EureauWeb

EUREAUWEB

Programme: Information Society technologies (IST)	
Start date: March 2002	
Duration: 40 months	
Coordinator: Human Factors Research Group - University College Cork (UK)	
Partners: Fraunhofer - Institut für Integrierte Publikations und Informationssysteme (D) Lancell Systems SL (S) CRS4 - Centro di Ricerca, Sviluppo e Studi Superiori in Sardegna (I) Radicalmedia Desenvolvimento, Produçao e Comercializaçao de Multimedia SA. (P) Euromapping (F) British Waterways (UK) Marketing Campaigns (UK) Fieldfare Trust (UK) Viking Afloat (UK) France Afloat Burgundy Cruisers S.A. (F) Shannon Castle Line (UK) Deutscher MotorYachtVerband e.V. (D)	

Information Society
Technologies

IST, Information Society Technologies

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SUMMARY

The project **EurEauWeb** aims to develop a set of services which will help increase commercial viability of Europe's waterways and leisure related businesses, preserve the heritage and environment of Europe's waterways, improve accessibility by the disabled, elderly and socially disadvantaged, and attract future generations of users.

The services will be based on advanced information and communication technology and will provide location sensitive multimedia tourist information (including digital maps), accessible through a hand held PC and through an European Waterways Portal Web Site.

OVERVIEW

EurEauWeb is an European project, financed by the European Commission (IST Programme), which target are the waterways. In a number of European countries, the waterways networks used for tourism and recreation are rather extensive.
They comprise rivers and lakes as well as canals, in particular those that were built in previous centuries (mainly eighteenth and nineteenth).
The European waterways are facing several major economics and environmental problems.
There is a danger that leisure use of European waterways may not survive as a commercial viability and that lack of use will lead to degradation of the environment and erosion of their the rich traditions and heritage.

EurEauWeb will address all these problems and concerns through the provision of a location-sensitive services available through a Web portal which will be accessible also from a hand held PC (PDA).

The PDA, tailored around a commercially available kernel, can be mounted on a boat, cycle, wheelchair, etc. The main "locationally aware" services will be:

- points/places of interest indicated and described

- refreshment/entertainment establishments in the vicinity and accessible by different classes of user (e.g. mobility impaired, elderly, young, blind, etc.)

- retail outlets, marinas, chandlers, boat builders, hire companies, fuel, water and refuse points, etc.

- angling/rambling/jogging/wildlife information

- canal societies, waterways magazines, rambling associations, travel agents, and cruising hotels/restaurants
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- Digitised maps of the entire European waterways network with 'hot spot' links to the information above.

Mobility is one of the major targets of the project which will exploit wireless communication technology such as UMTS to allow a fast data transfer to remote locations, and GPS technology for the localization of the requested services.

The services will be based on an innovative Web architecture which will allow to access different databases, collect and filter the data on the basis of the service request and the user profile, and to deliver the output information to the required media.

The management and the display of geographical information and maps will be managed by a specific component based on advanced GIS technology.

The project will take into account the business model required for the management of the services implemented. Both the organisational and the financial aspects will be analysed ad a model will be defined with indications about the organization of the workflow, the market policy and the financial feasibility of the initiative.

The results of the project may be applied to different areas where tourist information services, location sensitive, are required. For instance support of the tourist moving within a city or performing sailing, trekking or biking. Moreover it is possible to address completely different areas such as maintenance of large distributed industrial plants (power distribution net, utilities…) and other industrial or service applications.