

The issues: what is at stake

Information is a strategic resource for local policy makers, who have become key players in bringing about sustainable development and meeting the increasing needs of their citizens. The effective use of knowledge through information and communications technology (ICT) can make a powerful positive contribution to accelerate community development and improve people's lives. Local authorities are at the forefront of implementation of ICT as a catalyst in the life long process of education and learning for the local population.

World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities

Cognizant of their leadership role in the Information Society, cities and local authorities worldwide have mobilized to make their voices heard and channeled their efforts in a movement which culminated with the First World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society, held in Lyon in December 2003. The results of the Lyon Summit were included in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva later that same month. The second step in this process for local authorities is the Second World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society to be held in Bilbao (Bilbao Summit) November 9-11, 2005. Preparations for the Bilbao Summit are twofold: 1) strong political mobilization of key decision makers and 2) organization of thematic and regional conferences which could provide the strategic guidance around which local authorities intend to play their role in the Information Society and develop e-services for their population. The Bilbao Summit will be a platform for setting up public-private partnerships to catalyze development and access to ICTs for local communities. The result of the conference will be a Declaration and Plan of Action of Local Authorities which will be presented at the Second WSIS to be held in Tunis.

The Stellenbosch Conference: a major step on the way to the Bilbao Summit

The IFIP World Congress on Computers in Education (WCCE 2005) 4-7 July at the University of Stellenbosch is a major gathering, bringing together people interested in learning about the potential for ICT in education – academics and researchers, politicians and policy makers, businesses and the private sector, NGOs and international organizations. One full day will be dedicated to local authorities. The outcome of the one day meeting will include proposals for public-private partnerships, as well as recommendations which will serve as a basis for the Bilbao Summit Plan of Action.

PARTICIPANTS

- ◆ Local decision makers
- ◆ Professionals in education
- ◆ Professionals in e-education
- ◆ Academics
- ◆ Researchers on knowledge management
- ◆ Researchers on new training methodologies
- ◆ Representatives from local communities
- ◆ Private sector players in the education field



PROGRAMME

There is a need for a new framework to improve the process and efficiency of education and training activities in line with the new possibilities of the Information Society. The Round Table on **Mobilizing Expertise and Resources for Digital Solidarity in Education** will address a new framework for partnership and identify bottlenecks, as well as recommend strategic actions to be taken in order to scale up good practices and efficiently mobilize all potential expertise and resources.

The panel will specifically address the following:

1. The role and responsibilities of cities, local government and states in policy making, development, and implementation of education programmes
2. The role and recommendations of experts on an appropriate model of training and education in the Information Society
3. Strategic actions and implementation modalities to be recommended
4. Building public private partnerships to enhance efficiency and broaden the scope of existing programmes

15:00-16:30 ROUND TABLE

Introduction

- ◆ Bernard Cornu, IFIP
- ◆ Amadou Topp, Vice President, Digital Solidarity Fund
- ◆ Michael Oliver Sutcliffe, Secretary General of the City of Durban

Panel participants will be representatives from:

- ◆ Major local authorities and national governments
- ◆ NEPAD network
- ◆ G3 cities (South Africa, Brazil, India)
- ◆ IFIP
- ◆ Private companies
- ◆ Digital Solidarity Agency
- ◆ Digital Solidarity Fund
- ◆ World Commission of Cities on Decentralized Cooperation

Pause

16:30-18:00 INTERNAL WORKSHOP



University of Stellenbosch
Cape Town, South Africa

Registration

Fees

All WCCE Conference Rand3650 €450

Registration on WCCE website

<http://www.sbs.co.za/wcce2005/>

in the context of the

WCCE

World Conference on Computers in Education



6 July 2005
15:00—18:00

**ROUND TABLE
&
WORKSHOP**

**MOBILIZING EXPERTISE AND
RESOURCES FOR DIGITAL SOLIDARITY
IN EDUCATION**

CONTRIBUTION TO THE BILBAO SUMMIT