

Translation

Report by Germany
on the measures taken to implement the
"Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism
and Universal Access to Cyberspace"

DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILINGUAL CONTENT AND SYSTEMS

(1) Please furnish detailed information explaining what measures have been taken to alleviate language barriers. This information should also cover whether any support has been given to capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.

(2) Please describe the measures taken for formulating appropriate national policies on the issues of language survival in cyberspace.

Questions 1 and 2:

In Germany the languages of the national minorities (Danes, Frisians, Sorbs, Sinti and Roma) are protected by the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The latter also covers the regional language Low German (Niederdeutsch). The members of the national minorities and speakers of Low German use cyberspace content in the official language (German).

To the extent that their minority language has a written form, they also make active use of the possibilities of cyberspace in their respective language. Finance from the public purse is available for this.

Example: German National Library

The German National Library is working on possibilities for multilingual retrieval of and access to digital and analogue content in library holdings. This work is being done in co-operation with additional German and European partners. The German project is named CrissCross, the European work is being done in connection with TEL, The European Library.

FACILITATING ACCESS TO NETWORKS AND SERVICES

(3) 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.

(4) Please describe what mechanisms have been established at the local and national levels to facilitate universal access to the Internet through affordable telecommunications and Internet costs.

Questions 3 and 4:

Internet can be accessed anywhere in Germany. Commercial Internet access supply is accompanied by a range of public Internet access points. Competition and adequate regulation ensure affordable telecommunications and Internet costs. The deployment of broadband access is increasing very rapidly, but so far the current level of use does not meet the "majority of consumers" criterion of the Universal Service. By 2006, some 60% of the German population and almost all companies in Germany were making use of the Internet. The Federal Government, the Länder and local authorities run a couple of programmes and initiatives to enhance private and commercial use of the Internet. At the individual level there is a focus on specific groups, especially young people, women, the elderly and the disabled. These groups are addressed by specific Internet portals, including those for younger people and women, as well as nationwide public private partnerships.

(5) Please indicate the measures taken for encouraging the development of information strategies and models that facilitate universal access to the Internet through affordable telecommunications and Internet costs.

Examples:

- Establishment of a central database on collections of private papers (ZDN, Zentrale Datenbank Nachlässe). All information on over 25,000 collections and part-collections of private papers from more than 1000 institutions is gathered in the ZDN, which the Federal Archives have been making available on the Internet since 2002. Since October 2004 an online update module has been available for participating institutions,

allowing over 300 institutions to enter, add to and alter their data in the database, with the result that the ZDN is a constantly expanding and ever up-to-date source of information on collections of private papers.

- Free access for the general public: www.nachlassdatenbank.de
<<http://www.nachlassdatenbank.de>>
- Establishment of an online archive of "Deutsche Wochenschau" newsreels as a joint project of the Federal Archives, the DEFA Foundation, Deutsche Wochenschau GmbH, Transit Film and Progress-Filmverleih. Free access for the general public: www.wochenschau-archiv.de <<http://www.wochenschau-archiv.de>>
- Establishment of a network called "SED-Archivgut" providing central access to information about documents of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in the Federal Archives and in the state archives of the new Länder. The information is collated, described and explained virtually in one place, on the website of the Federal Archives: <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/sed-archivgut/><<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/sed-archivgut/>>

(6) 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?

Examples:

1. Federal Archives (Question 6)

The Federal Archives allow users to access the Internet free of charge.

2. The German National Library (Questions 3 to 6)

The academic institutions in Germany (including the German National Library) all offer access to the Internet, most of them free of charge.

3. Access for disabled population groups (Questions 3 to 6)

Laws have been enacted and much work has been done during the last two years to develop Internet access and services usable by disabled population groups, e.g. the blind. In addition, special technology is available in a lot of libraries in Germany.

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC DOMAIN CONTENT

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

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

(8) (b) identifying and promoting repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and making them accessible by all; and

(9) (c) promoting and facilitating ICT literacy, including popularizing and building trust in ICT implementation and use.

(10) Please also provide information on whether open-access solutions and online accessibility of public domain information were advanced and how.

Questions 7 and 10:

It is becoming increasingly important to manage the information society politically. Information and communication technologies are a focus of the Federal Government's new and integrated innovation policies.

E-government is driving the modernization of government administration. Through e-government, it is possible to accomplish administrative tasks electronically which previously could only be done on paper or in person. E-government has an impact on all administrative levels, and on the relationship between the citizen and the state as well as between business and the state. The main focuses of the integration of the state into the information society include, as

well as actual administrative functions, transport and health telematics and the digitalization of cultural assets.

The information society should be accessible to all citizens who want it. In the coming years, the Federal Government will continue to be active in increasing Internet use and the competence in handling the new media. Today, the Federal Government's administration already offers more than 440 Federal services online. This ultimately saves costs and improves quality not only for the administration, but also for the citizens and the business sector. The continual improvement of the quality and quantity of the range of services on offer will remain a top priority in the future.

Examples:

1. Federal Archives (Question 8)

- The Federal Archives have placed the Federal Government Cabinet minutes from 1949 to 1961 on the Internet; they can be accessed by anyone free of charge (<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/kabinettsprotokolle/web/index.jsp> <<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/kabinettsprotokolle/web/index.jsp>>). This project is being continually updated.
- Until now, finding aids / books for the holdings of the Federal Archives – unless such finding books had been published – could only be consulted on the spot (i.e. in the Archives themselves). These finding aids are now gradually being made available on the Internet for the interested public free of charge. A total of 728 online finding aids and 37 lists of manuscripts are available (as at: 22.9.2006).
- Libraries in the Federal Archives. The library catalogues of the Federal Archives are available online on the Internet. This initial presentation of the library catalogues on the Internet will be developed further, and will include a cross-catalogue search function (http://www.bundesarchiv.de/bestaende_findmittel/opac/index.html).
- The picture database is currently being built up and will also become available online sometime in 2007. The online database will include at least 220,000 pictures. It is already possible to do a search in an online database for the names of people whose picture is in the "Biografische Bildsammlung".

2. The German National Library (Questions 7 to 9)

ad 16. The legal deposit law was amended to include electronic resources in 2006. The German National Library is responsible for building up a repository of digital information published or spread in Germany and for ensuring the digital preservation of the material. Additional funding has been promised for this.

3. Schools (Question 9)

The task of schools is to teach children to handle the media responsibly and sensibly. In this context a distinction should be made between media competence and IT skills. The latter are taught not only in IT classes, but in part also in maths, business studies and other subjects. In vocational training in particular, IT courses are adapted to the needs of the respective occupation. There is cooperation here with extracurricular institutions, but it could be developed even further.

The use of IT in schools focuses on specific subject matter, research, the independent processing of information and the use of complex networks.

The matter of evaluating information and handling it responsibly is also very important, as the possibilities afforded by the new technologies make it harder to distinguish between the real and virtual worlds. The seeming objectivization of information through its electronic representation requires a more critical approach to that very information and to media reality by authors and users, and thus also by teachers and pupils. This also includes the ability to filter important and unimportant information from amongst the excessive amount on offer.

The Länder attach great importance to the use of new media technologies in teacher-training, from both a didactical and a methodological viewpoint. New forms of learning, for instance networked, model-based, cross-sectoral thinking, can thus be integrated into lessons. As far as IT teachers in the narrower sense are concerned, here as in other subjects there is the problem that many teachers have had a very academic training, which does not make it easy to move into teaching.

One successful partnership is the project "Intel – Lehren für die Zukunft: online trainieren und gemeinsam lernen". The company Intel and other partners, including the Media Institute of

the Länder, the Institute for Film and Picture in Science and Education (FWU), and the Education Ministries of the 16 Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany have come together to give teachers a unique further-training opportunity. Since 2000, over 300,000 teachers have received training under the nationwide model project "Intel – Lehren für die Zukunft: online trainieren und gemeinsam lernen".

Through activities on offer at school, the Länder are trying to reduce the inequalities of opportunity caused by children's varying backgrounds and the facilities available at home.

Activities of the German Commission for UNESCO (Question 9)

One focus of the work of the German Commission for UNESCO in the field of communication/information is the promotion of media competence. For instance, it cooperates with the project "klicksafe.de" (www.klicksafe.de), the "national node" of the European Union's Safer Internet Programme in Germany, which aims to improve citizens' competence in working with the Internet, and with the Internet portal "Internet-ABC" (www.internet-abc.de), of which the German Commission for UNESCO has become patron. This portal helps children, parents and teachers to use the Internet safely and responsibly. The advert-free platform gives children aged 6-12, parents and teachers basic information about the Internet designed specifically to suit each target group. Children find a place to learn, try things out and play, enabling them to get acquainted with the Internet without any danger. They can acquire basic skills step by step, test their knowledge with the surf test, unleash their creativity with the online paintbox or practise doing targeted searches for information. A list of recommended Internet sites for children allows them to learn and have fun while surfing. Adults can also do an Internet "driving test" to see how much they know about the Internet. There is also a database of age-specific games and educational and creative software for children. Teachers can glean practical ideas of how to use the Internet in their classes.

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

(11) Please indicate what action your Government has taken in order to update the national copyright legislation and its adaptation to cyberspace. Please also indicate how consideration was given to the possibility of encouraging rights-holders and the lawful bene-

ficiaries of limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied.

A well-functioning system of intellectual property protection is vital for the Federal Republic of Germany. The Federal Government has taken a string of measures in order to further improve the protection of intellectual property. On 22 March 2006, the Federal Government agreed on a draft of a Second Act regulating Copyright Law in the Information Society. With this draft legislation, the Government aims to adapt copyright law further to the requirements of the information society and to make it fit for the digital age. The legislation is the result of a careful balancing of interests between the creative artists' community, the content industry, the producers of technological equipment, the users, the cultural community and academia. The draft envisages a multiplicity of measures. For instance, the legislator would no longer determine the rates of remuneration for the legal multiplication of copyright-protected works – such as the private copying exception –, but would instead leave it up to the interested parties themselves, e.g. the producer associations as payers and the rights-holders (collecting societies) as payees. The draft gives binding instructions on how the rates should be measured. The draft also includes important regulations for Germany's academic and educational entities. For example, public libraries, museums, and archives would be allowed to display their collections digitally. This would enable these institutions to stay connected to new media and would also promote the people's knowledge of media. Further, public libraries would be allowed to electronically transmit copies of newspapers and journals, as well as short sections of books.

Copyright law expressly acknowledges the protection of copyright-protected works through technical protective measures (Digital Rights Management). These protective measures must not be circumvented. Where the access interest of limitation beneficiaries holds special weight, German copyright law, in accordance with the EU Directive on Copyright in the Information Society, obliges the rights-holder to provide technical measures to allow these beneficiaries to take advantage of the limitations in the appropriate way.

(12) What are the actions planned in your country to give consideration to the development of technological innovations and to their potential impact on access to information?

The Federal Government will develop appropriate infrastructures and standards as well as continue to encourage the electronic delivery of administrative services to create a safe and efficient electronic communication space in Germany. The intention is to harmonize the

proprietary IT systems and data formats of the respective administrative authorities and to improve the automatic communication between administration and industry.

The core issue will be the development of secure and mandatory electronic identities that will guarantee a reliable presence in the network as well as the authenticity of the electronic communication and the virtual transactions. This new electronic authentication possibility, to be standardized for all of Germany, will lead to a multitude of new application fields for the Internet. State-certified citizen portals will offer the citizens a place in the Internet from which they will be able to communicate easily, securely and non-anonymously. Innovative data protection technology will protect the personal data and thus support the informational self-determination. Within the framework of a more comprehensive strategy for modernizing the administrative processes, the Federal Government will initiate a new E-Government Programme by 2010.

FINAL COMMENTS

(13) 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 what time-related goals and benchmarks has your Government set in this respect?

The Federal Government has been broadening and improving its high-level national eStrategy since 1996. Therefore, almost all of the goals and benchmarks adopted through the Geneva and Tunis processes have already been covered by existing domestic information society policy. Taking into account, as appropriate, the demands of the private sector, as well as those of civil society, domestic policy formulation and implementation follows the multistakeholder model which has also been a key element of the WSIS process. The implementation of single ICT action plans is carefully monitored and usually assessed at the same high political level as the initial adoption of the policy. Within this well-established and widely accepted framework, the Federal Government does not provide an additional, WSIS-specific monitoring system.