

SECOVIA NEWSLETTER / 09.2013



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 detected 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, experts from ten different countries, starting from the whole background and knowledge of all partners and their good practices in this field, will work together to design, experiment and spread a new methodology to boost public administrations moving together on the Cloud.



The project website has been developed to inform stakeholders and experts but also general public, about the project. The web-site will be used to diffuse general information on the project and its partners, as well as to disseminate news and current development of cloud based services.

<http://www.secovia.eu>

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.
- Nongovernmental organisations / public like organisations / 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.

Project events

Kick-off meeting

The kick-off meeting was held on 29th and 30th October 2012 in Bologna, Italy. Lepida SpA was organizing SECOVIA project meeting, with participants from the partner consortium.

It was the first event of the SECOVIA project. All partners presented their regions and expectations in relation to SECOVIA to know each other and a general overview about the project activities was provided.

The meeting was focused on the technical work to be carried out within each project component. The main issue was the importance of cloud computing services and concrete and sustainable models highlighting a clear aspect, i.e. the public/private partnership nature of them. The partnership composition and the transnational collaboration within SECOVIA are a great occasion to carry out specific analysis and better define suitable models and sustainability issues for the South East Europe (SEE).

2nd Transnational Meeting



The second transnational meeting took place in Kyustendil, Bulgaria on 4-5 April 2013 organized by Regional Authority Kyustendil. The meeting was a very good occasion to clarify the deliverables produced and the activities carried out after the first 6 months and to identify the way to strengthen the collaboration among the partners. The importance of intermediate outputs and results - already discussed and agreed during the Kick Off meeting - for both

communication and interaction with stakeholders and with other European initiatives was highlighted. Every partner who participated in the event described the activities performed since the last meeting and a discussion on next steps to be made was also held.

3rd Transnational Meeting

The third transnational meeting will be held in Athens, Greece on 30th and 31th October 2013. The event will be the occasion to focus on the project progress both on the technical and financial level and to verify the respect of project indicators and outputs With reference to the first two reporting periods. A detailed planning of future actions to be undertaken will also be agreed among the partners.

Other international events

LEPIDA (as a lead partner) and BSC (as a project communication manager), represented project SECOVIA in the Thematic Pole "Access to Quality ICT", organized in Bucharest (19.6.2013) and Split (18.9.2013) by the Hungarian National Development Agency, acting as the Managing Authority of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE) and the SEE Joint Technical

Secretariat, providing targeted and constructive recommendations for the programming bodies of the two new transnational cooperation programmes (Adriatic-Ionian and Danube).

Upcoming regional events

National public consultations will be implemented in the following dates and place:

1. 14-18 October 2013 in Albania organized by the Association of Albanian Municipalities
2. 1st week of November 2013 in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia organized by Centre for Development of Skopje Region

National awareness raising information days will be held in:

1. Pesaro-Urbino, Italy on 22 October 2013
2. Vienna, Austria on 18 November 2013
3. Patras, Greece on 04 October 2013
4. Bologna, Italy on 16-18 October 2013 during Smart Cities exhibition

Recent project results

Several surveys are being developed and organised 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 area. It is expected that the data collection process will be completed in the next weeks.