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**Input by Communications Regulatory Authority
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A. Institutions collecting statistics on ICT

ICT sector plays increasingly important role in the process of development of information society. In recent years it has undergone some dramatic changes, triggered by the development of new technologies and the convergence of existing ones, leading to merging of markets and services. These changes are not time-limited. On purpose to compare ICT impacts and to evaluate market development at a national or regional level and also point out the challenging issues of development of informational society in particular country, it is necessary to use timely, reliable and harmonised indicators.

In Lithuania, there is a number of bodies collecting data on ICT and information society, research & development, innovations. The following ones worth to be mentioned:

1. Statistics Lithuania – central statistics office to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, which employs methodological principles recommended by international organizations to compile, process, analyze and release statistical data about economic, social, demographic and environmental changes. It is a leading statistical institution implementing general policy on statistical and methodological organization. Statistics Lithuania has also been authorized to coordinate statistical activities of ministries and other institutions.

2. Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT) - independent national regulatory institution, having its main aim to ensure a variety of technologically progressive, high quality, safe and affordable electronic communications and postal services (products) to every citizen of Lithuania while influencing the supply of such services in the market on the grounds of a flexible and harmonised framework of the single EU market. RRT collects statistical data from players of electronic communications market. The indicators cover various aspects of their activity in the market. The data is collected periodically – market players submit the main portion of data every quarter, and some indicators are submitted on annual basis.

3. Information Society Development Committee (IVPK) - permanent committee under the Government of Republic of Lithuania, which main aim is to participate in formation of information society politics in Lithuania and to coordinate its implementation, securing equal ICT usage possibilities for every citizen of Lithuania, promoting communication via electronic means between legal and natural persons and state and local authorities, ensuring affordability of public services and competence of population in the field of ICT usage. IVPK collects information and data on ICT projects at different stage of implementation in government institutions, on usage of e-government services main public administration services by Internet and other diverse ICT and information society issues on case-by-case basis.

4. State Patent Bureau – executive body of the Republic of Lithuania carrying out the state legal protection of industrial property, collects data related to innovation activity in ICT, such as data on inventions, designs and trademarks this way contributing to the development of knowledge society.

Also other institutions collect statistical data related to development of ICT in Lithuania:

- **Ministries.** It is mostly statistical data from particular (for example, health, education, culture) institutions about level of computerization and usage of information technologies, evaluation of demand of information and information technologies in particular sector;

- **Association “Infobalt”** unifying business enterprises and education institutions tend to represent and defend the interests of the information society and information technologies market in Lithuania and abroad, evaluate development in ICT sector, analyze image of ICT enterprises in Lithuania, monitor changes of the ICT market and participate in different international projects on

development of informational society. Also it organizes annual exhibition on ICT with its purpose to present the main trends in sector development not only for the business professionals, but for mass consumers too;

- **“Window to the future” alliance** of business organizations, which main aim is to encourage the Internet usage in Lithuania and thus to enhance the living standards of the society. The alliance in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior is implementing project on providing support to the development of informational society by creating Public Internet access points in Lithuania on purpose to reducing the digital divide.

B. Process of data collection

As regards the process of the data collection and related burden on market players, it is worth to underline that in Lithuania there is a common principle to cooperate amongst institutions and to share the data collected. In Lithuania, we seek to collect the ICT data for one time only; as an example of such efforts, the settlement between Statistics Lithuania and RRT could be mentioned – under this settlement, RRT collects data directly from market players under the general system of engagement into the electronic communications activities and after, RRT provides the data to Statistics Lithuania for further usage.

C. Statistics collected and the main ICT publications

ICT indicators, collected in Lithuania by aforementioned institutions and organizations, measure the development of ICT market from both demand and supply sides. Analyzing ICT from supply side, focus is put on statistical data on infrastructure (investments in ICT sector and territorial density), technologies (technological diversity and competition) and services (number of service providers, quality and price of services) issues. Demand side analysis focus on customers' needs in ICT, number of end-user equipments, actual usage of particular ICT services, ability to pay for ICT services and awareness.

Demand side ICT statistics is mostly analyzed by Statistics Lithuania. Statistics Lithuania collects statistics on information society development, for example, information technologies and their usage in households, enterprises, institutions of public administration and by individuals, statistical indicators of e-business, innovations activity and R&D. Along to this data, general indicators of ICT, collected by different government institutions and organizations, are analyzed.

Information Technologies by Statistics Lithuania is the most comprehensive annual research in Lithuania, involving almost all the aspects and tendencies of ICT development – social, technologic, economic, institutional. Publication of Information Technologies was started in 2003, and is published since then.

Other researches of Statistics Lithuania in field of ICT include: (i) annual researches, such as “Development of Information Society”, “ICT in enterprises, state and local authorities”, “ICT usage in households”; (ii) quarter researches, such as “Analysis of Audiovisual services and electronic communications enterprises services”; (iii) one-time researches, such as 2006 executed study on ICT spending and investment.

The statistical indicators collected by RRT mostly reflect the ICT market conditions from the supply side, and this is enabled by the principle RRT collects the indicators directly from the participants of the market.

Annual publication by RRT “The Lithuanian Communications Sector” reflects the multi-year tendencies and provides some in depth analysis of development of the ICT sector and its various segments. The publication gives broad statistical overview of the whole sector as well as partial segments, such as mobile communications, fixed communications, data (Internet, broadband) communications, audiovisual segment and wholesale communications services segment¹. The publication is available in print format as well as free of charge of the web site www.rrt.lt

Along to this annual statistical review, RRT publishes periodical statistical reports on the quarterly basis on the development of electronic communications. Quarterly reports are published in electronic form only, on the website www.rrt.lt. On the case-by case basis, RRT makes surveys and the statistical results of surveys are usually announced in Press Releases.

IVPK analyzes both demand and supply issues of ICT from the institutional point of view. Annually IVPK prepares reports on implementation of Law on electronic signature, periodically evaluates the development of Internet sites of government institutions on purpose to analyze their conformity with official requirements and investigate level of main public services provided over the Internet. Also, IVPK prepares case-by-case researches on development of knowledge society of Lithuania and others.

¹ Note: post and courier services are included as well as this sector is covered by the regulatory competence of RRT.

D. Proposals for ICT statistics collection activity within ITU

Analysis of indicators in different levels help not only to propose guidelines for creation the favourable environment for ICT and information society development but also to encourage the processes of development as such. ITU initiative to collect the unified data of ICT performance in member states and to review periodically the state of ICT development, ICT indicators' definitions, methodology and ICTs' dissemination in the member states is exceptionally valuable input for cross-country awareness and spread of know-how. This ITU activity also makes ICT development process more fluent. ITU's ICT database is widely used by academia, business and public institutions.

ICT markets have one basic feature in any and every country, and the feature is its dynamism. ICT markets face constant and rapid technological, institutional, social and economic changes, resulting in need for wider statistical knowledge of the markets. Therefore, dynamism of ICT markets raise new challenges to institutions collecting the ICT statistics, as workable statistics has to be reliable and harmonised as well as accessible timely. One of the most important directions, as we see the case, is the inclusion of the ICT indicators reflecting the newest technological developments and their applications in the mass consumer market. The particular outcomes of the technological development worth to be included into the ICT indicators' database might be broadly discussed in the forums of ITU member states, like this meeting. Also, we would like to suggest discussing the possibility of broadening ICT indicators' database by introducing indicators covering ICT development in education, culture and e-government fields with the view of presenting up-to-date trends of ICT sector.

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