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Compiled by:
**Population and Social Statistics
Unit**
e-mail: population.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997629



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Social Aspects

Survey on Information Communication Technology in Schools

Today, the NSO is publishing the results from a survey regarding Information Communications Technology (ICT) in schools.

Brief description of the survey

This survey was conducted during the scholastic year 2003/2004 and had, as its target population, all primary and secondary schools in Malta and Gozo – 161 schools in all. All the schools completed this survey.

The primary objective of this survey was to collect key information about ICT in teaching, learning and administration. School leaders were asked to give information about computers and internet in their schools, as well as other ICT tools such as digital cameras, digital projectors, etc. They were also asked to give other information on ICT tools within the school, for example whether there was a network installed within the premises, etc.. In addition teaching staff have provided information about their familiarity with ICT and their use of ICT tools in their work.

All the information that is being published is categorised by type of school and level. Private schools include both government dependent (church) and government independent schools. It was necessary to merge these two categories in order to protect data confidentiality. There were also 20 Private schools that incorporated both primary and secondary levels for which data could not be separated by level, so they are listed in tables as primary/secondary schools.

Below is a summary of some of the major findings included in this publication.

Computers in schools

The total number of computers available in schools amounted to 8,521. 7,510 of these computers (88.1 per cent) were desktop computers, while the remaining 1,011 were laptops. The average number of computers per school stood at 53. This average stood at 59 in Public schools and 39 in Private schools.

It resulted that on average, the number of desktop computers available in secondary schools is greater than that in primary schools. In fact, this average stood at 49 in secondary schools and 44 in primary schools. The total number of desktop computers has been further averaged per 100 pupils. In this case, these averages favored the primary schools with 16 computers per 100 pupils as compared to 9 computers per 100 pupils in secondary schools.

37.9 per cent of all schools have all their classrooms connected to a network, whilst 18.6 per cent have some classrooms connected. 42.2 per cent of schools have a network connection in all of their offices.

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**National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit**
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

Internet in schools

All the secondary schools said that they had internet connections available. On the other hand, a majority of 84.5 per cent of the primary schools said that they were connected to the internet. When measured over all schools, this figure amounted to 88.8 per cent. The greater part of all the schools, 88.8 per cent, said that they had a broadband internet connection on their premises. 59.9 per cent of these have a connection speed of 512 kbps or more.

40.4 per cent of the schools said that they had their own website, the majority of which were secondary schools. In fact, whilst 59.1 per cent of the secondary schools had a website, only 30 per cent of the primary schools had one.

It resulted that 73.3 per cent of the teaching staff had an e-mail account provided by the school. This figure stood at 80.6 per cent in primary schools, 91.2 per cent in secondary schools and only 12.6 per cent in primary/secondary schools. All teaching staff within Public schools had an e-mail account provided by their schools.

70.2 per cent of the schools (66 per cent of primary and 77.3 per cent of secondary) said that they monitor e-mails and other material browsed on the internet.

Other ICT tools in schools

After computers, digital cameras/video cameras were the most common ICT tools found in schools during 2003/2004. There was an average of 0.53 of these per school. The second most popular ICT tools were DVD players with an average of 0.50 per school.

ICT amongst teachers

All teachers were asked whether and how they use computers in their work. 44.5 per cent said that they use computers for teaching purposes. This percentage stood at 76.6 per cent among the primary school teachers and 27.8 among the secondary school teachers.

A large number of teachers who did not use a computer for teaching purposes still used it for their preparatory or administrative work. As an example, 81.9 per cent of the teachers said that they use computers to prepare handouts and worksheets for students and 54.1 per cent said that they carry out their lesson plans with a computer. Only 13.4 per cent said that they do not use a computer on a regular basis.

The teachers were further asked whether they had access to a computer at home. 93.1 per cent said that they either owned one or had it on loan from the school or other entities. This percentage by level stood at 95.9 per cent among the primary school teachers and 90.1 per cent among secondary school teachers.

42.0 per cent of the teachers said that they had already completed an ICT equipment course. 17.2 per cent said that they had completed this course between 2000 and 2004. Only 8.4 per cent said that they had completed an ECDL course.

76.5 per cent of the teachers at primary level said they were either confident or very confident with the use of ICT tools in their work. This percentage stood at 62.9 per cent among the teaching staff at secondary level. Only 31.2 per cent of all teachers said that do not feel confident with the use of ICT tools. The majority of these persons were aged 45 years or older. As an example, it resulted that whilst 59.6 per cent of the teachers aged 55-59 years were not confident with ICT tools, only 2.8 per cent of the teaching staff under 25 years were not confident with them ■