

 OPAALS	OPAALS PROJECT Contract n° IST-034824
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WP9: Communication and dissemination

D9.12.3- Project media release

 Information Society Technologies	Project funded by the European Community under the "Information Society Technology" Programme
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Contract Number: IST-034824

Project Acronym: OPAALS

Deliverable N°: D9.12.3

Due date: April 2010

Delivery Date: April 2010

Short Description: Media release

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Partners contributed: LSE

Made available to: All

Versioning

Version	Date	Name, organization
2.0	01/04/2010	Neil Rathbone, LSE

Quality check

Internal Reviewers:

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Dependences:

Achievements*	Press release written and distributed to media
Work Packages	N/A
Partners	All
Domains	N/A
Targets	Business media
Publications*	N/A
PhD Students*	N/A
Outstanding features*	N/A
Disciplinary domains of authors*	N/A

The information marked with an asterisk () is provided in order to address Recommendation n. 4 from the Year 2 review report*



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PRESS RELEASE

Embargo: xxxx

EU forges closer ICT ties with Brazil

The emerging economic powerhouses of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China) may 'leapfrog' current technologies and become early adopters of Digital Ecosystems, according to a recent EU-Brazil bilateral conference.

The event, which attracted an international line-up of speakers, featured both Brazilian and Indian case studies of how Digital Ecosystems are underpinning economic development projects. Delegates also heard speakers from the US, Canada, Europe, and Australia describe their views on the future of ICT from the perspective of users, economists, and sociologists, as well as technologists.

The event consisted of two sessions, the first two days were devoted to a Digital Ecosystems project that is led by London School of Economics, and entitled 'Open Philosophies of Associative Autopoietic Digital Ecosystems' [see www.opaals.eu]. This is nearing the end of a 4-year task to build an international multi-disciplinary network of excellence in Digital Ecosystems research.

The second two-day session was a broader EU-Brazil bilateral workshop on 'ICT for socio-economic development'. According to conference organiser Saulo Barretto of IPTI (Instituto de Pesquisas em Tecnologia e Inovação) Brazil has a keen interest at government level in adopting forms of ICT that will help it exploit its rich artistic and cultural heritage, and so the region of Sergipe in NE Brazil sponsored the event in the small resort city of Aracaju in order to bring itself closer to the leading edge of global ICT.

Professor Jayanta Chatterjee of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur says, "We have been using Digital Ecosystem concepts for some time in our DEAL project [see www.dealindia.org]. The distributed nature and adaptability of such systems enables us to overcome current shortfalls in ICT infrastructure, while developing new models of interaction with farmers. We are using this to study social innovation and knowledge in socio-technical systems.

The next stage of the OPAALS Digital Ecosystem project, planned for June, is to make an experiment with a demonstrator system involving Spanish SMEs. This will be open to journalists and observers to understand how Digital Ecosystems work, and explore the possibilities for new ways of delivering services, particularly from small businesses.

The Brazilian Digital Ecosystems conference proceedings are being published by Springer, while an online video of the socio-economic workshop can be downloaded from [LINKS]

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. OPAALS is a research Network of Excellence funded under the European Union's 6th Framework Programme for Research and Development. OPAALS's main aims are to develop an integrated theoretical foundation for digital ecosystems research, the technology of Digital Ecosystems and a sustainable and open community of research. As an open, global network, OPAALS is characterised by a radically interdisciplinary research agenda combined with the emergence of a new paradigm that requires the development of new ways of working across discipline boundaries, in particular between social science, computer science and natural science. www.opaals.org

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