

AUSTRIA

Questionnaire

- 1. Describe your country's/agency's overall strategy or approach in using ICT for Development**
 - a) Overall strategy**
 - b) Guiding principles for use of ICT for development**
 - c) Objectives**
 - d) Areas of application**
 - e) References and web-links to any relevant strategy documents or guidelines**

Basic objectives of the Austrian Development Cooperation

The Austrian Development Cooperation is part of Austria's foreign policy and the development policy of the European Union, which is aimed at securing global peace in concert with other industrial and development countries.

The central problems of many development countries – such as poverty and social injustice, destruction of the natural and social environments, diseases and lack of access to education and training, various forms of repression, which often lead to violence – have reached dimensions that affect the future perspectives of all countries.

These problems cannot be overcome by money transfers or isolated project approaches alone. The industrial countries will have to pursue a coherent, coordinated bilateral and multilateral development cooperation to facilitate the creation, or improvement, of the necessary political, social and economic framework in the developing countries concerned. For this reason the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the European Union have defined coherence of multilateral development assistance on the one hand and the development cooperation of the member states on the other as central aims in this respect.

The objective of the Austrian Development Cooperation is to promote sustainable economic development in its partner countries, which should have immediate repercussions on the fight against poverty. In this respect the main focus has been placed on the least developed countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as the poorest populations in other countries.

The principles of respect for human rights, promotion of democratic structures and good governance, gender equality and environmental protection form the basis of the Austrian Development Cooperation, and these principles should be taken into account in all programmes and projects. In addition special emphasis is placed on the fields of education and training.

We are conscious of the fact that ICT (information and communication technology) can contribute to increasing the North – South divide and that it can be just as well a powerful tool in the combat against poverty. All depends on how we exploit its potentialities.

ICT activities are being incorporated into present sector strategies.

All projects and programmes of the Austrian Development Cooperation shall be designed in concert with the persons concerned, who are to be considered as equal partners. An intensive cultural exchange and direct contacts between Austria and the developing countries will also help to promote mutual understanding.

2. Identify the main modalities for ICT integration in your overall development strategy

a) Modalities for ICT integration and programme delivery

b) Partnership, including the private sector

c) Participation, if any, in joint or multi-donor ICT for development programmes

d) Estimate of a global amount of funding with indications on the timeframe it covers

e) Lessons learned from your country's/agency's experience

f) Cases that are particularly illustrative/examples of best practices

General approach:

- In every education and small business sector project necessary electronic linkages and ICT are integrated.
- In institution building projects, IT infrastructure and know-how is provided.

Please see the following ICT related projects of the Austrian Development Cooperation for demonstration:

Nepal:

- Sherpa Centre Namche Bazaar still had a mail runner several years ago;
- after the construction of a small power plant at 3.000 m above sea level financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation, the number of telephones increased from 0 to 100;
- In 4 modern tourist hotels nearby, new Pentium 2 Computers were installed and the kids of Khumbu know how to use them for Internet access.
- Context: In Nepal, 73% of the 23 millions people are illiterate and 85% have no access to electrical power.

Bhutan:

- Bhutan introduced national TV and Internet in the summer of 1999.
- Capacity building project for the management and the dissemination of information on different levels and in different sectors (government, private sector, education) in Bhutan. As a start, a train the trainer programme has been introduced and a education and communication centre has been created.

Zimbabwe:

- Internet projects in schools, during weekends the school infrastructure is used as Internet cafes

- ADC promoted the facilitation of the creation of websites of local SMEs and improved the awareness concerning local SMEs as website providers

Nicaragua:

- URRACAN in RAAN: additional income for the university by introducing distance courses; local IT access provided;

Uganda:

- local scholarship program for distance education (Kisoro decentralisation)
- together with other donors: equipment and know-how-transfer for ministries of education in Africa, in order to enable them to exchange relevant, up-to-date data.

Romania:

- Sale of Internet information (e.g. about suppliers) to small entrepreneurs by an information office
- Support of computer related businesses by a leasing and consulting project

Bulgaria:

- Support of computer related businesses by leasing and incubator projects

Sector Microfinance:

- in all microfinance projects, IT is used to administer loans and savings

Sector Education:

- science and research networks for north-south exchange of information and experiences are promoted

3. Describe the institutional arrangements made by your country for mainstreaming ICT within its development strategy

a) Main agencies involved in ICT for development (e.g. development co-operation agency, ministries, research institutes)

b) The agencies' roles in the various stages (e.g. strategy, operations)

c) Contact details of your country's/agency's ICT for development focal point

The above mentioned project examples give you an idea of how Austrian Development Cooperation approaches the subject at the moment. We have no specific programme but some investment in the telecommunication sector. We have started for example an evaluation on a project in KAP VERDE: "Financing of the Telecommunications Development Project – Trunk Network and St. Cruz Regional Network".

In the future we intend to integrate, where feasible, ICT technologies in every new project/programme of development cooperation.

4. Country/regional focus of the ICT-enhanced development strategy

a) General description of regional and country focus

b) More detailed information on main recipients of your ICT-enhanced development strategy

See answer to question 1 above.