



Luxembourg, 25 May 2007
EGIS/JMW D(2007)

Abstract for presentation of IPM and CIRCABC at Linuxtag 2007 (Berlin)

IPM and CIRCABC: OSS Tools for eGovernment services to foster collaboration between Administrations, Businesses and Citizens

IPM and CIRCABC are two of the initiatives of the IDABC (Interoperable Delivery of pan-European eGovernment Services to Administrations, Citizens and Businesses) Programme.

IPM (Interactive Policy Making) aims to improve governance by using the Internet to collect and analyse reactions of citizens and enterprises across the European Union (EU) Member States. Its objective is to help both Member State administrations and EU institutions to understand the needs of citizens and enterprises better, thanks to web portal ("[Your voice in Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice)"), <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice>. It is intended to assist policy development by allowing more rapid and targeted responses to emerging issues and problems, improving the assessment of the impact of policies (or the absence of them) and providing greater accountability to citizens.

The IPM Online Consultation Mechanism is used for the European Business Test Panel, a joint project between the European Commission and Member States aimed at evaluating the impact of new proposals on business. Enterprises become more involved in the consultation process by being given the opportunity to provide input on new initiatives and feedback on the application of existing legislation. The Feedback Mechanism is also used by local intermediaries (i.e. Chambers of Commerce) together with EU Member State Administrations for local policy making.

The full IPM open source software package is at the disposal of Member State Administrations, Businesses and Citizens, at no licensing cost, under the EUPL V 1.0 (<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/5425/5585>).

Documentation on IPM is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/3612/5585>

CIRCABC (Communication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations, Businesses and Citizens) will support collaborative and interactive services for Europe's administrations by allowing interest groups to build collaborative workspaces where they can share resources and work together remotely over the Internet or other networks on common objectives and tasks. Its objective is to provide an information management environment, group work facilities and customer support services. It will be constantly developed further to meet growing user requirements. The integration with IPM provides additional functionality for more interactions between stakeholders.

CIRCABC is expected to guarantee continued support and hosting for a multilingual "pan-European Expert Meeting Place" to facilitate interactions between Administrations, Businesses and Citizens. It will also ensure the long-term sustainability of the service to the whole IDABC community; create interoperable environments using open standards for integration of the tool with existing systems; improve accessibility of information to people with disabilities; develop multilingual features; support strong security and authentication mechanisms, encryption facilities and possibility for trusted exchanges and certificates.

CIRCABC aims to ensure a sustainable evolution of CIRCA. The existing CIRCA software has been widely used by the EU public administrations since 1996 to support the work of the numerous EU committees. More than 90 national administrations have received a free licence and use it for their own needs.

The CIRCABC initiative will also offer Administrations, Businesses and Citizens a collaborative software package at no licensing cost, under licence [EUPL V 1.0](http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/5425/5585) (<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/5425/5585>).

Documentation on CIRCA/BC is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/3487/5585>

Availability of the tools under Open Source licensing model will invite the community to participate actively to enhancements of the tool, additional development will be made by contributions of an Open Source Community animated by the European Commission. The future functional evolutions will be based on requirements proposed by the user community and with participation of all stakeholders.

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