



Slovakia on (winding) Road to Information Society

Experience, Problems and Perspectives

Non-governmental organization viewpoint

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Slovakia contrasts ...

- **considerable macroeconomic progress**
 - one of the leading EU countries implementing Lisbon strategy - structural reforms
 - high GDP growth (6,6%, 8,5% and 10,4% in last 3 years, prognosis for this year 7%)
 - decreasing state deficit and unemployment
 - entry into the eurozone from January 1st 2009
- **slow progress in the Information Society development**
 - at the end of European scale in (almost) all information society development indicators
 - in spite of the fact, that the IS development is declared priority of all governments in the last decade



Content of contribution

- **Overview of strategic documents and action plans of the last decade**
- **Where we are – e-solutions in action**
- **New strategic documents a plans - perspectives**



Overview of last years

- **Overview of strategic documents and action plans of the last decade**
 - legislation
 - competencies and coordination
 - evaluation of action plans pursuance
- **Where we are – e-solutions in action**
- **New strategic documents a plans - perspectives**



Legislation towards IS

- **Some important laws approved**
 - Act on Electronic Signature (2002)
 - Act on Electronic Business (2004)
 - Act on Information Systems in Public Administration (2006) etc.
- **Systematic approach to legislation for Information Society is missing**
 - constitution - ... the state bodies can act only within the scope of their authority and **in a manner** established by law ...
 - some ready e-solutions are not executable
 - detailed analysis of legislative system and consecutive plan for changes are necessary



Coordination and competencies

- **„Floating“ competencies for Information Society development**
 - during the last decade 4-5 ministries were responsible
 - for long time almost no coordination on cross-ministerial level
- **Government Plenipotentiary established in 2005**
 - main role – to coordinate activities on cross-ministerial level
 - almost without real executive competencies and budget



Strategic documents

- **Strategy of informatization and Action plan (2004)**
 - both initiated by Policy of Informatization and eEurope+
- **Road map for introduction of e-services of public administration (2005)**
 - elaborated one of the strategy priorities – e-Government
- **Minerva - Strategy of competitiveness of the SR by 2010 (2005)**
 - four action plans oriented towards the knowledge economy development
 - Education and employment, Research, development and innovations, Information society, Entrepreneurial milieu



Brief evaluation ...

- **Action plan did not reflected strategy priorities**
 - just rewritten and slightly modified eEurope+
 - vague formulations of goals, missing deadlines
 - only formal evaluation of progress
- **Roadmap and Minerva were elaborated almost independently**
 - overlapping also with the strategy
 - as a consequence of underfinanced „big“ plans – unsatisfactory progress



Where we are

- **Overview of strategic documents and action plans of the last decade**
- **Where we are – e-solutions in action**
 - legislation and coordination
 - public administration portal
 - available e-services
- **New strategic documents and plans - perspectives**



Competencies and legislation

- **Still non transparently splitted competencies**
 - Vice-premier responsible for knowledge economy (including IS)
 - Ministry of Finance, central governmental office responsible for IS and keeping budget also for IS development
 - Plenipotentiary for IS responsible for coordination of activities towards IS
- **Competent representatives already become concious that systematic approach to legislation is necessary**



Positive experience and solutions

- **Central public administration portal**
 - www.portal.gov.sk
 - operated by the Office of Government
- **Best practice - successful projects and solutions**
 - available through central portal
- **State research program „Information Society Development“**
 - reflected the strategie 2004 priorities



Central public administration portal

- **Central unified access to public administration information sources and services**
 - central state offices
 - regional and municipal selfadministration
- **Virtual centralization – distributed system with unified access, logic and structure**
 - common subsystems like identity access management, payment portal, workflow management, notification and delivery module etc.
- **Organization of information and services based on life event approach**
 - at present, only a limited number of electronic services are available



Successful projects and solutions

■ **Best practices**

- Electronic tax declarations
- Electronic custom declarations
- Trade register
- Trade licence through one focal point
- Electronic cadastre (land and real estates register), etc.

■ **„Another“ experience**

- Electronic procurement system is not executable, it is not in conformity with the current law



Projects of the State research program

- Open source infrastructure
- Model of integrated e-services of public administration
- Use of ICT technologies and network platforms of new generation in education
- Intelligent speech communication interface
- Convergence of ICT networks and services in communication infrastructure of the SR
- Tools for integration and distributed use of geospace information
- Tools for knowledge acquisition, organization and maintenance in the environment of heterogenous information sources



New documents – new perspectives

- **Overview of strategic documents and action plans of the last decade**
- **Where we are – e-solutions in action**
- **New strategic documents and plans – perspectives**
 - Operational Plan for Information Society (2007-2013)
 - eGovernment Strategy of the SR (2008)
 - National Concept of Public Administration informatization (2008)
 - departmental action plans – health, educational system, research in informatics etc.



Operational Plan for Information Society

- **EU structural funds – 11 operational plans**
 - related operational plans – Research, development and innovations, Education
 - approximately 1 milliard Euro allocated for OPIS
- **OPIS priorities**
 - eGovernment - effective electronization of public administration and development of electronic services on central, municipal and local level
 - Digital heritage – development and renewal of the national infrastructure of repository institutions
 - Broadband – improvement of broadband internet access
- **next steps – feasibility studies for all priorities**
 - goal – to identify projects and to elaborate an optimal model of projects implementations



...a few observations

- **approximately 2 years almost none significant project was started**
 - everybody was waiting for OPIS funds
 - OPIS documents preparation and approval and agreement on who will keep the funds took too much time
- **strategic documents relies on feasibility studies**
 - government signed in fact „a bianco check“
 - in the best case, the first projects will start at the end of next year
- **our lag is deepening**
 - hopefully we will be lucky enough to jump into a new emerging „technological train“



Thank you for your attention