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Purpose

To develop indicators and analysis of the information society that provide insight for policy making and analysis. The measurement work involves the production of internationally comparable and policy relevant indicators for measuring the supply and demand for ICT infrastructure, related services, content, applications and, in particular, electronic commerce.

Objectives and outputs

Statistics for the information society are developed following a "building block" approach. Methodological work and data collection have proceeded in several areas at different speeds, in a step-by-step fashion, by looking first at supply side statistics for the information society (statistics on the ICT sector), and then at the demand side (ICT usage statistics). The methodological work entails the development of the following guidelines and model surveys: the OECD definition of the ICT sector (1998), the OECD definitions of electronic commerce transactions (2000) and their guidelines for implementation (2001), the OECD Model survey on ICT usage in business (2005), the OECD Model survey on ICT usage by households/individuals (2005), the OECD ICT goods definition (2003), and the Guide to Measuring the Information Society (2005).

Data collection and the development of new indicators are carried out on an ad hoc basis in order to aid policy formulation and enable monitoring of progress related to the information society. Data collections of ICT indicators related to the ICT sector (supply statistics) and to ICT use and electronic commerce (demand statistics) are ongoing and metadata information on methodologies and survey vehicles used by member countries is being collected.

The indicators are used in periodical OECD publications such as the "Information Technology Outlook", the "Communications Outlook", and the biennial "STI Scoreboard" as well as "OECD Key ICT indicators" available online and updated on a rolling basis. A comprehensive overview of information society indicators based on official statistics was provided in "Measuring the Information Economy 2002" (MIE 2002), available online free of charge. MIE 2002 is a Web book and one can click on the data in excel spreadsheets underlying the charts and figures, or print the pdf file. An update of some of these indicators was published in the new edition of the STI Scoreboard (2005), also available free of charge online and in the "OECD Key ICT indicators".

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

China, India, Israel, Russian Federation, Singapore

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

On the supply side, research work will continue on a definition of ICT services and on the measurement of trust and security.

Outreach to non-member OECD countries will be strengthened during 2006, in particular with China and India.