



INFORMATION NOTICE

**INFORMATION SOCIETY STATISTICS IN LITHUANIA:  
CURRENT SITUATION AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

This paper has been designed to give an overview on the organisation of Information Society statistics in Lithuania and on its development.

***The Political impact***

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania has given priority to the development of Information Society (IS) in Lithuania. The main objectives and tasks of the development of IS in Lithuania are set out in the National Information Society Development Strategy of Lithuania approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 10 August 2001. The Strategy document sets priorities and describes the desired results taking into account the specific conditions of Lithuania and the major goals of IS and e-Europe political initiative.

In pursuit of the accelerated development of the possibilities offered by information technologies, the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania provides a number of measures targeted at improved conditions for public information. Within the framework of the development of the Information Society, a strategic plan was drawn up to include the following: a programme for the use of the Lithuanian language in information technologies, the development and approval of information and telecommunications technologies standards, a programme for the security concerning information and telecommunication technologies, the drafting and review of legal acts on information Society as well as the development of educational programmes for the enhancement of computer literacy in Lithuania.

***Organisation of information technologies and telecommunication statistics***

Surveys on IS statistics carried out by Statistics Lithuania, comply with the current Government programme, which covers Information Society development among other issues. Major questions about Information Society were included in the Official Statistical Programme. The Information Society Development Committee (ISDC) under the Government has been set-up to co-ordinate Lithuania's activities of IS and Knowledge-based economy in general.

Taking into consideration the current situation and urgent needs, 2 Working groups (WG) have been established in Statistics Lithuania:

- a) Information Society statistics co-ordination working group (inter-institutional).
- b) Information Society statistics working group (intra-institutional).

The 1st WG "Information Society statistics co-ordination WG" comprises specialists from various public institutions. The aim of this working group is co-ordination of the collection of information and telecommunication statistics indicators between public administration institutions. The participants in this group represent institutions, which collect specific data on information and telecommunication technologies and their usage:

- Association "Infobalt"
- Information Society Development Committee
- Communications Regulatory Authority
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Health

- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Transport

Following Eurostat working procedures the second WG on Information Society statistics comprises specialists from various statistical divisions (domestic and foreign trade, innovation, R&D, education, services and communications, public relations, general statistics, statistical development, household budget and information technologies surveys). The WG consisting of branch statistical divisions was formed in December 2001; inventory of sources and availability of statistical indicators describing information society has been made. The objective of the WG is to follow the world's development within the area of statistical indicators reflecting Information Society defines methodology, sources of information and to conduct information technologies surveys. Information Society statistics surveys conducted in Lithuania are as follows:

1. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) survey in households
2. ICT survey in enterprises
3. ICT survey in financial enterprises
4. ICT survey in public administration
5. Communication services survey
6. Audiovisual services survey

Statistics Lithuania has carried out a survey of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in enterprises since 2002. The ICT surveys focus on the measurement of Information and Communication Technologies in enterprises as regards sales and purchases via the Internet. In addition, basic structural ICT-variables such as web-access and web sites were covered together with variables relating to e-commerce usage. The new questionnaire (since 2004) is compliant with the EU Community survey questionnaire on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises 2004.

Before 2003 two indicators (percentage of private households having PC and percentage of private households with an internet connection) were calculated from the Household Budget Survey. Statistics Lithuania started to carry out a survey of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in households in 2003. Two types of questionnaires have been prepared: household and individual questionnaires. The main purposes of the ICT survey are to get information about possession of computers, mobile phones, TV-sets, internet by the households, frequency and purposes of computer and internet usage as well as e-commerce.

Other information about IS statistics is taken from various statistical divisions:

- National accounts division
- Domestic and Foreign trade divisions
- Employment division
- Enterprises division
- Division of culture and education

Information about IS statistics provided by other institutions:

- Ministry of Education and Science - ICT in education institutions
- Ministry of Culture - ICT in culture institutions
- Association "Infobalt" - information about IT enterprises and their market
- Communications Regulatory Authority - telecommunication market

Information, collected from different sources, is sorted by group:

- ICT sector  
*Number of enterprises, Turnover, employment, wages and salaries*
- Production of ICT goods and foreign trade  
*Production, export, import*

- ICT use by the population  
*Access to ICT, frequency of computer and internet use, purpose*
- ICT use by enterprises  
*Computer use, internet access, homepages, e-commerce*
- ICT use by public administration  
*Access to ICT, homepages, e-government services*
- ICT in health and education  
*ICT in health and education institutions, e-health and e-education*
- ICT and Science  
*Basic information about high technologies, innovations and R&D statistics*

### ***Organisation of telecommunication statistics compilation***

Most information about telecommunication is available from the Communications Regulatory Authority. On 1 October 2004 a co-operation agreement No. STAT-73(2004) was signed between the Communications Regulatory Authority and Statistics Lithuania. Pursuant to this agreement, the Communications Regulatory Authority undertook a commitment to produce provisional quarterly and annual reports to Statistics Lithuania on telecommunication activities (electronic communication) carried out that according to the general rules are to be provided by economic entities engaged in telecommunication activities. Before signing the agreement Statistics Lithuania had been collecting quite a number of telecommunication infrastructure indicators in order to fill in the Eurostat COINS questionnaire. Accordingly, quarterly and annual surveys have been conducted.

The Communications Regulatory Authority having reconciled with Statistics Lithuania has worked up and approved the forms of quarterly and annual reports. Quarterly reports contain the following indicators:

1. Public fixed telephone network and (or) provision of its services;
2. Public cellular mobile telephone network and (or) provision of its services;
3. Leased lines services;
4. Internet access services;
5. Interconnection services;
6. Investment

Annual reports contain the following indicators by county:

1. Public fixed telephone network and (or) provision of its services:
  - 1.1. Number of main lines;
  - 1.2. Total number of automatic telephone exchanges;
  - 1.3. Total number of digital automatic telephone exchanges;
  - 1.4. Capacity of automatic telephone exchanges;
  - 1.5. Capacity of digital automatic telephone exchanges;
  - 1.6. Total number of applications for telephone line installation;
  - 1.7. Total number of rejected applications for telephone line installation;
2. Total number of base stations of the public cellular mobile network.

Statistics Lithuania accomplishes compilation of the data and duly and timely releases them in its publications as well as fills in the Eurostat COINS questionnaires. Statistics Lithuania also retained the right to compile short-term statistics indicators (income, the number of hours worked and earnings) from all enterprises providing telecommunication services including cable television, TV and radio broadcasting, technical maintenance of the systems of communications and other telecommunication services.

### ***Information Society publications in Statistics Lithuania:***

- Indicators of transport and communications enterprises (monthly, annual),

- Short information notes and statistical reports in monthly bulletin “Economic and social development in Lithuania” about results of each completed survey, related to ICT.
- The publication “Information technologies” – overall information about ICT statistics. The publication “Information and telecommunication technologies in Lithuania” - includes information about IT industry, production and foreign trade in IT sector, telecommunication statistics, ICT usage in households, enterprises and public administrations, main information on innovations and R&D statistics.
- Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania.
- Basic information is published in the web-site of Statistics Lithuania.

### ***Participating in the international projects***

On the international level Information Society statistics has strengthen positions as Statistics Lithuania participates in international projects: Community surveys on ICT usage, eEurope and NeDAP. The European Council at Seville requested the prominent role for official statistics in implementing the measures for the eEurope 2005 Action Plan.

1. Community surveys on ICT usage in households and enterprises (Eurostat). From 2004 the ICT questionnaire will be regularly filled in and presented to Eurostat.

2. eEurope+ Action Plan is a special project for candidate countries. Statistics Lithuania participates in Statistical Working Groups in DG Info, produces and submits data on benchmarking indicators.

3. eEurope Action Plan is valid for Member States and from 2004 Lithuania participating in the preparation of statistical reports.

4. NeDAP - the Nordic Dimension Action Plan has been developed for the Baltic Sea countries in the realm of Information Society, basically concentrating on ICT indicators. The Danish NSI has been selected as a co-ordinator. The publication has been released as a result in “Indicators for the Information Society in the Baltic Region”.

### ***Methodological work on Information Society and the Knowledge-based Economy statistics***

During the 2004 Lithuania in cooperation with Statistics Denmark participating on the national Phare Twinning Light project “*Integration of Information Society Indicators into existing Surveys and Statistics*”. The Twinning Light project supports elaboration of the Information Society and Knowledge-based economy systems of indicators (concepts, methodology and strategy) reflecting the areas described above to meet compliance with the EU statistical system. The main result of this project was “*Methodological manual on statistics for the Information Society and the Knowledge-based Economy*”. The manual aims at drawing up the status as regards especially the requirements for data laid down in EU regulations, ad-hoc projects and gentleman's agreements. Beside drawing up the international requirements for data presented in the text and in the list of indicators, the manual also presents information related to the production of data, i.e. manuals and other guidelines, the classifications and delimitations, international working groups and international database. The structure of the manual is as follows:

- Delimitation of the concepts of Information Society and Knowledge-based Economy
- Information Society / Knowledge based Economy statistics scope and source
- International data requirements and guidelines
- Indicators and variables related to the Information Society / Knowledge-based economy.

### ***Future work***

In the future we would like to focus on indicators related to measurement of ICT services output, e-commerce, estimation of information and other intangible assets, human and social capital, innovation and intangibles. Much work still remains to be done in measuring of the ICT impact on social and economic growth.