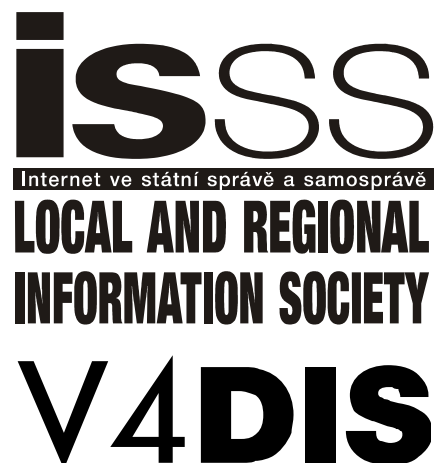Internet in Public Administration

Local and Regional Information Society

Visegrad Group for Developing Information Society

Hradec Králové, March 28—30, 2004

Evaluation and Responses

ISSS

Internet ve státní správě a samosprávě

LOCAL AND REGIONAL
INFORMATION SOCIETY

V4DIS

Contents

Introduction

The seventh annual Internet in Public Administration (ISSS) and the parallel Local and Regional Information Society (LORIS) international conferences recently concluded in Hradec Králové. Within the framework of this year's conferences, another important international event–the V4DIS: Visegrad Group and Slovenia for Developing Information Society conference–was held too. On the basis of the **Role of Municipalities and Regions in the Process of Development of e-Government, e-Culture and Other Web Applications for Citizens in V4 Countries** project, it was supported by the International Visegrad Fund. The time is now ripe for taking stock of these distinct events. The ISSS 2004 conference has yet again confirmed its position as being for public administration a forum for regular comprehensive assessment of the development in using up-to-date information and communications technologies. For the seventh time, we could bear witness to the fact that public administration informisation is a hot topic and that organising such a conference is of the utmost benefit and necessity. It greatly contributes to coordination of processes related to introduction of information technologies at all levels of public administration – state, regional and local.

Three momentous events took place on the eve of the conference. The first was the meeting of associations of municipalities and representatives of towns of V4 countries and Slovenia, as well as other EU-acceding and candidate countries; with the discussion also being open to other Eastern and South-Eastern European countries. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the eV4+/LORIS declaration on developing cooperation in building up information society at the regional and local level. The @ Czech prize, this year awarded to the "Looking into the land register" project of the Czech Geodesy and Land-Register Office, was handed over at the Sunday gala evening in the Satchmo Jazz Club. The evening also included the signing of the Helsinki Declaration of the Global Cities Dialogue by representatives of selected towns of Visegrad Four countries – Banská Bystrica, Třinec and Walbrzych. Performing throughout the evening was Stan The Man Bohemian Blues Trio.

This year's conference was again held under the auspices of the Minister of Informatics of the Czech Republic, Vladimír Mlynář. Presenting the results of the Ministry's activity, outlining the state information and communications policy, as well as presenting information about new intentions and new and prepared legislation, was at the core of the entire conference agenda. Naturally, topics pertaining to issues of public administration and its influence on information systems in the activity of local, regional and central authorities appeared in the programme. Their mutual concurrence, tools of communication between public administration and citizens, coordination of all projects and information system security, were thematic groups participants concentrated their attention on. In content terms, financing, crisis-planning and management, geographic data and geoinformation technologies were also at the centre of interest. The relation between information technologies and disadvantaged population groups was highlighted too.

Held in parallel were the LORIS and V4DIS 2004 international conferences. They were organised by Sdružení Český zavináč, the Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic, the host cities of Prague and Hradec Králové and Triada Ltd., with the support of the InfoDev and International Visegrad Fund. The specialist partner of the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS 2004 conference was CAGI and the official forwarder Auto Škoda. Surprising was the high number of foreign participants. The significance of the Information Society development for countries acceding to the European Union was emphasised by representatives of the European Commission–among them Gérald Santucci, David Broster, and Agnes Bradier. Gratifying was the great interest on the part of Slovak representatives and their active approach, also recorded last year, in the form of a promise for close long-term collaboration even after the Czech Republic and Slovakia's entry into the European Union. Such cooperation could become the driving force for extending regional cooperation of V4 countries

and Slovenia following the example of Scandinavian and Baltic initiatives, as well as bilateral activities with other countries within the region. Speeches of state officials, standpoints of representatives of local authorities and explanations of specialists from leading companies created ample scope for exchange of opinions at all parallel events, both in the official part and within lobby debates. This scope has been continuously expanding also owing to the fact that the participants have the possibility of using the multimedia conference-paper proceedings. Detailed source data from discussions of associations and towns were used for creating the benchmarking proceedings, documenting the e-Strategies of individual national associations of municipalities and their member towns. These proceedings also comprise the adopted eV4/LORIS Declaration. The initiative for mutual exchange of information about e-Strategies of associations and towns, coordinated by the association Sdružení Český zavináč in cooperation with the Committee for Information Systems of Towns and Municipalities of the Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic and the Informatics Department of Prague City Council, engendered great interest also on the part of such networks as ELANET, TeleCities, Major Cities of Europe and eForum. Hence, it offers to the coordinator cooperation on its further continuation and extension.

At the conference, 1,969 participants from 25 countries were registered, of whom 716 were from public administration, 728 from local government and the non-profit sector, 202 from other areas and 323 from the commercial sphere. Within the framework of the programme, 230 lectures were given with the total length of 86 hours. They were presented by 295 lecturers.

This immense interest in the conference has again confirmed the position of ISSS as the dominant forum pertaining to public administration informisation not only in the Czech Republic, but also within Central and Eastern Europe as a whole. Alongside the year-on-year growth in the number of conference participants, the interest on the part of commercial partners has been rising too. They also deserve thanks for significantly enhancing the conference's high professional level. Special praise is in order for the general partner, Česká spořitelna, a. s., the main partners (Czech Telecom, IBM, Microsoft, SAP, Siemens, Unisys) and other partners (AutoCont, ICZ, Novell, PVT, Sun, T-Systems).

The following report includes basic descriptive data for evaluation of the entire event. We believe that it will aid you in your decision to play an active role in the ISSS 2005 conference.

Tomáš Renčín
Conference Executive Director

František Dohnal
Programme Director

Profile and Goals of the Event

Internet in Public Administration

Nature: National conference

Number of years: 7   Prague, March 1998
Hradec Králové, March 1999–2004

Target group: Representatives and employees of public administration and local governments from both the Czech Republic and abroad, IT specialists, business subjects dealing in information and communications technologies

Focus and goals:

- The role of the Ministry of Informatics in public administration development
- The role of informatics in self-governing bodies of towns and regions
- Informisation of regional authorities and municipalities with extended operation
- e-Government
- Financing informisation in the Czech Republic
- e-Learning forms of educating public administration officials
- Communications infrastructure of public administration information systems
- IS security issues
- Forms of communication between public administration, citizens and the media
- IT introduction in libraries
- The role of information technologies in crisis situations
- Geographic information systems for local governments and public administration
- Internet for disadvantaged citizen groups
- Seminar on websites of towns and municipalities
- Exchange of experience

Local and Regional Information Society

Nature: International conference

Lecturers:
- Gérald Santucci, European Commission representative
- Dave Broster, European Commission representative
- Agnes Bradier, European Commission representative
- Eberhard Binder, TeleCities network representative
- Javier Ossandon, ELANET President
- Chris Corbin, EUROGI
- Nicole Hill, Alcatel France
- Chris Olmalm, PHARE
- Marc Ribes, eForum
- Irene Weithofer, Major Cities of Europe
- Judith Pretty, Primsphere

Target group:
- Associations of towns and municipalities of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe
- GCD members from Central and Eastern Europe
- Representatives of public administration and parliaments from Central Europe
- IT specialists

Focus and goals:
- e-Strategy of associations and cities
- Support for information technologies and services in public administration
- Evaluation of progress in electronic public administration development
- Exchange of best practices from public administration on-line services provided through websites of towns
- Promoting engagement of municipalities and towns of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in projects co-financed by the European Commission
- ELANET, Prelude and eForum workshops

Visegrád Group for Developing Information Society

Nature: International conference

Lecturers:
- Vladimír Mlynář, Minister of Informatics of the Czech Republic
- Stanislav Gross, Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic
- Pavel Bém, Lord Mayor of Prague
- František Dohnal, Vysočina Region administrator
- Dave Broster, European Commission representative
- Agnes Bradier, European Commission representative
- Javier Ossandon, ELANET
- Kazimierz Bartczak, Ministry of Infrastructure, Poland
- József Györkös, Ministry for Information Society, Slovenia
- Mihályi Jambrik, Ministry of Informatics and Telecommunications, Hungary
- Mikuláš Kačaljak, Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications, Slovak Republic
- Oldřich Vlasák, GCD, Lord Mayor of Hradec Králové
- Beáta Brestenská, National Council of the Slovak Republic
- László Békei, Trilobita Informatics
- Pavel Bureš, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
- Miroslav Drobný, Union of Slovak Towns
- Vít Richter, National Library of the Czech Republic
- Robert Davies, Calimera
- Remigiusz Lis, Silesian Library of Gliwice University
- Branislav Mamojka, ÚNSS
- Květoslava Žigmundová, Parliament Library of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Target group:
- Associations of towns and municipalities of Visegrád Four countries and Slovenia
- GCD members from Visegrád Four countries and Slovenia
- Representatives of public administration and parliaments of Visegrád Four countries and Slovenia
- Representatives of self-governing bodies of Visegrád Four countries and Slovenia
- IT specialists

Focus and goals:
- Introduction and comparison of state information and communications policies of Visegrád Four countries and Slovenia
- Introduction and comparison of e-Strategies of cities and associations of municipalities of Visegrád Four countries and Slovenia, cooperation between towns
- Exchange of best practices from public administration on-line services provided through websites of Visegrád Four and Slovenian cities
- Support for joint action in engagement of municipalities and cities of Visegrád Four countries and Slovenia in projects co-financed by the

European Commission and the European Investment Bank
- e-Library–promotion of libraries as information centres of towns and municipalities
- e-Culture 2000–principles of project co-financing and possibilities of regional cooperation
- How to be successful in international project cooperation
- Evaluation of progress in electronic public administration development
- Discussion and adoption of the eV4+/LORIS Declaration on information society development at the local and regional level

Organizers and Partners

Main organizers

Association of the Czech @

Triada, Ltd.

Co-organizers

Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic
Vysocina Region
City of Prague
City of Hradec Králové

Co-operation on Programme Preparation

Ministry of Informatics of the Czech Republic
Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic
Czech Association for Geoinformation

Partners

International Visegrád Fund
infoDev
Association of Polish Cities
Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia
HUNGARICA, Ltd.
ELANET
eForum
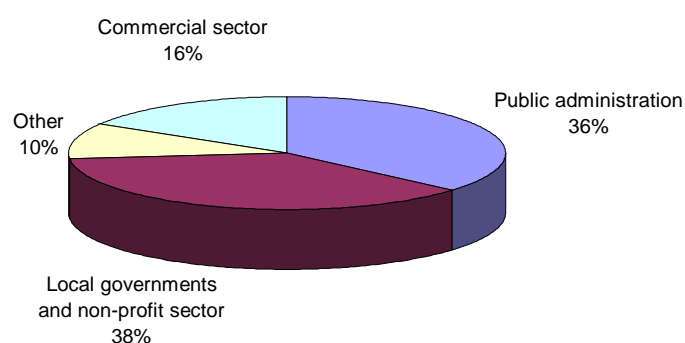Global Cities Dialogue
TeleCities
Major Cities of Europe

**The conference was held under the auspices
of the Ministry of Informatics of the Czech Republic.**

Participation

Number of ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS 2004 participants	1,969
Public administration	716
Local governments and non-profit sector	728
Other	202
Commercial sector	323

Structure of ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS 2004 conference participants

Commercial sector
16%

Other
10%

Public administration
36%

Local governments
and non-profit sector
38%

Foreign participants

From a total of 25 countries (including the Czech Republic)

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia–Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Sweden

Participation of CEEC and SEEC's Associations

- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
- Cities of Internet Association–Poland
- Association of Polish Cities
- Union of Cities of Slovakia
- Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia
- Albanian Association of Municipalities
- Information Systems Development and training Center (Armenia)
- Association of Municipalities and Cities of the federation of BiH
- Union of the Association of Towns and of the Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Croatia
- Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities
- Union of Local and Regional Governments of Latvia
- Romanian Association of Municipalities
- Standing Conference of Towns and municipalities
- Centre of Community Networking and Information Policy Studies (Russia)
- Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic

eV4+/LORIS Declaration

DECLARATION ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL INFORMATION SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

We, representatives of local and regional governments and their associations of V4 countries and other Acceding countries and the current Member States of the EU,

gathered together on the eve of the European Union enlargement – one of the most important opportunities for the European Union at the beginning of the 21st century – in the cities of Prague and Hradec Kralove, on the occasion of the ISSS/LORIS 2004 (Internet in Public Administration/Local and Regional Information Society) and DIS-V4 (Developing Information Society in V4 Countries) conferences held between March 28 and 30, 2004,

AWARE that

the potentials of information and communication technologies (ICTs) should be further exploited in order to achieve the goals of the Lisbon strategy to make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy with improved employment and social cohesion by 2010.

CONVINCED that

It is at the local level that the impact of ICT on government and citizens relationships, community building and social and economic development and inclusion, can be the most effective. Local and regional governments play the irreplaceable role in the modernisation of public administration and in the provision of services for business and their citizens.

The precondition for this is an active approach, dialogue and cooperation between all levels of public administration–local and regional governments, national governments and EU institutions. We place special emphasis on collaboration between European networks and self-government associations, and mutual cooperation between towns and regions, especially in countries with geographic, historical and cultural proximity, as well as on a wider international scale.

RECOGNISING

The principles for an approach to the Information Society adopted by the international community, in particular:
- *e*Europe 2005 Action Plan–Information Society for All
- Declaration of the World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on Information Society (Lyon, December 2003)
- Conclusions of the European Ministerial Conference on the Information Society "New Opportunities for Growth in an Enlarged Europe" (Budapest, February 2004)

- Helsinki Declaration – the base for Global Cities Dialogue (Helsinki, 1999)
- A Charter of European eRights–Public Administration on the Information and Knowledge Society (TeleCities/Eurocities, Porto, November 2003)
- The EISCO 2003 Communication "Modernising Local and Regional Public Service Delivery in the Framework of *e*Europe 2005" adopted by ELANET (CEMR) (Aalborg, November 2003)
- Memorandum of Understanding adopted at the ISSS/LORIS 2002 Conference (Hradec Kralove, March 2002)
- Prague Declaration on Information Society Development (ISSS/LORIS 2003, Prague, March 2003).

COMMIT OURSELVES to

- **Support information society development** in close collaboration between local and regional authorities and cooperation with national governments and EU institutions and the European networks backing up our efforts in the interest of citizens and our administrations.

- **Improve the quality and availability of services through modernising self-governments** and using the e-Government principles, enhance the effectiveness and transparency of public administration, as well as foster the development of democratic processes and active civic society. Our objective is to further develop the conditions for economic and knowledge growth.

- **Strive for more comprehensive involvement of citizens** in co-decision-making on communal policy and in municipal life. One of the ways of attaining these goals is to use new technologies and working methods that will best contribute to improving the overall quality of life in a community.

- **Monitor actively the objectives and practices of EU and national strategies** for information society development and public administration modernisation, with the use of ICTs. **To take part in the discussion during their preparation** so that the role of local and regional governments, their goals and needs are sufficiently taken into consideration.

- **State the objectives and priorities of EU and national strategies into our own policies** and plans (e-Strategy) based on the analysis of the actual situation and possibilities**.**

- **Ensure effective methods for the preparation, financing and management of projects**, to secure feedback and to set indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the results.

- **Provide more and better training opportunities** for the upgrading of the e-skills of the public administration´ workforce.

- **Provide available on-line services** for all citizens and businesses, **address the development of people's basic skills to use and benefit from ICTs** and play an active role in the knowledge-based economy;

- **Contribute to avoiding digital divide** in the society and ensure accessibility to electronic services for handicaped citizens**;**

- **Ensure to increase broadband coverage** in under-served areas and ensure **a safer on-line world**;

- **Use, where appropriate, combination of financial resources,** including instruments of the EU, such as Structural Funds, IST and other programmes supporting research and innovation in the field of the Information Society at regional and local level, *e*Content, *e*TEN, IDA programmes and others;

- **Create conditions for effective cooperation** with other public administration bodies, scientific and educational institutions, the private sector and consortia, which implement citizens´ developing initiatives towards increase of life quality and the scale of local employment. To strengthen cooperation between public administration subjects, primarily towns, municipalities, regions and national associations and international networks for exchange of experience, preparation and implementation of joint projects, evaluation and bench learning/benchmarking methodologies**,** as well as for promotion and replication of best practices.

CONCLUDE that

To fulfil the above mentioned goals and commitments, it is necessary within a short-term perspective **to carry out the following activities**:

- **To draw up and update information strategies and the respective implementation plans** of local and regional governments and their associations, as well as citizens initiatives groups, taking into account the objectives of the EU and national governments for information society development. Pursuant to specific conditions and priorities, to implement programmes and projects in practice, to monitor the fulfilling of targets and give publicity to the results.

- **To analyse the development** of the information society in towns, municipalities and regions, placing emphasis on **dissemination of best experience and best practice**, to take an active part in **benchmarking activities and sharing the results** attained with other subjects.

- **To enhance mutual communication and exchange of experience** by using different tools, e.g. conferences, seminars and websites, lists of contacts, events, projects and other mutually shared information.

- **To identify common goals and priorities**, to seek solutions in the form of joint projects and provision of the necessary resources with the use of EU funds.

- **To be actively involved in the operation of national associations and international organisations of municipalities and regions** focused on information society development issues. **To collaborate** in a similar manner **with professionally oriented associations**, primarily the IT associations of public administration employees as well as IT associations of non-profit nongovernmental organizations employees.

- **To be actively engaged in discussion on strategies and programmes of the EU and national governments**, namely, in the preparation and implementation phases, to ensure participation in selected structures, to ensure linkage to the needs of information society development on the local and regional level.

CALL UPON

National governments and the European Commission to:

- Observe and take into account the needs of information society development on the local and regional level in the EU and national governments strategies and develop partnership with self-governments and their associations;

- Create the necessary legislative environment, methodologies, standards, support for information exchange and best practices' promotion and award;

- Support the proactive approach of local and regional governments in form of programmes and financial incentives.

Local and regional self-governments and their associations of Acceding and Candidate countries and the current Member States of the European Union to come into line and sign this declaration.
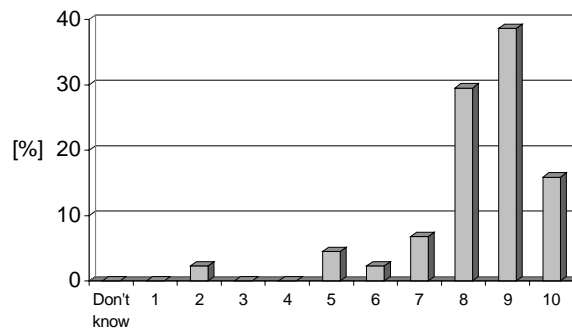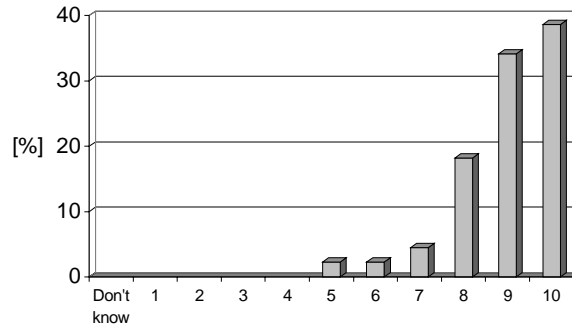

Hradec Kralove, 28. 3. 2004

Evaluation

The evaluation below issues from statistical data gathered by the organisers and research carried out in the period from the beginning to the middle of April. Selected indicators have been rated on the basis of the scale of 1–10 (1–worst, 10–best).
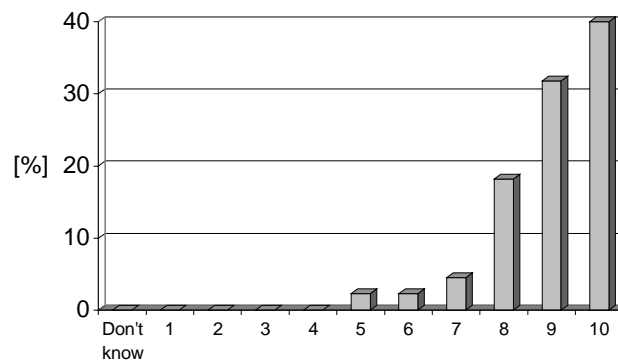
Overall evaluation: 8.34

Information on the internet: 8.96

Conference materials: 8.98

The most interesting blocks

- e-Strategies of V4+ countries
- Communication between public administration and citizens
- Informisation of local governments
- Without e-mmunity
- IT projects within EU programmes
- Security of information systems
- e-Government portals
- Making geodata accessible in the Czech Republic and the EU
- e-Strategy and cooperation between cities

Competition Winners

Golden Crest

The Golden Crest competition is announced by the Ministry of Informatics of the Czech Republic under the personal auspices of Minister Vladimír Mlynář. The co-organisers are the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Union of Towns and Communities of the CR. The competition is backed up by the Golden Crest Association in cooperation with the Towns and Municipalities Online portal. The competition is part of the initiatives within the framework of the March–Internet Month campaign.

This year's event markedly differed from the five previous ones. For the first time it was organised from regional rounds adjudicated by independent juries. The evaluation criteria have changed too. In addition to the information value, up-datedness, navigation lucidity and graphics, the regional rounds also included a simplified test for barrier-free access. As for the nation-wide round into which the victorious websites from the first round advanced, for the first time it comprised evaluation in the form of a user test of the speed of retrieving selected information and a detailed test of barrier-free accessibility. In the regional rounds, nearly 100 jurors adjudicated a total of 456 websites of towns and municipalities and electronic services. Citizens could also join the voting and support the favourite for the Prize of the Public by sending a nomination ballot from the Towns and Municipalities Online portal. More than 3,000 internet users made use of the opportunity to do so.

Results of the nation-wide round

Best website of a town:
1st–Dačice, 2nd–Heřmanův Městec, 3rd–Kladno

Best website of a municipality:
1st–Okříšky, 2nd–Tisá, 3rd–Mukařov

Best electronic service:
1st place and prize of the Association of Regions of the Czech Republic–Hradec Králové: Resolutions of Elected Bodies, Flood Plan, Public Transport and Historical Monuments, Booking a Visit, News, Press Releases, Debate
2nd place: Chomutov: Sequencing of Citizens by SMS, 3rd place–Kladno: Mediaserver

Special prize of the Minister of the Interior awarded by Minister Stanislav Gross for the best barrier-free website access: Stálec

Prize of the Public awarded by the association BMI: Němčovice

Special prize of the professional jury: Pilsen Region

EuroCrest

In the third year of the EuroCrest international competition for the best internet pages of towns, municipalities and regions in Europe, the Vysočina Region official website was among the major projects appraised. This year's prize-winners of the EuroCrest competition, whose results were announced at the ISSS/LORIS conference, also included the official websites of Riga (Latvia),

Panevezys (Lithuania), Zielona Góra (Poland), Lučenec (Slovakia), Nyiregyhaza (Hungary), Gabrovo (Bulgaria) and Timişoara (Romania).

EuroCrest is announced by the association Sdružení Zlatý erb, European networks and associations of municipalities following consultations with the European Commission. The EuroCrest competition issues from the experience gained by the organiser of the Golden Crest competition in the Czech Republic, while consultations with European Union specialists are taken into consideration.

Similarly as in the case of the Golden Crest competition, EuroCrest's objective is to appraise outstanding projects, support mutual exchange of experience and evaluate the endeavours of local authority and self-government representatives for efficient use of information technologies with the aim of improving the quality and accessibility of public administration services. In this way, the organisers want to facilitate accelerated development of the services provided by European public administration institutions.

Regularly awarded at the conference are also national prizes in the competitions Biblioweb (for the best websites of libraries) and Geoapplication of the Year and, finally, the Prize of the Minister of Informatics of the Czech Republic for an outstanding contribution to information society development, and @Czech, awarded by the association Sdružení Český zavináč for extraordinary innovation in information society development.

Golden Crest: How to organize the competition, some practical notes

Best of the web annual competition of towns, municipalities and regions **The Golden Crest** has been established in the Czech Republic in 1999. Since that time we can observe **steady annual growth** of the number of competitors (242 in year 2002) and also the attention of the public is growing (more than 3000 votes received). The competition has the **real motivating power** for the municipality representatives as well as their webmasters to compare the own online services with the best practices and to improve it.

The aim of this paper is to point out some expierences and practical advices gained during the four years of running the Golden Crest.

Prestigious Partners and Sponsors

The most respected the best of the web competition need to and can attract prestigious partners. The competition could be announced by your Ministry of informatics or your Association of towns. Do not hesitate to offer the cooperation to the most reputable personalities as ministers, famous politicians, well known journalist and top persons of relevant associations. You need to appoint the following authorities:

- a director of the competition,
- members of the board of honour,
- a chairman of the jury,
- and the judges.

Special care should be focused on the jury. We use to appoint:

- representatives of towns and municipalities, personalities responsible for the contents and the design, representatives of the winners of the past years competitions, they can not participate in the competition (approx. 1/3 of the staff),
- prominent publicists in the field of the public administration and internet (approx. 1/3)
- experts in related fields in the public administration (approx. 1/3)

Keep up regular contact with competition bodies per e-mail newsletter during the competition time. Try to find **sponsors** for valuable prices. Digital cameras or software are examples of suitable prices.

Open Competition

The key factor of being long term successfull and to gain broad attention of even small willages is the transparency of evaluation. The competition should be open as much as possible. All evaluations both relating to the nomination and the election of the finalists should be published on the net including all details up to the level of individual points granted by individual evaluators. We have also made good experience with participation of the competitors themselfs in the evaluation (see Rules, par. 5). Despite lots of competitor's work involved, this usage is seen positively and the competition as such is perceived as objective.

Clear Rules

You can use as an example the Rules applied in the Czech Republic. The competition is announced for the local government bodies and departments. The Golden Crest, the main prize of the competition, will be awarded to the winners of the following three categories:

1. towns, including municipal, district and area councils;
2. municipalities; and
3. associations and unions of municipalities, districts and regions, including but not limited to, microregions and servers of regional local government bodies.

In the first year of your own Golden Crest it is recommended to start with just two categories: towns and municipalities or even only one common category.

Modify your procedure of evaluation according to the expected number of competitors. If you expect up to 30–50 municipalities engaged, the nomination tier is not necessary. Nominations prevent the jury being overloaded. The evaluation in the Czech competition with 242 competitors (year 2002, 105 towns, 107 villages and 30 assocciations) has relative complex procedure in the form of the nomination and subsequent selection of the finalists and winners in each category.

The nominees are identified by three groups of evaluators:

1. Three representatives of a specialist jury (they determine 5 nominations)
2. The competitors themselves (they evaluate all other competitors and they can not nominate themselves, 5 nominations)
3. Members of public (they send one nomination and the number of such nominations is divided by the number of the inhabitants of the individual municipality, 1 nominations)

Thus 11 competitors are to be nominated in each category (i.e. $3 \times 11 = 33$ competitors in total). The specialist jury shall elect three finalists and one winner in each category out of all the nominated competitors. Detailed rules, members of competition bodies and news should be published on the contest web site.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation takes into consideration three criteria:

Contents

What is to be evaluated is the contribution of the web site in terms of the scope of the information provided, the level of the detail and practical usefulness with regard to the needs of

the users. Information of the execution of the public administration will be the key factor. A natural pre-condition of a success are the statutory obligations (the Act No. 106/1999 Coll. on free access to information in the Czech Republic) and the quality of the preparation. Emphasis will be placed on the provision of information exceeding the scope required by the said act. However, the evaluators may take into consideration the care after the attractiveness of the pages by including other subjects such as information on the life of the municipality and good ideas.

Topical relevance

The key emphasis will be placed on the contribution of the point of view the scope and topical relevance of the information published. Another criterion of the evaluation will be the planning and consistent and timely publication. What can be a success are in particular those pages showing a commitment and adequate, day to day work with the page and its incorporation to the communication infrastructure of the authority.

Availability of the information and its graphic design

Emphasis will be placed on a synoptic and logical lay-out of the information and the outfit of the pages with searching tools. At the same time, another evaluation criterion is the adequacy of the graphic design and the contents and the possibility to optimise graphic elements from the point of view of the rate of the loading of the information providing for the professional presentation function of the pages. Another criterion taken into account will be a barrier free access for those handicapped users.

The main prize will be awarded to the competitor whose web site got the highest number of points for the three criteria. Individual criteria will have the same weight for the final evaluation. The specialist jury may award an additional Special Award of the Specialist Jury or the award called the Most Popular Pages.

The subject-matter of the competition will be the competitors' home page, whereas all the web pages related to an Internet presentation will be voted on as a whole web site.

Scheduling

Each step of evaluation takes up its specific time. Take into your consideration the Czech scheduling scheme of the Golden Crest 2002.

ISSS/LORIS 2005

Venue:	Hradec Králové, Aldis Congress Centre
Date:	April 4–5, 2005
Nature:	International conference
Main topic:	**Informisation of public administration**
Expected number of participants:	**2,000 from 27 countries**
Organiser:	Triada, spol. s r. o.
Conference Executive Director:	Tomáš Renčín Tel.: 284 001 284 E-mail: rencin@isss.cz
Conference secretariat:	U svobodárny 12/1110 190 00 Prague 9 Tel.: 284 001 284 Fax: 284 818 027 email: isss@isss.cz http://www.isss.cz