NEWSLETTER   Spring 2011

Occasional Newsletter from EuroplanUK LTD, a London-based consultancy which provides expertise in all aspects of European project design and implementation in the field of ICT Research and Development, Innovation, Regional Development and International Co-operation, with a specific emphasis on the Balkans.

ICT Innovation Forum for the Western Balkans Countries

On 30.11.2010 the *Dialogue Forum for Innovation in ICT for the Western Balkan Countries (WBC)* took place in Belgrade. This policy platform enables high-level dialogue on driving the political agenda for ICT research for greater Western Balkans integration into the European Research Area. The event was organized by the European Commission and co-hosted by the Ministries of Science and Technological Development and by the Telecom and Information Society of the Republic of Serbia, with logistic support of the FP7-funded WINS-ICT project.

The Forum offered an opportunity for an open debate aiming to improve interregional and EU-WBC research co-operation, through a more active participation of the Western Balkan Countries, associated to the FP7 EU Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development.

EU Member States discussed during the event good practices and experiences derived from the implementation of their national ICT policies, and encouraged the implementation of similar winning policies in the Western Balkan region.

The WBC delegates agreed on a Joint Declaration for the adoption of regional ICT priorities and common resolutions for progressing research co-operation for a reinforced coordination of national policies and strategies among Western Balkan countries. A provisional Road Map was also put forward in order to establish a permanent dialogue and cooperation between political leaders and officials in charge for ICT RTD in the WBC. Starting in 2011, the coordination is being led by Serbia. [See details at http://www.wins-ict.eu]

Regional ICT RTD priorities in Western Balkans

In mapping the ICT R&D priorities proposed for future collaboration between the EU and Western Balkan countries in 2008-2013, the first six of them shown in the table have been defined as *regional priorities*.

This in consideration of the high level of attractiveness for all Western Balkan countries, for the high level of readiness to pursue R&D (priority by at least two out of the four countries).

By integrating the results from recent project studies, a more comprehensive approach has been established for the development of the region. [See details at ICT.WEB.PROMS D2.2]
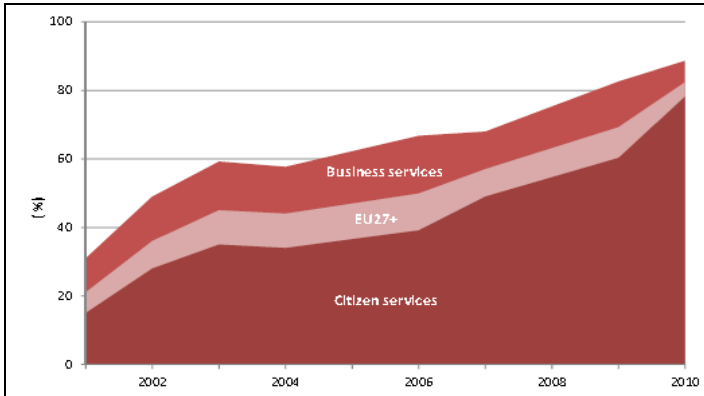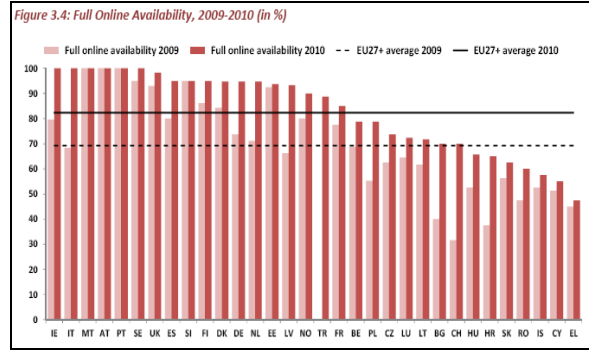
ICT R&D Priorities	ALBANIA		BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA		FYROM		SERBIA	
	High A & High R	High A & Low R	High A & High R	High A & Low R	High A & High R	High A & Low R	High A & High R	High A & Low R
ICTs for Government & eGovernment	✓		✓		✓		✓	
ICTs for Enterprises & eBusiness	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Internet & Broadband Technologies	✓			✓	✓		✓	
ICTs for Learning & eLearning	✓		✓		✓			✓
ICTs for Health & eHealth	✓		✓			✓		✓
Software Engineering		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Mobile Technologies					✓		✓	
ICTs for Agriculture						✓		✓
Digital Content & Digital Libraries		✓				✓		
Distributed Systems	✓							
Embedded & Pervasive Systems								✓
Network Technologies		✓						
Knowledge Technologies						✓		

Table 1 – Integrated list of ICT R&D Priorities for all countries (2008-2013)
[Legend: "A" stands for Attractiveness, "R" stands for Readiness]
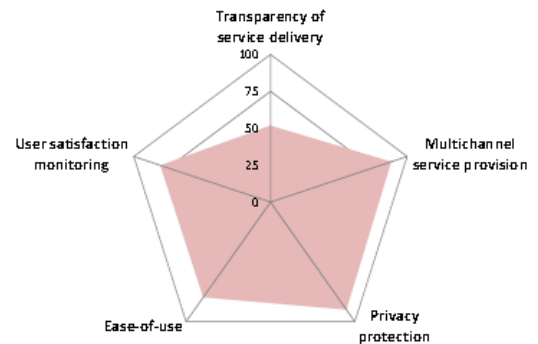
More online public services to EU citizens

The availability of a suite of 20 basic online public services (eg. car registration, tax declaration, payments for public utilities or registration of a new company) across Europe *reached 82% in 2010*, substantially higher than in 2009 when it stood at 69%.

As shown on the right, the best performers are Austria, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Sweden where the entire list of those basic services is fully online. Bulgaria, Italy and Latvia showed a relevant improvement during the last year in making services available online.

Figure 3.4: Full Online Availability, 2009-2010 (in %)

The majority of the "20 basic public services" are now available online across the EU27. Services are increasingly interactive and transactional and the quality of service delivery has significantly improved. Administrations now see eGovernment as an enabler to transform the public sector, significantly changing their relations with citizens and businesses and harvesting the gains in efficiency and effectiveness of the services in the process.

Clear efforts are being made to improve the *User Experience* of public services and portals in the EU27. As shown on the right, five services' features have been measured, of which Privacy protection and Multichannel provision have the higher values, and Transparency being still to be improved the most.

[See full details in the 9th eGovernment Benchmark Report published 21.2.11].
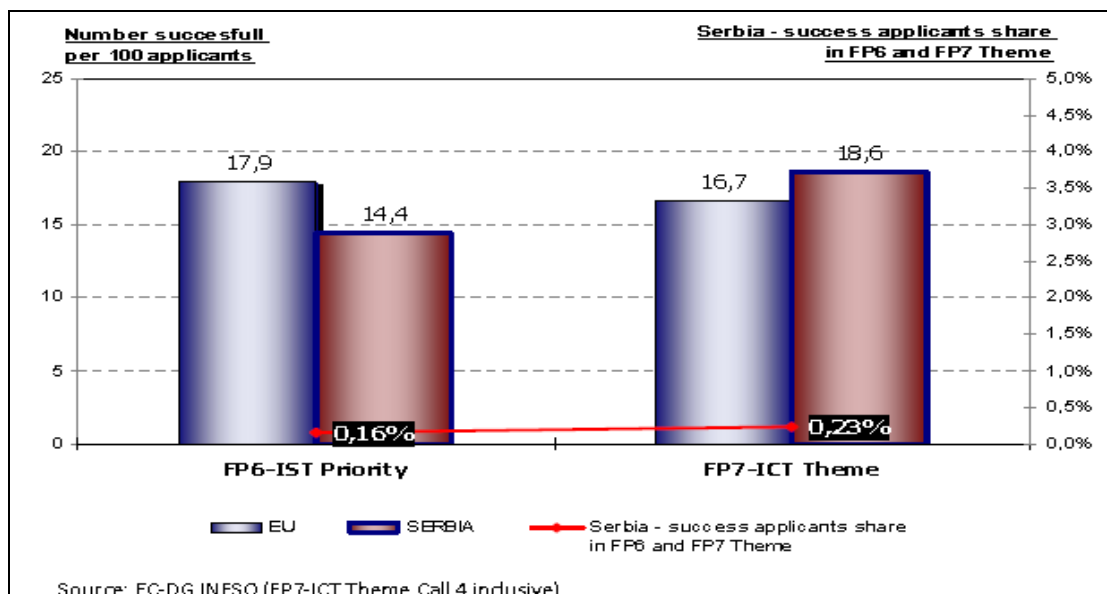
Flash on ICT RTD in SERBIA

Committed by the European Commission, an updated ICT RTD technological audit has been reported in December 2010, with the goal to explore the ICT RTD potential in the main Western Balkan countries, considering their capabilities to become part of the European Research Area (ERA).

The study included in particular the Serbia, considering the policy environment, the main opportunities and barriers as well the current main stakeholders, activity and results, potential for future achievements. The analysis on RTD was entered on the FP7 Framework Programme, with evolutionary comparisons to the FP6.

	EU Proposals		Serbian Proposals		Ratio (%) of successful proposals		SERBIA - Proposals share	
	Total	Succesful	Total	Succesful	EU	SERBIA	Successful	Failure
FP6-IST Priority	8383	1123	125	16	13,4	12,8	1,4%	1,5%
FP7-ICTTheme	5586	840	77	12	15,0	15,6	1,4%	1,4%

Source: EC-DG INFSO (FP7-ICT Theme Call 4 inclusive)

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In FP6-IST, priority EU countries achieved success rate of 13,4% (8383 submitted proposals and 1123 approved) and Serbia 12,8% (125 submitted proposals and 16 approved), showing slightly lower passing (success) rate of Serbian proposals than EU average.

Serbian entities submitted their proposals to six of seven thematic categories showing the big dispersion of the proposals, while the accepted proposals were in only three thematic categories.

The synthesis of the study is summarized in the SWOT analysis below, which offers a valuable guide to policy planners, public and private stakeholders in view of fostering the further improvements and RTD developments in the country. [See full details in the EC ICT RTD technological audit- Serbia, 2010]
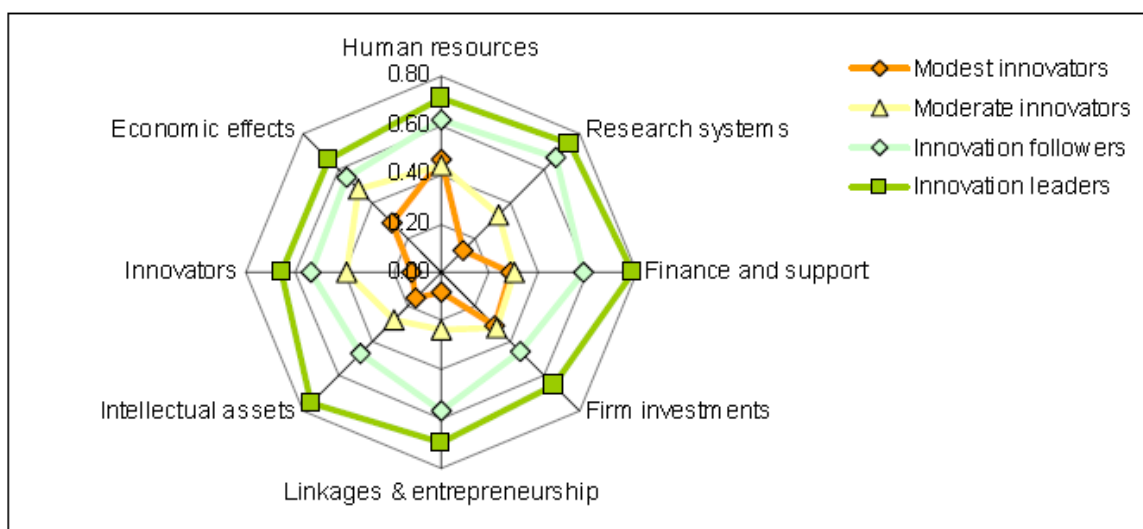
Opportunities	Threats
A ICT RTD Legal and Regulatory Environment • Ambitious plans expressed in strategy papers in the ICT RTD field • Creation and rapid adoption of Action Plan for the Strategy for Science and Technological Development **B ICT RTD Infrastructure** • 50-80 M Euro ICT RTD investment from 300 M Euro Investment initiative • Development of Broadband Access (AMRES/EMRES) • Establishment of regional centre for supercomputing • Improvement of SEE-GRID-SCI (SEE-GRID eInfrastructure for regional eScience) • Huge potential of EPS optical network **C ICT RTD Sector** • Good price / quality ratio of Serbian services • Solid expertise in particular FP7-ICT areas • Implementation of the Strategy "Focus and partnering", which is expected to come soon **D ICT RTD Sector in FP7-ICT Theme** • Room for increasing participation • Use capacity of leading Serbian entities • Fully recognizing of benefits from participation in FP7-ICT • Positive attitude towards FP7-ICT • Transfer of evaluators' knowledge and experience	**A ICT RTD Legal and Regulatory Environment** • Still present political instability in the country/region • Low level of investments in science and research (around 0,3% GDP) • Non-customized mirrored policy • Mistrust in the promises of the policy makers **B ICT RTD Infrastructure** • With few exceptions, obsolete existing infrastructure **C ICT RTD Sector** • Serbia as a latecomer to the international ICT RTD scene (2001) • Brain drain • Weak cooperation on ICT projects • Long time present differences between Serbian and European researchers • Stereotype image of Serbian research **D ICT RTD Sector in FP7-ICT Theme** • Difficulties in reaching the big EU15 consortia • Low participation of Serbian entities • Negative "cash flow" • Generally low FP7-ICT financial support for Serbian ICT RTD • Complex proposal writing/preparation • Excessive bureaucracy • Lack of evaluation and scientific ranking of projects

Strengths	Weaknesses
A ICT RTD Legal and Regulatory Environment • Present ICT RTD L&R Environment is in process of harmonization with EU **B ICT RTD Infrastructure** • Existing research infrastructure of Academic Network of Serbia (AMRES) • Existing of Academic and Educational Grid Initiative of Serbia (AEGIS) **C ICT RTD Sector** • Solid number of preserved Serbian experts • ICT related Education system • Solid institutes market orientation **D ICT RTD Sector in FP7-ICT Theme** • Above EU average Success Rates of Serbian participants • Solid competence of Serbian entities • Programs of institutes and faculties are in line with the FP7-ICT Theme	**A ICT RTD Legal and Regulatory Environment** • Insufficient political support in practice • Lack of dedicated Government body in charge of ICT RTD • Problematic implementation of ICT RTD strategic documents **B ICT RTD Infrastructure** • Current infrastructure for ICT RTD activities in Serbia is undeveloped • Lack of large-scale R&D equipment **C ICT RTD Sector** • Serbian ICT RTD system is of inadequate efficiency Brain drain • Neither visible focus on ICT RTD priorities defined in Strategy, nor partnering **D ICT RTD Sector in FP7-ICT Theme** • Serbia is a latecomer to the FP programs (2002) • Insufficient experience in search for consortium partners • Limited Serbian lobbing ability

Innovation Union Scoreboard 2010 (IUS)

Croatia and Serbia growth in innovation performance is well above the EU average. This is the key result from the IUS 2010, commissioned by the European Commission and prepared by the Maastricht Economic, Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology (MERIT), assisted by the EC Joint Research Centre. The IUS 2010 includes innovation indicators and trend analyses for the EU27 Member States, as well as for Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. It also includes comparisons based on a more reduced set of indicators between the EU27, the US, Japan and the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) countries.

The reports states, for Croatia, Serbia and Turkey growth in innovation performance between 3.5% and 4% in the last five year, with consistently high performance across all or most of the indicators. Only for FYR of Macedonia growth performance is below that of the EU27. In the graphic below the four Country Groups, showing innovation performance per dimension. [See full details on IUS 2010 Report published 1.2.2011]

wins-ict

WINS-ICT "*Western Balkan Countries Inco-Net Support in the field of ICT*" is an initiative funded by the EC 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development under the Cooperation Programme - ICT theme.

As a support action, WINS-ICT.EU intends to strengthen S&T cooperation between the EU and the Western Balkan Countries by deepening the bi-regional strategic relations in the ICT field and promoting the participation of WB ICT researchers in FP 7. [See details at WINS-ICT site]

News from the Western Balkans

Bulgaria

- Ministry of Transport Information Technologies and Communication plans to offer by the end of 2011 another 10 schemes over OP "Competitiveness" worth about 400 million Euro. "We want this amount to reach 500 million, and thus open to negotiate the entire planned program budget. Our goal is money to be contracted until the end of 2013 and projects to be implemented by the end of 2015", announced Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism Traycho Traykov during a breakfast for journalists, dedicated on the OP "Development the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy".   [online@idg.bg 11.2.11]

- At the moment Bulgaria is losing state incomes of dozens million BGN yearly as a result of a missing regulation of online gambling. Beside that Bulgaria is losing possible investments like organized gamble tournaments, gambling tourism etc. This was announced during the discussion: "Bulgaria Challenges of Online Gambling", organized by Standard newspaper. The industry for online gambling offers a wide range of products in Internet, among which are sport bets, poker, casino, lotteries and games.   [online@idg.bg 21.1.11]

- A momentum for the evolving activities of this year has been fostered in Bulgaria as the result of the *EDE-European Day of the Entrepreneur* (Sofia, 28.10.2010). Organized within the week of Open Days of Sofia Municipality by the NIS at Sofia University "St.Kliment Ohridski", the event offered an yearly opportunity for meeting science and business, centered on the ICT innovation. Thematic panels included cultural heritage, science-business relationship to implement EU innovation policy and social entrepreneurship. Assigned also the awards of the *Idea Challenge,* a student competition for innovative business ideas.   [post-EDE notes 20.1.11]

Serbia

- Serbia will invest in the IT infrastructure through four technological incubators, the total value of 60 million EUR, and through investment of eight million euros in the super computer, that will be located in Block 39 in New Belgrade, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration and Minister of Science and Technological Development Bozidar Djelic stressed at the opening of the Regional Forum for the promotion of research in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Djelic stated that IT is one of the key arguments of the 21st century, and Serbia as a country without natural resources must use their smart, professional people to become a "player" in the field of European and world science and technology.

For the scientific projects during 2011 - 2014 Serbia will have 1800 scientists in the field of ICT, which is 800 more than in the previous cycle of scientific research.   [ICT Innovation WBC Forum, 30.11.10]

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- The SEERA-EI Open Day, organized by the Ministry of Communication and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina and hosted by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat, took place in Sarajevo on 26 January. During the event, programmes and strategies related to e-Infrastructure in South East Europe were presented and discussed by national representatives who implement e-Infrastructure strategies and operate the programmes in their respective countries. The Bulgarian case was presented as a role model for focused NRN and NGI development. The event was also a platform for open dialogue between the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina for setting up the National Research and Education Network and strengthening the National Grid Initiative.   [SEERA-EI News February 2011]

Calendar of Key European ICT Calls (update 2.3.2011)

Quick mapping to the open and upcoming Calls for Proposals and for Tenders of the most important EC Programmes ICT-related to help your planning in spring-summer 2011. Consult also the EC websites (CORDIS, CIP) for the daily updates.

FP7- Seventh Framework Programme Research and Development

FP7 Programme	Area	Call identifier	Publication	Closure
Cooperation	1. Health	FP7-HEALTH-2012	20.07.2011	10-12.2011
		4th IMI Call	07.2011	09-10.2011
	2. Food, Agro, Fish, Bio	FP7-KBBE-2012-6	07.2011	OPEN
	3. ICT	FP7-ICT-2011-C	20.07.2010	03.12.2013
		FP7-ICT-2011-SME-DCL	01.02.2011	28.04.2011
		FP7-ICT-2011-8	26.07.2011	17.01.2012
		FP7-2012-FoF	30.07.2011	12.2011
		FP7-2012-NMP-ENV-ENERGY-ICT-EeB	30.07.2011	12.2011
		FP7-2011-GC-ELECTROCHEMICALSTORAGE	30.07.2011	12.2011
		FP7-2012-ICT-FI	30.07.2011	12.2011
		FP7-ICT-2011-9	18.11.2011	17.04.2012
	4. Nanoscience	FP7-ICT-2011-EU-RUSSIA	20.07.2010	31.03.2011
	5. Energy	FP7-ENERGY-2011-2	20.07.2010	07.04.2011
	6. Environment			
	7. Transport	FP7-SST-CIVITAS-2011-MOVE	21.09.2010	12.04.2011
	8. Socio-Science, Hum.			
	9. Space			
	10. Security			
	11. Coordin. RTD			
	12. JTI	SP1-JTI-CS-2011-01	10.02.2011	03.05.2011
		ENIAC-2011-1	23.02.2011	21.04.2011
		ARTEMIS-2011-1	01.03.2011	31.03.2011
Capacities	1.Res. Infrastructures			
	2.RTD for SMEs			
	3.Regio of knowledge			
	4.Intl. Cooperation	FP7-INCO-2011-6	20.07.2010	15.03.2011
		FP7-INCO-2011-7	20.07.2010	15.03.2011
		FP7-INCO-2011-8	20.07.2010	15.03.2011
People	1.Initaial Training			
	2.LifeLong Training	FP7-PEOPLE-2011-EURAXESS-II	15.12.2010	30.03.2011
		FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IRSES	20.10.2010	17.03.2011
		FP7-PEOPLE-2011-CIG	20.10.2010	08.03.2011
		FP7-PEOPLE-2011-NCP	10.03.2011	
		FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IEF	16.03.2011	11.08.2011
		FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IOF	16.03.2011	11.08.2011
		FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IIF	16.03.2011	11.08.2011
Ideas	1.ERC advanced Investigators grants	ERC-2011-ADG_20110406	04.11.2010	06.04.2011
		ERC-2011-ADG_20110310	04.11.2010	10.03.2011
		ERC-2012-StG	20.07.2011	09-11.2011
		ERC proof of concept	15.03.2011	15.06.2011

| | | ERC-2012-AdG | 10.2011 | 03-06.2012 |

CIP- Competitiveness and Innovation Framwork Programme

CIP Programme	Theme	Call identifier	Publication	Closure
ICT PSP	1.Low carbon economy, smart mobility 2.Digital content 3. improved public services 4. Health, aging well and inclusion 5. Innovative Government and public services 6.Open innovation for Internet -enabled services	CIP-ICT PSP-2011-5	01.03.2011	01.06.2011
IEE II	1. SAVE -Energy efficient products -Industrial excellence 2. ALTENER -Electricity from renewables -Heating/Cooling -Bioenergy 3. STEER -Energy efficient transport -Clean effecient-energy vehicles 4. Integrated activities -Local Energy leadership -Mobilizing local investments -energy efficient buildings	CIP-IEE-2011	01.03.2011	12.05.2011
EIP				
	EoI : Services for data collection-analysis on SMEs access to finance	Call Expr. of Interest	31.3.2010	30.1.2013

Upcoming Key Events

Information Day on CIP-PSP Call 5   (Brussels, 28.2.2011)
Information Day on the fifth Call for Proposals of the ICT Policy Support Programme will held in Brussels, with presentation of themes and Objectives of Call 5.

eGovernment & eGovernance Conference   (Ankara, 11-12.3.2011)
Third international edition to addresses the key segments for implementing eGovernment and eGovernance including the implementation experience, best practices, and case studies. Contributions evaluated on originality, clarity and relevance.

ICT Media Conference   (Sofia, 24.3.2011)
"Telecommunications & media, technologies and business overflow" is the motto of the regional conference, organized by ICT Media, aiming to analyze the dynamic and repositioning of business actors and the multi-channeling technologies.

e-IRG e-Infrastructure Reflection Group   (Budapest, 4-5.4.2011)
This e-IRG Workshop is expected to progress the definition of role and function of e-Infrastructures in the European Research Area, analyzing recent progress and foreseeable future perspectives for the e-Infrastructures, considering the Cohesion and Regional aspects.

Smart Grid Architectural Standards Workshop   (Sofia Antipolis, 5-6.4.2011)
Smart Grid is considered a major industry and societal evolution by the convergence of power and ICT industries and technologies. After the gap analysis and the identification of early applicable standards, the standardization activity is now addressing the longer term challenges to build novel standards. This is the objective addressed by the Workshop.

FET11 - The European Future Technologies Conference and Exhibition   (Budapest, 4-6.5.2011)
European forum dedicated to frontier research in future and emerging information technologies. An opportunity to take an early look at what are likely to become tomorrow's science successes and groundbreaking technologies based on ICT-led research.

ICT Proposers' Day - Networking   for European ICT R&D   (Budapest, 19-20.5.2011)
The event will offer a networking platform to build partnerships in order to participate in the *new ICT Calls 8 and 9 of the 7th Framework Programme for R&D*. Thematic sessions with presentations of proposal ideas, information stands and meeting points will be proposed. Registration free of charge. Benefit from Europlan-Omega Travel special Trip organized from Bulgaria.

ICCGI 2011- Intl. Conference on Computing in the Global Information Technology   (Luxembourg, 19-24.6. 2011)
Top international event covering a large spectrum of topics related to global information and knowledge in the digital age. ICCGI 2011 includes a series of tracks addressing the challenges on more facets: *Industrial systems, Evolutionary computation, Autonomic and autonomous systems, Bio-technologies, Knowledge data systems, Mobile and distance education, Intelligent techniques, logic and systems, Knowledge processing, Information- Internet-web technologies.*

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