

# LORIS

Local and Regional Information Society  
Prague and Hradec Králové, April 1–3, 2007

## Evaluation and Responses 2007



Education and Culture DG

Project LORIS is supported by the European Commission –  
Directorate General for Education and Culture.

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# Introduction

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The LORIS (Local and Regional Information Society) international conference, which took place on 2 and 3 April 2007 concurrently with the ISSS (Internet in Public Administration and Self-government) conference at the Aldis Congress Centre in Hradec Králové, has significantly contributed to further development of twinning cooperation between European towns. The conference was attended by representatives of more than twenty towns who exchanged experience, established new contacts and discussed the development of e-government at the local and regional level, as well as making use of EU funds for further enhancement of cooperation between towns and development of e-tourism. The Czech Republic was represented, for example, by the capital city, Prague, and the cities and towns of Jihlava, České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, Karviná, Litovel, Nový Jičín, Znojmo and Otrokovice. Also present among European partnership cities and towns were Slovakia's Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Dubnica nad Váhom, Kremnica, Martin, Moldava nad Bodvou, Nitra, Nová Dubnica, Púchov and Trenčín, Hungary's Budapest, Encs, Karcag and Nyiregyháza, Poland's Warsaw, Walbrzych and Wrocław, Lithuania's Vilnius, and the Netherlands' Purmerend. The conference's main organiser was the Vysočina Region, while the European Commission co-financed it within the TT programme on the basis of the appeal of the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the EC "Support for Active European Citizenship".

According to Miloš Vystrčil, M.Sc., administrator of the Vysočina Region, "the international LORIS conference is annually a unique opportunity for exchange of international experience. The close links with the national ISSS conference and, in the past four years, also with the working meeting of Visegrad countries, V4DIS, allows within a few days to concentrate in one place a host of personalities, experts, visions and examples from practice. Taking advantage from it are all those who have participated in building up information society not only in the Czech Republic but also in a number of other European countries."

This year, for the umpteenth time the international forum in Hradec Králové was attended by Paul Timmers, head of the eInclusion Unit, DG INFSO of the European Commission, who expressed his pleasure that the international conference was taking place. Among other things, he declared that "just like information technologies affect the quality of life or success of business, they must lead in public administration to a much higher effectiveness of procedures, simplification of administration and better communication between the state and citizens. In addition, development of information society is among the absolute priorities within the European Union."

One of the most prominent guests of the conference was Omar Al-Rawi, councillor of the City of Vienna, who pointed to the fact that "at the present time, close cooperation between towns and regions in individual EU countries has in today's united Europe a great importance both in terms of overcoming various barriers, the market economy, as well as implementation of common interests and projects". Very interesting for the conference participants was the presentation of his experience with the use of ICT technologies by the city of Vienna for work and communication with various groups of the population, including disabled citizens, senior citizens and immigrants.

In addition to discussions and negotiations between representatives of towns, the LORIS 2007 conference also put emphasis on best practices and successful projects. Presented in the project laboratory at the Eliška Hall were examples of a functional town-twinning cooperation – between Bratislava, Prague and Vienna ([www.bratislava.sk](http://www.bratislava.sk), [www.praha-mesto.cz](http://www.praha-mesto.cz)), between Moldava nad Bodvou (Slovakia) and the Hungarian towns of Encs and Karcag ([www.moldava.sk](http://www.moldava.sk)), as well as another project of Prague, Bratislava and Vienna, eContent plus ([www.econtentplus.net](http://www.econtentplus.net)). In the project laboratory on the first floor, projects of Otrokovice and the Slovak town of Dubnica ([www.dubnica.sk](http://www.dubnica.sk)) or cooperation between representatives of Prague, Bratislava and Wroclaw, Junior internet ([www.juniorinternet.cz](http://www.juniorinternet.cz)), were presented.

Within the conference, there were a host of meetings between representatives of twinned towns who discussed the current cooperation and preparation of joint projects. One of these successful meetings was between representatives of Jihlava and Purmerend (the Netherlands).

The majority of participants in the LORIS 2007 international conference arrived in the Czech Republic on Saturday 31 March. On Sunday morning they went on a sightseeing tour of Prague and in the early afternoon they met with representatives of the Municipality of Prague, headed by councillor Milan Pešák. After moving to Hradec Králové in the afternoon, they participated in the first workshop, followed by a social evening at the local theatre. The programme of the next two days comprised a number of seminars, presentations and workshops. Within the Monday social evening, the international EuroCrest competition for the best websites of towns, municipalities and regions in Europe was announced.

The two thousand participants in the concurrently running national ISSS conference also had the possibility to acquaint themselves with the results of the meetings of the international LORIS 2007 conference, the overview of the current links between the European towns engaged in the town-twinning programme, as well as the conclusions of LORIS 2007. This information is being further distributed through the participating European initiatives and networks; for example, Telecities-Eurocities, ELANET-CEMR and Global Cities Dialogue.

*Miloš Vystrčil*  
*President of Vysočina Region*

# Project profile and objectives

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## LORIS – Local and Regional Information Society

- Character:** International conference
- Lecturers:**
- Paul Timmers, Head of Unit eInclusion, DG INFSO, European Commission, Brussels
  - Heikki Lunnas, ELANET, Helsinki
  - Omar Al-Rawi, City of Vienna
  - Pál Gaspar, ICEG EC, Budapest
  - Renáta Jaksa, ICEG EC, Budapest
  - Ivona Fraňová, City of Nitra
  - Waldemar Kujawa, City of Walbrzych
  - Andrzej Janicki, Alfa-Omega Foundation, Warsaw
  - Ingrid Götzl, City of Vienna
  - Martina Gajarská, City of Bratislava
  - Alexander Kamarýt, City of Nová Dubnica
  - István Zachariáš, City of Moldava nad Bodvou
  - Peter Druga, BIC, City of Bratislava
  - Jaroslav Šolc, City of Prague
  - Ivan Seyček, City of Prague
  - Arpád Takás, City of Banska Bystrica
  - and others
- Target group:**
- Twinning European municipalities and European municipality networks
  - ICT specialists

**Focus and objectives:**

- Common European information space offering available and secure broadband connections, abundant and diverse digital services
- Widely available information society, which provides high-quality public services and supports quality of life
- To stimulate participation of twinning cities in European programmes and projects supported by European Commission
- Exchange of experience among twinned municipalities. To involve key politicians and decision makers into the process of developing information society at local levels
- To strengthen awareness of European cultural and language diversity by the medium of supporting problems of eTourism at the municipal level, to underline the unsubstitutable role of the towns while taking into account that according to the statistic research up to 70% of tourists get information from the internet
- To introduce the participants to the work of European networks in the area of development of information society and show possibilities of their participation on their work or projects (ELANET – CEMR, Global Cities Dialogue).

# Organisers and partners

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## Main organiser and project coordinator

- Vysočina Region

## Co-organiser and partner of the LORIS conference

- Association of the Czech @
- Triada Ltd.

## Project sponsor

- Project LORIS is supported by the European Commission – Directorate General for Education and Culture

## Cooperation on the programme part of LORIS

- City of Prague – host city
- City of Bratislava
- City of Vienna
- City of Hradec Kralove – host city
- City of Moldava
- ELANET
- Association for Information Society – SPIS

# Participation

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**Number of LORIS 2007 participants:**

**146**

The conference was attended by participants from 34 twinning municipalities from 9 countries (including the Czech Republic):

Austria, Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia

List of twin cities participation on the LORIS conference can be found below, with names of the cities listed alphabetically:

Name of the city	Country	Twinning Cities	Country
Bánská Bystrica	Slovakia	Hradec Králové	Czech Rep.
Bratislava	Slovakia	Budapest	Hungary
		Praha	Czech Rep.
		Wien	Austria
		Warszawa	Poland
Budapest	Hungary	Bratislava	Slovakia
		Praha	Czech Rep.
		Vilnius	Lithuania
		Warszawa	Poland
		Wien	Austria
České Budějovice	Czech Rep.	Nitra	Slovakia
Dubnica nad Váhom	Slovakia	Otrokovice	Czech Rep.
Encs	Hungary	Moldava	Slovakia
Helsinki	Finland	Budapest	Hungary
		Praha	Czech Rep.
		Warszawa	Poland
		Wien	Austria
Hradec Králové	Czech Rep.	Bánská Bystrica	Slovakia
		Walbrzych	Poland
		Wroclaw	Poland
Jičín	Czech Rep.	Martin	Slovakia
Jihlava	Czech Rep.	Purmerend	Netherlands
Karcag	Hungary	Moldava	Slovakia
Karviná	Czech Rep.	Martin	Slovakia
Kremnica	Slovakia	Kutná Hora	Czech Rep.
		Nový Jičín	Czech Rep.
Kutná Hora	Czech Rep.	Kremnica	Slovakia
Martin	Slovakia	Jičín	Czech Rep.
		Karviná	Czech Rep.
Moldava	Slovakia	Encs	Hungary
		Karcag	Hungary
Nitra	Slovakia	České Budějovice	Czech Rep.
Nová Dubnica	Slovakia	Slavičín	Czech Rep.
Nové Zámky	Slovakia	Znojmo	Czech Rep.



Name of the city	Country	Twinning Cities	Country
Nový Jičín	Czech Rep.	Kremnica	Slovakia
Nyiregyháza	Hungary	Praha	Czech Rep.
Otrokovice	Czech Rep.	Dubnica nad Váhom	Slovakia
Praha	Czech Rep.	Bratislava	Slovakia
		Budapest	Hungary
		Helsinki	Finland
		Nyiregyháza	Hungary
		Vilnius	Lithuania
		Warszava	Poland
		Wien	Austria
Púchov	Slovakia	Zlín	Czech Rep.
Purmerend	Netherlands	Jihlava	Czech Rep.
Slavičín	Czech Rep.	Nová Dubnica	Slovakia
Trenčín	Slovakia	Zlín	Czech Rep.
Vilnius	Lithuania	Praha	Czech Rep.
		Budapest	Hungary
		Warszava	Poland
Walbrzych	Poland	Hradec Králové	Czech Rep.
Warszava	Poland	Budapest	Hungary
		Praha	Czech Rep.
		Vilnius	Lithuania
		Wien	Austria
Wien	Austria	Praha	Czech Rep.
		Bratislava	Slovakia
		Budapest	Hungary
		Warszava	Poland
Wroclaw	Poland	Hradec Králové	Czech Rep.
Znojmo	Czech Rep.	Nové Zámky	Slovakia
Zlín	Czech Rep.	Púchov	Slovakia
		Trenčín	Slovakia

# Evaluation

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The international conference LORIS (Local and Regional Information Society), which was held in the Congress Centre Aldis in Hradec Králové, significantly contributed to further development of mutual collaboration between European towns. There met deputies of more than two tens of towns here. They exchanged experience, formed new contacts and discussed about development of e-government at the local and regional level, as well as about use of EU sources for further enhancement of collaboration at the level of towns or development of e-tourism. The main organizer of the conference was Vysočina Region and financing was shared by the European Commission within the programme TT on the grounds of a call for “Support of active European citizenship” of Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. The Czech Republic was represented among the participating towns and regions for example by capital Prague, towns Jihlava, České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, Karviná, Litovel, Nový Jičín, Znojmo or Otrokovice. Among partner European towns there were of course present Slovakian capital Bratislava and towns Nitra, Moldava nad Bodvou, Banská Bystrica, Dubnica nad Váhom, Kremnica, Martin, Nová Dubnica, Púchov and Trenčín, Hungarian towns Budapešť, Encs, Karcag, Nyiregyháza, Polish towns Warsaw, Walbrzych, Wrocław, Lithuanian Vilnius or Dutch Purmerend.

The programme of the conference LORIS 2007 did not consist only of discussions and meetings between towns, a special stress was laid also on examples of good practice and presentations of successful projects. In the project laboratory in the Elizabeth Hall there were presented examples of working town-twinning cooperation – between Bratislava and Prague and Vienna ([www.bratislava.sk](http://www.bratislava.sk), [www.praha-mesto.cz](http://www.praha-mesto.cz)), between Slovakian Moldava nad Bodvou and Hungarian towns Encs and Karcag ([www.moldava.sk](http://www.moldava.sk)) or another project of Prague, Bratislava and Vienna eContent plus ([www.econtentplus.net](http://www.econtentplus.net)). In the project laboratory on the first floor there were presented projects of Otrokovice and Slovakian Dubnica ([www.dubnica.sk](http://www.dubnica.sk)) or collaboration of deputies of cities Prague, Bratislava and Wrocław Junior Internet ([www.juniorinternet.cz](http://www.juniorinternet.cz)).

In the course of the conference there took place also a number of meetings of deputies of partner towns, at which there was discussed development of existing collaboration and preparation of common projects. One of such successful meeting was for example discussion between deputies of Jihlava and a Dutch town Purmerend.

The results of meetings of the international conference LORIS 2007, an overview of current bonds between European towns taking part in the programme of town-twinning as well as the conclusions of the international conference LORIS 2007 were available also for the two thousands of participants of the simultaneously held national conference ISSS. In the following weeks the information will be further disseminated through concerned European initiatives and networks such as for example Telecities-Eurocities, ELANET-CEMR or Global Cities Dialogue.

## Blocks evaluated as the most interesting

The evaluation of the most interesting blocks given below issues from the statistical data gathered by the organisers.

- The official conference opening and debate of top representatives of political parties (incl. the presentation held by Mr. Paul Timmer, Head of Unit eInclusion, DG INFSO)
- Development of cooperation
- eGovernment
- eInclusion
- eTourism
- Geoinformation systems
- Communication infrastructure

Beside blocks mentioned above, miscellaneous round tables and sharing of best practices were important parts of the conference.

# They said at the conference

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...you are bringing here together information technology, local and regional development and above all cooperation, and that is very much what Europe is about... ...eGovernment action plans shows clearly, that if you have top quality public administration, then you have top quality economy and society and that definitely links to innovation and competitiveness...

*Paul Timmers, Head of Unit eInclusion, DG INFSO, EC*

...the international LORIS conference is annually a unique opportunity to exchange international experience. A close connection with the national conference ISSS and in the last four years also with a working meeting of Visegrád countries V4DIS enables for a few days to concentrate in one place a whole number of personalities, experts, visions as well as examples from the practice. This is then logically found beneficial by all who collaborate on creating information society not only in the Czech Republic, but also in a number of other countries in Europe...

*Miloš Vystrčil, President of Vysočina Region, Jihlava*

...When establishing the eGovernment, think about the problem of info-rich and info-poor. Not everybody has an access to the Internet or a computer and not everybody knows how to use it. In an aging society, a lot of elderly people don't have the possibility and we have other disadvantaged – youths, immigrants, minorities. These challenges should be taken in focus for the future, so we can become a society with social values and social standards and technology should help us to reach all these things...

*Omar Al-Rawi, Member of City Council, Vienna*

...conference in Hradec Kralove was a great time for me and it is an unforgettable experience. I have made a lot of useful contacts and I hope that I will cooperate with my friends from the Czech Republic and Slovakia in creating the information society in our countries. Our project is developing in a good way and since the conference we co-operate with the President of Wroclaw. For me as a young person, it was very interesting experience and I have learned very much. I wish I could go on such conference again in the future!

*Daniel Pecynski, Junior Internet, Wroclaw*

...last years experience also shows that close collaboration in this area brings its fruit and unquestionably contributes to faster development of e-government. We are glad that often discussed topics and commonly shared experience have raised growing interest also of colleagues from other countries...

*Tomáš Renčín, Director of the Association of the Czech @, Prague*

# LORIS 2008

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<b>Venue:</b>	Hradec Králové, Aldis Congress Centre
<b>Date:</b>	6–8 April 2008
<b>Character of the event:</b>	International conference
<b>Main theme:</b>	<b>Informatisation of public administration</b>
<b>Expected number of participants:</b>	<b>100 from 12 countries</b>
<b>Organisers:</b>	Vysočina region, Triada Ltd.
<b>Secretariat of the conference:</b>	<a href="http://www.issc.cz/loris">http://www.issc.cz/loris</a> <a href="mailto:loris@issc.cz">loris@issc.cz</a>