VOIce-based Community-cEntric mobile Services for social development

Fact Sheet

Project information

**VOICES**

Grant agreement ID: 269954
Status
Closed project

Funded under:
FP7-ICT
Overall budget:
€ 2 955 895

EU contribution
€ 2 046 000

Coordinated by:
GEIE ERCIM
France

Project description

International Cooperation

Objective

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; and 2. 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.

Field of Science
/social sciences/other social sciences/social sciences interdisciplinary/sustainable development
/engineering and technology/civil engineering/architecture engineering/sustainable architecture
/humanities/languages and literature/languages - general
/social sciences/economics and business/economics/sustainable economy
/social sciences/sociology/governance/public services

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
### GEIE ERCIM

**Address**
Route Des Lucioles 2004  
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**Activity type**
Other

**EU Contribution**
€ 159,969

### WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION

**Address**
Route De Chene 30  
1208 Geneve

**Activity type**
Other

**EU Contribution**
€ 273,884

### FONDATION MERIEUX

**Address**
Rue Bourgelat 17  
69227 Lyon

**Activity type**
Research Organisations

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### Participants (12)

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### Administrative Contact

**Jessica Michel** (Mrs.)

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**Administrative Contact**

**Stephane Boyera** (Mr.)

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**Administrative Contact**

**Christophe LONGUET** (Dr.)
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<td>Administrative Contact</td>
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<td>Elly van den Akker-Blaazer (Ms.)</td>
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<td>Yvonne Kops (Dr.)</td>
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<td>ALTICE LABS SA</td>
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<td>€ 108 341</td>
<td>Rua Jose Ferreira Pinto Basto, 3810 106 Aveiro</td>
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<td>ECOLE SUPERIEURE MULTINATIONALE DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS</td>
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<td>COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>€ 129 615</td>
<td>Meiring Naude Road, Brummeria 46, 0001 Pretoria</td>
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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Ria van Schalkwyk (Ms.)

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