

Measuring the Information Society

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Measuring the Information Society

- World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva phase 1, December 2003
- Statistical side event to the WSIS

Statistical side event to the WSIS

- Opening
- Role of ICT in economic and social transformation
- The age of electronic business
 - Current status of statistical measurement
 - ICT indicators for development
- People in the Information Society
 - ICT penetration and digital divide
 - Methods
- ICT and society: measuring social impacts

Opening

- The *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics* as the foundation of our work
- Other international data collections to be used also for monitoring IS
- International organizations produce an inventory of work done on measuring IS
- Assistance to less developed countries

Role of ICT in economic and social transformation

- ICT as an important economic factor
- Lack of comprehensive and internationally comparable data
- The ICT sector defined by OECD in 1998, definition became international standard
- Further OECD work to pursue international comparability also for measuring ICT use, e-commerce, etc.

Role of ICT in economic and social transformation

- ICT impacts on economy
 - investment in ICT contributes to growth
 - having a sector producing ICT goods and services
 - use of ICT
- Empirical evidence: need for reducing unnecessary costs and regulatory burdens
- Need to go beyond economy and measure also impact on society and culture

Role of ICT in economic and social transformation

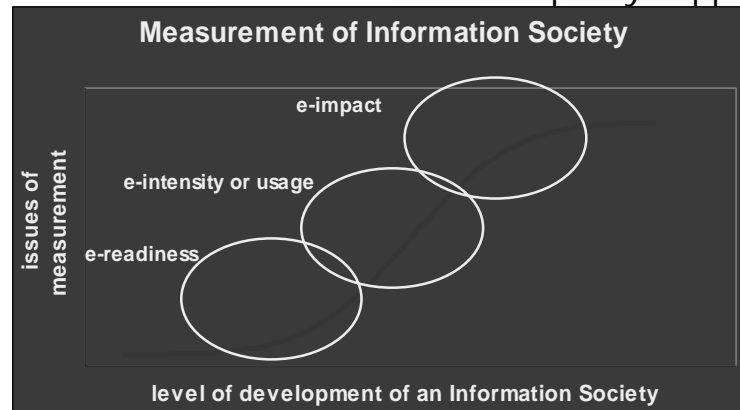
- Developing a coherent framework to classify indicators
 - Readiness,
 - Intensity of Use or Usage,
 - Impact of using ICT products.
- Framework to be linked to policy issues

The age of electronic business *current status*

- Measurement challenging for both developed and developing countries, need to adapt statistical systems
- Link data collection to analysis made for policy options
- Go beyond e-commerce, e-business is much more
- Collaboration across countries

The age of electronic business
ICT indicators for development

- Governments need indicators for policy support



The age of electronic business
ICT indicators for development

- Statisticians need to meet such expectations
- Use of alternative sources other than surveys by NSOs
- Need of international comparability
- Build on the work already done and add regional specificity
- Elements for a structure identified
- UNCTAD <http://measuring-ict.unctad.org>

People in the Information Society
ICT penetration and digital divide

- Centrality of people and their lives as end goals
- Need to measure ICT connectivity and usage among people
- The issue of the digital divide
- Need for new survey-based demand-side indicators

People in the Information Society
ICT penetration and digital divide

- Urgent need for assistance
- Core indicators to start with
- International collaboration and proposal for a core set of indicators before Tunis 2005
- International comparability of concepts, methods, definitions

People in the Information Society *Methods*

- Measurement approaches:
 - administrative or regulatory data;
 - surveys of communication service suppliers;
 - surveys of households or individuals as supplements to 'omnibus' or other survey vehicles;
 - purpose designed stand-alone surveys.

People in the Information Society *Methods*

Start with

Differentiate

Complete

adding
limited
numbers of
questions to
existing
surveys

surveys based
on
households

surveys based
on
individuals

Specialized
purpose-
designed
surveys

People in the Information Society
Methods

- Gathering information through
 - personal interviews
 - telephone interviews
 - computer based questionnaires
 - Internet Service Provider (ISP) surveys
 - Internet traffic and web site analysis
 - *Other sources and methods used in private sector surveys*

ICT and society: measuring social impacts

- Access to and use of ICT means of social progress
- Digital divide
 - Between countries
 - Within countries
- Different analyses for between-countries and within-countries digital divides
- Integrate education into ICT indicators

Some other relevant points

- National task forces on ICT measurement
- Framework of indicators and composite indices
- The issue of age of ICT users
- Measuring community access to ICT

Next steps...

- Monitoring of and coordination with existing and future regional initiatives
- Capacity-building projects
- Regional inputs towards Tunis 2005

Thank you for your attention