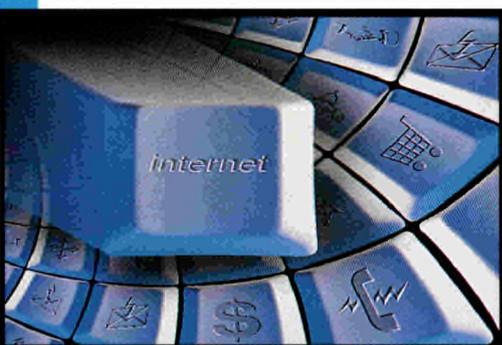## 1999 GLOBAL BANGEMANN CHALLENGE

ONCE AGAIN: STOCKHOLM PUTS THE BEST OF 'CITIZENS IT' ON SHOW

A truly global competition – spanning northern and southern Europe to the USA, Asia, Africa and faraway communities, in Colombia or the Australian Outback.

Nothing brings the world together like the Internet. True. And nothing brings practical Information Society tools to cities and people around the world like the Global Bangemann Challenge (GBC) – the competition launched by the City of Stockholm three years ago to encourage the creation of the best IT services for citizens and communities.

What began as a European competition has grown – both in geographical scope and participants' enthusiasm – to become the world's premiere exchange of ideas and IT projects which bring practical services to people. This year's Challenge brought together the best IT projects in the world in 11 areas, including new business structures, IT for smaller companies, e-commerce, democracy, and education. Entries for this first global challenge came from IT entrepreneurs in Africa, Oceania, Australia, Latin America, North America, Europe and Asia.

"Each of these projects illustrates how living conditions and prosperity can be improved by the use of information technology, regardless of where in the world people live," says Carl Cederschiöld, the Mayor of Stockholm.

The benefits of the Challenge go beyond the application of technology, explains Cederschiöld. "This is a vehicle for building an international network of skills, experience and best practice in the development of the Information Society. The most important quality demonstrated by the finalists is not the high levels of expertise, but the determination, ingenuity, imagination and vision that will serve their communities long after the hardware and the software have been superseded by the rapid developments of the Information Society".

"Its greatest achievement is its success in bringing together the people who make the projects work", says Jörg Wenzel, Chief Advisor of the European Commission's Information Society Activity Centre (ISAC) and Member of the GBC Jury, "Learning by sharing is the best way to take the necessary steps into the information age."

Since the last call for projects two years ago, judges have sifted through some 700 project entries to identify 92 finalists. In June, 18 winners were chosen. Six are from Europe, four from the United States, three from Central and Latin America, three from Oceania and one each from Egypt and Bangladesh. Each project received a trophy from the King of Sweden in the Nobel Hall in Stockholm. During the awards ceremony, Dr Martin Bangemann conveyed his thanks to the City of Stockholm for organising the Challenge.

The Awards ceremony was a part of a larger conference and exhibition which brought together industry leaders, Internet strategists and policy makers to exchange ideas on future directions for the Information Society. Highlights of the event included a roundtable debate of IT experts on technology transfer, examining the feasibility of efficient exchange of IT knowledge across borders, cultures and economies.

Participants included IT guru, David Farber, one of the fathers of the Internet and advisor to the Clinton Administration and Carlos Primo Braga of the World Bank's InfoDev programme. ■

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The Global Bangemann Challenge
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Check the Bangemann Challenge web site for full details on the winners:
www.challenge.stockholm.se

Editorial by Emma Bonino, European Commissioner responsible for Consumer Policy

PRIORITY NUMBER ONE FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: A CITIZENS' FOCUS

A striking feature of the Information Society is its 'network effect'. The more people join a network, the greater value it brings to all players. What use is a GSM or a fax machine if you are the only one to have such an appliance?

To encourage the rapid growth and mass acceptance of the user network of these emerging information and communications tools, public authorities and businesses are a key catalyst. They must put the needs of the individual at the centre of their Information Society policy.

The European Commission has long been conscious of the need to ensure that the Information Society in Europe is an inclusive society, that meets the needs of all citizens and of business. With this objective in mind, the Italian Government and the European Commission jointly organised a conference, on Political Change for the Information Society, in Rome last March. It focused on placing the citizen/consumer at the heart of the Information Society.

But conferences are only useful if they are followed by action. This is why, in Rome, I proposed the development of a draft 'Charter of Rights for Citizens and Consumers in the Information Society'. I believe that there should be a clear statement of principles that define the reasonable expectations that citizens and consumers can have regarding the essential issues related to the Information Society.

In my opinion, these issues fall into three categories. Problems related to:
- Enabling citizens and consumers to have access to information networks.
- The participation of citizens or consumers.
- Developing a framework of rules necessary to develop the confidence of citizens and consumers.

This type of document brings several advantages. It will:
- Highlight the issues that are important for citizens and consumers.
- Provide a generally-agreed sense of direction for all participants.
- Stimulate those responsible to take the necessary action.
- Provide a set of benchmarks against which to measure progress towards a 'user-friendly' Information Society.

Above all, it would serve to increase public confidence in the Information Society in two ways. Firstly by showing the general public that these new

THE STOCKHOLM CHALLENGE

THE BANGEMANN CHALLENGE IS OVER, LONG LIVE THE STOCKHOLM CHALLENGE....

As the 1999 Bangemann Challenge came to an end with the awards ceremony on 9 June, the Stockholm Mayor Carl Cederschiöld, announced that the City had decided to establish the Challenge as a permanent feature of the "Global Cities Dialogue", a new initiative proposed by the Telecities network and the Global Bangemann Challenge, to help realise the potential of IS

technologies for the benefit of all countries, regions cities and individuals. Under its new name – the Stockholm Challenge – the competition will open its call for projects in October 1999, and present its next round of awards in June 2000.

"Over the past three years, the Challenge has become the only worldwide network for the exchange of innovative ideas – between continents, cities, and merging the wealthy and developing regions of the world," said Cederschiöld. "The Stockholm Challenge will set the worldwide standard for IT services for citizens in the coming years." ■

THE BANGEMANN CHALLENGE 1999 WINNERS

His Majesty the King of Sweden hands over the trophiy – in the presence of Carl Cederschiöld, Mayor of Stockholm – to Robert de Beukelaer of the Digital Metropolis Antwerp project, one of the 18 winning projects.

New Business Structures
Joint winners:
Soft Center Duluth/Duluth, USA
Stockholm Business Partner Search/Stockholm, Sweden
Information Technology for SMEs
Joint winners:
Rotterdam Business Park/ Rotterdam, The Netherlands
OIC Year 2000/Sydney, Australia
Electronic Commerce
Electronic System for Government Procurement – Compranet/Mexico City, Mexico
IT in all Forms of Education
Joint winners:
Kidlink/Rio de Janeiro, Brazil/Oslo, Norway

Ludomatica/Santafe de Bogota, Colombia
The I*EARN First People's Project/Bainsdale, Victoria, Australia
Lifelong Learning
Lifelong Learning on the World Wide Web/Upper Hur, New Zealand
Public Acess and Democracy
Joint winners:
Digital Metropolis Antwerp/Antwerp, Belgium
Community Information Programme/Knowsley, United Kingdom
Egypt Information Highway/Cairo, Egypt
Health and Community Care
Caroline and Christer/Stockholm, Sweden
Culture and Media:
Joint winners:
HarlemLive/New York, USA
DRIK: Presenting an Alternative Image of the Third World/Dhaka, Bangladesh
IT in the Environment
Emeryville Brownfields Pilot Project/Emeryville, California, USA
Eual Access to Networking
Tiigrituur – Tiger Leap Roadshow/Tallin, Estonia
Traffic and Transport
I.N.F.O. – Integrated Network Fire Operations/ Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA ■

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information and communication technologies can have a positive impact on their daily lives. Secondly, it will assure citizens that the Information Society is organised in their interest – and that their legitimate concerns are being met. Developing such a Charter will build on the existing

work of the European Information Society Forum. To encourage this 'citizens focus' on the Information Society, I have contacted Mr. Carelli, President of the Information Society Forum, to suggest that priority be given to this proposal over the coming months. ■

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

G8 INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS

The G8 group of the world's major industrialised countries and Russia recognised the significance of the Information Society as it was emerging, as early as 1994. By 1995 the group had created a coordinating structure which kicked-off an Information Society programme with 11 pilot projects. Today this programme is reaching its end, and G8 IS national coordinators are evaluating the work completed to date. An interim report on G8 Global Information Society pilot projects gives an excellent overview of the work performed until now.

GLOBAL INVENTORY PROJECT: GIP

The Global Inventory Project is establishing a central inventory of Information Society work going on all over the world.
Contact:
ulrich.boes@cec.be
http://www2.gip.int

INTEROPERABILITY OF BROADBAND NETWORKS: GIBN

This project is designed to test and promote ways of inter-connecting the information networks so that they can work together world-wide, particularly in high-technology and research environments. It is also helping and accelerating the development of advanced applications and services for use on the networks.
Contact:
chang.keith@ic.gc.ca

TRANSCULTURAL EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

The Tel*Lingua project develops an international network for language education and training, taking account of cultural barriers to communication. It is an on-line forum of interlinked networks where teachers, trainers and users can present their experiments and products, and for an exchange of observations.
Contact: francoise.thibault@mesr.fr
kugemann@fim.uni-erlangen.de

ELECTRONIC LIBRARIES

The Electronic Libraries project makes the vast amount of knowledge already digitised available to the general public through networks. The project

will help libraries improve the availability of digitised resources at international levels – text, graphics, still images, sound and video information – and promote the large-scale digitisation of materials in electronic library networks.
Contact:
coq@opera.culture.fr
http://www.culture.fr/g7/
uetsuki@ndl.go.jp

MULTIMEDIA ACCESS TO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE

Promoting international cooperation on the exchange of information in national cultural databases and related resources. Ensuring that this information is available through intermediary tools, so that data can be accessed regardless of the language or linguistic structure of the original material.
Contact:
polichetti@iccd.beniculturali.it
http://www.iccd.beniculturali.it/G7

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This project aims to build a full library of distributed sources of environmental and natural resources management data and information.
Contact:
Lawrence.Enomoto@noaa.gov
http://ceo.gelos.org/

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION NETWORK

By sponsoring 28 demonstration projects from seven countries, Gemini taps in to rapidly evolving information and communication technologies to help in emergency management. They cover networks, communication, support functions, and specific hazards.
Contact:
asimard@am.ncr.forestry.ca

HEALTHCARE APPLICATIONS PROJECT

This project aims to improve the quality and cost efficiency of healthcare delivery through telematics (remote access) tools.
Contact:
mbrowp@doh.gov.uk

GOVERNMENT ON-LINE: GOL

This project promotes the delivery of government services on line, it helps countries share information and share ideas on what can be done in the future.
Contact: bird@ccta.gov.uk
http://www.open.gov.uk/

BRINGING EDUCATION TO THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (AND VICE VERSA)

Some say that the foundation of the Information Society is technical platforms and standards, others argue that content is king. In fact, both are correct. But an important missing link for Europe's fully-inclusive Information Society is an educational system that is integrated into the IS and vice versa. Creating a European Education Information Society is the goal of the European Schoolnet (EUN), a cooperation effort between 18 ministries of education across the European Union and in Norway, Switzerland and Iceland. EUN is backed by high-level political endorsement of every EU Member State and partly supported by EU funding. The network was created to 'promote cooperation and the exchange of information' between education authorities. The ultimate aim, according to project leaders, is the creation of new educational tools, the joint development and sharing of course material, and the creation of first-class 'European content' for the next generation of education. EUN communication manager, Guus Wijngaards explains: "The Ministers of Education recognise that they have many shared challenges that call for a new form of European cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and education."

This network helps education strategists look beyond their national system, to solve a list of common problems more efficiently and innovatively. He says: "Shared concerns of all educators looking at their new role in the Information Society include: PC equipment and Internet connections for schools; integrating ICT in all stages of the learning process; adapting teachers' skills and providing on-going extra training; supporting the development of software tools; or setting quality guidelines." The EUN's regular work takes the form of a 'virtual consultation', over the organisation's pan-European Intranet, where EUN board members exchange ideas and examples of best practice.

Each national board member is actively involved in the group, as the person responsible for implementing new Information Society educational tools in their country.

Project work

Three projects are the proving ground for the creation of new tools within the EUN.

The Multimedia project is the largest EUN project.
It is part of the European Commission's 'Joint Educational Multimedia' Call for Tender, and is backed by euro 3.1 million in EU funding. The project has 17 sub-projects running – with Denmark, Germany, Finland, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Austria, Spain and Sweden as partners. The ISPO funded EUC project concentrates on developing school networks.

The FIRST project is supported by the EU ESPRIT programme. It is merging the Web for Schools project and the EUN. Web for Schools project has trained 700 teachers and school heads in education applications of ICT in the classroom. All participants worked together over the Internet during this project.

The EUN School Collaboration Area on the EUN website (*www.eun.org*) aims at providing teachers and schools in Europe with all tools and information necessary to establish collaborative projects. The purpose of this area is to encourage schools to establish cooperation between them at a European level, using ICT (Information Communication Technologies). Working on collaborative projects gives teachers and students a practical and dynamic experience of the European dimension of education through the opportunities provided by regular contact with counterpart teachers and students abroad.
The Technical Strategy Forum is a 'space' for technical experts responsible for the current national school networks to exchange information. ■
More information at: www.eun.org

IS FORUM CALLS FOR EUROPEAN POLICY ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Information Society Forum delivered its opinion on the European Commission's Green Paper on Public Information in the Information Society, published last January. The overall reaction was positive, but the Forum's opinion paper also pinpointed some areas where more work should be concentrated. Specifically, it called for the creation of an EU public information policy, which is one of the issues raised in the "Vienna Declaration", published by the Forum in November 1998.

Reaction to Green Paper

The Forum praises the overall scope and concept of the Green Paper, stressing the importance of studying how information gathered by government departments and other public bodies can be used to provide the greatest benefit for citizens and businesses in Europe. While its was hailed as "an essential and positive paper…" the Forum feels that it must now further develop the aspects and policies surrounding public sector information. The Forum stresses two essential aspects of public sector information: access to public sector information – for the private information industry and for citizens. It calls on the European Union and its member-states to develop these policies to set the "rules of the game" for:

* delivery of public sector information to the private information industry
* principles and stimulation for co-operation between public sector and private industry
* pricing of public sector information
* definition of vital information
* financing vital information.

Looking at conditions of access, the IS forum regrets that the Green Paper does not mention the necessity to extend the notion of universal service to the access to public data of general interest. It considers that the access to basic public information has to be organised with reference to the Open Network Provision principles. The Forum's Opinion Paper also highlights a list of important issues that the Green Paper did not consider. These include: "vital information"; integration of different kinds of data coming to the public sector and the design of a European Information Infrastructure. ■

Opinion Paper and Vienna declaration:
*http://www.ispo.cec.be/infoforum/isf-documents.htm*
Green paper:
http://www.echo.lu/info2000/en/publicsector/greenpaper.html

DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS - AT LONG LAST . . .

ALL EU/NATIONAL TENDERS ON THE INTERNET

http://europa.eu.int/business – the clear, concise path to EU procurement information

Finally, there is one stop. The long awaited, often requested comprehensive Internet site about EU matters and public tenders in the Single Market has arrived. And it was worth the wait. Created by the European Commission on the Internet, it is a practical, accessible, easy-to-use site: *http://europa.eu.int/ business*. From advice networks to public procurement tender notices published on the Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) data base, it has it all in 11 languages. Originally designed to give business better and easier access to information and advice on Single Market rules and opportunities, the final product does much more, including offering valuable feedback from business on the problems companies encounter in the Single Market. Still, the real benefit of the site is its commitment to creating a comprehensive online location. This is the site that eliminates the need for endless searching and surfing: a function that small and medium size companies consider crucial for effective research. The need to shuffle between the web sites of several member states is eliminated. For example, The Commission's network of Euro Info Centres (EICs), present in all Member States, now provides the main source of information, advice and assistance on EU issues. Questions about general EU issues will be answered by the Europa "mailbox", an existing Commission service which is available on-line to the public. And the site also includes detailed information and advice on key issues concerning everything from technical standards to EU funding opportunities, intellectual property rights and public procurement. In fact, the public procurement component includes free access to notices published on both the TED and to the SIMAP specialised public procurement database.
More general services are also available, including newspaper articles, free translation services, policy documents, white pages, and 'Rapid' – the Commission's on-line news service. In short, the Europa Business Internet Site is the clear, concise path to EU procurement information. It has instantly become the place where all successful searches begin. ■

INFORMATION SOCIETY NEWS
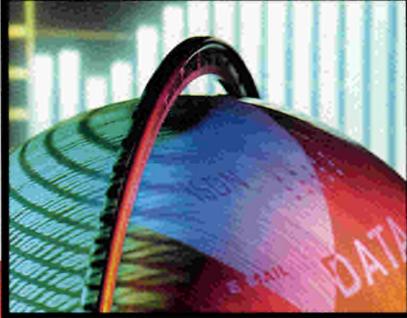
EUROBAROMETER

LACK OF AWARENESS BREEDS EUROPE'S SLOW UPTAKE OF 'IS'

While the overall use of the Information Society has exploded on a worldwide scale, particularly in many work and commerce environments, its uptake across all social levels in Europe is creeping rather than dashing ahead. This trend is revealed by the latest European Statistics Office (Eurostat) poll, "Measuring the Information Society".

It's not that Europe's Information Society (IS) is unknown or showing negative growth – in fact, key sectors – such as business, the increased purchase and use, at home and work, of computers, cellular telephones, CD-Rom drivers and satellite services – are on the rise. And this is not all - the number of Internet users has doubled between 1997 and end-1998, and nearly half the people polled were willing to pay 10 euros a month on tele-administration applications.

There is clearly a growing interest in new technologies and a market potential in, particularly, these growth areas. But other aspects of the survey show that the general awareness and use of IS applications is lagging in areas such as e-commerce, or the use of the Internet by women. A general finding for Europe is also that the number of people not interested in Information and Communications technologies remains high. Most telling, perhaps, are the Top 10 reasons why some of the people surveyed (16,000 people from all social segments across the 15 EU Member States) do not use Information Society tools and services today. In addition to the perceived high costs, remarked by 24.2% of those surveyed, other main reasons given by respondents pointed to a lack of awareness of the benefits and services offered. Many people simply said that they do not need these services at work (22.7%) or at home (55%).

Top 10 reasons why Europeans don't need the Information Society

- I do not need these services in my private life
- They are too expensive
- I do not need these services in my working life
- I do not have the necessary equipment
- These services are too complicated
- I don't know enough about these services
- I don't have time to use them
- Services that involve payment on the Internet make feel uneasy
- I don't have time to learn how to use them
- I have never heard of these services ■

For full details on the results of the "Measuring Information Society Eurobarometer", point your browser to: http://www.ispo.cec.be/polls/

MARKETPLACE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

The aim of this project is to increase the competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), and encourage their participation in global trade. Countries in the G8, the EU, and Central and Eastern Europe are involved, as well as developing countries and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Contact: rosalie.zobel@cec.be http://www.ispo.cec.be/ecommerce http://www.gin.sme.ne.jp/ jmoline@nist.gov http://nii.nist.gov/g7

MARITIME INFORMATION SOCIETY

The objective of the Maritime Information Society (MARIS) project is to raise the awareness of new types of technologies and services in the Maritime sector, with the aim of increasing competitiveness of maritime industries, enhancing logistics efficiency and supporting transport inter-nodality, improving maritime safety, and protecting marine environments and resources. ■

Contact: ronald.vopel@dg3.cec.be maris@dg3.cec.be http://www.maris.int MacDougallR@dto-mpo.gc.ca

The G8 interim report is available on the Global Inventory Project website from: http://www2.gip.int/en/servers/g8/noframes.htm

CALENDAR

IAMCR World Congress
Media Systems in Transition on the Eve of the Information Society of the 21st century
27-31 July
Leipzig (D)
Prof. W. Kleinwaechter
Tel: +49-341 9927901
e-mail: wolfgang@okay.net
www.leipzig.de/iamcr

Citizen and Public Administration at the Information Age
18-20 August
Tampere (FI)
Matti Mälkiä
Tel: +358 40 5042498
Fax: +358 3 2156020
e-mail: malkia@uta.fi
www.uta.fi/laitokset/hallinto/1999-IS-conference

FITCE 1999 Conference
24-29 August
Utrecht (NL)
Fax: +31 70 3919840
www.fitce.org/fitce99

HUSITA5 Conference
Social services in the Information Society
29 August-1 September
Budapest (HU)
Dr. Jan Steyaert
Fax: +31-40 2435274
e-mail: J.Steyaert@fontys.nl
http://www.husita.org/

Telework '99
22-24 September
Aarhus (DK)
Fax: +45-86 120807
e-mail: aarhus-convention@aar-conv.dk
http://www.teleworks99.dk/

Expointernet 99
III Jornadas profesionales sobre internet, intranet y comercio electronico
22-25 September
Barcelona (ES)
Associacion de Usuarios de Internet (AUI)
e-mail: expointernet@aui.es
www.aui.es

ISSE 99-1st Pan-European Conference on Cryptography
4-6 October
Tel: +44 1386 793028
Fax: +44 1386 793268
e-mail: Info@eema.org
www.eema.org/isse/

European Telework Week 1999
1-8 November
Events organised throughout Europe
Tel: +32 2 6522227
e-mail: info@martech-intl.com
www.etw.org

Telecom '99
Inter@ctive '99
8th World Telecom and 2nd Interactive Exhibition and Forum
International Telecommunication Union-ITU
Tel: +41 22 730 6161
Fax: +41 22 730 6444
http://www.itu.int/telecom-wt99/

ISPO SECRETARIAT

Free phone service

Austria	0660 5835
Belgium	0800 13891
Denmark	800 1 8888
Finland	0800 113635
France	0800 91 7227
Germany	0130 821943
Greece	00800 3212635
Ireland	1800 553224
Italy	1678 76790
Luxembourg	0800 2929
Netherlands	0800 0222086
Portugal	0505 329635
Spain	900 993290
Sweden	020 791635
United Kingdom	0800 962114

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