

LORIS

Local and Regional Information Society
Hradec Králové, April 6–8, 2008

Evaluation and Responses 2008



Kraj Vysočina



Education and Culture DG

Project LORIS is supported by the European Commission –
Directorate General for Education and Culture

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Final report

The objective of the LORIS conference was to enable participants—twinning towns—to meet and discuss the results of the past and prospects of future cooperation. LORIS conference was, in general, aimed at the development of municipal information and communication society in all its aspects—eGovernment, eTourism, web services for citizens, municipal service systems and databases and more. There were presentations and discussions held by the conference participants on the grounds of practical experience of separate twinning cities with application of their respective ICT policy and other connecting policy instruments. Special emphasis was laid to cross-border projects of twinned towns and the development of eTourism as the way of presentation of twinned cities through their partners. Aimed at the development of ICT, LORIS conference also presented possibilities in broadband connections for municipalities and diverse digital services as the main preconditions for successful building of modern city with high-quality public services in support of quality life of its citizens. Conference lasted for three days and more than 300 visitors participated during the programme.

Also we have to mention of special guests made the conference more interesting and dramatically increased its impact—Members of European Parliament Oldrich Vlasak and Milan Cabrnock, Czech Minister of Interior Ivan Langer (in Eastern and Central Europe, ministries of interior are supervisors of execution of state government on municipal level), Minister of Justice Jiri Pospisil (the same applies here) and officers from Czech and Slovak ministry for regional development, finance and environment, who held expert presentations for representatives of municipalities regarding current status of their particular areas with respect to current and future plans of European authorities and also relatively to the development in the Central and Eastern European region.

LORIS conference was held in synergy with the ISSS conference—the biggest Czech national ICT conference, and V4DIS conference, event aimed at ICT in Visegrad 4 countries and surrounding area (Slovenia, Austria). This improved the impact of the project, as its results were presented to more than 2000 visitors of the ISSS and V4DIS conference.

Miloš Vystrčil
President of the Vysočina Region

Project profile and objectives

Local and Regional Information Society–LORIS

Character:	International conference
Conference Languages	Czech and Slovak, simultaneous translation to Hungarian and Polish and vice versa
Lecturers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Otakar Divíšek, Lord Mayor, City of Hradec Kralove• Anna Dyttertova, Vice-Mayor, City of Bratislava• Milan Pešák, Councillor of the City of Prague• István Zacharias, City of Moldava nad Bodvou, SK• Csaba Madarasz, City of Budapest• Frantisek Kohanyi, City of Kosice• Andrzej Janicki, City of Warsaw• Peter Druga, BIC, City of Bratislava• Peter Borovsky, Comenius university of Bratislava• Ivan Seycek, Head of ICT dept., City of Prague• Josef Zelenka, University of Hradec Kralove• Jiri Peterka, City of Prague, Junior Erb award• Miroslav Drobny, Union of towns and cities of Slovakia• Jaroslav Solc, Union of Towns and Communities, CZ• Pavol Tarina, Government plenipotentiary for ICT, SK• Rostislav Vondruska, Director of CzechTourism agency• Oldrich Vlasak, Member of EP, Director of CEMR• Milan Cabrnoch, Member of EP• and others
Target group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• delegates of municipalities and local governments• ICT, IS and eTourism specialists from municipalities• To enable participants to meet and discuss the results of the past and prospects of future cooperation
Focus and objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparative presentation of the eGovernment development in V4 countries• Introduction the participants to the work of European networks of municipalities• Stimulation of participation of twinning cities in European programs and projects supported by European Commission• Exchange of experience among twinned municipalities and involving key politicians and decision makers into the process of developing information society at local levels• Strengthening of the awareness of European cultural and language diversity by the medium of supporting problems of eTourism at the municipal level

Organisers and partners

Project main organiser and co-organiser

- Vysocina Region
- Association of the Czech @

Project support

- European Commission–Directorate General for Education and Culture

Project partner

- Triada Ltd.

Host cities

- City of Prague
- City of Hradec Králové

Evaluation

The main objective of the LORIS conference was to enable participants - twinning towns - to meet and discuss the results of the past and prospects of future cooperation. LORIS conference was, in general, aimed at the development of municipal information and communication society in all its aspects - eGovernment, eTourism, web services for citizens, municipal service systems and databases and more. There were presentations and discussions held by the conference participants on the grounds of practical experience of separate twinning cities with application of their respective ICT policy and other connecting policy instruments. Special emphasis was laid to cross-border projects of twinned towns and the development of eTourism as the way of presentation of twinned cities through their partners. Aimed at the development of ICT, LORIS conference also presented possibilities in broadband connections for municipalities and diverse digital services as the main preconditions for successful building of modern city with high-quality public services in support of quality life of its citizens.

There was also time and place to discuss new possibilities in broadband connections for municipalities and diverse digital services as the main preconditions for successful building of modern European city with high-quality public services in support of quality life of its citizens.

Other objectives, as described in application, were:

- 1) To introduce the participants to the work of European networks of municipalities in the area of development of information society and show possibilities of their participation in their work - representatives of the twinning towns—members of these networks introduced principles of their existence and rights and duties resulting out of the membership. These issues were later discussed during bilateral meetings of twinning towns.
- 2) To stimulate participation of twinning cities in European programs and projects supported by European Commission—this objective was reached through the introduction of successful EU based projects and programs some of the twinning cities participated in. These presentation significantly raised participants' awareness of possibilities opened in European Union in the thematical fields the conference was aimed on. Executive president of the Council of European Municipalities (CEMR) and Member of the European Parliament Oldrich Vlasak was one of the most prominent guests regarding this objective of the conference.
- 3) Exchange of experience among twinned municipalities. To involve key politicians and decision makers into the process of developing information society at local levels—we are proud that the most important Czech and Slovak politicians (e. g. President of Senate Premysl Sobotka, Minister of Interior Ivan Langer, Slovak Governmental plenipotentiary for ICT Pavol Tarina and others) and decision makers participated during the conference and met with top representatives of twinning cities (most importantly above mentioned Oldrich Vlasak, but also Lord Mayor of Hradec Kralove Otakar Divisek, Deputy Mayor of Bratislava Anna Dyttertova, Prague councillor Milan Pesak and others) not only from these two countries, but also their partners from other countries.
- 4) To strengthen awareness of European cultural and language diversity by the medium of supporting problems of eTourism at the municipal level, to underline

the important role of the towns while taking into account that according to the statistic research up to 70% of tourists get information from the internet—problems of eTourism were discussed not only on municipal level, but representatives of national tourist agencies from Hungary, Czech and attended the conference and discussed with participants current possibilities of presentment of municipalities via Internet presentations, web pages and current Europe-wide reservation systems for tourists.

Number of lectures by skilled representatives of twinning cities were presented, referring exactly to the defined objectives and providing conference audience with necessary information. Workshops chaired by representatives of local governments and representatives of European networks on information society development were also part of the LORIS conference, its purpose was to secure the conference participants gaining as much new knowledge as possible. Conference lasted for three days and more than 300 visitors participated during the programme.

Also we have to mention of special guests made the conference more interesting and dramatically increased its impact—Members of European Parliament Oldrich Vlasak and Milan Cabrnock, Czech Minister of Interior Ivan Langer (in Eastern and Central Europe, ministries of interior are supervisors of execution of state government on municipal level), Minister of Justice Jiri Pospisil (the same applies here) and officers from Czech and Slovak ministry for regional development, finance and environment, who held expert presentations for representatives of municipalities regarding current status of their particular areas with respect to current and future plans of European authorities and also relatively to the development in the Central and Eastern European region.

The LORIS 2008 conference afforded representatives of twinned towns and regions the opportunity to discuss the current situation as regards the development of information society in the wider Central European context and, owing to the active engagement of public administration representatives from the Visegrad region countries and several other European states, it significantly invigorated the dialogue about the main points of European policy pertaining to the use of information systems in public administration and society as a whole.

Representatives of twinned European towns attending the conference primarily discussed the further advancement of e-government at the local and regional level, the use of EU funds in the development of selected ICT projects, town-twinning and networking, as well as e-tourism. Enwidening of working partnerships as well as refreshing the old ones is, beside the offered possibilities for new cooperation, one of the successes of the LORIS conference.

But the programme of the conference LORIS 2008 did not consist only of discussions and meetings between towns, a special stress was laid also on examples of good practice and presentations of successful projects. In the project laboratory in the Elizabeth Hall there were presented examples of working town-twinning cooperation—between Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw, between Slovakian Moldava nad Bodvou and Hungarian towns Encs and many others.

Wide coverage in the newspapers and national media was ensured in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and further on the www pages of participating twinning cities. The results were also disseminated through the European municipal networks, e.g. Global Cities Dialogue, ELANET, etc. by their members—cities participating during the LORIS conference.

TV coverage was provided by Czech TV for some parts of the conference. Pictures taken during the conference were broadcasted during the evening news as well as repeatedly aired on special news channel.

LORIS conference was held in synergy with the ISSS conference—the biggest Czech national ICT conference, and V4DIS conference, event aimed at ICT in Visegrad 4 countries and surrounding area (Slovenia, Austria). This improved the impact of the project, as its results were presented to more than 2000 visitors of the ISSS and V4DIS conference.

List of twinning cities

- Bratislava (SK), Brno (CZ), Budapest (HU), Prague (CZ), Warsaw (PL)
- Banska Bystrica (SK), Hradec Kralove (CZ), Wroclaw (PL)
- Encs (HU), Karcag (HU), Moldava nad Bodvou (SK)
- Ceske Budejovice (CZ), Nitra (SK)
- Kosice (SK), Ostrava (CZ)

Blocks evaluated as the most interesting

The evaluation of the most interesting blocks given below issues from the statistical data gathered by the organisers.

- The official conference opening and debate of top representatives of political parties
- Development of cooperation—best practices
- eTourism
- eGovernment

Beside blocks mentioned above, miscellaneous round tables and sharing of best practices were important parts of the conference.

Program can be found at <http://www.loris.v4dis.eu/program.asp> and produced presentation can be downloaded *ibidem*.

Full conference information and other materials can be found under respective entries of the www.loris.v4dis.eu website.

They said at the conference

“Dear guests. I would like to welcome you in the City of Hradec Kralove and I am sure, that you will find the conference at least as interesting and fruitful as it was during previous years”

Otakar Divisek, Lord Mayor of the City of Hradec Kralove

“The LORIS conference is a great annual opportunity for exchanging international experience. The fact that it takes place concurrently with the national ISSS conference and, in recent years, also the V4DIS working meeting, makes it possible for a host of personalities and experts to meet under one roof and a number of visions and best-practice examples to be presented. This significantly contributes to a simpler imparting of experience and acceleration of the building up of information society not only in the Czech Republic but also in other European countries.”

Milos Vystrcil, President of the Vysocina Region.

“Every year I follow with great interest the meeting in Hradec Králové. Annually increasing participation in the conference in Hradec Králové, proves that organisers of this event do not do their work in vain. E-government issues are dealt here not only in point of theory, but participation of people from towns and regions, who apply this policy in real practice, plays an important part. If there has occurred any improvement in the matter of e-government, it has happened thanks to enthusiasm of these people, for they enthusiastically and often in advance tested out their own projects in the struggle with the bureaucracy and thus they developed valuable incentives for solving these tasks at the national level. They deserve our respect for that.”

“I personally follow the meeting in Hradec Králové annually with great interest. As the President of the Czech Senate I am drawn in by two things. The first one is the Senate’s interest in communication between state and citizens, decrease in bureaucratic load and increase in transparency of public administration. Many of our senators have joined big politics from municipal sphere and that is why they understand the idea of using informatics for efficient performance of public administration and providing first-rate and modern services for the citizens. The second part of my interest in the conference lies in participation of partners from Visegrad countries, which proves to me that regional cooperation and exchange of experience, and that is also within broader global processes, has deep sense.”

Premysl Sobotka, president of the Senate of the Czech Republic

LORIS 2009

Venue: Hradec Králové, Aldis Congress Centre

Date: 5–7 April 2009

Character of the event: International conference

Main theme: **Town twinning**

**Expected number
of participants:** **350**

Organisers: Vysocina Region

Secretariat of the conference: www.loris.v4dis.eu
loris@loris.cz