

Universities and Technology Providers Meeting: Opportunities for e-Collaboration in the Danube e-Region

- Universities in the region are currently undergoing major structural and substantive changes and they are “forced” to improve organization and processes. Existing IT support was not designed to be able to adapt those changes fast enough. In addition, the Universities don’t have right platforms and they don’t have enough resources for renovation. The initiative was to find best practice and seek synergies between universities themselves and between universities and IT providers.
- Professor Kovačič introduced a “Pre-commercial Procurement of Innovation” and the initiative to implement it. This is essential due to objectively comparison of competitive offers not only on the basis of written (functional specifications) or explanation (competitive dialogue), but on the bases of working prototypes and real field tests (attachment).
- There were “case discussions” about “Business information systems”, and “Academic information systems” of universities in the region. There was the initiative of Mr Zornada to launch Europe founded project for standardization of data model of “Academic information systems”. This is important due to increasing mobility of students and professors.
- IT providers presented some new approaches which could be used for collaboration and support universities. SAP introduced possibilities of collaboration between SAP and universities under the umbrella of the SAP University Alliances program (attachment). IBM introduced the possibility of using the new "IBM Innovative center" in Ljubljana.

The participants agreed that the panel meeting and initiatives where focused on finding the best route to right solutions.

The guarantee for success is a link between academic values and business approaches, link between universities and business.

Prepared by Tomaž Kern, Meeting's Chair