



Giorgio Prister
President of the MCE

EDITORIAL: The CIO facing recession - Sharing experiences at the Major Cities of Europe (MCE) annual conference,

The economic downturn is affecting all Local Governments. ICT budgets are under big pressure while the CIO must implement improved ICT services at lower cost. Can a well tuned strategy with short, mid and long term initiatives help facing the threat and even transform it into an opportunity for the future? Of course the first priority is to reduce costs. But this is just a first step. The opportunity is now also to build for the future, aiming at a high performing, innovative and cost effective public administration by leveraging ICT innovation as the engine of the transformation and of new ways of working. The Cork conference will give to all participants the occasion to review real examples and projects about technological and service innovation including new service delivery models like Shared Service Centers. Trust and security are also key

elements of success and will be debated in a workshop. Building the future implies an evolution of the role of the CIO. The future of the Local Government CIO will be a key topic in our conference. Together with the leadership team of the Local Government the CIO becomes a key player in defining and implementing the business strategy and in supporting the key decisions by joining his technology skills with his knowledge of the Local Government business.

See also our web site <http://www.majorcities.eu/>

Major Cities News

About the MCE Conference in Cork (Ireland) – May 25th to 27th

All participants will receive in the next days the official invitation to this year's conference. It will bring many 'firsts'. Together with our pan European participants for the first time the MCE conference is being run in association with the Heads of Information Systems (HIS) organisation of the hosting country, the national group representing IT Managers in Irish local government. On the second day of the conference two parallel workshops are on offer to attendees. Each workshop will be hosted by an industry expert and a panel of 3 co-facilitators from across Europe will ensure a lively discussion and good audience participation. The outcomes from these workshops will be presented to the audience on the last day of the conference. Finally the conference will end with a workshop on Open Source adoption in Local Government.

But of course the conference is not all about work. Networking opportunities are important to allow delegates to mingle with their peers from different organisations. The gala dinner is being hosted in an old Victorian jail and should be a memorable night.

The entire conference program has been designed to offer new opportunities for sharing experiences and insights, with a wide variety of relevant subjects covered. In these strained economic times, the conference organisers have succeeded in shaping a vibrant new program at a modest cost for participants. Speakers from Large and Medium European Cities, from Major ICT providers and Industry experts will provide high valued experiences to enrich our discussions. For more information about the agenda and for registration go to the MCE portal at

<http://www.majorcities.eu/staticsite/staticsite.php?menuid=112&topmenu=10&keepmenu=inactive>



Ruth Buckley
Head of IS,
Cork City Council

MCE Workshop about Open Source:

On March 27 a team of MCE members and external consultants have run a workshop on Open Source hosted by the Vienna Municipality. Together with Vienna, also Koper, Cork County and Greater Lyon have presented their experiences, achievements and plans. Interesting insights have been provided by two consulting organizations: Items International and Gartner Group. In an open and unbiased atmosphere the discussion has provided very interesting information about topics like:

- 1) Models of Cost / Benefit analysis
- 2) Challenges & Issues in the use of open source
- 3) End user and Cultural resistance



- 4) Appetite for Open Source
- 5) Tactics for bring users to Open Source
- 6) Plans for the future use of Open Source

A report will be finalized in the next weeks and will be presented in a workshop at the MCE annual conference in Cork

City of Vienna: www.wien.gv.at

Local Government transformation in Birmingham

This article is dedicated to the Local Government Transformation which drives many important initiatives cross Europe. It has been discussed extensively within the workgroup of CIOs of large European cities that has been created in 2007 as one initiative of Major Cities of Europe. As an example of such initiatives this article provides some information and thoughts of the experience of Birmingham.

The article has been written by Glyn Evans, City Council of Birmingham, Director of Business Change and by Giorgio Prister, President of Major Cities of Europe and has been published in the VITAKO brochure of April 2009.

For more information see MCE portal:

<http://www.majorcities.eu/download/index.php?menuid=141&topmenu=108&keepmenu=inactive>

NEW MEMBERS: After **Ljubljana, Hamburg and Birmingham**, whose membership has been announced in the previous MCE newsletter it is with great pleasure that we welcome in the Major Cities of Europe team also the cities of **Berlin, Paris and Greater Lyon**, that has the responsibility of the metropolitan area of the City of Lyon. Thanks to the partnership with the US Public Technology Institute, **Boston** has also joined.

NEW PARTNERS: partnership with the US **Public technology Institute** and **Vitako**, the German association of Local Governments has already been announced in the previous MCE newsletter. As already mentioned **HIS** from Ireland is supporting our annual conference. **IBM** and **Microsoft** have also joined MCE and bring their global experience. **Venis** the ICT provider owned by the City of Venice brings us its experience in leading edge local government implementations of Web 2.0 with **Venice Connected**.

IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE BASE: More than 70 documents are now present in the knowledge base in our portal. These documents are catalogued in different sections related to the topics of the conference.

more reports and documents can be found here:

<http://www.majorcities.eu/staticsite/staticsite.php?menuid=108&topmenu=108&keepmenu=inactive>

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