V4DIS

Visegrád Group for Developing Information Society
Hradec Králové, April 6–8, 2008

Evaluation and Responses 2008

Association of Czech @

Visegrad Fund

Contents

Introduction

Concurrently with the ISSS/LORIS 2008 conference, which took place from 6 to 8 April 2008 in Hradec Králové, the meeting of working groups of the Visegrad Four countries–V4DIS (Visegrad Four for Developing Information Society)–was held for the fifth time. Representatives of public administration, as well as various initiatives and non-governmental organisations, discussed further development of public administration informisation in the Visegrad region, exchanged valuable experience and presented selected solutions in their respective V4 countries.

For the third time, the V4DIS conference took place under the personal auspices of Přemysl Sobotka, Chairperson of the Senate of the Czech Republic. Participants had the opportunity to meet a host of top politicians, including Mirek Topolánek, Prime Minister of the CR; Ivan Langer, Minister of the Interior of the CR and Jiří Pospíšil, Minister of Justice of the CR; as well as a number of other dignitaries, among them Oldřich Vlasák, MEP and Chairperson of the Union of Towns and Communities of the CR; several regional administrators. This year's prominent guest from IVF was Jiří Sýkora, Public relations coordinator of the International Visegrad Fund, who together with Přemysl Sobotka, President of the Senate of the CR, and Miloš Vystrčil, President of the Vysočina Region, ceremonially opened the introductory programme block and held an opening presentation aimed on new on-line services of the Visegrad Fund and Visegrad Group.

"Every year I follow with great interest the meeting in Hradec Králové" said the President of Senate of the Parliament of CR Premysl Sobotka. "Annually increasing participation in the conference in Hradec Králové, proves that organisers of this event do not do their work in vain. EGovernment issues are dealt here at the top level not only in point of theory, but participation of people from regions, who apply this policy in real practice, also plays an important part. If there has occurred any improvement in the matter of Czech eGovernment, it has happened thanks to enthusiasm of these people, for they enthusiastically and often in advance tested out their own projects in the struggle with the bureaucracy and thus they developed valuable incentives for solving these tasks at the national level. They deserve our respect for that."

"I personally follow the meeting in Hradec Králové annually with great interest. As the President of the Czech Senate I am drawn in by two things. The first one is the Senate's interest in communication between state and citizens, decrease in bureaucratic load and increase in transparency of public administration. Many of our senators have joined big politics from municipal sphere and that is why they understand the idea of using informatics for efficient performance of public administration and providing first-rate and modern services for the citizens. The second part of my interest in the conference lies in participation of partners from Visegrad countries, which proves to me that regional cooperation and exchange of experience, and that is also within broader global processes, has deep sense."

Alongside support for education and overall international cooperation in informisation of public administration in V4 countries, the meeting also focused on another two relevant topics–eGovernment and eTourism. In both cases, a key role was played by comparative presentations and selected "best practices" from individual V4 countries. As mentioned above, new web services of the Visegrad Group,

created by the ministries of foreign affairs of all four states, was also presented during discussions about the use of ICT in eGovernment and eTourism and promotion of individual destinations and the entire region.

A host of other interesting projects were showcased within the V4DIS meeting; for example, the Czech-Polish-Slovak Junior Erb award for young and talented IT enthusiasts who often hold a flag of new technologies in smaller municipalities.

On the occasion of this year's V4DIS conference, Přemysl Sobotka, Chairperson of the Senate of the Czech Republic, awarded commemorative sheets as appraisal of the activities carried out by non-profit organisations and municipalities of the Visegrad region countries contributing to information society development. These awards were bestowed upon: City of Jablonec nad Nisou, City of Bratislava, City of Cziestochowa and City of Leczna for nomination for the EuroCrest Award, and Ms. Lubica Lalikova, Mr. Jan Kramar, Mr. Milos Havlicek, Mr. Tomas Mitana Mr. Lukasz Strychalski and Mr. Boguslaw Tolarz for awarding the Junior Erb award. All the prize-winning projects were presented within the international programme of the V4DIS conference; however, the lectures also aroused interest among the participants of the concurrently running ISSS and LORIS conferences.

At the present time, V4DIS is an extremely important element in information society development and mutual exchange of information between representatives of public administration, parliaments and local and regional governments in the Visegrad Four countries. Furthermore, it serves to enhance mutual cooperation within the EU and Visegrad aimed at pursuing their common interests. This year, the V4DIS meeting in Hradec Králové was held for the fifth time. Alongside official delegations from the Visegrad countries, it was also attended by representatives of a number of municipalities of V4 states–capital cities of Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw and Budapest as well as other towns such as for example Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Hurbanovo, Ilava, Košice, Lučenec, Moldava nad Bodvou, Nitra, Nová Bošáca, Nová Dubnica, Nové Zámky, Šala, Žilina (Slovakia) Polish towns Cziestochowa, Kalisz, Lapy, Leczna, Walbrzych, Wroclaw and or Hungarian towns Encs and Karcag.

Overall, conference was visited by 345 participants from all of the V4 countries. They represented all levels of government, coming from ministries, and other state government bodies, regional governments and bodies as well as from municipalities. We are very pleased with growing number of Hungarian and Polish participants. Conference is firmly established in Slovakia (and Czech Republic of course) and due to the limited capacity and resources we regretfully have to choose the speakers and key participants.

In addition, the experience from the last few years has confirmed that a renowned conference event is an ideal background for similar working meetings. Besides negotiating the planned agenda, the participants also have the opportunity to meet a host of specialists and colleagues working for public administration in other countries and discuss aspects of building up information society in a much wider context.

On behalf of the realisation team

Tomáš Renčín
Conference Director

Project profile and objectives

Visegrád for Developing Information Society–V4DIS

Character: International conference

Conference Languages Czech and Slovak, simultaneous translation to Hungarian and Polish and vice versa

Lecturers:
- Jiri Sykora, public relations manager IVF
- István Zacharias, City of Moldava nad Bodvou, SK
- Miroslav Drobny, Union of towns and cities of Slovakia
- Pavol Tarina, Governement plenipotentiary for ICT, SK
- Csaba Madarasz, Option.hu, HU
- Rostislav Vondruska, Director of CzechTourism agency
- Frantisek Kohanyi, City of Kosice
- Andrzej Janicki, Alfa-Omega Foundation, PL
- Peter Druga, BIC, City of Bratislava
- Peter Borovsky, Comenius university of Bratislava
- Jaroslav Solc, Union of Towns and Communities, CZ
- Ivan Seycek, City of Prague
- Josef Zelenka, University of Hradec Králové
- Jiri Peterka, Junior Erb award
- and others

Target group:
- delegates of V4 municipalities and local governments
- representatives of state governments and legislative bodies of V4 countries
- IT specialists

Focus and objectives:
- Sharing of best practices on on-line services provided by municipal websites of V4 municipalities
- Comaprative presentation of the eGovernment develoepment in V4 countries
- Presentation of new web services of International Visegrad Fund
- Advantages of ICT in tourism for propagation of tourist destinations and its further improvement and developement of services offered
- Presentation of opportunities for V4 municipalities to take part in projects co-financed by European and Visegrad institutions
- Meetings of V4 delegations

Organisers and partners

Main organiser and project coordinator

- Association of the Czech @

Partners of the V4DIS conference

- Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities
- University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic
- Option.hu Technology Development and Cultural Service Provider Ltd., Hungary
- Alfa-Omega Foundation, Poland
- The Union of the Towns and Cities of Slovakia
- City of Prague–Prague City Hall, Czech Republic
- City of Moldava nad Bodvou, Slovakia
- City of Karcag, Hungary

Auspice and project sponsor

- Project V4DIS was held under the auspice of Premysl Sobotka, president of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- Project V4DIS is supported by the International Visegrad Fund

Host cities

- City of Prague
- City of Hradec Králové

Evaluation

The international conference V4DIS was held for the fifth time in the Congress Centre Aldis in Hradec Králové and the Municipal theatre in Hradec Králové in the days of 6th, 7th and 8th of April 2008. Representatives of public administration as well as various initiatives and non-governmental organizations from the V4 countries discussed here further development of informisation in the Visegrád region, exchanged valuable experience and presented chosen solutions from their countries.

The meeting of this year Visegrád conference was opened by the President of Senate of CR Přemysl Sobotka, under whose personal auspices the event was held (for the third time in the row, which underlines the importance, esteem and reputation the V4DIS conference gained), the public relation director of the International Visegrád Fund Jiri Sykora and the President of Vysočina Region Miloš Vystrčil. The crux of the programme laid (similarly to previous year) mainly in two important themes–e-government and e-tourism. In both cases a significant role was played by the chosen "best practices" from each V4 country. In the course of discussions about the question of using ICT technologies in the area of tourism and promotion of separate destinations as well as the whole region there were presented also new on-line services of the Visegrád group web, which is created with cooperation of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all four countries.

The project V4DIS is at present a very important element of development of information society and mutual informedness of the representatives of public administration, parliaments as well as local and regional self-governments in the Visegrád Four countries and simultaneously it helps to promote mutual collaboration of EU as well as Visegrád within their common interests. The meeting was this year held in Hradec Králové already for the fifth time and apart from official delegations of Visegrád countries, it was attended also by deputies of many towns of V4 countries–capital cities of Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw and Budapest as well as other towns such as for example Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Hurbanovo, Ilava, Košice, Lučenec, Moldava nad Bodvou, Nitra, Nová Bošáca, Nová Dubnica, Nové Zámky, Šala, Žilina (Slovakia) Polish towns Cziestochowa, Kalisz, Lapy, Leczna, Walbrzych, Wroclaw and or Hungarian towns Encs and Karcag.

The main organizer of the V4DIS conference is Association Czech At, the partners are then the Union of Towns of Slovakia, Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖOSZ), Option.hu Technology Development and Cultural Service Provider Ltd. (Hungary), Polish Alfa Omega Foundation, National Association of Intelligent Settlements–ITOSz Hungary, University of Hradec Králové, Capital City Prague, City of Nyíregyháza (Hungary), City of Moldava nad Bodvou (Slovakia) and the City of Karcag (Hungary).

Blocks evaluated as the most interesting

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

- The official conference opening and debate of top representatives of political parties
- eTourism
- eGovernment in V4 countries
- Developement of cooperation–best practices

Beside blocks mentioned above, miscellaneous round tables and sharing of best practices were important parts of the conference.

Program can be found at http://www.v4dis.eu/program.asp and produced presentation can be downloaded ibidem.

Full conference information and other materials can be found under respective entries of the www.v4dis.eu website.

They said at the conference

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Premysl Sobotka, president of the Senate of the Czech Republic

"I visit this conference every year and it is always a pleasure, mainly thanks to concentration of interesting people concerned about one thing–the informatization on all levels there is no similar event in the Czech Republic. It gives me unique oportunity to meet people, not only from Czech Republic, but also from abroad, who give life to agendas and program prepared or otherwise outlined by their governments."

Mirek Topolanek, prime minister of the Czech Republic

Competitions

V4DIS–honorary certificates of the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic, Mr. Premysl Sobotka

The President of Senate of the Parliament of CR Přemysl Sobotka bestowed on the occasion of this year Visegrád conference V4DIS, which was held under his personal auspices, honorary certificates that award activities of non-profit organizations and municipalities of countries of Visegrád region in the area of development of information society.

- These awards were bestowed upon: City of Jablonec nad Nisou, City of Bratislava, City of Cziestochowa and City of Leczna for nomination for the EuroCrest Award, and Ms. Lubica Lalikova, Mr. Jan Kramar, Mr. Milos Havlicek, Mr. Tomas Mitana Mr. Lukasz Strychalski and Mr. Boguslaw Tolarz for awarding the Junior Erb award.
- All awarded projects were presented within the international programme of V4DIS, these presentations were however popular also among the participants of the simultaneously held conference Internet in Public Administration and Self-government.

Eurocrest

In the Eurocrest contest for the best internet sites of towns, municipalities and regions in Europe there were among the main awarded projects of the year included official sites of the towns Czestochowa (Poland), Łęczna (Poland), Bratislava (Slovakia) and Jablonec nad Nisou (Czech Republic). Announcement of the results was as usually part of the gala evening programme of the 11th year of the conferences V4DIS/LORIS 2008 and Internet in the Public Administration and Self-government in Hradec Králové.

The sixth year of the Eurocrest contest is announced by the Association Golden Crest in the cooperation with the European Commission and European network IT projects such as TeleCities. The Eurocrest contest builds on experience acquired from organizing a contest Golden Crest (CR) and similar contests in other countries as well as it takes into consideration consultations with experts from European Union.

The aim of the Eurocrest is to award exceptional projects, support mutual exchange of experience and appreciate effort of the deputies of municipalities and local governments to use effectively information technologies for enhancing quality and accessibility of public administration services. In this way the organizers want to contribute to increase of the speed of development of services of European public administration institutions.

V4DIS 2009

Venue:	Hradec Králové, Aldis Congress Centre
Date:	5–7 April 2009
Character of the event:	International conference
Main theme:	**Informatisation of public administration**
Expected number of participants:	**350 from V4 countries**
Organisers:	Association of the Czech @
Secretariat of the conference:	www.v4dis.eu v4dis@isss.cz