

## **Visits to Gencat exceed 80 million and the website is awarded a distinction for accessibility**

- The number of visits to [gencat.cat](http://gencat.cat), the Generalitat of Catalonia website, has risen by 16% compared with 2006, and is now double the figure for 2005
- The gencat project has today been awarded the "Discapnet Good Practice Model" distinction for its high level of accessibility, now assessed at 72% of the website

The Generalitat of Catalonia website [www.gencat.cat](http://www.gencat.cat) received a total of 81,375,241 visits in 2007, averaging 230,000 visits per day. This is an increase of 16% over the figure for the previous year and places it among the European governmental sites with most users.

The project has been carried out by the Directorate-General of Citizen Attention, with the assistance of all the Generalitat departments and various associated organisations.

The most notable figures for the year 2007 include the downloading of 12 million documents and the 9.2 million visits received by the main page. The services and portals most often visited include Meteocat (the meteorological service of Catalonia), services related to education and the Official Journal of the Generalitat of Catalonia (DOGC), which ceased paper and on-line publication in 2007 and is now only available via internet. The DOGC is making available more than 10,000 plans for urban development approved by Catalan local authorities since 1985.

### **Discapnet Good Practice Model distinction awarded to Gencat**

The "Intersectorial Study of Web Accessibility", presented by the Discapnet portal's Info-accessibility Observatory has awarded the Gencat website the distinction of "Discapnet Good Practice Model". This mention gives positive recognition to the effort made by Gencat to improve the accessibility of its web.

According to this study, the Gencat portal has progressed from 37.5% accessibility in 2004 to nearly 72% in 2007. It should be noted that since 2005 the Generalitat website has been implementing a radical revision of its portal, undertaking an ongoing process of improving accessibility, both on its own site and over 270 other associated websites.

The report on accessibility has been drawn up by consultants from Technosite, part of the ONCE Foundation, and has assessed a sample of 19 portals and a total of 93 pages. The assessment has taken into account criteria affecting web page accessibility, such as the description of images, labelling in forms and the use of frames.

The mention for accessibility awarded to the Generalitat today follows others such as the Computerworld prize in 2006, the special mention in the public administration websites category at the 2006 Stockholm Challenge International Awards, and the "Good practice 2007" distinction at the European eGovernment Awards in Lisbon last September.

(<http://www.epractice.eu/cases/gencat20>)

### **Gencat, a widely recognised, high-impact project**

Other Gencat statistics for 2007 include the figure of over 3 million news update downloads via RSS feeds and the 300,000 SMS messages sent to parents and tutors during the school pre-enrolment campaign from the Services and Transactions portal.

At present Gencat has 1.1 million documents indexed, although the number is constantly rising. It covers 23 subject areas and provides access to over 270 portals belonging to public bodies linked to the Generalitat and to 945 maps of municipalities in Catalonia. The web 2.0 platform, promoted by Gencat e-Catalunya ([ecatalunya.gencat.cat](http://ecatalunya.gencat.cat)) has reached 7,500 users in 2007, involving over 480 communities and 35 portals.

Since the new Gencat website came into operation on 4th October 2005, the number of visits has risen from approximately 42 million to nearly 82 million in the space of two years, fully justifying the attempt to establish a new concept in the relationship between the public and the government through internet. The Gencat model, based on transparency and trials of web 2.0 formulae, has been awarded several distinctions in the last two years, both for what it means in terms of an innovative concept in governmental websites and for its usage statistics, which put it on a par with on-line banking and leisure services.

According to the General Media Survey (EGM) on internet for 2006, Gencat was the sixth most frequently visited website in Catalonia and the 30th in the whole of Spain. (<http://download.aimc.es/aimc/03internet/macro2006.pdf>)