



Dear colleague,

We cordially invite you to attend the final workshop of the project ELOST (*E-Government for Low Socio-Economic Status Groups*), ***E-Government and Social Inclusion: Barriers, Opportunities and Future Direction*** funded by the ICT programme of the Sixth RTD Framework of the European Communities. The one day workshop, which is hosted by DG INFSO and addresses e-Government policymakers at all levels, IT experts in public administration, industry and research, as well as NGOs, will take place on Tuesday, **March 11, 2008**.

E-inclusion has attracted wide attention from governments and intermediate civil society organizations in recent years. Improving access to and use of the internet has grown into an important objective for social and educational policy, given the prospects unlocked by the internet for communication, learning and democracy.

Governments have realized that advocating the use of modern forms of communication also implies their dissemination within and application to government services. However, the use of e-government services depends on various factors such as the ease of use, proficiency, accessibility and civic engagement. There are several disadvantaged groups that are less likely to use these services, including the elderly, disabled persons, migrants and low socio-economic status groups (LSGs). The pace at which different countries deploy e-Government services, including measures taken to include LSGs, varies considerably.

The main objective of the [ELOST project](#) is to increase e-Government readiness by and civic engagement among low socio-economic status groups (LSGs) through appropriate policy measures (including future R&D). The aim of this workshop is two-fold: 1) to present the findings of the ELOST project and its policy recommendations for improving e-Government use among LSGs, and 2) to exchange knowledge about and experiences with e-Government and tools that reduce the digital divide. Moreover, the workshop aims to initiate a comprehensive debate on policies for increasing e-participation among LSGs and the future direction for inclusive and improved e-Government for all in form of a panel discussion. Please find attached the **agenda of the workshop**.

Due to limited space, we kindly ask you to [register online](#) for the workshop **by February 29th!** For security purposes, please bring along a photo I.D.

You may sign in and pick up a workshop folder beginning at **9:00** a.m. on the day of the workshop.

For any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Niki Rodousakis at [n.rodousakis@iccr-international.org](mailto:n.rodousakis@iccr-international.org) or visit the project's website at [www.elost.org](http://www.elost.org)