

Table of Contents

Introduction	11
--------------------	----

Part I

ICT ISSUES IN RURAL AREAS

Issues and perspectives.....	15
Chapter 1. Fundamental issues	19
Introduction.....	19
1. Telecommunications infrastructure and services in rural areas.....	20
2. ICT development models	28
3. Observation and measurement in the field of ICT	34
Chapter 2. Societal issues	41
Introduction.....	41
1. Public access points, telecottages and telecentres.....	42
2. On-line access to public services.....	50
3. Local governance	58
Chapter 3. Economic issues	65
Introduction.....	65
1. Small and medium size enterprises in rural areas and ICT.....	66
2. The creation of new activities through ICT	73
3. Conclusion: attractiveness of communities and territories	83
Chapter 4. Policy recommendations	89
1. Telecommunications infrastructure	89
2. Implementation of ICT projects	90
3. Observation and measurement of ICT in rural areas.....	91
4. Public access points.....	91
5. On-line access to public services.....	92
6. Local governance	93
7. Implementation of ICT by SMEs	94
8. Creation of new activities	95

Part II
CASE STUDIES

Geographical diversity.....	91
Regions	94
Sub-regions	94
Communities	94
Case Study 1. The Poitou-Charentes Region and ICTS	100
1. Background.....	100
2. An ICT strategy	100
3. First initiatives in favour of rural areas.....	100
Case Study 2. ICT strategies and projects in the rural areas of Mid-western and Southwestern Ireland	106
Introduction: Information Society and New Economy in Ireland.....	106
1. The Midwest programme for ICT and emphasis on rural areas.....	109
2. The Southwest strategy for ICT, societal and rural concerns	111
Conclusion.....	111
Case Study 3. The Highlands and Islands of Scotland and ICT	121
1. Highlands and Islands Enterprise	121
2. Infrastructure and ICT strategies.....	121
3. Results achieved.....	121
4. The Western Isles	121
5. Perspectives	123
Case Study 4. ICT in Matawinie (Quebec, Canada)	131
Introduction.....	131
1. Community Access Centers (CACs)	131
2. Economic and social development initiatives.....	131
3. SME training initiatives.....	131
Case Study 5. Keewaytinook Okimakanak Communities, Northwestern Ontario, Canada and ICT	131
Introduction.....	131
1. Previous ICT projects	131
2. The Kuh Ke Nah smart community	131
Case Study 6. Parthenay District, Pays de Gâtine (Deux-Sèvres, Poitou-Charentes, France) and ICT	131
Introduction.....	131

Part II
CASE STUDIES

Geographical diversity.....	91
Regions	91
Sub-regions	91
Communities	91
Case Study 1. The Poitou-Charentes Region and ICTS.....	101
1. Background.....	101
2. An ICT strategy	101
3. Evidence in favour of rural areas.....	101
Case Study 2. Initiatives and projects in the rural areas of Mid-western	
Western Ireland.....	105
Information Society and Rural Development in Ireland	105
The programme for ICT in rural areas	106
A strategy for ICT in rural areas and its concerns	114
.....	119
and Islands.....	121
.....	121
.....	121
.....	124
.....	128
.....	136
.....	133
.....	133
.....	134
.....	135
.....	136
Western Ontario.....	139
.....	139
.....	140
.....	141
.....	145
.....	145

1. Start-up and development of digital age town project.....	146
2. The originality of the Parthenay digital age town project.....	148
3. Sectoral policies.....	152
4. La Gâtine and ICTs.....	157
5. Prospects for ICT in Parthenay and the <i>Pays de Gâtine</i>	158
Case Study 7. A rural ICT training network: "Dillon-net", Beaverhead, Madison and Silverbow Counties, Montana, USA	161
Introduction.....	161
1. The experience of Dillon-net.....	162
2. New perspectives for Dillon-net.....	163
Case Study 8. Business and Technology Center in Maddock, Benson County, North Dakota, USA	167
Introduction.....	167
1. Putting it all together.....	168
2. New business developments.....	170
3. Future projects.....	171
Bibliography	173
Appendix 1. Information and Communication Technologies and their implications for the development of rural areas	175
1. Objectives, logic and method of the study.....	175
2. Questionnaire.....	177
3. Issues concerning ICT and rural development.....	179
Appendix 2. Internet sites consulted for this report	185
1. Canada.....	185
2. France.....	185
3. Ireland.....	186
4. United Kingdom.....	186
5. United States.....	187
6. European Commission.....	187
7. Other countries.....	188
Appendix 3. Tables and Graphs	189
List of Tables	
1. Access technologies transmission speed.....	189
2. Policies and programmes to reduce the digital divide.....	190
Figure	
1. Internet access in the business sector by firm size.....	191