



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

LOCATION:
Bucharest, Romania

ORGANIZATION:
SIVCO Romania

YEAR:
2011

ORGANIZATION URL:
<http://www.sivco.ro>

STATUS:
Laureate

PROJECT NAME:
IT system implemented at the Agency for Payment and Intervention in Agriculture

CATEGORY:
Emerging Technology

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Starting with 2007, Romania benefits from EU funds for agriculture under the form of direct area payments. The direct payments represent the support granted by the European Union to farmers in Romania under the condition that farmers are eligible and submit an area aid request. An essential condition the Romanian government had to fulfill in order to be able to absorb EU funds for direct payments was the creation of a system to ensure the administration and strict control of the farmers' aid requests. This is the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), while its creation, implementation and management are the responsibility of the Payments and Intervention Agency for Agriculture (APIA). The development of the administration and control system was awarded to SIVCO Romania. Project's context: Unlike the other EU countries, Romania had only one year for the implementation and setting up of the IT system for APIA. Except for Romania and Bulgaria, these systems were implemented prior to the integration of respective countries into the UE. Each EU Member State is obliged to develop its own IACS system. The solution developed by the consortium SIVCO Romania – ABG SPIN Poland is a very complex IT based system: during the system's development, several new updated and improved versions were produced, according to the beneficiary's requirements and based on newly emerged regulations and legislation. In Romania, APIA is directly responsible for the management of the budget allotted to Romania within CAP, subsequently to the EU accession. In the first three years the payments will be made on the basis of a relatively simple scheme, the single area payment – SAPS. The IT system of APIA includes several modules implemented and developed as follows: • system for farmers' registration; • integrated Administration and Control System; • system for identification of agricultural parcels; • system for management of the market regulation schemes; • system for management of the measures for rural development; • system for management of documents; • the financial-accounting system. The project was delivered in time and within the budget, at a high quality of services. There were no financial penalties during



the project.

SOCIETAL BENEFITS

The project offers a modern instrument to an important social category farmers to receive their due financial rights, in an objective and transparent manner, without bureaucracy. The project helps farmers understand how to use the IT system to their benefit. They become more efficient by using innovative technology.

PROJECT BENEFIT EXAMPLE

APIA-IACS Project implementation was a complex process and there have been many critical aspects to be dealt with within its various subprojects/modules, derived both from the project's scope and scale. The benefits of the project are multiple: Romanian farmers have now an easy and modern way of accessing the available aid funds. Filling in and tracking their application for funding, as well as the related documents, is made using a modern system, facilitating permanent access to information regarding the status of an application from submitting a request up to the payments; The waiting time is substantially reduced at various points on the request processing flow, which is implicitly improving the citizen's experience when working with the administration. The system helps improving the management, monitoring and implementation of processing applications for funding. This brings two advantages, namely efficiency and easiness of APIA activities.

IS THIS PROJECT AN INNOVATION, BEST PRACTICE? Yes

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

The project has received important awards: In 2010, the IT solution for the Romanian Payments and Intervention Agency for Agriculture was "Winner of the European IT Excellence Awards 2010", at the Vertical Market category . The complexity and importance of the project developed at APIA have been also recognized by the International Project Management Association (IPMA), in June 2009. The solution developed for the IT system operating at APIA received the Finalist Trophy in the Award Category Project Excellence in "Big-Sized Project". Moreover, the software solution developed by SIVCO Romania for APIA also received the acknowledgement of IT professionals, being awarded in November 2008 at the Romanian Computer Show Gala, organized by International Data Group.