

ECOSPACE – Innovation in Collaborative Working Environments

ECOSPACE pursues the vision that by 2012 every Professional in Europe is empowered for seamless, dynamic and creative collaboration across teams, organisations and communities through a personalised collaborative working environment.

At a glance: ECOSPACE

**Integrated project on
eProfessional Collaboration Space**

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Partners: Fraunhofer FIT (DE), AREL (IL), Atkins (UK), Business Collaborator (UK), CeTIM (DE), De Agostini (IT), ESoCE Net (IT), ETRA (ES), Euro Tax (HU), freiheit.com (GE), Hewlett Packard Italiana (IT), JayTown (NL), National University of Ireland (IE), SAP (DE), SPS (CH), TELIN (NL), TXT (IT), Universidad de Murcia (ES), Universidad Politecnica de Madrid (ES), Virtech (BG)

Duration: May 2006 – May 2009

Total cost: € 12,305,260

EC funding: € 7,600,000

Strategic Objective:

2.5.9 Collaborative Working Environments

ECOSPACE has four main objectives:

- The **definition of innovative work paradigms** through the analysis of eProfessionals and their related organisation.
- The **design and development of an open standards**, service-oriented architecture for complementary and alike systems.
- A **collaboration upperware and services** to enable seamless and instant collaboration among knowledge workers in group forming networks, beyond organisational boundaries.
- The **creation of new tools** that simplify the complexity of collaboration in dynamic work environments and which enable users for creative and knowledge intensive tasks.

ECOSPACE will result in new working paradigms and metaphors for eProfessionals, a user-centric platform enabling the interoperability of innovative collaboration tools and services.

New working paradigms and metaphors for eProfessionals

It will empower users to easily build-up and deploy on-demand virtualised and knowledge rich collaborative environments that will free the user from information and communication overload. Further to this, it will enable users to concentrate on interpersonal creativity and will dramatically increase interpersonal productivity. The ECOSPACE project also addresses the emerging research field of Knowledge Connection which is a key element to better support creativity.

Designed as a three-year programme, ECOSPACE deploys a systemic approach built on matrix based organisation with horizontal technology push activities and vertical application pull activities. Vertical validating applications apply a Living Lab approach within 3 application areas. They act as breeding grounds for innovation; they prepare the broad acceptance of the results, and create open business opportunities for new generic or sector-specific products and services.



Mission

ECOSPACE's mission is to create and deploy an eProfessionals collaborative working environments, which improves the state of the art in online collaboration and in social activities support. ECOSPACE will augment productivity by sharing knowledge created by single, group or community efforts.

The ECOSPACE platform will provide an infrastructure that will change not only eProfessionals' way of working and collaborating, but the general way we interact and work with each other. The user-centric interoperability approach encourages the maximum of creativity in using whatever collaboration tools are available while safeguarding against monopolistic approaches and restrictive structures.

To achieve that mission, ECOSPACE is composed of groups and individuals from partners with dedicated expertise such as creating innovative concepts and methods for collaborative work, collaborative platform architecture design, and development of collaboration services and collaboration tools as horizontal technology push. The crossing vertical application pull is achieved through validating applications, organised into a living lab innovation and evaluation, such as Project Management lab, Media lab, and Professional community lab.

ECOSPACE results

- **Collaborative platform prototypes** including architecture, implemented collaboration middleware & services as well as extended existing collaboration tools and new collaboration tools integrating both asynchronous and synchronous aspects. This collaboration environment will enable knowledge workers, and especially eProfessionals, to easily network together, form groups and professional virtual communities for stimulating creativity and innovation while increasing productivity.
- **A set of three living labs** and experiment results for different business sectors driven by Atkins, De Agostini, and FIT/EsoCE-Net, as well as demonstrations and training material. A body of documented experience and methodological know-how gained in their application domains.
- **A dynamic community** that adopts the results of ECOSPACE and continues to extend them according to their needs using a developers' forum provided at the project web-site.
- **A collaboration platform reference architecture** and the corresponding upperware enabling the interplay and interoperability of collaboration services and tools in a collaboration environment as well as business process management, mobile and wearable computing. This result will be contributed to standards and will foster the seamless cooperation of users within and between organisations, teams and communities.

