Lebanon Etat Des Lieus on ICT
Ahmad El khatib
IT Department
Presidency of the Council of Ministers

A Little Bit of History

• **1989** Centre Informatique: put the basics and the standards for informatisation of the pcm and help all the ministries... Create networks that link the ministries to the PCM, provide trainings, etc.... (it is a scope of a ministry but implemented as a department)

• **2000** the role of the center is redirected to the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR); creation of a ministerial committee for IT (2 meetings only).

• **2003-2004**: creation of a data center to centralized data collected from the ministries.

• **2005**: ministerial Committee for ICT was established
National ICT Strategy Coordination Unit

- 2010: created at the office of the President of the Council of Ministers. Its role: coordinate the implementation of the national ICT strategy.
- Creation of ict.pcm.gov.lb (information, publications, blog, ....)
- It took the Initiative to collect Lebanon core ICT indicators in 2011. The aim is to provide real information on ICT to:
  - Decision makers primarily (the Council of Ministers),
  - Stakeholders from different sectors,
  - International organizations (UN organizations, EU organizations, World Bank, etc...)

The ultimate goal is to have a single administration that collects these indicators based on international standards and methodology (CAS)

Lebanon's ICT Indicators, 2011- Methodology

- Framework for ICT indicators was developed by the National ICT Coordination unit and the Central Administration for Statistics (CAS). The framework is based on the recommendations of the “Partnership for Measuring ICT indicators for Development”
- April 2011 the framework was approved by private and public stakeholders at a workshop at the PCM
- Validation of the framework, and assessment of the availability and validity of the data needed for the indicators by an expert on Digital Economy (Dr. Huub Meijrs)
Lebanon's ICT Indicators, 2011- Methodology

• PCM commissioned a private Statistics Company to conduct 2 surveys:
  – the ICT indicators related to household and individual use (ITU manual)
  – the ICT indicators for business (UNCTAD manual)

• Center for Educational research and Development (CERD) (with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education) was commissioned to conduct the survey of the indicators related to education, schools (private and public)

Lebanon's ICT Indicators, 2011- Methodology"

• Various agencies and ministries were commissioned to populate various indicators:
  – National Account Unit at PCM (Lebanese Economic Accounts)
  – Ministry of Finance
  – Customs Administration: imports and exports
  – Telecommunication Regulatory Authority: for communication infrastructure
  – Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform: for e-gov related indicators
  – National Council for Scientific Research: for development and research
Where is Lebanon

• **ITU:** In 2012 was featured due to the 2 surveys and collaboration of various entities, 2013 the **3G broadband** service boom of the Ministry of Telecommunication.

• **World Economic Forum Global Information Technology Report 2013:** Network Readiness Index (NRI) shows Lebanon’s rank 94/144. What is interesting is that Lebanese **individuals rank very competitive,** but are weighed down by **poor government performance.** (scores for “skills and education” versus the scores for everything related to government)

• **World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report:** The quality of the Lebanese **citizen is competitive,** while Lebanon lags in what concerns **innovation, institutions, infrastructure, and macro-economic environment,** which are all the government responsibilities.

Conclusion

**What is consistent across the reports and the years is that:**

- Lebanon individuals rank very competitively thanks to the thirst of Lebanese for education and a robust education system that supplies the demand. The private sector competitiveness and innovation is also very competitive.

- The lack of vision and action from the part of the government is a road block for Lebanon and its government to go forward and to become really competitive in the global market. It is hence no surprise that Lebanon has been scoring last (144th from 144 countries) consistently for many year in the “Importance of ICTs to government vision” indicator of the Network Readiness Index...