

4th I-VLab Newsletter

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EDITORIAL, by Prof. Keith Popplewell, Coventry University (GB), Secretary of INTEROP-VLab



Although INTEROP-VLab is only about one and a half years old, it is going, as any really active, research focused organisation should, through a time of change in its activities. Some of these are imposed from outside, with, for example, the imminent publication of the new FP7 Work Programmes, and some have been driven from within the organisation, such as the more pro-active approach to submission of proposals for funding. There are also changes in the emphasis of the domain addressed by INTEROP-VLab and its members and partners, as it is clear that many of the research results and applications in our Enterprise Interoperability domain are equally applicable, for example, in e-government. Whilst we may have started by working from the perspective of interoperation between enterprise systems, the underlying problems to be addressed are no different where government systems and organisations must interact and co-operate. To this end, INTEROP-VLab has participated in the ESIIG event in Rome in October (see below for more details).

INTEROP-VLab is a network of many researchers across many nations, and to develop that network, several new initiatives have been launched in the last couple of months. Marie-Curie research training network funding has been sought, as well as infrastructure funding to allow us to continue and expand networking activities for members and partners. We also seek to enhance and expand the KMAP and IEKR facilities offered to members and partners, and commercially available to others. This work is aimed to set INTEROP-VLab on a firm

basis for the future, capable of responding to the changing political, financial and research environments.

In the next few weeks we will see the second FP7 Work Programmes unveiled, and we already know enough to predict that the topics where the INTEROP-VLab community may be able to seek funding will be significantly different from the first Work Programme. The critical events now will be

- The ICT Event in Lyon (24-27 October) where the Work Programme will be formally announced, and, we hope, explained. See the article below for more details of this.
- The EI Cluster Meeting, also in Lyon, the day after the ICT Event (28 October). As well as sharing an update on the current FP7 projects in the EI Cluster, there will be the opportunity for more detailed discussion, both within the Cluster and with EC experts, on the opportunities and obstacles for funding research in the domain, and the strategies we might adopt.
- The ICT Proposers Day in Budapest (22 January), which, if it follows the pattern of the Köln Proposers Day two years ago promises to be a productive (if chaotic) networking opportunity and breeding ground for new consortia.

I started by noting that we face many changes. Even the regular event in the INTEROP-VLab calendar, the IESA Conference is breaking new ground this year and will leave Europe for the first time, to be held in Beijing, China (20-23 April). Read the article below to find out more. It will be an interesting new adventure for our community ... what better could enthusiastic researchers ask for?

The visibility of INTEROP-VLab

by Cathy Lieu, INTEROP-VLab Assistant Manager and Guy Doumeingts, INTEROP-VLab General Manager

INTEROP-VLab will be present at the ICT 2008 event
25-27 November 2008, Lyon (FR)



Europe's biggest research event for information and communication technologies

The biennial ICT Event (formerly called the "IST Event") is the most important forum for discussing research and public policy in information and communication technologies at European level. The Event brings together researchers and innovators, policy and business decision-makers working in the field of digital technologies. The ICT Event:

- Presents Europe's future priorities for research funding in the ICT area
- Examines crucial issues of public policy for stimulating innovation through ICT development and uptake
- Creates opportunities to establish research and business partnerships and simply keep up to date in what is happening in various ICT research fields.

The ICT Event is organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for the Information Society and Media and is usually hosted by the current Presidency of the European Union. Approximately 4,000 - 5,000 delegates are expected at ICT 2008.

INTEROP-VLab has the great opportunity to participate as an exhibitor and as organizer of a networking session.

➤ **The INTEROP-VLab Exhibition in the "ICT International Village":**

In May 2008, I-VLab applied for the call for exhibits and has been selected, based on a strong competition, to keep a booth, provided free of charge.

The INTEROP-VLab exhibit will enable visitors to try by themselves the I-V KMap or they can ask exhibitor to execute a specific research. INTEROP-VLab will demonstrate to visitors the innovative aspect of the KMap: the semantic annotation enabling to search data by conceptual similarity.

On the other hand, visitors will be able to try audio web courses, equipped with head-phones, and to consult all the content of the e-Learning platform.

The management of INTEROP-VLab will be present to answer to questions about the creation of INTEROP-VLab, the transition from a Network of Excellence to an international association, the INTEROP-NoE results, the current research activities in INTEROP-VLab, etc.

➤ **The networking session "A VISION for Enterprise and e-Gov Interoperability for 2020"**

Thanks to the mobilization of I-VLab's partners on the ICT website, the topic proposed by I-VLab has been selected among 220 propositions. The goal of the networking session is to imply the various categories of stakeholders (industrials, researchers, representatives of public administration) in the elaboration of the VISION for 2020 in the domain of Organizations Interoperability using the technique of "Knowledge Café".

If you want to participate in the discussion, register to the conference on the ICT website (see below) and confirm your participation to the session by email at info@interop-vlab.eu (precise your name and organisation).

ICT 2008 registration at: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2008/index_en.htm
 (early bird rate is available until October 31)

INTEROP-VLab at the conference ESIIG 2, 20-22 October 2008, Roma (IT)



On the initiative of the I-VLab scientific coordinator, Michele Missikoff (IASI CNR, from the Italian Pole), INTEROP-VLab has been solicited to take part in the conference.

ESIIG 2, organized with the patronage of Mrs Viviane Reding Commissioner for the European Commission for the Information Society and Media), represents an occasion to develop new synergies and create contacts of the national and regional governments of Europe, of the research field, the Academia and experts of the ICT sector.

On October 21st, INTEROP-VLab has animated a parallel session on “Enterprise / Administration Interoperability and local development”. During this session, some representatives of I-VLab Poles has invited speakers from public local, regional administration, or public bodies to talk about the situation in Interoperability development in the domain of administration. I-VLab has also participated to the plenary session “Interoperability’s Laboratories: iGovernment border realities”, on Wednesday.

eBIF 2008 Conference, 8-9 December 2008, Utrecht (NL)

The 4th e-Business Interoperability Forum Conference on “e-Business interoperability practice: examples, impacts and standardization challenges”

The CEN/ISSS eBusiness Interoperability Forum (eBIF) serves as the European platform for considering interoperability solutions related to eBusiness, and making strategic recommendations on standardization activities required to achieve this. eBIF contributes to closing the gap between business requirements and standards development on the one hand and to increasing the deployment and implementation of standards serving the needs of the potential beneficiaries and stakeholders on the other hand.

eBIF promotes the exchange of information and networking among key actors in eBusiness standards developments. eBIF counts forty members coming from the private and public sectors.

Martin Zelm (Cimosa, DFI Pole) will represent I-VLab, being invited to give a presentation titled “Interoperability standards and education - a critical issue for enterprises”, on 9 December at 10:00.

Participation to the conference is free of charge, but requires pre-registration (available on-line). The number of participants is limited. Early registration is advised.

Programme and registration are available on the website:

http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/businessdomains/businessdomains/iss/activity/ebifconference_2008_announcement.asp

Other Informations on the activities of INTEROP-VLab Management

Submission of Research and Education projects

Since three months, the management of I-VLab has intensively worked with the I-VLab partners on the submission of research and Education projects propositions in the 7th Framework Programme and in other European programmes.

These projects would enable I-VLab to develop a new platform to support the activities inside and outside INTEROP-VLab, to develop the training activities, and finally to increase the visibility INTEROP-VLab.

Membership:

- In 2008, I-VLab has 8 Pole members, distributed in 10 European countries plus China, and representing 71 partners (organisations) and 300 researchers.

Collaborations:

- INTEROP-VLab has signed an agreement with the IFIP Working Group 5.2 in the domain of "Education" proposing to review and to improve the existing I-VLab training materials in the EI domain, which had been developed during the INTEROP NoE project.

Relation with the EI Cluster (European Commission):

- INTEROP-VLab has been entrusted by Cristina Martinez (DG INFSO unit D4) to organise the next EI Cluster meeting in Lyon, planned on November 28th, 2008.

EC FP 7th : next calls for EI community

- Potential calls in the 7th framework programme are described on the platform and regularly updated (only accessible by partners)
- Preparation of projects with SMEs

Other activities:

- Follow up the organisation of I-ESA 09 in China
- Management (registration, information...) and follow up the evolution of Platform: KMap, creation of Workings Group, discussion and analyse to improve the running of the Platform and the KMap
- Elaboration of a 3-fold flyer (2 pages) available on the Platform (http://interop-vlab.eu/interop-vlab-network/interop_vlab_documentation/)

FEEDBACK**Report on the INTEROP VLab Pole GSO Event, June 2008, Albi, France**

by Pr. Herve PINGAUD, Chairman of scientific committee of INTEROP VLab GSO pole, Ecole des Mines d'Albi Carmaux
and Pr. Jean-Paul BOURRIERES, Chairman of the Scientific Interest Group INTEROP-VLab GSO Pole, Université Bordeaux I, INTEROP-VLab President



The Interop-VLab GSO Pole event was a two days manifestation held in Albi, at 70 kms in the North West of Toulouse, on June 4 and 5, 2008. It was organised on the modern campus of Ecole des Mines d'Albi-Carmaux that supports the event organisation together with University Bordeaux I.

54 participants have joined the event, and the population was a mix of public or private partners or non partners :

- 65% of the participants were representatives of one of the thirteen institutions which are GSO Pole active members. The other participants were a population of non members whose motivations were both on the contents of the event program, as well as having a better knowledge about the pole activities and also collecting information relative to the perspective to become a member in a near future.
- 20% of the attendees were coming from industry or socio economic institutions while the main majority was an assembly of researchers.

The program was split into four main sessions, each planned on a half day schedule, with the aim to discover interoperability

researches and issues on many ranges of time. The two sessions of the first day were devoted to short term industrial needs and expectations. The second day was more concentrated on middle and long term perspectives of on going research studies.

By the way, the four sessions follow a logical sequence :

- Day 1/Session 1 focus on industrial motivations and grand challenges,
- Day 1/Session 2 describes the current Pole GSO project portfolio,
- Day 2/Session 3 was a time for presentations and discussions on science base foundations for enterprise interoperability,
- Day 2/Session 4 short presentations of ongoing PhD works in the labs which are Pole GSO members.

Each session was concluded by a round table that was initiated by an oral report about the session contents, made by a chairman that was in charge to coordinate the session works (respectively, Pr. Alain Bernard, Ecole Centrale de Nantes, Pr. D. Breuil, EIGSI La Rochelle and Pr. D. Noyes, ENI Tarbes).

Four plenary lectures have also helped the audience to capture knowledge and understand some facets of the subject in the logic of the event schedule philosophy :

- Enterprise Systems Interoperability : from the shared expectations to the development of the first solutions, by Pr. JP Bourey, Ecole Centrale de Lille, and Pr. H. Pingaud, Ecole des Mines d'Albi-Carmaux,
- Semantic technologies for Enterprise Systems Interoperability, by Pr. M. Missikoff, IASI, CNR, Roma (Italy),
- Some recent works about the VLab scientific agenda and about enterprise interoperability as a Science, by Pr. G. Doumeingts, General Manager of Interop-VLab,
- A reference framework for Enterprise Interoperability (CEN/ISO 11 354), by Pr. D. Chen, University Bordeaux I.

Especially, some of the strategic lines for Pole GSO growth and expansion have been presented and discussed during the second day. It mainly concerns the first results on a working group on interoperability for e-Health (M. P Lagouarde, CEGEDIM, and Pr. B. Vallespir, Univ Bordeaux I), and the opportunities to further investigate the new topic of interoperability for crisis management (Dr. F. Benaben, Ecole des Mines d'Albi-Carmaux). Some of the arguments developed during those discussions were considered as concrete arguments for new potential candidates to join the GSO Pole.

The ongoing research study session was mostly dedicated to a presentation of the current PhD thesis works inside the Pole GSO member laboratories. This last session has underlined the necessity to find a common representation of enterprise interoperability science features, and to be able to mutually better interact at a pole level, far beyond what could be expected from the integration factor of our shared project realisations, with a long term perspective in mind. The scientific committee of Pole GSO has decided to try to fill this gap.

We think that the event has been a success. It has been a nice time for exciting exchanges, for mutual knowledge sharing and for friendship. During the closing session, President JP. Bourrieres has proposed to the audience to replicate such a pole event on a regular basis of one year, and opened an official call for candidates for the next event organisation in 2009, in the pool of the pole GSO members.

Many thanks to those who have spontaneously supported the 2008 GSO Pole event, to those who have hardly worked to deliver a high level of quality, to those who have so strongly participated. We hope a very good luck, the same spirit and enthusiasm to the other INTEROP pole events and to the next 2009 French one.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY of POLES

Presentation of a regional project in the INTERVAL Pole, by Raul Poler (University Polytechnic of Valencia, representative of INTERVAL)



INTERVAL, the Spanish Pole of INTEROP-VLab, has secured a collaborative research project funded by the Institute of Small and Medium Industries of the Generalitat Valenciana (IMPIVA) entitled "Research Network of Interoperability for Networked Enterprises Applications and Software in the Valencian Region (INTERVAL)". The project involves the five Valencian entities of the Pole: UPV, UJI, AIDIMA, AINIA and ITI.

The project addresses the problem of interoperability for enterprise applications such as driving for the future competitiveness of Valencian enterprises, due to the current research remains poorly structured, fragmented, overlapping and in many cases, practically absent. Therefore, the project aims to provide the business community of Valencia with a set of concepts, terminologies, methods, models and technologies that allow the establishment of interoperability, not only between existing systems and software applications, but also enable the development of future applications with interoperability features.

Objectives

The main objectives of the project are the following: (i) formation of a Valencian, stable and durable research community focused on the interoperability of enterprises applications and software, (ii) creation of the conditions to transfer the innovative and competitive technology by means the conceptualization of enterprise-based interoperability, (iii) assembling the key components of knowledge (Ontologies, enterprise modelling and architectures and platform), as well as the preparation of a enterprise interoperability- based virtual centre with the widest research and industrial audience (iv) agile organization and management to adjust the strategy and work plan throughout the year of duration and establish the basis for its continuation and (v) the excellence of the participants, based on a consortium of key researchers who have great experience in Thematic Networks of V and VI Framework Programmes.

Tasks

The work plan is divided into 7 tasks along 12 months. Each task addresses a different area of action:

- Task 1. Integration of the knowledge map of the Valencian entities related to enterprise modelling, ontologies and architectures and platforms.
- Task 2. Framework for enterprise interoperability through INTERVAL.
- Task 3. Integration, based on ontologies, of enterprise modelling and architecture and platforms.
- Task 4. Use Cases.
- Task 5. Dissemination and communication.
- Task 6. Methodology to implement services and develop actions to encourage assimilation in SMEs.
- Task 7. Management of the INTERVAL Pole.

INTERVAL IN A NUTSHELL

- Legal Form: Spanish non-for-profit association
- Constitution: 8th February 2007
- Researchers: 30
- Members: AIDIMA, University Polytechnic of Valencia, University of Jaume I, ITI, AINIA, ESI, IKERLAN

INTEROP-VLab News**I-ESA 09 China:**

- Call for papers: deadline 31/10/2008
- Call for workshops and presentations



Promoting collaboration of enterprises through Enterprise Interoperability, to link China with Europe and with the World

Pre-conference: April 20th, 2009,
 Conference: April 21st - 22nd, 2009,
 Post-Conference: April 23rd, 2009

The objective of I-ESA is to bring together the world's leading researchers and practitioners in the area of Enterprise Interoperability and e-Business and to enable a fruitful exchange of the participants' vision, research and experiences.

I-ESA 09 scopes in this edition to promote collaboration of enterprises through interoperability, to link China and Europe, and the world. During 3 days, workshops, sessions on specific topics, presentations of scientific papers, industrial use cases, etc. will be organized.

The conference will be guided by Keynotes coming from **High Level industrial Leaders and Researchers** from China and abroad.

➤ **Call for papers**

Paper submission is [online](#). You must refer to the instruction for authors available on the conference [website](#).

Full and original scientific papers of high quality are invited to I-ESA 09. The conference encourages submissions in (but not restricted) the following areas:

TOPICS:

SW - Platforms	Systems engineering in the context of interoperability
Specification and Implementation	Enterprise Modeling for Enterprise Interoperability
Architectures and Frameworks	Semantics for Enterprise Interoperability
Business Interoperability	Interoperability Scenarios

[Detailed list of topics here](#)

➤ **Call for workshops and presentations**

The I-ESA 09 conference invites proposals for workshops to be held in conjunction with the main conference. Following the successful organization of the conference and workshops in the first four I-ESA conferences, this year the workshop proposal topics are open to other areas not covered by the main conference topics. Workshop proposals should explore new interoperability issues, problems and solutions in areas coming from not only enterprise software and applications, but also from e-Health, mobile services, and end-user software and applications to social and financial issues related to the introduction of interoperability.

Would you be interested in organizing a workshop or giving a presentation, please contact the I-ESA 09 General Chair at:

I-ESA@hit.edu.cn.

The INTEROP-VLab Event Cycle (IVEC)

In order to develop activities and EI concerns in all regions of INTEROP-VLab, the Poles organise alternately a local event, every 3 months. The organising Pole defines the topic and the programme according to the local interest, with the possibility to invite speakers.

The next event has been announced end of October in the previous issue, in Portugal, but the date has to be postponed. See below the updated IVEC:

Organizer	Event	Location	Date
Spanish Pole - INTERVAL	Local event of the Pole	Spain	January 2009
INTEROP China Pole	Conference I-ESA China 09	Beijing / China	20-23 April 2009
INTEROP-VLab	INTEROP-VLab General Assembly and meetings	Brussels / Belgium	3-5 June 2009
Italian Pole - VLab.IT	Local event of the Pole	Italy	October 2009
INTEROP UK Pole	Conference I-ESA 10	Coventry / UK	24-26 March 2010
INTEROP-VLab	INTEROP-VLab General assembly and meetings	Brussels / Belgium	June 2010
INTEROP North Pole	Local event of the Pole	tbd	October 2010
German Pole - DFI	Local event of the Pole	Germany	January 2011
Spanish Pole - INTERVAL	Conference I-ESA 12	Valencia / Spain	20-23 March 2012

If you want to receive further information on these events, send questions by email to info@interop-vlab.eu

Info day

- INTERREG IV C, Information Day on 27-28 October 2008 in Lille**

EU INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION FORUM, Sharing good practice in the fields of innovation and environment

The 2nd EU Interregional Cooperation Forum, organised by the INTERREG IVC programme with the support of its Managing Authority (the Nord-Pas de Calais Region), will be held on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 October 2008, in Lille (France). Over 800 national, regional and local authorities are expected to attend, alongside Member State representatives and EU institutions.

More information on this meeting at: <http://www.interreg4cforum.eu/>

Find also a document on the INTERREG IV C programme on the [I-VLab website](#)

- FP7-ICT Proposers' Day 2009, 22 January 2009, Budapest (Hungary)**

Organised by The European Commission's Information Society and Media Directorate-General, in cooperation with the Hungarian National Office for Research and Technology.

Information and Communication Technologies Research 2009-2010: The 2009-2010 work programme of the European Union's 7th Framework Programme will be unveiled at the end of 2008. The work programme will set out the challenges and objectives for ICT research funding for the next two year.

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/budapest_2009/index_en.htm

Calendar of upcoming events and open call for papers

- EI2N'08:** 12-13 November 2008, Monterrey, Mexico
 3rd International workshop on Enterprise Integration, Interoperability and Networking; sponsored by IFAC TC 5.3 "Enterprise Integration and Networking" and IFIP TC 5 WG5.12 "Architectures for Enterprise Integration" and by INTEROP-VLab. The call for papers is closed
www.cs.rmit.edu.au/fedconf/index.html?page=ei2n2008cfp
- ICT 2008 event,** 25-27 November 2008, Lyon (FR)
 See article page 2. Registration at: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2008/register/index_en.htm
- ITAIS'2008,** 13-14 December 2008, Paris (FR)
 This year the ITAIS, the Italian Association for Information Systems (branch of the international Association for Information Systems) has decided to "internationalise" its annual conference, moving it to Paris, co-located with ICIS, the International Conference on Information Systems.
<http://www.itais2008.org/>
- I-ESA China 09, 20-23 April 2009, Beijing (CN): the Call for Papers is open.**
 Find the call for papers on the website www.i-esa.org.cn
 Full paper submission deadline is extended: November 14th, 2008

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Find more events on the INTEROP-VLab website!

www.interop-vlab.eu

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