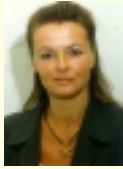




[www.e-europeawards.org](http://www.e-europeawards.org)<sup>1</sup>



**Dr Christine Leitner \***

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#### **What is the background of the eEurope initiative?**

The eEurope Awards, as announced by Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, at the 2001 Ministerial eGovernment Conference "From Policy to Practice", are part of the eEurope Initiative.

The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) was contracted by the European Commission to manage the eEurope Awards until 2005. The project is funded by the European Commission (under the IST<sup>2</sup> programme).

#### **What are the eEurope Award themes for the year 2003?**

For the coming year, Mr Liikanen has announced two awards:

The first Europe Awards for eHealth will be presented within the framework of the Ministerial Conference "eHealth 2003: ICT for Health" – scheduled for 22-23 May 2003 in Brussels, which will be jointly organised by the Greek Presidency and the European Commission. The most successful projects will thus receive an award at this conference. The call for applications closed on 20 February 2003, with the evaluation taking place in early March. It has been a great success, with more than 170 applications from all over Europe. The number of applications and the wide variety of projects illustrate the growing interest in eHealth projects in Europe.

The second eEurope Awards ceremony will take place at the follow-up Ministerial Conference to the 2001 eGovernment Conference, which will be jointly organised by the Italian Presidency and the European Commission, on 7-8 July 2003 in Como (Italy).

The call for applications is open until 4 April 2003 at 24:00hrs. Applications should be submitted electronically, in English, via the web-site ([www.e-europeawards.org](http://www.e-europeawards.org)), which can also be used to upload any supporting documents.

The best applicants will receive an award, to be presented by Commissioner Liikanen and the Italian Minister for Innovation and Technologies, Lucio Stanca. For both calls, a certain number of applicants, selected by independent evaluators, will be offered the opportunity to give a demonstration at the respective high-level conference to an audience of Ministers and other senior decision makers from European ministries and public services.

Four award competitions will take place between 2003 and 2005.

#### **What does the eEurope Awards consist of?**

- The Call for applications is the request for solutions to be submitted on-line. The guidance notes, eligibility criteria etc. can be consulted on the eEurope Awards web-site.
- The Award(s) refers to the physical award(s) or prize(s) to be presented for the best submissions as judged by the Evaluation Committee on the basis of the information provided by the applicants.
- The Awards Ceremony will take place on the occasion of a high-level conference and will be hosted by the European Commission Information Society Directorate-General and the Council Presidency. The award(s) will be presented to the selected winners by Commissioner Erkki Liikanen.
- The Conference is a two-day event hosted by the European Commission Information Society Directorate-General and the Council Presidency. Participation is by invitation only and all arrangements will be handled by the Information Society Directorate-General and the Council Presidency.
- The Exhibition will take place alongside the conference and includes exhibitions and demonstrations by invited participants as selected by the Evaluation Committee on the basis of the received applications. Stands will be provided and an Exhibition Catalogue will be published with details of all submitted eSolutions and relevant contact details. The Exhibition will be hosted by the European Commission Information Society Directorate-General and the Council Presidency, which will also handle invitations and other practicalities.

#### **At what themes is the eGovernment call particularly targeted?**

- The role of eGovernment in European competitiveness;
- A better life for European citizens;
- European, Central and Local Government eCooperation and Public eServices.

#### **The role of eGovernment in European competitiveness**

The focus here is on how eGovernment underpins and promotes European competitiveness. As a major player

in the European economy, government has a unique role and responsibility, not just as a consumer and developer of ICT and an effective and efficient provider of a whole range of necessary services, but also in ensuring that high quality eServices are made available to support the development of a competitive knowledge-based economy. eGovernment can, in this way, contribute directly to the enhancement of European job creation, productivity and overall competitiveness.

#### ***A better life for European citizens***

ICT can increase the scale, scope and quality of access to government services and thus promote participation and inclusion in policy making and implementation, plus generally improve the quality of life for citizens, households and families. The principle of access for all is an important policy objective of the EU as well as of national and regional government authorities. This includes tackling the digital divide between citizens and businesses with and without appropriate access and skills.

#### ***European, Central and Local Government eCooperation and Public eServices***

The focus here is on public eServices that already – or show the clear potential to – cut across different government levels (European, national, regional, local) and/or different types of government units (departments, authorities or agencies), to promote joined-up and borderless government. Examples include services that are already at – or could be extended to – cross country/regional level (e.g. administration, education, job searching, procurement, etc.), or networks of excellence centres already with – or which could have – a cross country/regional dimension (e.g. transport/environmental centres, authentication mechanisms that could be adopted at pan-European level, etc.).

#### **What are the overall objectives of the eEurope Awards project?**

The overall goal of the project is to launch and organise the eEurope Awards for Innovation in eGovernment for the years 2003 to 2005, making them a driving force in the identification and promotion of excellence and creativity in the public sector within an enlarged European Union. The awards scheme will be closely related to the eEurope initiative. Through 4 awards, the project aims to highlight, disseminate and promote the efforts made by local, regional and European administrations in using ICT to improve the quality and accessibility of their public services and to support mutual recognition and the adoption of best practices. By offering recognition, the awards will show that governments can improve the quality of life for citizens and increase public trust in governments.

For further information, on-line applications and the helpdesk, please refer to the eEurope Awards web-site [www.e-europeawards.org](http://www.e-europeawards.org), where you can also subscribe to the “news service”.

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#### **NOTES**

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- <sup>2</sup> Information Society Technologies Programme. □