



“ICT is a fascinating area of business opportunity, where countries of the region could become more actively involved. The South Eastern European countries have a common interest in advancing the growth of ICT investments, in forming joint ventures and initiatives, in nurturing technology development and telecom market evolution”

BACKGROUND & KEY CHALLENGES

- Advances in communications technology and high-speed data networks are continuously increasing the possibilities for countries with economies in transition, to participate in the global market for ICT enabled services on the basis of their comparative advantage.
- Legislative and institutional capacity is lacking and resources (human, financial) are often insufficient to carry through ambitious reforms on national and local level.

ROLE & STRATEGY OF THE INITIATIVE

- Integrate SEE Countries into the global knowledge-based economy by supporting the region in developing a strategy for the Information Society, including benchmarking, best practices and the transfer of knowledge.
- Co-ordinate and facilitate the introduction of ICT projects in various fields, including business, governance, commerce, health, education.
- Bridging the digital divide through encouraging sustainable investments in ICT infrastructure and services with enhancing the important role of the private sector over the years to come

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE & THE WAY AHEAD

- Securing political support and agreement on a “menu” for the development of the Information Society under eSEE Agenda+ for Development of Information Society 2006-2010 and through the bSEE Initiative and bSEE Task Force.
- Stimulating innovation and investment in ICT research and education through creation of the e-Governance Centre in South Eastern Europe, aiming to build modern and open information societies in this part of Europe.
- Further strengthening of public-private partnerships through the BAC led ICT Private Sector Forum as a tool that will have the capacity to improve the ICT related business environment and provide valuable input for Governments

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