

Next steps in Cross-border eRegion Development: Region Perspectives

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Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my privilege to participate for the first time to the meeting of this European Initiative.

I'd love to place two new initiatives to your focus, as well as remembering you for one more task, we can easily continue in the framework of the LL initiative, on regional or continental scale.

1. Creation of Innovation Agora in the Danube Region on the eSilk and eAmber Roads:

During this week ICT 2010 Conference, September 27-29, I had a privilege to meet several authors of distinguish works from the field of innovation, not necessary only related towards the ICT, but predominately this was the common approach. As I am working heavily on the matters, related to the Theory of Innovation and Innovation Policy, as well as the National Innovation System, it was easy to spot the substantial number of authors and contributors in this field, coming to the event from the region. Several personal contacts have been established.

Regarding the general contribution of the scientists and researchers from the region, towards the innovation in ICT, innovation policy and related items, I can stress that the number of works is substantial, important and also worldwide accepted. I would like to place the idea of creation of the institutional framework in the region, a sort of Agora for the innovation policy, approaches and practice, within the Danube Region on the eSilk and eAmber Roads.

My firm belief is, we need this frame of meetings among the persons in the region and I am calling the official institution from the region, institute, university or the state institution to adopt the idea.

2. Supporting cooperation among Public Enterprises sector:

For several years the sector of public enterprises in the region has been neglected, even more, forgotten. We can't say, that after privatization process in the region the public enterprises, or the enterprises where governments has a predominant share, has vanished from the economic spectrum, but it is true that they were concentrated in the sphere of transport, energetic, supporting town or state infrastructure, telecommunications, broadcast. It is evident that those fields of economic activities are of substantial importance for our dialy life, as well as that they are heavily using the achievements of the communications, even crating their own systems of ICT and solutions, based according to their special needs. As we had the opportunity to listen to, also on the passed ICT 2010 Conference here in Brussels, several entities has financed heavily the programmes of informatization in their public enterprises, town or in general in the state, and it seems this is the general approach in Europe. The cases of good practice are calling our attention and I believe it is also time to bring the important protagonists in the region together, to discuss and share the idea. In this case, the intergovernmental institution, The International Center for Promotion of Enterprises - ICPE, was established in Ljubljana, Slovenia, some 35 years ago and this is maybe one of the topics we can cover from the initiatives of the ICPE.

3. Innovation in financial sector:

For several years the innovation in the field of financial sector, in particular methods of payments were very impressive topic in the European sphere of development of services in eBanking and eCommerce. I don't know the figures in the moment, but I can estimate the situation, that the initiatives in this sphere are much less, most probably due the financial crisis. I am calling to strengthen again our approaches to support the initiatives, specially mentioning the leadership and some distinguish personalities among us, to continue the work and rising proposals on the EU level.

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