

OBSERVATORY FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (OSILAC)



The lack of ICT data in most of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2003, called for the ECLAC and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) of the International Development Research Center (IDRC) to create the **Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC)**. The objective was to have an Observatory in charge of fostering the creation of ICT statistics in the region.

The main objectives of OSILAC are:

1. To promote statistical harmonization in order to strengthen the monitoring of ICT policies and projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. To monitor and analyze the progress of the regional countries towards the development of information societies.
3. Support countries in the compilation and analysis of statistical data, developing capabilities or assisting countries with survey Implementation (NSOs and other official institutions).

SIXTH SUMMIT MANDATE:

To further promote the cooperation of international organizations, specialized agencies, the private sector, and other social actors in the collection and analysis of uniform data on information and communication technologies, as appropriate, with a view to strengthening public policies, including the design of adequate strategies on the use of those technologies. (Access to and Use of Information and Communication Technologies)

ACTIVITIES:

OSILAC has played a relevant role in the ICT harmonized measurement process at a regional level, in the following areas:

- a. Identification and description of the stage of development of the ICT data collection at a regional level and the needs for information in the region.
- b. Coordinate work with national statistics offices and other members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, definition and consolidation of the core indicators in the measurement of ICT and promotion of the methodological discussion concerning the concepts and strategies of ICT data collection.
- c. Data, statistics and indicators collection by national statistics offices as an input for analysis and research oriented towards the creation of a regional and sub regional overview of the state of development of the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- d. Capacity building and technical assistance to NSOs for survey formulation and implementation.
- e. Statistical harmonization. OSILAC's online ICT Statistical Information System brings together databases on household surveys and socioeconomic indicators to develop comparative socio-economic analyses on ICT access and use for policy design (22 LAC countries collected information on ICT individual internet access and use, and 12 collected ICT indicators for businesses).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: [The ICT Statistical Information System](#)