



Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium

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The Open Network for community development Health Master Plan



A Romanian - Flemish Initiative

The Open Network Health Master Plan 2015-2024 has been finalized and will be part of a "General Master Plan 2015-2024" for the different TON departments to be developed in the upcoming years. In that perspective, the TON-network has a unique selling product as it covers different aspects of societal change (health and social services, citizen participation, environmental action) and stimulates interaction between them.

The "raison d'être" of TON is one of an enabler, of creating and sustaining a learning environment amongst TON communities where communities start to better understand and articulate their health needs and rights, to identify effective and cost efficient ways of intervention, to acquire the knowledge and skills, to monitor their access to health services and their outcomes in terms of health status. In the medium/ long term, TON communities should be free of avoidable deaths (such as the ones due to infant / maternal mortality, tuberculosis) and should be successful in decreasing the burden of chronic diseases by developing their basic health services environment (prevention/ monitoring / basic treatment of main chronic diseases, access to basic drugs, dentistry, etc.).

This TON Health Master Plan is an ambitious plan aiming at restoring a qualitative, accessible and affordable healthcare system for everyone in Romania. As well the English as the Romanian versions of this Master Plan are available on: <http://theopennetwork.ro/en/> - Hard copies on request: info@theopennetwork.ro. Also, for those interested, the 2015 annual report of TON will be available starting February 2016 in English and Romanian on: <http://theopennetwork.ro/en/> - Hard copies on request: info@theopennetwork.ro



Belgium will produce its first plane

The South African light aircraft manufacturer "The Airplane Factory" has recently signed a joint-venture agreement with the Belgian company SONACA based in Charleroi to develop, certify and commercialise what will become the very first aircraft ever assembled in Belgium.

It will be a new generation airplane based on the two seater "Sling 2" aircraft presently manufactured by The Airplane Factory. First commercial production is expected in early 2018. The bulk of the components will be manufactured in South Africa while the final assembly will take place in Belgium in the workshops of Sonaca.

In Romania, Sonaca is expanding its operations with financial help from The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). According to a press release of the aerospace

company, EBRD has granted Sonaca a loan of 8.5 million dollars to build a plant in north-western Romania that will produce wing components for the world's leading aircraft makers such as Airbus and Embraer. The new plant, located some 30 kilometres from Cluj-Napoca, will be completed in two years' time.

Source: Economic & business news from Belgium – December 2015 & Agerpres

Romanian Communication authority eliminates Internet regulations

Romania has become the only country in the EU to eliminate the regulation of the infrastructure of access to Internet end-users, the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) announced on Tuesday in a press release. Following the ANCOM decision, any operator on the local market may allow access to its infrastructure under a contract concluded on commercial principles, for freely negotiated tariffs.

The European Commission backs the ANCOM conclusions regarding the fact that the national circumstances of the Romanian market of access services to infrastructure elements differ significantly from those in other EU member states, with the Romanian retail market being characterized by a very dynamic competitive environment, in terms of infrastructure, with among the highest average broadband connection speeds (over 60pct of Internet access connections allow speeds of at least 30Mbps), for the next-to-lowest prices in the EU. Also, a European Commission document supports the ANCOM finding of no operator holding individually significant power on the wholesale market of access services to infrastructure elements. Consequently, the Authority has withdrawn the obligations previously imposed to Telekom Romania Communications, considering that the company no longer holds a significant market power.

The ANCOM decision took effect on December 29, 2015. The obligations currently imposed on Telekom Romania Communications will be kept for one year from that date. According to the ANCOM, the retail market is characterized by a reduced market share of traditional operators and a very dynamic competitive environment, where over 750 operators are in tough competition in various network infrastructures. The ANCOM statistics reveal that in H1 2015, Romanians accessed the Internet using 4.1 million broadband connections at fixed points, and total traffic stood at 2.2 million TB. The penetration rate of fixed broadband Internet was 20.9pct of the population.

Source: Agerpres

ALINSO GROUP welcomes SAIPEM inauguration in PLOIESTI WEST PARK



With over 50 000 employees, 129 nationalities, presence in over 69 countries and more than 60 years of presence in the sector, Saipem, one of Ploiești West Park's newest customers, is opening its new plant in PLOIESTI WEST PARK. Headquartered in Italy, San Donato Milanese, Saipem is a dynamic, energy-focused company operating in the Engineering & Construction and Drilling businesses with a strong bias towards oil & gas-related activities in remote areas and deep-waters.

In 2015 Saipem rented a built to suit project within Ploiești West Park to set-up one of their largest bases. The company chose Ploiești West Park due to the fact that Prahova County is an area with a long oil and gas tradition and expertise and with a very good geographical location enabling Saipem to be close to their customers, partners and relevant markets.

Ploiești West Park is the largest industrial park in SE Europe and it also hosts: Unilever, British American Tobacco, Schlumberger, Coficab, Honeywell, The Toro Company, Halliburton, Global Enterprises, Odjfell Well Services, Kami, Farmexpert, Lubbers Transport Group, Bianor, Pas Technologies, Neil Brothers, Chryso, Proseal, Rhein Vision, Euro NDT Inspections.

Alinso Group CEO Ivan Lokere sees a continued growth of investments in Ploiești West Park as more and more companies are convinced of the duties of the region, such as the availability of competent technical workforce at reasonable cost, the good geographical location and the ever improving infrastructure in the area.

More info: www.aliso.eu

European Commission adopted the European Single Procurement Document

The ESPD adopted in December 2015 will considerably reduce the administrative burden for companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises who want to have a fair chance at winning a public contract. The document will replace the current system, which can differ drastically between member states. While some countries have already introduced some form of self-declaration of suitability, others require all interested parties to provide full documentary evidence of their suitability, financial status and abilities. The ESPD will allow all businesses to electronically self-declare that they meet the necessary regulatory criteria or commercial capability requirements, and only the winning company will need to submit all the documentation proving that it qualifies for the contract. To facilitate its use, a free, web-based system is being developed for member states and businesses.

This measure will enter into force on 18 April 2016. Under the new system, suppliers must state that they are able, upon request and without delay, to provide the supporting documents necessary to prove compliance, unless they are already accessible via public registers. This means less administrative burden for businesses, particularly with respect to entities who fail to win the tender procedure.

The web-based system is based on a data model that was developed in cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders active in the field of standardization. Funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) will be made available to facilitate integration of the ESPD into existing electronic procurement solutions. The ESPD will allow for the reuse of data filled in by businesses in previous procurement procedures. It is also the entry point for the digitization of the qualification phase of public procurement.

Source: www.ec.europa.eu

Conectys Named Outsourcing Contact Centre Provider of 2015



Conectys, the global outsourcing powerhouse also present in Romania, won the 2015 Outsourcing Contact Centre Provider of the Year title at the National Outsourcing Association Awards (NOAA). The awards gala took place on November 19th in London, UK. It is the second time that Conectys has won this distinguished NOAA prize.

The 2015 award comes as further confirmation of Conectys' dedication to providing the highest class of outsourced contact center solutions to its clients, and an engaging company culture to its multilingual, multicultural workforce. Conectys focuses on business transformation – its outcome oriented partnerships with international clients have enabled

the global contact center services provider to consistently deliver efficiency gains, innovation and value beyond KPIs, setting new standards for successful collaborations.

Conectys is a recognized innovator in multilingual and multicultural outsourcing services. Its specialized outsourcing capabilities set it apart from its competitors by creating brand advocacy, accelerating internationalization and increasing profit margins for global organizations. The company combines talented multilingual teams with effective processes and innovative Business Process as a Service technology to deliver new levels of personalization, automation and profitability.

The company has facilities in Belgium, Romania, the Philippines and Taiwan, as well as a secure Work from Home delivery system, providing a global footprint and international scale to Retail, Finance, Travel, Hospitality, Gaming, and Entertainment brands.

More info: www.conectys.com



In Memoriam Paul Reynders
(1950-2016)

Heel onverwacht en ten gevolge van een slepende ziekte is onze dierbare collega Paul Reynders op 18 januari van ons heengegaan. Net op het moment dat hij zou gaan genieten van zijn welverdiende pensioen, dat hij zich met zijn beminde echtgenote Rodica in Brasov had genesteld en de eerste stappen zette op het grootvader-pad, heeft het lot anders beslist.

Paul Reynders had een mooie loopbaan afgesloten. Hij verbleef vele jaren als vrijwilliger-leerkracht in Congo en kende daarna een mooie carrière als diplomaat die hem tot 2 keer toe op onze ambassade in Roemenië bracht. Hij laat een diepbedroefde echtgenote, 4 kinderen en 2 kleinkinderen achter.

.....Flash & Agenda.....

On January 14th in Rome Brother R. Stockman, Superior General of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity, has received the medal of Commander in the National Order of Merit from the hands of the Romanian Ambassador to the Holy See for his yearlong work to the benefit of vulnerable groups in the Romanian society*

Saturday 30/01/2016: restaurant day Roemeniëcomité Diest, in *Ons Tehuis* hall between 11h30-16h00 and 16h30-20h30. More information: jos@uyttebroek.com*

Saturday 20/02/2016: Cheese and wine evening in Măgura Ilvei FV, at 19h00. For subscriptions contact: gerrit.vanasch@skynet.be or 0475/388 097*

Sunday 21/02/2016: invitation to the 25th Romanian restaurant day organized by Slatina-Timiș action group, between 11h30-14h00 and 17h00-19h00 in Feestzaal Elsum, Geel. Register at: jozef.goebels@skynet.be or by phone at 014 58 71 97*

Thursday 24/03/2016: Annual General meeting ADR-Vlaanderen in Kuurne. More information at: Jef.Vanhoof@adrvlaanderen.be*