

Websites review

Fundació Observatori per a la Societat de la Informació de Catalunya (FOBSIC)

<<http://www.fobsic.cat>>

The Fundació Observatori per a la Societat de la Informació (FOBSIC) is a private company created to offer rigorous, scientific information to social players in Catalan society to enable their decision-making regarding the development of the information and knowledge society in Catalonia. It also fosters research into the Information Society in Catalonia in conjunction with Catalan universities and specialised research centres. Its website contains data and statistics on the ICT in Catalonia, studies and reports (sector, occupational, territorial and linguistic), documents on the current situation plus a database with information compiled from other local and international observatories.

Observatorio Nacional de las Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información

<<http://observatorio.red.es>>

Via Red.es we can access the Observatorio Nacional de las Telecomunicaciones y de la Sociedad de la Información. This observatory is attached to Red.es and is responsible for studying and analysing the Information Society in Spain by conducting studies and creating indicators. Its portal offers information on the Information Society, studies and reports by national and international bodies on various aspects relating to the Information Society from an economic, legal and technological perspective. We can also find information on the various indicators used to analyse the Information Society

Localret – Consorci Local per al Desenvolupament de les Xarxes de Telecomunicacions i de les Noves Tecnologies

<<http://www.localret.es>>

Localret – Consorci Local per al Desenvolupament de les Xarxes de Telecomunicacions i de les Noves Tecnologies currently comprises 800 Catalan town councils, the Catalan Association of Municipalities and the Federation of Municipalities of Catalonia. Its purpose is to represent municipalities in the political and economic areas of decision-making which affect the legislation and regulation of telecommunications, municipalities before the EU administrations, the State and the Catalan government in the approval processes of telecommunication standards which affect municipal competencies and to act as a liaison with telecommunication operators as regards the implementation of new networks. Its website provides access to digital publications (Informatiu Localret and guides for the development of the Knowledge Society) and details regarding events and seminars related to the Information Society.

Agència de Qualitat d'Internet (IQUA)

<<http://www.iqua.es>>

Formed in 2008 with the merger of IQUA and Confianza Online, one of the aims of the Agència de Qualitat d'Internet is to promote and boost users' confidence in websites via a self-regulating system and seal of confidence. It acts in fields connected with self-regulation in advertising, eCommerce, child protection, and the accessibility, usability, reliability and privacy of data. In addition to news, it offers information on its seal of quality, the ethical code of eCommerce and information on the ".cat" domain.

International Engineering Consortium (IEC)

<<http://www.iec.org>>

The International Engineering Consortium was founded in 1944 with the aim of bridging the latest technological progress with academic research. This team of specialists is sponsored by various companies spanning the world, centred on industrial broadband technology, telephony, satellite and terrestrial digital services and the internet in general. Its website features announcements for exhibitions and international events concerning digital technology innovation, a catalogue of publications on wireless technology, IP, broadband, electronic design networking, optic fibre and content, applications and similar services. The leading US technology institutes are involved, together with Mexican universities and a smaller representation of European centres. Chief among its features is the online education service, with downloadable podcasts and videocasts which offer details on the contents of the organisation's activities.

Information Society and Media Directorate General

<http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/index_es.htm>

The Information Society and Media Directorate General information of the European Commission lends support to the development and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the benefit of all citizens. To this end, it supports innovation and competitiveness in Europe, defines and implements a regulatory framework for the swift development of services based on information, communication and audiovisual technology, encourages access and the availability of ICT-based services and promotes the growth of content industries which reflect European cultural diversity. Its website (in English, French and German) presents information on regulation, research programmes and on the activities of the Directorate General, together with an assessment of the policies put forward by the European Commission.

Red.es

<<http://www.red.es>>

Red.es is a public corporate entity attached to the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce responsible for promoting the development of the Information Society in Spain and implementing projects in line with the strategic priorities of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and the Information Society (SETSI), interacting with the autonomous communities, district councils and in the private sector in the field of Information and Communication technologies (ICTs). Its website offers information on various projects, current news, publications, documents and links to promotion plans, regulatory bodies and those fostering and promoting the Information Society, amongst others.

Observatori per a la Cibersocietat (OCS)

<<http://www.cibersociedad.net>>

The Observatori per a la Cibersocietat is a non-profit Catalan association created in 2001. It seeks to provide a collaborative centre for the study and promotion of research into the relation between ICTs and society from a socio-centric viewpoint. On its website there is a section containing articles on the Information Society, critiques of books and articles published on the relation between ICTs and society/culture, links to websites with similar content and a bibliography of cyber society.

Observatorio Galego da Sociedade da Información (OGSI)

<<http://ogsi.sociedadedainformacion.eu>>

The Observatorio Galego da Sociedade da Información (OGSI) is the entity responsible for drafting reports on ICT equipment and use in Galicia based on an analysis of the extent of and trends in the development of the Information Society in Galicia. Its chief objectives are to: compile a series of indicators to evaluate the evolution of the Information Society, conduct studies on the monitoring and innovation of related policies, disseminate and furnish information on the development of the Information Society, provide specific reports, encourage cooperation with other observatories, etc. Its website offers its reports, an updated selection of documents on the information society in Galicia and its environment and current news.

UNESCO Observatory on the Information Society

<<http://www.unesco-ci.org/cgi-bin/portals/information-society/page.cgi?d=1>>

The UNESCO Observatory on the Information Society was set up in 1998 and has since undergone several structural modifications. It currently focuses on the impact of globalisation on Information Societies by gathering relevant data and monitoring the chief trends. Its portal boasts a range of resources: Information on e-Governance, freedom of information, intellectual property rights, e-literacy, the use of ICTs in education, information on cultural diversity and multilingualism, Information Society metrics, privacy and national policies, laws and institutions.

European Regulators Group (ERG)

<<http://www.erg.eu.int>>

The European Regulators Group for networks and electronic communication services is an independent body set up by the EC to put in place a system to foster cooperation and coordination between the national regulatory authorities and the EC, to promote development of the internal networks market and electronic communication service and achieve full application to all member states of the provisions agreed on in directives in relation to the new regulatory framework. Its portal offers access to its documentation, public queries and annual reports. We can also access a list of the members and observers of the ERG.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

<<http://www.itu.int>>

This is the website of the UN body whose remit is worldwide coordination of the public sector and private initiative in three areas: *radio communications*, engaged in worldwide coordination in managing the radio electric spectrums and satellite orbits; *standardisation*, seeking out convergence and compatibility between different technologies with similar functions, and *development*, focused on *cyber security*, the role of telecommunications in catastrophe management, the struggle against the digital divide and the creation of collaboration networks. The website's features therefore focus on every type of resource associated with these three areas: regulations, conventions, announcements of congresses and international meetings, support for research and an overview of current issues.

ENTER – Centro para el Análisis de la Sociedad de la Información y las Telecomunicaciones

<<http://www.enter.es>>

The Centro para el Análisis de la Sociedad de la Información y las Telecomunicaciones brings together companies and public and private institutions from various sectors and is responsible for generating information on the Information Society and analysing and forecasting from the viewpoint of digital convergence, taking into account not only current implications but also future scenarios. Its portal offers access to reports on major considerations for the development of the Information Society, international news on regulation and public policies, digital convergence Web 2.0, society and citizenry, economy, companies and technologies, to name but a few.

Infomedios Digital

<<http://www.infomediosdigital.com>>

Infomedios Digital is a site which seeks to provide a platform for sharing information on digital media. It offers resources, news and links to new communication technologies classified into various sections: education, graphic design, media and culture, mobile technology and Web 2.0. There are also sections on books, magazines and the foremost portals on digital media.