



Conference.
Benchmarking e-Europe in the Regions:
common indicators, comparable data, effective ICT policies

17th March 2005

Committee of the Regions of the European Union
101 rue Belliard
Brussels

The conference is mainly aimed at the dissemination of the UNDERSTAND results to highlight the relevance and the potentiality of the benchmarking exercise, in order to widen the territory and the number of regions taking up the methodology. The conference will also be an occasion to discuss the benchmarking issues and the related policy implications to fully exploit the UNDERSTAND operations results.

The conference is targeted to Regions; Development Agency; Research centres working on ICT, Pas, regional development, statistics; Local administration; national and European statistical offices, EC officers working on INFSO and Regional Development, Region network.

WORKING LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, ITALIAN, SPANISH

BECAUSE OF SECURITY POLICY, REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY TO ACCESS THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS PREMISES. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 10/03/2005. REGISTER AT www.understand-eu.net

The event is hosted and sponsored by the Committee of the Regions.



**CONFERENCE "BENCHMARKING E-EUROPE IN THE REGIONS:
COMMON INDICATORS, COMPARABLE DATA, EFFECTIVE ICT POLICIES"
- Agenda -**

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 **Welcome and opening remarks - the role of the Regions in Information Society**
Keith Brown – Rapporteur on e government Committee of the Region
- 9.45 **E-europe: the Information society at the service of regional development**
Colette FitzGerald - European Commission - DG REGIO
- 10.00 **e-Europe: benchmarking and policy development**
Frank Mather - European Commission - DG INFSO
- 10.20 **The UNDERSTAND operations: a joint effort to benchmark the Information Society in the Regions**
David Osimo – Emilia-Romagna Regional Government
- 10.40 **Presentation of the benchmarking results in UNDERSTAND partner Regions**
- **Broadband infrastructure** - *David Osimo – Emilia-Romagna Regional Government*
- 11.00-11.20 Coffee break ---
- 11.20 - **E-government** - *Elena Ruiz – Valencian Office for the Information Society*
- **E-business** - *Olaf Juptner – Agentur Hessen*
- **ICT usage by citizens** - *Paul Beynon Davies - University of Wales*
- 12.20 **Questions & Answers**
- 12.40 **Comments and conclusions**
Hervè le Guyader - President of Eris@ - The European Regional Information Society Association
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch --
- 14.30 **Building on benchmarking data to improve policy-making. Round table and discussion with experts and policy managers from partner Regions.**
Co-ordinated by: Jeremy Millard (Danish Technology Institute)
Participants:
- **Gaudenzio Garavini** – General Director to Organisation, Information systems and Telematic Plan – Regional Government of Emilia-Romagna
- **Jose Benedito** - General Director, Direction of Telecommunications and Research in the Valencia Community
- **Isobel Harding** - Head of the Information Society Unit Yorkshire & Humber Assembly
- **Ewa Back** - Vice Chairman of the Association for local Authorities in Västernorrland
- **Marta Jacob Escauriza** - General Director for Research, Development and Innovation from the Balearic Islands Regional Government
- **Claudio Inguaggiato** – Chief Executive CSP (Piemonte)
- **Kazimier Koscielny**, Vice Marshal, Wielkopolska Voivodship
- **Liz Cassidy**, Welsh Assembly, Government EU Office
- **Representative from Hessen**
- 16.30 **Concluding remarks**
Gareth Hughes - CEO of Eris@ - The European Regional Information Society Association
- 16.45 *End of the seminar*