

trusted the security enhancing impact of collaboration when they installed the red telephone between their governments. This rudimentary instrument of crisis and emergency management had to be fast, flexible, and reliable, requirements that still guide the design of much extended contemporary eSecurity processes and systems: "Fast" because terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other crisis need immediate response. "Flexible" because every crisis is different, thus, different agencies, companies, and organizations need to be integrated in the management process quickly. "Reliable" because cross-national and flexible management processes involving different hierarchical levels in different organizations where people do not know each other have to work properly.

Together with regional partners like IABG in Munich, DLR in Oberpfaffenhofen, Siemens Security in Munich, and the University BW the **Security Cluster** is proposed to the Bavarian prime minister for inclusion in the overall Bavarian cluster initiative, which is a future focus of the Bavarian Innovation policy – and a complement to the ALADIN eSecurity initiative.

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Contributions of ALADIN to eRegion Development: The Novi Sad Business School Perspective, Department for Informatics

When observing ALADIN members, one can find that there are se-

ven universities from Central Europe and one business school. That business school is, of course, the Novi Sad Business School (NBS), located on the university campus in Novi Sad (the capital city of the Vojvodina region). Although it is not a part of that university, there is a good will on both sides to integrate the school into the university in this year, during the reform process of Serbia's higher education. NBS is in the newest member of the ALADIN family, but with the prospect of fast growth, as a part of University in Novi Sad.

When you put a frog in the water and slowly raise the temperature to boiling, the frog can not feel it and it does not jump out. When contemplating writing about ALADIN, we realised how we are living with 'frog effect' and does not see how things are changing all the time. The first author of this text counted 115 emails received in last year that are connected with ALADIN. Among the activities of ALADIN, the most interesting are: Workshop on Ensuring a Safe and Secure eRegion, eRegion Development, eInvoicing LivingLab Initiative, eCommerce Conference, Undergraduate and Graduate Students eConference, Association for Information Systems, EU-Wide Study on Trust and Confidence, Oracle iLearning System, eSilk & eAmber Road Regions Meeting, e-Tourism in the Aladin Area, Academic Electronic Marketplace Workshop and eInnovation Ph.D. Study. At this moment, we will try to analyze the state of our region for the first of the mentioned activities, as a small contribution of those excellent ALADIN ideas.

Vojvodina has been involved in cross border and regional cooperation since 2001. Before that, the development of some important sectors, especially environment protection and environmental management was disregarded. However, in recent years some progress has been made in these fields. The Strategy for

development of Vojvodina was created in 2002. Different economic, political and social subjects took part in this process and NBS gave its effort and support. We made the assessment of the level of sustainability for Vojvodina and compared it with other counties in region. Following that, we assessed the sustainability level in the economy and environment in the main municipalities in Vojvodina. The main problem in this work was a lack of systematic and standardized data. The development strategy of Vojvodina defines two main goals:

- agricultural development and organic food production (agriculture represent 82% of land use in Vojvodina) and
- the development of the small and medium enterprises sector.

Intensive agricultural development has already had significant environmental impact including restriction of renewable water resources and access to safe drinking water. Among other environmental problems (environmental problems in urban area, energy uses, cross-border environment impact, low level of environmental risk management, etc.) the development of small and medium enterprises may be one of the new risks for the environment in Vojvodina, because they have significant environmental impact. The nominal impact of enterprise is not necessary a risk for the environment, but increasing number of enterprises in one area can determine territorial consequences. At this level of development, enterprise requests for sustainability were not implemented in creation of business strategies. That is why we pay attention to the importance of environmental management and standard implementation in this sector. Environmental management becomes a core business issue for small and medium enterprises. However, there is a lack of environmental knowledge among the experts included in decision-making processes in the private

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sector. An important task is to ensure consistency between development and growth.

According to this, we show the necessity of establishing the Center for Sustainable Development Indicators, Education and Public Information in order to prevent those bad influences. This Center should observe and collect data about possible influences between economy and environment, based on territorial criteria. Territorial aspects of environmental impact are crucial for successful environment risk management and minimizing of cross-border impact. The aims of the impact assessment are to improve and simplify regulatory environment.

Collecting the data for territorial impact assessments is the first step in developing the Geoinformatic Environmental and Economic Center. NBS is the leader in promoting this idea in Vojvodina. Building this Center represents the effort of NBS in involving Vojvodina in e-E&E (economy and environmental) region.

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Contributions of ALADIN to eRegion Development - The University of Economics - Prague Perspectives

The University of Economics - Prague, established in 1953, is currently the leading economics university in the Czech Republic. It has six faculties: Finance and Accounting, International Relations, Informatics and Statistics, Business Administration, Economics and Public Administration, Management; at this time

there are more than 12,000 undergraduate students. Approximately 200 students are currently pursuing doctorates and University staff is represented by about 930 academics and 1,020 support staff.

The University of Economics - Prague grants to its students degrees in economics, management and informatics at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. This number represents 45 % of all students studying economics at institutions of higher learning in the Czech Republic, which is the sixth largest in terms of student enrollment. The University, which offers tuition and training comparable to well-known academic institutions abroad and occupies the leading position among schools of its kind in the Czech Republic.

The University of Economics - Prague has long been involved in international co-operation. It has participated in a large number of projects in positions of coordinator, contractor or project partner in several international programs including Aktion, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Tempus, Phare, Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Esprit, Copernicus, Eureka, FP6 and FP 7 and others. The University is a member of the CEMS (Community of European Management Schools Programme) universities community and PIM (Partnership in International Management).

One part of the University's activities, especially activities in area of structural sciences (mathematic, statistic, operation research) and informatics, are performed at the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics. Its departments and study programmes focus on certain fields of informatics (information systems, state and public administration systems, e-government, e-business, information technologies, information management, and knowledge systems) as well as on mathematically oriented disciplines (statistics, econometrics, operations research, and demography). The research and development work

at the faculty corresponds with the specialization of individual departments and is targeted at fulfilling the research aims of the faculty and at receiving and solving the projects of various grant agencies, mainly the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, the Development Fund, and several foreign agencies. The Cupertino with a number of important subjects, i.e. MFF UK, ÚTIA, ČVUT, the Czech Statistical Office and foreign universities is also considered to be very important. All the research activities' results are supported by many publications, presentations at international conferences, organizing conferences and seminars for a wide professional public, publishing specialized magazines and collections, running various projects and writing expert reports. The science and research activities ensure the high quality of academic staff and further development of the study programmes at the faculty.

One type of co-operation is relatively new, having started about one year ago (on May 2005), when the University of Economics - Prague became the member university in ALADIN group. The ALADIN activity framework represents a wide range of potential collaborations for our university. There are three main streams on our university, in which we have serious interest to start joint actions. These are:

- research and development work,
- PhD student education,
- a general platform for starting and realizing of common projects and preparing publications with our newly found partners.

What are our expectations in the above-mentioned areas?

Research and development work is one of the integral parts of everyday university life. Each of us performs this work and occasionally it is a burden. However, we need to meet new colleagues, to hear new opinions, to change our paradigms and to try to find out new added value in our work. So the main goal of this

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