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EUROCITIES Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society

Ensuring Rights of citizens in the Knowledge Society

EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities



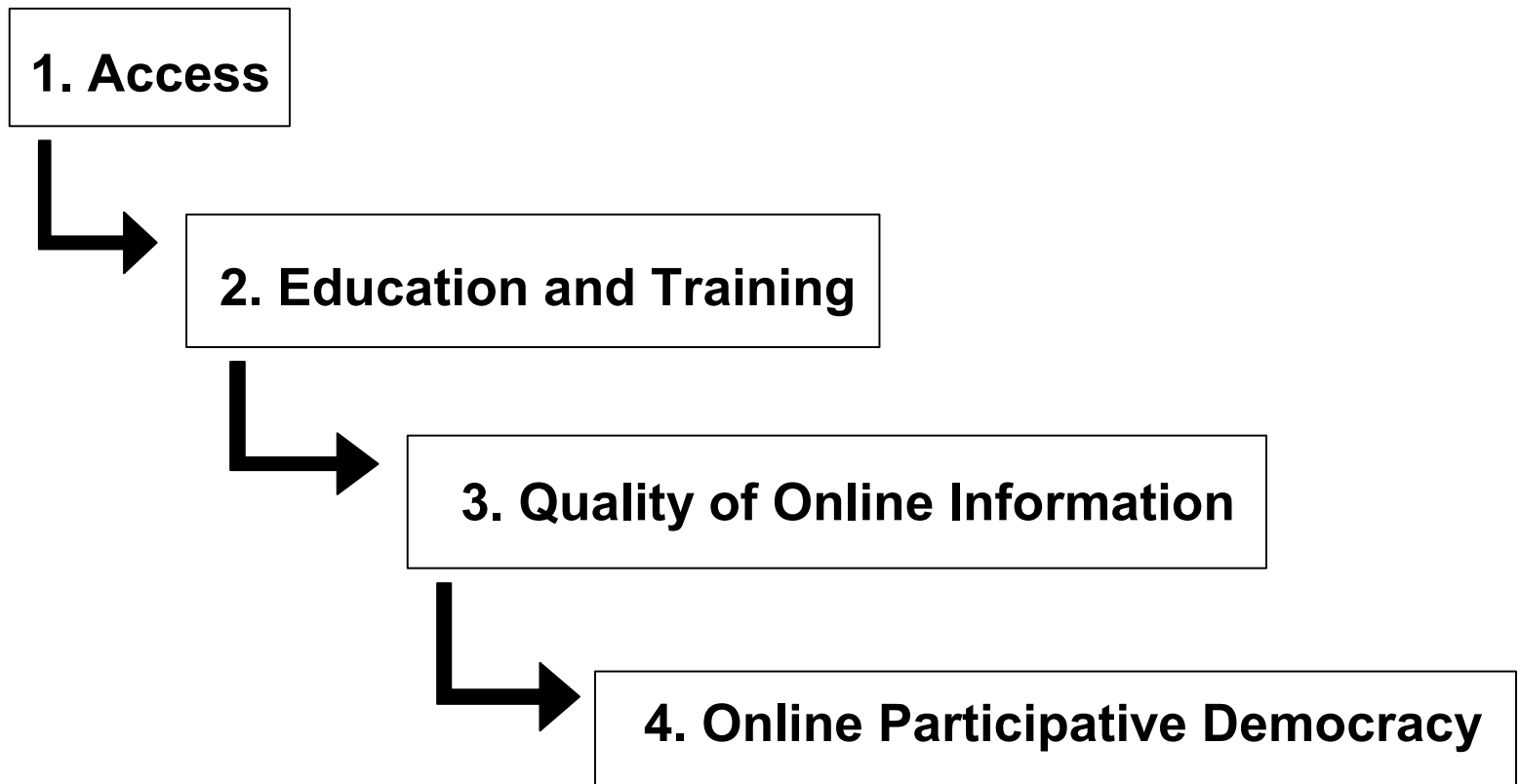
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Introduction



Contents of the Charter of eRights

The Charter of eRights has four major parts:





Art. 1

”Any citizen of the European Union will have access to the Internet through Public Internet Access Points (PIAPs), preferably via a broadband network”

Art. 2

“Any citizen of the European Union must be guaranteed the security and privacy of any personal data managed through online public services”



Art. 3

“Any citizen of the European Union will have the right to acquire the basic skills for an effective use of services and information through ICT”

Art. 4

“Any citizen of the European Union will have access to personalised assistance when accessing public and ICT-based equipment and facilities”



CHAPTER III: Rights to Online Information

Art. 5

“Any citizen of the European Union will have access to lifelong eLearning platforms to benefit from all the available resources generated by communication-technology facilities and thus take part in the knowledge society”

Art. 6

“Any citizen of the European Union will have access to the best quality information produced by public administrations”

Art. 7

“Any citizen of the European Union will have access to online information regardless of disabilities”



Art. 8

“Any citizen of the European Union will be ensured the right to participate through ICT platforms in the decision making processes of his or her local government”

Art. 9

“Any citizen of the European Union will receive public administration feedback on any online consultation results”



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Preparation process of the Charter of eRights



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Signing process: an overview

- December 2003: European Charter of eRights officially launched (EUROCITIES AGM, Porto)
- 2004: drafting process developed during specific Telecities working group sessions
- March 2005: Charter of Rights approved by Barcelona's municipal plenary council
- June 2005: Officially approved by the EUROCITIES ExComm
- July 2005: first official European Signing ceremony



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Signing Ceremony

Manchester (President of EURO CITIES)

Liverpool (Chair of the Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities)

Barcelona (Chair of the Working group on eRights)





The Charter of eRights

On the Knowledge Society
EUROCITIES recognises the profound c

UNODC/ILIC recognises the profound changes to our living and working environment resulting from the fast development and widespread use of information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), accompanied by social, economic, organisational and legal innovations. Society, today is defined as the "information society" or as the "Knowledge Society", to stress its most valuable asset: the intangible, human and social capital, defined by knowledge and creativity. UNODC/ILIC is aware of the opportunities that these changes bring

with regard to social welfare, education and training, jobs, e-access to public services and new forms of governance. We are aware of the risk of new inequalities affecting overall Europe that these developments can bring. EUROCOMES, to the development of a Knowledge Society for all.

The role of cities in the development of the Knowledge Society

EUROCLUES firmly believes that Knowledge Society should be created by all spheres of government. It must become the catalyst ensuring their full right.

Guaranteeing the rights of citizens in the Knowledge Society

EUROCITIES wishes to ensure the effective recognition and protection of rights of all citizens in the Information and Knowledge Society by introducing the "European Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society". EUROCITIES is convinced that this instrument will help citizens and local governments ensure the rights of citizens and to maintain a vibrant and competent society in the digital age as well as social and territorial cohesion.

By committing to progressively guarantee individual and social rights in the Society, EUROCITIES is responding to the digital divide and other challenges such as new resources. Knowledge-based economies are the most significant challenge for their rights bring. They also determine the rights to each individual and can be

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The Right to Eat

TUCEROCCIO considers the role of lifelong learning to allow, from the development of the Learning and working can no longer be confined to specific areas and new technologies offer possibilities for learning anytime and anywhere. The Society can only be ensured by developing initiatives that will give citizens the opportunity to continuously improve their skills and competences, become more mobile and better prepared for the labour market. Citizens recognise the need to respond to the challenges for specific competences and skills, and to offer the possibility to acquire the content and knowledge. Learning initiatives will offer high returns in terms of employment and human capital. This means that public institutions must identify potential opportunities for this by gathering personal information about the learning needs of individual citizens. Cities will also need to ensure educational possibilities which take account of the specific attention to specific groups such as immigrants, seniors and disabled persons. The involvement of teachers, as promoters of change in any educative environment, will contribute to effectiveness of these efforts.

The Right to Access

Citizens will be able to select and personalize their relation with the government to increasing internet use, the services and the applications it

Community to enjoy the arts and its benefits.



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The Charter of Rights: cities

By now:

Amaroussion • Barcelona • Brno • Chemnitz •
Frankfurt • Gdansk • Gijon • Glasgow • Liverpool •
Lodz • Lyon • Manchester • Ostrava • Prague •
Salerno • Siena • Stockholm • Terrassa • Zaragoza

Interest:

Berlin • Birmingham • Bologna • Bonn • Bratislava •
Brno • Brussels • Cheshire County Council • Cologne •
Helsinki • Leipzig • Lille Métropole • Leeds •
Linköping • Lisbon • Modena • Munich • Nantes •
Rome • Porto • Rotterdam • Tampere • The Hague •
Turku • Vienna • Vilnius



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The Charter: how to perceive it

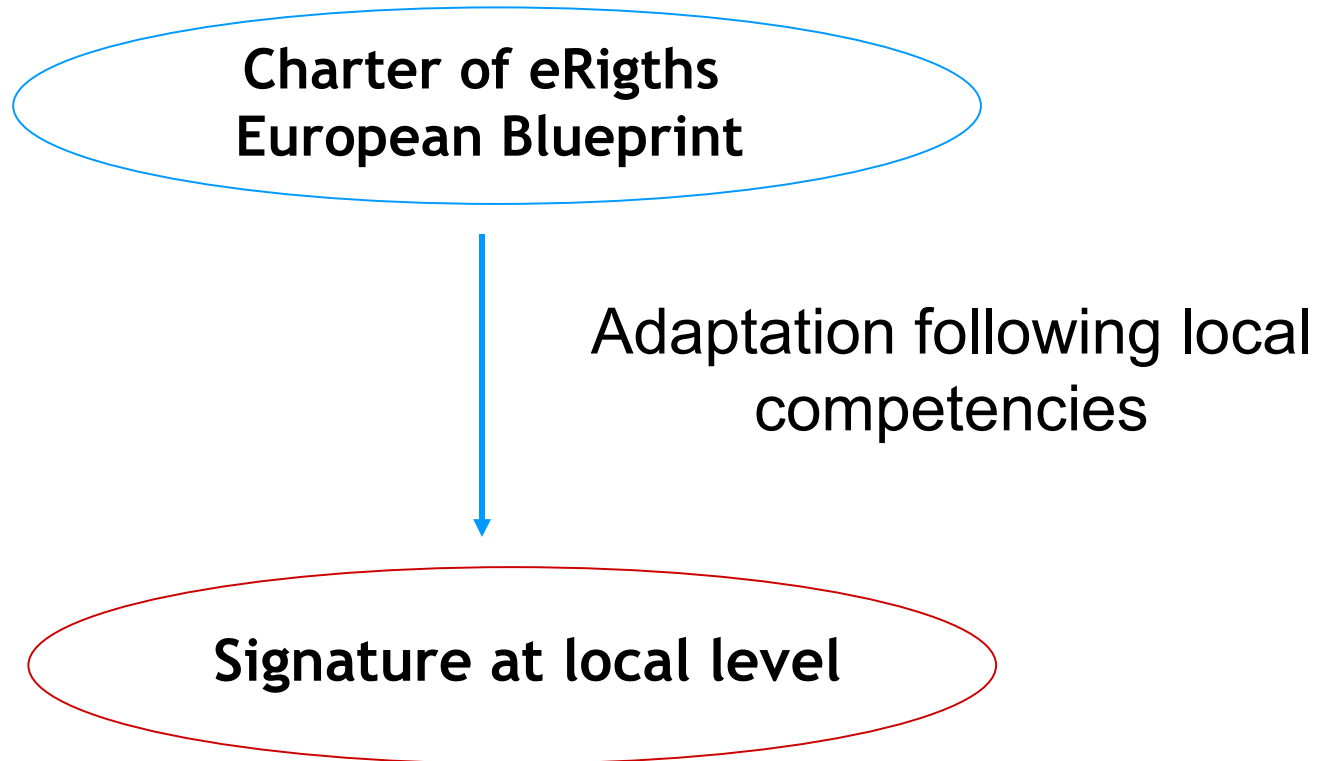
Conceived as a European blueprint, the Charter is aimed to :

- Be an **instrument** for all local public decision-makers to develop policies and services, aligned with the Lisbon goals, and tailored to the territorial needs
- ...from a **citizen-oriented** approach
- As a way to **set/confirm commitment** following local context and competencies
- Reinforcing the link between the network members of Telecities in terms of vision and commitment
- Providing **support** in the exchange of best practices in the field of Information and Knowledge Society
- **Open** to other cities not members of Telecities/EUROCITIES



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Signing process





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Signing Process in Barcelona (March 2005)

The City Council has included additional issues:

- “Any citizen of the European Union will have the right to **address local public administration via digital means** and to be answered via digital means”
- “Any citizen of the European Union will have access to electronic contents and will address local public administration via digital means, **in his own national language**, in our case the catalan language”



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More info

More information on the Charter of eRights on EUROCITIES website: www.EUROCITIES.org

The screenshot shows the EUROCITIES website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for 'news', 'events calendar', 'publications', 'press releases', 'about EUROCITIES', 'EUROCITIES members', 'EUROCITIES partners', 'EUROCITIES activities', 'links', 'opening', 'contact us', and 'job opportunities'. A search bar is also present.

The main content area is titled 'EUROCITIES projects' and features a sidebar with categories: cooperation, culture, economy, environment, knowledge society, mobility, and social affairs. The 'knowledge society' category is selected, showing sub-items: news, documents, events, forum, working group, and projects.

The main content displays the 'Charter of Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society' project, dated July 2005 - December 2005. It includes a link to 'Maurice Paulissen' and a 'description' section. The description states that the Charter is conceived as a European blueprint for local elected governments to draw up their own municipal Charter and determine their own ways of reaching a sustainable knowledge society in their local area. It mentions that the Charter was officially presented to members of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum - Telecities in Manchester on Thursday, 7 July, within the context of the Forum's Summer Event 2005.

The following cities have already signed up to Charter of eRights:

- Amarousion • Barcelona • Brno • Chemnitz • Frankfurt • Gdansk • Gijon • Glasgow • Liverpool • Lodz • Lyon • Manchester • Ostrava • Prague • Salerno • Siena • Stockholm • Terrassa • Zaragoza

EUROCITIES, together with the Working Group leader from Barcelona will undertake several actions to support cities in the signing up process and in promoting the Charter of eRights.

Coordination & Monitoring

In order to monitor and coordinate the uptake of the EUROCITIES Charter on Rights of Citizens in the Knowledge Society by cities we would like to ask the cities interested in using the Charter of eRights to inform EUROCITIES by sending an email to Maurice Paulissen: m.paulissen@eurocities.be. EUROCITIES will maintain a log of ongoing local adaptation and signing processes.

The following cities have already expressed their interest in signing up to the charter:

- Berlin • Birmingham • Bologna • Bonn • Bratislava • Brno • Brussels • Cheshire County Council • Cologne • Helsinki • Leipzig • Life Metropole • Leeds • Linz/Donau • Lisbon • Modena • Munich • Nantes • Rome • Porto • Rotterdam • Tampere • The Hague • Turku • Vienna • Vilnius

Support & Advice

During this year the City of Barcelona can offer support on an ad-hoc basis to cities interested in using the Charter of eRights and on adapting the charter to local needs.

By gathering all the information about modifications made by the different cities, and by making this information available to others, cities can learn from each other. Therefore, we ask all the cities that have adapted and signed the Charter to send a PDF copy of the signed Charter to the Work Group leader Joan Batlle joanbatlle@gmail.com.

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Thank you