



Around 55 European, North and South American and African Public organizations participate in the PloneGov project. In doing so, they aim to gain independence from IT services providers by developing, essentially by themselves and in a cooperative manner, applications and websites for their own use as well as for their citizens'. PloneGov strategy mainly rests on Open Source tools: Zope and Plone.

PloneGov.org success results from a close collaboration between Public sector (cities, regions and parliaments) and Zea Partners, a non-profit international network of SME building Zope and Plone solutions.

## OBJECTIVES

The goal is to share efforts and existing applications between all participants. Apart from a greater independence from IT service providers, PloneGov's expected benefits are: to enhance the applications' consistency with the users' needs; to promote collaborative websites; to use the most recent technologies while avoiding licence fees; to ensure publication of sources with GPL.

The decision to use an open source platform and to adopt a collaborative approach in the development of PloneGov rests on the practical and strategic consideration that this approach is the more likely to build sustainable high quality information systems for Public authorities. The collaborative model sets in motion a critical mass that can be capable of creating economies of scale, while promoting the creation of communities of users to support capacity building and sustainable support.

Therefore, the PloneGov initiative matches and greatly enhances the possibilities to create economies of scale -- by sharing tools and collaborative development -- and at the same time it leads to higher quality software, by sharing of experiences and best practices.

## RESULTS

PloneGov has generated 14 concrete and usable tools such as a module to order administrative documents on the Internet, a business directory, a certification module (through the eID card), and local government websites (eg [www.seneffe.be](http://www.seneffe.be)), a job vacancies publisher, a product with forms where the town administrator can fill out it and show it for the citizens, etc. Other tools are being developed including a documentary management tool, a fine management tool, etc.

On Jun13, 2007, PloneGov won the biggest French award for open source projects during a ceremony held in the town hall of the city of Paris. This award, called "Grand prix du jury des Lutèce d'Or 2007", demonstrates PloneGov work quality and encourages to continue on this way.

Products are downloadable on [www.plonegov.org/products](http://www.plonegov.org/products)

## HISTORY

PloneGov project results of merging three Plone based e-government initiatives focusing on local and regional governments: CommunesPlone.org (Belgium, France), UdalPlone (Basque country-Spain, France) and PloneGov.ch (Switzerland). Open source experts from the public sector, SME and open source community involved in these projects participated in a two days sprint held on May 31 and June 1, 2007, in Seneffe (Belgium). Due to their complementarity's, they decided to merge into 1 common project 3 e-government initiatives creating an international project named "PloneGov.org".

On June 21, 2007, Bungeni, a fourth Plone based e-government project, became members of PloneGov. Bungeni is a Parliamentary and Legislative Information System for drafting, managing, consolidating and publishing legislative and other parliamentary documents. It is being developed

within the context the "Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan" of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). It is being developed in collaboration with 8 national parliaments in Africa: Angola, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

With a focus on Parliamentary and Legislative processes, Bungeni brings valuable expertise to PloneGov: the initiative covers now all aspects of e-Governments, from local governments to Parliaments. It brings together a unique pool of experts from 3 continents, counting years of experience in collaboration and open source development.

PloneGov is open to new participants (users, contributors or observers).

## POLICY CONTEXT

PloneGov project meets in several ways EU strategic objectives on e-government as defined in e2010 renewed Lisbon initiative. It already reaches different layers of public administrations in several countries and is raising interest in a number of regions.

### NO CITIZENS LEFT BEHIND

- 100.000 cities and regions: PloneGov enables the smallest local government to benefit from e-government advantages.
- Promoting knowledge society: through cooperative portals, local communities enable their citizens and employees to really get into knowledge society as planned by Lisbon's objectives.

### MAKING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN PUBLIC SERVICES A REALITY

- Thanks to PloneGov, local authorities can work in a far better way for a better value for money. Moreover, Plone, the software at the basis of PloneGov, makes it possible to constantly add new interconnectable and interchangeable modules. Such flexibility confers an exceptional adaptability to the project

### PUTTING KEY ENABLERS IN PLACE

- SME partners: small local enterprises are natural partners of the project, as their teams size and practices are similar to small local governments.
- Open source communities' partners: Plone community has a close relationship with PloneGov, to which it brings its experience.
- International: PloneGov project is open to international collaboration.
- Bottom-up strategy: PloneGov not only crosses borders, but reaches also beyond hierarchical divisions between different levels of power.

### STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC DECISION MAKING

- Participative democracy: the tools provided by PloneGov enable communities to favor a sound and sustainable participative democracy spirit via e-democracy.
- Digital divide: by reaching small local governments, PloneGov is a solution to fight the digital divide in Europe (commerces, enterprises, schools, associations, etc.) and beyond (North-South collaboration).

### IMPLEMENTING HIGH IMPACT KEY SERVICES

- Electronic ID : PloneGov takes e-privacy and e-security on board. Its technicians are familiar with Belgian e-ID.

[www.plonegov.org](http://www.plonegov.org)

[www.communesplone.org](http://www.communesplone.org)

[www.zeapartners.org](http://www.zeapartners.org)