3rd SECOVIA NEWSLETTER

Cloud computing is the next stage in the Internet's evolution, providing the means through which everything — from computing power to computing infrastructure, applications, business processes to personal collaboration — can be delivered to you as a service wherever and whenever you need. 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. SECOVIA promotes jointly developed, advanced virtual accessibility solutions as a means to help governments and citizens to access and develop advanced online services.

A project website has been developed to inform stakeholders and experts but also general public, about the project. The web-site is used to diffuse general information on the project and its partners, as well as to disseminate news and current development of 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 has launched a new facebook page where visitors can find fresh news about the project and cloud computing. To visit our facebook page go to:
http://www.facebook.com/secovia

Contact e-mail: secovia@lepida.it

Project events

Upcoming events

TITLE OF EVENT	PARTNER ORGANIZER	LOCATION	DATE
Transnational experience exchange workshops on strategies and solutions	SERDA	Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	17-18.06.2014
	Pannon Novum	Győr (Hungary)	09.09.2014
Public consultation events on potential common approaches for public private partnership	WGR	Patras (Greece)	30.05.2014
	ZVK	Vienna (Austria)	05.06.2014
	Pannon Novum	Budapest (Hungary)	12.06.2014
	SERDA	Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	26.06.2014
Capacity building workshop	SERDA	Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	17-18.06.2014
National awareness raising info days	Pannon Novum	Budapest (Hungary)	12.06.2014
SECOVIA Transnational Conference	TECLA	Rome (Italy	22.09.2014

4th Steering Committee meeting in Rome

TECLA hosted all the participants in Rome on 14th-15th April 2014 in the frame work of the SECOVIA Project, co-funded by the South East Europe Programme. The members of the SECOVIA Consortium were gathered to verify the state of the art of project activities and to plan future steps. The event was held at the premises of the European Parliament (14th April) and of the Association (15th April). The first day of the meeting was focused on work performed and future plans. In particular all partners presented their activities since the last project meeting in Athens, Greece. During the second day of the meeting, 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. A representative of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the SEE Programme also attended the meeting. Suggestions were made by Roberta Calcina for more effective implementation of the project dissemination.

1st Transnational experience exchange workshop on cloud computing in Slovenia

On the 27th of March 2014, BSC Kranj organised the 1st workshop to exchange ideas, practices and solutions on shared IT services and infrastructures for territorial administrations, titled "The Sky above the Clouds: Business and Personal Perspective of using the Cloud Services".

The major scope was to ultimately come to some conclusions about the joint cloud providers in the South East Europe region, on a basis of exchanging opinions and experience of the participants concerning the Cloud for public administrations (PAs). Aim was also to present SECOVIA project objectives and outcomes, e.g. surveys, analysis and the good practice guide).

The event was led by an expert in the field of business development and cloud infrastructure, who presented through conscious, professional and personal way the perspective of the use of infrastructure in the cloud through the prism of business decision-making, as well as the effect of its use on the individual and the collective. A comprehensive system of hybrid cloud infrastructure was examined in practice as well as some examples of good practice from various business verticals.

Participants were mostly business people and public administrations´ (PAs) representatives, who are in the process of decision regarding private or leased facilities or would simply like to better understand the process in this light. Several questions were posed to them, for example how aware are they about benefits of using the cloud computing technologies in PAs, how willing are they regarding its adoption and how feasible does a joint provider seem to be.

In most cases data retention, data security and data authority are the biggest issues. If anything goes wrong, how will the public administrator move the data and mitigate the damage? Another important issue, which is still present, is giving a priority to the traditional way of providing public services to the citizens, which arises from a still alive traditional perception of working with papers rather than advanced technology. Promotion and understanding of the cloud computing as an efficient tool in public sector services that has to be established. The broad band connection is the most important key. Also a change towards the business oriented behaviour of a PA, offering service to the citizens through Cloud, is essential.

Capacity Building Workshop and Public Consultation Event in Romania

CDIMM Maramures Foundation organized Capacity Building Workshop and Public Consultation Event on 11 – 12 March 2014, in the framework of the Secovia project. In these events cloud-computing solutions and its potentials to be applied in public sector were promoted.

Capacity building workshop is an important event of the SECOVIA project. It promotes transferability of know-how, exchange of experiences and mostly the long term impact and sustainability of the project. The main focus of the capacity building workshop is to exchange experience and increase the skills of public administration staff to formulate and promote virtual accessibility investment proposals.

Public consultation is also a significant part of the SECOVIA project that promotes the feasibility, the transferability of the results and mostly the long term impact and sustainability of the project. The main focus of the public consultation events is to bring together regional public authorities, national associations, ICT operators and cloud providers to discuss on effective investment schemes in virtual accessibility services and cloud infrastructures. After the presentations, the participants (representatives from public administration, IT companies and NGO's) discussed about these topics and about the existing obstacles and possible solutions on the cloud computing adoption.

Public consultation event in Slovenia on 27.03.2014

The public consultation event was organized in parallel with the 1st transnational exchange experience workshop in Slovenia. Situation on the cloud computing demand side of the market in South East Europe was examined. The three most important conlusions of the consulation were that:

- EU directives should specify more clearly the implementation of a cloud computing provider in PAs - Which formats have to be used to store certain data?; How large should the cloud computing providers be?; How to achieve that data remain safe and available only within the European Union borders?; How long should data remain stored?
- A common cryptology on the meta data has to be established.
- An economy of scale has to be calculated. The more authorities participate, the cheaper the cloud computing services establishment is.

Cooperation with other institutions

ICCS/NTUA participated at the pre-FIA workshops

The workshops were organized within the framework of the "Future Internet Assembly (FIA) 2014" event, which took place at the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre, Greece, on the 17th and 18th of March 2014. During the pre-FIA workshops ICCS/NTUA had the opportunity to hold discussions with various event participants and disseminate the SECOVIA project.

Pannon Novum attended on an ICT event on 28 March

The Hungarian partner of the PPP4Broadband project was the organizer, which is a parallel project with SECOVIA Discussion went on how to improve the development of virtual accessibility in South-East European rural areas - using PPP model – in order to increase rural economic and social development. Concept of PPP means cooperation of public and private actors since the solution lies with their bilateral action. The partners of the two projects have agreed to continue the cooperation in the future as well.

ICCS/NTUA participated at the 6th The Green Connected World: Cloud of Things

, Athens, Greece, on the 10th of April 2014.

The concept of cloud is nowadays taken for granted, and the computer science and telecommunications hybrid is a stand-alone entity, which has made the need for in-house IT infrastructures quite rare or connected with very

specific needs. However a lot of questions still exist. Is cloud the only solution? Which are the challenges involved with it and the opportunities that it offers? Does it have any limitations? Can the providers ensure its seamless operation? Are there common standards and in which extent are they used? How distinct are the boundaries of public and private cloud? How personal can cloud be? The 6th Connected World: the Cloud of Things! tries to provide the answers to all of the above and more. During the event, ICCS/NTUA had the opportunity to hold discussions with various event participants and disseminate the SECOVIA project.

Recent project results

Successful completion of SECOVIA surveys results analysis

Analysis of the SECOVIA surveys results has been successfully completed. Useful outcomes have been ascertained 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.
- Successful 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.

Analysis of best practices on cloud computing and development of a Good Practice Guide

The main purpose of this report is to highlight the most successful implementation cases of cloud based, advanced IT solutions in the public sector, that were identified on the basis of the proposed methodology, and to provide useful information and basic guidelines regarding the transferability and uptake of these practices by the other countries and interested stakeholders. This report is the deliverable of task T3.2.2 of the SECOVIA project, "Analysis of best practices collected and development of a Guide of Best Practices", which is the second part of the Activity A3.2 "Identification, collection, analysis and exchange of best practices on shared public IT infrastructures and services". The document is available on the project website.