



Policy coherence for development

INTERNET ACCESS AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Some remarks on policy mix





Overview

1. Intra-country coherence

- ICT in Germany
- German ICT policy

2. Coherence within development co-operation policies

- Internet access and the information society
- Knowledge for development



ICT in Germany (2006)

- ICT industry biggest sector of domestic market
 - **key for productivity, growth, innovation**
- 67% of households use the internet
- Broadband penetration < EU average
- Strong position in eCommerce B2B and B2C (> EU average)
- Less strong in eGovernment (federal structure)
- Less strong in internet access in edu. institutions (< EU average)
- Increasing shortage of qualified employees



German ICT Initiatives (iD 2010)

■ Technical and legal framework conditions

- optimise ICT policy framework
- improve and expand infrastructure (broadband)
- promote interoperability of applications and standardisation (e.g. SAGA)

■ Integration of citizens and state into the information society

- implement eGovernment strategy 2.0 (incl. electronic ID)
- advance eHealth (incl. health card)
- improve access of youth, women and older people to the internet



German ICT Initiatives (iD 2010)

■ ICT security

- Strengthen security of critical information-infrastructure
- Support research and development on ICT security
- Strengthen ICT consumer protection

■ ICT research

- New long-term research programme “IKT 2020”.
- Visible large-scale projects (e.g. Theseus)



1. Intra-country coherence:

■ Pot. Synergies:

- Standards (eGovernment, eSecurity)
- Research (with German / European partners)
- Education (scholarships, local training)
- Cooperate on field of regulation, framework conditions

■ Pot. Conflicts:

- Human resources – competition for ICT expertise



2. Coherence within development co-operation policies

■ Internet access and the information society

OECD study “global opportunities for internet access”:

Chapter on “providing internet-based opportunities to low income mass markets”

Director of Finance of Indian mobile phone operator: *“(...) 75 percent [of our customers] are using the phone for survival in a competitive environment. If you give technology to people, they themselves find out how to use it effectively.”*

Is the same to be expected for internet access?



2. Coherence within development co-operation policies

■ Internet access and the information society

What happens if consumer prices fall?

- Consumption will increase
- There will be new business models
- There will be new products and services

But: Unless accompanied by complementary investments, full development benefits of internet access may not materialise.



2. Coherence within development co-operation policies

■ Knowledge for development

Internet access is relevant but not sufficient to:

- transform available knowledge into innovation in line with local needs and national objectives.
- improve efficiency, transparency and accountability of governments and their ability for evidence-based management.
- up-scale best practices that utilize the internet and directly benefit the poor (education, health-care, micro-finance, market-information etc.)



2. Coherence within development co-operation policies

■ Knowledge for development

Policy to improve internet access has to be embedded:

■ Sustainable web-based interventions require:

- management capacities
- institutional reform
- technology skills

■ Crucial factor **human resources**:

- Qualified, committed leadership and technical expertise.
- key role of secondary and tertiary education.



2. Coherence within development co-operation policies

Knowledge for development: Improve access to information networks for African universities

Policies: (RDIC – ATIC survey)

- Improve connectivity (infrastructure, regulation).
- Use available resources better (bandwidth management)
- Unite in consortium to purchase bandwidth at higher volume and lower price, share infrastructure, etc. (National Research and Education Networks)
- Form library consortia to finance access to int. scientific databases.



2. Coherence within development co-operation policies

■ Internet access and the information society

Recent small study on use of internet cafés in rural and urban areas of an African country:

- 2/3 of users are high school graduates
- 1/3 of users are university educated
- Most frequently used internet services: Similar to private internet consumption elsewhere in the world.



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



**Thank you for
your attention!**