



Platforms and applications for community communications

EnComPAs will enable the creation of a communication system and a converged residential-services suite for social communities. By distributing services throughout the home, EnComPAs aims at supporting the communication needs of the many social communities in which each member of the household takes part, such as school, colleagues, clubs, friends, or family.

Main focus

The mission of EnComPas is to create an open pan-European initiative to speed up the deployment of new networked products and applications at home and the growth of the EU economy in related sectors like, for instance, consumer electronics, telecom services, and household appliances. EnComPas focuses on the technical level, especially application and service provisioning platforms, and on the user level, including user experiences and field trials. One of the goals of the project is to set

up the needed infrastructure for the deployment, operation and support of the new products and services for the networked home, building an end-to-end platform for a variety of different players, including content-, service providers and high numbers of end users.

Socio-cultural factors and end-user aspects that are the key to the success of applications will be one cornerstone element of the project, allowing to identify, develop and deploy attractive applications using the potential of new multimedia services.



EnComPAs

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Partners

Alcatel, Belgium

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K. U. Leuven, Belgium

Elisa Corporation, Finland

Nokia, Finland

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Approach

In designing a platform for community communications, EnComPas follows a layered approach: network management, service provisioning by a service aggregator and multimedia content provider management by an application server platform. This approach also includes the user side, integrating the routing and services gateway with the different home networks.

Moreover, applications will also be investigated to identify, develop and deploy services and applications that are attractive and provide a better user experience in everyday life for the end-users. A special focus will be on user communities, e.g. classmates, family members, colleagues, and hobby club members. Different activities will be performed to create innovative user interfaces applicable across services (3D interfaces) that will be user friendly and intuitive. Within this project, a large variety of user devices will be taken into account, including advanced aspects as the download and management of multimedia contents at home.

The platform and applications will be checked on European level in labs, in existing demonstrators and in field trials to assure technical and user acceptance and study the related operational and business aspects. Among other activities, a distributed test-bed will be set up to verify that the different service platforms are able to interoperate, handle different Residential Gateways and provide services across different industry players and users. All these steps are aiming to reach the needed critical mass of users, applications, service providers, and contents for all European homes.

Main results

This project will set up an end-to-end provisioning system for a large variety of applications and services. At the end of the project, the system should be ready for operation. The main features will be:

Remote home network management, including the configuration of the homes devices.

Implementation of the **service aggregator model** supporting multiple service providers.

Content management, including multimedia aspects.

In addition, some applications will be developed, integrated in the system and validated by end users, e.g. private media sharing and home surveillance. Concerning testing and interoperability, EnComPas will contribute to building the first step of an integrated test-bed and, thus, enable interoperation tests of services and platforms on European level. User experiences and field trial will provide very valuable feedback about user reactions over the services and systems developed within this project. This is a very important result as it is a first step towards the commercial exploitation.

Impact

The project has strategic relevance for the telecoms industry. It addresses the core activities of network operators, service providers, and platform developers. The impact of EnComPas particularly includes:

The provision of **interoperable services and open platforms** based on innovative standards. The planned system will integrate different innovative technologies, based on widely accepted standards, e.g. OSGi, web services, SOAP communications, J2EE architectures). The use of standards is essential for the overall system to be open by allowing the interoperation and integration of the different platforms and components. This will create a pan-European test-bed for advanced home applications.

The project will develop **standard-based home technologies**. This will be done through the development of standard-based home technologies at different levels ranging from the devices at the residential gateway to the exploration of new in-house interfaces, such as IEEE1394 for A/V or power line communications.

The project results of EnComPas will be directly relevant for residential customers, Small Offices and Home Offices (SOHO), and third party application vendors who develop services by using the system's open and standard APIs.

About CELTIC

CELTIC is a European research and development programme designed to strengthen Europe's competitiveness in telecommunications through short and medium term collaborative R&D projects. CELTIC is the only European R&D programme fully dedicated to end-to-end telecommunication solutions.

Timeframe: 5 years, from 2004 to 2008

Cluster budget: in the range of 1 billion euro, shared between governments and private participants

Participants: small, medium and large companies from the telecommunications industry, universities, research institutes, and local authorities from 33 countries

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