



## Godollo Declaration

*We, the participants of the 3rd IT STAR Workshop on National Information Society Experiences (NISE'08), held on 8 November 2008 in **Godollo, Hungary**,*

***Appreciating IT STAR's** role in promoting an open exchange of views and further collaboration related to IS policies and identifying with the mission of this particular event to investigate the current state, problems and challenges in the development and application of national information society strategies,*

***Understanding** the responsibilities and power of professional non-governmental organizations in providing independent opinion and advice on important matters,*

***Have agreed to the following:***

1. The principal guiding document for Information Society (IS) development in Europe is the EU policy framework "i2010 - A European Information Society for growth and employment" which underscores the positive contribution of ICT in the economy, society and personal quality of life. The European i2010 policies serve as guiding principles to EU member states and the annual evaluations influence positively national IS developments. The availability of EU structural funds in support of national IS projects is another important aspect, especially appreciated by the new EU member states.
2. The critical importance of ICT for societal development is universally accepted. In assessing IS development, technological and macro-economic indicators as well as "softer" socially oriented indicators reflecting cultural tradition and workforce specifics need to be taken into consideration. A one-sided approach might lead to inadequate policies followed by questionable measures and investments.
3. Governments provide the regulatory framework of national IS developments and to do this efficiently need objective assessments and periodical revision of their own policies and institutions. Issues such as information ownership, information clarity, availability, accessibility, protection and processing remain the crux of governmental responsibility. Reliable and transparent information streams should be sustained to avoid information bunkers and the growth of an e-bureaucracy. The continuous ICT education and the encouragement of IT professionalism need to be high on governmental agendas.
4. Governments have a responsibility to provide a clear vision of their understanding of IS and on that basis to seek multi-stakeholder partnerships on IS strategies and policies. It is essential to have strong collaboration among government departments, academia, the business/application communities and civil society in extending the available products and services by combining and utilizing the respective strengths and resources of all stakeholders. Multi-level professional environments and standards would support the successful implementation of e-government initiatives.

*The **IT STAR Declarations** from **Bratislava (2006)** – [http://www.starbus.org/r\\_d\\_ws1/declaration.pdf](http://www.starbus.org/r_d_ws1/declaration.pdf) and **Genzano di Roma (2007)** – [http://www.starbus.org/r\\_d\\_ws2/genzano\\_declaration.pdf](http://www.starbus.org/r_d_ws2/genzano_declaration.pdf) highlight the role of universities and the R&D community and the need of internationally recognized certification programs for IT professionals in IS development and we reiterate our support to the conclusions of these documents. International consultations such as the **IT STAR workshop in Godollo** provide excellent opportunities for sharing experience and synergies. **IT STAR member societies and other affiliated organizations** are invited to support the Declaration by providing further visibility within their constituencies and countries.*