

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: A new survey of ICT usage by minority ethnic and migrant groups (connectIEM)

This is to let you know that an EU-funded research project has just started a major cross-national on-line survey of the ways in which people from minority and migrant ethnic groups whose family origins lie outside the EU make use of information and communication technologies (ICT). The main focus of interest is how use of ICT affects their social, economic, and cultural integration. The research encompasses all kinds of digital tools and applications, in particular those based on computers; the Internet, the web and social networking sites; mobile phones, smart phones and other mobile devices.

The **connectIEM** project aims to obtain answers from at least 5,300 people from minority and migrant communities across the eight EU countries using an **online questionnaire**. This went live on October 11th and will remain open for the remainder of this year. In the UK, people who were either born in or whose parents were born in India, Pakistan, Bangladeshi or the Caribbean are invited to participate in the survey, which can be found at www.15minutescloser.com. Further information about the research is also available on this website. We hope that people who participate in the survey will spread the word about the survey to other people in their communities and encourage them to take part as well. There is an incentive to completing the survey. One in ten respondents (randomly selected) will receive 15 minutes of free phone time.

The project is being run by the *Internet Interdisciplinary Institute* (IN3) at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) in Barcelona and the *Technology & Social Change Group* (TASCHA) at the University of Washington Information School in Seattle (USA), in collaboration with local teams in the **eight countries** where the research will be conducted: Austria, Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Spain and United Kingdom. The project was commissioned by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre the *Institute for Prospective Technological Studies* (JRC-IPTS) and the *Directorate General Information Society and Media* (DG INFSO). It will inform the Commission's efforts to design **innovative integration policies supported by the use of ICT** and to fight digital exclusion in all segments of European society. More information about the project is available at: <http://migranetwork.net/node/48>.

We are writing to you to ask for **your help** in raising awareness of this survey and to encourage potential respondents to participate. More responses mean more voices will be heard, and from a research perspective it means better, more reliable data and better grounded policy recommendations. Here are some suggestions for ways in which your organization can help publicise the survey:

- Post information to an email distribution list
- Send a special email to individuals on your mailing list
- Place a link to the survey/online questionnaire from your website
- Blog about the project
- Include information about the survey in your next newsletter or other communication tool
- Put up a poster in your offices; distribute a flier in your events etc.
- Contact other organizations working with immigrant communities and let them know about the project

We hope that you are able to help publicise this survey and to encourage people to take part. A flyer for the survey is attached. In particular, it would be helpful if you would bring it to the attention of people with a family background from outside the EU who use any ICT facilities

which you provide. Please let us know if you are willing to help us in this effort and who we should make contact with in your organisation to better define this cooperation.

Many thanks in advance and we hope your organization is able to facilitate this important research project.

Yours sincerely,

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