



### About CRFCAPL Sibiu:

Centrul Regional de Formare Continua pentru Administratia Publica Locala (CRFCAPL) Sibiu was created by H.G. no. 542 from July 21 1995 based on a new PHARE programme.

The main activities of CRFCAPL Sibiu are: organize the continues perfecting programme with short time duration, max 3 month; elaboration of studies, projects and publications in Public Administration field; Developemnt of collaboration relationships with other institutions from public Administration fiels from Romania of abroad.

More information at:  
[www.cadmpub.ro](http://www.cadmpub.ro)

### About Ropardo S.R.L.:

Innovation, Quality, Deliver on Time is our objectives since 1994 when Ropardo S.R.L. start as Technology Company based in Sibiu, Romania. Our expertise is in offshore software development, implementation of complex software solutions and maintenance of software/IT systems for word wide customers. Our services domains are: system and application development, business application, Web and e-business/eCommerce, software re-engineering, software test, maintenance and support.

More information at:  
[www.ropardo.ro](http://www.ropardo.ro)

## Client Challenge

One of the problems appeared in the decisional activity from “Centrul regional de formare continua pentru Administratia Publica locala” Sibiu (CRFCAPL Sibiu) is the impossibility to gather all the decisional staff at a meeting, situation caused by factors such as:

- the decisional staff can hardly be available at the same time
- lack of time - a decisional meeting turns almost always into long discussions
- diverse proposals and debates appeared delay the important decisions

## Ropardo S.R.L. Solution – Group Decision Support System

iGroupDecision help the institution to make decisions with the participation of all the decisional staff, irrespective of their location and shortening the time needed for a certain decision.

The main targets that iGroupDecision must resolve were:

- Efficiency in communication between the departments of the institution
- Increase the percentage of presence at different meetings
- Improvement of the communication between (new or existing) staff
- Decrease the time needed for meetings and for taking decisions

The iGroupDecision is based on the shared plans theory.

The result is a combination of the best aspects of face-to-face interaction with exceptional levels of participation and productivity.

iGroupDecision support the following meeting steps:

- **Plan** - custom interactive agenda creation with topics and subtopics
- **Generate Ideas** - brainstorming tool for fast idea generation (be it attributed or anonymous)
- **Converge** - categorizing tool for organizing and synthesizing ideas
- **Prioritize** - sophisticated voting tool for prioritizing, decision making and consensus building
- **Document** - report and export tools for documentation, communication and further collaboration

## Technologies on short

The following technologies were used:

Domino Server, Lotus Notes, Java, J2EE, Tomcat, Postgre, JDBC, Hibernate, JSP, Spring, JSR Portlets.

### Main decision support tools

*Electronic brainstorming* is an idea-generating tool that allows participants to share ideas simultaneously and/or anonymously on a specific question(s) posed to the group.

*Categorizer* assists groups in three common group activities: generating lists of ideas, brainstorming comments that elaborate on or support the ideas, and creating categories for the ideas

*Voting* is an evaluation tool capable of providing the basis for a group decision. This tool is also commonly used to determine the degree of group consensus.



iGroupDecision was  
ICT PRIZE NOMINEE in 2007

### More Information

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## Results

iGroupDecision is a software platform for business process management, electronic decision support, and collaboration. The solution designed to be a collaborative decision-making support system with safety, utility, efficiency, effectiveness, and usability was installing with success at CRFCAPL and used like a normal IT tool.

The basic ideas that guided the iGroupDecision were also the main problems of CRFCAPL: human collaboration, remove the common communication barriers, remove the time, space and geographical limitations.

## Technologies

iGroupDecision is made up of three components: a server, a client, and a collaborative platform.

- The iGroupDecision server is the one handling all the business logic; it is built on Java technology
- The iGroupDecision client is a Java web application - web browser (Internet Explorer, Mozilla, etc.), and communicating with the server via Web Services.
- SQL database - any of: Postgre, MySQL, SQL Server)
- Integration: The server can be integrated with a collaborative platform – i.e. Lotus Notes with the Domino Server – for collaborative services i.e. - system users, email notification, calendar (user availability for a meeting)
- Workflow: system provide workflow engine that is based on jBPM
- J2EE : The entire solution is build using J2EE technology
- Environment: system can run in with any J2EE server

## The benefits

- increased efficiency, due to the speed and quality for information processing and information transmission
- improved quality; time, space, and geographical limitations- independence - removal of common communication barriers, systematically directing the pattern, timing, and content of discussion, and providing techniques for structuring decision analysis;
- avoidance of the conflict-provoking behaviors of positional bargaining;
- more objective evaluation: groups are better at catching errors than are the individuals who proposed ideas;
- synergy and social inclusion

## Main decision support tools

- Brainstorming – easy idea generation - using different methods
- Voting – using different methods
- Categorizer – simple group categorization tool
- Action plan – establish next steps of actions