



Capacity-Building Workshop on Information Society Measurements Household and Business Surveys

*Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Smart Village, Cairo-Egypt
20 - 21 June 2007*

Information Note

Background

Within the implementation framework of the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Arab Group adopted a "Regional Initiative for Capacity building on Measuring ICT Indicators". It was one of the initiatives adopted in the Arab declaration "Towards the Activation of the Geneva Plan of Action, 2005", and one of the major initiatives in the regional plan of action for building the Information Society launched by ESCWA in 2004. In addition, this initiative is one of five Arab initiatives led by and supported by the International Telecommunication Union and sponsored by Egypt. The support of Arab institutions, regional and international organizations depicted the important role that the Information and Communication Technology indicators can play in building the information society, as well as highlighted the need for capacity building in the Arab region , in particular with respect to defining, developing and measuring ICT indicators.

In addition, within the framework of the "Partnership on measuring ICT for development", ESCWA and the Arab Regional Office of ITU in collaboration with national and regional partners carried out two capacity-building workshops for ESCWA and the Arab states. The first was held in Beirut, Lebanon from 7 to 10 June 2005. The second was held in Amman, Jordan from 10 to 12 December 2006. They focused on capacity building planning, insofar as determining the critical elements for capacity building and recommended actions for stakeholders in order to promote the adoption and collection of core ICT indicators. Particular interest was directed towards developing a list of core ICT indicators, including usage and impact indicators, for the Arab Region, and building the capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs) and ICT ministries and agencies to facilitate the collection of data for those indicators.

The 38th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, held in New York from 27 February to 2 March 2007, endorsed the Core list of ICT indicators proposed by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, in order to encourage countries to use the core list in their data collection programmes. It also encouraged the Partnership to continue its work on improving and updating the list of indicators for measuring use of ICT in education, in government, the contribution of ICT in economic growth and social development, as well as assist countries in their capacity building effort for the collection of data for the ICT indicators.

The team responsible for molding the Arab strategy on ICT in the League of Arab States has recently updated the "Arab Strategy on ICT - building the Information Society 2007-2012". It is currently developing the operational plan of action which includes targets and indicators of measurement for the strategy's assessment.

Objective

This workshop will focus on the technical and methodological aspects of capacity building on measuring the information society, as well as the use of surveys for the collection and presentation of data for core indicators on access by, and use of, ICT by households, and use of ICT in businesses. The workshop will include presentations that will examine the actual surveys and databases used to measure the information society.

Moreover, this workshop will explore the Arab Strategy for ICT, outline its objectives and its indicators of measurement. It will also include a presentation on the regional initiative for ICT indicators in order to highlight the progress made towards its implementation.

Topics

The main topics to be covered in the present workshop are as follows:

- Household/individual and business data sources
- ICT topics in housing censuses and economic surveys
- Sampling and sample frames
- ICT infrastructure surveys
- ICT household and individual surveys
- ICT business surveys
- Regional initiative on capacity-building on measuring ICT indicators
- Arab Strategy on ICT: Objectives, work areas and measurement indicators
- Country experiences and best practices

Organization

The workshop will be held under the patronage of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in Egypt, the Information Technology Industry Development Agency and the League for Arab States. The workshop is organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Arab Regional Office of the International Telecommunication Union, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The workshop is hosted by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt, and will be held in Cairo, from 20 to 21 June 2007.

Participants

The workshop targets statisticians and ICT experts concerned with the various dimensions of the collection of ICT data for households and businesses at the national, regional, and international levels.

Fellowships

A limited number of fellowships are available to participants from qualified countries through ITU and UNCTAD. Please contact the focal points below for further information and application.

Language

The workshop will be carried out in English and Arabic. Simultaneous translation from English to Arabic and vice-versa will be provided.

Additional Information

Any inquiries and requests for additional information regarding participation and substantive matters should be addressed to:

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