

The Lisbon Strategy and the Information Society

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Information Society policies address core objectives of the Lisbon Growth and Job Strategy. They

- **drive productivity growth,**
- **create an open and competitive digital economy,**
- **stimulate innovation to tackle changes of globalisation and demographic change.**

Production and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are key to modernising our economies.

Contribution of ICT to the Lisbon goals

ICT impact on economic performance

- technological progress and use of ICT enhance productivity growth and create new markets
- investment in ICT drives innovation
- ICT improve business processes and reduce companies' administrative burden
- ICT increase efficiency in public administration

ICT and Lisbon Priority Action Areas

ICT feature strongly in the Four Priority Action Areas identified by the March 2006 European Council

- Research & Development in ICT(26% of EU R&D). Innovative efforts can be stimulated by Joint Technology Initiatives, a coherent framework of Intellectual Property Rights and a European standardisation policy.
- Administrative procedures are streamlined through electronic means.
- eHealth and Independent Living solutions enable more people to work.
- ICT promote energy efficiency through innovation.

i2010: a policy response to the challenges

Three pillars of the i2010 initiative

1. **A Single European Information Space** promotes an open and competitive internal market for electronic communications and digital content.
2. **Innovation and ICT R&D** promote growth and stimulate ICT take-up by businesses.
3. **Inclusion, better public services and quality of life** ensure that growth is consistent with sustainable development.

Main ICT areas in the National Reform Programmes

ICT feature prominently in the NRPs and 2006 Progress Reports:

- Implementing eGovernment solutions (including e-procurement, e-health) to get easy access and high quality public services and lower the administrative burden
- Developing broadband infrastructure through more competition and, if necessary, the use of public funding, including EU Structural Funds, in the remote and rural areas of the EU
- Promoting digital literacy through the reform of school curricula, training, on-line libraries and knowledge resources
- Action also aims to foster R&D in ICT, ICT take-up by businesses and households, trust and security, standardisation, digital content

How Member States are progressing in these areas

- Nearly 50% of eGovernment services allow citizens to conduct all procedures online
- Broadband take-up has rapidly increased to 15.7% (October 2006)
- 96% of schools in Europe have Internet access (67% broadband) and 74% of teachers use computers as teaching aids