



DIGITAL AGENDA
for the NORTH SEA

DANS CLUSTER

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

Welcome to **DANS** cluster's 2nd newsletter. This issue has information about on-going and planned activities such as: the implemented online consultation, the **DANS** cluster »Best Practice« guide and the cluster's participation at the EU Ministerial Conference on eGovernment in frame of the Cyprus EU Presidency.

The **DANS** cluster made presentations to NSR Annual Conference which took place in Bremerhaven in June 2012 and participated in a variety of other events. At the moment the **DANS** cluster is preparing its 2nd transnational stakeholder meeting.

Enjoy reading!



Rebekka Welsch



Kathrin Rath



Prof. Dr. Walter Leal

CALENDAR

1-4 September 2012 Nicosia, Cyprus
EASTWEST 2012 – East meets West, International Congress and Exhibition on innovation and entrepreneurship

7 September 2012 Taastrup, Denmark
2nd Transnational Stakeholder Meeting

20 September 2012 Groningen, The Netherlands
»Creating Space« – Creative City Challenge Final Conference, (<http://g3c.nl/en/ccc-english>)

8-11 October 2012 Brussels, Belgium
10th European Week of Regions and Cities (OPEN DAYS)

3-4 December 2012 Nicosia, Cyprus
»eGovernment Conference«

DANS CLUSTER AT THE NSR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN BREMERHAVEN 18 and 19 June 2012

DANS cluster contributed to this year's NSR Annual Conference, which took place in Bremerhaven, Germany, on 18 and 19 June 2012, by giving a presentation about the project at the conference exhibition and by leading a 20-minute workshop session.

The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



*Investing in the future by working together
for a sustainable and competitive region*

During the **DANS** cluster workshop session, which was attended by around 40 people, Mike Thacker (Porism Ltd) presented the esd-toolkit.eu and described its role in implementing a Digital Agenda for Europe. The esd-toolkit provides an online resource for use across the North Sea Region and elsewhere in Europe to facilitate:

- Interoperability through standardized service references
- Customer insight to focus services according to needs

Take a look at esd-toolkit.eu and e-mail support@esd-toolkit.eu if you have any questions.

DANS CLUSTER'S 2ND TRANSNATIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP 7 September 2012, Taastrup (DK)

DANS cluster will organise its 2nd transnational stakeholder workshop at the premises of the Danish Technological Institute, Taastrup, on 7 September 2012.

Under the title »The Digital Agenda going local – news and up-dates from the North Sea Region« various stakeholders from Germany, Belgium, Sweden, The Netherlands and U.K are going to discuss current developments, challenges and barriers with regard to the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Europe in the North Sea region on local and regional levels. Also some first results of the **DANS** cluster online consultation and the Best Practice Guide will be presented.

More information and the agenda is available under <http://www.dans-cluster.eu/>



DANS CLUSTER'S »BEST PRACTICES GUIDE« UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Värmland County Administrative Board (SE) and the Hanze University of Applied Sciences (NL) are currently compiling the DANS Cluster's »Best Practices Guide«. The guide will contain the best of the good practices identified by the Interreg IVB NSR projects E-CLIC, Creative City Challenge and Smart Cities. These »best« good practices will then be »inked« to the Digital Agenda's seven priorities.

During a meeting in Groningen in spring 2012, a large number of good practices were collected from all three North Sea projects. Best examples which will enter the guide were selected. The practices are currently being drafted into one coherent guide, which will be presented during autumn 2012. Watch this space!



DANS CLUSTER ONLINE CONSULTATION LAUNCHED

An inquisitorial marathon has been started! With a deadline of 6 July 2012, atene KOM launched an online questionnaire to structure feedback as to the contribution of each partner to the cluster. In this first round of consultation, they had asked all partners of the three projects clustered in DANS: CCC, E-CLIC and Smart Cities, a set of 21 open questions. They gathered relatively short, but open text replies aimed at catching uncritically details of the diverse deliverables of the projects.



In the second phase of the exercise they refined the questions into a more structured set, with a reply matrix, aimed at stakeholders. This second target group was to be approached by the three projects' Lead partners either via e-mail, or directly via individual interviews. The intermediary output from this exercise will be evaluated at the cluster's 2nd transnational stakeholder conference in Taastrup, DK, in early September 2012.

As a third phase, and with the outcome of the above exercise, the **DANS** cluster intends to confront politicians involved in the subject area and/or the regions covered to make it relevant to the current agenda and to upcoming policy instruments regarding the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE). For example, outcomes will be expressed in the context of the draft regulation on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

DANS will focus outcomes of the cluster on five themes: (a) creating a digital Single Market; (b) greater interoperability; (c) better investment in research and development; (d) enhancing digital literacy skills and inclusion and (e) applying information and communications technologies to address challenges facing society like climate change and the ageing population.

From the cascading methodology described above, **DANS** will:

- further and promote the so-called »Citadel Statement« (Citadel Statement 2.0)
- promote the Smart Cities esd-toolkit.eu framework of a joint EU local government service list
- issue a »Good Practices Guide« with selected results from the three projects linked to the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE)
- develop and promote the »**DANS** model« for translating the DAE to the local and regional level, based on transnational cooperation and regional triple-helix partnerships

DANS CLUSTER AGAIN PRESENT AT EU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

DANS Cluster will be present at the annual European Ministerial Conference on eGovernment, which will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 3-4 December 2012 during the Cyprus EU Presidency. The e-Government Conference will bring together experts from the Commission, the Member States, the Candidate Countries and the Private Sector. The conference will focus on interoperability issues and the participants will discuss and exchange ideas/experiences on how to empower European citizens and businesses, in order to improve their mobility across Europe. Attendance to the 2012 Ministerial conference follows an earlier participation from the **DANS** Cluster at the Poznan informal European Ministerial eGovernment Conference, held in December 2011. The Citadel statement and **DANS** cluster were presented by Mr. Geert Mareels, Head of eGovernment Flemish Government. Participation at such high level European events is consistent with **DANS** Cluster's aim of influencing European policies on the digital agenda.



Please find more information under:

<http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/de/political-calendar/areas/economic-and-financial-affairs/egovernment-conference>

DANS CLUSTER PRESENTED TO DUTCH MINISTRIES

On 30 March 2012 a delegation of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation visited the Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen. This meeting was organised in collaboration with the EU Interreg North Sea Region Coordinator for the Northern Netherlands, the province of Groningen and the Municipality of Groningen. Several Interreg projects including Smart Cities, E-CLIC, Creative City Challenge and DANS cluster, were presented by their representatives. The delegation was very enthusiastic about what the projects offer.



DIGITAL AGENDA SIGNATORY INITIATIVE IN SWEDEN

Värmland County Administrative Board has signed up to the regional implementation of the Digital Agenda. The Swedish government has issued a »signatory initiative«, which means that local and regional authorities and organisations can sign up to taking responsibility for the Digital Agenda's implementation. In addition to Värmland County Administrative Board, the Regional Development Council of Värmland and the County Council of Värmland will become signatories, and will together take responsibility for implementation of the Digital Agenda in Värmland.



Värmland County Administrative Board's participation will ensure that the signatory initiative is clearly linked to the implementation of the Digital Agenda in the North Sea Region, and visibly linked to the **DANS** Cluster in terms of dissemination and building on project results.

Furthermore, as a result of this initiative, Örebro County Administrative Board – responsible for assisting national and regional authorities in the implementation of the Digital Agenda in Sweden – will take part in the **DANS** Cluster's 2nd transnational stakeholder meeting on 7th September 2012 in Taastrup, Denmark.

EAST-MEETS-WEST – DANS CLUSTER AS AN EXAMPLE OF TRANSNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE

The project **DANS** Cluster will be present at a Congress on Innovation and Entrepreneurship to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 1-4 September 2012, as part of the Cypriot EU Presidency. The event is being organised by the European Office of Cyprus and will explore new tools to bring researchers and enterprises together from all over Europe. The main objective of the event is to promote cross-national collaboration between east and west as a tool to overcome national limitations on knowledge, financial resources, technology and services.

Further details can be seen at: www.eastmeetswest.eu.com



SOCIAL CITIES CONFERENCE IN DUNDEE

24 May 2012

On 24 May 2012, Dundee College hosted the »Social Cities« conference as part of the Creative City Challenge project. The conference explored the potential of social enterprise, social media and crowd funding. With over 100 delegates, it was the second in a series of conferences organised to highlight and develop current key areas for stimulating growth in the creative industries and communities across the European Community.

Social enterprises take many and varied forms, but they share the common key characteristic of a commitment to strengthening the local community through social aims such as job creation, training and provision of local services. Often because of the creative individuals they tend to attract, creative industries have the capacity to broaden the base for this enterprise culture and extend opportunities to communities not normally associated with entrepreneurial activity.

Alongside this growth in social responsibility, the Internet boom in social media offers important strategic networking, marketing and business tools that allow individuals and SMEs to compete with more established organisations on a far more equal footing. Through effective implementation, such strategies allow new entrants to the market to not only survive in the current economic climate, but develop competitive advantages and thrive in the new environments they create.

Crowd funding is already a proven success in the creative industries, particularly the music industry. At its simplest, it involves the funding of creative projects by a number of small donors, usually via the Internet. The Social Cities conference presented new European approaches, already being pioneered in new creative areas, to helping artists and entrepreneurs finance their projects through innovative crowd funding platforms.

www.creative-city-challenge.net/en/social-cities-conference-2012.html

DIGITAL AGENDA NETWORK – NEW PROJECT IN VÄRMLAND (SE)

Värmland County Administrative Board will be responsible for setting up a national network for future work related to the Digital Agenda within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Funding from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth to establish a project network for the Digital Agenda in the Baltic Sea Region has been granted for this purpose.

With a thematic focus on the Digital Agenda's priorities, the two-year project aims to form the basis for Swedish county administrations, regional development councils and authorities for the coming Baltic Sea Region Programme. The project also aims to create a Swedish model for the sustainable implementation of the Digital Agenda in the Baltic Sea Region. Through workshops, seminars and conference, Värmland County Administrative Board will facilitate an exchange of knowledge between Swedish regional and national stakeholders, and generally strengthen competence on the Digital Agenda.

The synergies with **DANS** are many. The project will build on North Sea projects such as Digital Agenda for the North Sea (**DANS**) and E-CLIC, with a view to using experiences from these projects in the Baltic Sea Region.

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FURTHER LINKS

www.smartcities.info

www.e-clic.eu

www.creative-city-challenge.net