

Digital Business Ecosystem

Contract n° 507953

## **Workpackage 28: Training**

### **Deliverables D28.16.1: DBE Bulletin issue 6**



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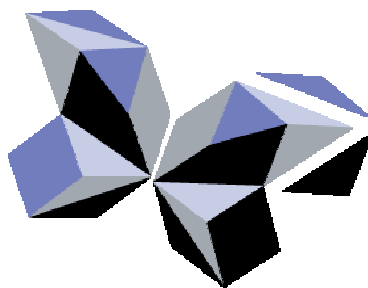
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## **dbe***bulletin*

The project newsletter of the Digital Business Ecosystem  
Issue 6 - July 2006

# **Digital Ecosystems in research, innovation, and regional Funds**

**THE IMMINENT FP7, THE NEW COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME (CIP), PLUS STRUCTURAL FUNDS AND NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES ARE ALL EMBRACING ICT AND DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS AS A TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN UNDERPIN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT EUROPE. THE COMMISSION ACTIVELY ENDORSES GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES, THE CIP AND STRUCTURAL FUNDS. AS THEY ARE ALL BEGINNING NEW PHASES, NOW IS THE TIME FOR THESE INSTRUMENTS TO BE USED TOGETHER TO MAKE DBE AND DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS A TECHNOLOGY FOR TODAY.**

### **FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (FP7)**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for R&D will run from 2007 until 2013. The official work programme for Digital Ecosystems will not be published until September. However, the FP7 proposal features Digital Ecosystems within the Information and Communication Technologies theme under 'Applications Research', reflecting the increasing maturity and market-readiness brought about in part by the DBE, and signalling opportunities for further comprehensive research and development work on Digital Ecosystems.

See <http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/about/fp7.htm>

### **COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (CIP)**



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From 2007 to 2013, in parallel with FP7, the Commission's €4.21bn Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) contains a major ICT Policy Support Programme that will support policy improvements, knowledge sharing and adoption, including the i2010

European Information Society initiative that recognises the important role ICT plays in economic growth. For many policy-makers and implementers this may be an opportunity for various forms of dissemination, adoption and support.

See <http://cordis.europa.eu/innovation/en/policy/cip.htm#proposal>

## Structural Funds

Structural Funds support the designated 'Objective Regions' of Europe by co-financing locally designed development programmes. A new round of Operational Programmes and Single Programming Documents (SPD) are being prepared by regions for the next round in 2007 and these can be made very credible by including Digital Ecosystems as part of such programmes, thereby tapping into the knowledge, expertise and technical infrastructure generated by the DBE.

See [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/funds/prord/prord\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/prord/prord_en.htm)

## National and local programmes

National and local programmes are also recognising the significance of Digital Ecosystems for economic development and are aligning schemes to that end or forming links with DBE.

*A UK national initiative  
invites DBE on board*

In the UK the government has a national programme of Knowledge Transfer Networks (KTNs) which serves to provide online platforms in key strategic areas of technological development for cooperation between the various actors necessary for knowledge transfer to take place. The DBE has set up links with the KTN dedicated to Grid computing as the two technologies are closely allied. This will give the DBE national exposure and potentially create a UK-wide group of adopters and interested people.

See <http://grid.globalwatchonline.com>



*Spanish region of Aragon  
extends funding*

In the Spanish region of Aragon, additional funding is being provided from the Directorate General of Technologies for the Information Society (DGTSI) via the Regional Catalyst ITA.

ITA already had 4 Driver SMEs, which brought 13 end-users that have recently signed agreements to work and make business through the DBE, plus 8 Implementer Phase I users, which brings the total to 25 users.

The DGTSI launched a Phase II Implementer call tender with a budget of €145,000 and is planning to make another one of €55,000. At this moment the call has been closed with 13 new proposals, 12 of which will be accepted and are expected to start to work in September. It is expected that these 12 Implementers will bring more than 40 users to the DBE.

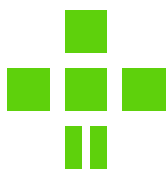
DGTSI is now providing additional funding to identify the needs of SMEs in terms of digital business so that they can obtain more efficient and economic tools through the research, development and implementation of new business platform models. Some of those needs are access to global markets, improvement of customer relationships, long life-cycle products and ways of obtaining fast information.

The new project has two main actions:

- The creation of an open source digital platform where SW Developer SMEs provide services and/or products to User SMEs, improving their activity and reaching new markets.
- The development of businesses through that platform in a faster way, mainly for provider SMEs.

See [www.aragob.es](http://www.aragob.es)

ITA is also in contact with the SEAMLESS project, which is a DE cluster project about using their DBE middleware platform in the two sectors they are going to work in: Construction and Textiles. In addition, two of the Aragon Drivers have proposed, together with two other SMEs to use the DBE platform for a nationally funded project.



## Meeting with Free Software Foundation Europe points the way to DBE communities



**Georg C. F. Greve**

See <http://fsfeurope.org/>

DBE Project Manager  
Andrea Nicolai and  
Business Domain  
Leader Elmar

Husmann, met with Georg Greve, President of the Free Software Foundation Europe, to discuss the possible place of the DBE in the Open Source world and the issues surrounding sustainability.

Gerog's view was that trust and sustainability were key issues for DBE and made a number of proposals that will shortly be posted to the DBE web site discussion group - [http://www.digital-ecosystem.org/DBE\\_Main/Forums](http://www.digital-ecosystem.org/DBE_Main/Forums)

## **DBE promoted in the regions**

(Regional activities can also be seen at [http://www.digital-ecosystem.org/DBE\\_Main/new](http://www.digital-ecosystem.org/DBE_Main/new) )

### **Roadshow series**

As part of an initiative to increase the DBE's impact among regional SMEs and regional policy makers across Europe, a regional workshop series has started with events in Trento (Italy) and Stuttgart (Germany).

In Stuttgart, 15 representatives from OS-developing SMEs and the regional IT development agency of Baden-Württemberg attended a workshop on the 26th of June. The workshop helped to establish fruitful contacts to SMEs such as Wilken GmbH, Rahlfs + Ross Multimedia GmbH, Avono GmbH, iMedic AG as well as research institutions such as Hochschule Heilbronn. Issues such as security, a sustainable business model and quality assurance of future DBE-services were highlighted as future key success factors for a market roll out. All SMEs were interested in further exploring possible collaborations with DBE. Your contact in the region is Jan Runge - [runge@mfg.de](mailto:runge@mfg.de)

Ireland and Extremadura are the next regions to be visited by the roadshow. For further information contact Elmar Husmann - [ehusmann@mac.com](mailto:ehusmann@mac.com)

## Profile: West Midlands activities



The UK West Midlands catalyst UCE has been very active in promoting DBE via events. In June, Nagaraj Konda, Victor Bayon and Rod Shelton presented a paper on 'New forms of small and medium sized enterprise in the tourism sector: theory, practice, and business policy implications from a European perspective' at an international conference 'Developing Tourism: Trends, Impacts and Policies on Tourism Development' in Crete.

July saw the regional catalysts bring policy from, SMEs, large companies and government agencies to share experiences. who attended represented a key part of the activity. One of the characteristics of the it stimulates a lot of innovative thinking, and business partnership ideas were developed.



makers

Everyone  
local ICT  
DBE is that  
several new

The next day many of those involved had the working with Miguel Vidal; of Sun

Microsystems Barcelona, Peter Stanbridge of UCE, and John Kennedy of Intel on their views of the DBE architecture. And one SME leader who has piloted some DBE services gave everyone some insights into where he is developing certain business sectors in the heart of Birmingham.

pleasure of



Also in July Victor Bayon presented and took a stand with posters and laptop demonstration at the Linux User Group (LUG) event, organised by LUGRadio in the UK. He says "We could learn a lot from these guys. They all have very strong views about what Open Source is/isn't and are not scared to tell you what they really think!! It was a very good experience." He also observed that "People that liked the DBE were usually the guys with a higher level view of the business environment and IT, rather than the

lower hardcore technical."

See [http://www.lugradio.org/live/2006/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.lugradio.org/live/2006/index.php/Main_Page)

plus more pictures at:

<http://www.flickr.com/search/?w=all&q=lugradiolive&m=text>

UCE is also scheduled to present DBE at the Institute for Small Business & Entrepreneurship Conference in Cardiff on 31st October. Aiming to bridge the gap between theory and practice in entrepreneurship and SME development, the conference will hear how the role of Regional Catalyst was developed for DBE and have first-hand information from UCE on how this worked in practice.



See [www.isbe2006.org](http://www.isbe2006.org)

Contact at UCE: [Rod.Shelton@uce.ac.uk](mailto:Rod.Shelton@uce.ac.uk)

## OPAALS Network of Excellence launched

June 1<sup>st</sup> saw the official start of the OPAALS (Open Philosophies for Associative Autopoietic Digital Ecosystems) 'Network of Excellence'. The four-year €9m project involves many DBE researchers in establishing a Network of Excellence for Digital Ecosystems research and will be led by the London School of Economics.

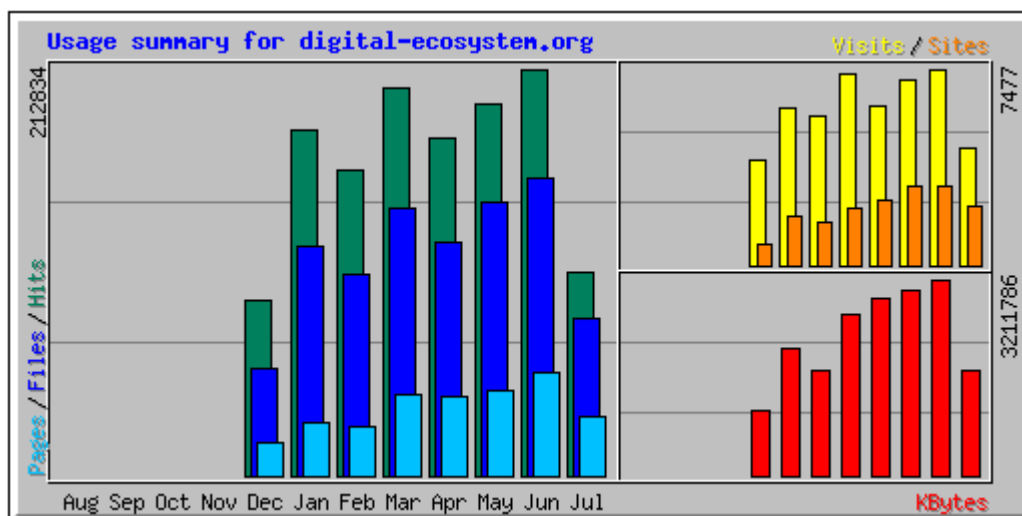


*Commission Project Officer Francesco Nachira opened the OPAALS project kick-off meeting at the end of June.*

## DBE website continues to grow in popularity

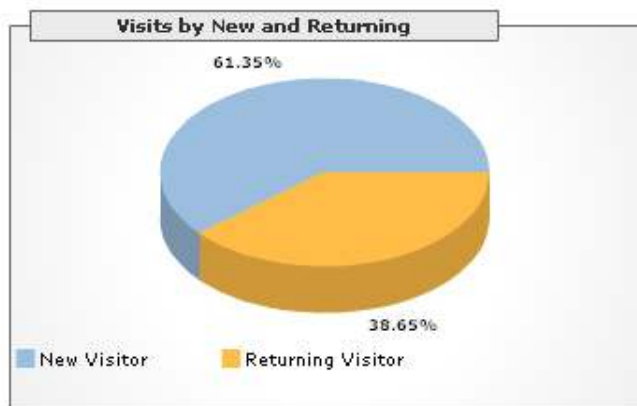
Since its launch on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2005, the new DBE website has seen a steady increase in usage reflecting the increasing profile of the DBE project itself as well as the growing interest in digital ecosystems. Hits to date on have reached 1,326,117.

The last full month, June 2006, saw site hits peak at 212,834, page hits at 54,100 and unique visits at 7,477.

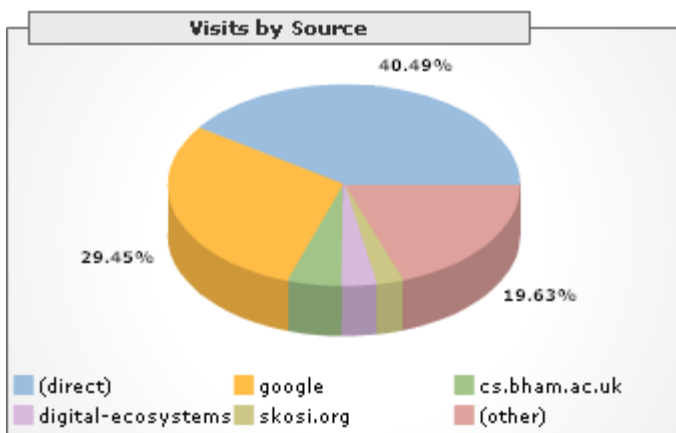


Source: Webalizer V2.01 Status: 20.07.2006

Google™ Analytics provides further insight into the profile of DBE website's visitors. The following are some of the key statistics provided by Google™ Analytics:



*61.35% of visitors to the DBE website are visiting for the first time versus 38.65% who are repeat visitors.*



*40.49% of visitors to the DBE website come directly to the site as opposed to 29.45% that access the site as a result of being referred by Google. A further 19.63% access the site from diverse other sources such as other websites or search engines. Notice also the approx 7% that originate from the digital-ecosystems site.*



*Not surprisingly the main concentration of usage is in Europe. Nevertheless, the site is also being accessed by users as far afield as Beijing, Sao Paolo, New Delhi, Auckland and Vancouver.*

The consistent increase of hits etc and broadening interest in the central web presence, is not only an indication of growing interest in the DBE and digital ecosystems but also basis on which to direct future strategy.

To these end, the website will be further honed to satisfy the informational and operational needs of the diverse geographical, business, political and technological user base and potential adopters.

<http://www.digital-ecosystem.org>

## **IEEE conference calls for Digital Ecosystem papers**

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the World's leading professional association for IT technology, is holding an international conference on 'Digital EcoSystems and Technologies' (DEST) in Australia from February 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. The key strategic direction of the conference is conveying DE vision and research results to enrich Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The conference is seeking papers and workshops, with an imminent deadline for workshop proposals of July 30<sup>th</sup> and papers of 15<sup>th</sup> September. Numerous DBE consortium partners have already displayed interest in submitting abstracts for papers and tutorials etc.

<http://www.ieee-dest.curtin.edu.au/>

## **Coming next: Public conference**

The public launch of the DBE will be via a major open conference in November. The next Bulletin in September will bring preparatory details of the event.

Please keep sending news as it happens to: [info@digital-ecosystem.org](mailto:info@digital-ecosystem.org)