

Much is already being done in the UNECE region to tackle the problem, but the results vary considerably. For the countries of the region to be able to harness the full benefits of an effective and balanced IP system, it is critical to evaluate current awareness raising policies, practices and campaigns and for countries to learn from each other.

The 5th Annual Session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property will bring together international experts involved in IP awareness raising from throughout

the UNECE region to exchange experiences, discuss what works and what does not, and identify priorities for future capacity-building activities in this area.

This event contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 8 "Develop a global partnership for development", which, inter alia, calls for the United Nations to work in cooperation with the private sector to make available the benefits of new technologies." □

For more information, please contact visit: <http://www.unece.org/ceci/ip.html> or contact Ralph Heinrich at: ralph.heinrich@unece.org.

UNECE LAUNCHES 2ND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF GEORGIA

The Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP) of Georgia and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) launched the 2nd Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Georgia on 24 June in Tbilisi.

The event, which was opened by Mr George Khachidze, Minister of Environment Protection, gathered representatives from key governmental and state institutions, NGOs and donors. Numerous Ministries were represented including those of Economy and Sustainable Development; Finance; Agriculture; Energy and Natural Resources; Regional Development and Infrastructure; Foreign Affairs; Internal Affairs; Health, Labour and Social Affairs; and the Security Council of Georgia. Numerous NGOs were also represented, including REC Caucasus; Green Alternative; the Green Movement; Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia; and Aarhus Centre Georgia. Other national and international stakeholders also participated, including OSCE ENVSEC, GIZ, USAID, IUCN, CENN, and Tbilisi State University.

The Minister of Environment Protection, Mr. George Khachidze, Ms. Nino Tkhlava, Head of Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations of MEP Georgia, Mr. Tornike Phulariani, Head of Environmental Policy Division of MEP Georgia, Mr. Antoine Nunes, EPR

Programme Leader, and Mr. George Georgiadis, EPR Project Coordinator held presentations on the different aspects of the 2nd EPR Report of Georgia.



The Report issued a set of forty-one specific recommendations that relate to actions Georgia needs to implement in order to improve its state of environment and to create the necessary preconditions for a more effective integration of the goals of sustainable development into its sectoral policies. The Government of Georgia officially approved the recommendations and these will be integrated into the national environmental protection policy, thus contributing significantly to the improvement of environmental management and the further integration of environmental and economic concerns. □

The EPR of Georgia can be found in English at: <http://www.unece.org/env/epr/publications.html> For more information on the EPR Programme, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/epr/welcome.htm>.

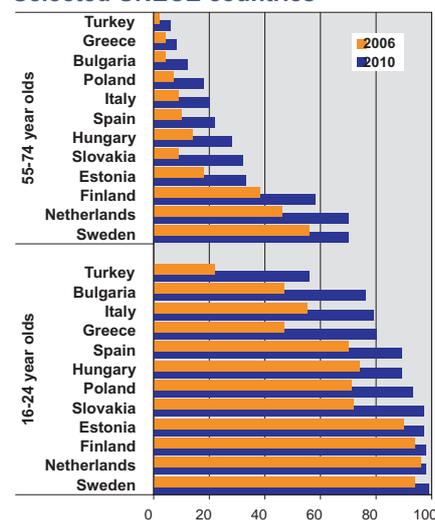
DECREASING DIVERGENCE IN INTERNET USE AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

In 2010, internet use still varied largely among European countries. However, use grew steadily across all age categories in all countries compared to 2006, which has led to some reduction in the digital gap¹ amongst countries. The divergence between countries is smallest among 16 to 24 year-olds whereas in the age-group of 55 to 74 the divergence has actually widened.

Internet use is highest in northern Europe². In the Netherlands and Sweden, nearly 90 per cent of all persons between 16 and 74 are accessing internet on a weekly basis. Among 16 to 24 year-olds, the level is close to 100 per cent and among 55 to 74 year-olds, 70 per cent. On the other hand, in Greece and Turkey, less than 10 per cent of persons aged 55 to 74 access internet on a weekly basis. The difference between women and men has decreased in the past five years and in some countries women use the internet even more frequently than men do. In nearly all countries where data are available, there is virtually no difference between men and women in the younger age groups.

Internet use is monitored in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. It improves access to information, provides opportunities for bringing education within reach of all, improves job preparedness and new economic opportunities and can prevent social exclusion. Making the benefits of new technologies available to all, especially information and communication, is one of the targets identified for Goal 8 "Developing a global partnership for development". □

Weekly internet use in 2006³ and 2010, age groups 16-24 and 55-74. Selected UNECE countries



Source: UNECE Gender database <http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/>.

1/Measured as percentage point difference with the average of the five countries with the highest use: Iceland, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden

2/Data availability on internet usage in Caucasus and Central Asia is very scarce; available data show far lower levels of internet usage and larger differences between males and females.

3/Turkey refers to 2005

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