



Jane E. Fountain

Fountain Addresses Innovation at European Union Conference in Norway

May 10, 2007 - Jane E. Fountain, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and Director of the National Center for Digital Government gave an invited lecture at the European Union (E.U.) sponsored conference, Forskning for Innovasjon innen Helse og E-Forvaltning (Research for Innovation in Healthcare and Administration) on May 4, 2007 in Oslo, Norway. The conference was organized by the European eGovernment Research Network's eGovnet project (www.egovnet.org) and the Research Council of Norway (www.forskningsradet.no/).

Fountain's lecture, "Challenges to Change in Government: Technology-based Cross-agency Innovations in the U.S.," explored changes in legislation and organizational structure that have enabled networked government. Her research findings support the view that the next stage of e-government research should focus on institutional developments that are necessary to support information age governance. "The focus of e-government research must move beyond descriptions of practical IT tools," she said, "and investigate how technology is impacting the physical structure of organizations and their business and communication processes. These institutional developments should be at the heart of e-government research in both the U.S. and the E.U."

The synergy created through this conference will be followed by an invitation-only ministerial conference in Lisbon, Portugal in September 2007 (<http://www.megovconf-lisbon.gov.pt/>) and an international book project that will present key theoretical frameworks at the core of research on technology and governance.

More information about Fountain's research on networked government is available through the National Center for Digital Government (NCDG) which works to build global research capacity, to advance practice, and to strengthen the network of researchers and practitioners engaged in building and using technology in government. The Center aims to apply and extend the social sciences for research at the intersection of governance, institutions and information technologies. Please visit the Center's website at www.ncdg.org.