

# Deeper Analysis and Comparison of Slovak e-Learning Best Case Practices Related to Higher Education in a Ubiquitous Society

Alena Pistovcakova  
Jaroslava Kovacova

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# Slovakia

<b>Capital:</b>	Bratislava (48°09'N, 17°07'E)
<b>Area:</b>	49 030 square kilometers
<b>Population:</b>	5 379 455 (2001 census)
<b>Bordering countries:</b>	Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland and the Ukraine
<b>Government:</b>	Parliamentary Republic
<b>Independence:</b>	January 1, 1993 (from the Czecho-Slovak Federation)
<b>Official language:</b>	Slovak



Slovakia is a small central-european country often introduced like "*The Heart of Europe*" or "*The Country in the Heart of Europe*".

It's not just for geographical location, but there is also **the Geographic Center of Europe** within its territory.

# Research Methodology

1. Government and e-stakeholders approach
2. Analysis of governmental documents and universities' case studies
3. Comparison of particular case studies provided by universities and private companies
4. Conclusions and recommendations

# Historical background

- The history of Slovak education system has long roots dating from the Middle Ages
- The first University - Academia Istropolitana founded in Bratislava in 1465
- In 1918 the Comenius University in Bratislava founded
- In 1989 after the 'Velvet Revolution' the education system in Czechoslovakia underwent transformative changes → 1990: democratisation of education

# Role of Distance Education

- The importance of distance education, as the precursor of e-learning has never been very big in Slovakia
- Supply of e-learning is currently not sufficient and well developed, nor is statistical data demonstrating interest of the public
- Actually not every course which is marketed as an e-learning course is a “full fledge” e-learning course

# e-Learning and ICT integration (1)

- The distance education helped to establish conditions for e-learning in middle 90s'
- Despite some positive experience especially in private sector → e-learning is not sufficiently developed yet
- No national strategy for e-Learning activities yet - the existing legislation defines a general legal framework and principles concerning accreditation of education programme
- Slovakia has an overall low level of connectivity

## e-Learning and ICT Integration (2)

- General election in June 2010 - National Reform Programme of the Slovak Republic for 2011-2014 = friendly government meeting citizens' needs; intelligent land bringing intelligence to national infrastructure facilities; regenerative economy strengthening competitiveness of existing industries; secure social environment; tailored u-life services providing customized services for individuals



# Recommendations and Prospects (1)

- The information society is not a goal but an instrument to develop knowledge-based society
- The most important policy objectives in e-Learning:
  - Modern educational systems also for primary and secondary educational levels;
  - Flexible and effective training activities for all strata of population;
  - Its Practical implementation for lifelong learning.

# Recommendations and Prospects (2)

- The Government should also ensure and use its legislative and financial instruments more efficiently to:
  - Ensure broadband Internet availability to all levels of society as well as to all country regions;
  - Motivate more efficient use of e-Learning by educational institutions;
  - Foster lifelong learning of employees as a constant part of the important strategic decision making process in the business sector.

# Recommendations and Prospects (3)

The key mechanisms aiming at supporting further development of e-Learning:

- Implement the new adopted legislation;
- Prepare and implement National e-Learning Strategy and action plans;
- Improve broadband and multimedia infrastructure for primary and secondary schools;
- Improve computer literacy of citizens - especially disadvantaged target groups.

# Recommendations and Prospects (4)

Other issues to be addressed:

- Sufficient governmental promotion – support of e-Learning implementation in the process of efficient transformation of the Slovak educational system.
- Public central database of e-Learning projects and products - tool for further acceleration of utilization of existing e-Learning experience.

# Thank you for attention!

[ilavska@e-ducation.sk](mailto:ilavska@e-ducation.sk)  
[jaroslava.kovacova@minedu.sk](mailto:jaroslava.kovacova@minedu.sk)