

# Development and Application of Information Society Strategies in Lithuania

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# 1. Information Society notion and evaluation parameters

## Visions of Information Society

(F. Webster. *Theories of the Information Society*.  
“International Library of Sociology” Series.  
London: Routledge, 2nd edition, 2002, 304 p.)

- Technological
- Economic
- Occupational
- Spatial
- Cultural
- etc.



# Information Society evaluation/comparison parameters (1)

- Networked Readiness Index / McConnell International e-readiness assessment
- Digital Divide (ORBICOM) / Digital Access Index (ITU) / Connectedness Index
- Statistical Indicators Benchmarking the Information Society (SIBIS)
- Technology Achievement Index (UNDP)
- UNDP Composite Index (for ICT and human development)
- ICT development Indices (UNCTAD)



# Information Society comparison/evaluation parameters (2)

- Digital Opportunity Index  
(in World Information Society Report)
- Knowledge Economy Index  
(by World Bank Institute)
- eEurope index,  
Networked Readiness index,  
ESPON 123 indices index  
(by ESIS, **Eurostat**, BISER, INRA, ESPON)
- etc.



## 2. European IS development policies

EC policy framework “**i2010 – A European Information Society for Growth and Employment**” sections:

- I. Regulating the Market: 1. Networks, 2. Content;
- II. Stimulating the Information Society:
  1. Research and Innovation, 2. Infrastructure, 3. Content and services;
- III. Exploiting the Benefits:
  1. Public Services ( eGov., eHealth, eLearning),
  2. Society & Environment,
  3. eBusiness and eCommerce.



## 2.1. European success story: IS development in Finland

- 3<sup>rd</sup> national Information Society strategy, “A Renewing, Human-Centric and Competitive Finland” 2007-2015
- Governmental resolution on the objectives of the national Information Society in the period 2007-2011
- Ubiquitous Information Society action programme (2008)
- Appointed a minister-led Ubiquitous Information Society Advisory Board



# IS development directions in Finland

- Basic requirements  
(trust/service quality, security, compatibility)
- Infrastructure  
(identification methods, e-invoicing)
- Innovation environment and market  
(competitiveness, copyright system changing)
- Content and services  
(uniform, secure, reliable single gateway to public services online)
- Expertise/skills and preparedness  
(new kinds of learning environments, save media)



# Finnish IS-related international activities

- Active involvement in implementing and guiding EU's Information Society policy;
- Development work in international organisations: OECD, World Summit of the Information Society, UNESCO, the International Labour Organization , etc.
- Close relations with pioneering Information Society countries outside EU: US, Japan, South Korea
- Active marketing abroad of Finnish technology and service innovations



# 3. IS development in Lithuania

## 3.1. Guidelines

- Conceptual Framework of the National Information Society Development of Lithuania (2001)
- Lithuanian Information Society Development [2006-2008] Strategy (2005)
- Lithuanian Information Society Development 2006-2008 Program (2006)
- Lithuanian Information Society Development 2009-2015 Strategy (under preparation, 2008)



# European IS-related guidelines

- EC policy framework “i2010 – A European Information Society for Growth and Employment” (2005)
- National Lisbon Strategy Implementation Program (2005) with guideline No. 9 “Spread of ICT, creation of Knowledge-based society”
- The Lithuanian Strategy for the Use of European Union Structural Assistance for 2007-2013 (2007)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> priority “Information Society for All” of EC Operational Programme for the Economical Growth for 2007-2013



# Lithuanian IS-related legislation (1)

- Law on Electronic Signature (2000)
- Plan of Means for Implementing the Concept of Electronic Government (2003)
- National Program for Social Integration of the Disabled for 2003-2012 (2002)
- Law on State Registers (2004)
- Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data (2003)
- Law on Electronic Communications (2004)



## Lithuanian IS-related legislation (2)

- Strategy for the Public Administration Development until 2010 (2004)
- Program (2004) and Standard (2005) of General Computer Literacy
- Law on Information Society Services (2006)
- Lithuanian eHealth Development Strategy for 2007-2015 (2007)
- Law on Documents and Archives (rev. 2008)
- etc.



## 3.2. IS current status in Lithuania

- *EC policy framework “i2010 – A European Information Society for Growth and Employment”* <http://ec.europa.eu/i2010>

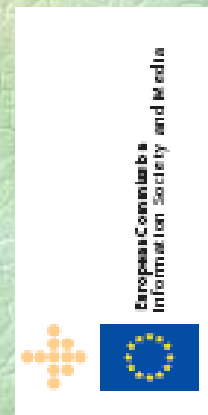
### Preparing Europe's digital future i2010 Mid-Term Review

COM(2008) 199  
SEC(2008) 470 Volumes 1, 2, 3  
April 2008

#### ICT Country Profiles
















Commission staff working document  
volume **3**

SEC(2008) 470





# IS current status in Lithuania (1)

Broadband	2005	2006	2007		EU27	rank
Total DSL coverage (as % of total population)	82	83			89	19
DSL coverage in rural areas (as % of total population)	55	58			72	16
Broadband penetration (as % of population)	6.8	10.6	13.7		20.0	22
DSL penetration (as % of population)	3.1	5.2	6.4		16.0	22
Predominant download speed		up to 512 Kbps	up to 512 Kbps			
% of households with an internet connection	16	35	44		54	18
Households with broadband as % of households with internet	73	56	77		77	16
% of enterprises with broadband access	57	57	53		77	25
<b>Internet usage</b>						
% population who are regular internet users	30	38	45		51	17
Take up of internet services (as % of population)						
sending emails	26	32	39		48	20
looking for information about goods and services	22	30	36		47	19
Internet telephoning or videoconferencing	4	11	19		10	3
playing/downloading games and music	17	24	27		22	7
listening to the web radio/watching web tv	11	17	20		15	9
reading online newspapers/magazines	24	30	32		21	7
internet banking	10	15	21		25	15



## IS current status in Lithuania (2)

	2005	2006	2007	EU27	rank
<b>eGovernment indicators</b>					
% basic public services for citizens fully available online		25	25	● 51	21
% basic public services for enterprises fully available online		63	50	● 72	21
% of population using e-Government services	12	13	18	● 30	20
of which for returning filled in forms	6	6	11	● 13	14
% of enterprises using e-Government services	72	76	76	● 65	13
of which for returning filled in forms	52	56	60	● 45	8
<b>e-Health</b>					
% of GPs with broadband connection			33	● 48	21
% of GPs with secondary care connection			7	● 24	23
% of GPs using electronic networks for transfer of patient data			27	● 48	15

ICT Country Profiles: Lithuania. Vol. 3 in: *Preparing Europe's digital future. i2010 Mid-Term Review.*

COM(2008) 199, SEC(2008) 470, April 2008, p. 110-111.

<http://ec.europa.eu/i2010>



# IS current status in Lithuania (3)

	2005	2006	2007	EU27	rank
<b>e-Commerce</b>					
e-commerce as % of total turnover of enterprises	2	5	5	● 11	14
% enterprises receiving internet orders	6	15	15	● 14	9
% enterprises purchasing on the internet	15	22	21	● 39	17
<b>e-business. % enterprises:</b>					
with integrated internal business processes	18	19	23	● 41	23
with integrated external business processes	6	9	10	● 14	20
using ERP systems			9	● 17	23
using analytical CRM			9	● 17	26
sending/receiving e-invoices			15	● 18	15
using digital signatures			19	● 16	11
using secure protocols for internet orders			3	● 5	13
using open sources operating systems			24	● 12	1

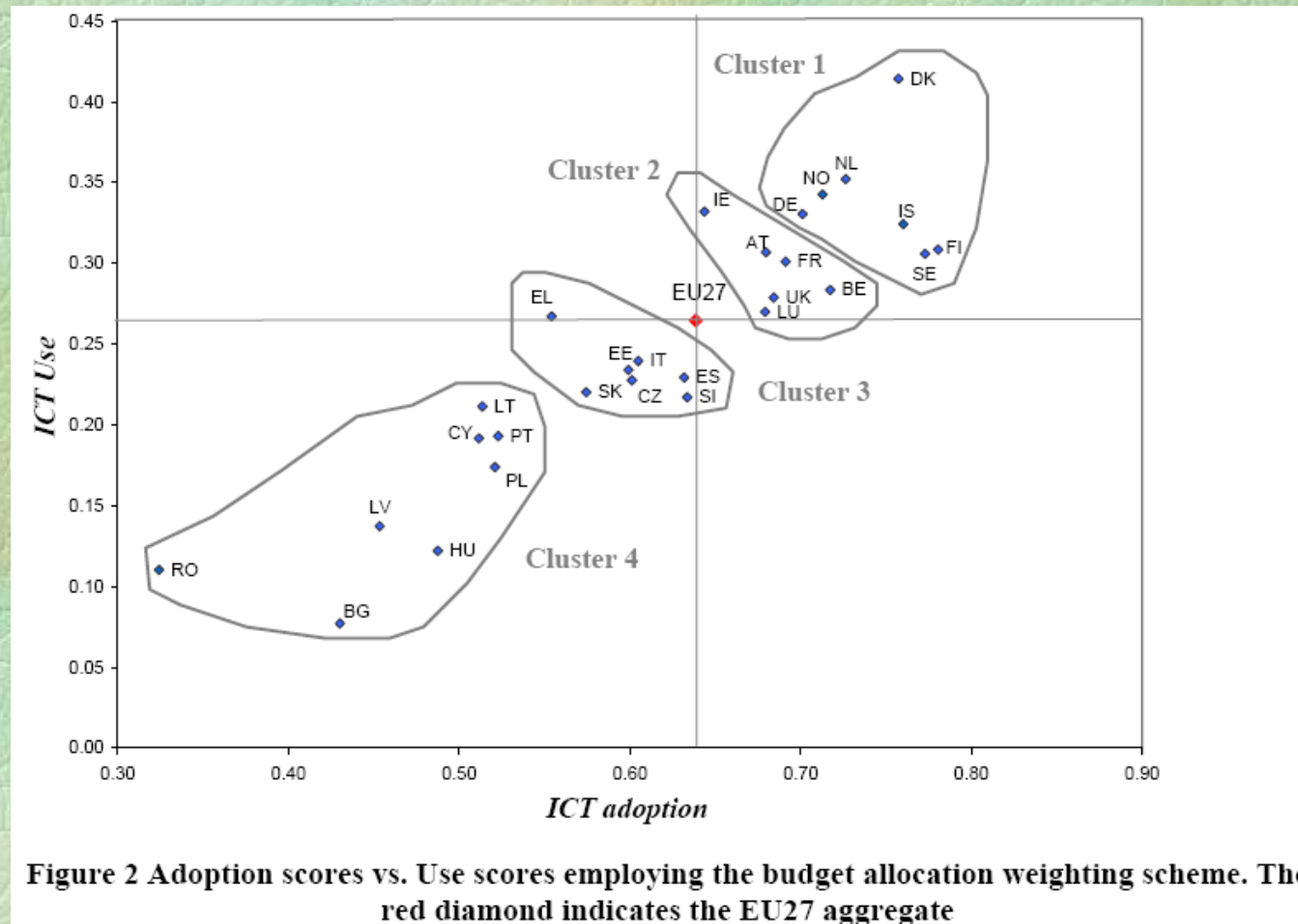


# IS current status in Lithuania (4)

	2005	2006	2007	EU27	rank
<b>Employment and skills</b>					
% of the population with no internet skills	62	55	49	40	19
% of the population with low internet skills	20	20	18	29	
% of the population with medium internet skills	13	16	20	23	
% of the population with high internet skills	4	9	13	8	4
% of persons employed with ICT user skills.	18.3	19.4	21.9	18.2	4
% of persons employed with ICT specialist skills	1.5	1.4	1.2	3.1	27
<b>Indicators on growth of ICT sector and R&amp;D</b>					
ICT sector share of total GDP				5.3	15
ICT sector share of total employment				3.8	16
ICT sector growth (constant prices).				4.6	16
ICT R&D expenditure by the business sector, as % of GDP				0.31	21
=== as % of total R&D expenditure				26.3	14
% of ICT exports on total exports	4.8	4.4			21
Population Penetration of ECDL Core, %			1.14	2.01	9



# ICT adoption/usage in Lithuania



*The 2007 European e-Business Readiness Index. Report No. EUR 23254 EN - 2008. EC JRC Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen*  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/ebi/ebizreadinessindex\\_2007.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/ebi/ebizreadinessindex_2007.pdf)



## 3.3. Problems and challenges (1)

- The management of **all** Information Society activities is not sufficient: Information Society Development Committee (ISDC) has a lower status than Ministries; sometimes Ministries make IS-related decisions without coordination with others; some important areas are not covered; some work is duplicated;
- Not effective usage of EU Structural Funds (sometimes finances are spent without the expected outcome, e.g. e-Health)
- Long term IT standardisation policy and plans are lacking; interoperability framework development just started, proprietary systems are developed and used (having low competition possibilities, and high development/usage cost)



## 3.3. Problems and challenges (2)

- Sometimes instead of e-Government services just back-office applications are developed
- Efficiency of e-Government services development is not considered properly (i.e. sometimes services are development having has much higher price than in similar cases abroad)
- Low international involvement in EU's IS policy institutions, international Standard Committees and Working Groups, development work in international organisations
- Lack of closer relations, international cooperation with pioneering Information Society countries



## 3.4. Success stories (1)

- €63+ million EU Structural Funds Support for the implementation of the Lithuanian Information Society projects 2004-2006 (i.e., for IT infrastructure and eServices); with €46 million coming from the European Regional Development Fund;  
5 major IT infrastructure projects, 14 eGovernment and eServices projects were financed
- Fruitful cooperation between Governmental institutions and Infobalt (Association of ICT & Office Equipment Companies), LIKS (Lithuanian Computer Society), ECDL Lithuania, Knowledge Economy Forum
- Income tax declarations system (844000+ taxpayers [88%] have submitted their declarations on-line, 2008)



## 3.4. Success stories (2)

- The project “Rural Area Information Technology Broadband Network (RAIN)” with successfully finished 1st (Infrastructure) stage
- Network of public rural Internet Access Points, largest in Europe
- Simple secure mobile-phone based eSignature [high mobile penetration level in Lithuania]
- Electronic Servicing System for Insurers of Lithuanian Social Insurance Fund (SODRA)
- Free Internet access to the general public through local libraries (€ 220 thousands by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and € 9 million by Microsoft)



## 4. Conclusions (1)

- Lithuanian Information Society development policy documents [except IT standardisation ones, Lithuanian Interoperability Framework] are prepared, already, but in some cases neglected (delaying needed actions).
- Serious improvements of Information Society development policy are needed based on the examples of European leading countries. First of all, consolidation of Information Society development activities is needed.



## 4. Conclusions (2)

- With the help of EU Structural funds, there are implemented valuable costly Information Society projects in Lithuania. But, usage of EU Structural funds should be economized.
- In general, the current status of Information Society development in Lithuania is rather promising (at least, until EU Structural funds will be available 😊).



*Thank You  
for Your Attention !*