



## Country Profile

### Information Society Indicators

- Percentage of households having internet access to the Internet at home, 2005: 62%
- Percentage of households with a broadband connection, 2005: 23%
- Percentage of individuals (55-74 years old) using the Internet at least once a week, 2005: 27%
- Percentage of individuals (55-74 years old) having ordered/bought goods and services for private use over the Internet in the last 3 months, 2005: 13%
- Percentage of individuals (55-74 years old) using the internet for interacting with public authorities, 2005: Obtaining information X, downloading official forms X, returning filled forms

### e-Inclusion Strategy

#### Important policies in place

- Main e-Inclusion strategy outlined by Germany is
- significantly increase internet use by 2010
- broadband accessibility for 98 % of households by 2008
- yearly analysis by a (N)ONLINE survey
- Several projects to increase internet use
- Summer this year: "iD 2010 - Information Society Germany 2010"

### e-Inclusion Actors

- Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

### e-Inclusion Who is Who

- Mr. Michael Glos : Minister of Economics and Technology
- Mr Franz Müntefering; Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
- **e-Inclusion sub group contact:**
  - \* Gunther Grathwohl, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Division VIA3, European ICT-Policies, Villemombler Str. 76, D-53123 Bonn
  - \* Rolf Hochreiter, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Division VIB4 Digital Integration, Application of Information Technologies, Scharnhorststr. 34-37, D-10115 Berlin

### e.Inclusion Progress by Riga Areas

## ICT & Ageing

### • Status in ICT & Ageing

The Federal Government aims at providing barrier-free design for all websites of the Federal Ministries and agencies in order to ensure that users with disabilities have barrier-free access [e-accessibility] to all websites of the Federal Administration, as laid down in the "Act on Equal Opportunities for Disabled People". This act was set in force in May 2002. Under this act the *Barrierefreie Informationstechnik-Verordnung* (BITV - Ordinance on Barrier-Free Information Technology) had been drawn up to put the aim of e-accessibility into practice. The BITV also implements the WAI-guidelines in Germany. By 31 December 2005 it had to be ensured that all public websites of the Federal Administration and their [digital] information offers are accessible. But in practice - at the end of 2006 - a main test has shown that not all of the websites of the Federal Administration are accessible in a way demanded by the law.

### • Actions to support ICT& Ageing IS Germany

- It aims to make all public sector and private sector websites adhere to w3C standards. The Federal Government has initiated a number of activities to support the process. For example, the Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik (BSI - Federal Office for Information Security) developed a module "Barrierefreies E-Government" (barrier-free e-government) for inclusion in the E-Government Manual. The advisory and support activities of the Bundesverwaltungsamt (BVA - Federal Office of Administration) include workshops and exchanges of experience on the implementation of the *Barrierefreie Informationstechnik-Verordnung* (BITV - Ordinance on Barrier-



Free Information Technology). In the course of these meetings and activities, experts (e.g. representatives of the projects "Barrierefrei informieren und kommunizieren - BIK" (Barrier-Free Information and Communication) and "Aktionsbündnis für barrierefreie Informationstechnik - AbI" (Alliance for the Advancement of Barrier-Free Information Technology) provide participants with both general information and problem-specific information, e.g. on designing BITV-conforming Internet offers. The governmental initiative "BundOnline2005" has built up a specialized area on eAccessibility in its knowledge-management system (<http://www.wmsbundonline.de/>). In that area, one can find a short introduction to the subject and numerous links to other information on the issue can be found.

## Digital Literacy and Competences

### • Status on Digital Literacy and Competences

#### • Actions towards stimulating Digital Literacy and Competences

- Schools Online
  - \* German telecom, as apart of the 'schools online' initiative, has made available 20.000 PCs for schools.
- Connected not excluded
  - \* one of the explicit aims of the German federal programme "Connected not Excluded" which aims to reduce the anxieties of older people in relation to ICTs.

## Inclusive eGovernment

### • Actions towards inclusive eGovernment

- In accordance with the Federal Action Plan "iD2010 - Informationsgesellschaft Deutschland 2010", the "eGovernment-Programm 2010" and the EU initiative "i2010" an eGovernment-Strategy for disabled people in Germany will be developed. This Strategy aims at strengthening the rights of disabled people and giving them opportunities to participate through information and communication technologies. A first step was undertaken by preparing a handbook for accessible eGovernment in Germany by the the *Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik* (BSI - Federal Office for Information Security) in 2004.

## Challenges

Since April 2005 the *Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Gehörlosen und Schwerhörigen e.V.* (German Alliance for deaf and hard of hearing people) and the Deutsche Telekom AG have proceeded together to realize the Projekt TeSS. The object of this cooperation is to set up a Relay-Service for deaf or hard of hearing people which operates nation-wide. TeSS offers two Relay-Services:

#### **The Videorelay-Service "T-Sign"**

offers deaf people or people who are nearly deaf but have competences in sign language a mediation in German Sign Language. Via PC and Webcam a sign-language interpreter could be reached. This interpreter connects the demanded (hearing) partner for communication and makes the translation of the talk between sign language and spoken language.

#### **The Textrelay-Service "T-Script"**

offers hard of hearing and deaf people a written mediation. Via Scriptphone or PC a script-translator at T-Script could be reached. This interpreter connects the demanded (hearing) partner and makes the translation from script to spoken language and conversely.

Hearing people can call both Services to contact deaf or hard of hearing people.

The project is limited in time to the end of 2009. But the overarching goal is to build up a permanent Relay-Servive which will work independently after 2009.

