e-Government developments in Hungary

Ákos DETREKŐI, Hungary

KEY WORDS: Hungary, eGovernment, ICT Infrastructure, Public administration, Strategy

SUMMARY

The paper offers a survey of the eGovernment activity in Hungary. In the first part of the paper is given the situation of the ICT infrastructure in the country. The strengths and the weaknesses of the infrastructure are discussed in this part too. The second part is focussed to the eGovernment activity (acts, organisation, infrastructure). In this part is presented the E-Government 2005 Strategy and Action Plan. Some elements of the E-Municipalities Strategy are discussed too. The topic of the third part is Hungarian Information Society Strategy. Some elements of the E-Municipalities Strategy are discussed too.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is a big honour for me to give a paper in the FIG workshop on eGovernance, Knowledge, Management and eLearning. Several years ago I was the chairman of Commission 6 of FIG, so I have a good connection to the FIG Family. In the last 20 years I worked more and more in the GIS field. Two years ago I was appointed to the president of National Council for Communications and Information Technology in Hungary. So I have some overview on the ICT activity in Hungary.

In my paper I will present the following topics:
  o ICT infrastructure in Hungary
  o E-Government in Hungary
  o Hungarian Information Society Strategy

2. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE IN HUNGARY

By the analysis of ICT infrastructure of Hungary it is necessary to see the following facts:
  o Hungary is a relatively small country (93 000 skm, 10 million inhabitants),
  o The country has big traditions in mathematics and natural sciences,
  o The country is after a political and economical transformation,
  o Since 2004 Hungary is EU-member country.

The ICT infrastructure in the last years has a quick development. Some fact of this development are the following:

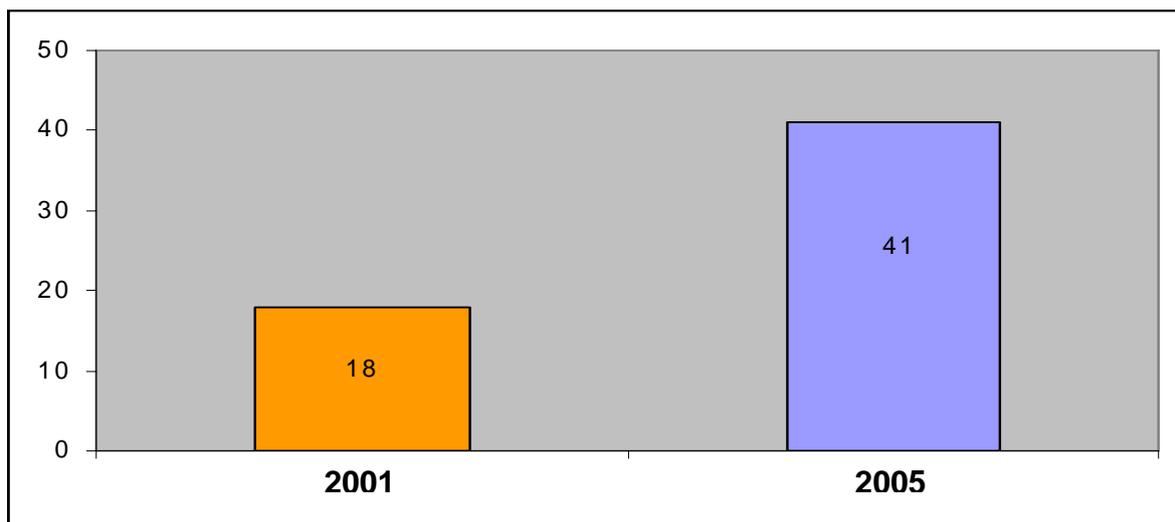Hungary has a good position of ICT intensity in OECD countries:

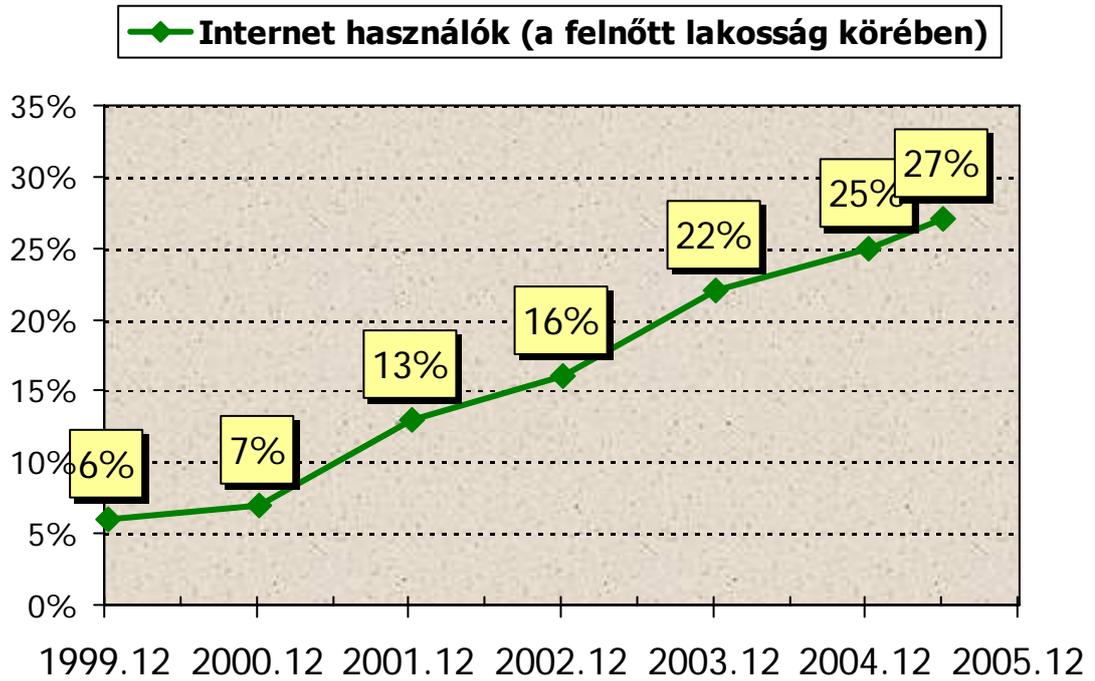Figure 1.24. ICT intensity[1] in OECD countries,[2] 2003
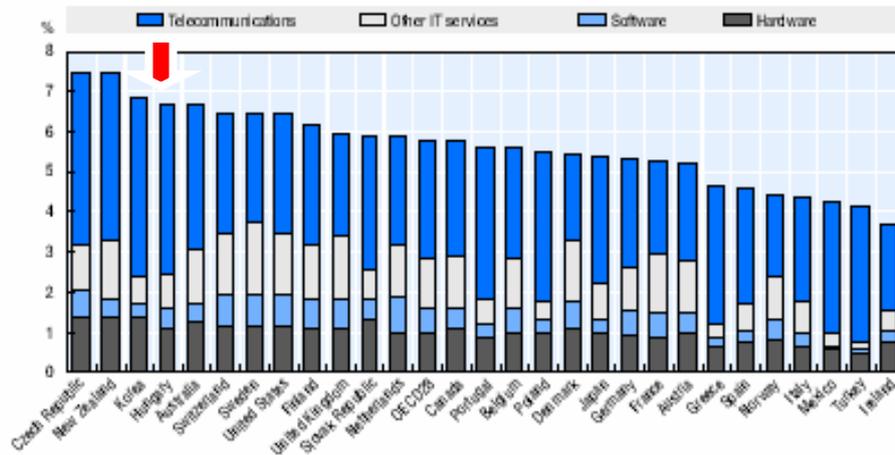
1. ICT intensity is defined as ICT markets/GDP.
2. Excluding Luxembourg and Iceland.
Source: OECD, based on International Data Corporation (IDC), 2004.

Forrás: OECD, ICT Outlook 2004
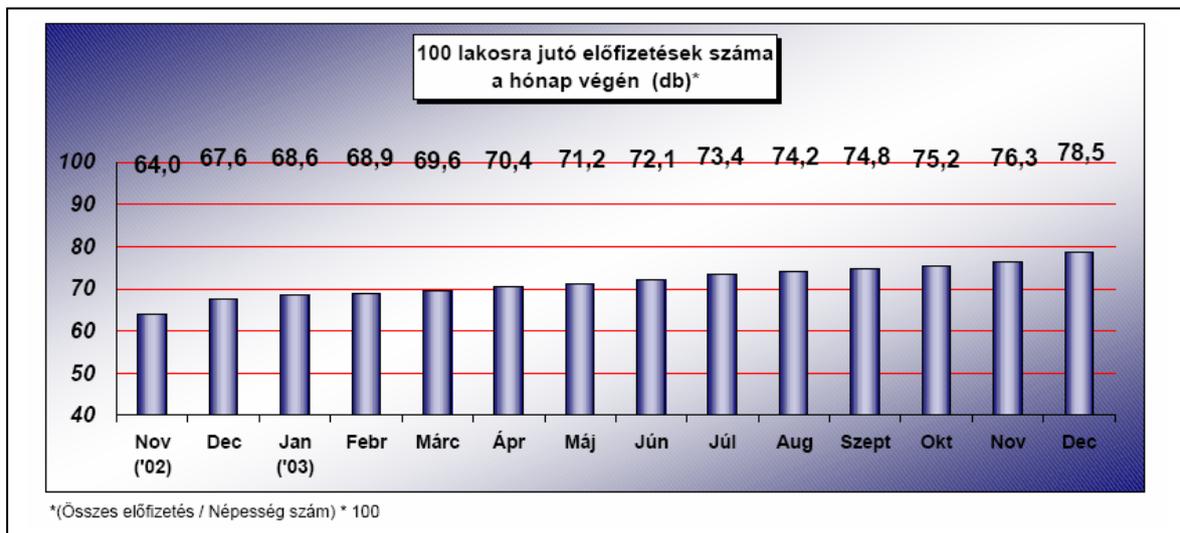
The number of PC - s is increasing:

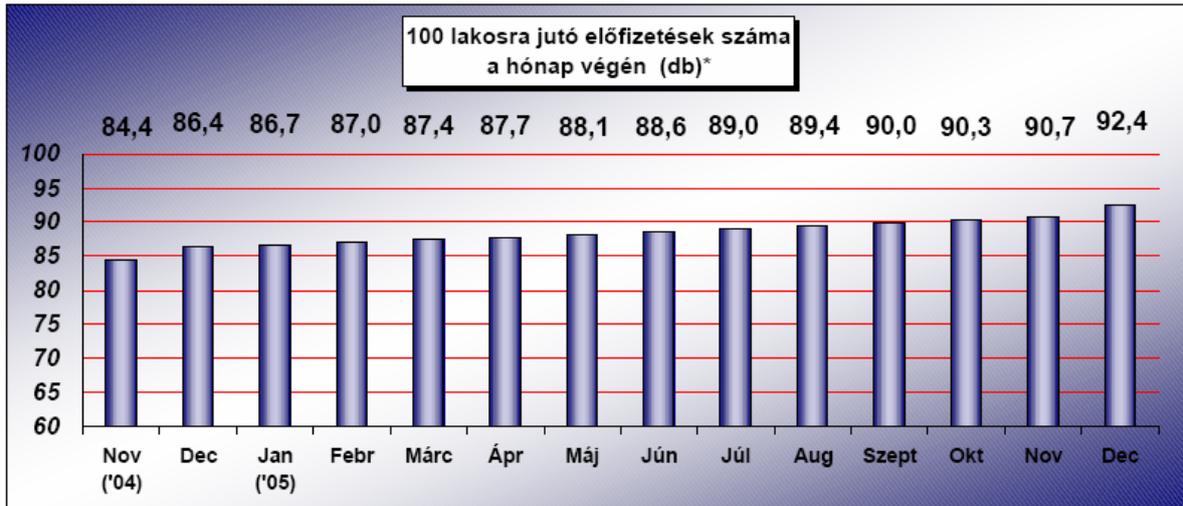The Internet penetration is increasing too:

GSM penetration: 86 %, UMTS from 2005:

2003

2005

100 lakosra jutó előfizetések száma a hónap végén (db)*

| 84,4 | 86,4 | 86,7 | 87,0 | 87,4 | 87,7 | 88,1 | 88,6 | 89,0 | 89,4 | 90,0 | 90,3 | 90,7 | 92,4 |

Nov ('04), Dec, Jan ('05), Febr, Márc, Ápr, Máj, Jún, Júl, Aug, Szept, Okt, Nov, Dec
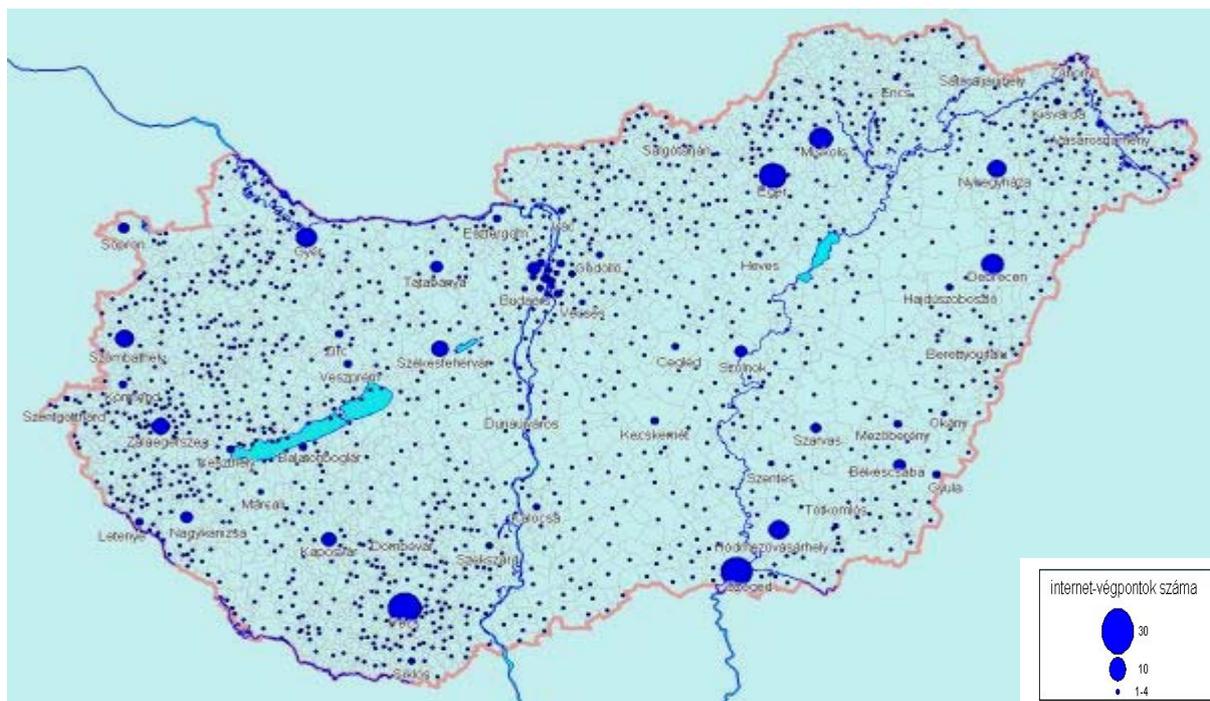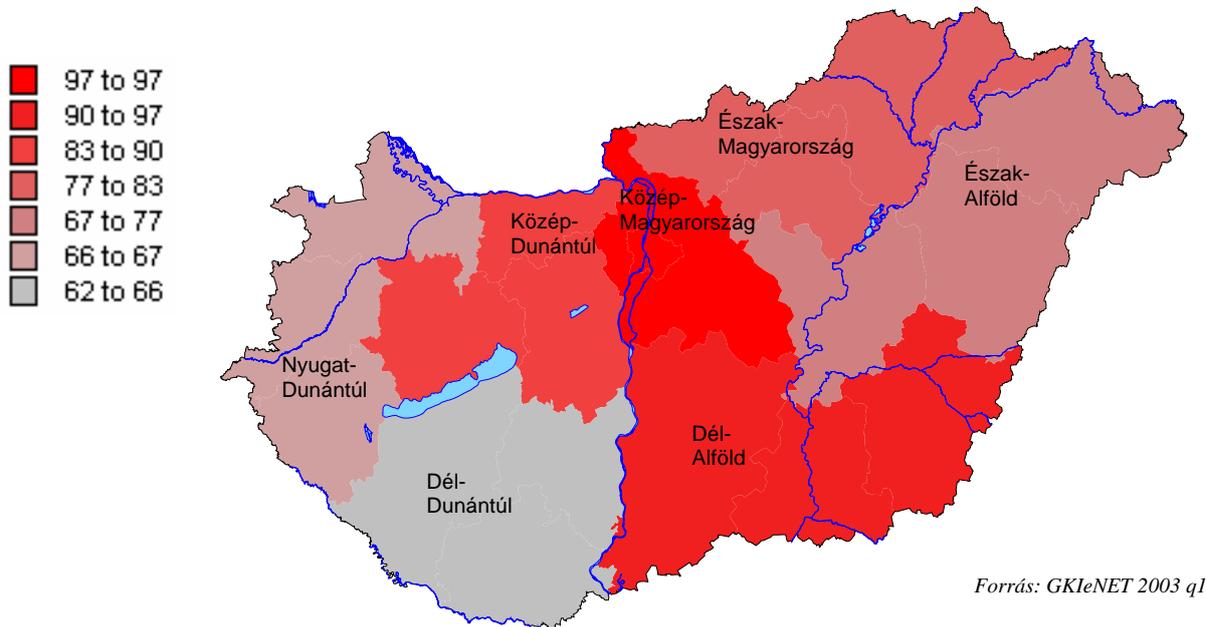
*(Összes előfizetés / Népesség szám) * 100

Public access points (Hungary points): > 2700

o   Public net phase 1 (broad band): 5000 schools, 2300 institutes (including 5-600 municipalities)

26

Some problems:
- o The Internet penetration is low,
- o Big differences between the parts of the country:

Forrás: GKIeNET 2003 q1

3. E-GOVERNMENT IN HUNGARY

The country is after the political and economical transformation needs the transformation of public administration too. The e-Government is a tool of the modernisation of public administration. The situation of e-Government is illustrated by the following figure:
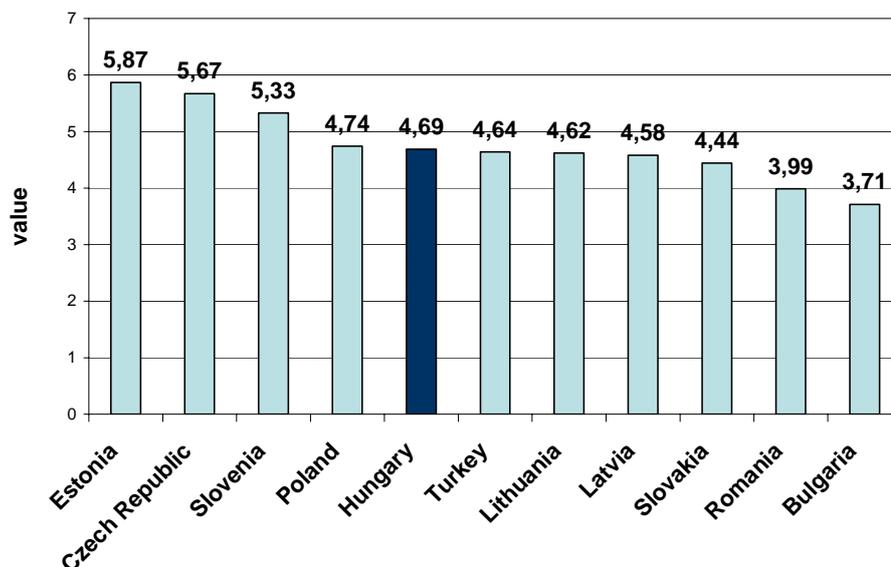
Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

Two basic low of the modernisation of public administration are the following:
- o Act of information freedom (2005)
- o Act on the general rules of administration procedures and services with separate section for electronic case management (2004)

Some ideas of the modernisation are:
- o service-oriented, customer-centric
- o outcome-oriented, efficient, cheap
- o transparent, accountable
- o increasing trust, broadening participatory democracy
- o innovative, flexible
- o open, collaborative.

The modernisation of public administration has two centres in the Government:
- o central government: Prime Minister's Office, eGovernment Centre
- o local government, regulation, standardisation: Ministry of Informatics and Communication

In the last time started the possibility to use the Internet in the public administration. The infrastructure of this activity could be characterised by the following data:
- o Computer infrastructure
  - o central administration: 0,93 computer/employee (practically complete)
  - o local administration: 0,89 computer/employee
- o Network infrastructure
  - o central: ~ 500 institutes on Government Backbone (connected to TESTA), LAN: 98 %, Internet access: 97 % (48 % of employees)
  - o local: Internet access: 88 % (48 % of PCs), LAN: 36 %
- o Home pages
  - o central: > 90 %
  - o local: < 40 %

The future activity in E-Government is determined by the:
- o E-Government Strategy 2005 and Action Plan
- o E-Municipalities Strategy.

The main elements of this strategies are the following:

a. E-Government 2005 Strategy and Action Plan
- o Infrastructure: Government backbone, electronic utility, metadirectory, etc.
- o Regulation: harmonisation of governmental web pages, etc. (refer to common tasks)
- o Skills: courses for civil servants
- o Content and services: Government Portal, Central Service Gateway, e-Procurement, e-Payment, Government Contact Centre, etc.
- o Effective back office: electronic legal codification, electronic records management, etc.
- o European integration: participation in IDABC, connection to TESTA, etc.

b. E-Municipalities Strategy

- o Electronic administration
    - o modernising case management, customer relationship management
    - o online interaction of Mayor's Office and other public institutions, online exchange of information
    - o integration, online communication of applications
- o Electronic governance
    - o electronic support of General Assembly, committees
    - o electronic democracy
- o Tasks of the central Government
    - o online interaction of local and central information systems
    - o call for tenders
    - o infrastructural support (e.g. Public Net)
    - o methodology support
    - o e-skill and awareness raising

4. HUNGARIAN INFORMATION SOCIETY STRATEGY

The Hungarian Information Society Strategy is the adaptation of eEurope Program for Hungary. This Strategy was adopted in 2003. The basic method of the realisation of this strategy is the so-called "moving planning". The main characteristics of the Hungarian Information Society Strategy are the following:

Objective: modern society and competitive economy using information and communications technologies as most important tools of building a knowledge based society

6 fields of intervention:
- o content and services
- o infrastructure
- o knowledge and skills
- o legal and social environment
- o R & D
- o equal opportunities

13 Key Areas, 19 Programs.

REFERENCES

1.) Kovács, K. (2005):Internetet mindenkinek, (manuscript)
2.) Sikolya, Zs. (2003):   Present state and strategic plans of the back office of the Hungarian public administration. ITAPA, Bratislava
3.) Sikolya, Zs. (2005):   E-Government Strategy and Developments in Hungary (manuscript)
4.) www.nhh.hu

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

1963:	Technical University of Building Industry and Traffic, Budapest (ÉKME) civil engineering diploma
1980- :	Full professor at the Dept of Photogrammetry of Technical University Budapest
1997-2004:	Rector of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (formerly Technical University of Budapest) (TUB)
2004- :	President of National Council for Communications and Information Technology

CONTACTS

Prof. Dr. Ákos DETREKŐI
National Council for Communications and Information Technology of Hungary,
H-1073 Dob u.76.
Budapest
HUNGARY
Tel: +36 1 322-9626
Fax: +36 1 322-9629
Email: adatrekoi@epito.bme.hu
Web: www.nhit.hu