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Call for collaborative interactions  
with the

## Digital World Forum on Accessible and inclusive ICT



***an FP7 European Union Support Action***

The **DigitalWorld Forum** gathers the foremost experts in the field of inclusive and accessible ICT and Developing Countries in a context of Sustainable Development to create a forum where different initiatives and actors are able to network and to exchange best practices and success stories in order to deliver development-related ICT research exploitation and cooperation road maps. The project will carry out specific collaboration actions. The premier goal is to create **synergy between all stakeholders in order to be able to build bottom-up credible and sound cooperation road maps in the field of ICT research**, thus identifying and connecting initiatives at the global level, the regional level and the local level, identifying common factors and distinctive traits. With the sound and proven background in European ICT research of the promoters of the DigitalWorld Forum, it is ensured that existing EU research will be fully exploited in these contexts. The consortium partners from the International Cooperation Partner Countries are among the most respected organizations in their regions for accessible and inclusive ICT. The real innovation and challenge that is now appearing on the horizon is the new low-cost

dimension. The consortium brings together a plethora of experience and practical knowledge in the fields of the latest low-cost initiatives for Accessible ICT.

The project focuses on:

- **Laptops:** Low-cost laptop technologies where a series of paradigm-shifts are occurring that promise to change the landscape of ICT, with a change of scale that will affect not only the “developing world”.
- **Mobile phones:** Given the level of penetration and usage of Mobile phones in the Developing World, it is essential to evaluate the potential of these devices to offer access to ICT at low cost..
- **Low-Cost infrastructure** (internet access, wifi mesh, content)

A strong focus will be the collaboration with regional and local NGOs and Developing World constituents (Civil Society, research communities, local innovators, business organizations,...). The “informal” sector, consisting primarily of NGOs, plays a significant role in advancing efforts at building ICT development in Africa and Latin America, especially with a view to the use of ICT technologies and applications for dealing with the scope of issues which have become traditionally associated with NGO efforts: namely, the eradication of poverty; the social, educational and political empowerment of the disadvantaged or erstwhile deprived, especially women, children; rural and variously handicapped persons; education; preventive healthcare and the management of illness and universal access to basic information and telecommunications services through innovative and affordable technologies or modifications of existing ones. The energy and persistence, which is the hallmark of NGOs, has contributed in no small way to the plethora of initiatives that are currently ongoing in Africa and Latin America, including those now embraced by governments and the formal sector. It is significant that these NGOs are as much indigenous African and Latin American organizations as regional or international groups.

The DigitalWorld FORUM will actively bring together all the different stakeholders and ensure a networking effort and dissemination of information that will create synergies and allow for new models to be developed and applied in a long term sustainable way. The DigitalWorld FORUM will elaborate an updated and sound **“ICT cooperation roadmap”** that will identify pertinent research actions for FP7 and facilitate creation and collaborative use of Information and Communication Technology tools that support sustainable economic development at the grass-roots and policy-making levels, in conjunction with the global scientific community and **enable EU Policy in this domain to be actively put forward on a global stage.**

*Partners :* W3C ( ERCIM ), NEMATRIX, MERAKA INSTITUTE, FUNDACIÓN CIBERVOLUNTARIOS, KUSAMOTU and KUSAMOTU, ONEVILLAGE FOUNDATION GHANA, FRANCE TELECOM S, ENSTA ( ARMINES )

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