

# DE-LAN NEWSLETTER



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## THE STORY SO FAR....



**DE-LAN Stand at the 2010 Committee of the Regions Open Day**

It's six months since DE-LAN was launched in Brussels at the UK Ambassador's residence. So what's happened since then to explore best practice in collaborative digital technologies for SMEs?

Firstly, the first two interregional workshops were held in Brussels and Cardiff, Wales, UK. The workshops provided a forum for the 9 partner regions to fulfil one of the main objectives of the project; the exchange of experiences in digital ecosystem development and deployment.

Most importantly regions had lively discussions on how to identify good practices which could potentially be embedded into industry across Europe. Partners shared experiences of digital ecosystems in their own regions, exploring how regional and national policy affected implementation. The state of the art report, which looks across Europe at existing digital ecosystem deployment, was also examined.

Project outputs and deliverables were agreed, helping to inform the process of preparing for the pilot projects that will be delivered by DE-LAN.

But DE-LAN's work hasn't been confined to workshops. Partners have been disseminating information on the project throughout their regions and across Europe.

This has included the project's involvement in the 2010 Committee of the Regions Open Day. As well as having an exhibition stand, DE-LAN was cited by Cllr Bob Bright (CoR Member, Newport City Council, Wales, UK) in a presentation on ICT for Energy Efficiency.

Partners will meet again in December in Toledo, Spain for the next workshop. We'll update you in the next newsletter on progress achieved in identifying further best practices, possible pilot projects and delivery of project outputs.



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[http://twitter.com/DE\\_LAN](http://twitter.com/DE_LAN)



<http://www.youtube.com/user/DigitalEcosystems>

Visit our You Tube channel to view videos from the DE-LAN launch including presentations from our speakers.

## ROUND-UP FROM THE REGIONS



*Fundecyt will be organizing the Conference of the Interreg IVC Project "Osepa" - Open Source Software for European Public Administration that will take place in Badajoz (Extremadura, Spain) the 1st and 2nd of December 2010.*  
[\(http://www.osepa.eu/conferencia/en/\)](http://www.osepa.eu/conferencia/en/)

### FUNDECYT TO ORGANIZE OSEPA CONFERENCE

European administrations are increasingly switching on to the benefits of open source software. This free technology, including programmes such as Apache HTTP Server and Mozilla Firefox, offers strategic advantages including flexibility, technological freedom and optimization of public resources. Ultimately its use can lead to greater sustainability.

Due to its continued work on Digital Agenda priorities, the Spanish region of Extremadura is synonymous with good practice in the use of free software. To highlight this a conference promoted by the European project [OSEPA](#) (Open Source Software Usage by European Public Administrations, Using Open Source Software in European Public Administrations) and organized by DE-LAN partner [FUNDECYT](#) (Foundation for the development of science and technology in Extremadura) is taking place in Badajoz on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.

### KTU SPEAKS AT LITHUANIAN INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY

Last month, Vilnius in Lithuania hosted the country's largest annual ICT conference, INFOBALT. This year's conference was entitled "Information Society Day" and was dedicated to the Lithuania Information Society development strategy which is currently being prepared by the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

Representatives from IT companies outlined the latest achievements in ICT development whilst public sector representatives presented their vision of ICT and its impact on public institution activities. A draft of the information society strategy was also put forward.

The conference was followed by a discussion panel composed of public sector, academia and corporate representatives.

Prof. Rimantas Gatautis of the [Kaunas University of Technology](#) (KTU) and DE-LAN partner, participated in the discussion in particular regarding the e-business dimension of the Information Society strategy document. The general recommendation was to reflect not only on the supply-side actions and indicators of e-business, but also the demand-side indicators, such as electronic collaboration in the strategy document.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

1 DEC 2010

International Conference on Open Source

15 DEC 2010

Lift-off towards Open Government

16 DEC 2010

Future Internet Assembly

23-28 FEB 2011

5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Digital Society

9-10 MAR 2011

BioWales 2011



*The Welsh Assembly Government is looking to develop a Digitally Networked Business for the Community Radio Station Cluster in Wales.*  
(Ph. c/o [www.orbisimages.com](http://www.orbisimages.com))

## WALES DNB PROJECT HITS THE AIRWAVES

A cluster of community radio stations in Wales are exploring the potential of amplifying their organisations through the creation of a Digitally Networked Business (DNB).

Key stakeholders including Glamorgan University, representatives from Community Radio Stations across Wales, the Community Media Association and Skill Set attended a DNB Workshop organised by DE-LAN lead partner The Welsh Assembly Government and held with the [Community Radio Stations in Wales cluster](#) at ECM2 in Port Talbot in October.

Delegates explored the available opportunities that could be translated into digital eco-systems. Many ideas were discussed including how a digital network could help stations share content and resource; such as radio programmes, music, advertising, knowledge and skills.

An assessment plan is being developed from these promising early steps to analyse the potential benefits for the sector from collaborating online through a community radio DNB.

Progress in Wales isn't only confined to this sector; a further workshop was organised by the Assembly Government in October with social housing project [SEREN](#) to share ideas on a possible DNB.

Likewise the Assembly Government are continuing work with the marine science sector. Following the completion of a sector assessment discussions are ongoing with the Bridge Marine Science consultants who are exploring the possibility of a DNB for their sector. Similarly plans are still progressing following an assessment in the bioscience sector, with the possibility of holding a workshop at the [BioWales event](#) scheduled for March 2011 in Wales.



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## DE-LAN'S KEY-MESSAGES

**What's the problem/need?**

Businesses already know that they need to innovate, exploit the potential of new and emerging digital technologies and work together with others if they are to strengthen their position in the global economy but need support to achieve this. Government has a role to play in encouraging this change but exactly what this role should be still needs to be defined.

**What is DE-LAN going to do about it?**

Over three years DE-LAN will establish the practical implications of creating these new types of digital networks amongst businesses. It will do this by sharing experiences and examples of this area of work across nine European regions, exploring both successes and failures to enable specific benefits to be identified. These benefits will then be widely communicated to help change the way governments and businesses think and act.

**The outcome**

Businesses across Europe will be given practical steps and tools to enable them to work together more effectively using new digital technologies. Governments will know how to create an environment through policy to enable sustainable digital networks, stimulating the ICT supply sector and helping all businesses compete in today's dynamic, global markets, allowing them to create wealth and increase the number of skilled jobs in their regions.

**ITALIAN WHITE SPACE PUSHES CSP TRIAL FOR WIRELESS BROADBAND**

*The Piedmont Regional Council (Regione Piemonte) is taking its regional broadband program Wi-Pie, to Val di Viù, a valley in the Italian Alps, in a new trial that makes use of the frequencies not utilized by television services to deliver broadband wireless networks (Ph. c/o [www.orbisimages.com](http://www.orbisimages.com)).*

The move to digital terrestrial television in Italy has presented an exciting opportunity to deliver wireless broadband to rural regions across the country.

DE-LAN partner [CSP](#), along with Politecnico di Torino, is leading a trial to test unused broadcasting frequencies, known as "White Spaces", to deliver the high-speed internet connection. Support also comes from the Regione Piemonte whose "Wi-Pie" regional program seeks to reduce the digital divide.

Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

**DE-LAN PROJECT GETS SLOVENIAN THUMBS-UP**

The DE-LAN project has received praise from the Slovenian government following a recent trip to the the Koroška region.

In November, DE-LAN partner the Technological Research Centre (TRC) of Koroška hosted State secretary Andreja Jerin from the Government's Department for Development and European Affairs.

TRC Koroška presented DE-LAN's main objectives and explained the potential for partnerships. DE-LAN is embedded in the European Commission's new Digital Agenda as an implementation tool for the possibilities and challenges of new technology.

Slovenian Government officials were very impressed by the project and have disseminated the information to other departments which deal with the Information Society. Very positive feedback was made regarding DE-LAN's use of social media networks and discussions took place on their potential within the business environment.

TRC Koroška presented its vision of how a business incubator as a business ecosystem can evolve into a LivingLab. It is expected that DE-LAN can help rural regions benefit by using IT strategies as a tool for achieving competitiveness.



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**info@de-lan.eu**

For more information on the  
project including the project  
brochure, case studies, latest  
news, reports and partners work  
to date please visit:

**www.de-lan.eu**

## PIEMONTE LOOKS FOR ECONOMIC BOOST WITH PLAN

DE-LAN partner region Piemonte is hoping for an economic boost of 500 million EUR from a new growth plan which focuses on collaboration between SMEs.

Launched in November, the "Competitiveness Plan 2011 - 2015: a new development model for a young, easy and attractive Piedmont" focuses on "smart & clean" technologies. The regional policy promotes and supports in particular SMEs through consolidated methods (such as innovation poles, technological platforms, enterprise networks, public-private partnerships) together with new approaches like "open labs" and technological transfer.

## DE-LAN PARTNERS



**The nine regions participating in the project are:**

1. [The Welsh Assembly Government, Wales, UK](#)
2. [European Regional Information Society Association \(eris@\), Brussels, Belgium](#)
3. [Foundation Insula Barataria \(FIB\), Castilla la Mancha, Spain](#)
4. [The National Association of Italian Municipalities \(Anci\) Lazio, Italy](#)
5. [CSP-Innovation in ICT, Piemonte, Italy](#)
6. [Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in Extremadura \(FUNDECYT\), Spain](#)
7. [The Technological Research Centre of Koroška, Slovenia](#)
8. [Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania](#)
9. [Vysocina Region, Czech Republic](#)



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