Cross-border Cooperation and Innovation for Life Quality

Slovenia Living Lab Initiative

Member of European Network of Living Labs
Dear readers,

Bringing the vision of harmonious regional development into life it is essential in promoting a knowledge based economy, especially by research, technological development and innovations. I am pleased that innovative ideas such as the living labs projects emerge within the field of economy as well as at the level of universities. These ideas enable the interconnected and open regions to build an innovative, overall developed and successful Slovenia.

Decentralisation, subsidiarity and partnership for development are economic and not only political categories. Due to its diversity it is essential for Slovenia to make use of all living and working spaces. Development laws of the post-industrial information society do not cause great transaction costs; they enable polycentric development which due to the relative small size of Slovenia, relatively good transport connections and better and better accessibility open opportunities to new development trends.

It is our wish to achieve greater national-economic benefits and a more efficient and democratic management at all levels, citizens and the quality of their lives being at the foreground. All Slovenian regions and types of environment are in need of dynamic economic development, while the pressure on the lesser developed Slovenian regions has grown even stronger since the accession of Slovenia to the European Union.

I am convinced that the innovative projects such as the living lab support the realisation of the objectives of the Slovenian Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy and the successful use of the EU Cohesion Policy funds. The results show that our work thus far has been successful; we strive for the common objective – to ensure transparency,
user-friendly system of implementing development policy with the help of the European Union funds. Indeed, it is the latter which will enable Slovenia to fully use its development potentials and opportunities in the public, private and nongovernmental sector as well as at the individual level. Above all, it is our ambition to achieve even better results.

With the Operational Programme for Strengthening Regional Development Potentials for the 2007-2013 period, developed regions and competitive knowledge-based economy we direct the funds into enhancing the competitiveness of the Slovenian economy in light of achieving the Lisbon Strategy objectives, promoting entrepreneurship, innovations and technological development. We finance the activities based on excellence (national industry policy) as well as on the bottom-up approach, namely on the basis of regional initiative and reduction of regional differences. One of the key objectives is the establishment of an innovative, dynamic and open Slovenia by making use of the natural and cultural potentials and by tourism development which opens new jobs in all parts of Slovenia.

In the future we will continue to strive for the realisation of our mission – promoting sustainable development in the widest sense; the development which activates the potentials of the Slovenian regions but does not reduce the sources and opportunities of development of the future generations. The contribution of the European structural funds and the Cohesion Fund will remain an important part of enhancing the competitiveness of the Slovenian regions and Slovenia as a whole. I believe that additional measures can even upgrade the results already achieved and the position of Slovenia among the EU Member States.

Ivan Žagar, PhD
Minister
Dear Reader,

European synergies in science, technology, the social sphere, economic initiatives and other fields of European cooperation together constitute a splendid example of positive achievements on the European continent. Not only policy analysis results but also basic facts and figures, available daily to all EU citizens, show a remarkable degree of cooperation among countries, regions, enterprises and all sorts of groups, working on harmonised programmes for the common benefit of our united Europe. The Member States of the European Union have an important advantage in such processes owing to an institutional framework that enables faster and non-discriminatory progress, and with material resources an enriched environment for cooperation. On numerous occasions during its years of existence, the European Union has shown enormous potential for solidarity and has also created mechanisms for cooperation with non-EU countries, regions and their people, agencies, enterprises, organisations and other institutions, demonstrating that we have to think globally and act wherever we are invited to promote humanism and cooperation.

Cooperation and complementarities would evolve much more slowly, and perhaps in some cases be impossible, if EU activities were not supported by information and communication technologies, enabling instantaneous communication among the Member States, on the entire continent and worldwide. European contemporary thinking is already integrating the achievements of modern technology as an important endogenous element,
which is creating widespread opportunities for further networking as the basis for further progress and new paths of development.

Regional cooperation and cross-border activities are the cornerstone of the modern European structure, where people of different nations, professions, orientations and beliefs cooperate as neighbours, and when they decide that their often similar problems must be solved, they recognise that such action demands the advantages of a joint approach. This is becoming integrated into the European heritage and thus creates unprecedented new qualities for Europe. This does not mean that European thinking is not deeply aware of global megatrends, the ageing of the population and scarce or limited resources. On the contrary, regional and cross-border cooperation provides a new stimulus and added value, sparking innovation to bring the quality of life of the population to a higher level.

Slovenia has become a Living Lab country, allied with other EU Member States in creating ENoLL – the European Network of Living Labs, as “...the new research, development and innovation concept for building future EU economies founded on user-focused development of new ICT-based services, products and social infrastructure...” (page 4) where all European citizens finally have the possibility and right to create their future, regardless of age, gender, economic and social status, religious or political beliefs. A united Europe, with numerous connections among people and institutions, is the right answer to bridge deep historical divides on our continent. This booklet, dear reader, is one of Slovenia’s contributions to these challenges.

Mojca Kucler Dolinar
Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology
Republic of Slovenia
The “Innovation for Life Quality - Slovenia Living Lab” Initiative

Living Lab is a new R&D and innovation concept for building future EU economies based on the user-focused development of new ICT-based services, products and societal infrastructure. The European Network of Living Labs – ENoLL was set up in 2006 to support 51 living labs in 16 EU countries (http://www.openlivinglabs.eu), among them three from Slovenia:

- eLivingLab (http://eLivingLab.org) 
  Faculty of Organizational Sciences, University of Maribor,

- Slovenian Automotive Living Lab (http://www.acs-giz.si/ang/home.asp) 
  Automotive Cluster of Slovenia,


Slovenia has a small open economy, increasingly exposed to international competition. For small countries managing technological and social development has become very complex and requires a co-ordinated approach to the development of innovation and technological potential by the end-users, SME’s, corporations, the public sector and academia. For that reason, a group of business, government and academic representatives has proposed the »Innovation for Quality of Life – Slovenia Living Lab” county-wide initiative in July 2007 (http://SloveniaLivingLab.org).

A few research & development pilot projects of the highest relevance should be carried out delivering holistic ICT based solutions in the fields such as:

eHealth, eInclusion, Disaster eResponse, eInvoicing and eProcurement, Intelligent Traffic Solutions, etc.
These high added-value solutions shall bring synergy for additional and new business opportunities and life quality improvement in general. One of the most important objectives of the initiative is cross-border co-operation that will enable implementation of holistic solutions in the regions involved, helping citizens and organisations to become the most successful users of ICT solutions and services.

“Innovation for Life Quality - Slovenia Living Lab” is an open initiative for experimenting and testing ICT services and solutions in the Central European eRegion as well as in other regions. Organisations and individuals interested are welcome to contact members of the Co-ordinating Committee:
It is estimated that by 2050, the number of people over 60 in Europe will have doubled to 40% of the total population or 60% of the working age population. Awareness of the rising proportion of elderly people associated with the projected costs of pensions and health care is gaining momentum. We are all aware that we have to answer the question of the economic sustainability of health and social systems.

At the same time we have to provide elderly people with possibilities to live their life exuberantly, acknowledging at the same time the individuality of each and every member of the population. The environment and services provided must address individual needs, preferences, social and cultural circumstances and be person focused.

We propose an initiative consisting of a set of projects that will co-create the foundation for the kind of society that can answer those questions. We have named the initiative IXSE – (I-xuberant Society for the Elderly).

The projects of the IXSE initiative will shape the ground for society in the future. Therefore, society needs to get involved right from the start. Living Lab represents the ideal organizational concept where end-users are actively included in the projects, and project results are validated throughout the project itself. Therefore in the IXSE we propose to have end-users (elderly people, community service providers and municipalities) involved in the initiative.

The IXSE projects will have two major deliverables – the technology part of the projects will result in an IT system assuring integration of all aspects of active living. The second deliverable of the projects will be the individual aspects of the community with elderly people being active members. Those artifacts will have to span preferences...
of end-users from the viewpoint of cultures, professions and geographical locations.

The technology perspective of the project is based on a simple precondition – the IXSE projects will have to be realized with no added technical complexity for the end-user integrating a larger number of already existing technologies and niche solutions into a full features IXSE system.

In the IXSE projects we will address the issue of providing the best possible living experience for elderly society at a sustainable cost. We assert that information technology applied in the correct context and under appropriate environmental circumstances can provide the needed and required progress – both for society and to individuals.

**IXSE-health:** Most health promotions and public health campaigns tend to focus on the changing behaviours in younger people. Yet, there is a need to ensure that the right public health messages are being given to all generations. Prevention may help reduce the burden of some of the most common diseases of later life in terms of quality of life and health resource use. The project will provide a full set of features to society based on an integrated information technology platform. The goal of the project is to develop the infrastructure for tracking all health related activities and integrate it with a regular electronic health record allowing a full set of preventive analyses to be executed. Special focus will be on the convalescence phase allowing patients to return to normal life patterns faster.

**IXSE-inclusion:** The project will try to create the environment where the elderly community with vast experience and knowledge can become a significant asset to the community – operating professionally, joining lifelong learning initiatives (e.g. using collaboration facilities they can actively take part in or even lead trainings to acquire skills) or form social networks across the entire society.

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The goal of IXSE is to improve the quality of life in society by integrating all phases of elderly life (active living, preventive actions, medical treatment, convalescence)

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Tomaž Domajnko, PhD, Director
Infonet, SRC Group, http://www.infonet.si

Jana Babnik-Gomišček, PhD
Advisor to the Board & Director of Representative Office Brussels SRC Group http://www.src.si
Innovative experimenting in the Cross-border eInvoicing: eRegion Central Europe

The eInvoicing is a major component of the eProcurement, an upcoming effort of the EU member states (Status report from the Expert Group on e-Invoicing, June 12, 2008, http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/einvoicing/einvoicing_status_report_final.pdf). We, in the countries of the emerging eRegion Central Europe, can help making the eInvoicing and the eProcurement a reality sooner and more effectively by working together to the benefits of our organizations and countries. This is an invitation to the “Innovative experimenting in the Cross-border eInvoicing” (http://eLivingLab.org/Invoicing/Experimenting.htm).

Since 2004, there were several cross-border eInvoicing activities and events in Slovenia (http://eLivingLab.org/Invoicing/Events&Activities) organized in collaboration with the neighboring countries Austria and Italy in cooperation with Finland and eBSN - European e-Business Support Network for SMEs, European Commission, Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General, (http://EC.Europa.eu/enterprise/e-bsn).

Based on knowledge gained and lessons learned in the previous years, it seems appropriate not only to continue with the practical cross-border eInvoicing experimenting, but also to accelerate it in an open innovation environment provided by the Living Labs in a frame of European Network of Living Labs – ENoLL (http://www.OpenLivingLabs.eu).

Organizations are kindly invited to engage in the cross-border eInvoicing experimenting in a very practical, however broadly focused and courageously planed activities. The individuals interested are welcome to contact the group coordinators, or any of the group members. The group is open and is expected to grow. The initiating members are in the countries of the emerging eRegion Central Europe. They are looking forward to engaging in the cross-border eInvoicing experimenting
with the countries in other eRegions too: Baltic, Mediterranean, Nordic, South East Europe.

There are several meeting opportunities to discuss the cross-border eInvoicing issues. For example:

The 5th Workshop on the Living Labs in the Innovative Cross-border eRegion
http://eCenter.FOV.Uni-Mb.si/eLivingLabWorkshop
Thursday, November 13, 2008
Host: Faculty of Organizational Sciences, University of Maribor (in Kranj).

The Merkur Day 2008, 10th Undergraduate and Graduate Students eConference and the 16th Business & Government & Diplomacy Executive Meeting on the Innovative Cross-border eRegion
http://eCenter.FOV.Uni-Mb.si/MerkurDay
Friday, November 14, 2008
Host: Merkur Ltd., Trade and Services, Naklo

The 22nd Bled eConference eEnablement: Facilitating an Open Effective and Representative eSociety
Sunday-Wednesday, June 14-17, 2009, Hotel Golf Bled, Slovenia
http://BledConference.org/Next-Conferences

Group Coordinators

Jože Gričar, PhD
Professor & eCenter Director
Faculty of Organizational Sciences, University of Maribor, Slovenia
http://eCenter.FOV.Uni-Mb.si/Gricar
Gricar@FOV.Uni-Mb.si

Christian Kittl, PhD
Head, International Programs
evolaris Research Lab, Graz, Austria
& Teaching Assistant, Karl-Franzens University Graz
http://www.evolaris.net
Christian.Kittl@evolaris.net

Website Administrator

Ms. Maruša Babnik, Researcher
eCenter, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, University of Maribor, Slovenia
http://eCenter.FOV.Uni-Mb.si/Babnik
Marusa.Babnik@FOV.Uni-Mb.si
The increase in the frequency of disasters and their associated damage caused in different regions is part of a worldwide trend. While global risks seem to be increasing, the overall level of preparedness to adequately address these risks in a regional context stays low.

A proactive stance to reduce the toll of disasters in the region requires a more comprehensive approach that encompasses both pre-disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery. It is framed by new policies and institutional arrangements that support effective action involving activities such as:

- risk analysis to identify the kinds of risks faced regionally
- prevention and mitigation to address the sources of vulnerability
- emergency preparedness and response to enhance a region’s readiness to react quickly and effectively
- post-disaster reconstruction to support effective recovery

In the drB initiative we want to address information space in disaster management. We propose an initiative consisting of a set of projects that will together create an environment that can spread into a community improving the community’s ability to prepare itself for disaster events and react effectively. As it can be seen from the diagram there are four main elements that we would like to address specifically in the disaster management information space and the data acquisition component that spans the entire context. This will form an information platform where additional new services can be provided effectively.

The initiative is defined with the inclusion of potential end users in mind. As it deals with some of the aspects of functioning community we
see the community playing a major role throughout the projects that will be ran in the context of the initiative. The initiative will be successful if stakeholders as specialized organizations, municipalities and citizens itself will play an active role.

**drB-Risk** is a project creating regionally deployed risk identification and analysis processes. It will focus on relating data and already established organizations and process within the regional scope.

**drB-Train** is a project focused toward creating an distribution channel for acquiring needed interest at citizens. It will create a mix of communication channels (TV, Internet, fixed & mobile phones, Sms, radio…) suited for each region for each disaster risk profile and prevention or mitigation scenario selected.

**drB-Onto** is a project that will address the issue of the standardization of data collection processes including applied technology and data storing formats, to facilitate the communication between services on a more consistent basis, at the same time improving the consistency of the interpretation of data. In addition, an effective and predictive decision support is missing. Decision making algorithms determine what kind of data is required, and they deal with different instruments, different sensors and different data representations. Thus, the coordination of services includes heterogeneity problems and hence it can be handled with the help of ontology matching. These monitoring requirements are currently separated, and as such, they result in being mostly used in only one decision making process, thus these solutions are required to support a more conscious interpretation and management of disaster situations.

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Mr. Janko Cajhen, Business Development Manager
Microsoft Central & Eastern Europe Region
http://microsoft.com/slovenija

Mr. Ivan Pilati, Innovation Manager
Informatica Trentina S.p.A., Italy & Trentino Living Lab
http://taslab.eu

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Tomaž Domajnko, PhD, Director
Infonet, SRC Group,
http://www.infonet.si & Chairman, Slovenian Technology Platform for Software and Services,
Slovenian Automotive Living Lab

Slovenian Automotive Living Lab is the central R&D and communication point between manufacturers, suppliers, research organisations and the government with innovative infrastructure support for Slovenian automotive industry. It has 54 members, from those 47 industrial companies and 7 R&D institutions (of which 5 faculties). Like the future of the automobile, which is based on the separate development of each part including our parts, the progress of the Slovenian Automotive Living Lab also depends on continual development and co-operation among the members.

Even though the convergence of technologies introduced the development of multiple forms of cooperation and integration (irrespective of distances, geographical position, etc.) which became mobile, personalised and virtual, the development of knowledge and values in local networking competence systems still remains the first priority. It is with this fact in mind that the Slovenian Automotive Living Lab is determined to provide an environment that is going to be a catalyst and a driving-force of joint R&D processes in all of the members as well as in all other interested companies, institutions and other Living Labs. This will result in new important technologies, functions and products.

Supported by our rich experience we pursue a clear vision. In line with our guidelines we seek and accept new challenges and an active role in building the future of the automo-

Safety
Mobility
Comfort
tive business. Slovenian Automotive Living Lab is entering the phase of growth, the characteristics of which are even more intense cooperation between the members, the increase of number of members and in this way the increase of the potential knowledge and competence base. Network connection on the knowledge and competence level can be understood as a new dimension of forming the Slovenian Automotive Living Lab.
I. Open: 18 July 2008 – until the funds are available

II. Available ERDF funds within the call for proposals: EUR 31,542,394

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Community contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competitiveness, knowledge and economic cooperation</td>
<td>€ 14.146,965,50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable and balanced development</td>
<td>€ 17.395,428,50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>€ 31.542,394,00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projects eligible for participation in the programme have to apply for at least 30,000 Euro of ERDF funds and as recommendation should not apply for more than 3 million Euro ERDF funds.

III. Beneficiaries: private and public business support institutions; enterprises, clusters and networks; national, local and regional authorities; research institutions; technology and business-oriented universities and secondary schools; tourism institutions, associations and agencies, local and regional development agencies; education and training institutions and organisations; institutions and organisations representing economic and social interests of employees, employers, cities and/or municipalities; institutions and organisations in the field of nature protection and conservation, environment and risk prevention, emergency management, spatial planning, public transport; institutions and organisations in the field of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; institutions and organisations in the field of culture, health, medicine, education and training, rural development, tourism, social affairs, labour market; associations and NGOs in the field of nature protection, environment, culture, education, social affairs, rural development, tourism, sports and leisure.
I. Open: 27 June 2008 – 30 October 2008 by 4 PM

II. Available ERDF funds within the call for proposals: EUR 14,000,000, breakdown of funds by priorities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Community contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase of attractiveness of cooperation area</td>
<td>€ 7,197,806,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable development</td>
<td>€ 6,802,194,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>€ 14,000,000,00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Only eligible expenditure will be co-financed, whereby Community co-financing from the ERDF can amount to max. 85% of public funding. At least 15% is to be ensured by other national/regional/local/public sources, whereby each partner is to ensure at least 5% of their own co-financing.

III. Beneficiaries: non-profit legal entities established in accordance with public and private law that act in the public and general interest (regional and local public authorities; entities in public law established by the state or a municipality; NGOs; chambers of commerce, agriculture, craft and industry, non-profit clusters; legal entities in private law demonstrating a non-profit status and purpose of operating; public institutions for economic development, public enterprises and other legal entities subject to management supervision of the state and a municipality); the beneficiaries are to have their seat in the eligible area in Slovenia or Hungary; they are to demonstrate legal and financial capacity to participate in the programme.
I. Open: 20 June 2008 – 20 October 2008 by 3.30 PM

II. Available IPA funds within the call for proposals: EUR 14,152,158.00, breakdown of funds by priorities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Community contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic and social development</td>
<td>€ 7,862,310.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable management of natural resources</td>
<td>€ 6,289,848.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>€ 14,152,158.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Beneficiaries: non-profit legal entities established in accordance with public and private law that act in the public and general interest and fall under one of these categories: regional and local public authorities; entities in public law: funds, institutes, agencies established by the state or a municipality or any other entity in public law, R&D institutions, education and training institutions, healthcare institutions, natural and cultural heritage protection institutions, local and regional development agencies etc.; NGOs: associations, foundations; chambers of commerce, agriculture, craft and industry, clusters registered as non-profit legal entities; legal entities in private law demonstrating a non-profit status and purpose of operating: societies, local and regional development agencies registered as enterprises, local tourism organisations, training organisations, private institutes etc. Furthermore, the beneficiaries are to come from Slovenia or Croatia - their seat is to be in the eligible area except in exceptional justified cases; they are to demonstrate legal and financial capacity to participate in the programme.

OP Slovenia-Italy 2007-2013

The call for proposals will probably be launched at the end of September, the foreseen amount available standing at EUR 40 million. Other required elements will be set out in the call for proposals.
Our mission is to coordinate the development of a European Network of Living Labs. Together the partners will join forces as a network, to develop and offer a gradually growing set of networked services to support the »Innovation Lifecycle« for all actors in the system: end-users, SME’s, corporations, public sector and academia. It all starts by involving people in the streets and the users and user communities as contributors and co-creators of new innovations.

The 3rd wave call was an activity of the CO-LLABS EU Coordination Action and the Living Labs Portfolio Leadership Group, under the auspices of the Slovenian EU Presidency.

This call was for the ENoLL 3rd wave membership applications. ENoLL offers remarkable benefits to its members: e.g. incubation of joint projects, user-centric methodologies and tools inventory, building a joint European Living Labs brand, open experience base for validation of methods, evaluating cases etc. ENoLL members may apply for financing from EU, regional and national sources.
The call for joining the European Network of Living Labs was open from 8.4.2008 and an application was possible during 30.6. – 30.9. 2008.

Proceedings of the Slovenia Living Lab event on 7th and 8th April 2008 are available from http://AMI-Communities.eu/wiki/Library#2008-04-08_Slovenian_Living_Labs_Event_Brussels_Belgium

More about the call
http://www.livinglabs-eu.eu/Text_More_about_the_call.doc

Contact persons

Alvaro Oliveira
alvaro.oliveira@alfamicro.pt

Jože Gričar
gricar@fov.uni-mb.si

Kari Mikkelä
kari.mikkela@hse.fi

Veli-Pekka Niitamo
veli-peka.niitamo@nokia.com

Olivier Rerolle
olivier.rerolle@cetim.org

Roberto Santoro
rsantoro@esoce.net
New members of European Network of Living Labs – ENoLL will be announced during the

Europe’s biggest research event for information and communication technologies

ICT 2008:
“IT’s TO THE FUTURE invention - innovation - impact
Lyon, France, 25 - 27 November 2008

The biennial ICT Event (formerly called the “IST Event”) is the most important forum for discussing research and public policy in information and communication technologies at European level. The Event brings together researchers and innovators, policy and business decision-makers working in the field of digital technologies.

The ICT Event is organised by the European Commission’s Directorate General for the Information Society and Media and hosted by the current Presidency of the European Union.