GUIDELINES

For the preparation of reports by Member States on the application of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (2003)

Preliminary remarks

These Guidelines are intended to assist Member States in the preparation of their reports on the application of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003. These reporting guidelines were established based on the topics set out in the Recommendation, available at: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/access-to-knowledge/linguistic-diversity-and-multilingualism-on-Internet/normative-instruments/recommendation/?fb_locale=es_LA

Systems of reports

Pursuant to Articles 15 and 16.1 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution and in conformity with 32 C/Resolution 41 of the General Conference, in February 2004, the Director-General transmitted to Member States a certified copy of this Recommendation.

Furthermore, the General Conference, at its 33rd session, adopted 33 C/Resolution 54 concerning the establishment of a system of reports by Member States to the General Conference on measures taken to implement the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace. By this Resolution, the General Conference requested each Member State to prepare and submit to the Secretariat a first report on the action taken to implement this Recommendation by the end of the month of January 2007, and subsequently once every four years with effect from that date.

Pursuant to 33 C/Resolution 54, the Director-General prepared and transmitted to the General Conference, at its 34th session, the first consolidated report, which has also been examined by the Executive Board at its 176th session (34 C/23). The second report was examined by the Executive Board at its 186th session and then transmitted to the General Conference at its 36th session. The third report was examined by the Executive Board at its 197th session and then transmitted to the General Conference at its 38th session. For the reporting mechanism to be effective, it is indispensable for the number of Member States participating in the reporting process to increase significantly.

General indications

Given the reporting obligations stated above, please describe whether the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that have been taken pursuant to the Recommendation and the extent to which national laws, policies and programmes correspond at present to its provisions.

Information supplied by Member States should indicate how laws and practices comply with the commitments under the Recommendation, describing legal norms as well as the factual situation. The report should thus depict the constitutional, legal and administrative framework established for the implementation of the Recommendation.

The report should also cover laws and legislative texts adopted by Member States to promote the use of multilingualism and the universal access to cyberspace. It should provide
a description of policy measures and programmes implemented to that end, as well as of difficulties encountered in this process. The report should specify activities developed and supported by Member States for the promotion of this Recommendation at national level.

Please highlight the overall results achieved and the obstacles encountered in the process of the implementation of the Recommendation.

**Submission and dissemination of reports**

Please designate a contact person responsible for the information sharing and cooperation with UNESCO in relation to this Recommendation.

The report should not exceed 10 pages, excluding annexes, and is to be submitted to UNESCO preferably in electronic form (standard .pdf or .rtf or .doc format) or/and on paper in English or French.

The report will be made available on UNESCO’s website in order to facilitate the exchange of information relating to the promotion and implementation of this Recommendation.
GENERAL INFORMATION:

Country:
Germany

Organization(s) or entity(ies) responsible for the preparation of the report

Federal Foreign Office

Officially designated contact person or institution

German Commission for UNESCO

Name(s) of the designated official(s) certifying the report

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Brief description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report

The report was drafted on the basis of extensive desk research, retrieving published and public information of relevant stakeholders concerned. The draft text was consulted with German Commission for UNESCO’s expert committee on communication and information for peer review and quality enhancement.

Elements for reporting on the specific provisions of the Recommendation

1. DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILINGUAL CONTENT AND SYSTEMS

1.1. Please furnish detailed information explaining what measures have been taken to alleviate language barriers.

Germany is home to four groups of national minorities as well as more than 19 million people from a migrant background (as of 2017). Thus, in many communities and schools, especially in larger cities, speakers of more than 30 native languages live and learn together. Most people, including speakers of minority and migrant languages, use cyberspace content in the official language German. Many people from migrant background also use online content in their native languages which is freely available.

In order to alleviate possible language and other barriers, the Federal Government has taken measures to support the preservation of minority languages online and offline (compare answers to questions 1.2. and 1.3.) as well as to make public online content accessible for speakers of migrant languages and people with disabilities (compare answer to question 1.4.).

1.2. Please provide information on support given to capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.
In Germany citizen media (Bürgermedien) allow amateurs on a local and regional level to produce content which is non-commercial. This local citizen media is supervised by the state media authorities and supported by associations, non-profit organisations or by the media institutions themselves. For more than 30 years, citizen media have made their contribution to the participation of citizens, to local information and identification, to the promotion of media competence and to the training and further education of media professionals. They serve society as a democratic instrument because they guarantee free and direct access to electronic mass media. Today citizen media produces local content on the Internet as well as for radio and television broadcasting.

1.3. Please describe the measures taken for formulating appropriate national policies on the issues of language survival, revitalization, development and promotion in cyberspace. Please include information about main legislation and/or policy measures, if any, and date of their introduction/adoptation.

National Minorities in the Federal Republic of Germany are the Danes, Sorbs, Frisians as well as Sinti and Roma. Additionally, Low German is recognized as a regional language. By ratifying the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe as well as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Federal Government has committed itself to the protection and promotion of these languages.

The Federal Government, the federal states and the relevant municipalities actively support the members of the national minorities as well as the speakers of Low German in preserving their cultural heritage and their language. Publicly funded minorities’ institutions promote the preservation and use of minority languages, also in cyberspace, provide content in these languages and take capacity building measures.

The office of the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers was established in 1988 at the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In 2002, the mandate of the office was expanded to specifically include national minorities. Due to Germany’s federal structure, competence and responsibility for national minorities lay within the federal states. Therefore, many federal states have set up offices which are responsible for giving due consideration to the concerns of the national minorities. The Council of National Minorities, together with the publicly-funded Secretariat for National Minorities in Berlin, serves as the liaison point between national minorities and the authorities. The use of minority languages is an important topic in this cooperation. There are regular conferences between the Federal Government, the federal states and the national minorities on the implementation of the abovementioned Framework Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

1.4. Please provide information, including references, on major events, projects, publications and examples of best practices identified during the reporting period that contributed to the promotion of and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace.

The Federal Government promotes multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace by providing online content on public websites in several different
languages. Many websites of public institutions are available in German and English, some also in French or Spanish. Furthermore, authorities and public institutions increasingly offer content in migrant languages, such as for example (but not limited to) Arabic, Turkish and Russian, in order to make them truly accessible for migrants and refugees from different backgrounds who are not fluent in German. This concerns in particular information on new laws and policies as well as the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany (constitution) which is offered free of charge online and as a print publication in Arabic and Turkish by the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

In addition, the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities introduced in 2002 requires public websites to be accessible for people with disabilities. Therefore, online content and documents available for download are designed according to accessibility standards. Public websites also contain easy read information; some offer information in sign language.

The Deutsche Welle, an international public broadcaster financed by federal tax revenue, started its web presence in 1994. Today, its online news site is available in 30 languages. In 2013 and again in 2015, its online television programming was particularly improving as it received a set of new shows and channels. It basically involved new, language-based channels, regionalized programming and a variety of multimedia content which can be used online. Concerning the regionalized channels, the changes implied an expansion of the daily Spanish-language TV programming for Latin America from two to 20 hours. Moreover, Arab countries now receive ten hours of Arabic and 14 hours of English programming.

2. FACILITATING ACCESS TO NETWORKS AND SERVICES

2.1. Please report on national efforts to recognize and support universal access to the Internet as well as to promote access to the Internet as a service of public interest.

In the coalition agreement, forming the Federal Government in 2018, the political parties of CDU, CSU and SPD formulated the goal to provide nationwide fast access to the Internet which will be legally secured as of January 1, 2025. At all public institutions as well as in trains and train stations of the Deutsche Bahn AG open and free of charge Wi-Fi hotspots will be made available.

The governing parties furthermore agreed to adhere to the legal anchoring of the principle of net neutrality for a non-discriminatory network access to the open and free Internet.

In 2018 the German Bundesrat (Federal Council representing the 16 federal states) decided to once again bring a legislative initiative to the German Bundestag (parliament) to recognise the non-profit character of Freifunk, a non-commercial open grassroots initiative, to support decentralized free and open computer networks which allow access to the Internet. With Freifunk, individual routers within radio range connect directly to each other. This creates local citizen networks in which data traffic can travel via any station. These networks are public, anonymous and because of the non-profit character, data is not analysed for commercial purposes. By making part of the bandwidth of private Internet connections available to the Freifunk network, free of
charge, digital participation is promoted. This is a form of non-profit, civic engagement for a digital society with equal opportunities for all. With more than 45,000 access points by hundreds of local communities all over Germany, Freifunk also helps tremendously to establish Internet access for refugees and by doing so bridges the digital divide through participation of all societal groups.

2.2. Please also describe what mechanisms have been established at the local and national levels to facilitate universal access to the Internet through affordable and accessible telecommunications, and Internet costs.

The Internet can be accessed throughout the country. A wide range of public Internet access points, for example at public libraries, youth centres, train stations and public authority buildings complement commercial Internet access. By adopting appropriate regulation and safeguarding competition, the Federal Government contributes to ensuring affordable Internet costs for all regarding commercial access.

With its Broadband Strategy, adopted in 2009, the Federal Government has adopted a range of measures to achieve universal broadband access throughout the country and close remaining gaps. Among others by the expansion of LTE (4G), another significant increase in broadband Internet connectivity could be reached. As a result, by the end of 2013, basic broadband access with speeds of at least 1 Mbit/s was available for 99,9 percent of all households. At the same time, 59,7 percent of all households had access via high-speed broadband with at least 50 Mbit/s. The Federal Government’s declared aim was to make high-speed broadband access (≥ 50 Mbit/s) available to all households by 2018. By mid-2018 82,9 percent of all households had high-speed broadband access available and 99,8 percent of the households had access at a speed of 6 Mbit/s or higher. Through the expansion of fibreglass and 5G NR mobile radio technology higher speeds are to be available to more households in the near future. The Federal Government wants to achieve nationwide Gigabit networks until 2025 and Germany to become a lead market for 5G applications.

In order to implement the Broadband Strategy widely and effectively, the Federal Government has established several specific institutions. For example, the broadband office (Breitbandbüro des Bundes) was founded in 2010. Its tasks are to coordinate measures with the broadband competence centres of the federal states, to draw up practical guidelines on current issues and to organize dialogue events and workshops. In addition, the website zukunft-breitband.de was launched in order to inform the public. With the 2014 established “Net Alliance Digital Germany“ the Federal Government brings together big and medium-sized companies to form an investment and innovation platform for the broadband expansion. The Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur, federal government agency of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy) as the German regulatory office for telecommunications regulates license fees and supervises the market situation, in particular with regard to access, costs and competition.

2.3. Please indicate the measures taken for encouraging the development of information strategies and models that facilitate community access and support cooperation on ICT among public service institutions, including community telecentres, libraries, Internet access units, and others.
ICTs and the digital infrastructure are a priority for the Federal Government. With the “Digital Strategie 2025” the “Digital Agenda 2014-2017” was further developed to accompany and shape digitalization and to ensure that citizens can benefit as much as possible from these developments. With the implementation strategy “Shaping Digitalisierung”, adopted in late 2018, the Federal Government moves forward describing which projects with high priority have been identified in order to strategically implement digital policy measures. One of the five fields of action is infrastructure and equipment. The strategy, its goals and further development are measured and published continuously online at www.digital-made-in.de.

The strategy deals with supporting digital infrastructure and the digital economy as well as safeguarding security and participation and increasing scientific research on relevant digital topics. The projects will be implemented jointly with the social partners, civil society, the private sector and the sciences.

Media and information literacy are an important part of the Federal Government's digital policy. Particularly young people are addressed by the Government's efforts with regards to this. To name one example, the “digital voluntary social year” (Modellprojekt Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr Digital, “netzwärts für Medienbildung in Freiwilligendiensten”) has been introduced by the Federal Government. In the framework of this project, young people with knowledge and skills in the digital and ICT sector support charitable organizations in realizing IT projects and in media and information literacy training for the duration of one year. Thereby, media and information literacy is taught and community access to the Internet is facilitated at the same time. For more, please refer to question 3.1. (c).

2.4. **What efforts have been made in order to encourage Internet service providers to consider provision of concessionary rates for Internet access in public service institutions?**

This is not something that is subject to regulation, and therefore no rules have been laid down. The agencies introducing e-Government services are free to conclude special arrangements with service providers.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC DOMAIN CONTENT

3.1. **Please explain the legal and administrative measures adopted to give effect to the provisions of this part of the Recommendation:**

(a) **recognizing and enacting the right of universal online access to public and government-held records,**

Access to public and government-held records is regulated by the Federal Act Governing Access to Information held by the Federal Government, in short the Freedom of Information Act, which entered into force in 2006. This law stipulates a right of the individual to access to information held by federal agencies. There is no requirement that one has to be affected – legally or factually – by the information concerned. Upon an application at the relevant government agency, the agency is obliged to disclose the requested information. A request to information may only be denied for exceptional reasons such as national interest or the protection of personal data.
The Federal Government is currently elaborating its new programme on adapting public administration to the digital environment and increasing transparency and access to public information and records. The programme “Digital Administration 2020” (Digitale Verwaltung 2020) sets the goal to make all public administration available electronically and make paper requests and personal visits to the administration agency unnecessary by 2020. This will also improve online access to public and government-held information, as currently, some of the administration’s work is still paper-based and not available online.

Already, the E-Government Act, passed in 2013, has established a wide range of measures to improve electronic communication with administration and the authorities and remove legal obstacles to electronic communications between public authorities, citizens and businesses. Federal authorities now accept electronic documents submitted using the e-ID feature of the ID card or via De-Mail. Also, it has established the principle of electronic document management, open data, electronic administrative bullets as well as facilitation of electronic certifications.

In February 2013, the Federal Government has established the Open Government Data Portal. The portal, named GovData, available at govdata.de, has been developed in consultation with open data experts from the private sector, academia and civil society. It contains data from all levels of the administration – the federal level as well as federal states level and the municipal level. Six months after the portal’s launch, an evaluation report showed that the available data is constantly increasing (February 2013: 1.100 data sets; August 2013: 3.700 data sets). Moreover, according to the report, citizens enthusiastically use the services provided by GovData: On average, 15.000 users visited the website monthly and accessed 2.7 million data sets (between February and August 2013). The portal was relaunched in early 2016 and now offers more than 20.000 data sets from which more than 90 percent are available under an open license model. Eleven federal states are supporting the portal.

(b) identifying and promoting repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and making them accessible by all, in particular persons with disabilities, linguistic minorities, women and girls and,

In 2012, the Federal Government, the federal states and local authorities have jointly launched the beta version of the German Digital Library (Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek, DDB). The DDB links content from cultural and academic institutions throughout the country, with the goal to make scientific knowledge, but also cultural heritage easily accessible for everyone through a central access point. On 31 March 2014, the full version of the website has been launched. In late 2018 the digital content of more than 4.300 institutions was available through the DDB website.

In addition, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz) makes many of its collections and cultural and scientific content available online on its website “SPK digital”. Its collections and catalogues of holdings contain archaeological and ethnological objects as well as literature and music. All together more than 14 million inventory records are available. In 2013, the foundation has signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. On this occasion, the foundation has, together with partners, developed
practical guidelines for public cultural institutions on how to make scholarly and cultural content available freely, the “Recommendation for the Implementation of the Berlin Declaration of 2003 at Signatory Cultural Institutions”. The Foundation is directly responsible to the German Government and is co-financed by the Federal Government and the federal states.

Other examples include the German National Library (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek), which has digitalized its complete collection of exile art. Minor private and public institutions use the power of synergy and collectively display their audio-visual material. This network of media libraries (Netzwerk Mediatheken) provides cultural and scientific information and services of archives, libraries, documentation centres, museums and research institutes.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research is funding the project “Culture meets Digital” (Kultur trifft Digital) by which socially and educationally disadvantaged young people between the ages of 6 to 18 are experiencing and creating cultural works with the help of digital media.

On the federal state level, digitalization projects find great support as well. One example is the Service Center Digitization Berlin (Servicestelle Digitalisierung), established by the federal state of Berlin, with the aim of coordinating digitalization projects in the areas of libraries, museums and archives, as well as interdisciplinary cooperation in Berlin.

On the level of municipalities folk high schools in Germany provide media and information literacy by a brought offer of courses, online and well as offline.

Most of the above listed examples of websites are available in German and English language. Moreover, parts of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation’s website are available in an easy read version.

(c) promoting and facilitating ICT literacy, as well as information and media literacy, including popularizing and building trust in ICT implementation and use.

An important part of the Federal Government’s abovementioned digital policy is to increase media and information literacy, particularly among young people. The Federal Government supports a wide range of projects and initiatives that promote parents’ media education competences, foster attractive and age-appropriate media projects for children, and support childrens’ creative and responsible use of the Internet, among others through the federal funding programme “A net for children” (Ein Netz für Kinder) and the funding of the projects “Children’s rights digital” (Kinderrechte.digital) and “Good growing up with media” (Gutes Aufwachsen mit Medien).

The 2002 established “German Digital Opportunities Foundation” (Stiftung Digitale Chancen) conducts research on the social impact of digitisation, campaigns for equal access to the Internet for all people and for the advance of digital literacy. The foundation’s objective is digital inclusion of all social groups and counteracting the digital divide. The Foundation is under the patronage of the Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

In 2016, the Federal Government has updated its national Cyber Security Strategy (Cyber-Sicherheitsstrategie) which lays out measures to safeguard security in cyberspace and protect critical information infrastructure. As part of the implementation of this strategy, the National Cyber Response Centre as well as the National Cyber Security Council were established. The Federal Office for Information Security, among others, runs a website dedicated to providing information on IT and cyberspace security issues and current security threats to citizens (BSI für Bürger).

3.2. Please also provide information on whether open access solutions and web accessibility of public domain information were advanced and how, including supporting data, reference to best practices, examples and solutions.

Considerably more web accessibility of public domain information was achieved by the latest amendments to the Act on Copyright and Related Rights, which entered into force on January 1, 2014. Among others, these amendments make it easier for public institutions to digitalize orphan works and make them accessible online. Also, it establishes a second window right for open access publication of publicly-financed scientific work. For details, please compare answer to question 4.1.

4. REAFFIRMING THE EQUITABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST

4.1. Please indicate what action your Government has taken in order to update the national copyright legislation and its adaptation to cyberspace. Please indicate also what consideration was given to the possibility of encouraging rights-holders and the lawful beneficiaries of limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied. Please provide information on open access policies adapted, conditions to access open scientific data and any favourable conditions applied for marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities.

The German legislation on copyright law has been adapted to the development of new information and communication technologies three times within recent years. The first adaptation, the so-called “first basket”, has made basic changes according to the Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society in 2003. The “second basket” of changes has implemented optional elements of the abovementioned directive and has addressed further issues of the information society.

On 1 January 2014, the next copyright law reform, the so-called “third basket” of changes, has entered into force. This reform has introduced important changes to facilitate open access to publicly-financed scientific research as well as to make orphan works digitally accessible and has therefore been an important step towards the aim of facilitating open access and adequately balancing copyright and access to information.
The Federal Government supports the free exchange and circulation of knowledge through open access as it is the basic condition for excellent and innovative research. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research initiated a strategic dialogue with relevant actors in 2012 in order to discuss how copyright can be designed in such a way that it fosters research and education in a digital age and stimulates innovation.

The most recent amendment of the Act on Copyright and Related Rights has now introduced the demanded second window right for scientific data and papers of publicly-funded research. Changes to Article 38 of the Act on Copyright and Related Rights allow the author of a scientific work to make the accepted version (i.e. the version accepted by the journal, not the final edited version) of the manuscript available to the public twelve months after the initial publication, under the condition that at least 50 percent of the research has been financed through public funds. This basically opens up new opportunities for the green road of open access.

Additionally, the latest amendment of the Copyright Act now allows publicly accessible and established institutions such as archives, libraries and public service broadcasters to digitalize orphan works and make them publicly accessible online, in accordance with Directive 2012/28/EU. Orphan works are defined as works "in the collections (holdings) of publicly accessible libraries, educational institutions, museums, archives and film or audio heritage institutions, if the holdings have already been published, the right holder of which could not be identified or located despite a diligent search".

4.2. Please also indicate what are the actions planned to give consideration to the development of technological innovations, including Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), and to their potential impact on access to information.

The Federal Government has made technological innovations and ICT one of its priorities of publicly-funded research. The "ICT 2020 - Research for Innovation" long-term funding programme of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research supports research projects in fields such as IT and communication systems, IT security and human-technology interaction.

More recently, "IT security and privacy" has been added as an additional focus of the programme. In this funding line, the Federal Governments supports research projects which target the technological as well as the social aspects which arise in times of Facebook and Twitter as well as phishing and pharming. The goal is to develop procedures and tools which enable citizens to use the Internet safely, to enforce their right to informational self-determination and thus to strengthen trust in ICT implementation and use. To name one example, the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection has initiated a project to analyse the current situation of Internet privacy. An interdisciplinary scientific advisory council is now assigned to design projects to specifically address the identified current challenges.

The Federal Government supports the use and further development of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) as well as processes of standardization and interoperability as an alternative to closed digital ecosystems. The Federal Government is an active user of FOSS, for example, in communication between embassies or in the administration services directory. The Federal Office for Information Security (Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik), which is responsible for
maintaining IT security, is not only actively using FOSS itself, but also developing new FOSS tools, for example for safe email communication.

5. FINAL COMMENTS

5.1. **What efforts has your Government made to establish a system of continuing monitoring of the implementation of the decisions taken at the World Summit on the Information Society and other internationally agreed development goals and commitments, and what time-related goals and benchmarks has your Government set in this respect?**

Almost all relevant goals and benchmarks from the Geneva and Tunis documents have already been covered by domestic legislation and/or relevant action plans and strategies, as is evident, for example, in the answers to questions 2.1. and 2.2. regarding universal access and answers to questions 3.1. and 4.2. regarding confidence and security in the use of ICTs. The relevant action plans and strategies have their own inherent monitoring mechanisms at the appropriate level. For these reasons, no separate, WSIS-specific monitoring system has been put in place. To the extent possible and appropriate, the Federal Government involves civil society, the private sector and other relevant actors in the formulation and implementation of policy and strategies, according to the multi-stakeholder model of the WSIS process. Furthermore, the Federal Government relies on strategic cooperation, e.g. with the private sector to achieve universal access to high-speed broadband Internet or with research institutions to further technological innovations in ICT.

The Federal Government is also implementing its WSIS commitments to international cooperation in the field of ICTs and to help bridging the digital divide. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has actively embedded ICTs in its development cooperation strategies and supports multilateral programmes as well as bilateral initiatives, particularly with countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The Strategy Paper “ICT: Key technologies for sustainable development” identifies, among others, access to ICT and capacity building for local IT companies as priorities, but also exploiting ICT potential for environmental protection, rural development and participation.

One exemplary project is the establishment of the multi-actor partnership EQUALS (The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age): The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, together with UNESCO, takes over the leadership of the working group on digital skills. Political decision-makers are to be sensitised to gender-specific features in digital education strategies and learning content.

5.2. **What are, according to you Government, the main issues, new challenges and actions that need to be further addressed for promoting multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace, including the evolution of the Internet and its governance? Please provide a brief description in your final comments.**
In today’s circumstances, it is especially important to work together on an international level to ensure a free, save and open Internet which furthers innovation, freedom and participation. It is important to ensure that the use of the Internet is secure and to regain users’ trust in ICT and the Internet. This can be achieved by ensuring that privacy and human rights are upheld while using the Internet. Therefore, it is important to develop the necessary technologies, but also to ensure that Internet governance takes into account these values. As the host country of the 14. United Nations Internet Governance Forum in 2019 Germany takes the initiative and responsibility to continue the constructive dialog between all stakeholders in regard to the future of the Internet.

Further action is necessary to achieve universal access to the Internet, also for those living in rural or remote areas. For Germany, the Federal Government is aiming to achieve high-speed access for all households through its Broadband Strategy, with a specific focus on rural areas where Internet access is often less available and slower than in urban centres. At the same time, international cooperation is necessary to work towards universal access also in developing countries. Germany is working together with partners, for example in sub-Saharan Africa, to expand ICT infrastructure and Internet access.

ICTs should furthermore be promoted as a cross-cutting enabler for development and economic growth. With its Implementation Strategy for Digitalisation the Federal Government is currently performing measures to harness the potential of ICT for innovation, growth and employment in Germany. Also, Germany is promoting the use of ICT across all sectors to promote sustainable economic, ecologic and social development.

5.3. **Please provide references to the main sources of information and data used in compiling this report and that could be of interest to share with other Member States such as recent public policy strategies, reviews or evaluations; latest research or studies, and statistical data.**

Below, you may find the most important sources of information, data, and best practice examples which are referred to in this report:

**1 Development of multilingual content and systems**

**Relevant Laws**

Equal Opportunities for Disabled People Act (Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz – BGG), 2002; no official English translation available

**Further sources of information**

Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities: https://www.aussiedlerbeauftragter.de

Council of National Minorities and Secretariat for National Minorities: https://www.minderheitensekretariat.de

Directory of citizens and educational media in Germany (2018)
https://www.die-medienanstalten.de/fileadmin/user_upload/die_medienanstalten/Service/Downloads/Verzeichnis_Buerger_und_Ausbildungsmedien.pdf

2 Facilitating access to networks and services

Relevant documents


Further sources of information

Federal Broadband Office: https://www.breitbandbuero.de

3 Development of public domain content

Relevant laws
Federal Act Governing Access to Information held by the Federal Government, 2013, English, translation available here:
https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_ifg

Act to Promote Electronic Government, 2013, English translation of abstract available here:
https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_egovg

Act on Copyright and Related Rights, last amended 2018, no English translation available of the newest amendments in 2018, text with amendments up to 2017 available here:
https://www.gesetze-im-Internet.de/englisch_urhg

Relevant documents
The State of IT Security in Germany 2018:

Further sources of information
Open Government Data Portal:
https://www.govdata.de/
German Digital Library:
https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/?lang=en

Digital Archives of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation:
http://www.spk-digital.de/

Public information website on IT and cyberspace security by the Federal Office for Information Society:
https://www.bsi-fuer-buerger.de/

German Digital Opportunities Foundation under the patronage of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
https://www.digitale-chancen.de/index.cfm/lang.2

4 Reaffirming the equitable balance between the interests of right-holders and the public interest

Relevant laws

Act on Copyright and Related Rights, last amended 2018, no English translation available of the newest amendments in 2018, text with amendments up to 2017 available here:
https://www.gesetze-im-Internet.de/englisch Urhg

Further sources of information

Federal Office for Information Security:
https://www.bsi.bund.de/EN/

5 Final comments

Further sources of information

Harnessing the digital revolution for sustainable development | The Digital Agenda of the BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) (2017)