Interoperability Utility for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Commius aims to deliver an adaptable and customisable software prototype, providing SMEs with “zero-cost of entry” into interoperability. Commius will hook into the email infrastructure and will establish interoperability agreements with the peers of the SMEs at the levels of system, semantics and process.

At a Glance:

The Project:
Commius partners envision a future in which SMEs enjoy a zero-cost entry into interoperability based on non-proprietary protocols. Following the suggestion of the IST Enterprise Interoperability Research Roadmap, the project conceives interoperability as a utility-like capability.

Project coordinator
The Project Coordinator, Softeco has over 25 years of experience in large project coordination. Softeco is an SME and brings into the project direct and concrete requirements which are derived from the SMEs business processes.

Partners from:
Austria, Germany, Greece
Italy, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom.

Duration:
The project, started on February 1st 2008, will last 36 months.

Total cost:
3.8 M€

Programme:
FP7 - THEME 1.3
ICT in Support of The Networked Enterprise

Commius, a solution for SMEs Enterprise Interoperability.

Interoperability is a tool to help SMEs facilitate the interconnection of business IT systems such as purchase order systems, email, accounting, etc.

Enterprise interoperability has been researched for decades without real success and little impact on SMEs. The market still lacks an affordable, easy to integrate solution. SMEs instead face costly investment, extensive integration effort and significant revision of their working tools and systems.

SMEs in Europe: A growing market for Interoperability solutions.

There are 19 million SMEs within Europe, representing 99.8% of all registered businesses, and the economy depends upon their contribution to wealth creation and employment. Although SMEs have some strong advantages in flexibility and responsiveness, they face challenges in large projects where efficient and effective collaboration with others is required.

Commius main objective is to support the SMEs with a free, or very low-cost, entry into interoperability, based on non-proprietary protocols.
Why should you be interested in Commius?

Commius will try to simplify the technical approach to interoperability, in order to spread the technology and help to automate your process.

The goal of Commius is to provide an adaptable software architecture for interoperability and collaboration in an easy way for SMEs, suitable for integration within network enterprise environments: As an SME user of Commius you will not be forced to install new interoperability solutions, adopt new working tools nor change your organisation and your business model. Commius interoperability solutions will evolve with the organisation adapting to the user needs and according to existing ICT infrastructures.

Commius outcomes will enable SMEs to react to the market requests as a net of collaborating companies, each providing specialised products, technologies and services.

Let’s see a real case

Current situation (without COMMIUS)

As part of its current activities, a vendor SME continuously receives a number of purchase orders.

One of the employees of the SME has to introduce all the relevant information into different systems: purchases received, order stock, accounting. This is usually done manually and typically thorough the access to different interfaces. After that someone should follow the workflow and check all the processes.

Future situation (with COMMIUS)

When Commius will be installed, it will receive the purchase order, then it will automatically enrich the received message with links to check the stock for availability and send the order to the correct addresses. Commius will also be able to provide additional relevant information the responsible person could be interested in, such as information about past purchase orders by the same customer and the likes.

In addition, Commius can be configured to automatically send the information to the accounting system, with the necessary alerts and reporting to the responsible, if necessary.

The whole business process will be performed in a easier and more automatic way, and will decrease the human effort required, leaving to the user only the tasks of verifying the steps suggested by Commius and of taking the necessary decisions.

Join the Commius Community.

If you would like to be kept informed about Commius, we invite you to join the COMMIUS Community, by visiting our web site http://www.commius.eu/ where a specific area has been dedicated for COMMIUS Community members. You’ll receive information about advancements in COMMIUS research topics and news about COMMIUS results and releases, and will be able to take part in the many Community-oriented events that will take place around Europe.