



EUROSTAT QUALITY PROFILE

Indicator (definition)	Broadband penetration rate Number of broadband lines subscribed in percentage of the population.
Eurostat Unit	F-6 Information Society and Tourism statistics
Other Commission DGs	DG INFSO
European Statistical System Working Group (WG)	WG Communications (COINS)
Date	22 May 2007

1. Overall assessment of accuracy and comparability (Description of quality grades under the following link: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/structind/library?!=/general_information/quality_profiles/annex_enpdf/EN_1.0_&a=d)

A B C Indicator to be developed

Reliable indicator based on administrative data.

2. Objective and relevance of the indicator:

Realising Europe's full e-potential depends on creating the conditions for electronic commerce and the Internet to flourish, so that the Union can catch up with its competitors by hooking up many more businesses and homes to the Internet via fast connections (Lisbon European Council, 2000).

The Community and the Member States are, with the support of the EIB, to make available in all European countries low cost, high-speed interconnected networks for Internet access and foster the development of state-of-the-art information technology and other telecom networks as well as the content for those networks. (Lisbon European Council, 2000).

The Barcelona European Council (2002) attached priority to the widespread availability and use of broadband networks throughout the Union by 2005 and the development of Internet protocol IPv6.

Further development in this area requires accelerated broadband deployment; in this respect the Brussels European Council (2003) calls on Member States to put in place national broadband / high speed Internet strategies by end 2003 and aim for a substantial increase in high speed Internet connections by 2005.

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

A definition of broadband may not be very stable, an attribution of data to this definition may be subject to changes e.g. with 3 G lines (mobile broadband) gaining in importance. In addition the time horizon of including this indicator in the Structural indicators list might be limited due to a rapid increase in new broadband lines during the coming years.

It should be noted that the indicator is defined in a way that it may result in a penetration rate higher than 1 as the numerator comprises both households and enterprises.

3. Data availability: details

(t₁: earliest reference year available; t₂: latest reference year available in May 2007)

	EU Member States	ACC/CC	USA and Japan	EFTA ¹
t ₁	2002: EU-15 2004: EU-25	-	-	-
t ₂	2006	-	-	-

¹ While being a member of the EFTA, Liechtenstein has complete or partial exemptions from several statistical requirements due to its size. Thus, Liechtenstein is excluded from this overview as most of the data for structural indicators are missing.

4. Overall accuracy

- High Broadband lines are defined as those with a capacity equal to or higher than 144 Kbit/s. The data on the number of broadband connection/population is collected by the National Regulatory Authorities (through COCOM – Committee on Telecommunication) by means of a specific questionnaire as a part of monitoring market and competition. The accuracy of the data can be considered high as the whole market is being covered.
- Restricted (sources, errors, methodology, etc.)

5. Comparability across countries

- High The National Regulatory Authorities (NRA) use common concepts that ensure the comparability. Six new Member States (HU, PL, CZ, EE, LV and LT) collect data from telecoms and other sources but use the same definitions as COCOM that ensures the comparability with the data from the NRA.
- Restricted

6. Comparability over time

- High Comparability over time is ensured by the use of the same definition and the same questionnaire over time.
- Restricted

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 quality of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis

Relevant European legislation:

Council resolution 5197/03 on implementation of e-Europe Action Plan (setting e-Government indicators)

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