VOIce-based Community-cEntric mobile Services for social development

Fact Sheet

Project Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOICES</th>
<th>Funded under</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant agreement ID: 269954</td>
<td>FP7-ICT</td>
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<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Overall budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Closed project</td>
<td>€ 2 955 895</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>End date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 January 2011</td>
<td>30 June 2013</td>
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<tr>
<th>Coordinated by</th>
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<tr>
<td>GEIE ERCIM</td>
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<td>France</td>
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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.

Field of science
/social sciences/other social sciences/social sciences interdisciplinary/sustainable development
/engineering and technology/civil engineering/architecture engineering/sustainable architecture

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
EU contribution
€ 273 884

Address
Route De Chene 30
1208 Geneve

Activity type
Other

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Stephane Boyera (Mr.)

**FONDATION MERIEUX**
France
EU contribution
€ 66 000

Address
Rue Bourgelat 17
69227 Lyon

Activity type
Research Organisations

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Christophe LONGUET (Dr.)

**ORANGE SA**
France
EU contribution
€ 291 940

Address
Activity type
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<th>Organisation</th>
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<td>Localita Piscina Manna Edificio 1 09050 Pula Cagliari</td>
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<td>SAHEL ECO</td>
<td>Rue 96 Porte 737 Point D Appui not applicable Bamako</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

Activity type
Research Organisations

NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

South Africa
EU contribution
€ 106 035

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2531 Potchefstroom

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Administrative Contact
José Picado (Dr.)

Administrative Contact
Tahirou OUATTARA (Mr.)

Administrative Contact
Adele Botha (Ms.)

Administrative Contact
Ria van Schalkwyk (Ms.)