

Collaborative Platform Based on Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)

A **sustainable economical model** primarily seeks to satisfy the needs of the current generation without compromising the possibilities of future generations. This goal, which obviously applies to the environment and consumption of natural resources, is also applicable to the economy, such as implementation of **intrinsically efficient production models** and movement toward an **economy of knowledge and innovation**.

Information Technology is the primary foundation for progress on these two points. In the **banking sector**, which is under tremendous pressure due to the current global **systemic crisis**, we urgently need to be **innovative** if we are to meet the challenges of these complex times and to **guarantee the sustainability of current financial institutions** in the future.

Within this context, the **CECA** (Spanish Federation of *Cajas de Ahorro* [Savings Banks]), by means of its Committee for System Organization and Automation (**COAS**), has launched a strategic initiative for confederates, the *Cajas de Ahorro*, as well as within the banking sector in Spain: **the creation of a common technological platform based on the latest advances in information technology which would allow different entities to create applications jointly and thus to reduce construction costs of applications drastically and permanently**.

everis has a special role in this initiative as the **primary technological participant** entrusted with implementing the conceptual framework outlined by the COAS in the form of **software architecture** components, thereby making joint creation of applications a reality.

The platform has the following features:

- It is based on the **SOA paradigm** which is characterized by improved customization and greater cost efficiency due to the information system abilities it provides users with (standardization, flexibility, reutilization).
- It is a **multi-provider** architecture with integrated SOA software products from the primary providers on the market.
- The platform serves as a basis for **pooling efforts** to create applications to be implemented in each *Caja de Ahorros* (Savings Banks) as well as providing a context for **collaborative processes**, à la **Open Source** by means of a **software forge**.
- The architecture also allows the joint work to be integrated independently in each entity ("**open code**" mode) and the applications to be used directly in a centralized work environment (**SaaS** mode, Software as a Service).

The **benefits** of an architecture with these abilities are obvious for *Cajas de Ahorro*:

- **Drastic reduction in development costs**, by developing applications collaboratively among *Cajas de Ahorro*.
- A **cutting-edge technological architecture** means a quantum leap for the IT departments of *Cajas de Ahorro*.
- Total **flexibility of implementation** and independence due the multi-provider features of the architecture and the possibility of integrating applications in each entity.

No doubt about it, a sustainable economy requires production models that provide the desired results at the least possible cost and that consider innovation and knowledge as essential tools for survival. In partnership with **everis**, the *Cajas de Ahorro* are boldly implementing new technological strategies in the lean times we are living in, and are thus taking the first steps into a new way of “making systems” for financial entities.

Ángel Galván Alonso

Senior Technology Manager **everis**