



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



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Development of Information Society and e-Government in Slovenia

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SOCIETY

ITAPA, Bratislava, October 27, 2003



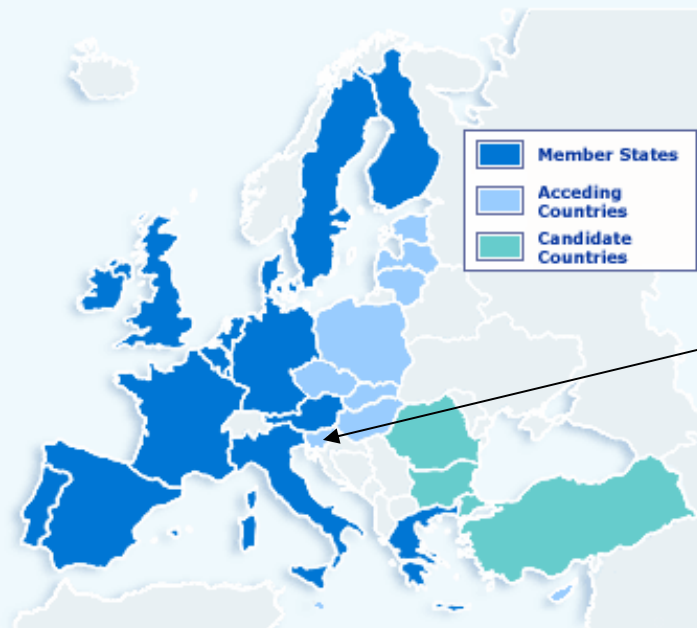
It is quite obvious for this distinguished audience...

- ■ ... that new technologies and the applications that are enabled by them do really change societies, their economies and cultures in a very profound way.
- ■ ... that governments must act
 - to speed up and to stimulate the dissemination of new technologies and their applications and, on the other hand,
 - to take measures to ensure that the highest possible number of citizens will have the benefits of them.
 - **to adopt themselves using new technologies both in the back office and in the external dialogues and services (transparency, visibility, interactivity)**



Key issues addressed

- I. Importance of cooperation of acceding and candidate countries with EU DG INFSO
- II. Structural funds
- III. Achieving Participation by Access to the Public Sector information
- IV. Specific e-Government initiatives

**Acceding countries**

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
| > Cyprus | > Latvia | > Poland |
| > Czech Republic | > Lithuania | > Slovakia |
| > Estonia | > Malta | > Slovenia |
| > Hungary | | |

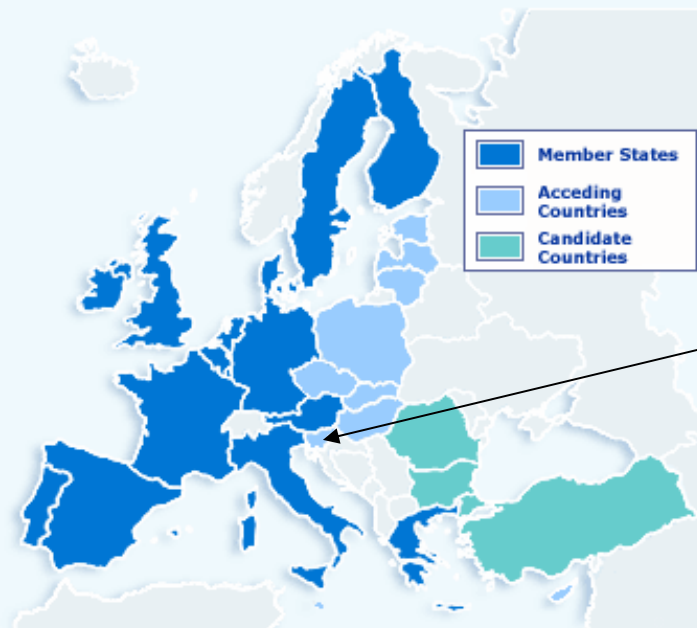
Source(map): <http://www.ueitalia2003.it/EN/UnioneEuropea/allargamento/>

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Telecommunications

- ☺
 - o Fixed telephony penetration 93% of households, 100% digitalisation, ~20 % ISDN
 - o Introduction of broadband data transmission technology (ADSL)
 - o Mobile telephony penetration >70% (of population)
- ☹ -> ☺
 - o Monopoly (!?) in the area of fixed telephony
 - o Relatively high prices of leased lines - additional broadband service providers entered the market (2002/03)
 - o 58 cable operators (40% enable broadband)
 - o Lack of services (improving)



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■ ■ Access to internet (survey dated **december 2002**)

- ~38% of population - internet users
- ~36% of households has an access to internet
- ~50% of employees use/could use internet at their workplaces

■ ■ !

- the era of »internet fascination« is over, further penetration of the internet will thus depend on **better and faster access at a reasonable price, and on the quality of the services and contents.**





Latest available data - July 2003		SI	EU
1	Share of population regularly using the internet	45%	53%
2	Percentage of households with Internet access	36%	43%
3	Type of access in households	Dial-up - 70% ISDN - 24% ADSL - 4% Cable - 12%	Dial-up - 71% ISDN - 18% ADSL - 13% Cable - 9%
4	Number of Public Internet Access Points - PIAPs (per million inh.)	120 (Jun 2003)	156 (Dec 2001)
5	Basic public services available on-line	46% (Mar 2003)	60% (Oct 2002)
6	Share of ICT in BDP	4,70% (2001)	6,93% (2001)
7	Penetration of mobile telephony	76%	69%
8	Share of Internet users regularly shopping over the Internet	4%	11%
9	Number of places and graduates in ICT related third level education	1,56 (Dec 2002)	2,06 (Jan 2001)
10	Digital divide index (DIDIX)	45	53

SI vs. EU





EU Membership Acceeding/ Candidate Countries in co-operation with European Commission: The JHLC (Joint High Level Committee)

I.

- ■ Aim: To achieve positive action based on a strong political commitment to ensure that the candidate countries use the full potential offered by the Information Society and avoid a digital divide with the EU.
- ■ The eEurope+ 2003 initiative mirrors the priority objectives and targets of the EU's eEurope action plan



- ■ The EU candidate countries are faced with enormous challenges in attempt to catch up with the development of a knowledge-based economy while the process of transformation from a planned to an open market economy is taking place at the same time as accession to the European Union.

I.



**0. Accelerate the putting in place of the basic building blocks for Information Society**

initial

- a) Accelerate the provision of affordable comm. services for all
- b) Transpose and implement the *acquis* relevant to the IS

1. A cheaper, faster, secure Internet

- a) Cheaper and faster Internet access
- b) Faster Internet for researchers and students
- c) Secure networks and smart cards

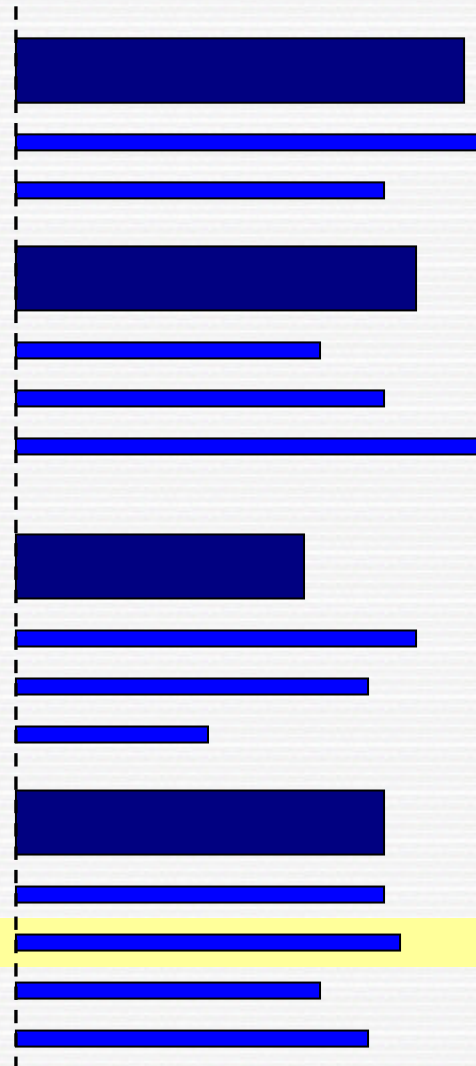
2. Investing in people and skills

- a) European youth into the digital age
- b) Working in the knowledge-based economy
- c) Participation for all in the knowledge-based economy

3. Stimulate the use of the Internet

- a) Accelerating e-commerce
- b) Government online: electronic access to public services
- c) Health online
- d) European digital content for global networks

mature



I.



Regulatory Framework of "e-Slovenia"

- **Strategy of Republic of Slovenia in Information Society**
- **Strategy of e-Business in local government**
- **Acts:**
 - **on Electronic commerce and electronic signature (ZEPEP-1) + decree**
 - **on author rights (ZASP)**
 - **on protection of personal data (ZVOP)**
 - **on consumer rights (ZVpot)**
 - **on Access to public sector information (ZDIJZ) + decree (in preparation)**
 - **on Integration of public legal registries (ZPJE)**



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SOCIETY

European Ministerial Conference



★ **Information Society**

Ljubljana, 3-4 June 2002

<http://emcis.gov.si>

European Ministerial Conference



Connecting Europe
Ljubljana, 3-4 June 2002

<http://emcis.gov.si>

**MINISTERIAL
CONCLUSIONS**

Ljubljana, June 4, 2002

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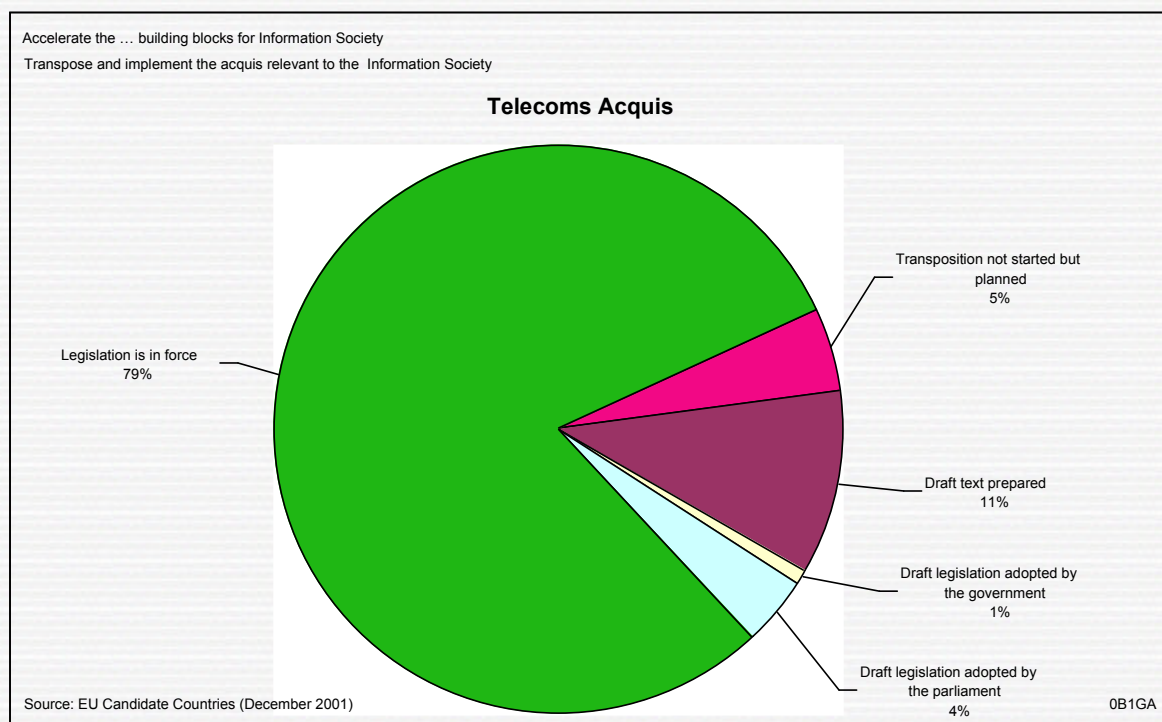


I.



The Legal and Policy Framework

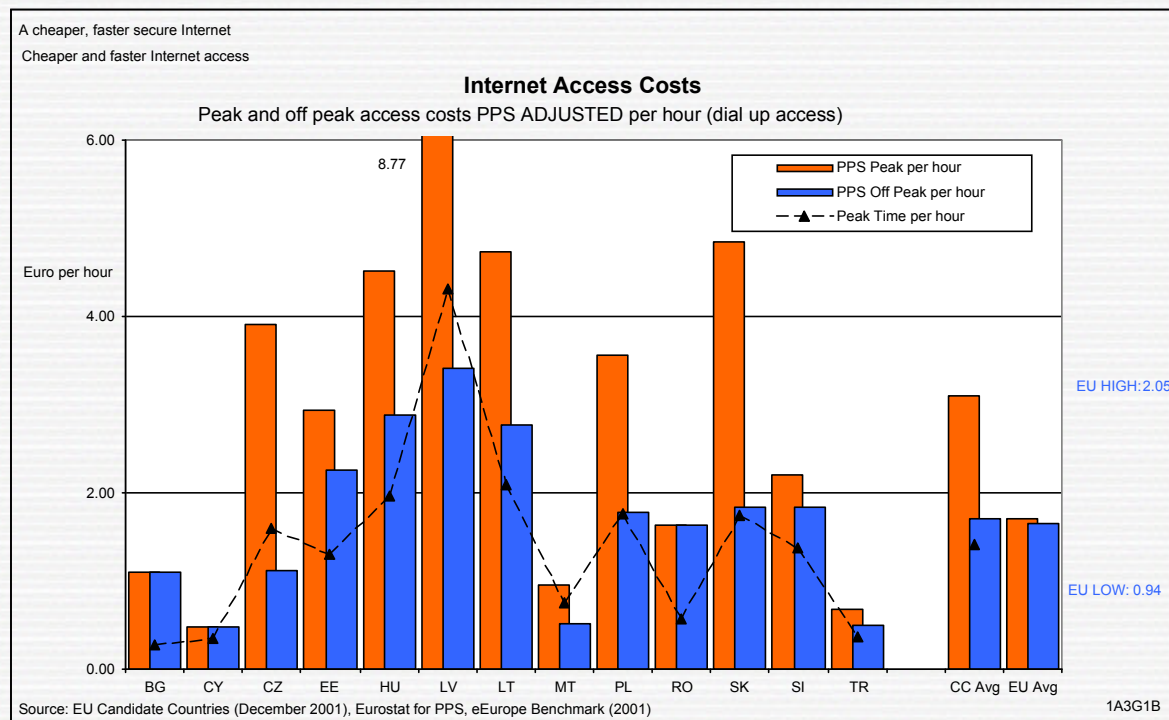
Harnessing the potential of the knowledge based economy can only be achieved on the basis of a responsive legal framework that takes account of the challenges posed by an essentially borderless, internet-based information and communications environment.





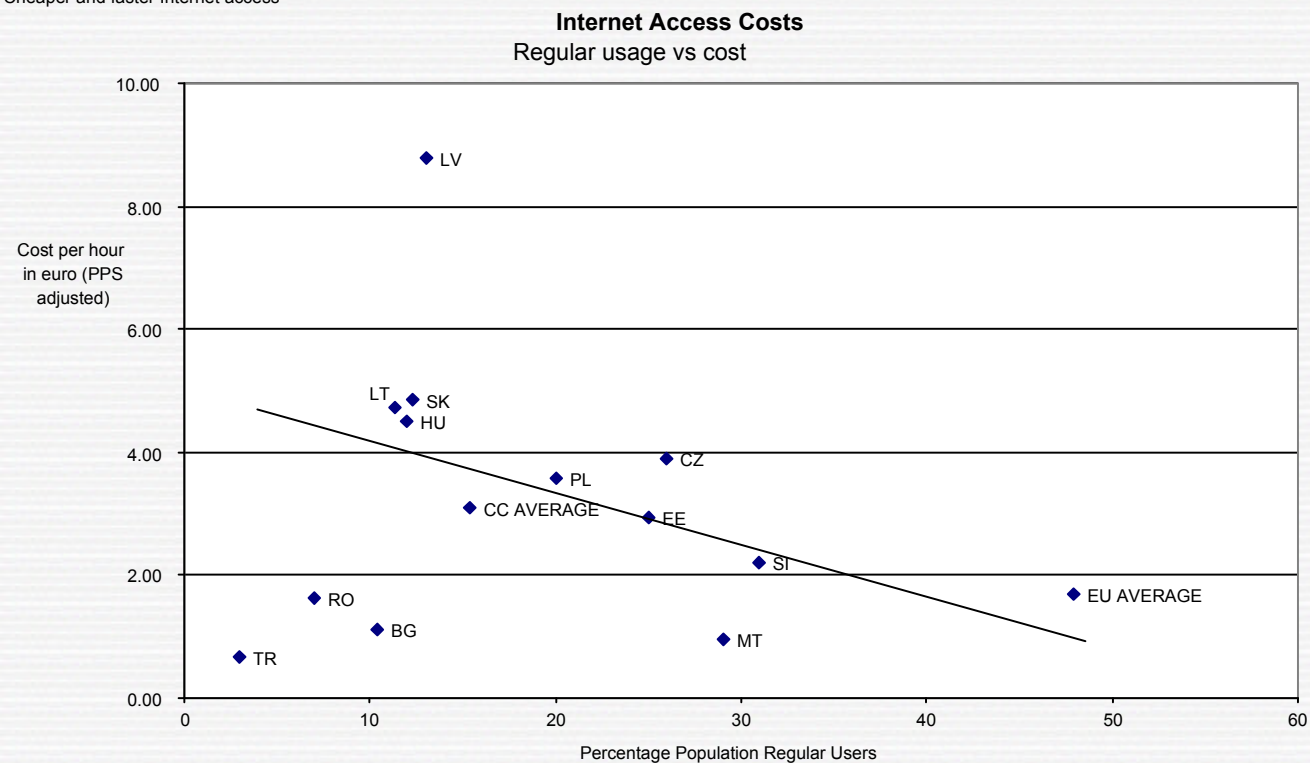
Infrastructure and Affordable Access

It is vital that citizens, business, and government have access to modern communications networks and the services available over these networks. There is a basic need to ensure that all citizens are offered the possibility of affordable communications services so that info-exclusion can be avoided.





A cheaper, faster secure Internet
Cheaper and faster Internet access



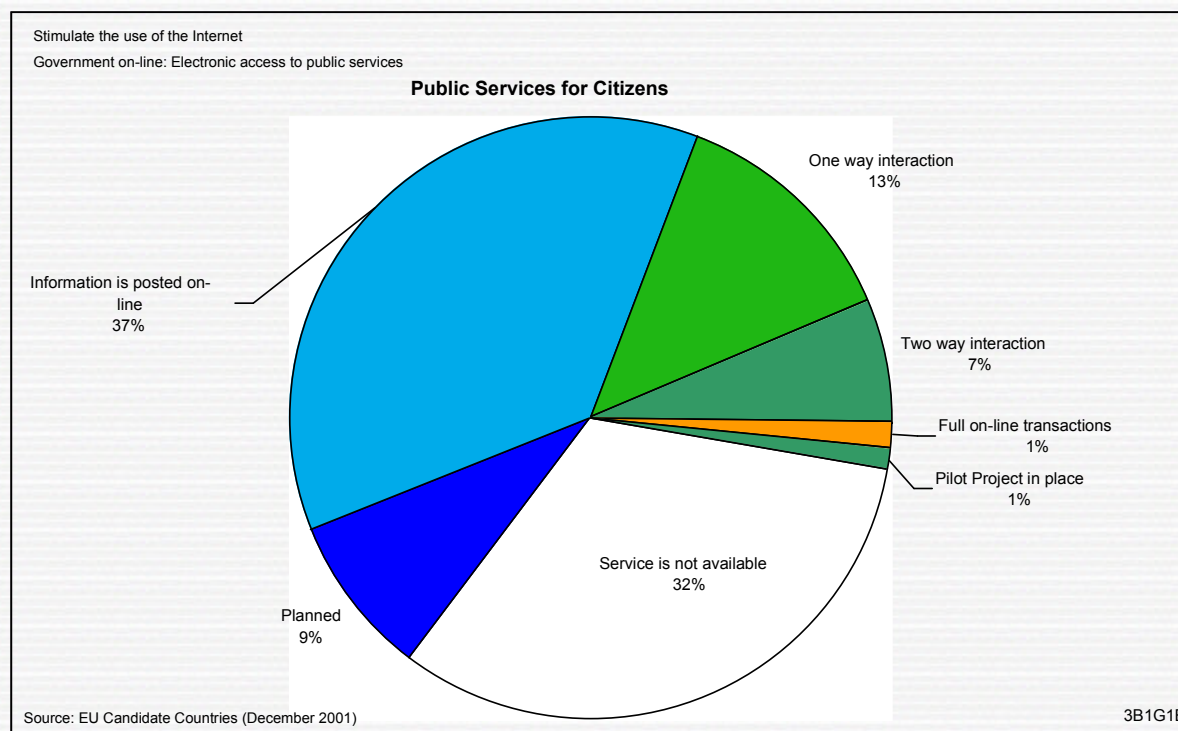
Source: EU Candidate Countries (December 2001), Eurostat for PPS, eEurope Benchmark (2001)

1A3G2C



Stimulating Usage

Electronic commerce is developing in the candidate countries and strong impacts on industry and service organisation patterns, as well as on their business models, are to be expected and supported. eGovernment services are a strong driver for the development of e-commerce.





Overall Policy Assessment (October 2005)

- ■ eEurope 2005 serves as a comparative framework – integrated in national strategy: **Strategy for Republic of Slovenia in Information Society**
- ■ The most significant actions since eEurope 2003+ first progress report was published (2002):
 - Internet access (including broadband) to homes and schools/public libraries is significantly increased; Increased number of PIAP's
 - e-Government activities: integration of back office -> starting point for integrated services
 - e-Inclusion activities: Digital literacy – ongoing national level project (Phare 2003)
 - Law on Electronic Communication already



Opportunities for Growth (selection)

- ■ Precondition: Development of key elements of “culture of information Security”
 - o modern cyber-crime legislative framework
 - o anti-piracy and copyright protection measures
 - o promotion of secure technologies
 - o establishment of the European Network and Information Security Agency is warmly welcomed
- ■ Information Society as a horizontal priority in SPD (Single Programming Document for Structural funds)
- ■ Intelligent Transportation Systems – increased importance due to the geographical position of Slovenia
- ■ Accessing the Public Sector Information



II. Structural funds

- The SPD (Single Programming Document) for Slovenia defines the development of information society as horizontal priority; all measures have to take full advantage of IS services in terms of eligibility and in terms of improving access, use and affordability of ICT.
- Measures (a selection of):
 - a) modernising the public sector;
 - b) stimulating demand in the private sector;
 - c) developing content;
 - d) rising digital skills;
 - e) upgrade ICT infrastructure that will secure high-speed broad band internet connectivity.



Priority No. 1: Promoting the productive sector and competitiveness

ERDF: European Regional Development Fund Ministry for Economy

- 1.1. Innovative environment
- 1.2. Promoting the development of tourist destinations
- 1.3. Improving the enterprise support environment

EAGGF: European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

- 1.4. Investment in agricultural economy
- 1.5. Improving production and marketing of agricultural products
- 1.6. Promoting agriculture-related activities – alternative sources of income
- 1.7. Marketing quality agricultural products

Priority No. 2: Knowledge, human resource development and employment

ESF: Ministry for labour, Family and Social Affairs

- 2.1. Developing and promoting active labour market policies
- 2.2. Facilitating Social Inclusion
- 2.3. Lifelong Learning
- 2.4. Fostering Entrepreneurship and Adaptability

Priority No. 3: Economic infrastructure

Developing business and industrial zones



III. Achieving Participation by Access to the Public Sector Information

Drivers of participation

- Avoiding, reducing the influence of DIGITAL DIVIDE
- Right to each person to acquire the information held by public body
- Increased role of the local authorities - the Cities' Governments
 - ICT Infrastructure
 - ICT Applications in Public Sector
 - eSecurity
 - eBusiness into Administration
 - eLiteracy

III.

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Implementing the freedom of information – the case of Slovenia

- Constitutional background
- The right of each person to acquire an information held by a public body is laid down by article 39 of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. The main content of the constitutional provision could be described as the right of individuals to get inspect in the work of public sector bodies and by this means exercising control over the transparency of their work, thus assuring public control on their decision making processes, which is one of the essential elements of democracy.



Public access to information act–WHY?

- there is no such thing as a register of information sources (catalogue of public sector information);
- no mechanism guaranteeing the authenticity of information sources is established, meaning that there is no general control on information being adjourned and trustworthy;
- there is a lack of certain standards (different data models, redundancies, etc.);
- from an European point of view there is also the problem of linguistic diversity;
- in this respect the establishing of »national gateway's« is more and more showing to become a nuance, especially in view of the provision of services.



The public access to information act

- defines **public bodies responsible for providing the information**; according to this provision public bodies are all legislative, executive and judicial authorities on national, regional or local level, public agencies, public founds, bodies governed by public law an other bodies exercising a public authority;
- provides also a **more comprehensive, but what is more important an unified understanding of what are public sector information**, basically by excluding certain types of information (this »negative interpretation« approach could certainly be criticised, yet it is perhaps the only compromise which guarantees the respect of other fundamental freedoms – such as for instance personal data);



The public access to information act

- imposes the **obligation on public bodies** to provide all public sector information, held by a particular public body, on the internet;
- to implement the obligation from the previous paragraph each public body is obliged **to establish a catalogue of public sector information** administered by the public body which is the main framework for the provision of public sector information;
- defines **the procedure of access** of individuals to public sector information;
- guarantees a **free of charge insight** and a charge restriction for transcript limited only to material costs;



The public access to information act

- establishes an **independent body – the deputy for access to public sector information** – which is appointed by the parliament on a proposal by the president for a mandate period of 5 years, with his main function being the appellant institution against decisions of public bodies, still on an administrative level; his decisions are final, judicial review is allowed; the main reason for such a structure is the fact that due to the wide extent of different public bodies, stretching through the whole public sector but also involving certain persons of private law with public authorities an unified appellant body is a nuance for a coherent approach on the provision of public sector information;





IV. Specific e-Government Initiatives

■ E-gov

- in average assessed as improving ✓
- registry of legislation and full texts of acts is available on-line and free of charge ✓
- huge complexity: large number of autonomous players; data-source integration at the service level is needed (still lacks at the information stage, at the same time transaction stage is under development)

Public procurement regarding ICT can be carried out on-line (level 3).





Selected G2B Projects

- ■ A project of the **Small Business Development Centre (SBDC)**, co-financed by Ministry of Information Society, deals with empowering local e-business reference centres to help SMEs incorporate e-business into their strategies, as well as to build on new business models.
- ■ The development of (anti-bureaucratic) one-stop shop - the **VEM project** is to have substantial impact on lowering the administrative burdens for SMEs. The project is threefold and foresees simplification and acceleration of business set-up process, its formal registering and statutory changes, all at one stop-shop. Future functionalities of the one-stop-shop additionally foresee acquiring of permits and licences, as well as e-reporting of companies to state bodies. VEM project, estimated at 2,67 M€, will be co-financed through Phare programme (2 M€).
- ■ Several projects that are running in Slovenia tackle the **interoperability issues**. Two of most promising are the **e-SLOG** and **E-CoRE** projects. The first one is run by Chamber of Commerce and deals with setting up a number of common business documents, such as invoice or payment order, in electronic form using XML.



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