



Project website, flyer, presentation

VOIce-based Community-cEntric mobile Services for social development

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**Work Package 7
Dissemination, Exploitation and Community Building**

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PROJECT DELIVERABLE REPORT

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SUMMARY

The report presents the initial results of VOICES Work Package 7 dedicated to *Dissemination, Exploitation and Community Building* objective toward the dissemination of information about the project, and making available, publicizing and promoting its results. In the first quarter of the project, the following materials have been delivered:

- A public project website accessible at: <http://www.mvoices.eu>
- A project brochure presenting the project in a concise manner.
- A project presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint, presenting the project, the partners and all work packages.

In the following section, a description of the target groups is given for the VOICES website and other dissemination materials.

INTRODUCTION

According to the requirements of European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for research and development, dissemination of project results is a central activity within the VOICES project. Therefore, dissemination activities were planned from the very beginning of the project, and will continue throughout the project duration of 30 months.

All actions aimed at disseminating the VOICES project results, or at public relations, are bundled into the activities of Work Package 7 Dissemination, Exploitation and Community Building.

The above named activities are led by the VU University Amsterdam (VUA), but all partners actively participate in the dissemination activities, especially within their own tasks. VOICES partners collaborate in this work package, by making project results and other project activities public through the work package. Therefore, all publications, events, etc., related to the VOICES project will be reported through the work package channels. Especially the Web Foundation, France Telecom, The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), The Centre for Advanced Studies, Research and Development in Sardinia (CRS4), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and W3C will have a substantive role in dissemination, exploitation and community building activities.

The Objectives of Work Package 7 in the VOICES project are:

- (a) To disseminate information about the project, and making available, publicize and promote its results.
- (b) To ensure local exploitation of the results beyond the project.
- (c) To further community building in the target countries to enhance uptake of project results.

This deliverable (D7.1) is focussed on objective (a). At the start of the project a project website was set up, containing informative and promotional items on the project. Apart from the website, a project flyer, and a general project presentation were prepared. These materials will be updated throughout the project period with information about events and results related to the project. The website is publicly accessible on the following URI: <http://www.mvoices.eu>

Apart from web-based and paper-based dissemination, VOICES also uses frequent face-to-face encounters to communicate about the project. A number of dissemination activities took place in Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana, during the first road show related to the WP5 m-agro knowledge sharing pilot. These activities are presented in the following report.

http://www.mvoices.eu/2011/03/25_Voices-W4RA_Public_Report.pdf

A few photos of these activities are shown in the following sections.



Fig 1 Face-to-face dissemination about the project: meeting with farmers and community radio staff members in the Tominian area, Mali

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES: PROJECT WEBSITE

The project website contains informative and promotional items concerning the project. It is to be updated throughout the project period with information about events and results related to the project. The website is publicly accessible on the following URI.

<http://www.mvoices.eu>

The project logo

The project logo was designed and selected through a participatory process amongst all partners. The logo designer was Franco Papeschi from the Web Foundation. The logo is a clear and catchy design, expressing the project objectives. It shows the target continent Africa, and also visualises wireless communication, which represents the two main channels of voice technologies in Africa: mobile telephony and (community) radio.



Fig 2 Voices logo

Target groups for the website

The target group of the VOICES website is broad and diverse. The website must therefore contain information for a broad audience. We can make a target group segregation based on different interests and backgrounds.

Most evident is the target group interested in voice technologies, from a technical or more specifically, software developers' point of view. A sub-group is the telecom/internet and web world, interested in the new technologies related to mobile access/voice content. Another specific target group within the ICT world are local African software developers, web entrepreneurs and other local ICT service providers who are especially targeted, for this group is supposed to deploy the new voice services within the African context. An international community of voice/web/software developers is supposed to emerge as a result of the Open Source toolbox which will be delivered from the project. African community radio stations will be interested in knowing about new integration of radio and mobile telephony.



Fig 3 Radio Savannah in Tamale

From the scientific point of view, researchers, research institutes and universities interested in web science and mobile technologies will be interested to learn about the VOICES results and newly developed methodologies, through the publications and conference talks.

Business and industry will be interested to learn how the VOICES toolbox will be deployed in a “bottom-of-the-pyramid” environment. African entrepreneurs might want to learn about the VOICES approach, and become a (business) partner and deploy the project results.

From the social development point of view a totally different group will be targeted, which is especially interested in project results and its long-term impact. This group encompasses e.g. NGOs (non-governmental organizations), development agencies, donor organizations, local governmental organisations, civil society organizations etc. This group will be especially interested in the deployment, sustainability and impact of the VOICES project results, and will be directed on the longer term. The results and methodologies used in the two pilots, (WP4 *m-Health Knowledge Sharing Pilot* and WP5 *m-Agri Knowledge Sharing Pilot*) and the overall results of VOICES are especially interesting for this group. The results of WP1 *Business Models and Sustainable Architecture* is also interesting for this group.

Very particularly: NGOs and organizations interested in either “Regreening Initiatives in Africa” or Health Services will visit the VOICES website.

The VOICES website is set up to provide clear and useful information to these very different visitors, and to accommodate their information needs.

About the website

The VOICES public website acts as a place to make publicly available VOICES content, software, tools, services and other deliveries, and publicize presentations and publications from partners such as papers and articles at seminars and conferences, in scientific or technology journals, exhibitions. The website will be updated regularly, to make it lively and attractive. News items about, or related to the project, will be communicated through the website.



Fig 4 Workshop and face-to-face dissemination in Gourcy during the WP5 – m-Agri pilot in January 2011. Targeted at farmer organizations and seed producers in Burkina Faso

The website contains the following information.

Home – general information

About VOICES – introduction to the project and backgrounds

Work Packages – all work packages described

News & events – frequently updates all events

Partners – all partners shortly described

Pilots – all updates on the pilots will be made available here

Publications – related to the project and its results are found here

Links – partners and other useful links

Contact – contact information of project coordinator

Many pictures are shown on the website, expressing the environment and the context for the project results.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the VOICES project website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Voices, Work Packages, News&Events, Partners, Pilots, Publications, Links, and Contact. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the VOICES Project' and includes a photograph of a man wearing a blue turban and a green patterned shirt. Below the photo, text states that the project is funded by the European Union through the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) under grant agreement Num. 269954. To the right, the 'Latest News' section lists two recent updates: 'Publication of VOICES Brochure and mAgri pilot field visit report' dated March 24, 2011, and 'Launch of the new VOICES Web site' dated Feb 24, 2011. The page also features logos for the European Union and the 7th Framework Programme.

Fig 5 Screen shot of the mvoices.eu website

Future functionality of the VOICES website

This website, which is launched in the third month of the VOICES project, is only the very first step, and this site will evolve in the next few months.

For now, this is only a static site that provides basic information about the VOICES project. In the future, we will enrich it and have more dynamic capabilities, such as a blog, a voice-based access, photo and video galleries, etc.

Voice access: A voice-based mobile access to the VOICES website will be created, during the project

Languages: A French version of the website will be made available. Other languages (Wolof, Portuguese, Swahili, other local African languages are considered, if necessary).

Video: a project film will be made available on the website, as soon as more results are to be presented.

Audio: more radio content will become available as part of the voice web functionality.

OTHER DISSEMINATION MATERIALS: BROCHURE AND PRESENTATION

The project flyer

The project brochure is a one-pager in full-colour and gives a short description of the project, the partners and the project objectives. It is downloadable (in PDF format) from the VOICES website, on the following link:

http://www.mvoices.eu/2011/03/25_D7.1_VOICES_brochure.pdf

VOICES
Voice-based Community-centric mobile Services for social development

Consortium partners

WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION
orange
TNO
The African Union
CSIR
SAHEL ECO
W3C
INOVAÇÃO
NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF SENEGAL
UNIVERSITY OF BURKINA FASO

VOICES
ICT services have the potential to play a major role in social development in developing economies. Recently, mobile telephony has made its entrance in the developing world, and this is opening great opportunities. Despite many efforts, the World Wide Web is still inaccessible for many people in developing countries.

We take as an example remote rural communities in the Sahel region in West-Africa. Communication here is voice-based - many people don't read or write - in local African languages. While there is clearly a need for indigenous knowledge sharing in remote rural areas in the Sahel, the actual information on the World Wide Web contains little relevant or interesting information for people here. Unless people are able to create their own content and publish and access it, the Web does not have an added value for them.

The VOICES project is aimed at supporting remote communities creating "spoken Web content". A toolbox to enable African web-developers to create voice-websites is one of the deliverables of the VOICES-project. This will encourage the creation of voice web-content, including community radio content and spoken messages from users.

The final objective of VOICES is to remove a range of access barriers to the Web, related to access channels, literacy, and languages. This may represent a major step forward in realizing the potential of mobile ICT services, particularly in the African context. VOICES will demonstrate that its results are adapted to the African context by extensive local pilots and associated community building, namely through the focus on health services in Senegal, and agricultural knowledge exchange in the Sahel countries, e.g in Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana.

The objectives of the project
Open and wider access: VOICES will improve voice based access to content and mobile ICT services by building a toolbox for the development of innovative voice services.
VOICES will work towards integration of local community radio and ICTs.
VOICES will deliver speech technologies: tool support and methodology for under-researched and under-resourced African languages.
Long-term sustainability: A sustainable architecture and business models will ensure local adoption and exploitation of the tools and methods beyond the end of the project.
VOICES will enhance uptake by delivering a mobile training lab that offers capacity building for local partners.

Contacts for further information
<http://www.mvoices.eu>
voices-support@webfoundation.org
WORLD WIDE WEB FOUNDATION
Stephane Boyera

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Fig 6 Screenshot of VOICES flyer

The project flyer is targeted at a broad audience, and is aimed at giving general information about the project, its partners and its backgrounds only. In the following months fact sheet will be created, using the above lay-out, to explain more in-depth about the project results. Each fact sheet will target a specific audience, depending on its subject.

The project presentation

The project presentation is a Microsoft PowerPoint slideshow with text and pictures about VOICES, and is targeted at a broad audience. The slideshow presents the overall project and zooms into all work packages, their specific objectives, their deliverables and roadmap. The presentation will be updated regularly, as new project results come available and have to be presented on conferences and public events.

CONCLUSION

We may conclude that the VOICES website and additional materials will represent the public portal for the VOICES project, in which all updates and project results are stored, concentrated and presented in an attractive manner.

The project website targets a broad audience and has for that reason to offer a vivid content, which will be updated frequently.