

PARTNERSHIP ON MEASURING ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT



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Promoting ICT policies
through statistics

About the Partnership

The demand for information and communication technology (ICT) statistics has risen sharply as countries recognize the benefits and potential of ICT as a tool for social and economic development. To reap the benefits of the rapidly changing information society, governments need to monitor and benchmark progress based on measurable indicators with a view to designing and reviewing national policies and strategies.

The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development is a multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at improving the availability and quality of internationally comparable ICT statistics. Through its work, the Partnership helps policymakers produce statistics that are crucial to informed decision-making.

The initiative is a direct response to the request made by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to produce official statistics to monitor the information society. Launched in 2004, the Partnership provides a framework for the coordination of activities carried out by international and regional organizations involved in ICT measurement.

The Partnership helps measure the information society by:

- Defining a core list of ICT indicators and methodologies to collect these indicators. This list, endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, is updated regularly;
- Helping developing countries produce official ICT statistics, particularly through capacity-building and hands-on training for national statistical offices and other relevant data collection agencies;
- Collecting and disseminating information society statistics, including through global reports and databases. Partners contribute their expertise and resources to the development and implementation of Partnership projects.

Achievements

The Partnership is an example of successful inter-agency collaboration and has allowed Partners to combine human and financial resources to avoid duplication and maximize outreach.

Core list of ICT indicators

The Partnership has developed a core list of ICT indicators as well as associated statistical standards and methodologies, in close consultation with experts from National Statistical Systems. The core list, which has been endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, provides the basis for the production of ICT statistics in countries all over the world. The core list is continuously being updated. The latest version includes indicators measuring ICT infrastructure and access; access to, and use of, ICT by households and individuals; use of ICT by businesses; the ICT sector; trade in ICT goods; ICT in education; and e-government.

WSIS monitoring

The Partnership contributes to the follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the WSIS. It has developed a statistical framework for measuring the WSIS targets and monitors progress on a regular basis. The role of the Partnership in measuring the WSIS achievements has been recognized by the WSIS and the UN ECOSOC.

Awareness raising

The Partnership has conducted regional and global events, workshops and training courses to raise awareness of, and build capacity in, ICT measurement. Given the cross-sectoral nature of ICT statistics, the Partnership brings together a large array of actors within the National Statistical System, such as national statistical offices, ICT ministries, telecommunication regulatory authorities as well as line ministries, to discuss information society statistics.

Enhanced ICT statistics

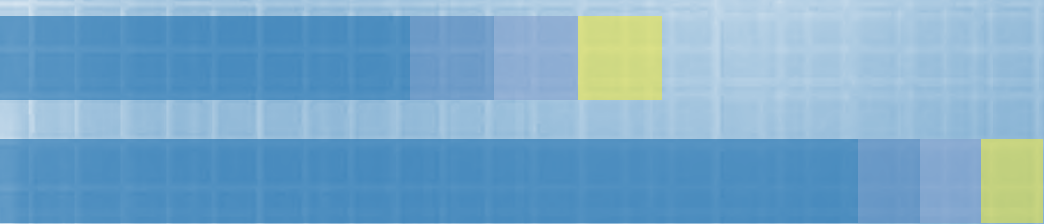
As a result of the Partnership activities, the availability of official ICT statistics has considerably improved since the launch of the Partnership in 2004, and there are now better tools to support countries in their efforts to collect ICT data. However, major data gaps remain in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries.

Assistance to developing countries

The Partnership and its members provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of National Statistical Systems to produce internationally comparable statistics on the information society based on the core list of indicators, by:

- Raising awareness among policymakers of the importance of ICT statistics in monitoring and evaluating ICT policies;
- Helping statistical agencies in developing countries collect, analyze and disseminate ICT data;
- Developing practical manuals and model questionnaires for the production of ICT statistics in countries;
- Providing specialized training courses on the production of statistics relating to the information society;
- Holding technical workshops at the regional and national levels to exchange experiences, discuss methodological and operational aspects of ICT data collection and promote standardization.

The Partnership actively seeks contributions from donors to support capacity-building in developing countries.



Partners



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat)



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)



United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)



United Nations Environment Programme/Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP/SBC)



World Bank

To find out more

For more information about the Partnership and its activities, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.itu.int/ict/partnership> and <http://measuring-ict.unctad.org>.

Partnership publications



- Framework for a set of e-government indicators, 2011
- Measuring the WSIS targets: a statistical framework, Geneva 2011
- Monitoring the WSIS targets: a mid-term review. World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report, Geneva 2010
- Core ICT indicators, Geneva 2010
- ITU Manual for measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals, Geneva 2009
- UNCTAD Manual for the production of statistics on the information economy, New York/Geneva 2009
- UIS Guide to measuring information and communication technologies (ICT) in education, Montreal 2009
- The global information society: a statistical view, New York/Santiago 2008
- Measuring ICT: the global status of ICT indicators, New York/Geneva 2005



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