

The Success of Czech Projects in The e-Inclusion Awards 2008

Three Czech projects have been shortlisted as finalists in The European e-Inclusion Awards 2008 competition. The European Commission has established the e-Inclusion Awards to raise awareness, encourage participation and recognise excellence and good practice in using ICT and digital technology to tackle social and digital exclusion across Europe. The European e-Inclusion Awards 2008 are designed for initiatives and projects that have used ICT and digital technology to impact positively on socially disadvantaged or digitally excluded groups.

Award categories: Ageing Well Award, Marginalised Young People, Geographic Inclusion Award, Cultural Diversity Award, Digital Literacy Award, e-Accessibility Award, Inclusive Public Services Award. The Finalists for each category will be invited to exhibit their project at the Ministerial Conference on e-Inclusion in Vienna on 1 December 2008. They will be presented with a medal for their achievements and the seven Award Category winners will be announced during the evening ceremony.

There were 469 entries to the Awards with participation from every European Union country. From the 35 projects which have been selected as finalists for the e-Inclusion Awards, 3 projects are from The Czech Republic. **In The Cultural Diversity Award category** the non profit organisation ERUDIS became one of the five finalists with the project "Internet Clubs ČH@VE" This project is aimed at teenagers who have limited access to ICT technologies and The Internet to further broaden and improve their ICT knowledge.

In The e-Accessibility Award category two Czech projects have been shortlisted as finalists for The E-Inclusion Awards. The company APEX Jesenice with the project "TYFLOSET" (The information and way finding system for the blind and visually impaired) which helps the blind and visually impaired find their way in buildings such as hospitals, local authorities etc. and in transportation it provides travel information.

This system have been implemented in cities all over The Czech Republic.

Then the company MEDICTON in cooperation with The Czech Technical University with the project "The System I4Control" - special glasses (as a replacement for PC mouse) enabling the blind users to control their PC with eye-movement only.

As for the number of finalists for each country The Czech Republic together with Holland are the third. The workshop e-Inclusion Awards organised by The Czech Ministry of Interior on 11 August 2008 was a brilliant idea which helped the Czech companies take part in The e-Inclusion Awards competition. The deputy minister Mgr.Lenka Ptáčková Melicharová who has supported the workshop says: "I am glad the Czech projects were so successful in The e-Inclusion Awards and firmly believe in further dissemination of Czech projects in other European countries."

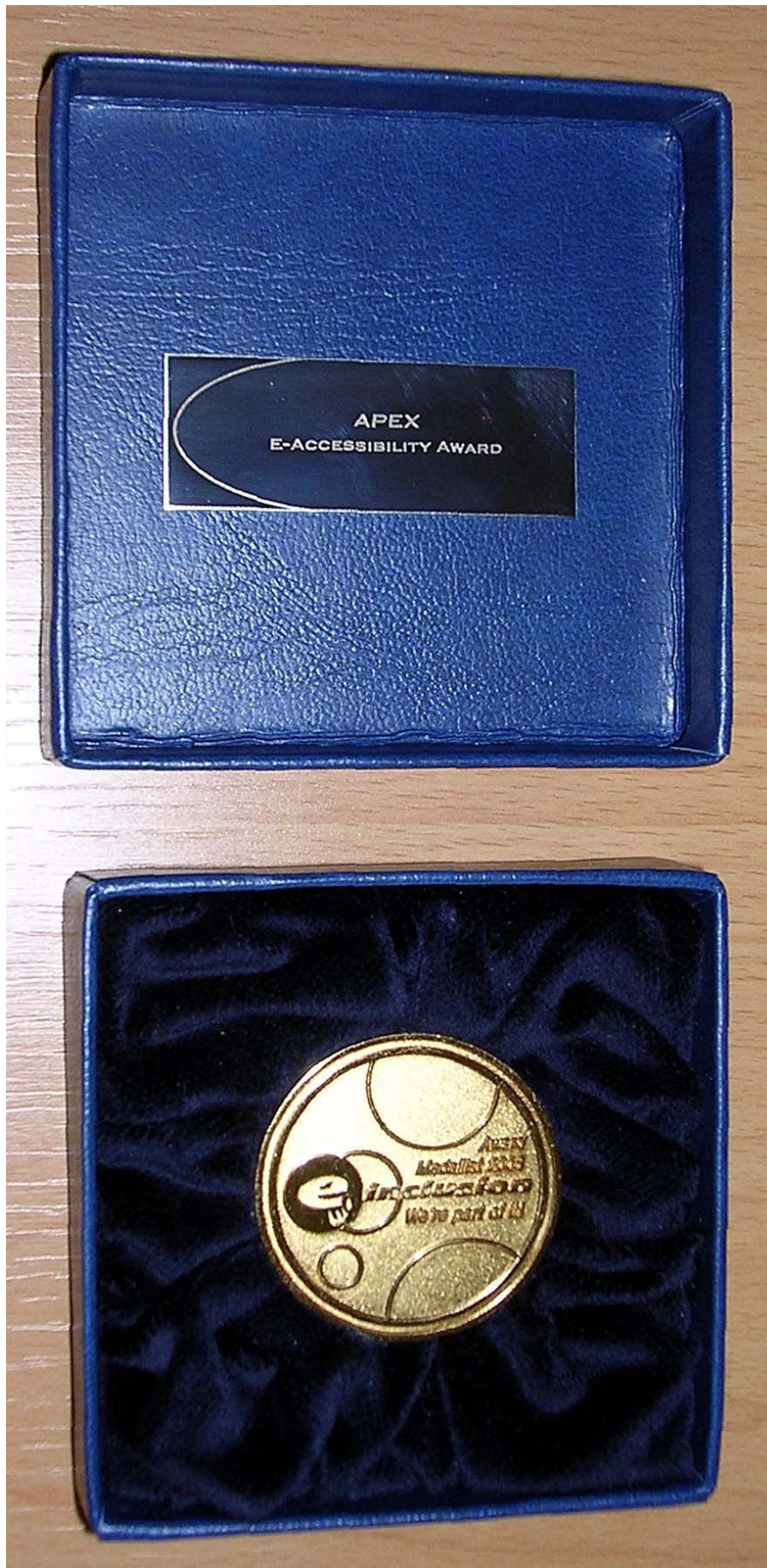
The 2008 e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference was complemented by a large scale exhibition of around 100 stands. Part of the exhibition was "The Awards Finalists Village" with 35 stands presenting the top 5 projects or initiatives per award category. On 1st December 2008 the delegate of APEX received the gold medal from the European commissioner Dr Gerard Comyn. Later that day the Czech deputy minister of interior Mgr. Lenka Ptáčková visited the Apex delegates at their stand for a short discussion and demonstration of the TYFLOSET system.



The APEX delegates receiving the gold medal. (left: Ivan Hrouda, Jaroslav Bárta - APEX, right: the European commissioner Dr Gerard Comyn)



Ing. Jaroslav Bárta (the director of Apex) demonstrating the TYFLOSET® systém to Mrg. Lenka Ptáčková.



The medal APEX won in the e-Inclusion Awards competition 2008 with the "TYFLOSET" system.