

An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the information society's situation in Poland using up-to-date factual quantitative data is clearly needed. That is why this book is so very welcome. In it, the author provides a thorough discussion that is comprehensive and conclusive, leading to a set of well thought-out policy recommendations, which should greatly help us in further shaping the ICT development strategy in Poland.

From the preface by Prof. Michał Kleiber
Minister of Science and Information Society Technologies

Several years ago, quite a few people were excited about the “new economy”. The hype about the economic opportunities created by new technologies blinded people to social changes. There were, however, important processes beneath the surface of the e-boom. They were slower, but equally important. Young and older started to behave differently. Gathering of information, communicating, working, learning and entertaining became much different than before. The way we now work and live has an immediate impact on the economy, competitiveness and growth prospects of every country. Invisible changes in social acceptance and the use of advanced technology have strong implications for the future of companies, industries and whole countries. That is what we now call the “Information Society”. This book explains what it is all about in the Polish context.

Michał Jaworski
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This study presents the first comprehensive picture of the dynamic change of the ‘information society’ in Poland. However, most of the observations, conclusions and policy options apply to all post-socialist countries in transition to democratic polity, civil society and a market economy. This book is special in that it contributes immensely to both, the ongoing debate on the economics and politics of the great post-communist change, on the one hand, and to the debates about the further course of the technological progress regarding the Internet and telecommunication revolution, on the other hand.

Prof. Grzegorz W. Kolodko,
Director of TIGER

This book is unique in providing a multi-causal diagnosis of the current state of the information society in Poland as well as a well-argued scenario of its future development. The book will thus be useful for not only all those interested in the information society, but also for the policymakers and managers, who still wonder about how to benefit from the potential of information technologies.

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