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Initiatives

• Posted by Esme Vos at 3:26 PM on January 28, 2005

San Sebastian unwired

San Sebastian, Spain deployed two Wi-Fi hotzones in December 2004: in the downtown area and in a park. This is phase one of a municipal wireless broadband project. In Spain, a city has to get permission from the Telecommunications Market Commission (CMT) to to deploy a citywide network. The city must guarantee free competition (i.e. not crowd out private enterprise but also NOT favor one large operator). San Sebastian is offering free access during the pilot phase in their hotzones, but they are planning on embarking on private-public partnerships whereby they open the municipal wireless network to wireless ISPs that want to deliver service. The model is a cooperative one: the city working together with private enterprise.

To find out more about this project, go to www.edonostia.net. The city council's website is at Donostia.org.

For the geographically and culinarily challenged, San Sebastian is located in northern Spain in Basque country. San Sebastian is known for its cuisine, beaches and lively nightlife (sounds like a winning combination). Check out this [article](#) from Cellar Tastings. Indeed, the Basque region as a whole has a reputation for great food. Many of Europe's best restaurants have Basque chefs to thank for their delicious and innovative cuisine. If you are tempted to go, try schedule a trip during the [film festival](#) held every year in the fall.

Note: I would like to thank Juan Carlos Gonzalez Joye, the IT Manager for the city of San Sebastian for providing me with information about the wireless project.

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