International Seminar on

Promoting eInclusion
at local and regional level in the EU

Lahti, Finland
12 December 2007
Sibelius Hall

e-Inclusion : be part of it!

This international seminar on driving forward eInclusion in Europe's localities and regions is jointly organised by the City of Lahti and the Committee of the Regions, in association with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

Local and regional authorities have a key role to play in promoting inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the EU, given their responsibilities in providing services and their proximity to their citizens. With the European Strategy for eInclusion to be launched in autumn 2007, this seminar provides a perfect moment to showcase the local and regional dimension of eInclusion in Europe. It will focus on the opportunities to deliver real benefits for all groups in society and on the potential for the development of ICT business and services. The event will look at the lessons learnt from innovative inclusive ICT projects and best practices from EU regions and cities in areas such as eAgeing, ICT network deployment and eGovernment. It will also include a study visit demonstrating how the Lahti region is engaging in improving eSkills and eAccessibility for its elder citizens.

Welcome to the seminar!

Jyrki Myllyvirta
Mayor of the City of Lahti
Chair of the EDUC Commission of the Committee of the Regions

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SEMINAR PROGRAMME

16.30-18.30 **Study visit: eAccessibility and innovation in the ageing society**
- Lahti Region acts to get added value from ICT -

The "Wellamo-opisto" adult education centre will demonstrate its activities for improving eSkills in the ageing society. Innovative companies of the Lahti Region will highlight their activities in ICT services for elderly people.

19.30-21.30 **Buffet reception** hosted by the City of Lahti

Host: **Ulla Juurola,** Chair of Lahti City Board
Venue: Lahti Town Hall, Harjukatu 31

Wednesday 12 December 2007

8.15 – 8.45 Registration and welcome coffee

8.45	**Opening**

Jyrki Myllyvirta, Mayor of the City of Lahti, Chair of the EDUC Commission of the Committee of the Regions

Esa Halme, Executive Director of the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme Region

Keynote Address: *Challenges for local and regional eInclusion in Finland*
Speaker to be confirmed

9.15	**Session I:**	**Promoting social eInclusion**

This session will look at future pathways for local and regional authorities and for the EU to assist them in ensuring integration of all groups in the information society, independently e.g. from their social situation and age. This includes setting up public-private-partnerships and innovative policies and projects to face the challenges such as running public services and take up and use of ICT in an ageing society, enhancing eAccessibility and digital literacy.

Chair: Gerd Harms
Member of the Committee of the Regions, Plenipotentiary of the Land of Brandenburg for federal and European affairs and state secretary in the Brandenburg state chancellery

The EU's 2008 eInclusion initiative supporting local and regional communities

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Paul Timmers, Head of eInclusion unit, Information Society and Media Directorate General, European Commission

The Committee of the Regions' perspective on eInlcusion
Risto Koivisto, Member of the Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on "Ageing Well in the Information Society"

Two best practice and innovative action presentation - speakers to be confirmed

Discussion

10.30   Coffee break

11.00	Session II:	Promoting geographical eInclusion

This session will take a look at future developments in electronic communication and its legislation, as well as options for local and regional authorities that aim at integrating citizens and businesses in the information society independently from their location.

Chair: Representative of Lahti region

Trends in ICT development for bridging the geographical digital divide
Erkki Ormala, Vice President, Technology Policy, Nokia

Regional Strategies for promoting broadband deployment
George Hall, Patron of eris@ & former Chair of the IANIS$^+$ eInfrastructure working group

Best practice / innovative action presentations:

Presentation by a Member of the Committee of the Regions

Presentation from Lahti

Discussion

12.15   **Lunch**

13.45	Session III: Driving forward inclusive eGovernment

This session will focus on future challenges and opportunities for local and regional authorities to be at the forefront in promoting inclusive eGovernment. It will showcase examples of best practice of further increasing the availability of eGovernment and making it more user-centric. It will look also at cost-effective solutions for multi-channel delivery that can attract the widest spectrum of users.

Chair: **Svein-Erik Wilthil**
Chair of the CEMR Policy Group on eGovernment and Information Society

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EU study on target groups for inclusive eGovernment – consequences for local and regional authorities
Jeremy Millard, Danish Technological Institute

Benefits of eGovernment to customers and governments
Ivar Tallo, Senior program officer eGovernance Programme at UNITAR - United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Best practice and innovative action presentations:

The Newport eGovernment project
Robert Bright, Member of the Committee of the Regions

Presentation on eGovernment
Member of the Committee of the Regions

Cases from rural areas in Spain
FEMP (Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias), speaker to be confirmed

Discussion

15.30 – 15.45	Conclusion and closing remarks

Mr Jyrki Myllyvirta, Chair of the EDUC Commission of the Committee of the Regions, Mayor of City of Lahti

The bus shuttle to Helsinki-Vantaa airport leaves at 16.00 (duration approx. 1hour 20 min).

Interpreting will be provided from **DE/EN/FI/FR/IT/PL**
into **DE/EN/FI/FR/IT/PL** (to be confirmed)