

# ICT and E-Business Strategies for Development

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## Summary of “Estonia on its way to the Information Society”

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Deputy Secretary General

12 years ago Estonia had to start from the scratch: the existing telecommunications infrastructure was outdated, there was no regulatory environment in place etc. Owing to the proximity of technologically advanced Sweden and Finland, and the innovativeness of our people to adopt modern technology, the development of Information Society started off fast. Since 2000, the Estonian telecommunication market has been fully liberalised and most of the necessary ICT related legislation is in force.

The main tasks of the Government include ensuring competition, building legal and financial framework and acting in areas where impetus is needed for the development of the Information Society – education and local communities.

Public-private partnerships are important for the development of Information Society. In Estonia, [Look@World](#) foundation is giving basic computer training and creating Public Internet Access Points. In addition, the foundation has acted as a partner for the state in developing applications for the national ID-card. The ID-card has two functions:

- 1) it acts as an electronic identity
- 2) it is used for giving digital signatures.

The problems yet to be tackled are how to bring online the 40 per cent of people who do not yet use it and how to enhance partnerships at different levels for ensuring the development of cross-institutional e-services.

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***NB: presentation summaries are provided unedited as received from the authors and presenters***