

Macedonian Vision for WSIS + 10
9/6/2014

Ladies and Gentlement,

Allow me to share with you the progress that the Republic of Macedonia has made for the WSIS and the Vision for the WSIS+10.

In one of the reports of The BroadBand Commission for Digital Development its stated that “Broadband is no longer infrastructure; today, widespread broadband connectivity offers prospects of an Information Revolution to change our very approach to development.”

The Republic of Macedonia has started its Information Revolution in 2006 by creating the appropriate policies and strategies to make the Internet available to people in rural and urban areas at affordable prices and acceptable broadband. Starting by reforming the educational system by introducing Computer for every Pupil, to testing the soil of the farmers, in cooperation with Grameen-Intel Social Business, to making your doctor appointment online, providing an electronic health card for every citizen, fully digital land cadastre, paying your taxes online and many more e-Gov services, have proven year after year that the investment in ICT have great benefit to our citizens.

Our Interoperability infrastructure for the Government entities serves as the highway to E-Gov services that allows us to create the One-Stop-Shop for the citizens. At the moment more than 25,000 people per year in the capital city take advantage of this system and they don't have to go from one counter to another, from one office to another. We are in the process of upgrading these services, that most of them can be done on-line by using electronic signature.

All of these transactions require personal information of the citizens. As The Republic of Macedonia has signed the Open Government Initiative, i am please to say that in a transparent multy-stakeholder environment we have successfully implemented the second action plan for the next four years, where the Gov institution will Open the Data free of charge to the citizens for their use; some by notice some by consent. At the moment we have the only largest institutions that are placing their information on the Cloud in machine readable format so the private sector can create Applications, Services or other ways they can generate added value by merging the data. In another words We are opening the Big Data!

However, opening that data is only the first step. Privacy and the use of that data is the next challenge. For the majority of today's basic interactions between consumers and first parties, the

notice and consent framework adequately safeguards privacy protections. But the trajectory of technology is shifting to far more collection, use and storage of data by entities that do not have a direct relationship with the consumer or individual. The context of data use matters tremendously. Data that is socially beneficial in one scenario can cause significant harm in another. That is why Governments have to create adequate policy to protect the citizen data, while they are opening the data.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Macedonia has successfully transition from analog to digital TV overnight in June of 2013, giving us the opportunity to auction the Digital Dividend, the 800Mhz spectrum. All 3 mobile operators were able to bid for equal space in the spectrum. One of the operators is already running 4G with the other two to start by Q4.

Countries should use appropriate policies and strategies to make broadband *available, affordable* and *accessible*, as a vital development enabler for building inclusive, resilient and sustainable modern-day knowledge societies. Broadband for all will transform policy, social, and development outcomes around the world.

That is why we started the project of FREE Wi-Fi in 680 rural remote villages 4 years ago with the idea to connect those locations to the Internet by supporting the private sector to build the infrastructure. At the beginning 90% of that territory did not have a single Internet Service Provider, where today 90% of that territory has 2 or more ISP. We can see multiple devices being connected to our access points, which means that the citizens have purchased a tablet, laptop, smart phone or desktop. We will continue to support the rural and remote parts of the country in order to provide the citizens that live there the equal opportunity to be connected to the world.

However, Access to information is not enough. Knowing how to use that data is the true power to any individual. That is why In addition to the efforts that Macedonia is putting in infrastructure growth in our strategy we have plan to do FREE ICT training to thousand of citizens.

In Conclusion

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia in the new platform for the next 4years has committed to the following goals:

- 80% of the population of Macedonia by 2018 should be covered by broadband connectivity with speed of 100Mbps
- the number of household that use Internet to reach 90% by 2018
- at least 33% of small and medium enterprises to sell their products on line
- to lower the roaming charges for the cities of RM
- to increase the number of e-Services with high level of sophisticated degree.

The Gov of RM will continue to invest in the Information Society to increase the ICT literacy of our citizens, to introduce the latest information technologies in the Gov institutions as “Cloud Computing” and to make the IT technologies accessible to every citizen of our country.

Thank you for you attention