



## **Request for Information**

# **Broadband Benchmark Study In the Arab Region**

Apr 2016

## **Introduction**

The countries in the Arab region are facing pressing demands, and fronting difficult economic and political situations that are affecting their wealth and development. In addition, many Arab countries set their policies and plans so as not to be oil-dependent economies. Hence, there are a lot of potential and policies to grow and stimulate the different sectors, other than the oil sector, to participate effectively in the GDP of the country. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector will act as a socio-economic development vehicle to help to develop other beneficiary sectors.

The spread of information and knowledge requires a capable telecom infrastructure and a healthy Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector with conducive policies and regulations in place to empower all stakeholders and fulfill policy goals. However, the rapid pace by which the ICT ecosystem changes makes it necessary to revise and adjust national strategies, in order to keep this sector on track and maintain a leading role.

## **Scope of the report**

The aim of this report is to present a showcase of the current status of the broadband infrastructure and services in the Arab region and to set policies in the ICT sector. This will help in mutual information sharing and supporting informed decisions and contributions. In addition, the included indicators of availability, adoption and use of broadband can facilitate international comparisons.

By making this information available, it is hoped to be of use to countries developing their statistical data collection programs in the information society.

## Request for Information

In order to develop the report, the Arab countries are requested to submit their data to every point indicated in the below table:

	Item	Brief Description
1	Broadband Definition	The definition of Broadband services in terms of minimum speed.
2	Broadband Technologies	List all available technologies for broadband for both fixed and mobile platform
3	Broadband Penetration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide household penetration for the fixed broadband</li><li>• Provide population penetration for the mobile broadband.</li><li>• Provide a trend (2010-2015)</li></ul>
4	PC & Smartphones Penetrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide population penetration for both the PC and smartphones penetrations</li><li>• Provide a trend for penetration (2010-2015)</li></ul>
5	International Bandwidth Availability	Number of International Gateways and Capacities (total and utilized in Gbps)
6	Different BB packages and Services provided	List the available Broadband packages over different platforms
7	BB prices compared to GDP per capita	Please provide updated BB prices (in USD) referenced to the nominal GDP per capita for each of the mentioned broadband packages.
8	Broadband market structure	Number and types of licenses for both fixed and mobile technologies

9	Legal and Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicable law</li> <li>• Licensing/authorization regime for Broadband services.</li> <li>• SMP regulations (if any?)</li> <li>• Wholesale regulations related to broadband (for example: unbundling regulations, wholesale broadband services (Bit stream – Virtual unbundling), infrastructure sharing, etc....)</li> <li>• Retail regulation related to Broadband (tariff control, etc.....)</li> <li>• Universal service policy related to broadband (if any?)</li> </ul>
11	Existence of Broadband Plans	provide the main plan highlights and the year of issuance
13	Challenges	List the essential factors hindering BB growth