WORKSHOP

OPEN STANDARDS FOR ICT PROCUREMENT: SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES

Brussels – 3 December 2014

BACKGROUND

The Scenario

Standards-based ICT procurement has been an evolving European Commission (EC) policy area. In particular, as of 2010, it has been prioritized as a way to **contribute to cost-savings in the public sector**. Under the Digital Agenda - Europe's strategy for a flourishing digital economy by 2020 aiming to maximise the benefits of information and communications technology (ICT) for all - **Action 23** commits to providing guidance on the **link between ICT Standardisation and Public Procurement** in order to help authorities use standards to promote **efficiency and reduce lock-in**.

More generally, under Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement, the technical specifications that shall be set out in the contract documentation, such as contract notices, contract documents or additional documents, must assure **equal access of economic operators to the procurement procedure** and **shall not have the effect of creating unjustified obstacles to the opening up of public procurement to competition**.

In this context the European Commission adopted on the 25th of June 2013 the Communication COM (2013) 455 "**Against lock-in: building open ICT systems by making better use of standards in public procurement"**, together with an accompanying working document "*Guide for the procurement of standards-based ICT — Elements of Good Practice"*.

As a matter of fact, effects of using ICT open standards are related to:

- **Higher savings when procuring ICT**
- **An increased level of competition among suppliers**
- **Being compliant with EU Public Procurement directives**

Moreover, in the context of the **Sharing and Re-use Framework**, the European Commission also provides guidelines for public administrations wanting to purchase ICT *re-usable solutions* to cut costs and reduce price-related risks while increasing the overall interoperability and sustainability of their ICT solutions.

The Project

Following this Communication, the European Commission issued a series of recommendations as to how to reduce lock-in and is currently trying to raise awareness about the lock-in theme.

To this end, the EC will deploy different dissemination activities over a period of two years, and one of these is the project dedicated to "**Best Practices for ICT procurement based on standards in order to promote efficiency and reduce lock-in"**.

Dissemination activities carried out through this project aim to*:*

- Call on Member States and other European Institutions to use the Guide
- Facilitate the sharing of best practices
- Monitor and report on the outcomes of this process

At the end of this first year of activity many goals have been achieved. Among them it is worth mentioning:

- The creation of a web version of the above-mentioned Guide: http://www.openictprocurement.eu/;
- The creation of an online community to support those who intend to use open standards for the procurement of ICT products and services: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/open_standards_ict/description;
- The creation of an e-Library of virtuous and less virtuous open procurement practices and other different examples/initiatives related to the procurement of ICT goods and services by public bodies throughout Europe: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/open_standards_ict/og_page/best-practices-library
- The set-up of the Workshop "Public Entities reducing Lock-In: the way forward", which took place in Brussels on July 7th 2014 at DG CONNECT premises: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/open_standards_ict/event/public-entities-reducing-lock-way-forward

The Workshop

The first workshop "*Public Entities reducing Lock-In: the way forward*", focused primarily on the legal aspects related to the use of open standards for the procurement of ICT products and services, was a success. Many stakeholders interested in the topic (Policy Makers, Standards Setters, ICT Architects, Public Procurers, ICT Vendors, etc.) had the opportunity to meet and positively exchange with each other their opinions.

The second workshop "*Open Standards for ICT Procurement: Sharing of Best Practices*", which will take place in Brussels on December 3rd 2014, aims to promote the sharing of best practices concerning the procurement of ICT products and services among European public entities, at all levels.

The main goals of the December workshop are:

- Share some good practice examples about ICT procurement;
- Stimulate the debate around the next steps / new ideas for DAE Action 23;
- Present a first set of insights on the state of the art of ICT public procurement using standards through Europe.

In short, if you are involved somehow in ICT procurement and want to know how other organizations similar to yours are successfully dealing with ICT "lock-in", you are warmly invited to attend the "*Open Standards for ICT Procurement: Sharing of Best Practices*" workshop, taking place in Brussels - at DG CONNECT.

The Workshop will be a great opportunity to meet MSP members, procurement managers, policymakers and ICT suppliers to discuss how to effectively reduce lock-in by using Open Standards.

All best practice examples have been carefully selected to match the needs and wants of all potential participants. Have a look at the agenda! In addition, we planned various networking opportunities to allow you to share your opinion with a number of top-tier experts.

Participation is free and subject to availability. **You can register on-line at**:
http://www.pwc.com/it/OpenICTProcurement

Save the date!
December 3rd 2014
Avenue de Beaulieu 25
DG CONNECT

The Agenda

TIME	TITLE

| **REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND WELCOME COFFEE (09.30 – 10:00)** | |

| **10.00 – 10.15**   **INTRODUCTORY GREETINGS** | **Moderator: Giancarlo Senatore**
(PwC, Government Advisory, Partner) |

INTRODUCTORY GREETINGS (10:00 – 10:15)
A European Commission high-level representative will open the workshop briefly introducing the audience to the workshop's goals and structure. Furthermore, the latest developments/ activities carried out as part of the "Study on best practices for ICT procurement based on standards in order to promote efficiency and reduce lock-in" will be also presented.
Speaker: Viorel Peca, Head of Unit F2 "Innovation" - DG CONNECT

| **10.15 – 11.20**   **SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES** – Part A | **Moderator: Giancarlo Senatore**
(PwC, Government Advisory, Partner) |

PRACTICE 1: OPEN ICT ARCHITECTURES (EU - WIDE) (10:15 – 10:45)
FIWARE seeks to provide a truly open, public and royalty-free architecture and a set of open specifications that will allow developers, service providers, enterprises and other organizations to develop products that satisfy their needs while still being open and innovative.
Speaker: Nuria de Lama, Representative of Atos Research & Innovation to the EC

PRACTICE 2: STANDARD "SHARING AND RE-USING" CLAUSES FOR CONTRACTS (EU - WIDE) (10:45 – 11:10)
The document "*Standard Sharing and Re-using clauses for contracts*" proposes common standard clauses for contracts, which public administrations could use when procuring services related to: i) the development of new IT tools; ii) re-use of already available IT tools. This document is produced in the scope of ISA Action 4.2.5.. The aim of this ISA Action is to develop a holistic approach to sharing and reuse across border and sectors with a view to helping public administrations all over Europe to utilize again solutions related to public services delivery in an efficient and effective way.
Speaker: Patrice-Emmanuel Schmitz, Lawyer and Director for European studies at Unisys

PRACTICE 3: PROCUREMENT INNOVATION FOR CLOUD SERVICES IN EUROPE - PICSE (EU - WIDE) (11:10 – 11:20)
PICSE - Procurement Innovation for Cloud Services in Europe is an 18 month project - kicked off in October 2014 which aims to set up a European Procurers' Platform capable of raising the level of understanding of the issues surrounding procurement of cloud services. This will be done through a template that can be used for self-assessment and evaluation of its own procurement procedures and a support tool that can guide procurers via a series of multiple choice questions to identify stable options & highlight key aspects to be taken onto account during the procurement process.
Speaker: Silvana Muscella, CEO & Founder Trust-IT Services

| **COFFEE BREAK – NETWORKING – BRAINSTORMING (11.20 – 12.00)** | |

| **12.00 – 13.00**   **SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES** – Part B | **Moderator: Giancarlo Senatore**
(PwC, Government Advisory, Partner) |

PRACTICE 4: USE OF STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SECTOR ICT e-PROCUREMENT (ITALY) (12:00 – 12:30)
ARCA is the Regional Central Purchasing Agency of Lombardy, one of Italy's largest and most populated regions. ARCA plays three main roles: i) Regional Procurement Agency and Centralized contracting authority ;ii) Provider of eProcurement solutions for public entities; iii) Provider of procurement and change management consultancy for public entities. During this brief intervention, Mr. Inzerillo will show how their eProc platform is currently evolving in order to embed standards useful for procuring ICT goods and services. In addition, he will also focus on the future evolution of their portal in order to comply with the latest Directive on public procurement 24/2014.
Speaker: Massimiliano Inzerillo, Head of the e-Procurement Services for ARCA Lombardia

PRACTICE 5: A PUBLIC SERVICE DESIGNED AROUND OPEN STANDARDS (LITHUANIA) (12:30 – 13:00)
SIRIP is the Lithuanian interoperability platform that offers an easy way for public authorities to design, deliver and manage e-services. SIRIP is based on separate components that serve specific purposes. The communication between these components is implemented using open standard. Whenever possible, web-services are preferred to other means of interoperability, enabling each of the SIRIP logical components to be deployed and scaled independently.
Speaker: Aurelija Orlova, Chief Specialist of Projects Division within the Information Society Development Committee under the Ministry of Transport and Communications

| **LUNCH BREAK - NETWORKING (13.00 – 14.15)** | |

14.15 – 16.00 SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES - Part C	Moderator: Giancarlo Senatore (PwC, Government Advisory, Partner)

PRACTICE 6: GUIDELINES FOR THE ADOPTION OF OPEN STANDARDS (UNITED KINGDOM) (14:15 – 14:45)
The document "Open Standards Principles" describes principles for the selection and specification of open standards which can be implemented in both open source and proprietary software. These standards enable software to interoperate through open protocols and allow the exchange of data between data stores and software through open data and document formats.
Speaker: Linda Humphries, Senior Technology Adviser within UK's Government Digital Service – GDS

PRACTICE 7: TEMPLATES AND READY TEXTS FOR WORDING IN OFFICIAL TENDERS (GERMANY) (14:45 – 15:15)
The aim of BITKOM is to give authorities support for wording in official tenders for the procurement of information and communication technologies in a non-proprietary manner, i.e. in a way that avoids the use of proprietary brand names or referring to specific manufacturers, while taking state-of-art technical requirements into consideration.
Speaker: Felix Zimmermann, Head of the Public Procurement Law Department within BITKOM

MONITORING THE TAKE-UP OF "OPEN" PROCUREMENT IN EUROPE (EU - WIDE) (15:15 – 15:35)
Preliminary outcomes on the "take-up" of open procurement in Europe will be presented. This to stimulate an interesting discussion, among the workshop's participants, about the "openness level" of the European public procurement market for the procurement of ICT goods and services.
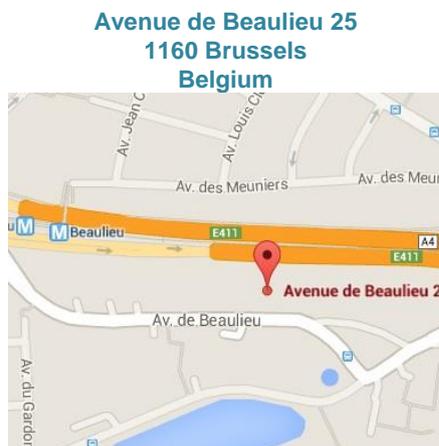*Speaker*: Rosa Martelli, PwC Government Advisory

OSS – OPEN SOURCE STRATEGY (EU - WIDE) (15 :35 – 15 :50)
In December 2000, the European Commission defined a strategy concerning the internal use of Open-source software. This strategy, which has led to important achievements, will once again be revised. An EC representative will provide some useful insights on how the strategy is going to look like in 2015.
Speaker: Pierre Damas, Head of Sector A3 "Service Oriented Solutions" - DG DIGIT

FINAL DISCUSSION (15.50 – 16.05)

Venue information

The Workshop will take place at the **DG CONNECT premises,** located in Brussels, **Avenue de Beaulieu 25,** 5-minute walk away from **Beaulieu** metro station:

**Avenue de Beaulieu 25
1160 Brussels
Belgium**

CLICKABLE MAP

How to reach us

Arriving by plane, landing at Brussels National Airport (Zaventem): It is about 25 minutes by taxi (but allow 35-45 minutes during rush hour). Alternatively, you can take bus number 12 outside the airport and get off at the Schuman stop. There are also regular trains from the airport to Brussels Gare Centrale/Centraal Station, which take about 20 minutes. You may then either take a taxi from there (about 10 minutes) or take the metro to Beaulieu.

Arriving by train (including Eurostar and Thalys) at Brussels Gare du Midi/Zuidstation: You could either take a taxi (allow at least 15 minutes) or take the metro to **Beaulieu.**

Contact information
For further information on the project, please visit our **joinup website** at **https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/open_standards_ict/description**

For any question, please contact:

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