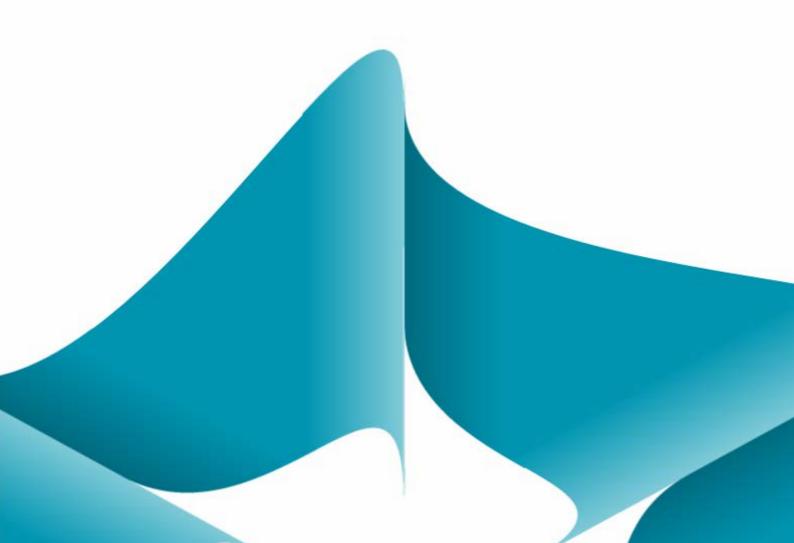# ReSPA
Regional School
of Public Administration

ReSPA eGovernment Working Group

Participation on INFOFEST 2016 Conference

Active participation of ReSPA members on central ICT event in the region that has an international character

25 – 30 September 2016, Budva (Montenegro)

Discussion Paper and initial programme

Background

The Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) is the inter-governmental organization for enhancing regional cooperation, promoting shared learning and supporting the development of public administration in the Western Balkans. ReSPA Members are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, while Kosovo*1 is a beneficiary and observer. ReSPA's purpose is to help governments in the region develop better public administration, public services and overall governance systems for their citizens and businesses, and prepare them for membership in the European Union (EU). Since its inception, ReSPA has contributed to the development of human resources and administrative capacities through training programmes and innovative cooperation mechanisms such as the exchange of good practices, peer reviews and development of know-how.

European Commission (EC) provides directly managed funds for support of ReSPA activities (research, training and networking programmes) in line with the EU accession process. So far, two EC Grant Contracts (GCs) have been implemented by ReSPA, during the period 2010-2015. The new EC grant will support the main objective of ReSPA work in 2016-2017: Improving regional cooperation in the field of PAR and EU integration and strengthening administrative capacities in the beneficiaries. This objective will be achieved through the following three pillars of the ReSPA Programme of Work for 2016-2017:

(1) European Integration Pillar: Increased capacity of public administration in the ReSPA Members necessary for the successful conducting of the European Integration process;

(2) Public Administration Reform Pillar: Facilitated and enhanced cooperation and exchange of experience in Public Administration Reform and European Integration activities in ReSPA Members;

(3) Governance for Growth Pillar: Ensured effective coordination of the implementation of the Governance for Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Technology has almost unlimited potential to reduce costs and bureaucratisation within the Government. E-Government enables administrations to deliver services to citizens more effectively and at a reduced cost. It fosters openness and transparency and creates a user-centric system. However, this potential is not yet fully embraced in the region, and ReSPA would like to contribute to these processes through its activities.

The eGovernment Working group strongly focuses on the Public Administration Reform, Effective Public Services and Anti-corruption. In light of the above, and in line with its Programme of Work, ReSPA will continue to organise meetings of the eGovernment Working group, with the aim to create and facilitate a platform which will bring together trainers and practitioners with extensive experience in the field of eGovernment, who, in the long run, can

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[1] * This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence

strengthen and improve the level of quality and efficiency of public administration in respective countries, improve capacity for change, utilise and implement new ideas, and who can take advantage of the unique environment for collaboration offered by ReSPA to build trust and collaboration across governments in the region and within society.

In order to make the synergies, ReSPA has accepted to take part at INFOFEST event which will be held in Montenegro. INFOFEST is held as selective thematic gathering with an international character and represents a central ICT event in the region. The organizers of the INFOFEST are the Government of Montenegro (Ministry of Information Society and Telecommunications) and consulting company Biznis Link from Belgrade. The Government of Montenegro has, on 29th of July 1993, officially proclaimed INFOFEST as an "Event of State-importance".

The program includes discussions and presentation contents, INFOFEST exhibition, invitational lectures, thematic conferences, counseling and seminars. Focused themes of INFOFEST 2016 are:

- Theme 1: "Digital society. Operational Ranges of Electronic Government";
- Theme 2: "Future of Cloud Concept";
- Theme 3: "New Era in Modern Banking – Digital Banking";
- Theme 4: "Security Dilemmas and Security Challenges";
- Theme 5: "Internet of Things".

The key themes that are of interest to ReSPA E-Government Working group is "Digital society. Operational Ranges of Electronic Government" (Theme 1) and "Future of Cloud Concept" (Theme 2). Members of ReSPA eGovernment Working group are also invited to actively participate in other thematic areas.

Objectives

The overall aim of the ReSPA eGovernment Working Group participation at the INFOFEST 2016 conference is to gain insight into the latest developments and trends in this area, and to have possibilities to peer with related organizations and/or individuals.

ReSPA participation will involve two days 26 and 27 September 2016.

During the first day a session will be organized where ReSPA, eGovernment Working Group representatives and expert will present the study "From E- to Open Government", a comparative analysis on a regional level published in 2013 and devoted to e-government in the Western Balkan region where ReSPA explored the progress of e-government in the region from 2012 to 2015, as well as progress towards open government, with particular focus on processes and outcomes, including the provision of information, service delivery, and the interaction between government, citizens, businesses, civil society and private companies.

During the second day a discussion panel will be organized where ReSPA and eGovernment Working Group representatives will be able to take part in the audience and one representative of the group will take an active participation in the panel highlighting the latest developments and trends in the region in the domain of eGovernment.

The members of the eGovernment working group should be prepared to use INFOFEST event to gather the information and also to present the progress in their respective countries and the overall region, to peer with their colleagues from other countries, exchange their experience in the development of eGovernment and to create future partnerships and possibilities for cooperation but as most important to set the future plan for ReSPA activities and related priorities.

Target audience / Participants

The conference is intended for participants that correspond to the same development topics as for the members of the ReSPA eGovernment Working group.

Participants will be members of the eGovernment working group, Government decision makers and strategists from countries implementing national e-Governance strategies, organisations and individuals supporting the development of open, transparent and efficient governance practices via IT solutions and companies developing e-Governance applications and assisting governments with their implementation.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The detailed Conference Programme will be communicated as soon as it is finalized and available.

26 September 2016
Presentation of ReSPA from E to Open Government study

27 September 2016
 Panel discussion