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**EU ministers commit to an inclusive and barrier-free information society**

(RAPID) A pan-European drive to use information and communication technologies to help people to overcome economic, social, educational, territorial or disability-related disadvantages was endorsed by ministers of 34 European countries in Riga, Latvia during the e-inclusion conference. During the conference the Riga Ministerial Declaration, was signed by ministers from EU Member States, accession and candidate countries, and EFTA/EEA countries, setting the targets on how to increase a greater inclusion of disadvantaged ICT users. 'E-inclusion' targets include halving the gap in internet usage by groups at risk of exclusion, boosting broadband coverage in Europe to at least 90%, and making all public websites accessible by 2010. Information Society and Media commissioner Viviane Reding said: "Many Europeans still get too little benefit from information and communication technologies, and millions are at risk of being left behind. Enabling all Europeans to participate on equal terms in the information society is not only a social necessity – it is a huge economic opportunity for industry. By implementing their Riga undertakings, European countries will take a big step towards making e-inclusion a reality."

<http://europa.eu.int>

14 Jun 2006

**Building Grids between EU and China**

The first EU-China EUChinaGRID workshop took place on 12 June 2006 and constituted the first step of EU-funded cooperation between Europe and China on Grid technology. Networking and Grid experts from Europe and China, as well as advanced users working with very demanding applications in e-science met to pin down the current situation of the Euro-Chinese collaboration in Grid technology, which took of only a few months ago. During the meeting, high-level speakers presented the current status of Grid infrastructures and applications in Europe and China with a special stress on the e-science applications in advanced fields such as high energy physics, computational biology, bioinformatics and healthcare. Key issues for the success of the project were also identified. The EUChinaGRID Project officially started on last 1 January 2006 with the aim to interconnect the existing European and Chinese Grid infrastructures and enable their interoperability, thus creating a network of collaboration between Europe and China around this emerging technology.

<http://www.euchinaGRID.org>

14 Jun 2006

**Preserving digital content for the future**

A newly launched IST project aims to ensure we keep our digital resources secure. Proliferation of digital content has resulted in an increasingly urgent need for commercial organisations, the public sector and individual users to protect their digital resources from the risk of getting lost. To a much greater extent than in the case with analogue materials, the rapid pace of change of electronic devices and formats for recording, storage and use represents a threat to the long-term accessibility of digital objects. Digital preservation is too big an issue for individual institutions or even sectors to address independently which is why concerted action at both national and international level is required. The project DigitalPreservationEurope (DPE) builds on the work of the FP5 project ERANET and sets out to improve coordination, cooperation and consistency in current activities to secure effective preservation of digital materials. To this end, the project will facilitate pooling of the complementary expertise that exists across the academic research, cultural, public administration and industry sectors in Europe. The overall result which DPE aims to achieve, is a shared knowledge base of the processes, synergy of activity, systems and techniques needed for the long-term management of digital material.

<http://www.digitalpreservationEurope.eu/>

14 Jun 2006

## Promoting richer content in underdeveloped areas

(EC) In 2005 an EU initiative called the eContentPlus programme was launched to run for four years. The programme addresses specific market areas where digital development has been slow such as geographic content, educational content, cultural, scientific and scholarly content. Before the second call for eContentPlus proposals, an information day will be held in Luxembourg 28 June. The Work Programme 2006 includes calls for targeted projects and a thematic network on 'educational content'. The call is expected to be launched in July 2006. The provisional deadline for receipt of proposals will be October 2006.

<http://ec.europa.eu>

14 Jun 2006

## Zombies most prevalent Windows threat

(ZDNet) A Microsoft security status report concludes that a great number of Windows PCs have been turned into zombies but that rootkits are not yet widespread. The report that evaluates threats and removal success on PCs under 2005 concludes that more than 60% of compromised Windows PCs scanned by Microsoft's Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool between January 2005 and March 2006 were found to be running malicious bot software. Internet bots install themselves on people's computers for malicious purposes and used for remote attack tools. Further on Microsoft is warning in the report that "Backdoor Trojans are a significant and tangible threat to Windows users." A computer compromised by such a Trojan horse, popularly referred to as a zombie PC, can be used by miscreants in a network of bots, or "botnet", to relay spam and launch cyberattacks. To combat this Microsoft introduced the Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool in January last year, which identifies and removes prevalent malicious software from PCs. Over the 15-month period covered by the report, the tool found that 5.7 million of unique Windows systems were infected. It removed 16 million instances of malicious software from these systems, Microsoft said. Rootkits, which make system changes to hide another piece of possibly malicious software, are less widespread, with removals from 780,000 PCs, according to the report. This contrasts with a study from McAfee, which in April said the numbers of rootkits it sees are rising sharply. In about 20% of the cases when a rootkit was found on a computer, at least one backdoor Trojan was found as well, Microsoft said. Internet bots and rootkits are among the top five threats identified by the removal tool, according to the company.

<http://news.zdnet.com>

14 Jun 2006

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