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

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Slovakia

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

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