Models for cross-border collaboration

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Topics

• Challenge and incentives
• Commitment and decision for sharing resources
• Pooling Open Source Software?
• Experience in other sectors
• Public market issues / Research project opportunities
• Community building
• Government software repository
• Interoperability agency?
Challenge / Incentives

• Transforming public services, through innovative exploitation of technology: eGovernment
  – Human skills transformation, process re-design, … and technology

• A significant aspect of a global EU Knowledge based economy

• High impact on costs and budget savings (Admin and Business)

• Be Citizen-centric (450 million) and Business-centric (20 million)
  – Reducing administrative burden, improving quality of life, with no one left behind…

• Be cross-border interoperable / pay full attention to mutual trust and openness: build on common standards

x 27: We should cooperate and share results!
Strong commitment

- Manchester Ministerial Declaration (24 November 2005)
- Good practice framework: 159 case studies (March 2006) http://www.egov-goodpractice.org/
- Immediate benefits. Example: e-Invoicing in Denmark saves €200m for Administration (€150) and Business (€50) / time and paper
- Typical case: Public eProcurement = 15 to 20% of EU GDP 11.600b
  - By 2010, all public administration across Europe will have the capability of carrying out 100% of their procurement electronically
    - States, Regions, local collectivities…
    - approximately 100.000 authorities from 27 countries across Europe (CEMR)
  - Member states will, during the period 2006-2010
    - share technologies
    - Where appropriate develop common solutions
    - Works towards interface harmonisation of existing solutions
    - Develop means of dissemination
Pooling Open Source software?

• Share development of common, reusable tools

• Build on common standards, but allow full adaptation of source code to local realities (culture / look / language)

• Wide use = optimisation of the scaling effect

• Public use of public money

• Consortium? Leadership? Who “federates”? Who decides?

• Time / Budget / efficiency constraints

• Shared use of public money

• Platform for cooperation (SourceForge, Gforge type, eGovForge Adullact, Alioth, Berlios, CoreCodec, ForjaMari, Fsd-Unesco, GNA, Graal, Savannah, Software-libre … ?)

• Licensing and IPR issues
Other sector experiences

• Example: Defence industry
  – About 25 international projects between EU Member States
  – Ad hoc organisations to coordinate each project
  – “Juste retour” as the founding principle of international projects: how to ensure work-share benefits for its participating states?
    • Pre-determined division of budget and work share (according to orders)
    • Complex re-calculation if order are modified / withdraw / added
    • Protectionism (national champions)
    • Multiple production lines
    • Similar parts produced by different countries (e.g. Eurofighter)

  – 33 to 100% cost premium – compared to out-of-shelf
A Specific Agency?

• Example:
  – Defence again, where the “European Defence Agency” (EDA) will mobilise “Participating states” resources to optimise the European Defence Equipment market (EDEM)
  – A common structure to support projects
  – First initiative (2006): Defence procurement: implement an Electronic Market Place (EMP) to register:
    • Products (cataloguing)
    • Suppliers (large enterprises and SMEs)
    • Customers
  – Establish a burden free (and secure) framework to consolidate the Defence Technological and Industrial Base (DTIB)
  – Leadership concerning quality (code of conduct, respect of market rules)
  – Authority concerning projects (which projects?) and security - traceability
The public market approach

• Open competition, strict public market rules
• International agreement?
• Who is the market owner?
• A common ad hoc structure?
  – (easy between too municipalities, but less easy between two States)
• One state takes the lead / obtain a mandate?
  – Sovereignty and budget issues
• Divide the market?
  – What if the contractors are different?
  – Market cancellations, issues etc.
Research project approach

• FP6/FP7 / eTen

• Conditions
  – Min 3 Countries (various partners)
  – Public-Private-Partnerships possible
  – EU funding 30% to 50%
  – Solid proposal – by experienced coordinator

• Issues
  – Wait for the good call, the right priorities
  – Complex consortium agreement
  – Uncertain result (call are over-subscribed)
  – Long process (call – submission – selection – hearing – contracts - …)
  – Bureaucracy (cost claims – reviews, audits)

Not a way to by-pass public market regulation…
Embrace an existing community…

• Example: www.ObjectWeb.org
  – Created by Bull, France Telecom and INRIA in 1999
  – Focus on middleware (intermediate software layers allowing heterogeneous components to communicate)
  – GForge (Debian)
  – +/- 90 projects currently

Or create a new one…

  – To address specific public sector needs for practical solution
  – To grant neutrality and balanced, equitable geographical spread
  – eGovernment Resource Network (specific instrument to enhance cooperation between Member States)
eGovernment Software Repository

- Infrastructure for application sharing at European level
- Specific to public sector (EU and MS)
  - CIRCA, eLink, IPM, …
- Providing thematic access to public sector applications, cases, knowledge (good practices), documentation
- Providing assurances on quality and sustainability (labels, tests)
- With an EU adapted legal/contractual infrastructure (licences, liability, insurance, collaboration)
- Providing advices and guidelines / coordination facilities
- Focus point – Link up with other relevant OSS repositories

The tool for the emerging eGovernment Resource Network community?
eGovernment Interoperability Agency?

• A Driver for the OSOR (identify the needs, mobilise funds)
• Focus and meeting point for existing national agencies (eGovernment group)
• Specific Development budget from participating states
• Ad hoc structure with general purpose: could contract any market
• Deploy strategy and incentives for volunteer contributions (from industry and from individuals)
Thank You

International Workshop (Brussels – 28th November 2006)
Eurocities