



# Conclusions day 1

SOCQUIT conference 29-30 September 2005

SOCQUIT Ageing Society – Jeroen Heres & Josephine Dries (TNO)



# Session 1

## **Poverty and QoL (Tony Fahey)**

- ▶ Lower income, bad living conditions and low subjective are strongly interrelated: income is the main indicator
  - ▶ The real challenge is in the East of Europe
- *In the SOCQUIT presentations income was less important: is moderate income preconditional in a Maslowian hierarchy of needs?*

## **Social Capital, ICT and “connected presence (Christian Licoppe)**

- ▶ ICTs do not substitute physical social contacts, but changes interaction: concept of “connected presence” (replacement vs reinforcement)
  - ▶ Negotiation between connection and connectivity
- *ICT modifies the concept of social capital. Are old indicators sufficient?*

## **I2010 (Bruno Cassette)**

- ▶ Quality of life and inclusion are pillars under the I2010 agenda
- Evolution from technological determinism to social constructivism?
- Paradigm shift brings new questions, indicators/ benchmarking etc.



# Session 2: SOCQUIT results presentation



## **Facts and Figures (Frank Thomas)**

Comparing countries: clusters emerge

→ Could it all be reduced to a privilege vs deprivation scale?

## **Ageing population (Jeroen Heres)**

Although older people differ a lot, in general social and physical health come out statistically the most important

→ ICT policy for older people should be seen as a mean (integrated in social policy) not as an aim in itself

## **Employment (Paul Stoneman)**

Social activities (networking) have the highest effect on finding jobs

→ How comes PC skills do not make a difference?

## **Local IST (Ben Anderson)**

The importance of grass root actions

→ Should policy stimulate or facilitate?

## **Migrants (Frank Thomas)**

There are no structural differences between migrants and non-migrants in the role of ICT in building social capital

→ ICT is not the key issue in explaining such big issues



# Reflections



## ▶ Framework of Social Capital, Quality of life is useful

- It addresses a new normative dimension
- It accounts for social constructivistic processes
- It provides interesting results
- Social factors really seems to be key in Information Society evolution

## ▶ Reinforcing is very important: the privileged are getting better off compared with the deprived

- How to manipulate the reinforcing loops?
- Where can policy play a role?
- Dont'forget the micro-level

## ▶ Good results require the right concepts, right data and right interpretation

- Statistics can not tell the entire story
- Useful available data is very limited
- Mixed method approach in SOCQUIT was good decision

## ▶ Paradox of generality (explains everything and nothing)

- More research should be taken out following the priority of quality of life and social issues in IS
- Focused hypotheses are needed
- Longitudinal data needed
- Qualitative research is needed