

**The Regional Ministerial Conference,
based on the Un/ECE membership,
in preparation of the
World Summit on the Information Society
Bucharest, 7-9 November 2002**

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Romanian Government priorities with regard to IT&C

Coherent national strategy, sustainable and appropriate, for implementation and development of the Information Society with a view to:

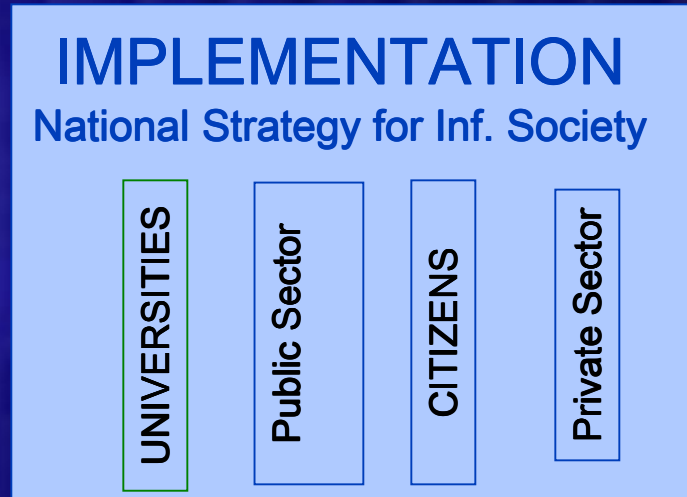
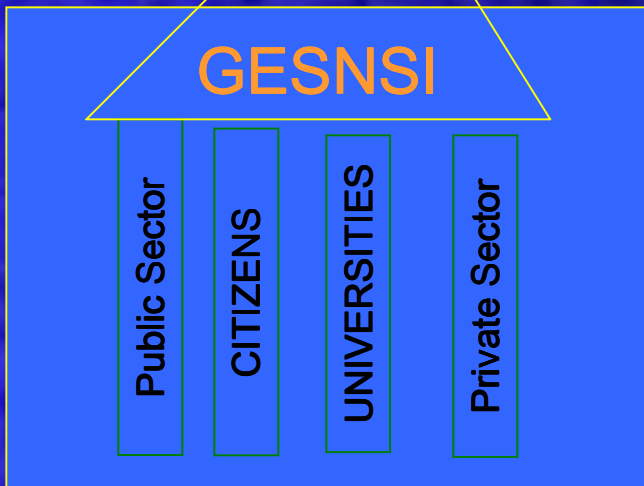
- **Securing the improvement of the services for citizens, a better quality of life, a broader access to information, the decrease of bureaucracy, the increase of the social integration degree, faster economic growth and higher economic competitiveness**
- **Accelerating the Digital Reform undertaken by the Romanian Government with a view to switch to the electronic governing and ensuring the conditions for the development of the Digital Economy.**
- **Opening the competition on the telecommunications market: allowing new private telecom operators to act on a completely liberalized market.**
- **Integrating the national telecommunications market into the EU market by adopting common regulations and creating similar institutions.**
- **Eliminating the regional discrepancies and sustaining the policy of the Romanian Government of economic development and social cohesion.**

GPIT
Integrator and coordinator

National Strategy for
The implementation of
The Information Society

COORDINATION
INTEGRATION

REPORTS



STRATEGY

PROGRAMS

RESOURCES

Return of investments

INVESTORS (Public Sector, Private Sector, Civil Society, Trade Capital, Investment Funds)

Implementing Information Society in Romania

eEurope + implementation in Romania

Accelerating e-commerce: speed-up implementation of the legal framework and expand use of e-procurement

- *Virtual market; IT legislation; Web Invoices, Web Corporate Income Declaration; e Content; e-Readiness - business environment*

Fast Internet for researchers and students: ensure high speed access to the Internet facilitating co-operative learning and working

- *GEANT, IST*

Smart cards for electronic access: facilitate the establishment of national infrastructure to maximize uptake

- *pilot project: the unique identification of civil servants*

Intelligent transport: safer, more efficient transport through the use of digital technologies

- *the implementation of 112 - the unified emergency call*

Government online: ensure that citizen have easy access to government information, services and decision-making procedures on-line –

- *pilot projects: e-referendum , e-Administration Strategy*

Romanian youth into the digital age: bring Internet and multimedia to schools and adapt education to the digital age

- *Computers and Internet in schools - 500.000 computers , with Internet access*

Cheaper Internet Access: increase competition to reduce prices and boost consumers choice

- *Info-kiosks; Multimedia centers; cheaper tariffs for Internet access - 50% of normal price*

International Workshop

“The Potential of GRID and Distributed Computing Activities in Romania”

Bucharest, 20-21 April 2002

- **Objective:** Integration of Romania in international GRID initiatives
- **Means:** creating stronger links of education and research with the real economy (between the knowledge generation and utilization) and stronger public - private sector partnership
- **Outcome:** creation of a consortium to deal with the implementation of a GRID project in Romania with governmental support

The World Summit on the Information Society

- The use of the Internet grants widespread access to world knowledge.
 - Modern communication technologies are not restricted by borders.
 - Knowledge and innovation are the driving forces behind productivity and economic growth.
 - Economies have an increasing tendency of globalization.
 - Global co-operation is essential for assimilation and constructive use of knowledge.
- The Summit will therefore address the broad range of themes concerning the Information Society and move towards a common vision and understanding of the transformations it entails.

**To be held in two phases: in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003
and in Tunis in 2005**

WSIS Regional conference – Europe

Objectives:

- Approaching issues of common European interest
 - Developing a platform for dialogue that includes all major stakeholders at European level
 - Regional assessments, evaluating new initiatives and decisions
 - Developing a vision for a knowledge-based society in the region and an adequate strategy to achieve it
 - Presenting national strategies, achievements and challenges with a focus on success stories that can be a useful model to other countries
 - Presenting regional initiatives and investigating further networking possibilities for cooperation and partnerships
- Focus on concrete issues and creativity, keeping however the balance between regional specificity and the global dimension

**Location of the Regional Ministerial Conference, based on
the Un/ECE membership, in preparation of the World
Summit on the Information Society**

Romania, Bucharest, the Palace of Parliament

Proposed Themes for Regional Ministerial Conference, based on the Un/ECE membership, in preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society

- *Knowledge-based Society*
- *e-Government*
- *Infrastructure and Institutional Framework*
- *Trade*
- *Sustainable Development*
- *Quality of Life in the Information Society*

We openly welcome other proposals of general themes that are relevant for the discussion on the development of Information Society in the region

Proposed Themes:
Knowledge-based Society

- Understanding of the information society (awareness of the need for knowledge)
- Production of knowledge by innovation and dissemination to all members of society
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Education systems for Information Society

Proposed Themes: e-Government

- e-Government: from concept to reality
- Democratic Development – inclusion of all
- Social Effectiveness
- Efficiency, transparency, accessibility and responsiveness to citizens, through the intensive and strategic use of IT&C
- Information as a common public good
- Role of the mass media as promoter
- Privacy and security/ Cyber crime
- Information protection and intellectual property protection

Proposed Themes: Infrastructure and Institutional Framework

- Economic opportunities and competitiveness
- Financing mechanisms
- International cooperation and partnerships
- The need for digital literacy
- Turning knowledge into capital
- Management of the new knowledge flows and exchanges
- Creating adequate digital content for a more effective use of the infrastructure
- Wider access to progressive technologies
- Interoperability in Europe
- Intelligent Transport

Proposed Themes: Trade

- Access to international supply chains
- Trade data
- Integration in the global economy
- Procurement
- Market development and strengthening
- Encouraging e-business
- The potential of electronic commerce for small and medium-sized enterprises
- Impact on European enterprises

Proposed Themes:

Sustainable development

- **Guidelines and standards**
- Energy networks
- Environmental monitoring
- Energy efficiency
- Role of research - encouraging investments in innovation
- Responsibility for creating the basis for a strong and durable development
- Digital divide

Proposed Themes: Quality of life in the Information Society

- Understanding of the information society (awareness of the need for knowledge)
- Production of knowledge by innovation and dissemination to all members of society, bridging the Digital Divide
- **Creating skills for Information Society**
- Cross cultural, cross-linguistic education and training
- **IT&C impact on people with special needs**
- Usability issues in organisational contexts, including governmental, business and social environments
- **Developing services, such as e-commerce, web-based, and interactive multimedia applications, mobile devices, consumer products, art and entertainment**

Envisaged results

- An assessment of the transition process to the Information Society at the European level
- An overall report that will comprise the individual reports of the events organized in the conference (seminars, workshops, plenary sessions)
- Information Society roadmap in Europe
- Plan of actions for the European countries
- Contributions to possible concepts and recommendations to be included in the global plan of action

Development of **new conditions and opportunities** for the economic growth, prosperity and a better quality of life by using the new technologies in communications and information technology

Program of Regional Ministerial Conference, based on the Un/ECE membership, in preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society

- Plenary meetings
- 6 Thematic sessions on the proposed themes for the conference
- Round tables, Workshops, Seminars, Presentations
- Up to 4000 participants can take part in the conference events

Guidelines for the Preparations of the Regional Ministerial Conference

- Romania will assume all the costs related to the regional conference: providing adequate meeting rooms and facilities; interpretation; translation; production and distribution of documents; security.
- Translation in English, Russian, French.
- Translation of the final documents/reports.
- No registration fee is required of the participants.
- Participants will see to their own travel and subsistence costs; countries that qualify for assistance from UNDP financing will contact the UNDP representations, or bilaterally and from other funds and programs.

Timeline for the preparation of the conference in Bucharest

- End of May 2002
 - End of May 2002 – official invitations to be sent by the Romanian Prime Minister, Adrian Nastase, the recipient Heads of Governments might designate one or more ministers to participate (communications, education, information etc.)
 - Consultations and decision on the participation of the civil society and private sector at national level
 - All participants are kindly invited to make proposals, on an informal basis, to the host country on the transnational companies that might participate in the Conference; based on that the host Government will draw up a roaster and will address separate invitations
 - Meeting with the representatives of the business environment in Romania has already been held and its involvement has been defined.

Events related with the conference in Bucharest

- Web-page of the Conference held in Bucharest
- Interactive exhibition-center of the Romanian e-Government projects
- Demonstration and case-study of the national e-procurement system functioning in Romania
- Demonstration and case-study of the e-Tax systems in Bucharest
- *Others to be announced at a later date*

Thank you for your time and attention.