

How to achieve accessible eGovernment

Plenary Panel Tuesday 26 June 2007

Moderator: *Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission*

This high-level panel will address how public authorities across Europe and elsewhere may achieve eGovernment services that are accessible for all citizens, including people with disabilities and the elderly. The panel invites to a dialogue between business community, public authorities, end user organizations and researchers to identify future-oriented and instrumental solutions.

Key questions to be addressed include:

- Which policy measures and strategies are most efficient to achieve eGovernment services that are accessible to all?
- How can one improve dialogue and co-operation between the business, industry, citizens and public authorities?
- To what extent do aims of improved accessibility contradict other considerations such as data privacy, security and cost containment during development of new services and/or retrofitting of already existing services?
- Which procedures appear to be most suitable to identify new and unmet needs in this area?

Panellists:

	<p>Eirik Lae Solberg, Public Relations Manager, Microsoft Norway. Eirik Lae Solberg is responsible for corporate communication and press relations in Microsoft Norway. He has previously been state secretary in the then Ministry of Modernisation (now Ministry of Government Reform and Administration) and political advisor in the Ministry of Trade and Industry. He holds a Bachelor in Economics from London School of Economics and an M.Phil. in European history from Cambridge University.</p>
	<p>Karl Olav Wroldsen, Project director, Norwegian Tax Authority Karl Olav Wroldsen is project director having responsibility for management and monitoring the development activities within the Tax Agency. He joined the Tax Administration in 1990 starting up as a senior IT advisor for the commissioner and the CIO. In 1998 he established the project section within the IT-function, primarily for keeping up and controlling large IT development projects, but also for improving project management in general. Over the years he has been working in various governmental standard groups and meets regularly in the OECD "Taxpayer subgroup" on eGovernment.</p>



Hans von Axelson, Senior Adviser, Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination

Hans von Axelson is a legal expert and as of January 1, 2006, a Senior Advisor at the Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination. He has served as a policy maker for Swedish government authorities since the mid nineties. He participated in the establishing of the Swedish Disability Ombudsman, drafting, among other things, proposals on how to include accessibility in the legislation against discrimination. In latter years he has worked on issues pertaining to the Swedish Disability Policy Action Plan, in the process of which he has actively participated in the strategic development of public website design, to ensure that the websites of public authorities avail themselves to all citizens.



Arie Rimmerman, Richard Crossman Professor of Social Welfare & Social Planning, University of Haifa, Israel

Professor Rimmerman's main interest is disability policy research with particular specialisation in employment, civic participation and quality of life issues. He is the founder of the Israeli Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities and has established all graduate studies in the disability area in Israeli universities. Aside from his scientific contributions, he has served as an advisor to Ministers of Labour and Welfare in Israel and leads the most important reforms and public committees in the disability area, including the 1998 Equal Rights for Persons with Disability Law. He is among others chairperson of the Aging Committee in the Social Security Council in Israel and a board member of the National Institute for People with Disabilities in the USA.



Bruce Perens, Vice President at Sourcelabs, USA

Bruce Perens is a member of the board of directors of Open Source Risk Management Inc. and a major stockholder of Progeny Linux Inc. He is an elected director of Software in the Public Interest, Inc. Perens is a founder of the Open Source Initiative, The Linux Standard Base, Software in the Public Interest, and No-Code International. Perens released his first Free Software program, Electric Fence, in 1987. He is creator of Busybox, which has spawned its own development community and is part of most commercial devices using embedded Linux.



Gerry Ellis, Special Adviser, European Disability Forum

Gerry Ellis is a consultant in the area of Accessibility and Usability under the name of Feel The Benefit, and is a former member of, and a current special adviser to the Universal Access Committee of the European Disability Forum. EDF promotes the interests of over 50 million people with disabilities in Europe. He is a Fellow of the Irish Computer Society, which is the primary Irish organisation "serving ICT professionals and specialists in Ireland".



Christopher McCrudden, Professor of Law Oxford University, UK

His main interests are in the fields of constitutional, administrative, and comparative public law, with a particular specialisation in human rights law. Professor McCrudden is currently working on aspects of the relationship between aspects of regulation and human rights, and has publications forthcoming on the use of public procurement for social purposes. He has served on several governmental committees, including the European Commission's group of legal experts on equality law.