



eParticipation of All

Dr. John J O'Flaherty

Technical Director,
MAC - National Microelectronics
Applications Centre,
www.mac.ie, Ireland

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The Technologist's View !

- eParticipation, Local Democracy & Minorities
- Opportunities offered by ICT to foster Social Inclusion
- Barriers to be overcome.

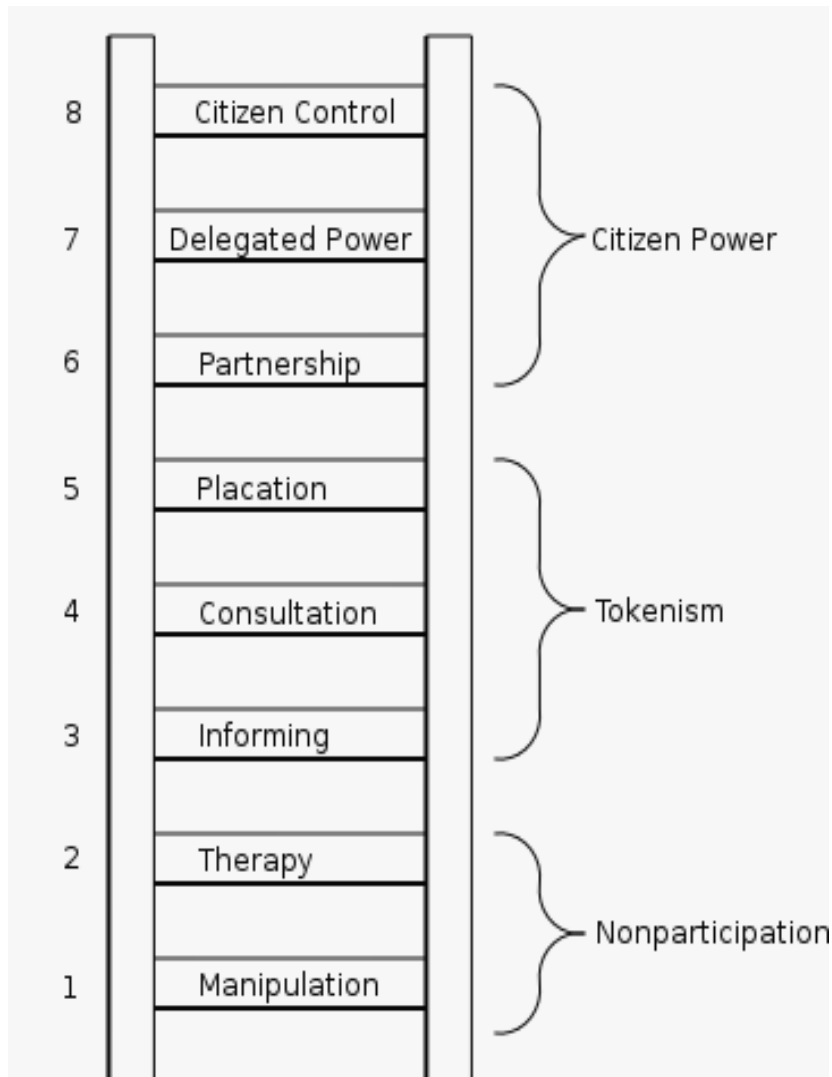


Why eParticipation ?

- **Local Democracy is critical in the social inclusion of migrants & minority groups.**
- **For people to participate in local democracy they need to see & understand the process**
- **eParticipation is the use of ICT to achieve this**
 - For a more efficient enhanced interaction, communication & collaboration of individuals & groups.



Ladder of Citizen Participation



- ICT can empower minority groups to ascend the Ladder
 - from “Non-Participation”
 - to “Citizen Power”
- Simple on-line interactive ICT services can facilitate this

Slide 4

JJOF1

Originally published as Arnstein, Sherry R. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation," JAIP, Vol. 35, No. 4, July 1969, pp. 216-224

John J O'Flaherty; 8/06/2006



eParticipate

Example - eParticipate

- eParticipate project
 - www.eparticipate.org part funded by eTEN Programme
- An easy to use & cost-effective online multimedia video service
 - allows citizens to participate & feedback in their local democratic meetings & events
 - e.g. local council meetings





Examples in Slovakia, Spain & Ireland



eParticipate

- Emigrants,
- Tourism
- Youth Groups.

The screenshot displays three overlapping browser windows showcasing the eParticipate platform. The top window shows the 'Mesto Vrútky' webcast interface, featuring a video player and a sidebar with 'Aktuálny bod programu' (Current agenda point) and 'Información' (Information). The middle window shows the 'Ayuntamiento de Getafe' webcast, with a video player and a sidebar containing 'Punto actual de la agenda' (Current agenda point) and 'Información' (Information). The bottom window shows the 'Fingal County Council' webcast, which includes a video player, a 'Current Agenda Point' section, and a 'Webcast Information' section. The 'Webcast Information' section lists the title 'Monthly County Council Meeting' and provides a list of 'Speaker Profiles' including Cllr Ciaran Byrne, Alan Carthy, Brenda Clifford, etc. A 'Selected Speaker' profile for Cllr Ciaran Byrne is also visible, detailing his position as 'Chair of Planning and Development Strategic Policy Committee' and his affiliation with 'Labour'. The interface includes navigation buttons like 'Spätná väzba' (Back) and 'Pomoc' (Help), and a footer with 'Powered by public-i' and 'Internet' connectivity indicators.





Multilingual – Newham, UK

eParticipate

- Easily Understood Video Images
- Multilingual relevant Content

Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address Links Google

Media Player

Newham

প্লেয়োর: টেকেস্ট / কমপ্যাক্ট
English Shqip Soomaali

এই উইপ্ডোর বান্ধিকে এই ভিডিওটির নজির থেকেই খোলা উচিত ছিল। যদি এটি শুরুর না হয়ে থাকে তাহলে আপনাকে উইপ্ডোজ মডিফি প্লেয়োর সফটওয়্যারটি বনামুল্যে <http://www.microsoft.com> সাইট থেকে ডাউনলোড করতে হবে।

Adviceline Newham এক ছাদরে তলায় একটা বিপিয়ার টেলিফোন পরামর্শ উল্লেখ পরমিবে আপনাকে পরামর্শ, তথ্য এবং প্রয়োজনীয় সাহায্যের সঙ্গ যোগাযোগ করিয়ে দেবে যার মধ্যে আছে বনেফিট, অভিবাসন অর্থাৎ ইমগ্রেশন, খপ, আবাসন ইত্যাদি নডিহ্যাম সটিজিনেস্ অ্যাজভাইস্ [Newham Citizens Advice] এর প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত পরামর্শদাতারা সব টেলিফোন অনুসন্ধানের উত্তর দনে এবং সব স্থানীয় পরামর্শ পরমিবে বমিয়ে সাম্প্রতিকতম তথ্য পরমিশেন করনো প্রয়োজনে ওঁরা আপনার সঙ্গ সই ব্যক্তির সাক্ষাতকারে ব্যবস্থা করে দতি গারনে যদি আপনাকে সাহায্য করতে গারবনো

public-i

Internet



ICT can improve **Communication & Public Engagement**

- Broader, added-value communication tools
- Improved transparency providing integrity to the democratic process
- Improved accessibility (minority groups / hearing & reading difficulties)
- High impact & value / simple technology
- Meets increasing expectations



Barriers in the use of ICT

- **Awareness & ICT Abilities**

- Know Why & Know How.
- Local Democratic Activities are more immediate, relevant & easier to appreciate.

- **Access & Affordability**

- Broadband access can be limited.
 - especially in Rural & Remote areas.
- Can Minority Communities afford the access ?
 - see A-BARD Project – www.a-bard.org, part of the Sixth Framework Programme.

- **Take up & Use**

- Motivation must be there
 - Where there is a will there is a way !





Barriers in the use of ICT



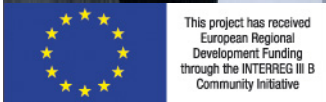
- **Citizen-Centric Services**

- Many eGovernment Services are too complex & off-putting.
- Need to be Citizen Centred & designed as such from the very beginning
 - E.g. Citizen First project (www.citizen-first.org) in the INTERREG IIB North West Europe Programme.

- **Local Authorities must pro-actively reach out**

- Especially to Minority Groups – who must not be overlooked

E.g. Kortrijk ICT Awareness & Training Programme and Public Internet Access Points in Citizen First





ICT can empower e-Inclusion

- **Keep the Technology & Services Simple & Relevant**
 - Video & images are most immediate.
 - Good usability & accessibility design-for-all (see www.etenuta.org)
- **Relevant Content**
 - Multilingual
- **Proactive Support**
 - Know Why & Know How !
- **Keep it Local**
 - Empower people where it is most immediately relevant to them
 - Local Authorities, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) & Communities
 - Working together ☺



ICT can empower e-Inclusion

- **Encourage & support Community Champions.**
 - To use ICT to enrich & disseminate their own Cultural Heritage
 - To use ICT to give their own Communities a Voice.
 - To “Tell their Story” on the Net.
- **Set a target date to eliminate the Digital Divide in your Region**
 - An aspiration in which the Minority & Migrant Communities must actively participate.
 - To achieve Equality Inclusion for All



Thank You

Dr. John J O'Flaherty
j.oflaherty@mac.ie

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e-INCLUSION

ICT for an Inclusive Society

Ministerial Conference
Riga 11-13 June 2006

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