

# CONDITIONS FOR RE-USE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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# Introduction

- EPMA = European Projects & Management Agency
- Non profit organization settled by Czech Region Vysocina and civic BMI Association in 2004
- The aim: to develop international project based cooperation of European regions and partners
- How to achieve: through activities like research, awareness rising, project management support, networking
- Why: to strength a dialog and cooperation between public administrations, research communities, business organizations and civic initiatives in the field of ICT adoption in business, government, health, education etc.



# Introduction

- EPMA – a member of several international consortia and participant of many projects, mostly funded by European Union.
- ePSIplus (one of projects EPMA is involved in) focused on Public Sector Information
- Czech PSI Watch Initiative
  - voluntary platform founded by EPMA, Ministry of Informatics and ČEKIA (commercial information services provider) in 2005
  - dialog between public, commercial and non-profit sector focused on Public Sector Information exploitation
- eGov Days – international conference held in Prague in April – experience sharing and knowledge exchange from more than 30 countries, i.a also form PSI re-use area



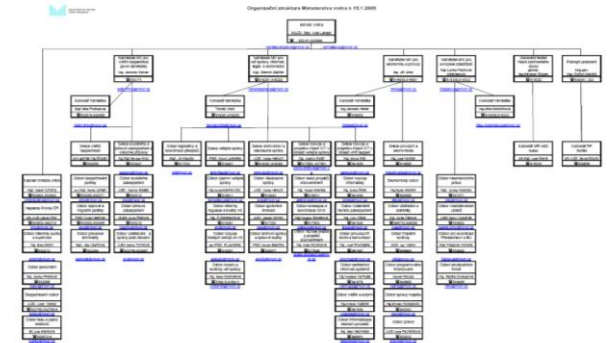
# Rationale for re-use of PSI

- Legislation
  - Act No. 106/1999 Coll. on Free Access to Information (amended by Act 61/2006 Coll.)
  - Act No. 123/1998 Coll. on free Access to Environmental Information
  - No separate act transposing EU Directive 2003/98/EC
- Institutional framework
  - Ministry of Informatics (operating from 1/1/2003 till 1/6/2007)
  - Ministry of Interior (2 departments dealing with PSI)
  - Government Council for Information Society
- Activities outside the public sector
  - bottom-up approach apparent
  - Czech PSI Watch Initiative – EPMA is a leading partner
  - Geoinformation: Nemoforum, CAGI – Czech Association for Geoinformation
  - Transport info: Association for transport telematics
  - eGov Days – one thematic session devoted to PSI re-use issue




# Public sector activities (1)

- Ministry of Interior
  - Low priority for PSI re-use (eGON, CzechPoints, eGov Act, Basic registers)
  - Co-organizer of ePSIplus Czech National Meeting (23/1/2008)
  - „Analysis of Impact of Free Access to Information Act“ (comprehensive document published in 12/2007)
  - Organization of a workshop focused on current issues of FAI Act (PSI re-use involved into the agenda)



# Public sector activities (2)

- Ministry of Interior
  - Preparation of a review of FAI Act (task from the government resolution in the framework of anti- corruption fight)
  - Establishment of „consultancy group“ (representatives of users and re-users invited)
  - ... however, the draft was completely different from consensus built within the consultancy group!
  - **Tender for elaboration of the Analytical study „Public Sector Information and re-use“ (EPMA provided)** 
- Ministry of Environment (CENIA)
  - Intensive work on transposition of INSPIRE EU Directive (re-users from geoinformation segment involved)
- Other central + regional bodies
  - No special activities focused on re-use
  - Several applications improving access to PSI were started
  - ... however, in some cases, the access to PSI got worse!

# Report content



## Preface

### List of abbreviations

1. Introduction to issues
2. Questions of PSI in the context of information society
3. System condition for re-use of PSI in European Union
4. System condition for re-use of PSI in the CR
5. Survey of state-of- the-art on public authorities and institutions in the CR
6. Market of information services
7. Assessment of condition for re-use of PSI in the CR
8. Suggestions to solution

### Conclusion

### Executive Summary (English)

### List of Annexes



136 pages

# Research for Analysis

- Data collection: 6-10/2008
- Field research
  - In-depth interviews with representatives of PSI holders
- Desk research
  - „Mystery shopping“ (cooperation with students of Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship Charles University)
  - 25 central bodies web pages
  - 14 regional authorities web pages

# Results of research

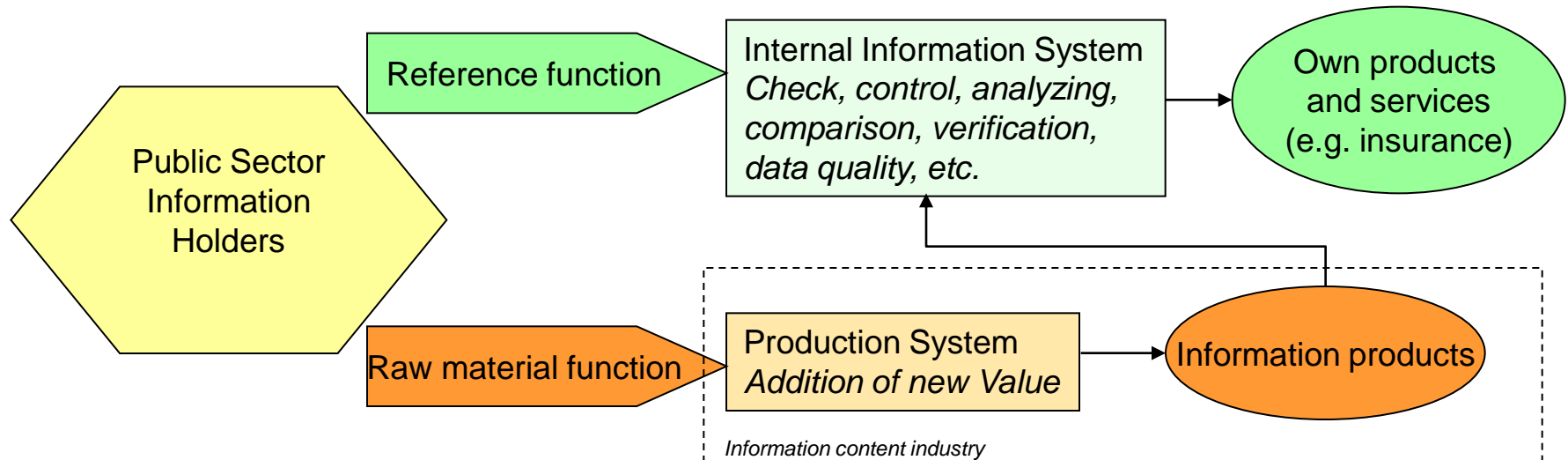
- Mystery shopping: *„What data, in what quality, in what format and under what conditions do you provide?“*
  - 15 central bodies addressed
  - nearly no of them had „instant“ list of information assets (or catalogue)
  - different results based on personal approach
  - lack of standard rules for transparent and massive re-use of PSI
  - lack of relevant metainformation
- In-depth interviews
  - 5 representatives of central bodies addressed
  - Re-use of PSI is out of scope of public tasks
  - Be open, provide access to make a good impression on public, but re-use?
  - No strategy, no concept concerning re-use PSI
  - EU Directive is mostly unknown

# Private sector scope

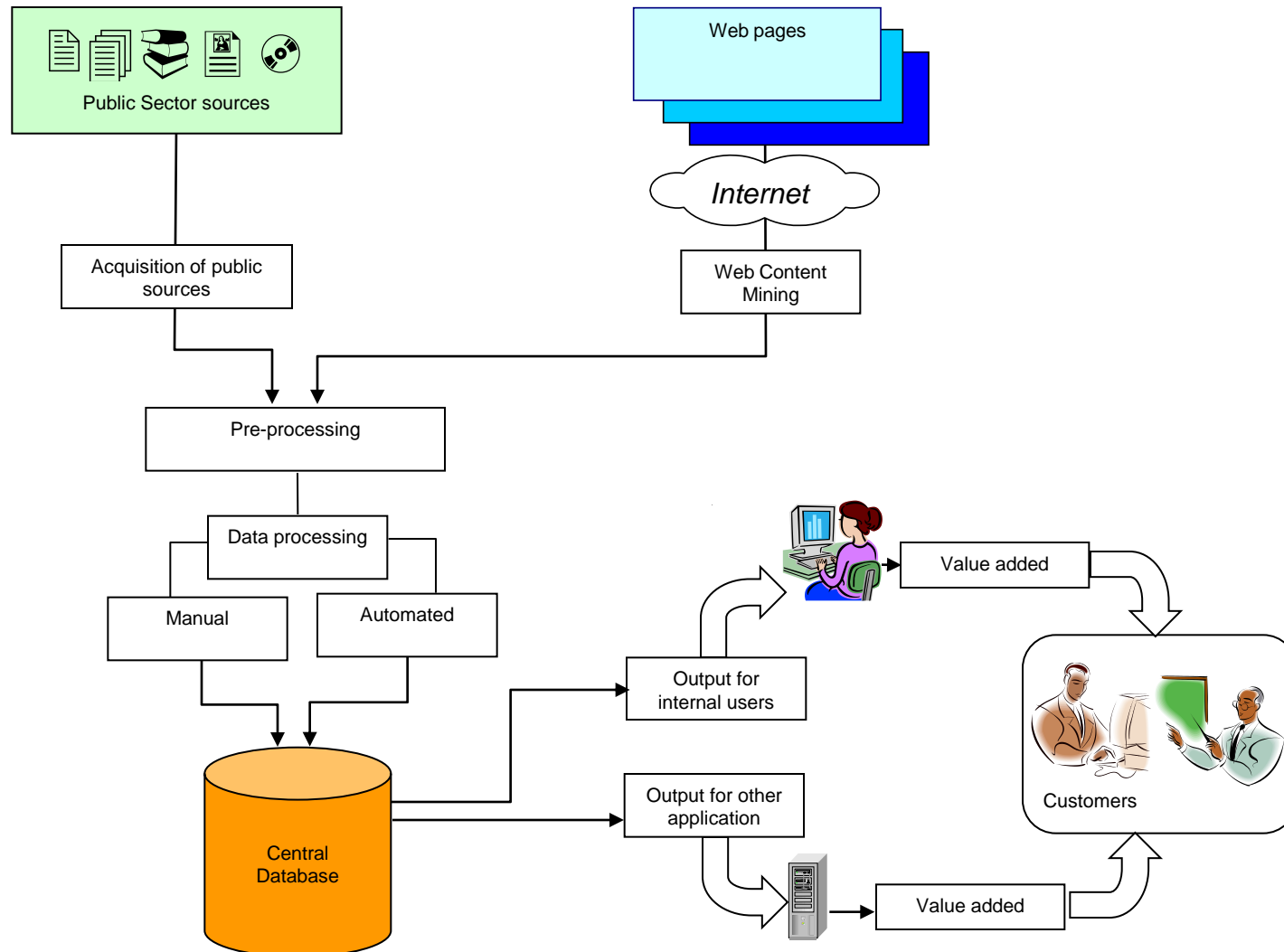
- To reflect users' requirements concerning information services
- To invest in value-added services with the aim to meet users' needs
- Produce attractive information products that is not a task of public sector
- Benefits for public sector:
  - can concentrate on common, widely used services
  - tax incomes from new companies and their business activities
  - development of knowledge managed economy and information society

# Types of „industrial“ re-use activities

- Two basic lines
  - „Reference“ function – for purpose of internal control processes, data quality management etc.
  - „Raw material“ function – for purpose of value added services production and sale on the market



# Process of value added creation



# Private sector position

- Quite weak for bargaining with public sector
- Arguments during act review process are not taken in account
- Much better awareness in the field of civic right on access to public information
- Disunited acting from the side of businesses
  - they compete each other
  - try to gain individual competitive advantage for itself
  - industry action groups are missing (except CAGI)

# Summary of main barriers (1)

- Conflict with some selected laws
  - Information law, Author law, Commercial code, Administrative code, Personal data protection law
- Technical level and public sector culture
  - Missing central catalogue of information assets
  - not sufficient services on Public Administration Portal
  - bad condition for repeated access and downloading of bulk data processing
  - lack of single rules and habits
  - qualification level of civil servants, lack of education programmes for public administration
  - psychological barriers (re-use is unethical)

# Summary of main barriers (2)

- Private sector side barriers
  - lack of awareness Re-use directive and re-users rights
  - individual processes, fragmented approach
  - effort of companies to gain its individual competitive advantage against other players in the marketplace
  - no association or user group (excepting some branches as geoi)
- Economic barriers
  - pricing, individual creation of prices according to applicant
  - missing price lists
  - very high prices in some selected institutions
- Information management barriers
  - poor data quality sometimes
  - missing asset list (catalogue) and metadata system
  - data sources distributed over different departments
  - bad orientation in data sources

# Does a solution exist?

- Generally,
  - the situation in PSI re-use is not too bad
  - Re-users exploit information that is available for general public (under rules)
  - Information market is developing step-by-step
- But we feel
  - lack of leadership and coordination
  - lack of understanding of EU re-use PSI policy
  - lack of interest in re-users needs

# Proposed actions

- To reflect the needs of all stakeholders and involve them into both existing and new Czech legislation
- To ensure practical steps towards simplification and standardisation of conditions for the third parties (profit or non-profit) in providing them with the data for the re-use.
- To establish the single/central methodology point of reference/contact for support, promotion and solving of questions related to the re-use of PSI

# Thank you for your attention!

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*More information about Czech PSI you can find on  
[www.czechpsi.info](http://www.czechpsi.info) or on [www.epma.cz/czech-psi-watch.html](http://www.epma.cz/czech-psi-watch.html)*