



# **Slovakia on (winding) Road to Information Society**

Experience, Problems and Perspectives

Non-governmental organization viewpoint

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# Slovakia contrasts ...

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- **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **Some important laws approved**
  - Act on Electronic Signature (2002)
  - Act on Electronic Bussiness (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

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- **„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

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- **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 ...

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **Central public administration portal**
  - [www.portal.gov.sk](http://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

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- **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

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- **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

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- 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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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“



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Thank you for your attention