Access for All – Where are We Now?

**Office of the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media
Conference "Guaranteeing Media Freedom on the Internet"
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Network

- A gate to online information

- Without access there are neither content nor cybercrime problems

2003 ITU Statistics
PCs per 100 inhabitants

OSCE member states (Europe)

- Albania: 1,17
- Moldova: 1,75
- Ukraine: 1,90
- Serbia and Montenegro: 2,71

- Sweden: 62,13
- Luxemburg: 59,42
- Denmark: 57,68
- Norway: 52,83

European average: 21,44

2003 ITU Statistics
PCs per 100 inhabitants

OSCE member states (Asia and America)

- Kyrgystan: 1,27
- Armenia: 1,58
- Georgia: 3,16

- Asian avarage: 4,45

- United States: 65,89
- Canada: 48,70

- American avarage: 28,95

2003 ITU Statistics
Users per 10.000 inhabitants

OSCE member states (Europe)

- Albania: 97,00
- Ukraine: 179,51
- Bosnia: 262,12
- Moldova: 340,00
- Russia: 409,32

- Sweden: 5.730,74
- Netherlands: 5.219,46
- Denmark: 5.128,15
- Finland: 5.089,30
- Norway: 5.026,08

European average: 2.373,19

2003 ITU Statistics
Users per 10.000 inhabitants

OSCE member states (Asia and America)

- Tajikistan: 6,30
- Turkmenistan: 16,55
- Kyrgystan: 156,56
- Uzbekistan: 192,08
- Georgia: 307,60
- Azerbaijan: 368,51
- Armenia: 394,72

- Asian avarage: 674,25

- United States: 5.513,77
- Canada: 5.128,29

- American avarage: 2.592,71

What can we do?
Can we treat access to Internet as...

- Access to Radio?
- Access to Television?

or

- Access to Telephone?
- Access to Mobile phone?

- An Universal service?

Even if we don't treat it like that...

- Some of us spend more time online than:

  - Watching TV

  - Listening radio

  - Making phone calls, using either land or mobile lines (have we already switched to VoIP?)

- But there are people, around us, that still haven't heard about the Internet at all!!!

European Union

- Early 1980s - the privatization and the introduction of limited competition in some member states (application of IT increases)
- 1984 - a first phase of Community policy (common development lines)
- 1987 - a second phase of Community policy (liberalization of all telecommunications services and networks by 1 January 1998)

The Commission's White Paper

- On "Growth, Competitiveness and Employment"

- Three instruments were used to liberalize telecoms in the European Community:

1) Progressive liberalization of a former monopoly sector

2) Accompanying harmonization measures

3) Competition rules

The "1998 package"

- So called "old legislative framework" was:

- designed to manage the transition from monopoly to competition
- focused on the creation of a competitive market and the rights of new entrants

New, single regulatory framework for all transmission networks

- As a result of the convergence of the telecommunications, media and information technology sectors

- Agreed and applied from July 2003 (with the exception of data protection applied from end October 2003)

- Content services stayed outside the new framework

Universal regulatory framework

- Consists of:

- Framework Directive
- Access Directive
- Authorisation Directive

and so called, "specific Directives" concerning

- Universal service
- The protection of privacy and electronic communications in the telecommunications sector
- Framework for electronic signatures and
- The re-use of public sector information

South East European Process

- Member States of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe have signed the "*eSEEurope Agenda for the Development of the Information Society*" in October 2002 in Belgrade

- They accepted to take concrete actions based on the positive experiences of the eEurope and eEurope+ processes towards Information Society

Framework for information society

- The governments took the obligation to:
- Establish an institutional and legislation framework for ICT-based society
- Promote liberalization and privatization of electronic communications infrastructure
- Encourage the regional activities through joint e-Governance, e-Learning, civil society and non-governmental organizations

Why is the information society so important for SEE (or should be)?

- There is no development of the region without it
- To decrease the development gap between the SEE and the European Union, as well as between the countries within the region and with the rest of the world
- That is the only way towards the EU

eSEEurope Member States accepted:

1) To adopt the policy and strategy for the development of the Information Society
2) To adopt and implement the legal infrastructure for information society
3) To establish the regional cooperation and national implementation mechanisms
4) To promote the Information Society for development

Nice initiative, but without concrete measures

- SEE doesn't formally exist
- There is a gap between the countries
- Information society is usually not one of the priorities of SEE states
- Lack of infrastructure
- No/ poor legal regulation

What can we do?

Council of Europe

- has 45 member states
- policy oriented
- deals with Internet within the Media division
- has a content approach

It may:

- Involve all member states in drafting process
- Include access to networks as one of the issues
- Observe not only media legislation, but also draft Internet laws
- Organize trainings for judges and prosecutors on Internet content (harmful, illegal, etc.) and Freedom of the Media in the online environment

OSCE

- has 55 member states
- policy oriented
- Internet within the Office of the Freedom of the Media
- Guaranteeing Freedom of the Media on the Internet

It may:

- get more involved in Internet issues, especially through its Field Missions
- initiate/ support building of the Internet infrastructure
- organize trainings for journalists
- organize law enforcement trainings regarding information society

And for the end...

- Access
- Content
- Regulation
- Education

should not be separate, but
parallel processes in every country

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