



The Role of ICT for Sustainable Development

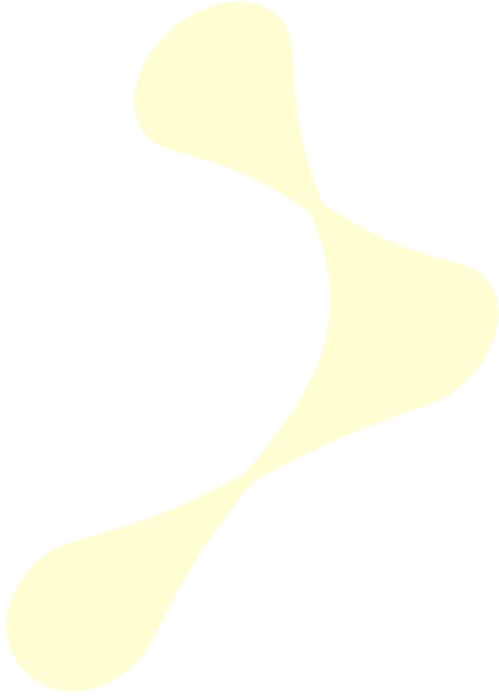


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***What we do today drives
the world we live in tomorrow...***



- 1. *Sustainable Development***
 - 2. *ICT today***
 - 3. *ICT and Sustainable Development***
 - 4. *Rebound effects***
 - 5. *Sustainable Balance***
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Sustainable Development

“development which meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

Brundtland Commission,
“Our common Future”, 1987

“A dynamic process which enables all people to realise their potential and improve their quality of life in ways that simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth’s life-support systems.”

European Information Technology
Observatory · EITO 2002

Sustainable Development

Economic Sustainability

- Economic growth based on efficient use of resources

Environmental Sustainability

- Protection and enhancement of the Earth's natural environment

Social Sustainability

- Development of social equity

HUMAN Sustainability

- Preservation and enhancement of human personality and habits

Economic / Business use

- Wide spread businesses
- Electronic business / commerce
- Low operational costs
- Computer assisted management systems

Social use

- Tele-work
- Job creation
- Online available information

Personal / Social use


- Electronic entertainment
- Online communities
- Quality of life enhancement systems

ICT and Sustainable Development

ICT

- Driver for change
- Technologies which use fewer resources and reduce pollution
- Creation, use and disposal of technology devices
- Improve the quality of human life
- Responsible use of ICT
- ICT should only be a tool and not a way of life

Rebound effects

- Technology used only for the sake of technology
 - Excessive and uncontrolled use of technology leads to loss of professional skills and loss of human personality
 - Large decrease in social and human activities
 - How we use the time we save ...
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Rebound effects

- Replacement of the traditional entertainment with the electronic entertainment.
- Mass production of cheap technologies leads to a waste of natural resources.
- Uncontrolled source of information leads to a decrease of education quality

Sustainable Balance

ICT must

- Be used in the exact amount we need
- Enhance the quality of life
- Make use of energy and resource saving technologies
- Enhance, or at least not impair, the physical, mental and social life of the humans
- Assure education, creativity and the development of humans
- Preserve human, cultural and biological heritage
- Allow real-life interactive social activities among people



A strong and reliable sustainable balance between the use of ICT and our human/social activities is the key issue for a better life.

