

## Information society in Podlaskie Voivodeship

**At the present time, on the turn of the 20th century, like never before in history – information begins to play a decisive role. It becomes more and more valuable and particularly wanted good. Access to the repertory nowadays becomes as essential as access to water in the old times, or to strategic energetic supplies, such as gas or petroleum. Contemporary mankind undoubtedly enters a new stage of civilisation development – era of information society.**

The most visible symptom of that turn is that apart from economy, it also concerns various spheres of human activity, including very important one – education. This is a chance for society of general and quick access to - accumulated in form of digital files - information as well as to other contents characteristic for different aspects of human activity.

Therefore, authorities suppose to guarantee Podlaskie Voivodeship society full access to these supplies, from any place and at any time.

Information society means a completely new quality of group and individual life. In education and culture areas, initiating new modern tools and techniques, particularly Internet, cannot be compared with any other hitherto event in mankind life – except of inventing writing. Alike ‘electronic economy’ can mean change in floating trade, the same which was formerly the result of introduction of money.

Integrated operations of each and every institution, acting in region, were needed to create uniform area of computerisation in the society. That need was expressed by Podlaskie Voivodeship Development Strategy, worked out in 2003. However, in order to its very general character referring only to some parts of computerisation problem, this document did not define detailed aims and tasks.

Poland’s accession to European structures is the right moment to undertake some runnings over strategic document in that area of self-governmental administration activity. That document, after social consultations, should be accepted to realisation by Regional Council (Sejmik) resolution this year yet. Creating ‘Strategic Plan of Podlaskie Voivodeship Development’ is based on several documents, which are to define offices’ informative condition as well as to present main concepts of information society in Podlaskie Voivodeship.

In ‘The Gate of Podlasie’ are represented two studies of Białystok Technical University executed as the Marshal’s Office order. These are reports from research and analytical works in an information potential area.

Please read the reports and send us your suggestions: [informatyka@umwp-podlasie.pl](mailto:informatyka@umwp-podlasie.pl)

