

**INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
(Birds-of-a-Feather Session)**

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SUMMARY

This birds-of-a-feather session addresses the issue of international collaboration on digital government issues. The objective is to bring together scientists to exchange information on research activities that cross geographic boundaries, and to potentially lead to scientific collaborations among researchers from multiple countries. The thematic emphasis of this session will be on international e-government: sharing e-resources to solve problems that transcend borders.

This session builds on a birds-of-feather session on international collaborations during the dg.o 2003 meeting. That session identified four key issues for international collaborations. Two are *community-building* issues:

- Disseminating information across nations (e.g. inventories of digital government research)
- Fostering international participation through common meetings and international workshops.

The other two are *research* issues:

- Identifying transnational problems as such
- Merging and reconfiguring capabilities and processes to address these problems.

The proposed session will address directly the first two issues, and will provide a forum for the establishment of international partnerships to address the last two.

Furthermore, the session will provide an overview of an NSF-sponsored workshop organized in Budapest, Hungary on March 21-24, 2004. This workshop, cosponsored by the Hungarian organization ELTE Ithaka brought together US and Hungarian scientists from information technology and social science, aiming:

- to call the Hungarian scientific community's attention to the NSF research community,
- to demonstrate for the NSF participants the research perspectives of Hungary, to explore common research interests in specified domains, and
- to define potential joint research projects responsive to various Hungarian, European Union and NSF calls for proposals.

The Budapest workshop focused on E-Government and Digital Government, information society technologies, and information society studies. Topics addressed in this meeting include:

- Knowledge networks within and between government, non-government, and commercial organizations.

- Citizen government interaction (e-deliberation, e-voting, e-rule-making, etc.).
- Cultural heritage preservation and archiving.
- Collaboration and distributed computing for transnational challenges such as emergency response, drug interdiction, environmental applications, etc.
- Digital society implications: Digital Divide, e-commerce, etc.

Details for the Budapest workshop may be found in the corresponding web site:
<http://www.spcomm.uiuc.edu/conf/budapest2004/>