

3rd IT STAR Workshop

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Reflections on National ICT Strategies in Albania

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Introduction

- Disputed role of ICT revolution
- ICT as “inevitable luxury”
- Difference of rationales
- National strategy draft 2003
- National strategy draft 2007-2009
- The future ?

Strategy 2003 Story

- Pressure from outside (UNDP etc.)
- Team of local and foreign experts
- Presentation in national conferences
- Discussion with groups of interest
- Formal approval in spring 2003
- No actions for implementation

Strategy 2003 Content

- 4 documents
 - Strategy
 - E-readiness
 - Development indicators
 - Roadmap

Strategy 2003 Sectors

- Government as champion
- ICT in education, research, health care and social services
- Infrastructure for information society
- Acceleration of economic growth
- Go for regional and European context

Strategy 2003 Problems

- Missing of statistical data
- Actions defined in general
- Lack of interest from government for its implementation

Strategy 2007 Story

- Ministry of telecommunications charged to revise the strategy draft
- Few contacts of foreign expert with some local people
- First draft delayed in March 2007
- Conclusive discussions probably in end of 2008, with closed groups of interest, academia avoided

Strategy 2007 Content

- One document
 - General overview
 - Vision, priorities and objectives
 - Policies
 - Requested resources
 - Accountability, monitoring, assessment
- Concepts sometime confused

Strategy 2007 Sectors

- ICT indicators
- E-commerce
- E-government
- Education and research
- Local governance
- Employment
- ESEE obligations

Comparing Strategies

- Coordinated policies
- Legislation
- Public services
- Education
- Health and social care
- Local content
- Liberal telco & production
- Fast secure services
- Support e-business
- EU and SEE initiatives
- Awareness campaign
- Regulatory environment
- Civil and law services
- Human capacities
- Health care
- Community & digital content
- Environment for opportunities
- High speed infrastructure
- Competitiveness
- eSEE and bSEE agendas

Implementation Plans

- Independently from strategy
 - Liberalization of telecommunications
 - Private Internet services
 - Some Internet banking
 - Specific applications in companies
 - Labs and Internet in some schools
 - Networks and applications in universities
 - Public networks and services
 - Critical systems (police, taxes etc.)

New Projects

- Liberalization of telecommunications
- Legislation (procurement, certificates)
- National Information Society Agency
- Public services (registration, tenders)
- Online tax payment system elements
- Electronic civil registry & ID cards
- IS & RS based urban management

ICT in Schools

- Government master-plan 2006-2008
 - Intro of ICT and Internet in all schools
- Important steps in
 - Curricula
 - Equipment
 - Teachers training
- Sustainability problems
 - Maintenance
 - Internet connectivity

ICT in Universities

- Local networks but no NREN
- Participation in regional actions
 - SEEREN
 - SEE-GRID
- Project funded by Italian government
 - Hope to create the NREN in 2009
- Sustainability question
- GEANT connectivity question

Conclusions

- E-bureaucracy for e-governance
- Lack of harmonization of actions
- Lack of involvement of academia
- ICT use is increasing but not fast
- Mega-projects lack sustainability
- There is overall slow progress ...
- ... and we have no time to waste

Thank You

- Q & A

