

UNECE activities related to the information society
(According to the ITU classification of activities)

<u>WSIS Action Plan</u>	UNECE Activities		Links and information
	Activities/projects/initiatives	Responsible Sector/office	
A. List of issues			
1) Information and communication infrastructure: financing and investment, affordability, development and sustainability			
2. Bridging the digital divide:	<p>Bridging the gender digital divide</p> <p>ECE promotes a regional dialogue, exchange of good practices and preparation of a regional action plan including recommendations how to bridge the gender digital divide. Gender issues are mainstreamed into the preparatory process to the World Summit on the Information Society through the round table discussions and gender concerns are reflected in final documents from ministerial meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Conference of CIS countries (Bishkek, 9-11 September 2002); recommendations from a round table session on gender and ICT were included into the Final Declaration; • Pan-European Ministerial Conference (Bucharest, 7-9 November); recommendations from a side event on “Building a Gender-Sensitive Information Society” were presented at the plenary session, which adopted proposed changes in the Final Declaration and Action Plan, which have strengthened gender concerns; recommendations call on governments and other stakeholders to build women’s capacity to use ICT for work and business. <p>The ECE plays also a catalytic role in bridging the gender digital divide through its programme on women’s entrepreneurship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Second UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs (17-18 March 2003) discussed access to ICT for women entrepreneurs. Governments presented good practices and successful E: business companies shared their experiences; • Role models for women entrepreneurs in ICT area are promoted through the UNECE Portrait Gallery of Excellent Women Entrepreneurs http://www.unece.org/indust/sme/gallery.htm, which include profiles of many women successful in ICT area and by the UNECE Award for The Best Entrepreneur in Information Technology. The Award is one of six main categories of ECE Awards for Excellent Women Entrepreneurs. It was given for the first time at the Second Forum of Women Entrepreneurs; • On-line ECE Network of Women’s Business Associations facilitates the exchange of experiences on ICT use for women entrepreneurs; the Network includes 22 associations from 15 countries www.unece.org/operact/entrep/women; • ECE workshop on women’s entrepreneurship at the CEI Economic Summit (Skopje, 13-15 November 2002) emphasized the role of existing technology centers in encouraging women entrepreneurs to use ICT and prepared recommendations to develop e-training, especially for women entrepreneurs in rural areas. <p>ECE Team of Specialists on Women’s Entrepreneurship working under the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) evaluates the situation of access to ICT for women run enterprises</p>		

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3. Universal access: 4. Broadband: 5. Low cost equipment: 6. Low cost connectivity: 7. Convergence: 8. Interconnection: 9. Interconnection fees: 10. Regional infrastructure: 11. Environmental protection			
2) Access to information and knowledge			
13. Access to public domain information:	Management of statistical information technology systems The ECE strongly focuses on managerial aspects related to statistical information technology. It aims to assist its member countries in the development of an appropriate strategy in the implementation of IT and improve its management in statistical agencies. This includes the definition of suitable architecture for computing, communications and information holding, the choice of appropriate interface standards, the impact of IT development on the organisation of statistical services in statistical agencies, the reduction of costs of statistical production, the requalification of statistical staff etc. This initiative draws upon the recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for international organisations: - To investigate the possibility of developing a common system (portal) for monitoring data collection activities ; - To ensure the development of data sharing models; - To give both NSOs and other data providers easy access to statistics available at the international organisations in a form allowing comparisons and usage in national dissemination programmes; - To put in place secure and operational methods and tools for the transmission of sensitive information, and - To work with national statistical offices to facilitate the reuse of their standard products.	Statistical Division	
	European forest sector outlook studies: Analyse the developments and outlook for the forest and forest industry sector, considering challenges and uncertainties of varying policies, market developments and the influence of exogenous factors. This should encompass all main kinds of forestry land use and all stages of forest product use, from the forest to the final consumer. The aim is to assist policy formulation and investment decision-making. The main target groups of EFSOS are policy makers, entrepreneurs, the academic community of the forest and forest products sector and the public.	Trade Development and Timber Division (Timber Branch)	

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	Forest resources and indicators of sustainable forest management, including methodological development: Collect and make available forest resources data of the countries of the ECE region. All activities are carried out in close cooperation with the FAO global forest resource assessment programme.	Trade Development and Timber Division (Timber Branch)	
	Database on monitoring forestry assistance to countries in transition: To contribute as appropriate to the regional and global dialogue on sustainable development of the sector. Particular attention will be paid to issues of importance to countries in transition.	Trade Development and Timber Division (Timber Branch)	
	Forest products markets information system; Forest fire prevention and control: Collect, analyse and disseminate information on forest products markets and forest fires in cooperation with partners in international organizations and countries. Provide fora for discussion of forest products marketing, especially in countries in transition, and on market developments and disseminate current, neutral information in order to support sustainable development in the forest products sector.	Trade Development and Timber Division (Timber Branch)	
	Multiplier Points for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development The project aims to create an interactive network of organizations in the public and private sector and of NGO's that will be used to disseminate information on all aspects of the work of UNECE regarding Trade, Investment promotion and enterprise development and to communicate with interested groups. The Internet will enable a bi-directional communication channel to user groups that had up to now limited means to interact with the UNECE and benefit from its resources and expertise.	Trade Development and Timber Division	
14. Open standards and open-source software: (standardization is also in point 30 – enabling environment)			
15. Information flows (Internet contracts and existing contracts renegotiated.)			
3) The role of governments, the business sector and civil society in the promotion of ICTs for development			
17. Cooperation among Stakeholders:			
18. Resource mobilization:			
19. ICT manufacturing capabilities:			
4) Capacity building: human resources development, education, and training			
21. ICTs in education:			

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22. Capacity building for ICT use: 23. Training ICT specialists:			
5) Security			
24. Secure and reliable infrastructure: 25. Information Security: 26. Creating a global culture of cyber-security: 27. Fighting cybercrime:			
6) Enabling environment			
28. Good governance:	<p>Aarhus Convention Task Force on Electronic Information Tools A task force to support and promote the use of electronic information tools was established in July 2000 under the ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention). The task force, previously led by Austria, is now under the leadership of Bulgaria. Its mandate, confirmed and expanded by the first Meeting of the Parties in October 2002, is to identify needs, challenges and priorities in this area with a view to promoting good practices and to provide input into the Convention's capacity building efforts. The task force has developed a list of possible actions to further the use of electronic tools in the implementation of the Aarhus. The list is contained in the report of the Arendal workshop (CE/WG.5/2001/4). In its last meeting held in Sofia, 23-24 June 2003, the task force identified four priority area for advancement of the use of ICTs to promote implementation of the Convention and welcomed the development of an electronic clearing house mechanism for the Convention</p> <p><i>Partners, donors contributing to the project</i> Bulgaria (lead country), Austria, Denmark, Interactive Health Ecology Access Links (IHEAL), Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), UNEP.net and UNEP/Grid-Arendal</p>	Environment and Human Settlements Division	
29. Market environment: 30. Standardization:	<p>Standardisation in the field of electronic business The E-Business MoU Management Group works to foster cooperation among standards developers, so as to minimize the risk of divergent and competitive approaches to standardization, to avoid duplication of efforts, and to avoid confusion amongst users of E-Business standards.</p>	Trade Development and Timber Division (on the basis of MOU between ISO, IEC, ITU and UNECE)	http://www.itu.int/I-TU-T/e-business/mou/index.html
31. Spectrum management: 32. Consumer protection: 33. Internet governance:			

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34. Intellectual property rights:			
7) Promotion of development-oriented ICT applications for all			
36. E-Government:	<p>Gas Centre Database The project is an ongoing ECE activity which aims at developing a database for energy policies in general and the gas industry in particular. Built in a flexible, searchable and user-friendly format, the database features an internationally comparable set of data for the gas sector in the ECE region.</p> <p>Road safety activities Projects in the framework of the Working Parties on Road Traffic Safety and Road Transport: The ECE has launched a series of projects targeting its member countries' traffic safety standards and road transport legislation. They include legislation restricting the use of mobile phones while driving, the introduction of digital tachographs on commercial vehicles to measure driving times and rest periods, the application of informatics and intelligent transport devices in road safety, and the introduction of electronic consignment notes for road transport.</p>	<p>Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division</p> <p>Transport Division</p>	
37. E-Business:	<p>The Data Bank of Regulations concerning the Carriage of Dangerous Goods aims to provide Member States, transport operators, chemical/petroleum/gas industry as well as control and enforcement bodies with quick and effective access at the lowest possible cost to the numerous requirements connected with the classification, packing and labelling of dangerous goods and related transport requirements (road, rail and waterways).</p> <p>United Nations electronic Trade Documents Project (UNeDocs) implements a system of standard paper and electronic trade documents for international trade. UNeDocs allows traders to choose the type of document technology they can support best. It opens a migraton path into electronic business and automation of trading procedures. The project promotes international trade standards, increases the efficiency of international trade, reduces transaction costs and time and opens new ways to combat fraud and crime. The standard is based on aligned paper documents, UN/EDIFACT and XML technologies. UNeDocs provides concets for developing and integrating Internet Web Services for trade. Web Services provide value added services for trade, further automate trade documentation and implement national and regional e-policies. The solution is accessible to SMEs, developing copuntries and economiews in transition and open at a low cost entry path into electronic business environment. Basic documentary functionality for UNeDocs is available on standard office PCs with no additional software required</p> <p>The Database on Classification and Labelling Of Chemicals consolidates all information submitted by the members of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.</p> <p>The International TIR Data Bank will contain all information on authorised TIR carnet users. This information will be made available to national customs authorities and will help to make the TIR system, which allows holders of TIR carnets to cross borders without the need for checking procedures each time, more secure</p>	<p>Transport Division</p> <p>Trade Development and Timber Division</p> <p>Transport Division</p> <p>Transport Division</p>	

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38. E-learning:	<p>UNECE Statistical Database UNECE maintains large databases of macro-economic statistics to support the compilation of ECE reference series. This involves the analysis and production of the Economic Survey of Europe, the socio-economic statistics used in the "Trends in Europe and North America" publications" as well as environmental statistics. The primary objective of this activity is to ensure that analyses conducted by ECE are supported by relevant, accurate, timely, understandable and easily accessible data. It also aims at providing user-friendly electronic public access to a core set of the statistics that have been collected to support ECE's analysis programmes. It is expected that the core set of ECE reference series will be extended in the coming two years to include most of the important macro-economic statistics from Eastern-Europe and CIS countries.</p> <p>Macroeconomic database domain</p> <p>Human settlements database domain</p> <p>Socioeconomic database domain</p> <p>Population database domain</p> <p>The Gender Statistics Website for Europe and North America is a joint ECE/UNDP project which aims at the overall improvement and availability of gender statistics and key indicators for countries in the ECE region. This project brings together both gender statistics and policies. The main focus is on the production, dissemination and use of gender related data. In addition to statistics, this site elaborates on some of the main gender issues relevant to the UNECE region, and provides examples of policies and other initiatives within that context. This website also links these gender issues to statistical indicators developed by the UNECE/UNDP gender statistics Task Force. The database of gender statistics helps to monitor the situation of women and men in all UNECE member countries, and to evaluate the effectiveness of policies.</p>	<p>Statistical Division</p> <p>Statistical Division</p> <p>Environment and Human Settlements Division</p> <p>Statistical Division</p> <p>Population Activities Unit (Economic Analysis Division)</p> <p>Statistical Division</p>	
39. E-health: 40. E-employment:			
41. E-environment:	<p>Internet-based reporting scheme under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) The LRTAP project, completed in 2002, aims to address the major environmental problems of the ECE region through an Internet-based approach. In this perspective, input from the Parties to the convention on LRTAP (47 ECE member states) are handled electronically, thus allowing the public to receive better and more up-to-date reports on air pollution abatement strategies in the region.</p>	<p>Environment and Human Settlements Division</p>	
8) Cultural identity and linguistic diversity, local content and media development			
42. Cultural and linguistic diversity.			

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43. Content:	Statistical Metadata This projects ai at standardisation of formats and methods and minimum requirements for methodological and descriptive metadata disseminated along with the statistical data.	Statistical Division	
44. Media:		Statistical Division	
9) Identifying and overcoming barriers to the achievement of the Information Society with a human perspective			
(Empty for the moment)			
B. Objectives			
45. Examples of possible concrete and comprehensive actions could include: a) Benchmarks: (Istanbul??) b) E-Strategies: c) Global Digital Compact: d) Digital development index e) Handbook on good practices and success stories: f) Training content workers: g) Curriculum revision: h) World languages on the Internet:.			
C. Strategies programmes, methods for implementation			
46.			
47. Governments			
48. Private sector			
49. Civil society	The Databank of Regulations of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) offers Member States, private operators, NGOs and industry associations an easy and versatile tool to access the regulations on the basis of their subject..	Transport Division	
50. Mass media		Statistical Division	
51. Multilateral organizations			

