"Digital Information and Electronic Services for Citizens"

Scientific Debate

Bucharest, 8th April 2010

On April 8th, 2010, at the University of Bucharest – Faculty of Letters – was held a scientific debate on topics of "Digital Information and Electronic Services for Citizens", organized by the "Research Centre for Digital Information - DIGINFO".

The event gathered prestigious researchers from the National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics - ICI Bucharest, academics in the field of Information and Communication Technology – ICT (University of Bucharest – Faculty of Letters, University Politechnica of Bucharest, Bucharest Academy for Economic Studies, University "Lucian Blaga" of Sibiu, University "Dunarea de jos" of Galati), representatives of the Ministry of Communications and Information Society, managers of various university and county libraries, representatives of the most important national and multinational companies in the ITC field.

The Welcome address was presented by Prof. Rodica Zane, Ph.D. vice-dean of Faculty of Letters – University of Bucharest.

Prof. Doina Banciu Ph.D., General Manager of the National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics - ICI Bucharest, also professor at the Faculty of Letters – University of Bucharest, emphasized the importance of the digital information and electronic services, the role of the education in creating abilities and competencies for users (both, citizens and civil servants), as well as, the importance of government support in the development of the information society.

Prof. Pavel Nastase, Ph.D., vice-rector of the Bucharest Academy for Economic Studies highlighted the need for a broader sectorial legislation concerning implementation of an unique access point, that would allow a complete and coherent centralization of information from different domains, contained in the e-Romania Portal, and the necessity of adapting the legislation concerning on-line services security to actual market conditions.

Mr. Dan Garlasu (ORACLE Romania) outlined the importance of providing access to on-line services and the need for citizens' education in order to access the digital services.

Implementation of public strategies in informatics field, involvement of authorities and private companies in the development of an adequate infrastructure, assuring the connectivity, educating the citizens in using computers and Internet, are all important steps in reducing the digital gap among different regions and between the urban and rural areas, underlined Prof. Nicolae Tapus Ph.D., vice-rector of University Politechnica of Bucharest.

Prof. Remus Brad Ph.D. (University "Lucian Blaga" of Sibiu) revealed the importance of creating the National SuperComputing Centre and the necessity of a close collaboration between Romanian authorities, on one hand, and academic and research environment, on the other. He also revealed the importance of on-line services quoting the European motto "Better to stay on-line than in line".

Prof. Viorel Manzu Ph.D. rector at the University "Dunarea de Jos" of Galati, referred both to the role of education in using the digital services and to the importance of informatics in the social development. He also underlined the importance of the academic environment implication in creating digital information, in creating and using electronic services and educating e-Citizens.

Unifying and filtering different types of information entails the work of experts from inter-related fields of knowledge, such as sociologists that should classify different types of information as public, official or specialized in order to ensure Portal's credibility, transparency and relevance, pointed out Prof. Maria Voinea, Ph.D. vice-rector of Sociology Faculty, University of Bucharest.

"In this context, alignment with other developed countries in Europe and entire world, by developing of e-domain portals (i.e.: e-Learning, e-Health, e-Tourism, etc.) and integrating them into an complex system with an unique access point, named e-Romania, may enable Romania to obtain a better, more direct and easier representation and promotion of public services, as well as, access to official information for Internet users, anywhere at anytime" underlined during the debates Prof. Doina Banciu, Ph.D. – Head of AMS Department – Applied Informatics, University of Bucharest.

The conclusion drawn from this debate was made by Prof. Banciu who highlighted the importance of measures for implementation of the unique access point, coherent promotion through mass-media, and permanent communication among structures involved. On the other hand it is absolutely necessary the integration of public information regarding Romania, thus integrating electronic services, into an unitary, consistent, and coherent information structure, a fact that would assist directly in creating a correct mentality regarding digital information and in evaluating ever more accurately the economic perspectives, along with the social ones, generated by such nation-wide projects such as *e-Romania*, SuperComputing, and Unique Access Point to electronic services.

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