

The Knowledge Based Society Programmes of the Central-Eastern European Regions

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Three axioms

- The European Union executes the Lisbon Program at a moderately weak level in the period between 2000 and 2005.
- At the moment the fresh Member States are not able to act as the engines of the program and probably won't be able to take this role in the near future either.
- The European regional information society projects cannot yet inspire or make the paradigm change in the EU more dynamic.

Content

- Introductory topics
- The misery of Europe
- Balance of the new EU members
- A possible program until 2010

Introductory themes

Information Age □ Knowledge Age

- Before the Knowledge Based Society model
- in the middle of the global information society
- The development of Knowledge in quantity and especially in quality □ the birth of a New Science and an evolving new mass culture
- Knowledge, becoming a new intellectual capital
- the individual understands and applies the New Knowledge
- Knowledge becoming social capital
- potential evolving of the Knowledge Society

The concept of intelligent region

A connecting bridge between the intelligent global and local worlds. Combination of the globally obligatory and the locally unique spatial elements.

The regional execution of the information, innovation program of the knowledge society; the systematic and concentrated realization of the knowledge based economy and society in a certain region or small area, or the creative and intensive way of ensuring the life conditions. E-business, becoming dominant, switchover for e-government, the spreading of e-content services, which preserve and create value.

The intelligent small area

- If the information society region is an intelligent connecting bridge, then the intelligent small area is an operative centre for creative development
- There will be a combination of the global obligatory and the local special elements, which will strengthen locality and transform life.
- The cradle of the intelligent life
- The continuous (knowledge based) realignment (reorganisation) of the local society as a local way to knowledge society.

How will an area become intelligent?

- The realisation of internet access (fast, broadband) at the level of the individual and the community
- Continuous adaptation of the achievements of the global technological revolution
- 3. The evolution of the knowledge based economy and the knowledge market - the R+D coming to the front.
- 4. The priority and development of e-content
- 5. Creating a local knowledge based society and cohesion.
- 6. The successful handling of the social and information inequalities

How will an area become intelligent?

- 7. Virtual local self-governance in small areas and settlements.
- 8. The transformation of the low- and middle level administration into e-government.
- 9. The realization of local e-democracy
- 10. Strengthening the regional university knowledge centres and the realization of the life-long-learning
- 11. The enhancement of creating new knowledge locally and its application

How will an area become intelligent?

- 12. The preservation of the local culture and its introduction on a global level.
- 13. The personal preparation of the regional political-economic elite for the paradigm shift and a new era
- 14. Spreading the form and quality of life of the knowledge citizen.
- 15. The small areas and settlements taking part and catching up successfully in the continental (spatial) competition.
- 16. The transformation of the religious spiritual organisations and services in the knowledge society.

The misery of Europe

What do we mean by Europe today?

- Europe is not only a political and economical aggregation of its member states
- Not even in the current situation, where the new members have extended Europe and will inspire new thoughts about it.
- There are non-member states from Switzerland to Ukraine, which are however organic parts of Europe.
- One of the principal elements of being a European is that we think in terms of a unified Europe.
- In the information age it has to be considered as a new culture or knowledge based, competitive mega- or cyberspace. What is the problem with Europe today? (1)

Well-known and old problems:

- Its development is out of step with North-America and South-East-Asia and it cannot fall into line with them either. Its economic increase is slow and can hardly keep its welfare privileges.
- It is not able to create a politically and economically unified and cooperative Europe (the danger of the political dictatorships is just over, and global terrorism has just appeared at its gates necessarily)
- The spatial structure of the continent in the eastern and southern direction shows an upgrade form (countries splitting off, poverty, decreasing population, social inequalities etc.)

What is the problem with Europe today? (2)

- It can keep and develop European culture less and less. The role of Christianity will perhaps stop decreasing just in these days, but it is still featured by permanent individual and

mental disturbances

- The essential material, organisational and intentional sources for increasing its development and for a model change are not at its disposal and the continental elite is quite puzzled in the new global-local world.
- etc.

What is the problem with Europe today? (3)

New and acute problems:

- The European information and innovation society has not come into existence yet (there has been only a half turn), Europe has not made a change into the direction of sustainable development and is only searching for new models of democracy.
- It lags behind apparently in the most important development segment of the age: in research and development, in the process of creating knowledge, in comprehensive innovation.
- A unified new cyberspace, which is not hierarchical, but ensures wide scale communication and unites and applies the knowledge of the world consciously, has not come into existence on the continent yet

What is the problem with Europe today? (4)

- Considering the vision of the European governmental and civilian elite, they don't seem to be aware of the fact, that one of the alternatives is knowledge society.
- The old Member States and their societies are basically focusing on their own internal problems, thus the consciousness of the paneuropean identity is rather weak.
- The intellectual life (and so the social consciousness) has not adopted the interdisciplinary mentality yet and there is still a strong general opposition regarding the principles.
- etc.

The alternatives of new future models

- A new, interactive global governance and e-state for navigating the human society can evolve (1)
- The global civil, and already knowledge based society will build on common administration and self-organisation (2)
- In the new European knowledge space, supported by the new infocommunication networks, the aim is to attain a "collective (and partly artificial) intelligence" (3)
- The users of the network economy are not simply passive consumers anymore, but with an increased power, they are also producers, service suppliers and consumers at the same time (the new global and local economy) (4)

The alternatives of new future models 2.

- A new, multidimensional and transdisciplinary culture which is built on planetary basics will evolve in Europe as well. It is partly virtual and tends to a rather non-linear direction. (5)
- According to the principle of empowerment, the citizens of Europe will be more deeply involved in communication and will control the media more strongly. (6)
- With the spreading of self-organisation as a process, the local stakeholders will create a new global civil society. (7)
- etc.

The balance of the new memberstates

The method of comparison

- The research and comparison was executed by the Hungarian Resource Information Bureau (IFTI)

□ It is based on the official statistic between 2002 and 2003, the trends and tendencies of the fourth quarter of 2003 and first quarter of 2004.

□ The data and indexes of competitiveness of EUSTAT-WEF-WIFO has been used for the comparison

□ The examined part segments: information society, R+D, innovation, liberalisation, infrastructure, developing the company environment, sustainable development, financial service, social acceptance

□ There are 27 European countries, listed in the paneuropean development order (15 old members of the EU, the new members, and Turkey, Rumania and Bulgaria)

The European development order

□ At the top of the list stand Finland, Denmark and Sweden. In the former EU 15 group Portugal and Greece are the last ones (file-closers).

□ Attention!: The first three countries regarding the state of development as well: Finland, Denmark and Sweden

□ Attention: the first three in innovation development again: Finland, Sweden and Germany

□ Attention: the first three in sustainable development: Finland, Germany and Sweden

□ The very last ones □ in this order: Turkey, Rumania and Bulgaria.

The order of the new members

□ The first three countries: Estonia, Slovenia and Latvia

□ Attention: the first three in state of information society development as well: Estonia, Malta and Slovenia.

□ Attention: the first three in developing innovation as well: Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia

□ Attention: the first three in sustainable development: Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic (and Estonia)

□ Slovenia and Latvia, are pinching behind Ireland (place 12.) into the old member states behind Spain and Italy (places 15-16)

The global competition

□ USA average: 5,55 (developed in information society: 5,86)

□ EU average: 4,97 (developed in information society: 4,61)

□ EU old members average: 4,97 (developed in information society: 4,6)

□ New members: 4,16 (developed in information society: 3,75)

□ The competition: USA is on the top with 0,6 (1,2) scores before the EU. The old members of the EU are with 0,8 (0,9) better, than the new members.

The possible programs of the Central-Eastern-European region until 2010.

Scenarios

Negative trends

□ In comparison with the more intensive half turn of the EU, Central-Eastern Europe has only made a slow halfturn and this can continue until 2010.

□ Despite the rotation in the political scenes, the political elites still don't understand the changes leading to the era of the information society. They don't want to undertake this issue either.

□ Due to the limits of the neoliberal economic policy and the narrow financial sources, the realization of the vision of the knowledge society cannot be financed.

□ The global lag of knowledge industry, Research+Development and innovation is barely decreasing and even the developed majority of the EU won't be competitive either.

The positive trends

□ Central-Eastern Europe will be able to meet moderately the technological and economical

demands even with its slow, undetermined and partly executed model-change. (2000-2004 is in process)

- Central-Eastern Europe will consequently carry out the induction of e-governance and e-administration, motivating and inspiring its knowledge based economy and society.
- Central-Eastern Europe will develop first of all its e-content industry, knowledge industry and culture industry by concentrating its narrow financial sources. Thus it can be globally competitive in 3-5 years.

If Europe moves before 2010

1. Central-Eastern Europe (the majority of the region) will join the leaders of Europe which helps carry out the Lisbon program in Europe between 2005-2007

Priority: e-administration and/or e-content

2. Central-E E will stay in the last third of the European countries (the half turn will be completed, but the process will be prolonged)

Priority: technological, economic and knowledge-development projects (main results in special branches) 3. Most C-E E countries lagging behind permanently and give up hope to join the first third in the long run

Priority: none; constant struggling to stay afloat;

If Europe does not move before 2010

1. C-E E will stay on the fringe of Europe, struggling and even some FIS countries can overtake them.

Conflict: poor access and e-services

2. C-E E will slowly, with its present speed, catch up with EU average

Conflict: no advantages in possible priorities (e-administration, e-content)

3. C-E E pushing ahead, and with the help of global, European and internal resources pulls EU also forth Advantages: Knowledge production and knowledge supplying

Surprise factor

- The Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia) and Slovenia have already caused surprise
- Among the new member states, the countries in the center (especially Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania) can make a surprise in the next 5 years
- Hungary (with the help of a well or satisfactorily functioning state and government, the support of society, and a fast developing knowledge industry and knowledge based economy) will catch up
- The new member states will have market advantages and will profit from participating in the development of information and innovation of the economies of non-member European and FIS countries.

Postscript

- In the past seven-eight years, the EU has supported several regions in all of its member states intensively to develop regional information society programs (IRISI, RISI, etc.)
- Isn't it against equal chances, causing further disadvantage in development and even greater lagging behind that for the regions of the now joining countries such grants cannot be applied for?

Thanks for your attention:

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