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**On the system of indicators
on the information society development across the RCC countries**

Regional Commonwealth in Communications (RCC) is a regional organization which main purpose is to promote cooperation between CIS - states in the field of communications and information technologies. This association has the status of official observer at the International Telecommunication Union and Universal Postal Union, and develops cooperation with other international organizations and the regional unions.

One of the main areas of RCC activity starting from the very beginning of its existence is to facilitate best practices transfer between member states.

In order to assess the level of the information society building within the RCC participant countries and to involve and make use of the ICT potential for the accomplishment of the strategy tasks within the Commonwealth countries, the RCC Commission on the economy of communications jointly with the RCC Commission on informatization undertook the following measures:

➢ There were selected **standardized indicators for the information society development in the CIS member states,** within the framework of RCC R&D:

- on the elaboration of a system of indicators for the level of the information society development within the CIS countries;
- on the standardization of the indicators of statistical reporting on communications within the CIS countries.

The research and development was performed with the view of ensuring the harmonization of indicators with the recommended international organizations in ICT development (*EUROSTAT, WEF, ITU, UPU, UN Stat. division).*

At the same time, there were taken into consideration the features specific to each country, where an established terminology for communications and information backed by a national regulatory framework is in place.

The list of indicators has been worked out based on research and development to access to telecommunication networks, to data and information resources, and there were also identified the indicators of electronic development, the indicators of business climate and human resources. The state regulation in the field of ICT, as well as the "LIST of standardized statistical indicators showing the status of communications in the RCC participant countries" was also elaborated.

In the process of research implementation, recommendations were worked out with respect to the filling in technique and to algorithms of indicators' computing;

➢ The RCC Commission on the economy of communications carries out the **monitoring of the information society development in the CIS countries** according to the selected e-government indicators.

Within the framework of its meetings, the Commission evaluated the level of our countries' e-readiness with further synthesis and analysis of the results.

Most of the RCC participant countries have worked out and are implementing national strategies of information society development and state programs. A number of countries adopted and implemented action plans of achieving the national strategies of ICT sector development, of which the most important are the programs of e-government creation.

The RCC Commission on the economy of communications is also monitoring the international ratings of the countries' e-readiness for the information development and the e-government development based on composite index: Network Readiness Index – NRI, defined by WEF, ICT Development Index – IDI (ITU), e-Government Readiness Index (UNO).

According to the ITU latest rating on the global information society development, the CIS states are included in the group of countries with the average level of ICT Development Index. The ITU data indicate a substantial increase in the ICT sector for the period 2002 – 2009.

The leading countries as to the level of the ICT Index are Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Moldova.

The CIS countries' ranking for the preparedness to use e-government technologies has also recorded a gradual increase according to the UN latest rating. Six of the twelve CIS member-states display indices the value of which exceeds the world average value (0,454).

The results of the classification of our countries in the international ratings are highly dependent on the reliability and timeliness of information submitted to international organizations: ITU, EuroStat, as well as on the on-line filling in of the requested questionnaires.

➢ The monitoring results and the analytical assessment of the processes run by countries towards the information society development are published in annual Statistical Yearbook on the activities of the RCC Communications Administrations in the field of ICT.

The publication of the annual RCC Statistical Yearbook is regarded as a logical step towards mutual information of RCC Communication Administrations with respect to the ICT development level.

Already in 2009 there were undertaken new measures as to the coverage of the information society building. In accordance with RCC Board Decision no. 39/3-CIS dated 25.09.2008, the Compendium included in the attachment the indicators of business climate, human resources and of state regulation in the field of ICT.

On the ordinary session of the RCC Commission on the Economy of communications the results of the 7th International Meeting for the global indicators of ICT development, took place in Cairo in March 2009, were discussed.

As a result, the Commission created the Initiative Group of experts for the examination the Definitions of World Telecommunication/ICT indicators chaired by Mrs. Eleonora Vasilachi, Viceperson of the Commission.

The Group prepared the project of common contribution of RCC to the global indicators in the field ICT for ITU. The project was submitted to the Working Group of international experts of the ITU in March 2010 for discussion and inclusion of the respective definitions in the World Telecommunication/ICT indicators.

The further activity of the Group is directed towards improvement of the system of indicators and metrics for the assessment of the level of information and

communications development aims at reflecting both the dynamics of ICT sector and the penetration thereof into the society, as well as the elaboration of new-quality methodology approaches for the examination of these processes and ensuring reliable comparisons at the international level.