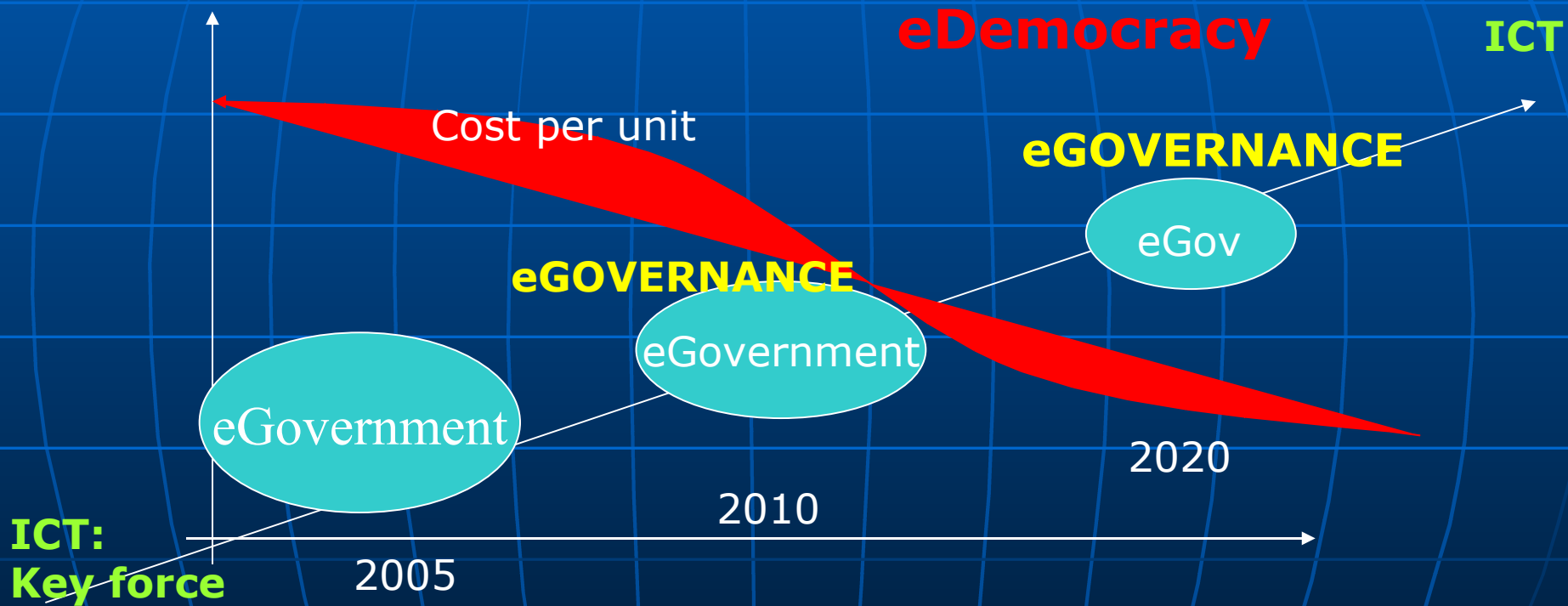


eGovernment: Access to information

Irina Zálišová
**Managing Director
EPMA/BMI Association
Czech Republic**

Evolution of eGovernment

Public value
(index of happiness?)



eGovernment - eGovernance – eDemocracy
Growth of Public Value of eServices
Reduction of cost per unit of eService

2005: eGovernment

- Interactive multi-platform services (2004)
- Comparable electronic services (2003)
- Public procurement (2005)
- **Public internet access points (PIAPs)**
- Culture and tourism services
- Broadband connections for all admins (2005)

Europe i2010: eGovernance

- Good and Inclusive Governance (**all** individuals and territories)
- Smart Public Administrations (ICT + org. change, PA staff as knowledge experts)
- Fully interoperable IT platforms, solutions and people
- Citizens centric, personalized, interoperable Pan European eServices (Reduction of costs per unit)
- Growth of Public Value of eServices
- **Single European Information Space** (supporting R&D, knowledge creation, innovation, technology platforms)

Information, access and re-use

- Public sector a major source of information
 - Geographic, transport, statistics, weather, legal...
- information increasingly accessible online
- Improved communication between Administrations and citizens
- PSI an important economic resource

Information, access and re-use

- Value of EU investment on PSI:
68 billion €/year or 1% of GDP
 - Value of the whole information sector (largely based on PSI) in the US:
750 billion €/year or 9% of GDP
- (Pira International, *Commercial Exploitation of Europe's Public Sector Information*, 2000)

Barriers : Information, access and re-use

- Absence of clear rules and policies
 - No legal framework for PSI re-use
- Mindset of public sector bodies
 - Little re-use culture and public-private synergy
- Unfair competition
 - Exclusive agreements, cross-subsidies
- Lack of transparency
 - On available PSI, re-use conditions and means of redress
- High charges
 - Neither proportionate to their cost nor limited

Towards an European solution

- The Green Book (1999)
- The Communication (2001)
 - Set of consistent measures
 - Projects, PSI Group
- The Directive (co-decided in November 2003)

Directive, 2003

- Minimal harmonisation to facilitate cross-border re-use
- Transparency of price and conditions
- Prohibition of exclusive arrangements
- Non-discrimination between users
- Clear procedures, means of redress
- Assets lists, online licenses

Means of redress

- Mandatory communication of means of redress: integral part of the new PSI re-use framework conditions
- Instrumental to an open, transparent and non-discriminatory PSI environment
- Downwards effect on charges and re-use conditions
- transparency (Art. 4.4 and 7, recital 15):
 - Obligation to inform the applicants on means of redress against decisions and practices affecting them
- legality (Art. 4.3):
 - Obligation to substantiate negative decisions or those imposing re-use charges

Discussions around PSI re-use in Member States

- Commercial law, not freedom of information one
- Intellectual property rights of public sector bodies
- Charges (criteria, calculation method...)
- Additional burden imposed on Administrations
- Cultural change within MS is vital

Czech PSI Watch initiative

- June 2005, **3 co-founders:**
- *EPMA* – non profit agency
- *CEKIA* – Czech Capital Information Agency (business)
- *Ministry of Informatics*
- **Supporters:**
- CAGI – Czech Association for Geo-informations, March 2004, a comprehensive study on **Conditions of Accessibility and Exploitation of Geodata Acquired and Managed by Public Administration Authorities**
- Ministry of Interior
- Business organizations (CEKIA)
- Otevreno, civic organization (Free Access, Law 106)
- BMI Association, Public Internet project, 2002

CZ: Commercial use of PSI

- PSI – one of sources of information content for services offered on market place (important, NOT ONLY one)
- Purpose of service – to meet the customer requirements. Systematic market research, service modification to satisfy the customer. (If the service is not necessary, nobody would buy it)
- The matter of business is not only information, but added value that steers for customer satisfying
- Agency: specialization on data gathering and processing, effectiveness and technological infrastructure
- Users: can focus on their core business and not to waste a time by data processing

CZ: Problems with using of PSI

- Lack of co-ordination at extension of new PSI services (the offer is not too clear and comprehensive)
- Disunity of the same types of information in different information systems (one subject – one address)
- Fight of departments, conflicts of competences (Every authority concludes that IT MUST unify all other systems directly under itself)
- Disunity of communication interfaces, lack of standards (XML tags, file formats etc.)
- Ambiguous rules of operation and terms of use (re-use) for other purposes (equal terms)

EU Framework for the Exploitation of Public Sector Information?

- 11 MS notified transposition:
 - DK, EE, FI, FR, IE, LT, PL, SE, SI, SK and UK
 - (SE and LT partial)
- 14 MS did not notified transposition:
 - AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, HU, IT, LU, LV, MT, NL and PT

(Luis Ferrão, DG Information Society and Media, September 2005)

What next?

- Transposition – by 1.07.2005 (expired)
- Transposition in CZ
- Role of the Commission
 - PSI Group – three meetings in 2004, one in 2005
 - Comparative study MEPSIR (29/10/2004 – 29/04/2006)

*'Exploitation of Public Sector Information:
Benchmarking of Eu framework conditions'*

- Review in 2008

Thank you for your attention!
Irina Zálišová
zalisova@epma.cz
zalisova@brezen.cz