



**OBSERVATORY ON
INFORMATION SOCIETY TAKE-UP
IN THE NEW MEMBER STATES,
THE ACCEDING AND CANDIDATE COUNTRIES**

UPCOMING PROJECT

The contribution of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to economic growth in the enlarged European Union is crucial¹.

The “*Observatory on Information Society Take-up in the New Member States, the Acceding and Candidate Countries*”² supports the development of regional, national and European Information Society policies in the context of the renewed Lisbon Agenda.

The Observatory is a web-based tool for accessing data, knowledge-building and networking in the field of Information Society developments for the actors of the New European Member States and the Acceding and Candidate Countries, in order to support an evidence-based policy discussion about the information society and its economic impacts in these countries and the region as a whole.

The Observatory:

1. **serves as a classical observatory** by offering a set of scientifically reliable information, data, reports, policy descriptions and other literature on all aspects of information economy and society take-up in the relevant countries.
2. **initiates evidence-based policy debates** by moderating a discussion among policy makers, policy advisers and researchers about the impact of information economy and society on growth and jobs. It organises workshops and issues an Annual Intelligence Report and an Annual scientific eBook.

The Observatory is expected to attract the attention of broad circle of experts and stakeholders related to the information society take-up. The primary target groups of OISTU are the key stakeholders of IS policy development in the New Member States and Acceding and Candidate Countries: policy makers of the various levels of government, and the policy advisors, consultants, researchers involved in the policy formulation process.

Launch of the Observatory portal: September 2007

Further information about ICEG European Center and the Observatory project is available at: www.icegec.org

¹ More on this Theme, see: Europe 2010: A Partnership for European Renewal Prosperity', Solidarity and Security, Strategic Objectives 2005 - 2009. Communication from the President in agreement with Vice-President Wallström. COM (2005) 12 final, of Jan 2005.

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0012en01.pdf

eEurope 2005 Action Plan (Seville European Council in June 2002 and endorsed by the Council of Ministers in the eEurope Resolution of January 2003), http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/2005/index_en.htm . Rethinking the European ICT agenda. Ten ICT-breakthroughs for reaching the Lisbon goals. Ministry of Economic Affairs. The Netherlands, DG Telecommunications and Post. 2004. The Hague

² New Member States are: BG, CY, CZ, EE, HU, LT, LV, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK. Acceding and Candidate Countries are: HR, MK, TR.