



E-CLIC is Launched

E-CLIC – European Collaborative Innovation Centres for Broadband Media Services – was launched 1 September 2008. The partners are representing a connected ring of European collaborative innovation centres.

The project was established with the main objective of building a strong NSR cluster in the area of broadband services, media technology, broadband systems, usability and testing, while maintaining a balance between

competencies, industry and academia. The consortium brings together 16 partners from six member states. E-CLIC combines a unique set of partner skills. Read more about the different centres on page four.



Kick-off in Norwich 24-27 September 2008

The E-CLIC project was off to a flying start in Norwich, UK, hosted by Mark Wells and his staff at the EPIC centre. The participants followed a busy schedule, including everything from deep discussions about E-CLIC’s course of action to a relaxing river cruise.

Norwich offered the E-CLIC participants beautifully sunny weather when the kick-off conference took place on 24 to 27 September 2008. The official launch of the project began with a reception hosted by Norfolk County Council chairman and attended by the lord mayor of Norwich. During the reception all guests had the opportunity to admire the beautiful Marble Hall of Norwich Union, Surrey St. Norwich.



The lead beneficiary County Administrative Board of Värmland, with Sture Hermansson in charge, presented a tight schedule, including various discussions of great importance for the delegates. During the first session each partner was given time for a short presentation. The following day group sessions left a few question marks to be straitened

out. The liveliest discussed question was the one concerning the intellectual property rights (IPR). E-CLIC’s six workpackages also demanded a long interesting discussion.

Mark Wells gave a tour of the EPIC centre; an impressive range of equipment was to be seen. EPIC stands for *East of England Production Innovation Centre*. E-CLIC Norfolk will operate as a living lab within the EPIC centre. Personnel at the EPIC centre took very good care of the delegates, and to bring the kick-off to a close all participants were taken out on a river cruise.

Katarina Nordmark, project co-ordinator, summed up the kick-off conference

as having been fruitful for all participants.

– We have been able to carry the discussions forward, bringing the start up chaos to order, which was one of the main reasons for a kick-off. Another motive behind the kick-off was of course getting to know each other. We have three exciting years in front of us, working together as project partners, says Katarina Nordmark.



Conference at Karlstad University, Sweden

International Conference in Karlstad

Sponsored by E-CLIC

On 11-12 December 2008 Karlstad University arranged the first international conference on M4D, Mobile Communication Technology for Development – M4D 2008. Within the conference there were three workshops running parallel: one Workshop on Wireless Broadband Access for Communities and Rural Developing Regions – WIRELESS4D'08 – sponsored by E-CLIC, one Workshop on Collaboration in East Africa and a transnational workshop meeting for E-CLIC project members. The M4D 2008 conference added up a total of 120 participants from all over the world.

The focus of the general M4D conference was on multi-disciplinary research addressing the social, political, cultural and educational barriers to bringing ICT to developing regions. The workshop focused on the technical and economical aspects of enabling (broadband) wireless internet access in rural and developing areas, as well as supporting communities and municipalities.

The workshop ended with a panel discussion on the subject Wireless Networks for Rural and Developing Areas - Technologies, Economics and Social Implications. Over one hundred people came to listen to the discussion which was lead by Victor Bahl, Microsoft Research, USA.

Andreas Kassler, chair of the E-CLIC sponsored workshop, said after

the conference that he had received a lot of positive reactions.

– People I have talked to seem to be very satisfied with the whole arrangement. This does not come as a surprise since we have been able to offer the very best in this area. We received a total of 51 submissions to choose from, but we only had the possibility to admit 14 papers, including manuscripts from the top five universities in the world. In addition to the technical sessions there were a key note talk given by Victor Bahl from Microsoft Research, two invited papers – from Switzerland and Italy – and a panel discussion session. We also selected 19 posters together with demonstrations to give young researchers the chance

to present their ideas, says Andreas Kassler.

Andreas Kassler continues by saying that the objective with the conference was to bring together researchers and practitioners and to serve as a forum for presenting and discussing state of the art research, exchanging ideas and experiences, and facilitating interaction and collaboration.

– I think we succeeded with our goal, it was of great importance to get researchers and practitioners together. From here on we can continue our mission to bring broadband at reasonable cost to rural and developing regions, summarizes Andreas Kassler.



Conference Guests from Far Away

The M4D 2008 conference was visited by a large amount of far away guests. I had the pleasure to talk to one of them, Charles Tumwebaze from Uganda, who chose the workshop sponsored by E-CLIC.

Charles Tumwebaze came to Sweden in company with his two colleagues Frank Nkuyahaga and Peter Wahkoli. They all work at the Makerere University in Uganda with software applications, the university also has a wireless research centre.



Why did you choose this workshop?

It had an interesting agenda, and I felt that I wanted to know what is going on in the world within this area.

What is most important by coming here?

I think that the possibility to share knowledge with other people, both researchers and practitioners is very important. This whole conference has been a fantastic opportunity to do that. It feels good to dig deep into this specific area.

Did the workshop fulfil your expectations?

Yes, it more than fulfilled my expectations. I am overwhelmed by everything that people in other parts of the world is doing for us living in Africa. It is amazing that so many people care to make it better for us.

Note:

At the end of December the website of Makerere University was down, since the University owed the broadband operator money.

WP5 Kick-off Meeting in Karlstad

Andreas Kassler, WP5 leader, took the opportunity to call for a WP5 kick-off meeting during the M4D 2008 conference.

The E-CLIC project is broken down into six work packages. Each work package is set around a specific area within the scope of broadband media services. Work Package 5 is about broadband access, which had a natural link with the theme of the conference.

Andreas Kassler gave all centre leaders the chance to bring everybody up to date with what is going on, within WP5, in each centre. Plans regarding the future was also given time to discuss.

In the early morning of 12 December all participants were invited to celebrate a typical Swedish tradition – Lucia – who comes to bring light to the darkness in Sweden.



WP5 kick-off participants

Work Packages Within E-CLIC

WP1 - Project Management and Dissemination

WP2 - Regional and Transnational Collaboration and Development

WP3 - Services Development

WP4 - Content Production

WP5 - Broadband access

WP6 - Evaluation, Validation and Exploitation



Lucia at Karlstad University

Värmland's First Student Project

Compare Testlab – one of the partners of E-CLIC Värmland – has engaged six students, studying computer engineering at Karlstad University, to run a project called TRACS – Test Results and Configuration System.

The idea of TRACS is to develop an application that supports homogeneous handling of test results and configuration of new tests. The web based tool that the students are to develop will receive the same name as the project – TRACS.

Eva Glavenius and Torbjörn Wiger,

both working at Compare Testlab, are responsible for the project assignment. They say that the aim of the project is to elaborate a prototype that will be useful for test management of

all kinds of software test. The project result will be presented in January 2009.



Calendar

WP4 Meeting

20-21/1 2009 EPIC, Norwich UK

WP1 Financial Meeting

10-11/3 2009 Copenhagen Denmark

Multimedia Conference, E-CLIC Project Meeting and WP3 Meeting

18-20/5 2009 Howest, Kortrijk Belgium

Steering Committee Meeting, Project Meeting and WP6 Meeting

14-15/9 2009 Germany or Norway

E-CLIC Centres' Set Up

Eight E-CLIC centres are being set up all over the North Sea Region. Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, UK and Norway constitute the member states of the connected ring that the E-CLIC centres form.

There are 16 cooperating partners that collectively establish the E-CLIC centres. The different centres have assorted expertise and facilities. The status of the collaborative innovation centres varies from being under construction to offices already running. A centre presentation follows.

Värmland – Sweden

Mobile media services and processes for quality assurance.

Borås – Sweden

Impact evaluation research, Co-design research.

Bremen – Germany

Digital media, Mobile gaming, Usability engineering.

Wilhelmshaven – Germany

Broadband access technologies, Gaming, Content production, 3D-presentations.

Groningen – Netherlands

ICT applications and broadband services for training purposes.

Kortrijk – Belgium

Industrial Product Design, Multimedia, Digital Arts and Entertainment.

Norfolk – UK

Development of digital HD & IP TV content production.

Rogaland – Norway

Development, deployment and provisioning of broadband services and content, Gaming and E-learning.



Rogaland - Norway



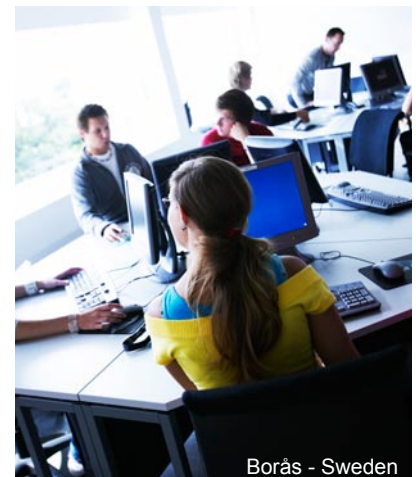
Wilhelmshaven - Germany



Norfolk - UK



Värmland - Sweden



Borås - Sweden

E-CLIC Newsletter

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The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



WP2 Meeting in Copenhagen

Jan Frick, representing Rogaland, is WP2 leader and convened to a meeting in Copenhagen on 29-30 November 2008. WP2 deals with regional and transnational collaboration and development.

At the meeting, each representative gave an update on their respective centres' WP2 progress. It showed that most centres are already fully engaged in WP2 activities; despite this there are still quite a few decisions to

be made. The most important topic of the day was about university courses, student exchange etc. Jan Frick closed the meeting after two intensive days.