



~ Methodology ~

USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN ENTERPRISES

LEGAL BASIS

The survey is carried out in accordance with the Law on Statistics of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 85/03) and pursuant to the Statistical Programme of Republika Srpska for the period 2026–2029.

METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

AIM OF THE STATISTICAL SURVEY

The aim of this survey is to provide data on the presence and use of information and communication technologies in business entities in Republika Srpska. Data obtained through this survey may serve as a good basis for planning further development of information and communication technologies and are an important source for the implementation of policies in the field of information society in Republika Srpska.

REPORTING UNITS

Reporting units are economically active enterprises from the Statistical Business Register.

COVERAGE

In accordance with the Eurostat's methodology, the survey covers business entities with 10 or more employees, from 12 sections of economic activities of the KD BiH 2010 (NACE Rev.2), namely: Manufacturing, Construction, Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, Transportation and storage, Real estate activities, Professional, scientific and technical activities, Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply, Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, Accommodation and food service activities, Information and communication; Administrative and support service activities, repair of computers.

METHOD AND PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The survey is carried out once a year, using a representative sample. The sample is designed as a random sample, stratified by size and activity of enterprises. Data collection is implemented by combining CAWI and CATI method.

The reference period for most of the questions posed to enterprises is January of the current year, while certain questions refer to the previous year. Relevant persons who should provide information about the use and development of information and communication technologies in enterprises are IT professionals or system administrators employed in the enterprises. For enterprises that do not employ IT professionals, information is provided by external persons who maintain the ICT infrastructure. For small enterprises, information is provided by owners or directors, while the questions referring to e-commerce are answered by persons employed in accounting bureaus.

PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL DATA

Pursuant to Article 27 and Article 28 of the Law on Statistics of Republika Srpska and in accordance with the Rules of protection of confidential data, the Institute is obliged to protect submitted confidential data. Thus, the Institute must not use data collected for statistical purposes for any other purposes nor publish them as individual data. Survey results are published in aggregated form and the confidentiality of individual data is fully guaranteed.

DEFINITIONS

ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line): Broadband digital transmission technology which uses the existing telephone line, allowing simultaneous transmission of data and voice calls.

Bit: The smallest unit of information in computing. It is shown in the binary representation as 1 or 0, or as true or false in the logical representation. A series of 8 bits is a byte.

Broadband Internet connection: A type of Internet connection which provides high-speed data transfer. It represents a communication system in which the transmission medium (e.g. optical fiber cable) simultaneously transmits multiplied data, while individual data are modulated on separate frequencies

Browser: A software solution used to search the Internet. It is a programme/application used to load web pages and other contents on the Internet. The best-known browsers are Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, etc.

Dial-up connection: A type of Internet connection which uses a telephone line to connect to the network.

Digital products or services: Goods and services that can be ordered and delivered via computer, that is, via the Internet (e.g. music, films, video games).

Download: The process of copying documents to the user's computer from another computer or from a computer within an Internet service.

Digital Subscriber Line DSL: A type of broadband Internet connection established using standard telephone lines.

Electronic commerce: Purchase or sale of goods or services using the Internet.

Electronic mail: Electronic transfer of messages, including text and attachments, from one computer to another computer, via the Internet.

GPRS (General Packet Radio Service): A protocol which enables wireless transfer through GSM networks.

3G network refers to the third generation of mobile telephony, which enables transfer of text, sound and television images, offering speeds up to 14 Mb/s.

Internet: A global electronic communication system made up of many interconnected computer networks and devices that exchange information using a common set of communication protocols.

Network: A group of computers and other units that are connected and their mutual interaction is enabled. The Internet represents the largest network, as a collection of the world's networks.

Virus is a computer programme, whose running and loading damages or deletes data on a computer.

WiFi is a wireless network in which data between two or more devices are transmitted using radio frequencies and corresponding antennas.

DATA PROCESSING

Control and processing of statistical material obtained through interviews are organised at the headquarters of the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics.

When interviewing sample units by telephone, the data is entered directly into the application. The application for entering survey data has built-in controls that prevent entry of computational and logically incorrect data into the database. These are "HARD" and "SOFT" controls with warnings that stop the entry until the correct data are entered. This kind of data entry ensures the database with computational and logically correct data.

Data collected from reporting units covered by the survey represent a basis for estimates of data for the entire population, through weighting. Initial weights are calculated as the reciprocal of the probability of selection of units within a stratum. After this, they are corrected based on the proportion of non-response per stratum. By means of the aggregation of weighted data across domains of interest, estimates of unknown population parameters are calculated.

After the database is formed, data are analysed, tabulated and published

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND STANDARDS

Survey on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises fully complies with the Eurostat's methodology (Regulations of the European Parliament and the Council, No. 2019/2152 and 2021/1190 and the corresponding regulations at the annual level).

ORGANISATION OF SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

AUTHORITIES IMPLEMENTING THE STATISTICAL SURVEY

Pursuant to the Statistical Programme of Republika Srpska for the period 2026-2029, the preparation, organisation and implementation of the survey, as well as the processing of collected data, are carried out by the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics.

OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE DATA

The obligation to submit data to the Institute is based on Article 8 of the Law on Statistics of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No. 85/03).

PERIOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Data collection is carried out in March/April of the current year.

INSTRUMENTS

The following methodological instruments were designed for the implementation of survey on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises:

- List of sampled enterprises,
- Manual for using the web application
- Questionnaire – IKT-PRED.

PUBLISHING

Data on the use of information and communication technologies in enterprises are published for the Republika Srpska level, in an annual release, at the official website of the Institute www.rzs.rs.ba. Interpretation of the published data is the sole responsibility of the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics.

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