

Scenarios, Tools & Perspectives for Local & Regional Authorities

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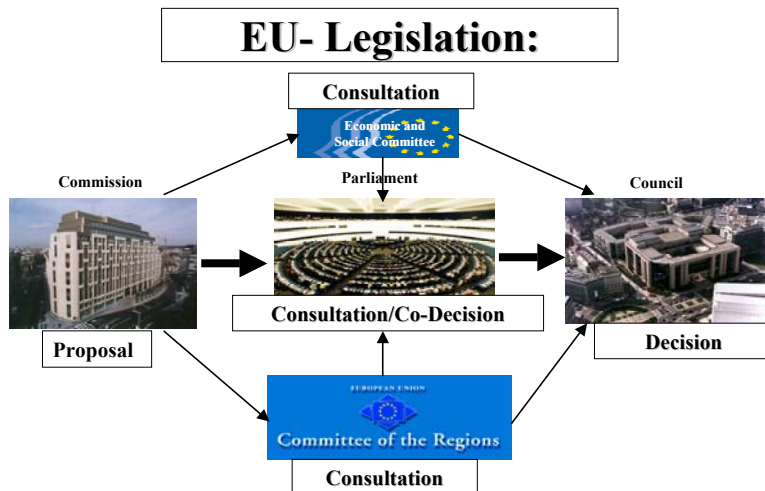
European Information Infrastructure – from local authorities, European wide ambitious perspective



*Opportunities and proposals,
ambitions and expectations,
worries and threats
– bottom-up view
from local authorities perspective*



The Committee of the Regions' activities in a nutshell



Activities and Opinions of the CoR

In 2004

Opinions on

- Role of eGovernment for Europe's future
- Update of the eEurope 2005 action plan
- National Broadband Strategies
- eHealth action plan

Conference

- „Knowledge Based Regions in the Information Society“, April 2004 in Ireland

Study

- Governance and ICT – innovative eGovernment actions at the local and regional levels

Upcoming

- Opinion on eEurope 2010 initiative
- Ph.d. thesis competition on “E-inclusion at the local and regional level – services and infrastructure”
- Seminars in 2005

More on the Committee of the Regions on www.cor.eu.int



“Connecting Europe at High Speed: National Broadband Strategies” EU Broadband: good news, worries and expectations

Good news

- High number of national broadband plans
- Opportunity of using public funds including Structural Funds to ensure availability of broadband
- Good practices (national, regional), especially Estonia

Expectations

- Actions concerning information infrastructure should be financed the same way as other basic Infrastructure
- More ambitious EII targets for communication/connectivity/availability/affordability

Worries

- Infringements of silent regulators not acting effectively against dominant Networks
- Availability of eGovernment applications with common (compatible) data models and Attributes
- European-wide Certification Authority?



European Information Infrastructure (EII)

from local authorities' European wide perspective

Instead opinion on

"Connecting Europe at High Speed: National Broadband Strategies".

Trying to express EU wide, ambitious information infrastructure

as seen from the bottom-up, local authorities perspective (rural and town municipalities, SMEs and Citizens).

The key element

to reach the Lisbon's "Europe supreme knowledge based and competitive continent" goals is the "**widespread, huge throughput communications availability and affordability of secure, trusted data, document and multimedia content on-line, real-time advanced eServices processing**"

DOIT chances - Digital Opportunity Information Technology

Instead of Digital Divide we should make every effort for every citizen's enabling DOIT chances



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Ambitious EII targets: (CoR EDUC confirmed)

a) fibre optic connecting every European final user with minimal 10 Mbps or more, two way communication, except in the cases where economy and optimal communication (geography, user needs) requests other solutions, e.g. (high speed) copper wires or fixed wireless access (WFA) / satellite transmission:

25% - at the end of 2006;

70% - at the end of 2010;

b) bandwidth and availability to ensure IP telephony for nomadic users - at the end of 2006;

c) reasonable pricing of monthly broadband connection costs with 10 Mbps throughput, secure internet and trusted transactions, multimedia IP "telephony", digital TV / Radio (multimedia) broadcasting (digital rights not in the price) - at the end of 2006



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Ambitious EII strategies: (CoR EDUC confirmed)

a) on-line, reliable, secure, authentic and trusted exchange of multimedia data and documents – at the end of 2006;

b) distributed, interoperable, complex, hierarchical data access and update – at the end of 2007;

c) virtual or simulated environment and real processes access and control in real-time – at the end of 2008;

For applications (EII common eServices) with compatible data models and data attributes, for e.g.: GIS, 3D and VR visualisation technologies for spatial planning and regeneration / Space, real estate property and communal infrastructure management; distributed and registered public data bases access, update; public office services at home or at the work place; Traffic management: congestion, toll, ticket paying with smart non contact (mobile) IDs;



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A key aspect in the evaluation of the progress

is the "evolution from connectivity to content":

integrated internet broadband infrastructure requires content and services to promote demand and take-up.

And to return investments at the affordable services costs.

Transparent and equal market competition and business opportunities for all (**less favoured areas and institutions**) entrepreneurs are crucial for competitive economies and societies.

Not only the physical or hardware side of the communication infrastructure (backbones, networks: fixed or wireless, servers - routers: grids - clusters) are important for businesses, administrations and citizens but also platform implementations support as infrastructure drivers timely and cost effective applications' development

As repeated many times, efficiency and impact shall be the consequence of new services from innovative entrepreneurs and administrations



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Conclusion

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but also platform implementations **support** as infrastructure drivers timely and cost **effective applications' development.**

European-wide information infrastructure should be a very productive base and positive unification for effective everyday work.

The Lisbon 2010 Europe:

is in great part possible through highly ambitious goals of the information society for all, based on a superior ICT infrastructure.

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Conclusion (continued)

Having the supreme, instantaneous and transparent - with all the basic, tools and applications supporting, driving mechanism - European Information Infrastructure:

we could tightly couple the society data and documents - simplifying and enforcing transactions with more privacy and better security in support for positive social development and environment preservation

HW & SW of ICT is not enough for Information Society:

we need to develop the socio-educational-cultural entrepreneurship environment that humans, businesses and nature shall evolve sustainable into happy, democratic society

European Information Infrastructure (EII)

from local authorities' European wide perspective

Dilemmas / Questions

Internet autonomy

- Freedom of communication
- Right of privacy
- Need secure, trusted comm

What about

- the responsibility
- risks & anarchy

Internet <----> Extra- / Intra- nets

Public funding

EU wide EII strategy

Ways for local authorities

Global Forum 2004, Malmö, Sweden

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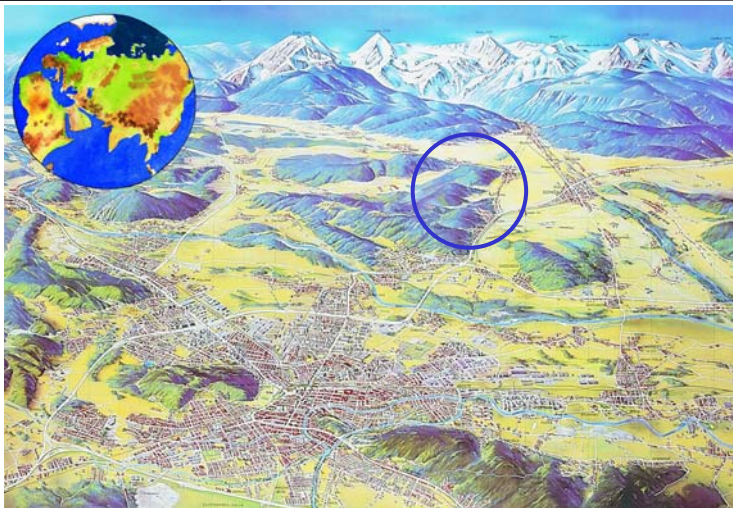


Presentation is based on the draft opinion now in the procedure for confirmation on the 57th plenary session to be held at 17th Nov 2004. Draft opinion has issue date end of august 2004 and has been confirmed with one amendment on the CoR EDUC commission on 22nd Sept. 2004.

Global forum 2004 paper views are from the author and from CoR EDUC.

Thank you for your attention

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