

- E-DEMOCRACY IN GOL COUNTRIES

-questionnaire, May 31st 2001-

- This questionnaire is meant to provide insight into the state of play in GOL member countries regarding online consultation of the public by national governments. The inventory is being conducted in order to offer guidance to national governments that seek information regarding online consultation. The resulting draft report will also be used as frame of reference for the definition of future action.
- At the moment we aim at an overview of work undertaken in various countries. The overview might provide us with indications in which direction to proceed. For the purpose of the discussion during the Mexico meeting a concept report will be drafted on the basis of material available in the OECD-report on Strengthening Government-Citizen Relations and the results of the questionnaire.
- No material will be published on the GOL website before countries have had the opportunity to decide to do so. Neither will the draft report be on the website before there has been a discussion by GOL members during the Mexico meeting. The OECD data will not be made public before the OECD does so itself. It is expected however they will become available on the OECD website around September. The OECD Working Group on Strengthening Government-Citizen Relations will be informed on this project and the use of their data at its meeting 21-22 June 2001.
- Any material that illustrates your answers can be used in the project. Please indicate whether it's OK to publish it on the GOL website.
- Participants in the project are requested to send in answers to the following questions before August 1st 2001. In order to get a general overview we think a completed questionnaire should not exceed 10 pages A4, including case studies. If any difficulties are encountered in understanding any of the questions please don't hesitate to contact Pauline Poland (pauline.poland@minbzk.nl). Inquiries regarding the representative of your country in the OECD Working Group on Strengthening Government-Citizen Relations, can also be made at this adress.
- The questions below are categorized according to the phases indicated in the project description. It is emphasized that the questionnaire doesn't contain questions on step 1 (ensuring **access to** and **accessibility of** national government information). Material regarding this subject will be drawn from the OECD-report on Strengthening Government-Citizen Relations. Countries that are not included in that report, will be asked to supplement the draft report with their data later on.
- There are twelve questions, numbered with characters and numbers: A 1, A 2, B 1, B 2 etc. If it's more easy for you, you may choose to integrate the answers to questions "A" into one text and do the same with questions "B" and so on.

1. ensuring access to and accessibility of national government information

Material will be drawn from the OECD-report on Strengthening Government-Citizen Relations.

2. conducting pilot projects in the field of electronic public consultation

- A 1 Have any pilots or experiments been conducted regarding online consultation of the public by national government bodies in your country? If so, please describe them shortly in general terms.
- A 2 Could you provide one or more case studies on these experiments? Please draft short descriptions: 1 or 2 A4. Please pay attention to the occasion, the subject, the available policy information, goals, achievements, participation of government officials and the practical operations of the experiments. If there are no examples of national government initiatives, examples from the local level are welcome. Also evaluations of projects are considered valuable. If possible, please mention the appropriate URLs.

3. coordinating the pilot projects, compiling the resulting experiences and developing a certain standard for online public consultation

- B 1 Does your country have a central policy on or stance towards online public consultation? If so, please describe it shortly.
- B 2 Does your country focus on *promotion* of online public consultation by national government bodies? What's the most important reason for (not) doing this?
- B 3 Does your country focus on *coordination* of online public consultation by various national government bodies? What's the most important reason for (not) doing this?
- B 4 If there is a central policy on online public consultation, how is it implemented? What instruments are used for implementation?
- C 1 Have recommendations *or assistance* been provided to help steer online public consultation by national government bodies? If so, please describe them shortly.
- C 2 Have *guidelines* been issued which online public consultations by national government bodies must fulfill? If so, please describe them shortly.
- C 3 Is any degree of *standardization or certification* of online public consultations by national government bodies carried out? If so, please describe it shortly.

4. formally adjusting the policy process: making changes in institutions and legislation.

- D 1 Is consideration being given at the national level to the formulation or adjustment of rules for online public consultation by national government bodies? What's the most important reason for (not) doing this?
- D 2 Have concrete recommendations already been formulated in this area? If so, please describe them shortly.
- D 3 Have concrete steps already been taken in this area? If so, please describe them shortly.