eSEE Initiative

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eSEE Initiative objectives

- **Vision:**
  Information Society development in the Southeast Europe

- **Mission:**
  - Align with EU policies
  - Create an enabling environment
    - Regionally coordinated innovative policies and regulations
    - Strengthening of public institutions
    - Development of infrastructure
  - Build human resources
    - ICT in education, LLL, e-Skills
    - Networking of researchers and practitioners
    - Networking of institutions
  - Participate in global information society
    - Benchmarking, training, advice for eGovernance and eReadiness
    - ICT applications and digital content

Brussels 31 March 2011
Membership and structure

- **Structure**
  - eSEE Initiative Workinggroup
  - bSEE Task Force
  - eSEE Initiative Secretariat (UNDP Sarajevo)
  - Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD)
  - Other supporting organizations (EC, INA Academy, US CLDP, UNECE, ...)

- **Membership**
  - Albania
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Croatia
  - FYR Macedonia
  - Greece (*bSEE TF*)
  - Moldova
  - Montenegro
  - Romania
  - Serbia
  - Kosovo (UNSCR 1244, *eSEE WG*)
Main documents and reports

- **2001** – eSEE Initiative constituted
- **2002**
  - regional Secretariat based in Sarajevo office of UNDP
  - *eSEE Agenda*, Conference on Policy and Cooperation on Telecommunications, Belgrade
- **2003**, eSEE Working Group Meeting, Bled
  - Common Guidelines for National Information Society Policies
  - Terms of Reference Information Society State Bodies
- **2004**
  - Joint Ministerial Statement, European Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, Budapest
- **2005**, Southeastern Europe Ministerial Conference on Information Society, Thessaloniki
  - MoU - Initiative for bSEE - Broadband South Eastern Europe
  - Regional Guidelines for National Strategy for Building a Framework for e-Business
- **2007**, Southeastern Europe Ministerial Conference on Information Society, Sarajevo
  - *eSEE Agenda Plus*
- **2008** – MoU for the establishing of the Centre for e-Governance Development, Ljubljana
Other activities

- Regular meetings of eSEE Workinggroup and bSEE Task Force
  - Progress reports
  - Benchmarking matrices: eSEE Agenda, eSEE Agenda Plus, bSEE Action Plan
  - Exchange of best practices
  - eSEE Initiative web site (www.eseeginitiative.org)
  - eSEE Initiative Newsletter

- Projects (UNDP, CeGD, OECD, INA ...)
  - Drafting guidelines and policies
  - Reporting
  - Training, workshops, conferences
Value added of regional programme to national efforts

- Information society IS NETWORKING - connecting the region both within and with the rest of the world
- Speed up drafting of regionally and EU aligned policies, strategies and laws relevant for information society development
- Higher succes rate for regional best practices transfer due to similarity in culture, legal and institutional frameworks
- Regional benchmarking as political incentive (regional benchmarking is more meaningful - EU too developed for meaningful comparison)
- Eliminate duplicate development of training programmes and materials for eGovernment, eDemocracy, eParticipation etc.
- Connecting markets through eCustoms, eTax, eBusiness
A vibrant digital single market
- Fostering the development of e-Business
- National / regional electronic identity management
- Development and accessibility of rich online content and transfer from conventional format
- Harmonization of rules for Information Society and media

Interoperability and standards
- Interoperability in accordance with the European Interoperability Framework (for administrations)

Trust and security
- Establish national computer emergency response centers
- Follow European Safer Internet Plus practice

Fast and ultra fast internet access
- Availability of high speed broadband networks and secure services
• **Research and innovation**
  - National Academic and Research Networks
  - Create an open, national database of research professionals and institutions
  - Measure and track intellectual capacity in IT industry

• **Enhancing digital literacy, skills and inclusion**
  - Computers and access to Internet in all schools
  - Curriculum for ICT skills / vocational training in ICT
  - Access to technology and equal opportunities
  - e-Participation and e-Democracy

• **ICT-enabled benefits for EU society**
  - Digital libraries and heritage
  - ICT enabled public services and e-Government
Key Challenges facing initiative/sector

- Reduced government investment in ICTs
- Human and institutional capacity - training in eGovernment, eDemocracy, eParticipation, eInclusion
- Inter-sectoral coordination and interoperability at national and regional levels
- eBusiness infrastructure (e-Signature, e-Archives, e-Documents, e-Invoice)
- Trust and security on the internet
Planned Activities and *Needs*

- Regional Ministerial Conference on Information Society
- Workshops and trainings
  - e-Governance / Interoperability
  - e-Democracy / e-Participation / e-Inclusion
  - e-Business
  - Benchmarking
  - Information Security (CERTs)
  - e-Health / e-Justice / e-Culture
  - e-Skills
- Benchmarking, monitoring implementation of eSEE Agenda Plus
- *Developing e-Governance curriculum*
- *Regional Interoperability Framework*
- *Fostering regional e-Business - legal, institutional and semantic interoperability of e-Invoicing*
### Finance – secured and funding gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity /Project</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ongoing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>eSEE Secretariat (UNDP, 2011)</td>
<td>125,240 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>CeGD programme (training, knowledge base, projects - 2011 annual budget)</td>
<td>247,000 €</td>
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<td>eLEAD project (total budget)</td>
<td>450,000 €</td>
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<td><strong>gap</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum and training</td>
<td>500,000 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Interoperability Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional e-Business Cooperation Network</td>
<td>150,000 €</td>
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