European Initiative: Danube Region on the eSilk & eAmber Roads
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**Next steps in Cross-border eRegion Development: ALADIN Perspectives**

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In the core of ALpe-Adria-Danube Initiative, formed by universities, higher education and research institutions of the region, we find cooperation as a main integrative factor, where competition doesn't play any significant role. Long experience in joint work shows a lot of excellent examples. One of them is joint work of institutions from Austria, Slovenia and Serbia on the project which found common platform and differences in implementations of eInvoice solutions. Having members from almost all countries in the region, ALADIN platform can provide excellent conditions for the research in this wider perspective.

According to the ideas proposed in the ALADIN Position Paper on the European Strategy for the Danube Region, the research in best practice solutions is among the first steps that should be taken. In this area, the potential of ALADIN can play an important role. Thinking about Danube region as an integral inter-organizational system, the Living Lab concept of this region is the logical choice for finding best solutions that are supported by the ICT.

Among the areas where this concept can be implemented, the Danube ports solution takes a distinguish place. In the Danube part of Corridor-7, we find 54 ports in 10 countries. The solutions for port's logistic systems are created separately, for the local usage. When we think about whole Danube region as the single inter-organizational system, the first idea from the aspect of implemented technologies is to think about it as a distributed real-time system based on Internet and wireless devices. The Europe's best practice solutions, like the port system implemented in Rotterdam, should be the starting point for the creation of this system.

Special care has to be taken to the critical points in the Danube traffic. It could be compared with the British Channel, where the implemented solutions in Atlantic ports improved the security of the traffic.

The integral ICT solutions have to take a wider area in this region. This concept also brings eTourism, eHealth, eGovernment and other solutions to the focus of research, rethinking and reengineering processes.

ALADIN, as the wide-spread international institution with the practice in education and research, can play an important role in the planning, cooperation and optimization of work among the main stakeholders in the Danube region, making all research and education activities which will facilitate the availability to all of them in finding the important information for everyone, anywhere and in anytime. This idea brings us to the group of growing technologies based on the usage of mobile platform connected to the Internet infrastructure.