Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators

Sub-group on reviewing the indicator on location of Internet use

Proposal for the revision of indicator HH8: Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by location

September 20th 2018

a. Introduction

The 5th Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14-15 September 2017, agreed to create a sub-group within EGH to review indicator HH8: Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by location.

On April 27th the group held its first conference call to begin the work on the indicator. Members from several countries and organizations attended the meeting: Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, ITU and OECD. Email contributions were also received from by Kenya and South Korea.

On September 12th the group had its second meeting with participants from Ghana, Kenya, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, ITU and the OECD, during which this proposal was discussed and finalized.

b. Proposed categories

- Home
- Work
- School or Place of education
- Another person's home
- Facilities open to the public
    - *of which:* Community access facilities
- While commuting, in transport or walking

Comments:

- No changes are being proposed for the first four categories and to the suggested question.

- At international level, reporting should be done in these six categories. At the national level, countries might find it relevant to further split some of them considering local needs from data users (example: public squares, libraries, public transportation systems, etc).

- Regarding community and commercial facilities, it was agreed that payment is not a good criteria anymore, and it was also mentioned that for some countries the kind of connection being offered at such facilities was a policy relevant indicator. The group discussed whether respondents would be able to differentiate what is a public facility and what is not, and ultimately decided it would be too complicated to ask directly.

- The proposal is to group all community access into a single category, and report it as a sub-category under "Facilities open to the public", because of the high policy relevance of this category. The premise is that countries will adapt their questionnaire to local needs, while being asked to report the commonly agreed and comparable minimum. For example, some countries might be able to differentiate between specific community based facilities that are object of a public policy using examples, while others are more interested in understanding if the access is paid or free of charge, while there's also the matter of measuring public Wi-Fi. Another possibility would be to use a follow-up question on this category for understanding public and private (restaurants, libraries, internet cafes, churches, telecenters, shopping malls, etc). All of these issues might be relevant from a policy-making perspective, but for international reporting purposes they will be grouped as a single category.

- While commuting, in transport or walking is a clarification from the previous item "In mobility". The focus is not on the device, but on the occasion of using the Internet while in mobility. It is also the perception of the group that the use of the Internet on mobile devices is better covered by other indicators, and that this category is needed in this indicator to capture the whole context of possible locations of internet use.

c. Proposed definitions of the modified categories

- Facilities open to the public: use at facilities open to the public regardless of payment, type of connection and nature of the facility. Common examples are: libraries, telecenters, cafes, restaurants, shopping malls.

- While commuting, in transport or walking: use of the Internet while moving between places, commuting, on the street. The emphasis is on the act of moving, not on devices. Beyond the mobile networks, it might also cover connection on public transportation systems and public Wi-Fi.