



Press release:

Announcement: 11th Bled Forum on Europe will this year be dedicated to the discussion on the future of information society and challenges for good governance. The international conference, which brings together representatives of the private sector, governments and researchers in an environment of regional cooperation, will be held at Golf Hotel Bled (Slovenia) between the 10th and 12th of March 2010. As has become customary over the last 10 years, this year's conference will host a number of prominent experts and international researchers.

Ljubljana, 3rd of March 2010 – The aim of the international conference 11th Bled Forum on Europe is to identify (through foresight analysis) and facilitate discussions on a number of key **future challenges for information society development**, while **focusing on the region of the Western Balkans**. The conference will be of particular interest to individuals and organizations interested in good practice cases and efficient policy implementation.

As the opening of the conference approached, **Blaž Golob**, Director of the Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD), as well as initiator, founder and president of the Bled Forum on Europe Research Association, was pleased to announce: *“the 11th Bled Forum on Europe foresight conference calls upon the **contemporary issues of information society development** and challenges inherently connected with **the principles of good governance**. In all these cases technology is used as a platform for sustainable progress and development in fields like eHealth, eCities, environment protection, eGovernance ... we will identify and discuss good practice cases, useful knowledge and experiences, which could be easily and effectively implemented in the region of Western Balkans. With this purpose in mind we will be organizing a **Preparatory Workshop, entitled Western Balkans Futures: Foresight 2020 Project**, which will be attended by 18 pre-selected participants from countries of the Western Balkans. The objective of the workshop, which will take place on the 10th and 11th of March, is to **build in train a team** of project experts, who will implement **the foresight project** mentioned”* he continued by expressing recognition to one of the key note speakers, *“It is our great honour to host Mr. **Jerome C. Glenn** at this years Bled Forum on Europe, as he is the author of a number of acknowledge and highly distinguished business and policy concepts and is one of the most complex and complete contemporary thinkers and a consultant to many government, organizations and corporations...”* Mr. Golob concluded by pointing out that *“The main topics addressed by this foresight conference, have been continuously addressed and developed by one of the conference’ organizers, the Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD). That is why we believe **the conference represents a gateway to the region of the Western Balkans** and presents one of **the building blocks of the new EU 2020 strategy.**”*

The conference will also host a number of additional prominent experts, willing to share their experiences in co-creating information society, among them, **Mr. Goran Radman**, Chairperson of the Business Advisory Council for South East Europe and Dean at the Vern University (Croatia), **Mr. Wilfried Grommen**, one of the leading experts in interoperability and CTO at Microsoft CEE, **Mr. Yannis Charalabidis** a professor at the University of Aegean and Director of the Greek Interoperability Centre, Mr. Jose Jacob K. from the Xavier Management Institute (India), **Mr. Mladen Dragašević** of the Regional Cooperation Council, **Ms. Désirée Pecarz** from the Centre for Social Innovation (Austria), **Mr. Enrico Ferro** from the Instituto Superiore Mario Boella (Italy), **Mr. Ozcan Saritas** from the University of Manchester and many others.

Mr. Miroslav Polzer, Director of the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana which is one of the co-organizers of the conference pointed out that “... *based on our primary fields of activity, we fully support **this ambitious and significant project**, which connects knowledge and individual skills of the people in order to **facilitate the economic development of the Western Balkans region.**”*

As has been customary for years, the conference will conclude with adoption of the **Final Declaration of the 11th Bled Forum on Europe**, which is previously presented and discussed among the participants. Through the final declaration the participants of the conference will highlight the importance of new technologies and good governance, and address a variety of decision makers at different levels of decision making, among them the United Nations, the European Union (President of the Council, European Council, European Commission, European Parliament), decision and policy makers in the region of the Western Balkans, national and international NGOs in all other relevant stakeholders.

About Bled Forum on Europe

The initiator of the foresight conference is the **Bled Forum on Europe association (www.bled-forum.org)**, which is a regional scientific association (initiated in 1996) involving NGO's, governmental institutions and business sector. Its members identify future challenges through foresight analysis and formulate responses by addressing and influencing the key stakeholders of societal in personal development. Organizing the annual Bled Forum on Europe foresight conference is the main activity of the association.

On Foresight

Foresight is a systematic, participatory, future-intelligence-gathering and medium-to-long-term vision-building process aimed at present-day decisions and mobilising joint actions. Research and innovation policies are based on (implicit or explicit) visions of the future of science, technology and society. (see Institute for Prospective Technologic Studies, EC-JRC, IPTS <http://forlearn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>).

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Organizers of the conference 2010:

Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD)

<http://www.cegd.eu/Pages/default.aspx>

Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana

<http://www.aso.zsi.at/sl/index.html>

Regional Cooperation Council

http://www.rcc.int/index.php?action=press_centre&id=1&link_id=8

In 2009 10th Bled Forum on Europe hosted prof. dr. Slavoj Žižek:

http://www.bled-forum.org/slo/10_bled_forum_o_evropi.html

Final Declaration 2009: http://www.bled-forum.org/materiali/2009/10_Bled_forum_deklaracija.pdf

Participants in 2009: http://www.bled-forum.org/materiali/2009/List%20of%20Participants_2009.pdf