



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 21.11.2002
COM(2002) 655 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

eEurope 2005: Benchmarking Indicators

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(text with EEA relevance)

1. INTRODUCTION

In May 2002, the Commission presented the *e*Europe 2005 Action Plan in view of the Seville European Council. This set out policy actions for both European Institutions and Member States to accelerate the development of the Information Society in Europe. In order to monitor progress of the Action Plan, it contained proposals for a benchmarking exercise based on a set of indicators which would be proposed by the Commission and endorsed by the Council. This Communication presents the Commission's proposals for *e*Europe 2005 benchmarking indicators in preparation of the Telecommunications Council of 5 December 2002. The Commission invites the Council to endorse the list of indicators.

2. BENCHMARKING: THE LESSONS OF *e*EUROPE 2002

Following the endorsement of the Action Plan by the Seville European Council, the Commission has worked with experts from Member States and candidate countries, in particular from the national statistical offices, to analyse the lessons of the *e*Europe 2002 benchmarking exercise and to establish principles on which the *e*Europe 2005 benchmarking exercise should be based. The key conclusions from these discussions are as follows:

- (i) ***e*Europe 2005 should have a limited number of policy indicators** which are easy to read and understand and are linked to the policy actions of *e*Europe 2005, making it easier to draw attention to results. Main indicators relating to political goals should be accompanied by supplementary statistical indicators providing technical data for analysis e.g. age, gender, size, sector. 3rd country comparisons are needed to establish benchmarks and compare EU with the best in the world. Results from benchmarking are disseminated as rapidly as possible using the *e*Europe web site.
- (ii) The present timetable for **enlargement** foresees the admission of 10 new Member States at the beginning of 2004 and benchmarking will need to take account of the needs and specificities of candidate countries, with a view to providing as comprehensive a picture as possible of developments in those countries.
- (iii) **Timing:** The political impact of benchmarking is maximised if it can provide recent data in support of the Commission's contribution to the Spring European Council each year. It is that meeting which assesses the progress made in pursuing the goal set by the European Council in Lisbon of creating, by the end of the decade, the world's most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy. In practice this means data must be available by November each year.

- (iv) **Checking:** National Statistical Institutes should be given the opportunity to comment on the various surveys undertaken. Data should therefore be circulated, where possible, to the Council Working Party on Information Society Services and the Commission's *ad hoc* Expert Group on Benchmarking Indicators prior to release to monitor progress on the Action Plan.
- (v) **Sample surveys:** The Eurobarometer surveys used for several *eEurope* 2002 indicators have the advantages of providing rapid results (within 6 weeks of survey) and of using a single methodology for all Member States. To improve quality, greater use should be made of surveys undertaken by National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and Eurostat, and, where considered necessary by the Commission, additional *ad hoc* surveys. Candidate Countries will be invited to participate in Eurostat surveys from 2003 and additional surveys run by the Commission will be extended to candidate countries as soon as possible.
- (vi) In view of policy needs and structural change, there will be a need to assess in the future the feasibility of including **impact indicators**.

3. *eEUROPE* 2005: PROPOSED INDICATORS

In the light of these guiding principles, the Commission proposes 14 policy indicators and 22 supplementary indicators along with their sources and frequency of collection. In addition, 1 policy and 3 supplementary indicators are proposed for which pilot studies need to be carried out but which should be considered for inclusion in the list of indicators at the mid-term review of *eEurope* in 2004.

ANNEX
List of eEurope 2005 Benchmarking Indicators

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INTERNET INDICATORS

A. Citizens' access to and use of the Internet¹

Policy indicators²:

A.1 Percentage of households or individuals having access to the Internet at home

A.2 Percentage of individuals regularly using the Internet

Definition: Population 16-74 years Regularly defined as at least weekly. Use to include all locations and methods of access. Background variables for breakdown/tables: Age, gender, employment status, education level and location (Objective 1 and non-Objective 1).

Source: Eurostat/NSI ICT household survey, data to be collected on a comparable basis

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

Supplementary statistical indicators:

A.3 Percentage of households with access to the Internet broken down by device for accessing via digital TV, mobile device (include all forms of mobile access; handheld computer, mobile phone, identifying 3G (UMTS) separately when available).

A.4 Percentage of individuals with access to the Internet broken down by place of access (home, workplace, place of education, Internet cafe, PIAP etc) and by gender.

A.5 Percentage of individuals using the Internet for specific purposes (broken down by purposes: sending/receiving emails, finding information about goods and services, reading/downloading online newspapers, playing/downloading games and music, internet banking) in the previous 3 months.

A.6 Percentage of households connected in Objective 1 regions.

B. Enterprises' access to and use of ICTs

Policy indicators:

B.1 Percentage of persons employed using computers connected to the Internet, in their normal work routine.

¹ % Households with Internet access is one of the structural indicators, agreed between Commission and Council to measure progress against the overall targets set within the Lisbon Strategy.

² For all policy indicators, there should, if possible, be a supplementary statistical indicator providing comparable data for the USA, Japan or other leading countries.

Definition: Broken down by enterprise size (10-49; 50-249; 250+) and activity (Nace sections D, F, G, H, I, K³).

Sources: Eurostat/NSI ICT enterprise survey

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

Supplementary statistical indicators:

B.2 Percentage of enterprises having access to the Internet⁴

B.3 Percentage of enterprises having a website/homepage

B.4 Percentage of enterprises using Intranet/Extranet

B.5 Percentage of enterprises with persons employed working part of their time⁵ away from enterprise premises and accessing the enterprise's IT systems from there.

C. Internet access costs

Policy indicator:

C.1 Costs of Internet access broken down by different frequency of use: 20, 30, 40 hrs/month, unmetered rates.

Definition: Prices to be indicated separately for xDSL, cable modem and dial-up access at peak and off-peak times; prices should include VAT.

Sources: Commission study + OECD for non-EU comparison

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

Supplementary statistical indicators:

C.2 Identification of cheapest broadband access by type in each Member State

³ In addition, data for Nace sections J and 92.1 (motion picture and video) plus 92.2 (television and radio) to be provided from 2004 onwards.

⁴ % enterprises with Internet access is one of the structural indicators, agreed between Commission and Council to measure progress against the overall targets set within the Lisbon Strategy.

⁵ Minimum of half a day a week, on average, away from work

MODERN ONLINE PUBLIC SERVICES

D. e-government

Policy indicator:

D.1 No. of basic public services fully available⁶ on-line

Definition: 20 basic services as approved by the Internal Market/Consumers/Tourism Council of 12 March 2001 for the first eEurope benchmarking exercise.

Source: Commission study in co-operation with Member States

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

Supplementary statistical indicators:

D.2 Percentage of individuals using the Internet for interacting with public authorities broken down by purpose (purposes: obtaining information, obtaining forms, returning filled in forms)

D.3 Percentage of enterprises using the Internet for interacting with public authorities broken down by purpose (purposes: obtaining information, obtaining forms, returning filled in forms)

Additional supplementary indicators to be the subject of pilot studies with a view to examination of their feasibility at the mid-term review or earlier if possible:

D.4 No. of available basic public on-line services with integrated digital back office processes

D.5 Public procurement processes that are fully carried out online (electronically integrated) in % (by value) of overall public procurement

D.6 Percentage of public authorities using open source software

E. e-learning⁷

Policy indicator:

E.1 Number of pupils per computer with Internet connection (broadband/non-broadband)

⁶ The methodology used for collecting information on availability will be the same as that used for eEurope 2002.

⁷ On the basis of a Commission proposal and contributions from the Member States, the Council adopted the *Report on the concrete future objectives of education systems* on 12 February 2001, the implementation of which will lead to definition of new indicators in this domain.

Definition: Only computers used for teaching purposes to be included

Source: Commission study, Eurostat/NSI household/enterprise survey

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

Supplementary statistical indicators:

E.2 Percentage of individuals having used the Internet in relation to training and educational purposes - broken down by: formalised educational activities (school, university etc.); post-educational courses; other courses related specifically to employment opportunities⁸

E.3 Percentage of enterprises using e-learning applications for training and education of employees

F. e-health

Policy indicators:

F.1 Percentage of Population (aged 16 and over) using Internet to seek health information whether for themselves or others.

F.2 Percentage of general practitioners using electronic patient records

Definition: Health information covers injury, disease and nutrition. Frequency: daily, weekly, monthly, rarely, never, Demographic data: age, gender, Breakdown between general searches and those for named practitioner online. If named practitioner, purpose of communication: make appointment, request prescription, or seek medical advice

Source: New survey, Eurostat/NIS household survey

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

A DYNAMIC E-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

G. Buying and selling on-line

Policy indicator:

G.1 Percentage of enterprises' total turnover from e-commerce

Definition: e-commerce as defined by OECD including both broad and narrow definition. On-line buying and selling to include both via Internet and EDI. Sales should include those to business partners (B2B) and private customers (B2C) but only enterprises buying/selling more than 1% on-line to be included. Except for G.2,

⁸ An additional supplementary indicator, "percentage of people having received any training in ICT, broken down by employment status, gender, education" will be added from 2004.

tables should be broken down by enterprise size by No. of employees (10-49, 50-249); 250+) and activity (NACE sections D, F, G, H, I, K)

Source: Eurostat/NSI enterprise survey/household survey

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

Supplementary statistical indicators:

G.2 Percentage of individuals having ordered/bought goods or services for private use over the Internet in the last 3 months.

G.3 Percentage of enterprises having received orders on-line⁹

G.4 Percentage of enterprises having received on-line payments for Internet sales

G.5 Percentage of enterprises having purchased on-line

H. e-business readiness

Policy Indicator: e-business index (composite indicator)

Definition: A mathematical function (to be defined in 2003) combining a number of key internal and external business processes, which enterprises in Member States conduct using integrated digital means.

Source: Eurostat/NSI enterprise survey

Frequency: Pilot study to be carried out in 2003, if satisfactory, annually thereafter with as reference period 1st quarter.

Components of Index :

Adoption of ICT by business

- a1. Percentage of enterprises that use Internet
- a2. Percentage of enterprises that have a web site / home page
- a3. Percentage of enterprises that use at least two security facilities at the time of the survey
- a4. Percentage of total number of persons employed using computers in their normal work routine (at least once a week)
- a5. Percentage of enterprises having a broadband connection to the Internet
- a6. Percentage of enterprises with a LAN and using an Intranet or Extranet

⁹ An additional supplementary indicator, "*percentage of enterprises having issued invoices on-line*" will be added from 2004 when the e-invoicing Directive comes into force.

Use of ICT by business

- b1. Percentage of enterprises that have purchased products / services' via the internet, EDI or any other computer mediated network where these are >1% of total purchases
- b2. Percentage of enterprises that have received orders via the internet, EDI or any other computer mediated network where these are >1% of total turnover
- b3. Percentage of enterprises whose IT systems for managing orders or purchases are linked automatically with other internal IT systems
- b4. Percentage enterprises whose IT systems are linked automatically to IT systems of suppliers or customers outside their enterprise group
- b5. Percentage of enterprises with Internet access using the internet for banking and financial services
- b6. Percentage of enterprises that have sold products to other enterprises via a presence on specialised internet market places

A SECURE INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

I. Internet users' experience and usage regarding ICT-security

Policy indicators:

- I.1 Percentage of individuals with Internet access having encountered security problems
- I.2 Percentage of enterprises with Internet access having encountered security problems

Definition: Security problems defined for individuals as credit card fraud, computer viruses and abuse of personal information; and for enterprises, broken down by enterprise size (10-49; 50-249; 250+), as computer viruses, unauthorised access to systems or data and blackmail/threats against the enterprise data or software that have occurred in the last 12 months.

Source: Eurostat/NSI ICT household/enterprise survey

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5.

Supplementary statistical indicators:

- I.3 Percentage of individuals having taken ICT security precautions¹⁰ within the last three months

¹⁰ "ICT security precautions" defined separately for individuals and enterprises.

- I.4 Percentage of enterprises having taken ICT precautions within the last three months
- I.5 Percentage of individuals and enterprises that have installed security devices on their PCs and updated them within the last three months

BROADBAND

J. Broadband penetration

Policy indicators:

- J. 1 Percentage of enterprises with broadband access
- J. 2 Percentage of households or individuals with broadband access
- J. 3 Percentage of public administrations with broadband access

Definition: Broadband defined as high speed e.g. xDSL, cable, satellite, fixed-wireless, LAN and UMTS (in future). Tables to be broken down by type of entity.

Source: Commission study/ Eurostat/NSI ICT household/enterprise survey

Frequency: Annual, first deliverables October 2003, second October 2004, third October 2005, with as reference period 1st quarter 2003/4/5

Supplementary indicators:

- J.4 Difference between availability and take-up of broadband Internet access broken down by type of access
- J.5 Percentage of households or individuals equipped with home networking connections¹¹

¹¹ To be included where and when appropriate.