

Kaunas Municipality is coming to the end with a partially EU funds financed project “E ticket in public transport and passengers information system creation”. Project manager Vygintas Grinis, a head of city development department, informed that this project will improve passenger service, will be possible to top up your current monthly e- tickets, to buy single journey at many points in cash and online via Internet.

E-ticket for transport is only first step of e-Kaunas strategy. There are foreseen e-services in all city live – culture, education, health, utility etc, said dr. Albinas Baciliunas, president of BMG Consulting, developers of e-Kaunas strategy. To start promotion of the new technologies is decided for young people - in the schools. So this year was developed student e-card solution and implemented pilot projects in the 3 Kaunas schools. Existing e-ticket card for transport was personalized as student card (student name, photo, name of school).



First application of student card was implementation in school canteens. Rimantas Lasukas, the IT manager of Social department of Kaunas Municipality, said that today there are three thousand pupils who are given free meals at school every day. All that is managed by Social department of Municipality, administrations of schools and canteens. It takes a lot of time because they have to prepare tokens for pupils who can have free meals at school, than to control the process of giving the meal to the right pupil, daily registering ones who didn't had there meal, preparing the reports and delivering them to Social department, in other words - school teachers and canteen workers have to do quit a responsible whatis not they direct job. This problem needs an immediate solution, because last week Lithuanian government introduced a new law that gives free meal to all the lower pupils starting next school year.

Kaunas municipality together with companies “BMG Consulting” and “Nevda” developed and implemented pilot project “E ticket integration in to Kaunas education offices”.

Sigitas Alubauskas the principal of Silainiai secondary school said, this project will eliminate intermediate problems as tokens are paid by parents, money are given to a class head teacher who is responsible to pay for all free meals that pupils get, receive new tokens and give them to pupil every month. Paulius Martynaitis the principal of Juozas Urbsas secondary school agrees, also he said that sometimes it happens that pupils

receive money from their parents to have a school meal but spend them on cakes, drinks, sometimes games or worse they buy cigarettes or alcohol.

In canteens of schools are installed computers with E card readers, connected via Internet to Municipal Social department. Each morning computer upgrade list of names, who can get meal for free. Now pupils only have to touch the reader with his E card and computer will tell dos he have to get a free meal, also the canteen worker can see the photo of pupil and register all meals. At the end of the day computer automatically prepares the report of those who received free meals and send a report to Social department.



According to dr. Albinas Baciliunas, the president of “BMG Consulting”, control of free meal in the schools is only first step of this project. In near future it is planed to expand system, personalize E ticket to all pupils, so parents could pay for there child meal in advance in cash or Internet banking. This project also opens ways for services like attendance control, pay for copying and printing, library card and others.

Another E ticket application was implemented in Kalnieciai school. There personalized cards where are used to control children’s traveling to Kaunas school from outside city. This is important for Municipality because in Kaunas are more than 4000 such pupils and Municipality pays for transport company near 1 mln Euro each year.

In the development of pilot project was chosen modern technology. First time in Baltic states in Kaunas small public transport busses were installed new NFC mobile phones. Like other NFC phones they have E card reader integrated inside, so it can read all E cards. As said Albinas Baciliunas, the president of BMG Consulting - coordinator of this project, in to NFC phones was installed additional program, so it easily becomes E tickets validator in the bus. Nokia 6131 NFC is installed t near the driver so than passengers are getting into bus they give their E card to him and the driver touch the screen of NFC phone with E card, in second the phone shows is the card valid. If no - it charge you for your journey. At the same time this phone is used as a regular mobile phone, and also as a device to control bus schedule.

Mr. Gintaras Girkontas the head of “Girobus” who has got 50 minibuses said that this phone is very handy to the driver, because driver would not have to count money , give

change and off course give ticket. In emergency you can make calls too. This system could easily make report about passengers because all touched E cards would be registered in central computer, and in some cases if you need you can always them all the information.



In the pilot project was chosen minibus N120 which takes pupils from Karmelava and Ramuciai areas. First school involved in this project was Kalnieciu secondary school , which is nerest to these areas. The principal of Kalnieciai secondary school Regina Rackeliene said that this project will help organize more ease pupils registration, also parent could easily check their children journeys on line.

These 40 pupils E cards are registered into control system, the minibus validators each morning upgrade list of valid cards. Each day pupils must present their card to the driver who checking if e card is legal and in the same time registering the cards number and also time by touching the card to a mobile phone. In that way all traveling pupils will be registered, and the report of past days traveling is made. Official report for Municipality is made every month. If the card is lost or stolen you need to call school social worker, and they will block the card.

Company “Omnitel” for this innovative project gave 6 Nokia 6131 NFC phones. As said Paulius Rate, the head of “Omnitel” Kaunas office, system installed in these phones could read transport, banking and other E cards. Another important thing is that NFC phones can keep E cards data in their memory. Such phones are very popular in Japan and America because data of bank cards, traveling discounts etc are kept inside them. It is better to carry mobile phone instead of all plastic cards. Youth use this phone to buy tickets to the cinema or concert easy in the street, simply by touching your phone to the advertising desk, choosing what ticket you want and paying with the money that are in your phone , in seconds you receive your ticket to your mobile phone. When you come to the cinema, you only need to touch ticket validator with your phone and gates will open. Also there are malls where you can buy parking ticket, sweets, drinks using the same phone.

This pilot projects will run until the end of June. After results will be analyzed and will start preparation for next schools season in larger range

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