UOC Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Unpeeling the layers of the digital divide: category thresholds and relationships within composite indices

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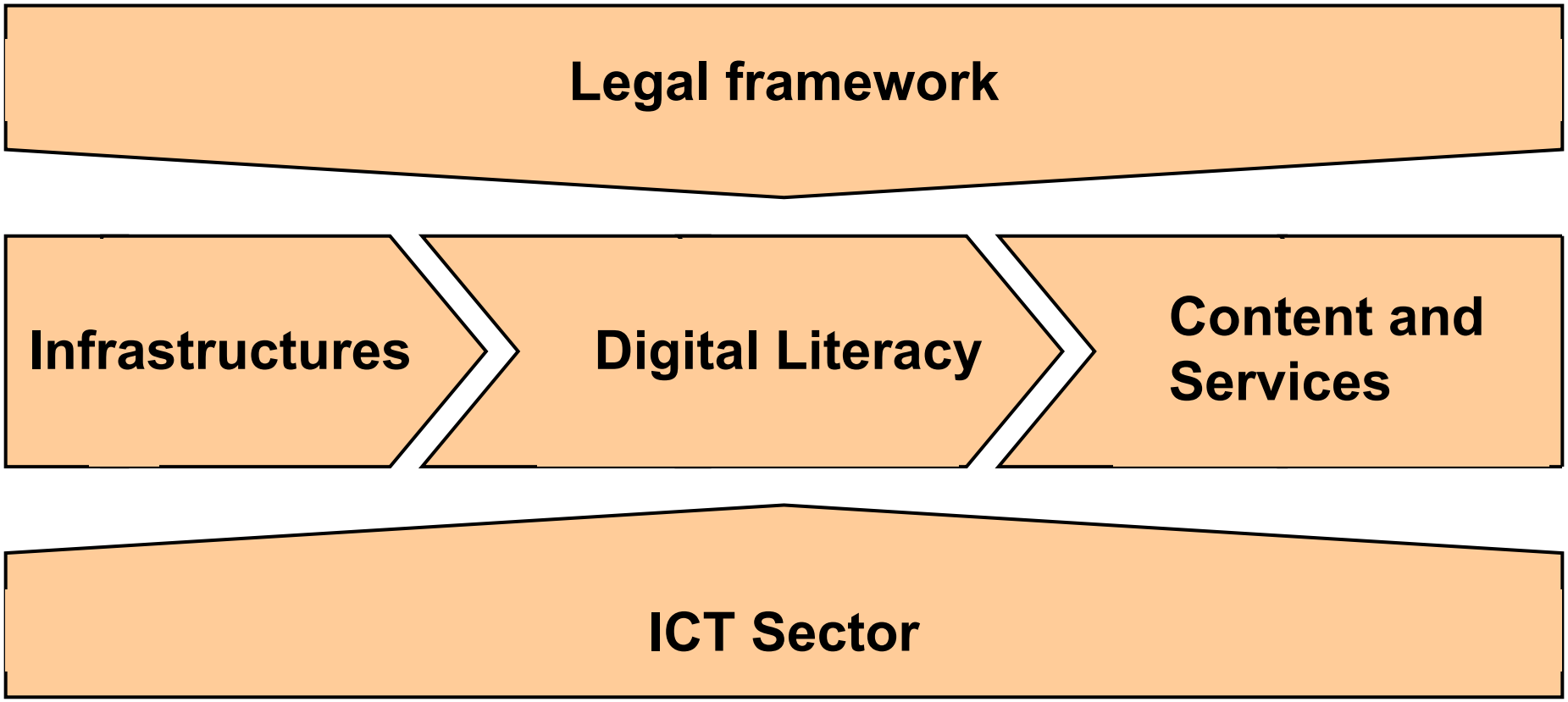
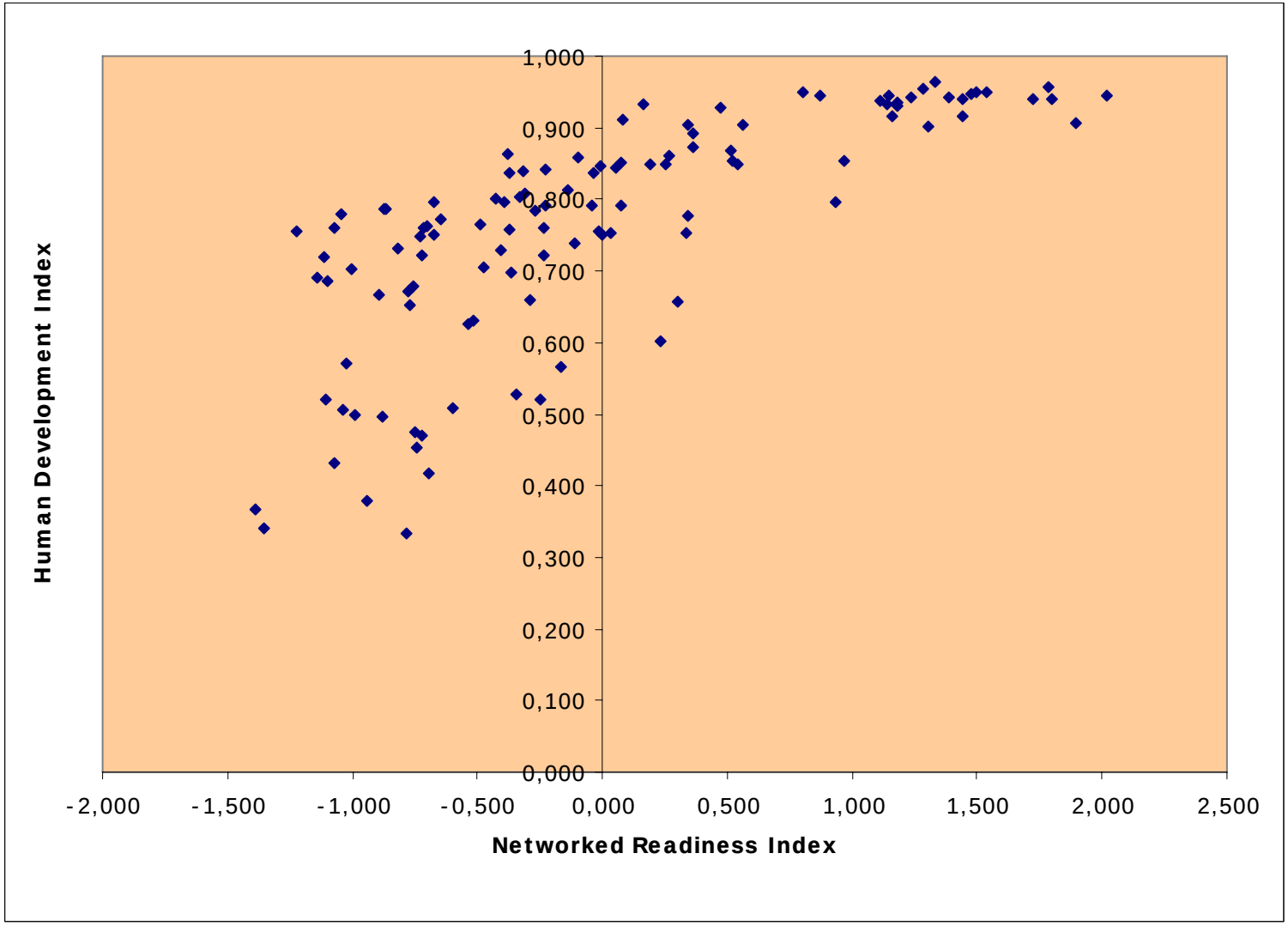
Cambridge, July 24th, 2007

ICTs *for Development*

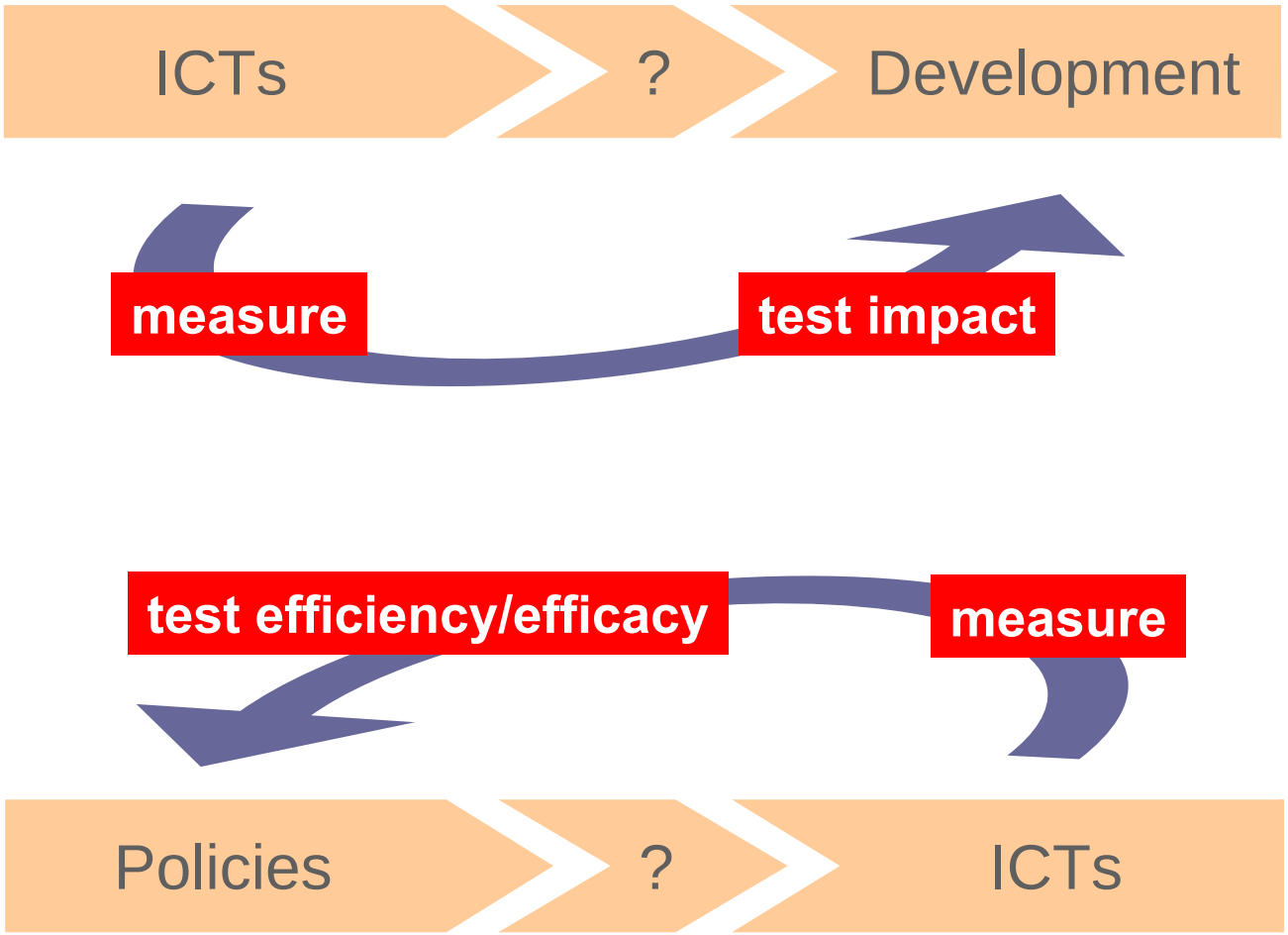
ICTs? …Information Society?



for development?



What are we dealing with



Measuring Divide/Access

Access

Telecommunications model:

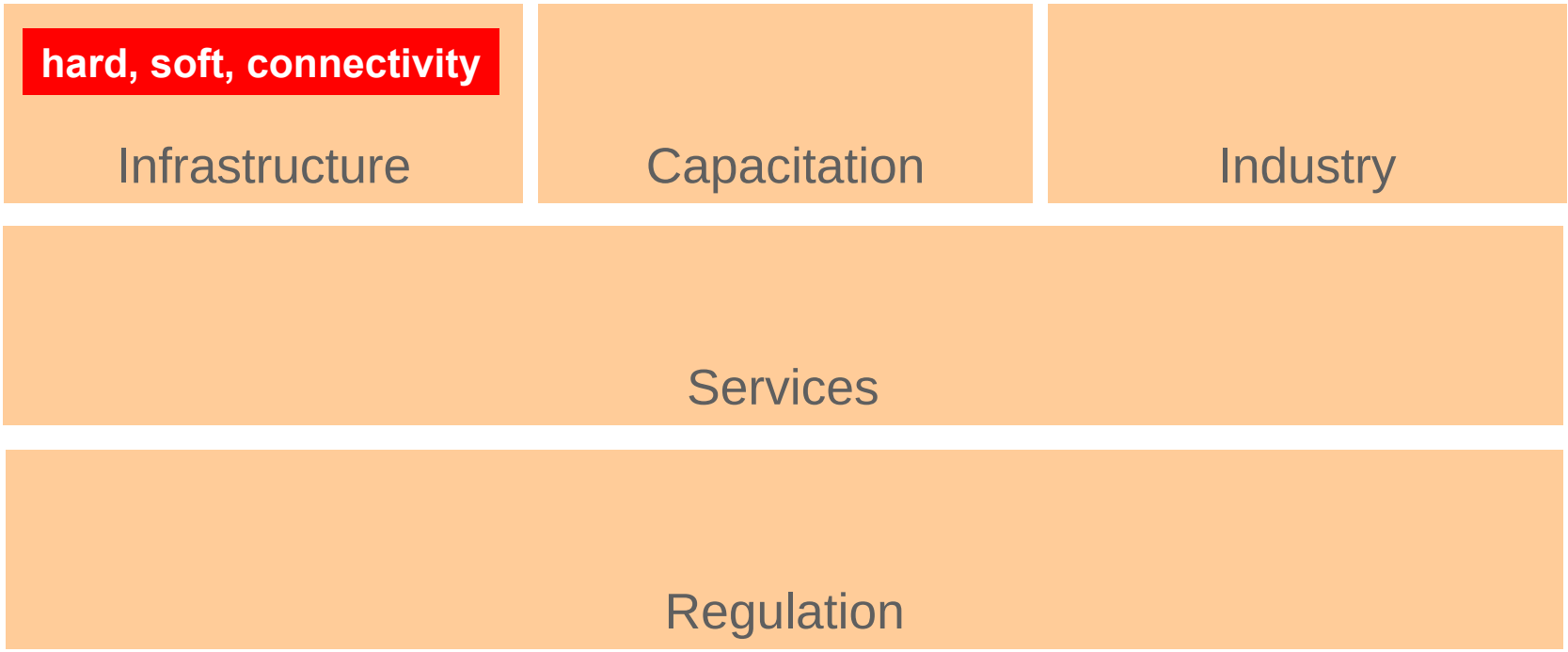
- **Capability to send one's message – THE EMISOR**

Broadcasting model:

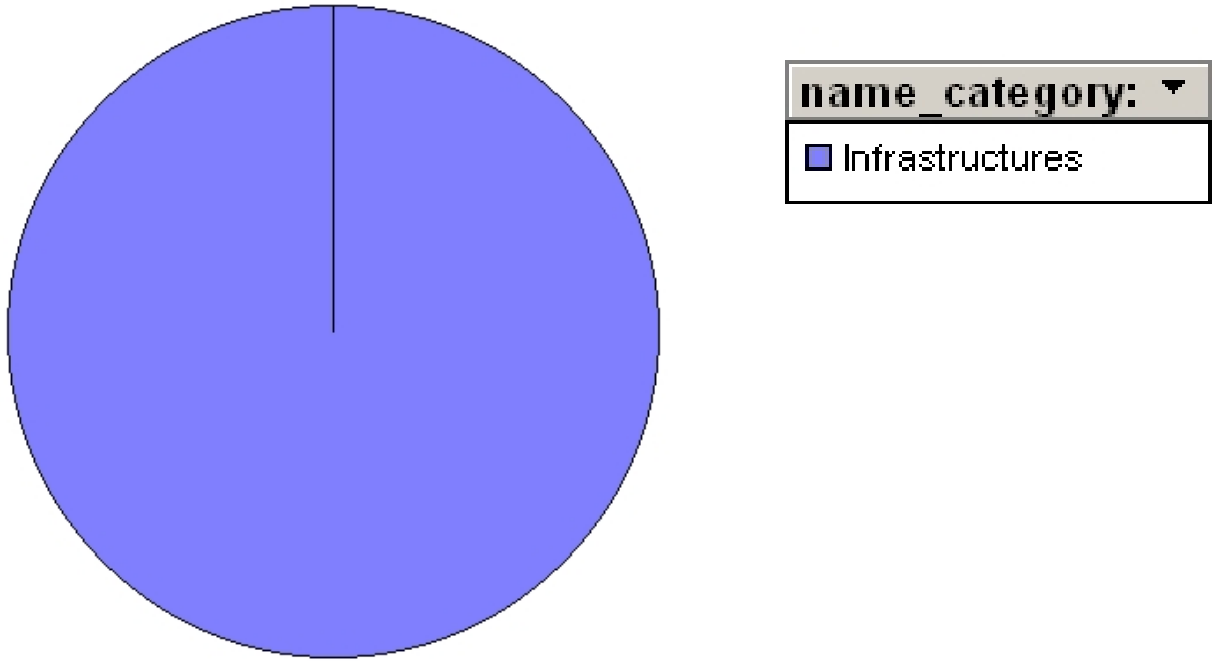
- **Range of products on offer – THE RECEIVER**

How: Option 1, the Telecomm approach (i/ii)

ICTs ≈ Infrastructure



How: Option 1, the Telecomm approach (ii/ii)



ICTs ? Development ✓

Policies ? ICTs ✗

How: Option 2, the e-Readiness approach (i/ii)

ICTs ≈ Economy

hard, soft, connectivity

Infrastructure

digital literacy

Capacitation

ICT Sector

Industry

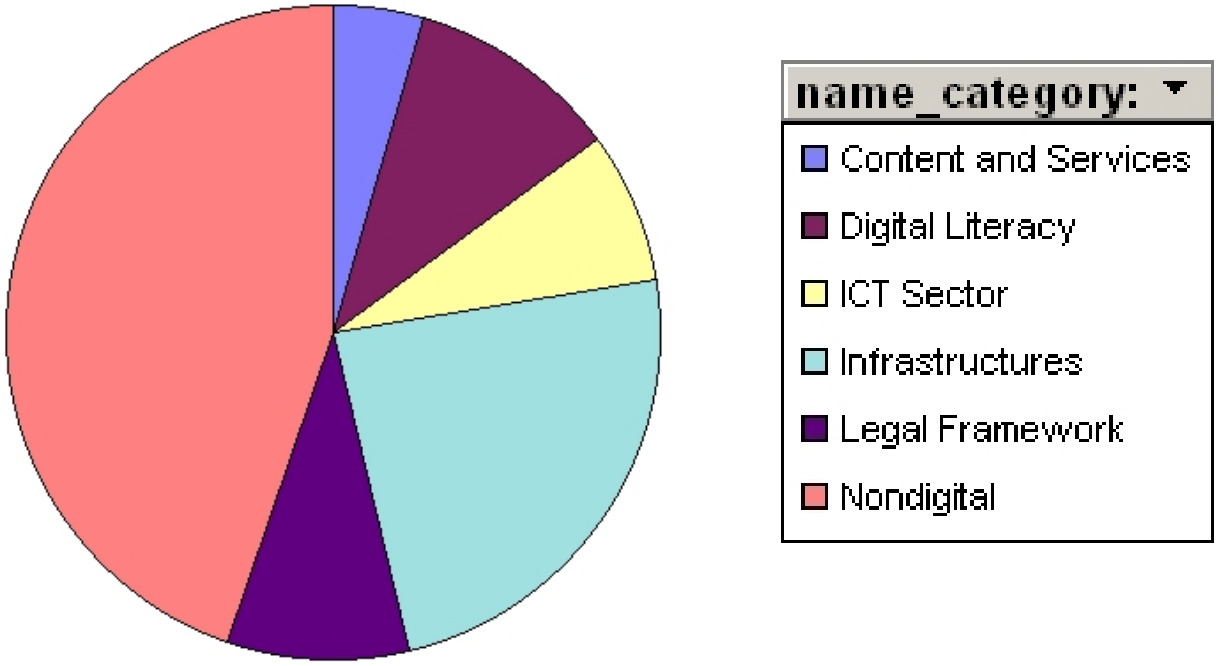
digital content, OA, virtual communities, B2B, P2P, B2C, G2G, G2B

Services

cyberlaw, infrastructure regulation, internet governance, privacy, censorship

Regulation

How: Option 2, the e-Readiness approach (ii/ii)



ICTs ? Development ✗

Policies ? ICTs ✓

New approach: e-Awareness Index

look for better name

ICTs ≈ e-Economy

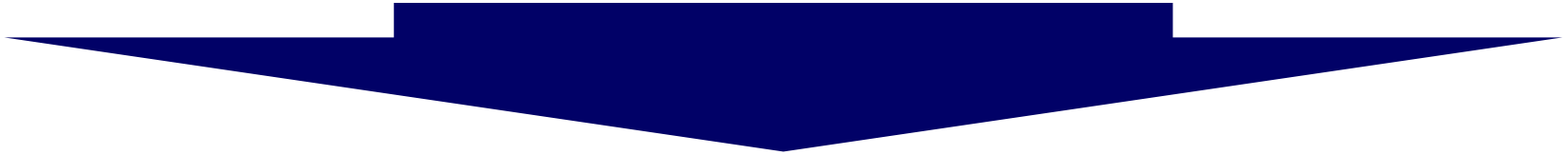
hard, soft, connectivity

digital literacy

ICT Sector

digital content, OA, virtual communities, B2B, P2P, B2C, G2G, G2B

cyberlaw, infrastructure regulation, internet governance, privacy, censorship



Infrastructure

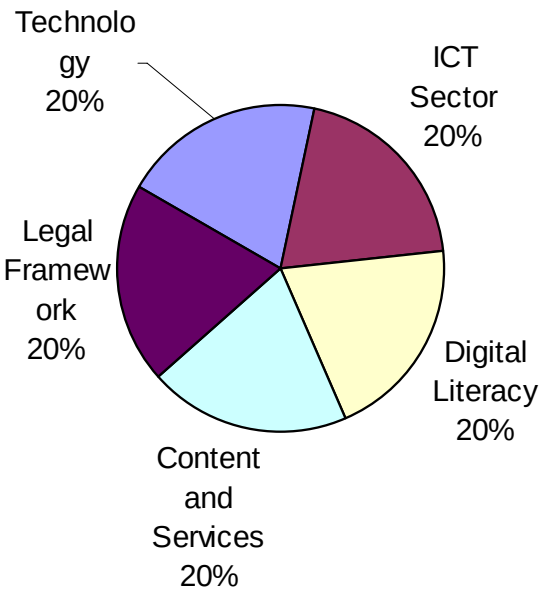
Capacitation

Industry

Uses

Regulation

e-Awareness and Development

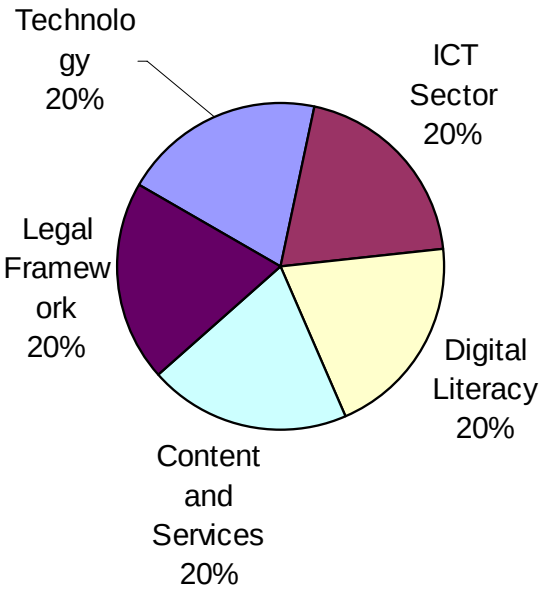


ICTs > ? > Development ✔

- **ODI vs. HDI (leapfrogging dev.)**
- **ODI vs. NBP**
- **ODI vs. market freedom**
- **ODI vs. degree of democracy**
- **Etc.**

e-Awareness and Information Society Policies

ONLY DIGITAL

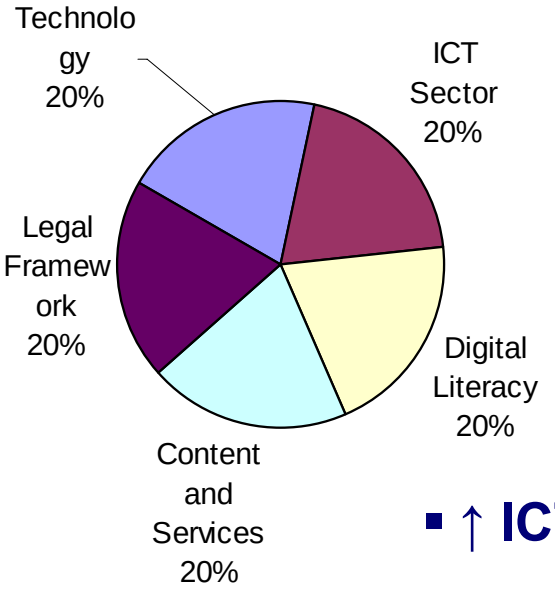


Policies > ? > ICTs

- **ODI vs. Infrastructures Policies**
- **ODI vs. Capacitation Policies**
- **ODI vs. ICT Sector Policies**
- **ODI vs. Uses Policies**
- **ODI vs. Regulation Policies**

e-Awareness and... e-Awareness

ONLY DIGITAL



e-Awareness > ? > e-Awareness ?

- ↑ **infrastructure, ↑ uses?**
- ↑ **literacy, ↑ uses?**
- ↑ **infrastructure, ↑ literacy?**
- ↑ **literacy, ↑ regulation?**
- ↑ **regulation, ↑ ICT sector?**

- ↑ **ICT sector, ↑ uses? (leapfrogging dig. dev.)**
- ↑ **infrastructure, = literacy, ↑ uses? (threshold)**
- ↑ **literacy, = infrastructure, ↑ uses? (threshold)**
- ↑ **ICT sector, = regulation, ↑ uses? (threshold)**

Index composition?

Infrastructure
- Hardware
- Software
- Connectivity

Digital Literacy
- Tecnological literacy
- Informational literacy
- Functional literacy

ICT Sector
- Local Sector
- Imports
- Exports

Content, Services, Communities
- Locally relevant content (commodity)
- Locally relevant content (capital)
- Presence in the Internet
- e-Economy / e-Business
- e-Public Sector / Public e-Services

Regulation
- ICT Sector Regulation
- Intellectual Property
- e-Commerce Regulation / Cyberlaw
- Data and Security
- Access freedom/censorship
- Education and ICTs / e-Learning
- e-Inclusion policies
- Information Society Policies / ICT4D

Index setup and philosophy

#1 Available indicators (when possible)

#2 (if #1 is not true) Proxies

#3 No (one-time) surveys, no case-studies

#4 Immediate replicability – *automagic* updating

#5 What is the Digital Divide (revision)

#6 Benchmarking of indicators

#7 Crossing of indexes and indicators

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