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Second report by Member States to the General Conference on Measures Taken to Implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace – Czech Republic

DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILINGUAL CONTENT AND SYSTEMS

The Czech Statistical Office data show that all 14 regional administration offices, including the Municipality of Prague, have their web pages in at least one foreign language. The same is true for 21 central government authorities (84 %) and for 147 municipalities with extended powers (72 %). The most often used foreign language is English, followed by German. All but one central government authority (web pages in French and German) have their pages in English. Regional authorities, however, offer a wider range of languages – 8 of them pages in German, 6 in French, and 2 in Polish. The Pardubice region provides information also in Italian and the Karlovy Vary region offers Italian, French, and Spanish.

Multi-lingual web pages receive support under the umbrella of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. One of the key pillars of this Programme is the Information Communication Technologies Policy support Programme - ICT PSP. The [MultilingualWeb](#) project originated under the 3rd call for interest has concentrated on standards and best practice to support the design, localization, and use of multi-lingual on-line information. The Czech Republic is represented by the Prague School of Economics (VŠE).

FACILITATING ACCESS TO NETWORK AND SERVICES

In line with the Library Law, libraries are required to provide users of their library and information services with equal access to all information on the Internet the library has free access to.

The Czech Statistical Office data show that the number of computer equipped households keeps increasing together with the number of computer users connected to the Internet. In the second quarter of 2010, 59 % of all households had a PC (2,4 million), over 56 % of all households (2,3 million) were connected to the Internet, and 2,1 million households had a broadband connectivity.

The Czech authorities, namely the Ministry of Trade and Industry supported by other government agencies, are currently drafting „Digitální Česko“, a new electronic communications strategy. The strategy requires the digital dividend to be used primarily to

connect rural areas. By 2013, all users, including those living in rural areas, should have access to 2 Mbit/s.

The European Commission study published in October 2010 shows that Czech children belong to the most frequent users of the Internet in Europe (together with the Swedish and the Estonian). 75 % of children in the CR use the Internet every day or every other day and 72 % of them have a profile at a social network, such as Facebook or MySpace. In Europe, only 57 % of their peers have such profile. The same is true for the digital literacy. Czech children and the youth rank above average. A dedicated research, co-organized by the Masaryk University in Brno, Moravia, shows them ranking 5th after the Finnish, Slovenians, Dutch, and Estonians.

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC DOMAIN CONTENT

a) Circulation of information related to public administration on the Internet is guided by Act No. 106/1999 Coll. on Free access to information and Act No. 365/2000 Coll., on Public administration information systems.

The Act No. 106/1999 Coll. on Free access to information requires public administration bodies to publish information in a way which facilitates equal remote access, primarily via the Internet.

Act No. 365/2000 Coll., on Public administration information systems, as amended by Act No. 81/2006 Coll., requires, in Section 5, Para 2(f), all public administration bodies to circulate information while facilitating remote access (e.g. via web pages) so that information related to public administration be accessible, in the necessary extent, to the disabled.

To implement the above provision, the authorities issued a Regulation No. 64/2008 Coll., on facilitating access to public administration information to the disabled via web pages (“access regulation”), which entered in force on March 1, 2008.

b) In relation to the support of data storages, we wish to promote two projects targeted at universally accessible information and knowledge storages. The first one - [e Knihovna](#) (e-Library) providing electronic books for free - targets education and is operated by the Municipal Library Prague (financed by the Municipality of Prague). The second one is a project by Český rozhlas 3-Vltava (Czech public radio), which facilitates compulsory school reading on MP3 in a so called “reader diary” promoted in public transportation (Vem Boženu do metra, Vem Aloise na kolo).

c) Among other projects wishing to increase trust and raise awareness of ICT we wish to draw attention to projects under the umbrella of the “Safer Internet” and related public awareness campaigns. Projects such as <http://www.saferinternet.cz/index.asp> or <http://www.bezpecne-online.cz/> raise awareness of both pros and cons of ICT.

REAFFIRMING THE EQUITABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF RIGHTSHOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The key provision in the CR guiding copyright is Act No. 40/2009 Coll., Criminal Code, Para 270 – Violation of copyright, rights related to copyright, and title to a database. The copyright law itself is embedded in Act No. 121/2000 Coll., on Copyright and rights related to copyright (Copyright Act).