



MEDIA RELEASE

CROATIAN INFORMATION DAY DEDICATED TO EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS HELD: great opportunity for great e-projects

Zagreb, 20. May 2009 – A national information day dedicated to European eGovernment Awards was held, in the arrangement of the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia. The goal of the information day was to inform public administration and business community on the open competition for awarding a prestigious European eGovernment Award and encourage them to enter Croatian examples of good practice into the competition. Over 40 participants took part in the information day, including the representatives of public administration and ICT community.

National information day dedicated to European eGovernment Awards was held, in the arrangement of the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia. It is an event that takes place every two years and is organized by the European Commission and the current presidency of the European Union with the aim of identifying and awarding examples of the best practice in using information and communications technology (ICT) in public administration. The goal of the info day was to inform public administration bodies and business community on the open competition for awarding a prestigious European eGovernment Award and encourage them to enter Croatian examples of good practice into the competition.

Let's repeat that the competition, which is open until June 10 this year, may be entered by all bodies of public administration from the EU member countries, EFTA member countries and candidate countries actively implementing ICT solutions and services within eGovernment. Awards are presented in four categories:

1. eGovernment as a support to a unified market (cross-border e-services that have an impact on citizens and entrepreneurs all around the EU)
- 2.a. eGovernment for citizens (examples of ICT use in public administration for citizens and entrepreneurs)
- 2.b. eGovernment for entrepreneurs (examples of ICT use in public administration for entrepreneurs)
3. eGovernment for increasing administrative efficiency (examples of services that allowed decreasing administrative obstacles)
4. special award for innovation awarded based on the votes of the public from www.epractice.eu portal.

National information day dedicated to European eGovernment Awards represented a unique opportunity when all stakeholders could learn more about this year's awards, the procedures for application and eligibility criteria and about the Ministerial eGovernment Conference under the title "Teaming up for the eUnion" that will take place between 19 and 20 November in Malmö (Sweden).

Central State Office for e-Croatia is a state administrative body of the Croatian Government in charge of designing, monitoring and evaluating the developmental policy of information society in the Republic of Croatia.

The mission of the Office is to connect information systems of state administration bodies through a unique information and communications network and to adopt





technical and normative rules for the use of IT equipment in state administration bodies.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has entrusted the Central State Office for e-Croatia the realization of the following specific objectives:

- *the establishment of a model for e-administration system*
- *optimum development of computer and communications infrastructure in state administration*
- *improving the quality of eGovernment solutions*
- *raising the level of competence and information of eGovernment users*

with the objective of achieving the general goal – harmonized development of user-oriented e-administration with standard access points including the use of widespread communication channels.

More information available on: www.e-hrvatska.hr

"In my opinion, the invitation to participate in this prestigious competition represents an excellent opportunity for the republic of Croatia to demonstrate its outstanding solutions in the implementation of information and communications technology in public administration to the wide European public. As a coordinator in the implementation of e-Croatia programme, which represents a combination of all e-projects in state administration, I know that we have a series of excellent projects that are really worth representing outside our borders. Therefore, with the wish that Croatia finds its place on the eEurope map, I see these awards as an opportunity for Croatian ICT sector and the promotion of its exporting potential", said the State Secretary of the Central State Office for e-Croatia, Mr. Igor Lučić.

