

<b>Indicator (definition)</b>	<b>Level of Internet access:</b> Percentage of households who have Internet access at home. All forms of Internet access (via PC, internet enabled mobile phone etc.) are included and the target population considered is households with at least one member aged 16 to 74.
<b>Eurostat Unit</b>	Information society and tourism statistics
<b>Other Commission DGs</b>	DG INFSO and DG ENTR
<b>European Statistical System Working Group (WG)</b>	Working group Information Society Statistics
<b>Date</b>	December 2010

**1. Overall assessment of accuracy and comparability** (Description of quality grades under the following link: [http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general\\_information/quality\\_profiles/annex\\_enpdf/EN\\_1.0\\_&a=d](http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general_information/quality_profiles/annex_enpdf/EN_1.0_&a=d))

A     
  B     
  C     
  Indicator to be Developed

Data is collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to the methodology and ensuring a high degree of comparability across countries. Restrictions in comparability over time are related to the small number of the time series presently.

### 2. Objective and relevance of the indicator:

The indicator measures the level of Internet access at home on percentage of households with at least one member of the age group 16 to 74. It is compiled via the Community Survey on ICT usage that is carried out once a year. It assesses the ability of individuals to participate in the knowledge-based society and economy through their access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

A new strategy post e-Europe 2010 is being developed to cover the period 2010-2015.

One of the initiatives proposed by the Commission in its document Europe 2020 (still in consultation process) is "to promote internet access and take-up by all European citizens, especially through actions in support of digital literacy and accessibility".

### Restriction of the indicator's relevance and other characteristics which may lead to restrictions in using it in monitoring and reporting

The target population for this indicator is considered as households with at least one member aged between 16 and 74 years only. It does not address younger people who use internet at home. Therefore data on additional age groups (less than 16 years and over 74 years) have been collected optionally, the results are reported separately. The differences can be important as use of information technology is age-dependent. However, younger people usually live in such households.

### 3. Data availability:

(**t<sub>1</sub>**: earliest reference year available; **t<sub>2</sub>**: latest reference year available in December 2010)

	Member States	Candidate and Acceding Countries	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA
t <sub>1</sub>	2002: DK, DE, EL, FR, IT, CY, LV, LT, LU, NL, AT, PL, PT, FI, UK 2003: CZ, IE, ES 2004: BG, EE, HU, RO, SI, SK 2005: BE, MT, SE	2004: IS, MK, TR 2007: HR	2002: JP 2003: US	2003: NO
t <sub>2</sub>	2010: All Member States	2009: IS, MK 2010: HR, TR	2003: US 2005: JP	2010: NO

*Comments (including information on time series): No data for BG (2005), FR (2005), LV (2003), RO (2005), MK (2005, 2007), TR (2006, 2008).*

#### 4. Overall accuracy

High



Overall accuracy can be considered as very good. This indicator is defined through Council resolution of 18 February 2003 on the implementation of the eEurope 2005 Action Plan, where a described set of benchmarking indicators using statistical information was provided through the ESS. The data has been collected once a year since 2002 by the National Statistical Institutes or Ministries based on Eurostat's annual model questionnaire on ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) usage in households and by individuals. The reference methodology used for the survey 'ICT usage in households and by individuals' is compiled by Eurostat each year with the accord of the NSI's and the OECD. Data for US and Japan are provided by OECD – Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard. The population consists of households with individuals aged 16 to 74 (some countries collect separate data on other age groups). Data are expressed in percent of households having Internet access at home (access does not mean connectivity).

In general, the data relates to the first quarter of the reference year.

At least 4000 filled in questionnaires are recommended to be collected in total per country allowing sufficient accuracy for estimates of breakdowns. Stratified random sampling is generally used to obtain accurate estimates for the necessary socio-demographic groups. Data is collected through face to face interviews, self administered questionnaires or telephone interviews. Sampling errors of national estimates is quite good and coefficients of variation for a proportion are usually between 1-2%. EU aggregates are compiled when the available countries represent 60% of the population and 55% of the number of countries defining the aggregate. No estimations are made for missing data. When further national data becomes available this is automatically included in the existing aggregate. In some countries the ICT module is inserted in one of the main household surveys (usually the LFS) while in others a dedicated survey on ICT is implemented.

Restricted

(sources, errors,  
methodology, etc.)



#### 5. Comparability across countries

High



Comparability across countries is very good. National surveys use a common questionnaire which assures a high level of comparability and harmonisation in terms of concepts. Collection methodology varies between countries but common sets of standards and recommendations are used that ensure that different methodological choices lead to unbiased estimates.

The survey questionnaires used by the US and Japan are based on the same model questionnaire developed jointly by Eurostat and the OECD. Data from these countries can therefore be considered comparable as well.

Main country specifications:

Cyprus - Change of definition between 2004 and 2005. 2004 - household Internet access was measured by the technical capacity households had to access the Internet. In Cyprus users need not have a subscription to an ISP but just dial the number of the service (cytanetforall). In 2005 - The definition was changed so only those households which accessed the Internet at least once during the first quarter of 2005 were taken into account.

Hungary - Structural and methodological changes to the survey between 2004 and 2005 mean that caution should be applied when comparing these data sets.

Restricted



#### 6. Comparability over time

High  
Restricted

Reasonably comparable but short time series – since it is a very recent field of study - are available for some countries. For some others, there are disruptions in series and the time coverage varies from one country to the other (the longest series start in 2002).

**7. Development perspective for improving the quality of this indicator (including as far as possible an indication of the burden on Member States and respondents.)**

**8. Contribution to the coherence of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis**

The indicator was included in Council resolution of 18 February 2003 on the implementation of the eEurope 2005 Action Plan, where a defined set of benchmarking indicators using statistical information was provided through the ESS and it is also included in the benchmarking of the i2010 initiative. Level of Internet access can be used together with other ICT related indicators to produce composite indicators or to help interpret them by providing a measure of potential demand from households (ecommerce over internet and e-government usage) or to normalise them (broadband penetration).

**Relevant European legislation:**

Commission regulation (EC) No 960/2008 of 30 September 2008 implementing Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on the information society.

Commission regulation (EC) No 847/2007 of 18 July 2007 implementing Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on the information society.

Commission regulation (EC) No 1031/2006 of 4 July 2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on the information society.

Commission Decision No 2006/215/EC of 15 March 2006 on setting up a high level expert group to advise the European Commission on the implementation and the development of the i2010 strategy.

Commission regulation (EC) No 1099/2005 of 13 July 2005 implementing Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on the information society.  
Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society.

Decision No 2256/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 adopting a multiannual programme (2003-2005) for the monitoring of the eEurope 2005 action plan, dissemination of good practices and the improvement of network and information security.

Council resolution of 18 February 2003 on the implementation of the eEurope 2005 Action Plan (2003/C 48/02).