

ICT and E-Business Strategies for Development

High-level Regional Conference for Transition Economies
Geneva, 20-21 October 2003

Organized by the

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
and the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Summary Of “National Policies And International Cooperation In South Eastern Europe On The Way To Information Society”

Prof. Marius Guran - Romania

The South Eastern Europe (SEE) area represents a high potential for growth in information and communication technologies (ICT). Discrepancies in the progress on the way to information society (IS) can turn into advantages through right national policies and international cooperation, by coordinating the different initiatives, programs, and projects, promoted by EU, NATO, UN, NGOs etc.

In the Bucharest Declaration (Nov. 2002), the Pan European Regional Ministerial Conference, in preparation of the WSIS, has been expressed the vision on an IS beneficial for all (E-Inclusion), under the seven principles and four priority themes.

The principles of IS for all:

- ☒☒ Securing access to information and knowledge
- ☒☒ Promoting universal access at affordable cost
- ☒☒ Developing human capacity through education and training
- ☒☒ Setting up an enabling environment, including legal, regulatory and policy frameworks
- ☒☒ Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- ☒☒ Addressing global issues

Priority themes for e-strategies:

- ☒☒ E-Government: more efficient and accountable
- ☒☒ E-Business: more competitiveness and better jobs
- ☒☒ E-Society: broader local content and applications
- ☒☒ E-Learning and E-Education: empowering people

In the presentation is discussed about Digital Divide in the SEE area, and why this Digital Divide exist, especially in promoting e-commerce and e-business. Starting from this situation, are presented the way in which can turn Digital Divide in Digital Opportunity for SEE area, as potential emerging ICT zone.

Despite of general opinion that international aid is essential to capitalizing Digital Opportunity, however, it is pointed out that adoption and implementation of national programs, projects, and strategies are prevalent and can make international help to be more efficient. Considering the principles of IS for all and priorities themes for e-strategies based on these principles, are presented some case studies from Romania as good practices for the SEE area.

NB: presentation summaries are provided unedited as received from the authors and presenters