



DIA-SPORT ASSOCIATION



EU-RIPIDES

Improvement of national
schoolnetworks in Europe





DIA-SPORT ASSOCIATION



Research on the use of ICT in Bulgarian schools and the development of schoolnets in Bulgaria





We will focus on:

- **Overview of the current situation of ICT implementation in Bulgarian schools**
- **National strategy for implementation of ICT in Bulgarian schools (adopted in February 2005)**





We will focus on:

- **Bulgarian schoolnetwork (as defined in the National strategy)**
- **First steps towards achieving the goals of the National strategy**
- **Participation of Bulgarian schools in international schoolnets**





Overview of the current situation



Bulgarian educational system is drastically retarded in the process of implementation of ICT in schools:



- At the beginning of 2004 100 students use 2.1 computers (1.3 computers per 100 students if we don't consider the outdated machines)
- An insufficient number of schools is connected to Internet through LAN – 33% are connected to Internet (including dial-up connection)





Overview of the current situation



➤ For the last 10 years no centralized supply with computers has been made



➤ No investments for training of teachers for using ICT have been made for that period

➤ No centralized network at national level has been established



➤ Separate local networks were created (with the support of local structures and NGO's)





Overview of the current situation



- Big differences in the number of computers in the different schools (because municipalities support to different extent the introduction of ICT in schools)
- In the curriculum for secondary schools there are only two subjects connected to ICT (informatics and information technologies for the upper grades)
- Practically ICT are not applied for teaching of other subjects





Overview of the current situation



- Scientific achievements in the field of computer-based learning are not actually applied in schools





National strategy for the implementation of ICT in Bulgarian schools

- **General aims**
- **Expected results**
- **Activities**
- **Action plan**
- **Responsible organizations**



What does the Strategy aim at?

Main aim of the strategy:

The effective use of modern ICT for increasing the quality of Bulgarian education, improving the educational contents and introducing innovative educational technologies and methods in the learning process.





The Strategy expects to achieve:



➤ To raise the Bulgarian educational system to a higher quality level and thus to make Bulgarian students and teachers competitive in the European Union



➤ To develop a modern educational system, able to cover European educational standards, based on the effective use of ICT in the process of studies and open for innovations





The Strategy expects to achieve:

➤ All secondary school graduates to be prepared to be members of a dynamic information society by acquiring computer literacy and the corresponding skills in:

- **Word processing**
- **Working with spreadsheets**
- **Preparing presentations**
- **Working with database programs**
- **Working with web-based applications**





The Strategy expects to achieve:



➤ Students will have access to modern, continuously updated sources of information and to modern assessment methods



➤ Educating the growing-up generation in the spirit of high social values by means of high-quality digital contents

➤ Teachers will present their lessons in a modern and attractive way

➤ Students will actively take part in the process of studies (development of an activity-oriented learning model)





The Strategy expects to achieve:



- Cooperation on European level for creation and exchange of innovative programs, methodologies and training materials, as well as for sharing good practice





Groups of activities

- Adopting the suitable legal basis regulating the teaching of ICT and the teaching based on the use of ICT
- Creating classrooms equipped with computers in all schools – in 2007 the proportion students/computers will be 10/1
- Creating an information network and a high-speed connection to Internet in all schools
- Training and increasing the qualification of the teachers in order to make possible the implementation of ICT in all study subjects
- Creating of a web-portal on teaching, of distance learning platforms and curricula for every subject





Action plan



The Strategy will be implemented in three stages. The necessary funding has been allocated as follows:



1.2005 – 41,000 (thousands of levs)

2.2006 – 65,107

3.2007 – 34,880



Total: 140,987





Responsible organizations

- **Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC)** – responsible for the supplying with computers of the schools
- **Ministry of Education and Science** – responsible for adopting the necessary legal basis, training the teachers and elaboration of syllabus for every subject
- **Coordinating council for information society** (working teams) – control over the implementation of the strategy
- **Center for ICT in education**
- **National Pedagogical Centre/ Regional Pedagogical Centers**





Bulgarian schoolnetwork (as defined in the National strategy)

National Educational Network

A network established between schools themselves and between schools and a management center (main server), hosted by the MES. The NEN provides:

- ✓ Connectivity on the territory of the whole country
- ✓ Centralized control and management of the contents and resources, the use and the access
- ✓ Capability of expansion (for including new work centers and further development of services)



Bulgarian schoolnetwork (as defined in the National strategy)



The National Educational Network comprises 3 logically distinguished networks:



- ✓ Computer classrooms network
- ✓ School administration network
- ✓ Service network





Bulgarian schoolnetwork (as defined in the National strategy)



The National Educational Network also involves:

- ✓ Educational web-portal: database, information exchange, virtual community, interactive learning aids
- ✓ Local software platforms: knowledge-sharing, educational contents, design of curricula, on-line assessment and evaluation





Bulgarian schoolnetwork (as defined in the National strategy)



Within the National Educational Network the users will have access to:



- ✓ Educational software
- ✓ Multimedia contents
- ✓ Learning modules
- ✓ Platforms for distance learning





First steps towards achieving the goals of the National strategy

- 2003/2004 – 1 million levs were allocated by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) for this purpose; 100 computer classrooms were created
- 2004 – the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) provided 10.73 million levs for the computerization of 750 more schools
- National meetings between ICT experts and representatives of MES and MTC
- By the 15th September 1000 seniors instructors on ICT were trained



First steps towards achieving the goals of the National strategy



- Training courses for teachers: 45 000 teachers will be trained for using and applying ICT for teaching by the end of 2005
- 4000 instructors on how to use digital contents for teaching will be trained by December 2005
- A Center for IT in education was established at the Ministry of Education and Science which is responsible for putting into practice the provisions of the National Strategy





First steps towards achieving the goals of the National strategy



- A management and maintenance center for control over the communications and the educational content was established by 24th May 2005
- 1200 schools were connected to Internet (127 00 computers)





First steps towards achieving the goals of the National strategy



- An educational web-portal was launched: <http://www.znam.bg> , created with the support of MTC and MES in September 2005 – source of knowledge and information, providing different learning aids, multimedia contents and interactive maps and exercises; the first step towards elaboration of a “national knowledge network”





Participation of Bulgarian schools in international schoolnets

Examples:

- <http://myeurope.eun.org> – 15 Bulgarian schools
- <http://eschoolnet.eun.org> (teacher's portal)– 170 Bulgarian schools



DIA-SPORT ASSOCIATION



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!





DIA-SPORT ASSOCIATION

Contact us

DIA-SPORT Association

Mrs. Tatiana Velitchkova
Chair of the Managing board

Address:

Bademova gora str.
bl. 7B, entr. B, app.. 51
Sofia 1404
BULGARIA

Tel./Fax: (+359 2) 950 39 40
(+359 2) 850 60 24

Mobile: (+359 88) 89 65 10

Email: diasport@bol.bg
diasport@hotmail.com

Web site: www.dia-sport.org

