

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, one of these being 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 - <http://bit.ly/1CdaRa1>
- 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 set-up of the Workshop “Open Standards for ICT Procurement: sharing of Best Practices”, which took place in Brussels on December 3rd 2014 at DG CONNECT premises: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/open_standards_ict/event/open-standards-ict-procurement-sharing-best-practices
- The set-up and running of a series of Online Brainstorming events to stimulate a debate around the use of open standards for ICT procurement. (<http://bit.ly/1rNiSxS>) (<http://bit.ly/1wayl00>) (<http://bit.ly/1za3qyr>)

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 took place in Brussels on December 3rd 2014, promoted the sharing of best practices concerning the procurement of ICT products and services among European public entities, at all levels.

The **third workshop** “*Open Standards for ICT Procurement: Saving while reducing ICT lock-in*” will take in **Brussels on June 12th 2015 a day after the next MSP Meeting of June 11th**

The main goals of the third workshop are:

- Discuss ways in which **Pre-Commercial Procurement** can be used as a tool to steer the **development of solutions towards concrete public sector needs**
- Share some good and bad practice examples about the **Procurement of ICT and Innovation** within EU Public Administrations;
- Gather new ideas to **revamp the EC policy for the procurement of ICT products** and services on the base of standards;

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" also through Pre-Commercial Procurement, you are warmly invited to attend the “*Open Standards for ICT Procurement: Saving while reducing ICT lock-in*” 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.



The Agenda

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND WELCOME COFFEE (09.00 – 09:30)

INTRODUCTORY GREETINGS (09:30 – 09:45)

A high-level European Commission 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: European Commission

OVERVIEW OF ESTONIAN ICT POLICY COORDINATION, HOW TO KEEP COSTS UNDER CONTROL AND STILL ACHIEVE THE RESULTS? (09:45 – 10:15)

In her presentation, Ms. Rahe will give an overview of the general IT coordination mechanisms in the Estonian government. Explaining what is managed centrally and what kind of decisions are done individually. How they make sure that their rules and policies are followed and how they keep costs under control. She will also give an overview of some of the basic principles that have to be followed when building a successful e-government. One of those principles is the "No Legacy Policy" – a set of rules that help governments to keep innovating.

Speaker: Aet Rahe, Head of ICT Policy Department (State Information Systems Department), Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

A SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (SME) DEPENDENT ON OPEN STANDARDS (10:15 – 10:45)

PrimeKey started from nothing in 2002, implementing open source software competing with proprietary vendors in the IT security area (in the PKI niche to be precise). Today PrimeKey employs 27 people in the EU, and this would not have been possible without Open Standards being pre-dominant in this specific area. This presentation will highlight how Open Standards are important for small and medium enterprises and exemplify with standardization in the EU, which is the basis for public procurement.

Speaker: Tomas Gustavsson, CEO/CTO, PrimeKey Solutions AB

COFFEE BREAK – NETWORKING – BRAINSTORMING (10.45 – 11:30)

INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE OF THE COMMON ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS (CAMSS) ACTION TO ALLEVIATE ICT LOCK-IN (11:30 – 12:00)

This presentation will provide information on how CAMSS can contribute to alleviate ICT lock-in and what benefits CAMSS has in this respect. It provides an overview on the origin and current status of the CAMSS action and how it is being used in practice. The CAMSS community is introduced, an online community to discuss with peers also performing Standards and Specifications assessments. And finally the CAMSS repository is presented, where one can find an overview of used (mandatory or not) Standards per countries as well as Standards and Specifications assessments performed using the CAMSS method.

Speaker: Susanne Wigard, Programme Manager, ISA Unit, EC DG DIGIT

OPEN SOURCE AND OPEN STANDARDS: HARMONIZING SOMETIMES CONFLICTING COLLABORATION MODELS TO PREVENT LOCK-IN (12:00 – 12:30)

Mr. Zemlin will examine the intersection of open source software development and standards development. The technology sector has recently embraced open source as a way to enable interoperability, increase competition, and accelerate innovation. In many cases large open source projects do not depend on traditional specification development models found in standard development organizations. Mr. Zemlin will explain how open source and standards can complement each other in order to avoid vendor lock in as well as where they conflict. He will also provide examples of how the largest open source development projects in the world are managing issues of security, stability, and intellectual property.

Speaker: Jim Zemlin, Executive Director, The Linux Foundation

CLOUD COMPUTING STANDARDS AND INTEROPERABILITY: HOW TO AVOID LOCK-IN IN A CLOUD ENVIRONMENT (12:30 – 13:00)

In the ongoing advancement of computing architectures, cloud offers unprecedented flexibility, agility and productivity. Cloud computing, if effectively implemented, will give more freedom and power to a technology user than ever before. While organizations are rushing to cloud computing, it is essential that enterprises do not overlook the implications of switching vendors, or of moving certain implementations into or out of a cloud environment. Open interfaces and data formats - based on open standards - are key. Closed or proprietary interfaces cede many key decisions and options to the discretion of the cloud provider and, together with closed data formats, may limit the ability of the user effectively to transfer their data in the future. This is the very definition of lock-in. Europe can stay at the forefront of the digital industry only by free and unfettered competition and interoperability with others around the world.

Speaker: Thomas Vinje, Partner, Clifford Chance - Legal Counsel to ECIS

LUNCH BREAK – NETWORKING – BRAINSTORMING (13.00 – 14.15)

EUROPE HAS AN ENORMOUS AND OVERLOOKED OPPORTUNITY TO SPUR INNOVATION USING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (14:15 – 14:45)

Given its large overall volume and the weight on the GDP of the European Union, public procurement in ICT sector offers a powerful leverage for the emergence of new standards and for the competitiveness and growth of the European industry. Moreover, public procurement of R&D services and innovative products and services is vital for improving the quality and efficiency of public services in a time of budget constraints.

This relation will address how EU policies could gain from working to enhance the demand side and what instruments, namely pre-commercial public procurement (PCP) and procurement of innovative solutions (PPI), are actually in the hand of policy makers and public sector to optimize the public spending, to facilitate the access of SMEs to the procurement market, to increase interoperability, to avoid supplier lock-in and increase exploitation of R&D&I results.

Speaker: Sara Bedin, European Independent Expert on Innovation Procurement (PCP and PPI)

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE ICT PROCUREMENT SURVEY (14:45 – 15:15)

Ms Galasso will present preliminary results from the “*Open ICT procurement survey*”, a survey developed by DG Connect, with the support of PwC, to identify procurement practices and behaviours that European public entities are putting in place to reduce or avoid ICT lock-in.

Speaker: Giovanna Galasso, Senior Manager, PwC Italy – Digital Innovation Team

PROCUREMENT INNOVATION FOR CLOUD SERVICES IN EUROPE - PICSE (15:15 – 15:30)

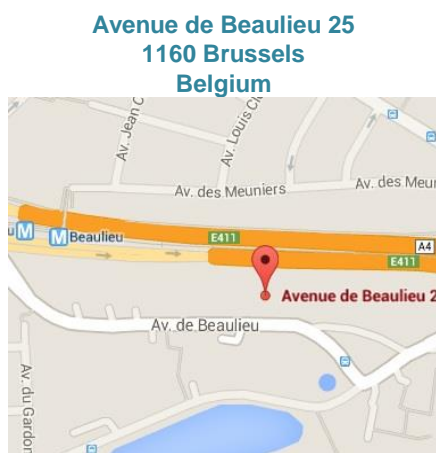
Dr. Jones will present preliminary results from the PICSE project (Procurement Innovation for Cloud Services in Europe <http://www.picse.eu/>) which focuses on the publicly funded research sector in Europe. This includes a series a case-studies from around Europe and the identification of a list of barriers to cloud services procurement (<http://www.picse.eu/news/procurement-barriers-report-just-released-picse>) as a well as preview of a new web-based guide on procuring cloud services.

Speaker: Bob Jones, Leader of the PICSE project, CERN IT department

FINAL DISCUSSION – Q&A (15.30 – 15.45)

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:



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:

Giovanna Galasso

giovanna.galasso@it.pwc.com

<http://pwc.to/1tBP7zn>

Federico Aresu

federico.aresu@it.pwc.com

<http://pwc.to/1xGHlSi>