VOIce-based Community-cEntric mobile Services for social development

Fact Sheet

Project Information

VOICES

Grant agreement ID: 269954

Closed project

Funded under
FP7-ICT

Overall budget
€ 2 955 895

EU contribution
€ 2 046 000

GEIE ERCIM
France

Project description

International Cooperation

There is widespread agreement that ICT services have the potential to play a major role in furthering social development in developing economies such as those in Africa. However, while there is a great deal of potential and opportunity, the amount and scope of actual mobile ICT services currently in existence in African countries is very limited.

The Mobile Web for Social Development Roadmap, recently published as a result of the FP7 Digital World Forum project, makes it clear that realizing the potential of mobile ICT services requires addressing two major types of challenges:1. The
leveraging of content that is locally relevant; and2. The removal of a range of access barriers, notably limitations related to access channels, literacy, and languages. VOICES intends to take a major step forward in realizing the potential of mobile ICT services particularly in the African context and resolve key challenges outlined in the Mobile Web for Social Development Roadmap. To this end, the objectives of VOICES are to deliver:• Open and wider access: VOICES will improve voice-based access to content and mobile ICT services by building a toolbox for the development of voice services. • Integration of Local Community Radios and ICT. • Better support of languages: It will deliver tool support and methodology for under researched and under resourced African languages. • Long-term sustainability: To ensure the local adoption and exploitation of the VOICES tools and methods beyond the project, it will provide a sustainable architecture. • Faster uptake: VOICES will furthermore enhance uptake by delivering a mobile training lab that offers capacity building for local partners.

VOICES will demonstrate the fitness of its results for adaptation to the African context by extensive local pilots and associated community building, namely through the focus on health services in Senegal, and agricultural and regreening knowledge sharing in the Sahel countries.

Fields of science

- engineering and technology
- civil engineering
- architecture engineering
- sustainable architecture
- natural sciences
- computer and information sciences
- internet
- world wide web

Programme(s)

FP7-ICT - Specific Programme "Cooperation": Information and communication technologies

Topic(s)

ICT-2009.9.1 - International Cooperation

Call for proposal

FP7-ICT-2009-6
See other projects for this call

Funding Scheme

CP - Collaborative project (generic)
Coordinator

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EU contribution
€ 159 969

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