

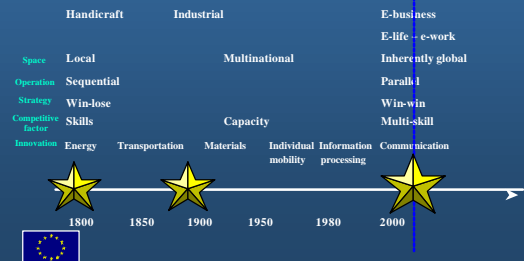
Information Society Challenge and the EU Answers

Global Forum,
Newcastle, 18.-19.10.2001

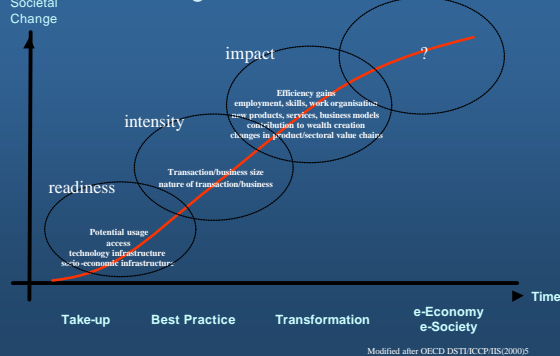
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DG Information Society



Industrial revolutions leading to societal revolutions



Facts and Figures



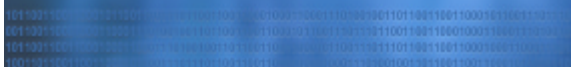
eEurope = the European social model revisited

- Dynamics of entrepreneurship and the new economy
- Internet skills - information society for all
- Mutually reinforcing: in the information society social justice and stimulating entrepreneurship go hand in hand
- European social model in transformation?



The eEurope 2002 Action Plan

- Cheaper, faster and more secure Internet: eSafety
- Investing in human capital: bridging the digital divide
- Stimulating use of the Internet: e-commerce, eHealth, eGovernment, eInclusion

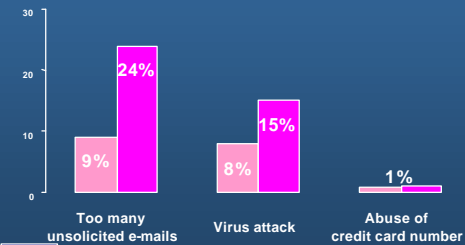


eEurope Contribution

- First time true integration of actions undertaken by the Union and the Member States - avoidance of digital divide
- Common goals implemented at national level with limited EU intervention
- Commission to benchmark the progress



Security problems experienced by EU Internet users (October 2000 - June 2001)



Source: European Commission / Eurobarometer - October 2000 / June 2001

Completing the legal framework

- Electronic signatures
- E-commerce Directive
- Copyright Directive
- Jurisdiction and applicable law
- Alternative dispute resolution
- E-services
- Taxation

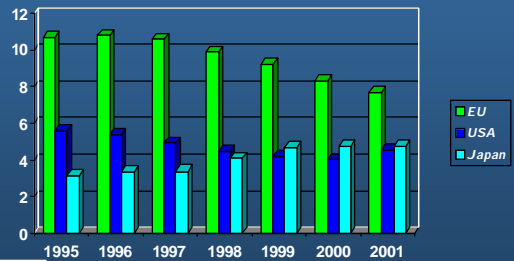


eEurope Status March 2001 (Stockholm Summit)

- Successes:
 - fast growth of Internet at home: 18 % → 28 %↑
 - 80% of schools connected
 - unbundling of local loop
- Speeding up needed:
 - e-government
 - network security / computer-crime
 - e-skills: 3.7 million jobs



Unemployment rate, 1995-2001 (percent of the labour force, annual averages; 2001: forecast)



Source: Commission (database of Economic & Financial Affairs DG)

What's to be done? - eEurope2002

1. Promoting Internet use
 - competition in local networks 1.1.2001
 - single online market in e-commerce
 - improving network security

⇒ jointly between MS and Commission
2. Getting social conditions right
 - networking of schools: Internet skills
 - government online: better service

⇒ mainly responsibility of Member States, implementation generally decentralised

⇒ EU's role: benchmarking



Example: Accessibility on Web sites

- Commission Communication
- Issues:
 - Screen readers for blind can not read images, color blind can not see the colors, etc.
 - Web accessibility guidelines (FP4) with US and Japan
 - eEurope commits public websites to follow the guidelines
 - ...all sites should be accessible for disabled and elderly
 - 2003 The European Year for Disabled

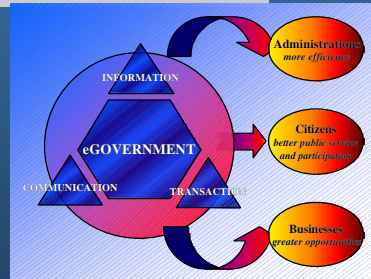


Example: eGovernment

- Openness and transparency is a first step
- With interactivity will come responsiveness, personalisation and cost-efficiency
- Multilinguality
- Entrepreneurial
- eGovernment conference on 29-30 Nov. 2001 in Brussels on joint Commission-Belgian Presidency initiative



What is eGovernment and for whom?



A necessity, not a matter of choice !

Future issues

- eEurope 2002 +
- eEurope 2004 (?)
- telecom regulation
- RTD framework

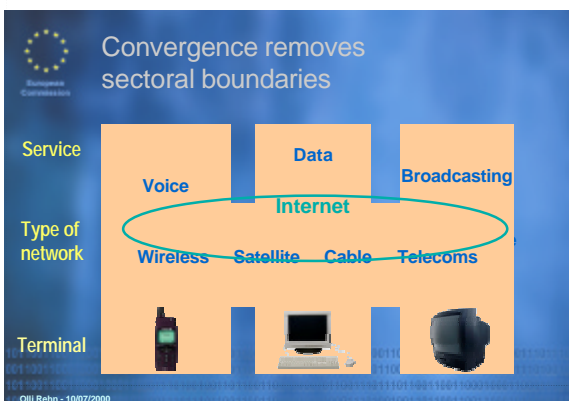


eEurope+

- Integrate the candidate countries through a common strategy and common priorities
- Based on eEurope but adapted:
 - establish the basic building blocks of the digital age
 - cheaper, faster, secure Internet
 - invest in people and skills
 - stimulate the use of the Internet



Implementation is up to national governments



Ambient Intelligence

- ⇒ Ubiquitous computing
PLUS
- ⇒ Ubiquitous communication
PLUS
- ⇒ Intelligent Interface



