

# Third Concertation Meeting of the “Technologies for Digital Ecosystems” (DE) Cluster 21-22 May 07 Brussels (BU33 0/54)

**Gérald SANTUCCI**

Head of Unit

INFSO/D-4 “Networked Enterprise & RFID”

# The European Roots of the Digital Business Ecosystem Concept

- 2002: concept invented in DG INFSO in conjunction with the scientific community
- 2004: 'Technologies for digital business ecosystems' becomes a *cluster* and a *sector*
- 2003-2006: DBE as the 'lighthouse project' of the cluster
  - Involvement of regional development actors

# Tangible Achievements in Europe

- A strong cluster
  - 14 projects; 37 M€
- Good research results of individual projects
  - DE infrastructure (DBE)
  - Vertical applications
  - Joint results or their re-use
  - A strategic research roadmap
  - The foundation of a new interdisciplinary science
  - Uptake from regions
- Future prospects
  - Long-term ICT research in FP7
  - Further large-scale trials in ICT PSP (CIP)
  - Collaboration with DG REGIO

3rd Concertation Meeting of the Technologies for Digital Ecosystems (DE)  
cluster of FP6 projects, Brussels, 21-22 May 2007 slide 3

# International Success

- South America
  - e.g. Brazil
- Asia
  - e.g. India
- Africa
  - e.g. Rwanda
- Australia
  - 1st IEEE/IES Conference on Digital Ecosystems and Technologies, 20-23 February 2007 ([www.ieee-dest.curtin.edu.au/](http://www.ieee-dest.curtin.edu.au/)); 70 papers, 150+ attendees
- World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)
  - 15-19 November 2005 in Tunis
  - DBE presented at the ICT4all exhibition at EU booth
  - Interest raised in Mercosur countries & South-East Asia

3rd Concertation Meeting of the Technologies for Digital Ecosystems (DE)  
cluster of FP6 projects, Brussels, 21-22 May 2007 slide 4

# The Regional Dimension


- A powerful solution in fostering effective adoption of ICT by SMEs
- Forming an ecosystem requires participation of companies (both software providers and software users) as well as public sector entities
  - the development of an ecosystem requires 'catalysing' (a business approach for catalysing software and business activities & a regional approach for catalysing the SMEs)
- 'Regional catalysts', i.e. regional organisations that accelerate regional economic growth and business development
- A platform for enabling local SMEs to compete and collaborate in global markets

# Future Prospects in FP7

- Demonstrating FP6 achievements
- Strengthening the rationale for future collaborative R&D
  - Towards WP 2009-2010
  - Focusing on ICT research in Challenge 1, not socio-economic research (CIP)
- Conference planned in November 2007 in Brussels

# Key Trends Support DE

- “Merging with our technology is the next stage in our evolution” (R. Kurzweil)
  - Law of Accelerating Returns: the power of technology is expanding at an exponential rate
- ‘Hyperdemocracy’ will create a new global ‘commons’ supporting ‘collective intelligence’ (J. Attali)
  - ‘Collective intelligence’ derives from the bridges/links between individual intelligences necessary to innovate
- The distributed DE infrastructure is seen as a new form of digital ‘commons’, which is not controlled centrally but is at the service of a collective interest
- Intellectual property will no longer be absolute but shared with the whole mankind
  - Microsoft: FOSS infringes 235 patents, wants royalties
  - “Free world” believe software is pure knowledge
  - Commercial confrontation is going up
    - MS has begun licensing its patents to other companies in exchange for royalties or access to their patents
    - Having identified the infringements (Linux kernel, Linux GUIs, Open Office suite of programs, E-mail programs...), MS could try to seek royalties, but from whom? (FOSS is a loose-knit large community)

- 
- Thanks to PEARDROP for its valuable efforts to promote the results of DE at regional level!