

I-VLab is the International Virtual Laboratory for Enterprise Interoperability (EI).

Its strength comes from synergies, exchanges and collaborations between all actors in EI.

I-VLab develops a range of activities in the EI domain:

- research
- education and training
- standardization advice
- dissemination of knowledge
- common use of research funds...

Created in 2007 as a non-profit international association, I-VLab now includes 8 Member Poles, 70 Partner organizations and 300 researchers established in Europe, China and spread over the world.

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Editorial by Guy Doumeingts,
INTEROP-VLab General Manager

2009, I-VLab is accelerating.



Happy New Year, on behalf of the Board Director and the Management of INTEROP-VLab, for this first Newsletter of the year 2009.

We hope that all of your wishes will become a reality. We also hope that INTEROP-VLab really accelerates its development.

2009 will be a very important year for I-VLab.

Created in March 2007, I-VLab implemented its structure and started to develop its activities in October 2007, following the lines defined during the first Extraordinary General Assembly.

After 15 months of work, the results begin to be encouraging. The presence of I-VLab at ICT 2008 Event in Lyon was a success (see the article below): several potential new poles expressed their interest and the demonstrations of the Knowledge Map and the e-learning courses drawn attention of many visitors.

But INTEROP-VLab has to continue its development by recruiting new poles and partners and by reinforcing the relation between the coordination body and the poles.

For the coordination body level, we must develop the scientific activities. The Board of Directors proposes to create permanent Working Groups. The topics will be determined soon based on requirements. The development of the Knowledge Map, in order to support the search of information in the EC deliverables will be also a priority, and I-VLab must work on the improvement of the existing courses on the e-learning platform.

For the pole level, we need to develop internal activities. The Board of Directors will propose to organise a seminar on this subject during 2009.

A recent meeting with DG Enterprise and Industry demonstrated that the original structure of I-VLab with the coordination level and the local poles could be a powerful instrument. This instrument could support the dissemination of European research results towards local Stakeholders and particularly SMEs. This transfer must be performed in coordination with the Official local organisation for Technology Transfer.

In this way, we highlight two local initiatives: the launching of local projects by the Spanish Pole and by the PGSO supported by local funds and starting based on results issuing from INTEROP-NoE and from ATHENA: it is a good illustration of the mechanism of transfer, involving SMEs.

Feedback on the I-VLab presentations at

ICT 2008 Event

25-27 November 2008, Lyon France



Some 4,500 delegates registered for ICT 2008, making Lyon one of the best-attended ICT Events ever. The event presented Europe's priorities for ICT research, development and funding. A host of leading personalities from the world of ICT looked at how Europe can lead the ICT agenda for the next decade.

The management of INTEROP-VLab had the great opportunity to participate as an exhibitor in the «International Village» and as organizer of a networking session on the topic «A VISION for Enterprise and e-Gov Interoperability for 2020».



The I-VLab exhibition stand was the occasion to promote I-VLab activities to present the network, and many people visited us and asked for a demonstration of the I-V KMap (Knowledge Map) and of the e-Learning platform.

These 3 days among researchers and professionals from worldwide, were also favourable to meet potential partners interested to join our community. More than 10 potential poles were identified.

The networking session attracted about thirty persons and the organization of the session according to the principle of "Knowledge Café" demonstrated once again the possibility to organize an active and important discussion round the topics presented by the panelists:

- "Semantic interoperability: a vision of the Future Internet", by Michele Missikoff (CNR IASI, Roma, I)
- "Interoperability for Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing", by Keith Popplewell (Coventry University, UK)
- "Interoperability - Time to make it a reality", by Gash Bhullar (Control 2K Limited, UK)
- "Agent Supported Interoperability—Chances and Challenges", by Klaus Fischer (DFKI, Sarrebrücken, G)

Link to download the report and presentations of the networking session:

<http://interop-vlab.eu/the-scientific-activities/networking-session-a-vision-for-enterprise-and-e-gov-interoperability-for-2020/>

Link to videos of plenary sessions:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2008/conference/videos/index_en.htm



The INTEROP-VLab exhibition stand at ICT 2008.

From left to right:

Arne Berre (Sintef - Interop North Pole)

Guy Doumeingts (I-VLab General Manager)

Cathy Lieu (I-VLab Assistant Manager)

Antonio De Nicola (CNR IASI-Italian Pole VLab.IT)

Klaus Fischer (DFKI -German Pole DFI e.V.)

Feedback on the I-VLab presentations at

INTEROP-VLab, supporter of ESIIG 2

The Second European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment
Roma, 20-22 October, 2008

by Jean-Paul Bourrières, INTEROP-VLab President



Organized by Regione Lazio, Italy, ESIIG2 was attended by representatives of the European Commission, of the national and regional governments of Europe, of the research field, Academia and experts of the ICT sector.

The aims of the summit were:

- Promoting Interoperability as the key enabler for the development of iGovernment among European regions
- Analysing the state of the art of Interoperability in Europe and the regional best practices
- Involving international, national and European stakeholders active in the field of Interoperability for the definition of the new priorities and the development of more and more efficient and innovative eServices

As one of the 8 official supporters of ESIIG2, INTEROP-VLab took part in the summit by a presentation in a plenary session and by the organization of a special session:

A general presentation of INTEROP-VLab was made by Jean-Paul Bourrieres (President of INTEROP-VLab) during the plenary session *Interoperability's laboratories: iGovernment border realities* chaired by Michele Missikoff (CNR, INTEROP-VLab Scientific Committee Chair).

The special session *Enterprise/Administration Interoperability and local development* was chaired by Jean-Paul Bourrieres who presented in details the activity of INTEROP and the on-going projects of each of the 8 Poles of INTEROP-VLab in Europe and in China. The presentation was followed by a round table with panelists Michele Missikoff, Paola Velardi (Univ. La Sapienza, Roma) and Raul Poler (Univ. of Valencia).

ESIIG2 was an opportunity to promote the INTEROP-VLab initiative in the e-governement community and towards the institutional stakeholders. The exchanges show the significance of INTEROP-VLab's potentiality to develop Interoperability awareness at the international level and new contacts were made with organizations interested in joining existing INTEROP-VLab Poles.

Download the presentations of the I-VLab session: <http://www.esiig2.it/esiig2/pagina.php?cat=20>

4th eBIF Conference - Short Report

e-Business Interoperability Forum Conference
8 - 9 December 2008, Utrecht - The Netherlands
By Martin Zelm, CIMOSA Association



The CEN/ISSS e-Business Interoperability Forum (eBIF) held its fourth annual conference entitled «e-Business interoperability practice: examples, impacts and standardization challenges» on 8 & 9 December 2008 at the Equens premises in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The conference was organized by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and attended by more than 70 participants.

The e-Business Interoperability Forum aims to achieve interoperability between enterprises by implementing business driven standards. . The target audience comprises IT vendors, end-users from industry - including SMEs, and public administrations interested in e-Business opportunities, benefits, problems and solutions in Europe.

The conference programme, with 14 presentations was grouped in three sessions. The first session started with two keynotes giving the view of the European Commission. One keynote titled 'ICT standardisation and eBusiness policy developments' addressed issues with regard to policies, IPR for software products and strategies how to support the integration between organisations - consortia, associations in developing industry standards. The presentation on research emphasised the vision of the future of the internet and enhancements of RFID.

In the second session practical reference solutions of e-Business in industry sectors were presented, e.g. in the paper/publishing sector (PapiNet), in the textile/clothing/footwear sector (eBIZ/TFC project) and in the financial industry. The latter is focussing on services for the interoperation of systems in invoicing, logistics and payments. In several presentations the urgent need for open standards was explicitly addressed.

Critical issues in e-Business were addressed in the third session, The e-Catalogues (ISO29002) and their implementation in different cooperating organisations, interoperability standards and education addressed by the INTEROP-VLab organisation, e-Trade standards with the view of UN/CEFACT and an upcoming international project on Methodologies for Global e-Business test beds have been presented.

With the wide spectrum of e-Business topics, the discussion in the Q+A sessions was lively and very useful. Further details such as all presentations can be found at:

ftp://cenftp1.cenorm.be/PUBLIC/eBIF/Conference_2008_Utrecht/

Martin Zelm, Cimosá (DE), DFI Pole
Coordinator of the I-VLab Standardization Group

News from the I-VLab Poles

Focus on the Portuguese PtRP Pole event

5-6 February 2009, Guimarães, Portugal

By Ricardo Goncalves, UNINOVA



During 5-6 February 2009, the Portuguese VLab Pole will have its annual general event. This time the event will be divided in 3 sessions, covering one and an half days. The first half day will be dedicated to the internal pole members meeting jointly with the VLab international coordination. Prof. Guy Doumeingts will be the representative chairing the meeting.

After last year's meeting in Lisbon, this year the place of the meeting will be in Guimarães, in the North of Portugal. Guimarães embraces a major Portuguese University for Engineering and it is one of the most industrialized regions of Portugal. The aim to have the meeting in such place is to integrate and motivate the inclusion and connection of the Portuguese VLab pole members with Portuguese industry.

In parallel with the dissemination of the Portuguese VLab main acting areas among local Academic and Industrial participants, it is expected to provide them with the opportunity to share common interests, to encourage engagements in innovative approaches and to attract synergies between Portuguese industry and official and international entities.

During the second day, in the morning there will be an open session dedicated to the research and scientific activities of the Portuguese VLab pole. It will address major related R&D activities in place in Portugal, and it will bring personalities of the academic and government, engaged and motivated for the activities in the scope of VLab.

Of focus, we will have the presence of “Quadrilatero” that is a consortium of 4 major Municipalities in one of the most industrialized regions of Portugal, that have now organized themselves to address problems, of which many are connected to interoperability for public administration, business and industry.

After the opening from the Director of the School of Engineering of University of Minho, Professor Doctor António Cunha, the president of “Quadrilatero” will lead the first part of this session driving 3 presentations on “Mobility”, “Enterprise” and “Digital Network”. Then, several R&D activities and projects in developed by the VLab pole members will be presented and analyzed.

In the afternoon, the session will be directed to the industry, and major industrial players are invited to participate. This session will have a workshop style, and intends to be interactive with the audience. The academic, supplier and client’s perspectives of enterprise interoperability will be the focus of the workshop. Invited companies CEOs will be part of the session.

We are looking forward to welcoming all in this meeting. Welcome to Portugal. Welcome to Guimarães.

Ricardo Goncalves

Coordination of Portuguese VLab Pole

For more details to attend the event: <http://interop-vlab.eu/events/the-interop-vlab-events/portuguese-pole-local-event>

The Portuguese Pole in a nutshell

Name of the Pole: *INTEROP-VLab PtRP (Portuguese Research Pole)*

Legal form: GRoupIng of Scientific interest (GRIS)

Date of creation: 1st March of 2007

Represented by: Prof. Adolfo Steiger and Prof. Ricardo Goncalves, from UNINOVA

Members

Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa

UNINOVA: Instituto de Desenvolvimento de Novas Tecnologias

Escola de Engenharia, Campus de Azurém, University of Minho

Escola Superior de Tecnologia, Campus da Penha, University of Algarve



Associated partners :

IAPMEI - Instituto de Apoio às Pequenas e Médias Empresas e ao Investimento

INA - Instituto Nacional de Administração

Neobiz Consulting

Running FP7 projects: iSurf, cuteLoop and K-net connected with the cluster in Enterprise Interoperability

Completed projects: INTEROP NoE (FP6 IST); ATHENA (FP6 IST); active participation in the EI Research Roadmap

The International Conference I-ESA China 2009**Invitation letter to the conference**

By Prof. Xiaofei XU
Harbin Institute of Technology, CN
I-ESA China 2009 Chair



International Conference
I-ESA China 2009
Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications

Beijing, China
Pre-conference: April 20, 2009
Conference: April 21-22, 2009

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

The International Conference on Interoperability for Enterprise Software & Applications (**I-ESA China 2009**) will be held in April 20th -22nd, 2009, in Beijing Friendship Hotel, in China. After four successful I-ESA conferences with a record of attracting innovative and high quality research, related to all aspects of Enterprise Interoperability (EI) since 2005, I-ESA has been proved as one of the most prestigious conferences for researchers and practitioners in the domain of Interoperability of Enterprise Software and Applications. In the same line, the organization of a special edition of I-ESA in China has as main goals, to promote collaboration of enterprises through interoperability, to link China and Europe, and the world.

The event will start on April 20th, 2009 with a pre-conference (including five workshops), then will continue on April 20th - 22nd with the main conference. Now the preparation of **I-ESA China 2009** is going smoothly: the call for paper has been successfully finished, paper review is in progress, as well as preliminary programs of workshops and conference. The organization of the conference is looking good and is bringing into play of considerable resources to offer you:

- Copious workshops including interesting topics for EI for SMEs / EI Roadmap / EI Standards, etc.
- High level keynote speeches given by speakers coming from China and Europe's government, academic and industry.
- High quality papers of 14 topics related to Enterprise Interoperability.

We will be pleased to welcome you to **I-ESA China 2009** in order that your participation will contribute to the success of the conference.

You will find hereafter some useful information for your venue:

Accommodation:

- Beijing Friendship Hotel (recommended) : RMB 500-600 per standard room (about 50-65 €)

<http://www.bjfriendshiphotel.com/english/index.asp>

- Beijing Yanshan Hotel: RMB 500 per standard room (about 50 €)

<http://www.yanshanhotel.com/en/reservation.html>

Registration fee:

- Conference: 350 € including lunches, coffee breaks, conference proceedings, dinners.
- Pre-conference (workshops): 100 € including lunches, coffee breaks, dinner.
- For participants to both pre-conference and conference: 400 € including lunches, coffee breaks, dinners.

You will find more information to come on the website: www.i-esa.org.cn

It would be a great pleasure for us to meet you in **I-ESA China 2009** in Beijing, China!

The International Programme Committee and the Organization Committee
I-ESA China 2009

Programme of the Pre-conference
I-ESA Pre-conference: Monday 20 April 2009
Presentation of the five workshops

The final programme of the conference will be soon available on www.i-esa.org.cn

Workshop 1: International Workshop on Enterprise Interoperability for SMEs		Workshop 2: International Workshop on Roadmap of Enterprise Interoperability	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze problems, solutions and approaches for enterprise interoperability (EI) in SMEs - Exchange experiences on IT interoperable applications in SMEs and to find potential collaborative partners between Europe and China 	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present Various EI roadmaps existing in the world - Compare methodologies to build the EI Roadmap - Launch development of the EI Roadmap proposed by IFIP and INTEROP-VLab
Main Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements of enterprise interoperability for SMEs - Experiences and approaches of enterprise interoperability for SMEs - Architectures and Frameworks for EI - Enterprise modeling for EI - IT applications (e.g. ERP, SCM, CRM, etc.) in SMEs - Scenarios and case study on EI in SMEs 	Main Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of the art of EI research and roadmaps existing in the world - Strategic visions on EI in 2020 - Framework for an EI roadmap proposed by IFIP and INTEROP-VLab - Plan, milestones and activities to elaborate the EI roadmap by IFIP and INTEROP-VLab
Contact	Prof. Degang CUI, e-mail: dgcui@vip.163.com	Contact	Prof. Xiaofei XU, e-mail: xiaofei@hit.edu.cn

Workshop 3: International Workshop on Interoperability for Public Administration	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compare the approaches developed in Europe and in China for the interoperability in the domain of public administration and e-government
Main Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interoperability and standards - Interoperability and digital contents - Framework for interoperability in public administration and e-government - Semantics in the domain of interoperability in public administration and e-Government - The experience on development of interoperability in public administration and e-Government in Europe and in China
Contact	Prof. Guy Doumeingts, e-mail: guy.doumeingts@interop-vlab.eu

Workshop 5: International Workshop on Collaboration for Interoperable Systems	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze various approaches for interoperability in the domain of collaborative environments based on experience in different European projects concerned with VR, knowledge mediation, e business technologies and project management. - Compare these European and Chinese approaches in the domain of collaborative work with multiple technological approaches.
Main Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration for interoperable systems - Human interaction in collaborative workspaces - Collaboration in distributed systems - Cultural aspects of remote collaborative working
Contact	Mr. Colin PIDDINGTON, e-mail: colin.piddington@cimmedia.com

Workshop 4: International Workshop on Common Standards or Inter-Regional Struggles - Looking at the EU's and China's ICT Standardisation Activities	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable a better mutual understanding of Chinese, European and international standards on EI - Allow researchers, standards setters, and policy makers to debate in the domain of EI - Discuss standardization from a higher context for its value in the domain of EI
Main Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standards of Enterprise Interoperability - The Chinese and the EU's standardization policies - The evolution of Consortia Standardization in ICT industry and interoperability - Standards, Competition, and Anti-Trust practice on Enterprise Interoperability - Respective links with, and relations to, international standardization on EI - IPR in Standardization/Interoperability debated in WTO - Open Standardization, Open Source and Interoperability - The experience on the Role of Government in Standardization and the benefit for Interoperability
Contact	Mr. Kai JAKOBS, e-mail: kai.jakobs@nets.rwth-aachen.de



What's new on the I-VLab Platform



A new poster and brochure available on www.interop-vlab.eu

On the occasion of the ICT 2008 stand in Lyon, the management and the Board of I-VLab prepared a new poster and a brochure to present the activities and the I-VLab network of Poles.

The brochure is downloadable (link below) or you can send an email to info@interop-vlab.eu to receive it by mail.

Link to download the brochure and the poster: http://interop-vlab.eu/interop-vlab-network/interop_vlab_documentation/

Public deliverables of the IDEAS project in free access

Since May 2008, I-VLab has been chosen by the European Commission to be the official repository of EI (Enterprise Interoperability) public deliverables, from the 5th, 6th and 7th Framework programmes. Deliverables from Interop, Athena, Abilities, Fusion and Genesis projects are already available in free access and from now, deliverables of the IDEAS project are also downloadable.

As the projects in execution advance, recent deliverables will be uploaded.

Link to access to the EI public deliverables: http://interop-vlab.eu/ei_public_deliverables

Upcoming I-VLab events

The I-VLab Event Cycle (IVEC)

I-VLab and its Member Poles propose a series of events in the domain of Enterprise Interoperability. The next local event is organized by the Portuguese Pole (details on page 4).

To receive more information on these events (programme, registration...), contact info@interop-vlab.eu.

Organizer	Event	Location	Date
Portuguese Pole - PtRP	Local event of the Pole	Guimarães / Portugal	5-6 February 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
INTEROP UK Pole	Annual General Meeting of the Pole and Scientific Workshop	UK	Sept-Oct 2009
Spanish Pole - INTERVAL	Local event of the Pole, performed during the «IWEI 2009» conference	Valencia / Spain	13-14 October 2009
Italian Pole - VLab.IT	Local event of the Pole	Italy	October 2009
INTEROP PGSO France	Local event of the Pole	Tarbes / France	October 2009
Portuguese Pole - PtRP	Local event of the Pole	Guimarães / Portugal	Jan-Feb 2010
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
Spanish Pole - INTERVAL	Local event of the Pole	Valencia / Spain	September 2010
INTEROP UK Pole	Annual General Meeting of the Pole and Scientific Workshop	UK	Sept-Oct 2010
INTEROP North Pole	Local event of the Pole	tbd	October 2010
German Pole - DFI	Local event of the Pole	Germany	January 2011
Portuguese Pole - PtRP	Local event of the Pole	Guimarães / Portugal	Jan-Feb 2011
INTEROP-VLab	INTEROP-VLab General assembly and meetings	Brussels / Belgium	June 2011
Spanish Pole - INTERVAL	Local event of the Pole	Valencia / Spain	September 2011
INTEROP UK Pole	Annual General Meeting of the Pole and Scientific Workshop	UK	Sept-Oct 2011
Portuguese Pole - PtRP	Local event of the Pole	Guimarães / Portugal	Jan-Feb 2012
Spanish Pole - INTERVAL	Conference I-ESA 12	Valencia / Spain	20-23 March 2012

INTEROP-VLab Conferences

IESA China 2009, 20-23 April 2009, Beijing (CN)

Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications promoting collaboration of enterprises through interoperability, to link China and Europe, and the World

Conference website: www.i-esa.org.cn

CEISIE'09, 25-26 May 2009, Bordeaux (FR)

5th China - Europe International symposium on software industry oriented education
Theme: Educate adaptive talents for IT Applications in Enterprises and Interoperability

Conference website: <http://extranet.ims-bordeaux.fr/CEISIE09/>

Other upcoming events and EC meetings

ICT Proposer's Day, 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

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

Enterprise Networking and RFID Info Day, 18 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium

Information day on the new EC Work Programme focusing on Research in Enterprise Networking and RFID topics: this networking event will allow participants to better understand the expected impact of Objective 1.4 and meet with other researchers/experts to build first-class partnerships.

More information to come soon.

Enterprise Interoperability Cluster Meeting, 19 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium

This first meeting of the year for the EI community will be organised in conjunction with the K- NET project. Among the subjects to be discussed: how the community can contribute to support our enterprises facing the banking crisis, the work plan for 2009, a new vision statement.

More information to come soon.

EEEGov Days 2009, 22-24 April, 2009, Brevnov Monastery, Prague, Czech Republic

7th Eastern European e-Gov Days: eGovernment & eBusiness Ecosystem & eJustice

Conference website: http://www.epma.cz/7th_eeegovdays.html

Research Connection 2009, 7-8 May 2009, Prague, Czech Republic

Organized by the European Commission Directorate-General for Research, the event will present three major ongoing research initiatives: the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), 2007-2013; the Structural Funds, 2007-2013 and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), 2007-2013.

Event website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/rtd-2009/index_en.cfm

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Find more events on the INTEROP-VLab website!
www.interop-vlab.eu

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