

## THE TERM 'E-INCLUSION' & THE ROLE OF E-INCLUSION RECYCLING c.i.c

### What is 'e- inclusion'?

E-inclusion is the term used in the European Union to encompass activities related to the achievement of an inclusive information society. 'Inclusive' means bringing the benefits of the information society into all segments of the population in particular those segments sensitive to exclusion i.e.:

- (i) people who are disadvantaged due to education (e-Competency), ageing (e-Ageing), limited resources, gender, or ethnicity (Socio-Cultural Digital Divide);
- (ii) people with disabilities (e-Accessibility); and
- (iii) people living in less favoured areas where access to digital technology is not available (Geographical Digital Divide).

### E-inclusion Policy Derivation

Policies in Europe relating to e-inclusion principally came from the 2000 Lisbon Council as an action to eradicate poverty and social exclusion within Europe. The Council outlined their key policies in the area of e-inclusion in the third pillar of their 'i2010 Initiative' – *"to foster inclusion, better public services and quality of life through the use of ICT."* The Council realised that through ICT, poverty and social exclusion could be eradicated by helping society participate in a 'knowledge-based society' where significant wealth could be created through the economic exploitation of knowledge. Information technology gave people, organisations and community's access to knowledge, employment and wealth. Particular emphasis however would have to be given to those people sensitive to exclusion.

### Role of E-Inclusion Recycling c.i.c

Our role here at E-Inclusion Recycling c.i.c is to play our part in providing the PC's and expertise to facilitate individuals, organisations and communities in gaining access to the information society, particularly those individuals, organisations and communities sensitive to exclusion.