

Challenges of e-development in the Republic of Moldova

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Already within the first Government of the Republic of Moldova - declared sovereign in 1990, the Ministry of Informatics, Information and Telecommunications was established (June 1990), integrating the functions of elaboration and implementation of the country policies in telecommunications with those in information technology. The subsequent developments have followed another course, and the development of information technologies was relatively slow, due to the lack of political will and of financial resources for the Informatization Concept implementation. International practice, the progress of other countries in the field, the gradual improvement of the country's economic situation, and financial support of some international organizations have led to some improvements in e-development of Moldova. In 2003, the Government, with financial support of the United Nations Development Program, launched the project of drafting the National Strategy on Information Society Technologies for Development "e-Moldova" and in March 2004 by Presidential decree, the Information Society is declared of strategic importance. A series of legal fiscal and regulatory acts followed, new projects have been implemented that led to significant progress in e-development of the country.

The paper is devoted to analysis of the development area during 1991-2009 and the points of view on perspectives for e-development of Moldova in the context of European and global trends, as defined by WSIS in 2003, WSIS 2005, WSIS Forum 2009, i2010, Electronic South Eastern Europe Initiative, etc are presented. In July-August 2009 surveys and research of the current state of e-development of the country are carried on. The report research results will serve as the basis for the elaboration of e-development of the Republic of Moldova in 2009, which in turn will be a starting point for updating the national strategy of building the Information Society e-Moldova for the period until 2015. The evolution of ICT in the 1991-2009 period is characterized both internally (Moldova) and externally, in comparison with other countries, using widely utilized indices in international practice such as ICT Development Index, Digital Access Index, ICT-Opportunity Index e-Readiness Index, Networked Readiness Index, and a number of well known common indicators. The main interest focuses is concentrated on determining the state of the art, identifying weaknesses, strengths and opportunities, the non-used reserves and expressing the future recommendations. The current situation of economic crisis is the main factor and it imposes its own influences over the necessary actions for e-development of the RM, intending ultimately to support economic growth and prosperity the country.