VOIce-based Community-cEntric mobile Services for social development

Fact Sheet

Project Information

**VOICES**

Grant agreement ID: 269954

Closed project

Start date 1 January 2011  
End date 30 June 2013

**Funded under**

FP7-ICT

**Overall budget**

€ 2 955 895

**EU contribution**

€ 2 046 000

**Coordinated by**

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; 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.

**Fields of science**

| > | > | > |
| > | > | > |

**Programme(s)**

**Topic(s)**

**Call for proposal**

FP7-ICT-2009-6

**Funding Scheme**

CP - Collaborative project (generic)

**Coordinator**

GEIE ERCIM
Participants (12)

WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION
Switzerland
€ 273 884
Address
Route De Chene 30
1208 Geneve
Activity type
Other
Contact the organisation
Administrative Contact
Stephane Boyera (Mr.)

FONDATION MERIEUX
France
€ 66 000
Address
Rue Bourgelat 17
69227 Lyon
Activity type
Research Organisations
Contact the organisation
Administrative Contact
Christophe LONGUET (Dr.)

ORANGE SA
France
€ 291 940
Address
Activity type
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Activity type</th>
<th>EU contribution</th>
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| CENTRO DI RICERCA, SVILUPPO E STUDI SUPERIORI IN SARDEGNA SOCIETÀ A RESPONSABILITÀ LIMITATA | Localita Piscina Manna Edificio 1
09050 Pula Cagliari | Research Organisations | € 193 903 |
| SAHEL ECO | Rue 96 Porte 737 Point D Appui
not applicable Bamako | Other | € 69 600 |
<p>| NEDERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST NATUURWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK TNO | | | € 294 975 |</p>
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<td>Administrative Contact</td>
<td>Yvonne Kops (Dr.)</td>
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<td>Rua Jose Ferreira Pinto Basto 3810 106 Aveiro</td>
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ECOLE SUPERIEURE MULTINATIONALE DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Senegal
EU contribution
€ 72 000

Address
Zone Du Cerf Volant Rocade
Fann Bel Air
01 Dakar

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

South Africa
EU contribution
€ 129 615

Address
Meiring Naude Road,
Brummeria 46
0001 Pretoria

Website
Contact the organisation

Activity type
Research Organisations

NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

South Africa
EU contribution
€ 106 035

Address
Hoffman Street 11
2531 Potchefstroom

Website
Contact the organisation

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments