Visegrád Group for Developing Information Society

Prague and Hradec Králové, April 2–4, 2006

Conference Guide-book

2006 Visegrád for Developing

V4DIS

Information Society Conference

Czech@ Association

www.isss.cz/v4dis

Contents

Introduction

The ninth edition of the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS conference took place on 2–4 April at the Aldis Congress Centre in Hradec Králové. Despite the tense flood situation during those days, it has once again confirmed the unique position of this distinct national and international forum for politicians, public administration representatives, specialists and suppliers of information and communication technologies and solutions. Over the two days of the conference, the number of registered participants again exceeded two thousand. Within the conference programme, in six halls there were some 250 lectures and presentations, while more than a hundred exhibitors introduced their products, solutions and services for public administration. The conference was also attended by a host of top political dignitaries. Two months before the elections in the Czech Republic, the strongest political parties presented their plans and intentions in the area of public administration informisation.

The V4 DIS conference, which was held within ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS for the third time in a row, had alongside the traditional issues of e-government and electronic services for citizens of V4 countries another key items on its agenda. Great interest was aroused by gender issues and equal opportunities for women in access to ICT and availability of electronic services provided by public administration. Another extremely interesting topic discussed at V4 DIS was the role of information technologies in tourism, the role of national and regional tourism portals, and the importance of internet promotion of town and municipalities in the tourism sector.

Přemysl Sobotka, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the CR, who assumed the personal auspices over the V4 DIS conference, evaluated the meeting in the following words: "It is not only that this event is at the present time by right considered the most important meeting of its kind, not only in the new EU member states, but primarily the fact that the issues discussed here are closely connected with what we have become used to calling e-government or e-state. The special significance of this conference also rests in the fact that exchange of experience takes place at the level of countries that have common historical experience, similar economic potentials, as well as the same duration of membership of the European Union and, consequently similar problems in some spheres of their activities. Hence, I believe that the participants in this forum will jointly find procedures for projecting new applications of information and communication technologies in public administration."

The numerous delegations from Visegrad Four countries included, for example, Mr István Szabó, Ambassador of Hungary to the Czech Republic; Mrs Márta Nagy-Rothengass, the present Head of Unit in DG INFSO; Stanislav Borek, Polish chargé d'affaires; Professor Andrzej Janicki from the Alfa-Omega Foundation; Mr Ladislav Balek, Slovak Ambassador to the CR; Mr Pavol Prokopovič, Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic; Mr Ferdinand Vitek, Chairman of the Union of Towns of Slovakia and Mayor of Nitra; and René Kubášek, Deputy Executive Director of the Visegrad Fund.

The ninth edition of the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS conference took place under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Jiří Paroubek, and the Minister of Informatics of the CR, Dana Bérová. Over the two days, a number of other distinguished guests appeared in Hradec Králové – speeches at the gala opening were given by the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Přemysl Sobotka, who this year assumed the auspices over the international V4 DIS (Visegrad Four for Developing Information Society) conference, and three ministers of the Government of the CR – the Deputy Prime Minister for the Economy, Jiří Havel; the Minister for Regional Development, Radko Martínek; and the Minister of Informatics, Dana Bérová; as well as the Slovak Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, Pavol Prokopovič. Other dignitaries were also among the conference guests – the President of the Supreme Control Office, František Dohnal; the regional administrators Evžen Tošenovský and Miloš Vystrčil; the Chairman of the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, Oldřich Vlasák; Lord Mayors, Mayors, representatives of unions and associations, and many others. Participating in the discussion on the theme of modernisation of public administration in the programme of political parties, which was part of the conference gala opening, were Jiří Havel for the ČSSD (Social Democrats), Mirek Topolánek for the ODS (Civic Democrats), Pavel Severa for the KDU-ČSL (Christian Democrats) and Jiří Dolejš for the KSČM (Communists). Among the foreign guests attending the Hradec Králové meeting were Christian Rupp from Austria, responsible for e-government development; the Chairman of TeleCities, Chris Newby from Liverpool; and important delegations from Visegrad countries.

The programme of the national part of the conference was, as usual, ample indeed. Alongside the issues of e-government at the European, national, regional and local level, also discussed were the development of ICT use in public administration and extension of electronic services for citizens. Other relevant topics included portals, communication infrastructure of public administration IS, e-learning, interoperability, geographic information systems and security issues. Intensively discussed were more extensive use of information technologies in tourism and the development of e-tourism. The attention of participants was also drawn to the issues related to digital television and IP TV, projects supported by the broadband forum and financed from EU structural funds.

The interest in the ninth edition of the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS conference yet again surpassed the expectations of the organisers and, similarly to the previous year, the capacity of the Aldis Congress Centre was virtually utilised to the full. All those who participate in developement of e-Government on local, regional, state and European level wanted to use the unique opportunity for meeting colleagues, exchanging experience and gaining the necessary know-how. Compared with last year, there was an increased interest in presentation of newly implemented solutions, transfer of experience among individual authorities and workplaces, as well as new possibilities of solutions to various agendas and processes. Also present were more than one hundred exhibiting suppliers of ICT and various special solutions for the public administration area. The possibility of using their own stand or place for presentation was used by the creators of several projects receiving prizes in the EuroCrest and other competitions, Golden Crest, Biblioweb and Geoapplication of the Year.

**RNDr. Tomáš Renčín
Conference Execu-
tive Director**

Profile and objectives of the project

V4DIS - Visegrad for Developing Information Society

Character: International conference of Visegrad countries

Number of editions 3 Prague and Hradec Králové, March 2004

Prague and Hradec Králové, April 2005

Prague and Hradec Králové, April 2006

Lecturers:
- Dana Bérová – Minister of Informatics of the CR
- István Szabó – Ambassador of Hungary to the CR
- Ladislav Ballek – Ambassador of Slovakia to the CR
- Stanislav Borek – Charge d'affaires of Poland in the CR
- Radko Martínek – Minister for Regional Development of the CR
- Pavol Prokopovič – Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic
- Márta Nagy-Rothengass – European Commission
- Miroslav Kukučka – Governmental commissioner of the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the SR
- Erich Pacola, Slovak Environmental Agency
- Andrzej Janicki – Alfa-Omega Foundation
- Orsolay Liptay – Association of Hungarian NetWomen
- Peter Druga – ITAPA
- Ivan Smolák – Siemens PSE
- Martin Berčík – Bernolákovo
- Juraj Hlatký – Matúš Kingdom
- Arpád Takács – Communications Research Institute
- and others

Target group
- Representatives of towns and municipalities of Visegrad Four countries
- Representatives of public administration and parliaments of V4 countries
- Representatives of self-governing bodies of V4 countries
- IT specialists

Focus and objectives:

- Use of ICT in tourism for promotion of destinations and development of services on offer
- Gender issues in ICT
- Presentation of state information and communication policy of Visegrad Four countries, exchange of experience
- Exchange of best practices from on-line services provided by public administration through websites of municipalities of Visegrad Four countries
- Support for joint action when involving municipalities and towns of Visegrad Four countries in projects co-financed by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank
- Evaluation of the progress made in development of electronic public administration
- Departmental meetings of representatives of ministries of the interior and other public administration authorities of V4 countries

ISSS - Internet in Public Administration and Local Government

Character:	National conference
Number of editions:	9 Prague, March 1998 Hradec Králové, March 1999–2004 Hradec Králové, April 2005–2006
Target group:	Representatives and employees of public administration and local governments from the Czech Republic and abroad, IT specialists, business subjects operating in the area of information and communication technologies
Focus and objectives:	- Role of the Ministry of Informatics in the development of public administration IS - Financing support and development of information society - Role of informatics in regions, towns and municipalities - eGovernment - Public administration portal - eLearning in public administration - Communication infrastructure in public administration - Issues of digitalisation of TV and radio broadcasting - Security of information systems - Forms of public administration's communication with citizens and the media - Equal opportunities of women in access to ICT - Geographic information systems for local governments and public administration - Electronisation in the new administrative procedure code - Role of ICT in tourism - Websites of towns and municipalities - Exchange of experience

LORIS - Local and Regional Information Society

Character: International conference

Lecturers:
- Chris Newby – TeleCities, City of Liverpool
- Dave Carter – MDDA, City of Manchester
- Ronald de Bruin – ENISA
- Achim Klabunde – European Commission
- Andrzej Janicki – Alfa-Omega Foundation
- Pedro Cabrera Hermida – Federation of Tourism and Hotel-keeping of the Canary Islands
- Christian Rupp – Federal Chancellery of the Federal Republic of Austria
- Wim van't Hof – Ministry of the Economy of the Netherlands
- and others

Target group:
- European associations of towns and municipalities and European networks
- Representatives of public administration and parliaments from Central Europe and other European countries
- ICT specialists

Focus and objectives:
- eStrategy of associations and towns
- Support for IT and electronic services in public administration
- Evaluation of the progress made in the development of electronic public administration
- Exchange of best practices from on-line services provided by public administration through websites of municipalities
- Support for participation of towns and municipalities of Central, Eastern and South-east Europe in projects co-financed by the European Commission
- Working seminars and round tables

Organisers and partners

Auspice of the V4DIS conference

- Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the CR, Přemysl Sobotka

Project sponsor

- International Visegrad Fund

Main organiser and project coordinator

- Association of the Czech@

V4DIS Project partners

- Alfa Omega Foundation (PL)
- The Union of Towns of Slovakia
- The Union of Towns and Communities of Slovak Republic
- Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities
- The University of Hradec Kralove (CZ)

Co-organisers of the V4DIS and LORIS conference

- City of Hradec Králové
- OBEC and Finance magazine
- City of Prague
- Vysočina Region
- Hradec Králové Region

ISSS/LORIS Auspices

- Prime Minister of the CR, Jiří Paroubek
- Minister of Informatics of the CR, Dana Bérová
- Association of Regions of the Czech Republic

Cooperation on the programme part of ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS

- Ministry of Informatics
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry for Regional Development
- Ministry of the Environment
- CENIA
- Czech Association for Geoinformation – CAGI
- Association for Information Society – SPIS

Media partners

- BIZ
- BMI
- Business World
- Click
- Convergence
- C.O.T. Business
- Computerworld
- ČTK
- Czech Radio Hradec Králové
- Czech Radio – ČRo 1
- Deník veřejné správy
- Egovernment
- GEOinformace
- Hospodářské noviny
- Chief Information Officer
- CHIP
- Inside
- PVS
- Počítač pro každého
- IT Systems
- Moderní obec
- Obec & finance
- Obecné noviny
- Professional Computing
- Technologies & Prosperity
- TÖÖSZ
- Upgrade IT
- Verejná správa - Slovakia
- Veřejná správa – Czech rep.

Participation

Number of ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS 2006 participants	2,151
Public administration	773
Local governments and non-profit sphere	737
Commercial sphere	439
Other	202

Structure of the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS 2006 conference participants
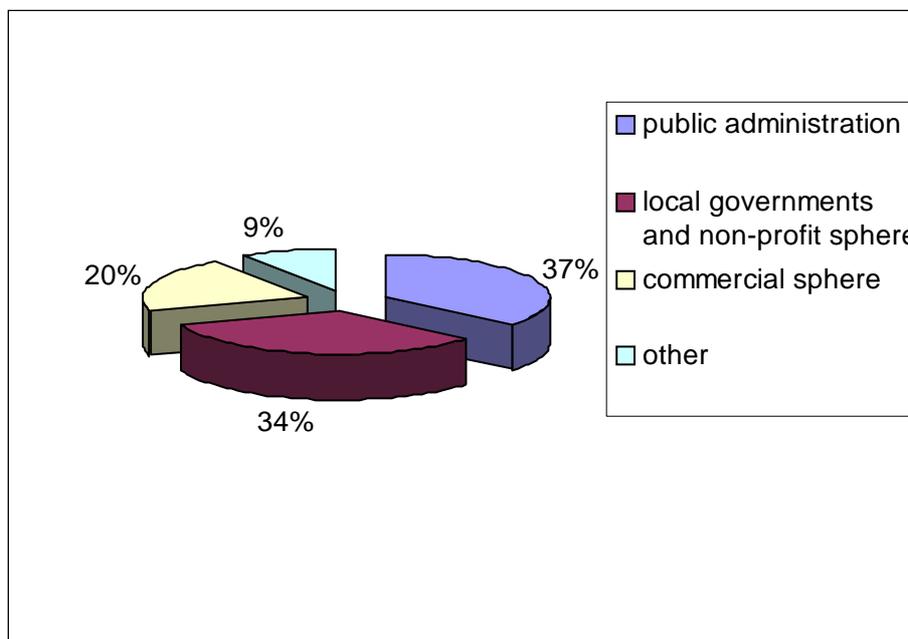
Participants from abroad

The conference was attended by participants from 11 countries (including the Czech Republic)

Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Spain

Evaluation

Visegrad conference, which was held as a part of the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS conference already for the third time in succession, presented this year other two key themes in addition to the traditional issues of e-government and electronic services for the citizens of V4 countries. Much interest was paid right to the first theme--gender issues and questions concerning equality of women in approach to ICT and availability of electronic services provided by public administration. The second particularly interesting theme of V4 DIS was the role of information technologies in tourism, mainly questions connected with V4 portal, promotion of separate destinations, roles of national and regional portals and significance of internet promotion of the states.

The president of the Senate of Parliament of the Czech Republic Premysl Sobotka, under whose personal auspices the Visegrad conference V4 DIS was held, reviews the meeting in the following words: "It is not by far the matter that this event is at present rightly considered the most important meeting of its kind not only in the new member countries of European Union, but that it deals with themes closely connected with something which we got used to calling eGovernment or eState. This conference has its special significance also in the fact that exchange of information takes place at the level of the countries that have common historical experience, similar economic potential and also the same length of period of membership in European Union and thus also related problems in some spheres of their activity. I therefore believe that right here there will take place successful discovering of common procedures in designing new applications of information and communication technologies in public administration."

Visitors placed three of the blocks of the V4DIS conference in "Top Ten" blocks of the whole ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS event. Crowded conference halls and interested listeners asking questions and actively participating in the discussions are the proof, that the choice of the topics of the blocks and speeches as well as the choice of speakers was fitting the demand of the visitors.

The evaluation of the most interesting blocks given below issues from the statistical data gathered by the organisers.

Blocks evaluated as the most interesting

- The official conference opening and debate of top representatives of political parties (incl. the presentation of V4 ideas and goals held by Mr. Rene Kubasek, deputy director of IVF)
- Public administration portal
- V4DIS - e-Government
- Data sharing, delivery, registers
- V4DIS - ICT and equal opportunitties for women and men
- Electronic registry, administrative procedure code and file service
- Security of information systems II
- V4DIS – e-Tourism
- Security of information systems I
- Digitalisation

They said at the conference

…I assumed the auspices over the international V4DIS conference out of plain interest in information technologies. This issue is connected with the manner of the state's communication with citizens…

Přemysl Sobotka, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

…the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS conference is a prestigious forum which year by year has increased its level. I am pleased that you have invited us to this meeting as a partner….

Pavel Prokopovič, Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic

…making information accessible to citizens is not merely an empty gesture, but the everyday work of all of us … the internet provides increased possibilities for communication between public administration and the population…

Jiří Havel, Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

…I am convinced that there exists the political will among all parties for higher implementation of information technologies (mere declaratory support does not suffice… we must improve cooperation with the regions, in which ideas for information technology originate…

Dana Bérová, Minister of Informatics

…we are still overloaded with agenda solutions we do not tackle by means of information technology … we do not yet know how to use information technology and this technology does not offer us a solution…

Evžen Tošenovský, Chairman of the Association of Regions, Administrator of the Moravia-Silesia Region

…the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS conference is a place for solving information that will be used by the population (the conference is about communication…

Miloš Vystrčil, Administrator of the Vysočina Region

…information technology functions as a good servant…

František Dohnal, President of the Supreme Control Office of the CR

…information technologies set the world in motion … the conference must help find the proper way of promoting our towns and municipalities as regards tourism. Therefore, we extend the ISSS/LORIS/V4DIS with a new theme: "IT in public administration and tourism"…

Radko Martínek, Minister for Regional Development of the CR

…information technology development is a Visegrad theme…

René Kubášek, Deputy Executive Director of IVF

…I was highly intrigued by the information of Mr Christian Rupp from the Federal Chancellery of Austria responsible for e-government development, who said that in Austria within four years it has been implanted at all levels. … it is necessary to make a clear political decision in this respect in our country too and to get e-government at all levels of public administration and local governments into a position that would save tonnes of paper…

Oldřich Vlasák, Chairman of the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the CR

…for me, e-government is a priority in improving the effectiveness of public administration … we have prepared a bill on e-government (inspired by Austria), which should be one of the first tasks of the new government…

Mirek Topolánek, leader of the Civic Democratic Party

Competition winners

EuroCrest

Announcement of the results of the EuroCrest competition for the best websites of towns, municipalities and regions in Europe was part of the programme of the gala social evening of the ninth edition of the Internet in Public Administration and Local Government conference in Hradec Králové.

The announcer of the fourth edition of the EuroCrest competition is the association Sdružení Zlatý erb. This year it took place under the auspices of Přemysl Sobotka, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, within the V4DIS conference. The EuroCrest competition issues from experience gained during organisation of the Golden Crest competition held in the Czech Republic, while taking account of consultations of specialists from the European Union.

EuroCrest, similarly to Golden Crest, aims to award extraordinary projects, support mutual exchange of experience and praise the endeavour of representatives of local governments and municipal authorities to effectively use information technologies in order to improve the quality and accessibility of public administration services. In this way, the organisers want to contribute to accelerating the development of services of European public administration institutions.

This year's winners of the EuroCrest competition were the official websites of the cities: Poznan (Poland) – www.city.poznan.pl, Constanta (Romania) – www.primaria-constanta.ro and Bratislava (Slovakia) – www.bratislava.sk, and the official website of the city quarter Prague 12 (www.praha12.cz).

City of Poznan

POZNAŃ

Discover Poznań

TOURISM   FACTS & FIGURES

City Guide | Leisure | Sport & Recreation

shopping weekend

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
Poznań City Card
tourist information
how to get to Poznań
public transport
accomodation
restaurants & clubs

CONGRESSES & CONVENTIONS
congress & convention venues

VIEWS OF THE CITY
city map
panoramic views

LINKS
useful links

Poznań Local Tourist Organization

Poznań

Tourism   **Picture of the day**

Welcome to Poznań

Poznań International Fair

Sightseeing in Poznań can be done in a variety of ways. Lovers of old monuments can choose a tour of historic places-from the Gothic cathedral in Ostrów Tumski, through the Old Market, with its Renaissance burgher houses and the Town Hall, to the Baroque Fara church.

A trip to the Poznań International Fair can be complemented with a stroll down the streets of turn-of-the-century art-deco tenement houses.

The visitor can choose a tour of museums, and there are 20 of them in the city ranging from art, applied arts, ethnography, musical instruments to war memorabilia and literature museums.

Nature lovers will enjoy the prospect of visiting two zoological gardens, a botanical garden and arboretum, a palm house (palmiarnia), and numerous parks and nature reserves.

If the visitor wants to spend their leisure time pursuing sports activities, he or she will not be short of places to go. On Malta, there is always something interesting to do, regardless of the season of the year. In summer, swimming might be enticing, and a skiing slope is open all year round (skis and ski-shoes can be rented on site), as is a toboggan run. The area around the lake is an attractive place to go for a walk, a bike ride, or do some roller skating/roller blading.

For those who like longer hikes on foot, there are five well marked tourist routes weaving through charming green areas on the city outskirts. The most interesting one goes through Morasko and the Meteorite reserve. The longest one, 13.5 km, starts in Golęcin, passes along the Rusałka Lake, through Strzeszyn, along the Kierskie Lake and ends at Krzyżowniki. As many as four lakes are located within the city borders: natural ones Kierskie and Strzeszyński, and the artificial Rusałka and Malta. All of them are used for recreational purposes, although sailing is best done on Kierskie, and canoeing and rowing on Malta, which is the site of world, European, national, and regional level championships in those two disciplines.

The green areas of Poznań can also be admired from horseback. Horse-riding enthusiasts can find appropriate mounts at the Wola Horseback Riding Centre (Centrum Wyszkolenia Jeździeckiego).

The main entrance. Picture taken in 30's of XX century.

printer friendly

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about the service

W3C XHTML 1.1 W3C CSS 2.0

City of Bratislava

BRATISLAVA

The Official Website of the City of Bratislava   ☑ Slovensky ☑ Deutsch ☑ Francais ☑ По-русски   ▶ Graphic off

■ Home   ▯ Contacts ▤ Site map ▯ RSS

■ Search:
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Basic Information
Transport
Accommodation
Wining and Dining
Culture and Leisure
Calendar of Events
International Relations
Press Office
Facts and Figures

■ Image gallery
▶ Imagebank
■ Map

Twin City Liner
Bratislava - Vienna, Center to Center ›

Tourist Information Centres ›

The Summer of Culture ›   **Bratislava ZOO** Open daily: 09:00 h - 18:00 h ›   **STING , Bratislava** 21.6.2006, 19:00 h

Twin City Journal 06/2006 (1.6.2006)
The idea arose in 2005 of establishment of a programme monthly that would connect the two Capitals in a single space, i.e., Bratislava and Vienna.

Twin City Liner (12.5.2006)
In Vienna or Bratislava for a holiday in the city? Take the TWIN CITY LINER high-speed catamaran for a relaxing excursion to another fascinating city on the Danube.

Slovakia´s Capital City Bratislava again at MIPIM after its debut in 2000 (9.3.2006)
Slovak capital Bratislava is exhibiting at its own 130-sqm display stand in the most prestigious part of the Palais des Festivals.

New Investments in Bratislava - Particularly along the Danube (12.1.2006)
After its debut in 2000, Bratislava will participate in the MIPIM international property fair in Cannes for the second time. In 2000, Bratislava was represented solely by the Old Town District on an area measuring a mere 30 sqm.

▶ New - Index

🖶 Print
Send link to the page by e-mail

■ Currency
Currency	Rate
CZK	1.340
EUR	37.991
USD	30.029
19.6.2006
▶ More detail

■ Weather
11:00   19.06.   20.06.
27 °C   18/30 °C   19/30 °C

■ Air Quality
▶ Results of Air Quality

■ Inquiry
Do you agree, that Tourist Information Lines help to improve the orientation of the visitors and tourists in Bratislava?

City of Constanta

Constanta City Hall
Tomis Boulevard, No. 51

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CITY HALL & CITY COUNCIL
- Mayor's Welcome Letter
- Mayor's Biography
- Contact & City Hall Departments
- City Hall Quarters addressees
- Citizen Information Centre
- The Working Program
- The Audience Program
- City Council 2004
- Citizens of Honour

ACHIEVEMENTS
- In Constanta
- In Mamaia
- Social assistance

PROJECTS
- In Constanta
- In Mamaia

CITY EVENTS
- Constanta day's
- Twin Cities Festival
- Navy Day

INFORMATION
- For Tourists
- For Investors
- Useful links

ON-LINE SERVICES
- Find out the status of your application
- Download on-line forms
- Read the City Council Decisions
- Read the City Council Projects and send us your opinion
- Take a moment and answer to our web survey. You opinion is important for us!

LAST 3 UPDATES
- City Council 2004
- The Working Program
- Citizen Information Centre

ABOUT THE SITE
- Site Description
- About the Authors

Public services focus of the site
Services on the Constanta City Hall website are mainly focused on Constanta citizens, but useful information for tourists are also provided, and a special English version of the page was created for foreign visitors. Citizens and tourists can easily find everything about the City Authorities, organizational structure of the City Hall, legislative acts, resolutions of the City Council, City Hall projects, city annual budget, latest news, forms, contacts, etc. There are separate links to tourism and investors web portals for better servicing their need for specific information.

Public services objectives of this web site:
*** *Useful and updated information from the administration*
Information on the web site are continuously updated.
The structure and navigation have been made clearer, so the users can easily find and read what they want from the large amount of information available.

*** *Local community involvement in public administration*
One of the City Hall objectives is to involve citizens into the discussions of the projects. The municipality publishes the projects that are going to be discussed in the City Council meeting in a special section of this site. All the members of the community can now express their opinion regarding the City Hall projects published on site by sending on-line their comments and proposals to a responsible municipality specialist, special designated for this activity.

*** *Reduction of bureaucracy and time saving*
On the websites it is possible to find, download and print all necessary documents and forms on specific themes.
When the current legislation will be modified or new legislation approved, it will enable us to accept applications that have been submitted by e-mail. Furthermore, the citizens who have been submitted an application to the City Hall, and are waiting for an answer for their request or an authorization, can now find out the current status of their application (approved, unapproved, still working) and it's exact location (the clerk who is actually analyzing the application). This is possible by the implementation of a new Document Management Program in the City Hall, which allow electronic archive, monitoring of all registered applications and documents and soon will allow electronic signature.

*** *Improved Communication between citizens and administration*
Citizens can very easily find the working program, e-mail address, telephone number and office address of any City Hall clerk and they can send their questions to the administration via e-mail. Within the administration, information can be accessed quicker. For emergencies, the City Hall offers a hot-line.

*** *Transparency of public administration*
Visitors can find complete information about the City Hall (organization schema, City Hall offices and contacts, declarations of interests of all the city clerks, working program, Mayor's biography and Mayor's Decisions, annual budget and tax system, annual City Hall newsletter) and also about the City Council (the political structure of the City Council, declaration of interest of all City Counselors, City Council Decisions, working program). All the achievements and projects are described in detail, for citizens to know and understand how the City Hall improved the city life. The latest news in public administration are published on the main page, also available in XML format, and citizens or other web sites may subscribe to receive the information.

*** *Availability and accessibility:*
It is planned to make the offered web page services more user-friendly for those who are blind or partially sighted. Information is to be offered in several different languages as soon as possible.

Future Projects in site development
*** *On-line submission of applications and electronic signature*
Citizens will be able to submit all the necessary documents (scanned or completed on on-line forms) and to electronically sign their applications. This will dramatically reduce the paperwork and bureaucracy, and will allow time savings for both the citizens and City Hall clerk. More than that, a certain type of document regarding a company or a citizen will be uploaded to the database only once, and later be used for subsequent applications on specific themes if necessary. Currently, we are implementing the electronic signature in the City Hall, to facilitate internal communication and to reduce the paperwork.

Awards
Constanta City Hall web page won two important awards during the year 2004: Internetics national contest award - public administration section, and Aniap (Romanian Associations of Information Technology in Public Administration) great award, representing Romania to Eurocrest 2005 contest, to Prague, where the web page won an important prize.
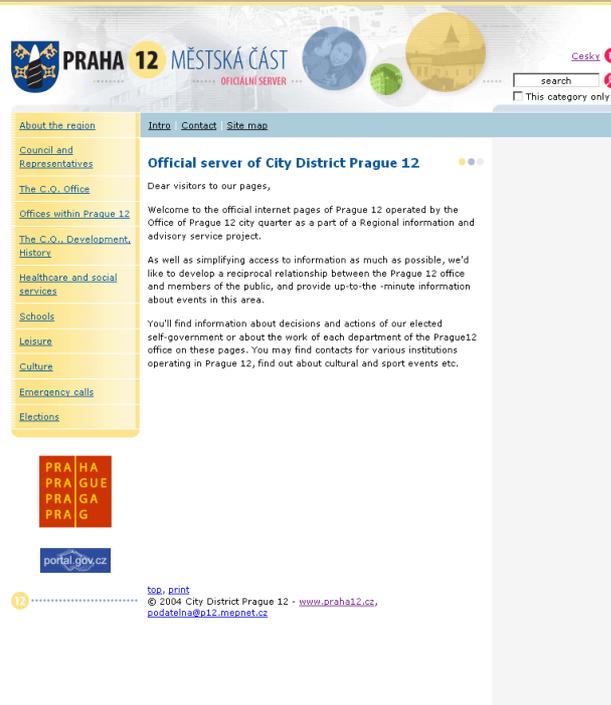
@ Czech

Within the programme of a gala meeting on the eve of the opening of the international ISSS 2006 conference in Hradec Králové, the results of the @ Czech competition were announced. This year, the prize was awarded to two public administration subjects that have significantly contributed to information society development – "Subcommittee for information systems in public administration of the Committee for public administration, regional development and the environment of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR" and the "Ministry of Informatics of the CR". The Český zavináč association decided to praise in 2006 the two subjects for successful exertion of essential extension of places authorised to issue verified abstracts from official registers and databases into the proposed amendatory act on information systems in public administration.

The prize was taken over by Dana Bérová for the Ministry of Informatics of the CR and Tom Zajíček for the Subcommittee for information systems in public administration of the Committee for public administration, regional development and the environment of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR.

Golden Crest

The prizes of the eighth edition of the Golden Crest competition (http://zlatyerb.obce.cz) for the best websites and electronic services of towns

and municipalities were awarded at the ISSS conference on Monday, April 3, 2006.

Best website of a town

1st place	Děčín	http://www.mudecin.cz
2nd place	Tišnov	http://www.tisnov.cz
3rd place	Bechyně	http://www.mestobechyne.cz

Best website of a municipality

1st place	Tlumačov (Zlín Region, Zlín district)	http://www.tlumacov.cz
2nd place	Okříšky (Vysočina Region, Třebíč district)	http://www.okrisky.cz
3rd place	Jiřetín pod Bukovou (Liberec Region, Jablonec nad Nisou district)	http://www.jiretinpb.cz

Best electronic service

1st place	Most: Citizens' e-orders at a town council http://registrace.mumost.cz
2nd place	České Budějovice: On-line transmissions from city council sessions http://www.c-budejovice.cz
3rd place	Brandýs nad Labem-Stará Boleslav: On-line system of attending to clients at the transport-administrative agendas department http://www.brandysko.cz

Furthermore, the following special prizes were awarded

- The special prize of the Minister of the Interior, František Bublan, for the best barrier-free access to websites within the Golden Crest competition was awarded to Jiřetín pod Bukovou (www.jiretinpb.cz) from the Liberec Region, Jablonec nad Nisou district.
- The special prize of the Minister for Regional Development, Radko Martínek, for the best tourism presentation on websites within the Golden Crest competition was awarded to the Liberec Region (www.liberecky-kraj.cz).
- The special prize of Microsoft within the Golden Crest competition was awarded
- in the category of towns: to Rokycany (www.rokycany.cz)
- in the category of municipalities: to Velké Žernoseky (http://mesta.municipalities.cz/velkezernoseky).
- The prize of the public conferred by the association BMI within the Golden Crest competition was awarded to Němčovice (www.nemcovice.cz) from the Plzeň Region, Rokycany district.
- The special prize of the professional jury of the Golden Crest competition was awarded to the Central Bohemia Region (www.kr-stredocesky.cz).

V4 countries associations info

The Union of Towns and Communities of Slovak Republic

The Union works on voluntary principles and gathers more than 96% of the towns and communitties of the whole Slovakia. On 16th of January 1990, during the Contitutive meeting of The Union of Towns and Communitties of Czechoslovakia, preparation committee agreed on establishing an independent union, which was founded on 21st March 1990 in Zilina.

The Union of Towns and Communitties of Slovak Republic (Združenie miest a obcí Slovenska or ZMOS) was founded as organization representing towns and communitties in negotiations with National council and government, as well as central state administration bodies , international organizations and other subjects.

Its main goals are to advocate and secure the interests of its members while paying full respect to their independence and sovereignty and in accordance to the national legal system and international treaties and pacts. To act as an advisor during the legislative process and enactment of the bills related to local governmen, to help its members with the execution of their duties and solution of problems in the areal of local and regional government.

Delegates of ZMOS sitting in consultative bodies of government and ministries plays significant role in the processes mentioned above.

The Union of Towns of Slovakia

The Union of Towns and Cities of the Slovak Republic was founded at the initiative of the Club of Mayors of the Slovak Republic on April 29, 1994 in Košice. The towns and cities of Košice, Spišská Nová Ves, Kežmarok, Levoča, Starý Smokovec, Rajec, Banská Bystrica, Stará Ľubovňa, Nová Dubnica, Trenčianske Teplice, Nové Mesto nad Váhom and Pezinok established the UTC as a voluntary association of local governments in the Slovak Republic. In addition to the twelve charter members, a number of other cities attended as observers. The Union was officially registered with state authorities on May 12, 1995 in Bratislava. Today, the Unions members represent approximately 2 millions people. Since July 8, 1999 is the Bratislava Development joint stock company an extraordinary member of the association. The honorary membership was attributed to nine personalities. Mr. Michal Kováč, former President of the Slovak Republic is also the honorary member. On June 20,1997, the Sixth Annual Assembly of the Union decided to modify the charter to allow smaller communities to join organisation. Accordingly, the name of the organisation was changed to the Union of Towns, Cities and Villages of the SR. On the ninth Annual Assembly of the Union, which took place on July 7, 2000, the Union reverted to its original mission –

represent mainly towns and cities. Also the name of Union was changed to The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (UTCS). On March 27, 2001 the Extraordinary Associate Congress with the Association of Towns of Slovakia took place. Today its 43 members include mainly large towns and also 8 municipalities. Extraordinary members are municipal parts of Bratislava - Old Town, Karlova Ves and Ružinov. The Union co-ordinates its activities with the Club of Mayors of the SR, the Association of City Managers (APMUS), the Association of Local Economists of the SR (AKE), the Association of Historic Cities and Villages of Slovakia (ZHMOS), particular regional associations of towns and villages and other organisations. It also has broad contacts and ongoing co-operation with home and foreign institutions, foundations, and non-governmental organisations. The last, 11th Congress of UTCS took place on July 3, 2001 in Bratislava. The Congess elected the President, members of the Presidium and Audit Committee for next two-year period.

Main goals:
The Union and its members are working for:

- a complex and systematic reform of government, which is effective, promotes the decentralisation of power on the principles of subsidiarity and democracy, and strengthens local and regional governments;
- maximal economic and fiscal independence for local governments;
- mutual co-operation of cities for solving common problems and co-operation with surrounding communities, with mutual accountability for regional development
- restoration and protection of the environment and cultural heritage, on the basis of long-term sustainability;

Membership and Organisational structure:

- Members of the Union are cities which agree with the main goals, activities, and the charter of the UTCS, and in which the city council approved membership. Members of the Union are also villages that agree with the main goals, activities, and the charter of the UTCS, in which the local council approved membership and that became members of the UTCS before July 7, 2000. Membership is based on a written application. Steering committee members of the UTCS are required to pay initiation fees and annual dues, according to population;
- Extraordinary Members are municipal parts of Bratislava and Košice which agree with the main goals, activities, and the charter of the UTCS, and in which the local council approved membership.
- Associate Members of the UTCS are legal entities, which have interest in co-operating with the UTCS;
- Honorary Members of the UTCS are physical or legal entities, which have a substantial interest in public life and the activities of the UTCS;
- The Congress is the highest organ of the Union, which must meet at least once a year. Between conventions, the highest organ is the presidium, which meets at least every two months;
- The President is the statutory executive of the UTCS. He represents the UTCS and is assisted by first, second vice presidents;

- The General Secretariat handles day-to-day administrative activities of the UTCS and is directed by the General Secretary. The General Secretariat is headquartered in Bratislava; The General Secretary represents the UTCS, as authorised by the president and presidium, and in accordance with the charter.

Regional and special Interest Clubs
UTCS members may establish clubs based on mutual interests or regions. These clubs provide a forum for UTCS members and cities to address common problems. Clubs have the right to present proposals to the UTCS presidium and convention on activities of the UTCS and to recommend financial obligations for specific projects. According to the charter, club leaders must be members of the UTCS.

The UTCS supports a number of projects, which could help to realise its goals. They include:

- Strategy, conception of the Public Administration Reform and the legislative norms in connection with the process of decentralisation and democratisation
- New model of Financing Public Administration and preparing fiscal systems of the repartition on the national and regional level
- New concept of the Housing Policy and the local and regional development based on the principle of the sustainability
- Transformation of Waterworks and Sewerage company, public corporation, to towns, cities and villages associated in regional waterworks companies

The Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖOSZ)

TÖOSZ was established on 10 March 1989, with the aim to give assistance to the development of settlement autonomy and to participate in the creation of a social, economic and legal environment friendly to local governments. The number of settlements was 152 at the time of the establishment of the Association.

TÖOSZ differs from other interest representing associations of local authorities not only because it is the oldest with the largest number of members, but also because it comprises all types of local authorities (the capital, the capital districts, village- communes, large village - large communes, town, town with county rank and the county). TÖOSZ aims at holding dialogues with political parties, but performs professional activity also independently of them. The local governments being members of TÖOSZ are represented generally by their mayors in the organizations of the Association (less frequently by local assembly members or notaries). Through them almost all the political parties and other social organizations, which took part in local elections, are represented. As a consequence of the character and the results of the elections, the majority of representatives are, however, independent.

The primary tasks of TÖOSZ are in particular:

- revealing, conciliating, mediating, protecting and representing interests,
- promotion of local self-government operation,

- encouraging the enlargement and successful operation of local government assets,
- professional and organizational support to the cooperation of local authorities,
- conciliations concerning the budgetary decisions of the Parliament,
- giving an opinion of draft acts and other state decision drafts,
- exercising the right of presentation,
- goodwill missions concerning debates between members,
- participating in the international cooperation of local authorities, promoting international relations of the members,
- organizing different services,
- operating consultative, interest revealing and coordinating forums for the members,
- promoting information flow and relations between members,
- assisting members in case of grievances and in legal affairs,
- promoting the social control of power exertion.

TÖOSZ has given opinion, ever since its establishment, on several hundred legal regulations, it has initiated in several cases the preparation or modification of acts concerning the interests of local authorities. In the case of otherwise not avertable violations of local government interests the Association applied to the courts, it required even the intervention of the Constitutional Court. Among these some issues can be mentioned, already known by the public and resulting in granting additional assets to local authorities, for instance: proceedings of the Constitutional Court in connection with the transfer of real estates(precedence-lawsuits in the Supreme Court concerning the ownership of pharmacy centres (proceedings in connection with the ownership of centrally located plots (the decision of the Constitutional Court No. 36/1998 (IX. 16) in the issue of the assets of public energy utilities, further the legal decision of the Supreme Court No. 3/1998 on public administration.

Since its creation TÖOSZ is an active partner in multilateral and bilateral European international local authority co-operation.

TÖOSZ obtained an observer status in the Standing Conference of the European Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRAE) in December 1989, and then its representatives began to work as members of the congressional delegation of the Hungarian local authorities.

The Association is in contact with the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) since March 1990. In 1999, it became a full member of the CEMR and the IULA and is also part of the newly created World Organization, the United Local Authorities and Cities.

The TÖOSZ plays an active part in the realization of the program of the CEEC-LOGON international network led by the Association of Austrian cities and towns.

The Association has reached important results with the Committee of the Regions, out of 12 representatives of the Hungarian delegation to the CoR, 2 persons were delegated by TÖOSZ.

As part of the already mentioned multilateral international local authority co-operations and bilateral relations with the Austrian, German, French, Finnish,

Slovak, Swiss, Polish, Greek and Italian national local government associations, TÖOSZ also contributed to the preparation of its local government members to the accession to the European Union. In the course of its international activities, the Association works together with the Integration Office of the Ministry of Interior and makes use of the information force of the TÖOSZ Newsletter, Journal, Website and its Series of Publications titled Best Practices, in Hungarian „Jótár".

Further current projects in the Association are as follows: the TÖOSZ is the Hungarian anchor of the Local Government Information Network, it has a representative in the Elected Women Section of the CEMR and thus actively participates in the programs of this section. The Association also acts as partner in the International Communal Network led by the Association of Austrian Municipalities and function within the Interreg III/C project.

The Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic

The Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic is a voluntary non-political, non-governmental organization whose regular members are communities in accordance with the law on communities. The Union's basic aim is to defend the common interests and rights of the communities that make it up. At present, the Union comprises approximately 2,200 communities, that is, about 34%, in which around 7 million people live, representing more than 70% of the citizens of the Czech Republic. The Union is a constructive partner of government and parliamentary political representatives. It contributes to proposed legislative measures by commenting on legal norms in areas concerning local administration. The concept of the "Union" refers first and foremost to village and town mayors who, beyond the concerns of their own community, also devote their time to the problems of local administration in general.

Foreign Cooperation and International Relations

The Union of Towns and Communities of the Czech Republic is creating conditions for integrating Czech municipal offices into various forms of cooperation in the area of activities by local administration and local government bodies in Europe and other countries of the world. The Union works together with similar partner associations in other countries and also oversees cooperation between individual communities in this country and abroad. The Union is a member of the worldwide organizations IULA (International Union of Local Administrations) and CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions). Thanks to its membership in CEMR, Union representatives have succeeded in gaining access to the Board of Regions, an EU advisory body and thus they have gradually been able to get acquainted with EU mechanisms and programs in practice. Members of the Union are also represented in the Congress of European Local and Regional Authorities. Furthermore, the Union coordinates a program of partnership cooperation for towns and communities.

    1.   The Union's priorities in field of international activities are as follows:

- to provide exact information about European Union, functioning of EU institutions and EU funding to Czech towns and municipalities and equipped them with knowledge in field of municipal administration and management capacities;
- to defend rights and to lobby for interests of Czech municipalities on national and European level;
- to promote twinning cooperation among Czech municipalities and municipalities abroad and assist with creation of new twinning arrangements;
- to promote mutual co-operation with European local government associations from European Union as well from candidate and East European countries;

The Union and its members continuously participate in international projects, which aim at experience and information exchange on EU issues and preparation of local governments for accession. For example our association is actively involved in the international network LOGON–Local Governments Network of Central and Eastern European Countries and in project Local Government Support Programme (LGSP-CE).

Committee for information systems of towns and communities (ISMO committee)

The Union of Czech Towns and Communities (www.smocr.cz) is an open interest, non-party and non-governmental organisation asserting the common interests and rights of municipalities. It proceeds in the spirit of principles from which the European Charter of Local Self-government issues. At the present time, the Union associates more than 2,300 towns and communities inhabited by a total of seven million people, i.e. more than 70% of the citizens of the Czech Republic.

Within the Union of Czech Towns and Communities, a number of specialist committees work as special advisory bodies to the Presidium of the Union. One of the most active is the Committee for Information Systems of Towns and Communities (ISTC–www.munet.cz/ismo), focused on information systems for self-government. It engages in promoting use of the Internet in the work of town and municipal authorities. It cooperates with ministries in preparing standards for public administration and self-government information systems, participates in organising specialist conferences and, naturally, expresses its opinions on proposed legal rules pertaining to informatics and concerning towns and communities. An integral part of the Committee's activity is cooperation foreign partners.

V4DIS 2007

Venue:	Hradec Králové, Aldis Congress Centre
Date:	1–3 April 2007
Character of the event:	International conference of V4 countries
Main theme:	**Informisation of public administration**
Expected number of participants:	**2,000 from 20 countries**
Organiser:	Association of the Czech @
Conference Executive Director:	RNDr. Tomáš Renčín tel. : +420 284 001 284 e-mail: rencin@rencin.cz
Secretariat of the conference:	U svobodárny 12/1110 190 00 Praha 9 tel. : +420 284 001 284 fax: +420 284 818 027 http://www.isss.cz/v4dis