potential requiring cross-border policy action.

In this scope, SECOVIA promotes jointly developed, advanced virtual accessibility solutions that address the geographic and socio-economic specificities of South East Europe by harvesting the benefits of cloud computing to support access to shared public IT services, resources and infrastructures and by setting the ground for joint strategies, common policies and transnational collaboration in tackling the digital divide among territorial administrations.

In this context, And it´s the context where experts from ten different countries, want to put to work this pilot action, the SECOVIA project, starting from the whole background and knowledge of all the partners and their god practices another current knowledge in this field, will work together to in order to design, to experiment and to spread a new methodology to boost manage the way of public administrations moving together on the Cloud.

The One project website has been hosted, it is developed to inform stakeholders and, experts but also general public, about the project. The web-site will be used to diffuse for communication of general project information on the project and its, information about project partners, as well as to disseminateion of project news and current development of to have a short description about cloud based services. There are also some interesting videos related to the project and cloud computing topic that is available for everyone from the website as well.

http://www.secovia.eu

The consortium have launched a new facebook page where visitors can find fresh news about cloud computing. To visit our facebook page go to http://www.facebook.com/secovia

Contact e-mail: secovia@lepida.it

Target groups

Communication, dissemination and sustainability efforts will aim at the following groups:

- European institutions.
- National, regional and local territorial authorities involved in policy making and planning.
- National, regional and local associations of territorial administrations.
- Elected representatives of territorial administrations
- Citizens and businesses
- Active EU projects and networks in the field of eGovernment services and virtual accessibility.
- Field experts and media representatives
- Universities, higher education institutions, research institutions.
- Non governmental organizations / public like organizations / other public and semi-public bodies.

Project Partners

The SECOVIA consortium brings together regional authorities and development agencies, territorial associations and knowledge institutions covering different policy implementation levels and institutional frameworks in Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Austria, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The partnership has been set up on the basis of addressing shared problems and challenges through a coordinated, multi-level policy approach to promote jointly developed cross-border IT services and resources for public administrations. Informations related to the partner institutions are available on the following links:

http://www.secovia.eu/about-secovia/partnership

Project events

3rd Transnational Meeting

In the last days of October, the third Steering Committee meeting of SECOVIA project took place in Athens. SECOVIA partners had the opportunity to meet again for the third time after the Bologna kick-off meeting and the second Steering Committee meeting in Kyustendil, Bulgaria. The work performed during the first year was discussed as well the next steps. The overall challenges and solutions were summarized by the Project coordinator who expressed optimism and confidence regarding the project's evolution and the quality of its expected results.

In conclusion, during the SECOVIA meeting in Athens all partners exchanged interesting ideas about ongoing and future work and set more concrete objectives to achieve through the next months. We would like to thank all the SECOVIA partners for attending and contributing to this constructive meeting!

Awareness raising information days on cloud computing

Patras, Greece, 04.10.2013

The result of the information day was positive: raised awareness about SECOVIA targets but also informed the local stakeholders about the Greek initiatives on shared infrastructures for the public sector (G-cloud and Okeanos). The event also provided an interesting feedback to the major key actors at national level (GRNET, Information Society SA, "Digital Convergence" Managing Authority). The participants were IT managers, academic researchers, university students, marketing researchers, representatives of relevant European initiatives and projects, staff of public bodies, ICT professionals.

Pesaro, Italy, 22.10.2013

The event was addressed to local stakeholders of the Province of Pesaro-Urbino including municipalities, mountain communities, provincial staff with the objective to inform them on the SECOVIA project objectives as well as to promote an exchange of experiences on cloud computing solutions and to explore its potentialities. The speakers were selected to provide a detailed overview of the most interesting Cloud cases and strategies with the main purpose to stimulate the sharing of good practices and of different views on the topic. The comparison among the different good practice cases of the two Provinces, of the Region Emilia-Romagna and of the University of Urbino allowed an interesting debate on cloud options and on the way the SECOVIA project can contribute to the development of a cloud culture.

Szirák, Hungary, 14.11.2013

The participants from the 7 Hungarian NUTS region were informed about the European Union's Cloud strategy and about the relevant utilization possibilities in public administration related to the cloud technology, infrastructure and services. The trans- regional information day meant to prepare the national information day will be organized in 2014. In that way we could assess the relevant actors from all regions who will represent this specific field the most effective way. Speakers from the government will be also invited to the national infoday in accordance with the recently completed digital action plan. The planning period 2014-'20 is under process at the moment. During this process the e-government improvements and the services for companies will be highlighted. The Transregional Infoday was significant in this case because there were participants who are involved in this planning process.

Baia Mare, Romania, 21.11.2013

The participants were representatives from public institutions (municipalities, public counties offices, county council) , from private institutions (Chamber of commerce) and from private companies. Agenda of the event included presentations about:
- Secovia project - general presentation about the project activities, objectives and results, actual status;
- Cloud computing - general presentation (definition, characteristics, service models, deployment models); European Cloud Computing Strategy ("Unleashing the potential of Cloud Computing in Europe" - September 2012); Digital Agenda for Romania (National Strategy, July 2013)

The participants discussed about the cloud using in the public administration, benefits and obstacles and solutions.

Kyustendil, Bulgaria, 10.12.2013

The information day was carried out in the big hall in the building of the Regional administration. Within the range of the event the project was presented– its main goals, activities and expected results. Representative of Microsoft Bulgaria held a presentation on subject "economic advantages and benefits at the usage of cloud computing" basic conceptions and solutions. The program was provided discussion with administrators and providers of cloud services and technologies, where national companies, using these technologies presented their best practices and experience. The participants were representatives of the IT sector in Southwestern Bulgaria and also representatives of the Ministry of transport, information technologies and communications, Executive agency "Electronic communication networks and information systems" etc.

Vienna, Austria, 09.12.2013

The purpose of the event was to inform about the goals and objectives of the SECOVIA project itself as well as to raise awareness, at a national level, on cloud based IT services, resources and infrastructures for public administrations. Common objective of the discussions was the identification of possible questions (problems) that have to be addressed within the ongoing SECOVIA project (ideally at follow-up events). At the end of the event, participants were asked for a short feedback, it showed that the event in general was very informative, however the participants remarked, that the group of local and regional stakeholders need more detailed (and especially more objective) information how to use cloud services in their own authorities (technical, legal aspects). Therefore it was decided to discuss the topic in the committee for ICT of the Association of Austrian Cities and Towns (AACT) and to organise a further event.

3rd party events

Region of Western Greece also had the opportunity to present SECOVIA in Slovenia on 14.11.2013. This was done during the PPP4Broadband Days conference in Bled which was devoted to Broadband in rural areas (PPP4BB project is also a project that belongs to the SEE Thematic Pole 10 "Enhancing Access and Use of quality ICT"). The aim of the conference was to inform the participants about the possibilities of using PPP models in Broadband development in general and to introduce the key tools developed in the initial phase of PPP4Broadband project.

Recent project results

Several surveys were developed and filled in parallel across the SEE area, which aim at capturing and analysing the state of the art as well as the needs for virtual accessibility policies, projects and solutions (infrastructures, platforms, services) for digital public services in the SEE are. A total of 376 participants from 10 countries of the SEE area filled in the 8 SECOVIA questionnaires with important information regarding:

- Existing IT infrastructures, platforms and services, as well as virtual accessibility strategies, initiatives and projects.
- Current funding mechanisms for public and private investments.
- Organisational and technical needs of territorial administrations regarding shared virtualised IT resources and infrastructures, as well as shared internet-based platforms and applications.
- Successfull cases and implementation scenarios for shared IT services and infrastructures.
- Stakeholder views on the feasibility and potential benefits of jointly established shared virtualised IT resources and infrastructures.
- The analysis of the collected results will be available within the next few days.