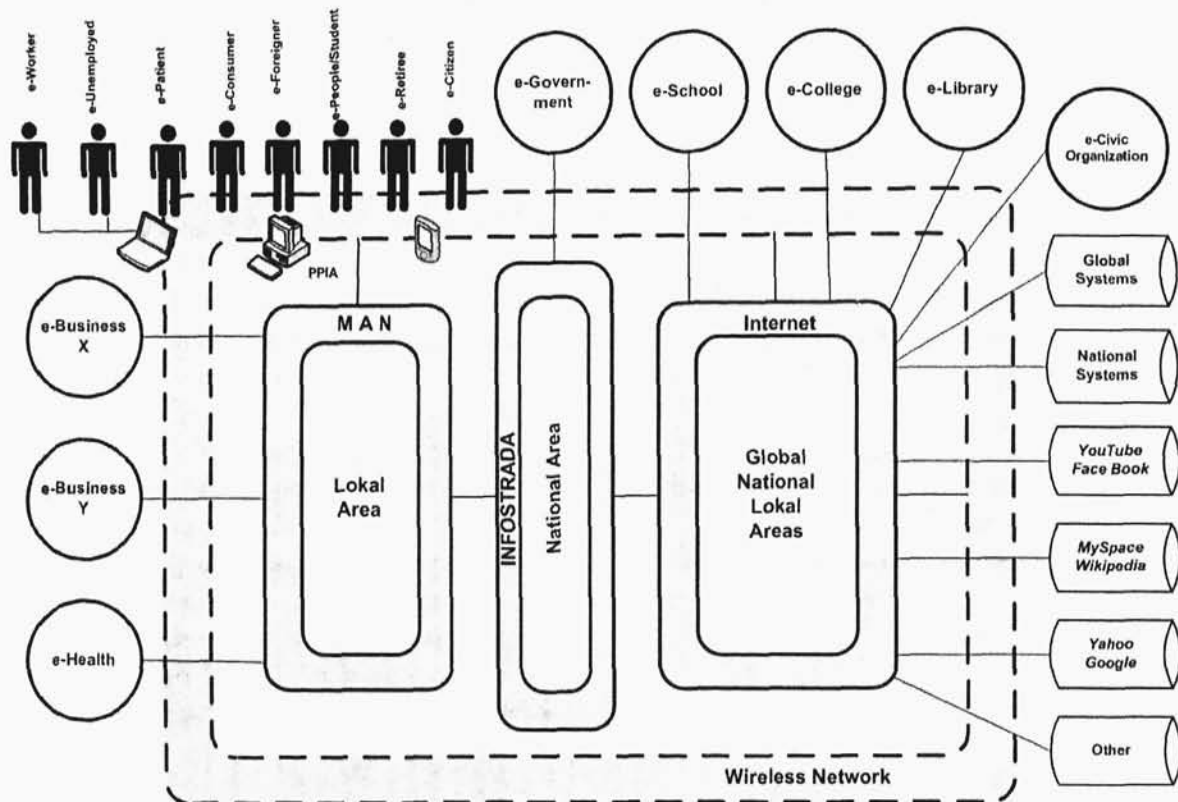


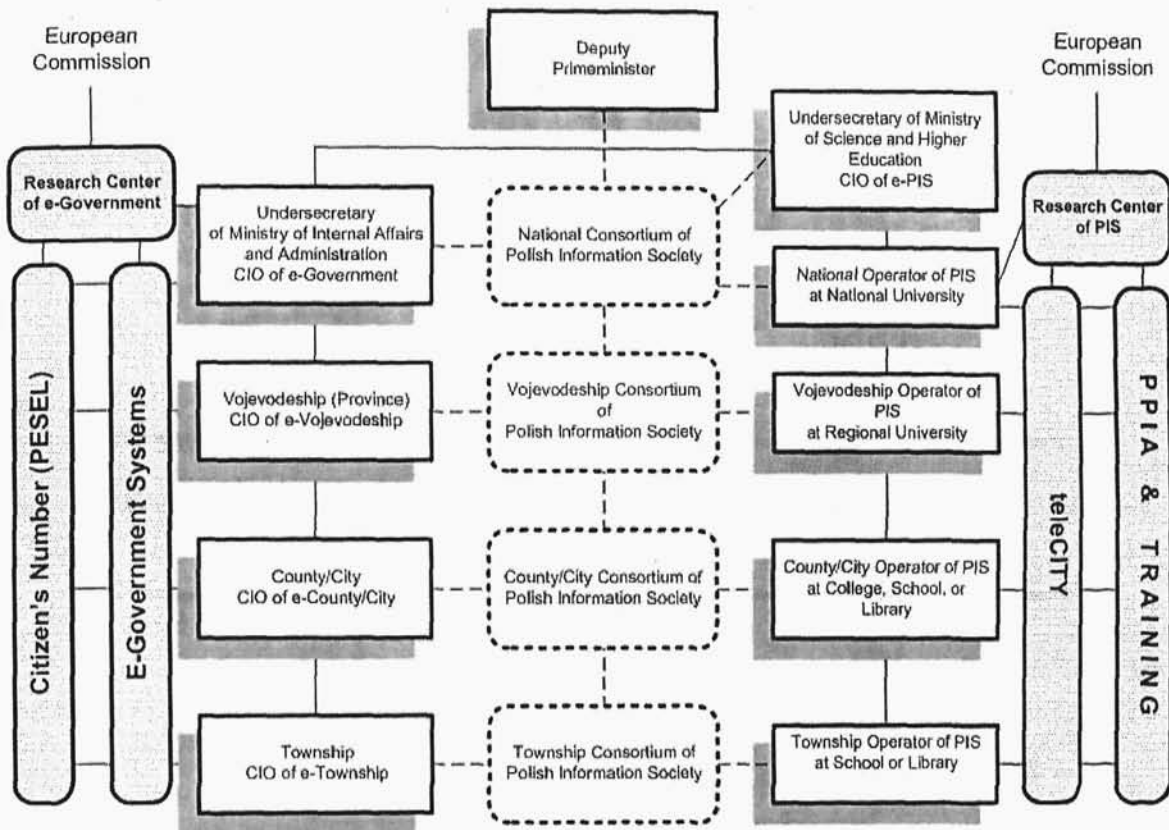
Figure 14-8. The architecture of a teleCITY (PPIA-Public Points of Interest Access, MAN-Metropolitan Area Network)



## CONCLUSION

1. The study of types of the information society should influence the methodology of application systems design, since each type will have its own requirements that are appropriate for a given level of the society's information maturity.
2. As nations build their presence in the global economy, they need a national information policy to allocate and coordinate organizational responsibilities. This policy should include direct governmental involvement in developing an information infrastructure similar to urban and rural infrastructures. Some indirect incentives for the development and modernization of the information infrastructure should be provided too. A regulatory environment should be established to provide more conducive decisions on the modernization of the information infrastructure. A case of Poland can help in solving this issue.
3. The information societies should emerge as a neutral tool of social development. They should not support any politics either liberal or conservative. They should close the loop of man-to-information and information-to-man. Their mission is the present and future of humankind equipped with the ability and tools of information and communication processing and handling. This may lead to more aware social decisions and actions.

Figure 14-9. A chart of steering of the development of the Polish Information Society (PIS) in 2008-2013 (The Targowski Model 2008)



Nowadays, knowledge, learning and consciousness are at the mercy of ICT tools that may control the development of civilization either well or poorly. This civilization's current mood is based on the importance of a sense of being.

#### A. Further Research Directions

- Investigate relationships among levels of economic and information society developments and their impact on society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Investigate the challenges of the global economy for different kinds of information societies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- Investigate how e-mobile systems impact the development and operations of information societies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

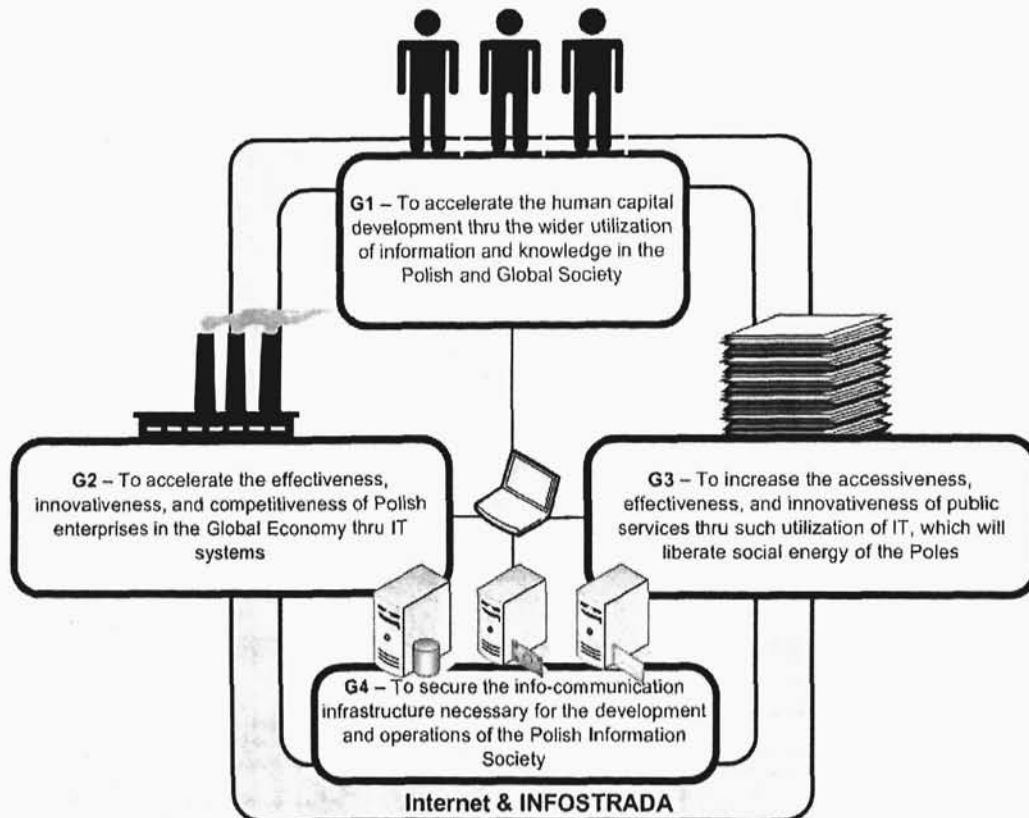
#### B. Research Opportunities

- The research opportunity is in going beyond the concept of a knowledge society and investigating the concept of a wise society and its impact on civilization.

#### C. Additional Ideas

- The information society may have some problems in operating in non-agricultural and non-industrial economies, since *infor-*

Figure 14-10. The generalized goals of the Polish Information Society in 2008-2013 (*The Targowski Model 2008*)



tion is always about something “else,” like agriculture and industrial products-processes-systems-consumers-users.

#### D. Rationale

- An information society is a society in which the creation, distribution, diffusion, use, and manipulation of information are significant economic, political, and cultural activities. The knowledge economy is its economic counterpart, whereby wealth is created through the economic exploitation of understanding. There is currently no universally accepted concept of what exactly

can be called “information society” and what should not be so termed. Most theoreticians agree that we see a transformation which started somewhere between the 1970s and today and is fundamentally changing the way societies work. Information technology includes more than the Internet, and there are discussions regarding the actual influence of specific media or specific modes of production. One of the most popular kinds of information society is knowledge society, which inspires knowledgeable people to cooperate. The knowledge society emphasizes the importance of knowledge and also the importance of proper knowledge distribu-

tion, sharing, and building for social development. However, wisdom, not knowledge, is the ultimate cognition which decides societal successes. Therefore, the wisdom society is the ultimate, almost utopian target of social development. Is it possible for mankind to expect that one day we can attain that kind of a society? What stages must the information society pass through in order to reach this ultimate level of social organization?

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## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> More on universal-complementary civilization in Chapter VII.
- <sup>2</sup> Adapted from U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, Critical Connections: Communication for the Future, OTA-CIT-407, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, January 1990.

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