



“The remarkable improvement in the fields of information and technologies have become a core aspect of international socio-economic development. The countries of South East Europe 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

- Development of the Information Society is fundamental to the rapid development of the region, the reduction of the development gap between the region and European Union, as well as between the countries within the region and with the rest of world.
- The countries of South East Europe face the same challenges: mobile and internet penetration is still low, independency of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authorities has not been fully achieved, investment interest in ICT sector is moderate, often due to the absence of a genuinely competitive environment.
- 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.

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.
- Strengthening innovation and investment in ICT research and education through SEE involvement in the EC’s programs to promote economic growth in SEE countries.
- Future strengthening of public-private partnership as a tool for improvement competitiveness and investments in region.

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