



Progress and Challenges of measuring the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

Statistics Investment in the Future 2
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Agenda



I. ECLAC's Information Society Programme

II. Measuring the Information Society

- a. Background
- b. Current status
- c. Statistical Information System on ICT

III. Digital divide in LAC

IV. Conclusions and final reflections



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I. ECLAC's Information Society Program



Program SocInfo



- Innovation and ICT Unit
- Division of Production, Productivity and Management (DPPM)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- United Nations

OSILAC

Observatory for
the Information
Society in Latin
America and the
Caribbean



eLAC

Regional Action
Plan for the
Information
Society



Inclusive
Political Dialogue
(Project from
@LIS2 Program)



www.cepal.org/socinfo/

Program SocInfo



Contributes to the development of Information Societies in Latin America and the Caribbean

Current
Situation

Analysis
and
Research

Policy
Proposals

Statistical harmonization

Project and programme follow-up

Quantitative and descriptive studies

Exchange of information and experiences

Regional cooperation



Working together with:

- Partnership on Measuring the ICT for development



To define and gather a common set of ICT indicators and to help developing countries in their efforts to produce statistics of the information society:

<http://measuring-ict.unctad.org>

- Since 2003

OSILAC Objectives



- Promote statistical harmonization so as to strengthen the monitoring of ICT policies and projects in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Monitor and analyze the progress of the regional countries towards the development of Information Societies
- Support countries in the compilation and analysis of statistical data, developing capabilities or assisting countries with survey Implementation (NSOs and other official institutions)



II. Measuring the Information Society



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Background



- 2003 & 2005 – World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
 - 2003 – creation of OSILAC
 - 2004 – launch of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
 - 2005 – Presentation of the list of ICT core indicators at the WSIS Preparatory Meeting
 - 2005 – Creation of Task Group SCA-ECLAC
 - 2007 – endorsement of the list of ICT core indicators by the Statistical Commission of United Nations (UNSC)
 - 2009 – revised list of ICT core indicators was filed with the UNSC
-

Current status - Activities



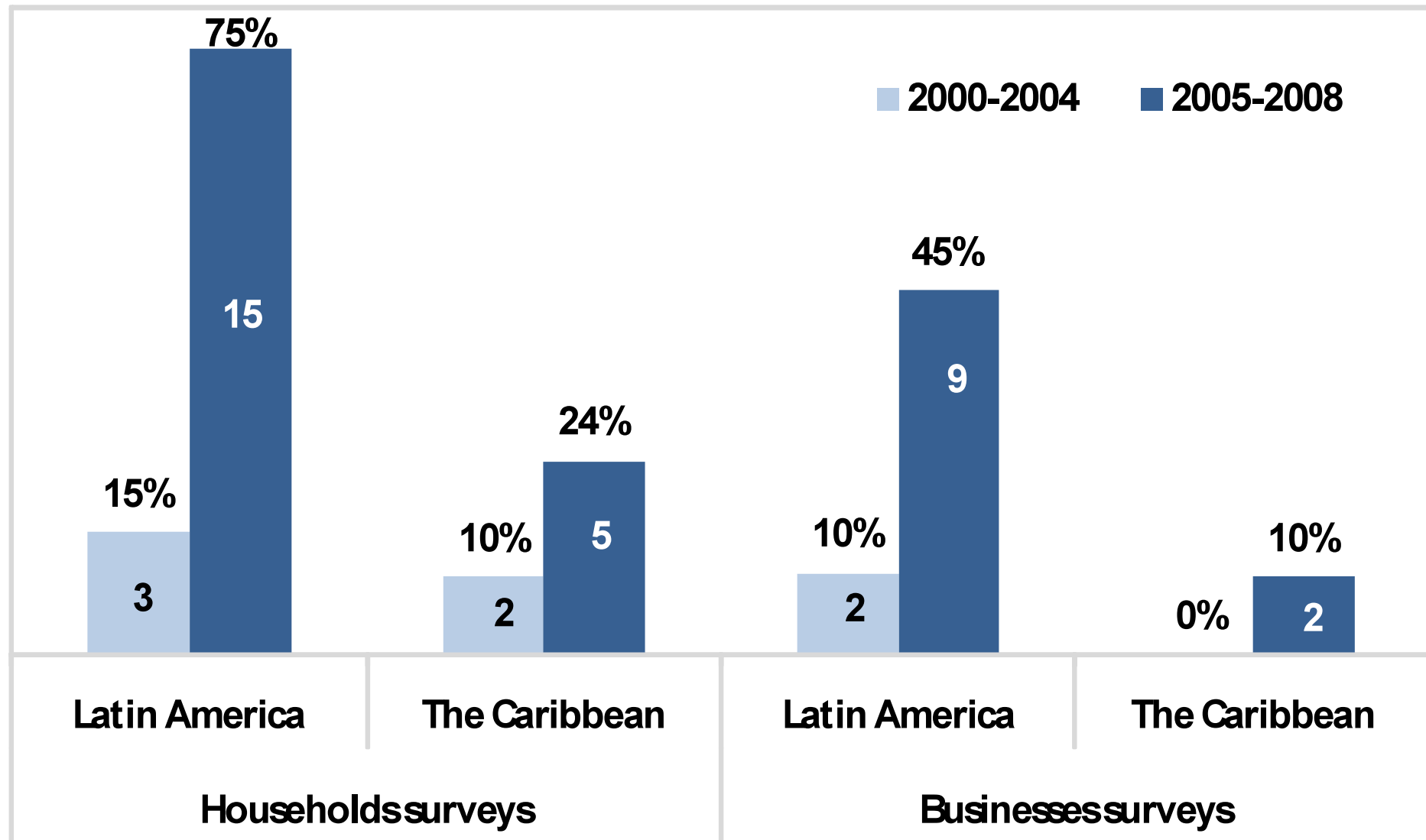
- Five annual Regional Workshops on Information Society Measurement in Latin America and the Caribbean – since 2004
 - Capacity Buildings – Colombia (2007) y Trinidad Tobago (2009)
 - Information System database development
 - Compendium of Practices on the implementation of ICT questions in household and business surveys in LAC (2007 and 2009)
 - Production and dissemination of analytical articles (microdata)
 - OSILAC discussion list
 - OSILAC work groups
 - Caribbean Strategy – ICT Household Survey (Mobile and Broadband modules)
-

Current status – Achievements



- expanded collaboration with the National Statistical Offices (NSO) of the region
 - production and compilation of harmonized statistics and indicators on ICT access and use collected by means of National Household Surveys (NHS) and National Business Surveys (NBS)
 - strengthened regional capacities for the formulation and design of questionnaires, data collection, harmonization of indicators and dissemination of methodologies
 - monitoring indicators for the eLAC plan of action
 - discussing the development of new indicators (Education and eGovernment)
-

Progress in core indicators availability



Offices.

ICT Statistical Information System

Surveys

Form

Instructions:

"Select surveys you wish to use to calculate statistics. After that, press button '**Get Variables**' in order to view all variables of the selected survey or all **common variables** of the selected surveys.

Available Surveys

Country	Name of the survey	Year	Coverage	Recall period
<input type="checkbox"/> Bolivia	Encuesta de Hogares	2005	National	November-December
<input type="checkbox"/> Bolivia	Encuesta de Hogares	2002	Nacional	November-December
<input type="checkbox"/> Bolivia	Encuesta de Hogares	2001	Nacional	November-December
<input type="checkbox"/> Bolivia	Encuesta Continua de Hogares	2000	National	November-December
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil	Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra Domicilios	2005	National	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil	Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra Domicilios	2004	National	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil	Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra Domicilios	2003	National	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil	Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra Domicilios	2002	National	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil	Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra Domicilios	2001	National	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Chile	Encuesta CASEN	2006	National	November-December
<input type="checkbox"/> Chile	Encuesta CASEN	2003	National	November-December
<input type="checkbox"/> Chile	Encuesta CASEN	2000	National	November-December
<input type="checkbox"/> Colombia	Encuesta Continua de Hogares	2005	National	July-September
<input type="checkbox"/> Costa Rica	Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples	2005	National	July
<input type="checkbox"/> Costa Rica	Encuesta de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples	2004	National	July

Clear

Get Variables

version 1.5.4 - [credits](#) - [contact](#)

75 surveys from 17 countries

<http://www.eclac.org/tic/flash/>

Home About Available variables Surveys Documentation Help Use conditions Versión en español

ICT Statistical Information System

Surveys Form

Percentage Totals Format HTML Statistical Unit households Weighting of Data weighted results

Common Variables

Description	
Access to computer in the household	→
Access to electricity in the household	
Access to Internet in the household	
Access to mobile phone in the household	
Access to radio in the household	→
Access to telephone line in the household	
Age	
Age in quinquennial groups	
Age in three groups	→
Country	
Employment status	
Gender	
Household size including domestic employees	
School attendance	
Year	

Pages (show tables by categories of):

Rows

Columns

Generate Report

version 1.5.4 - credits - contact

CEPRIL OSILAC IDRC CRDI ICA @LIS EUROPEAID

- ✓ Allowing to create cross-tabulated queries using harmonized variables of ICT and socio-demographic and economic
- ✓ To combine queries for various countries at the same time

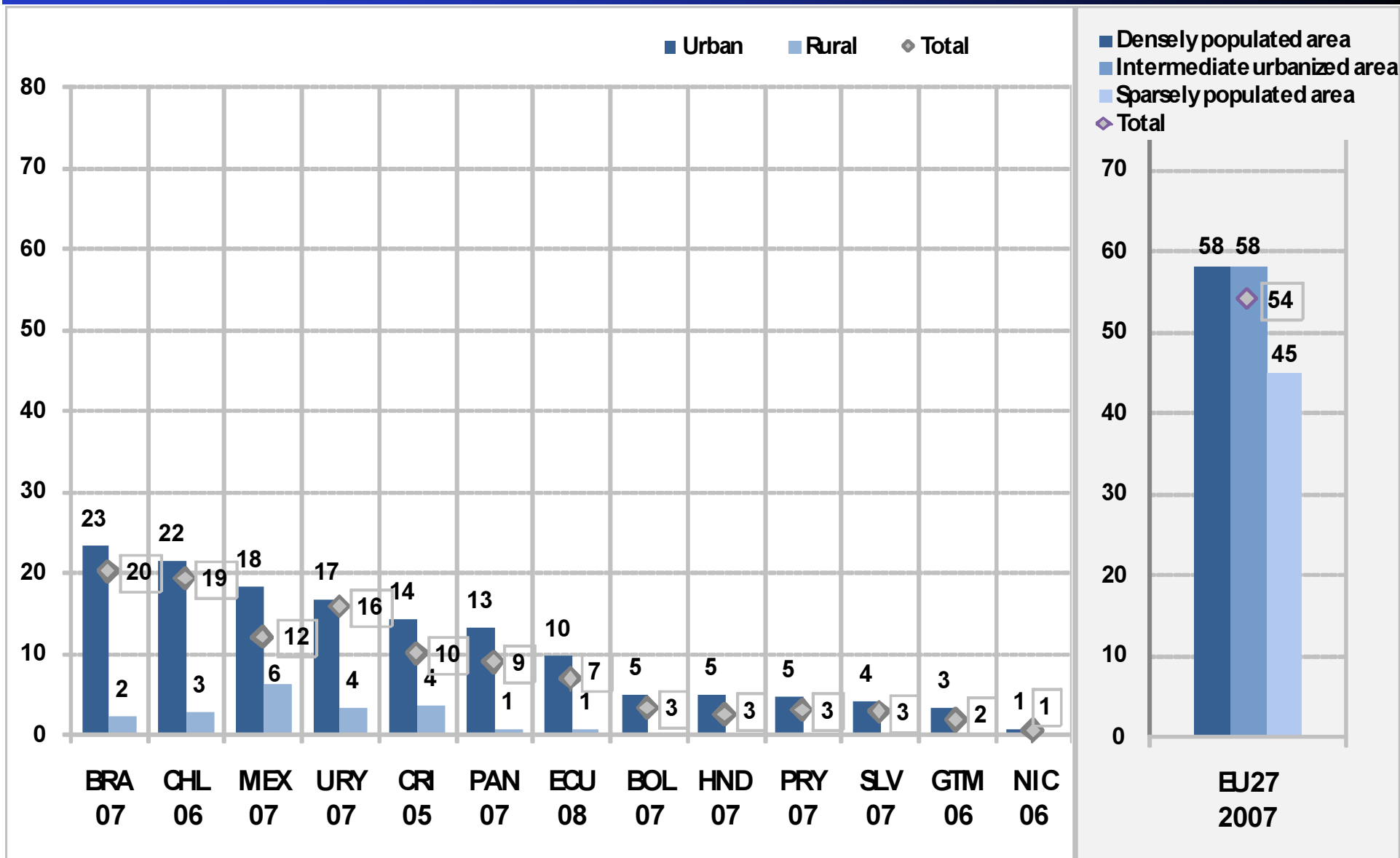
<http://www.eclac.org/tic/flash/>



III. Statistics and Indicators for the digital inclusion

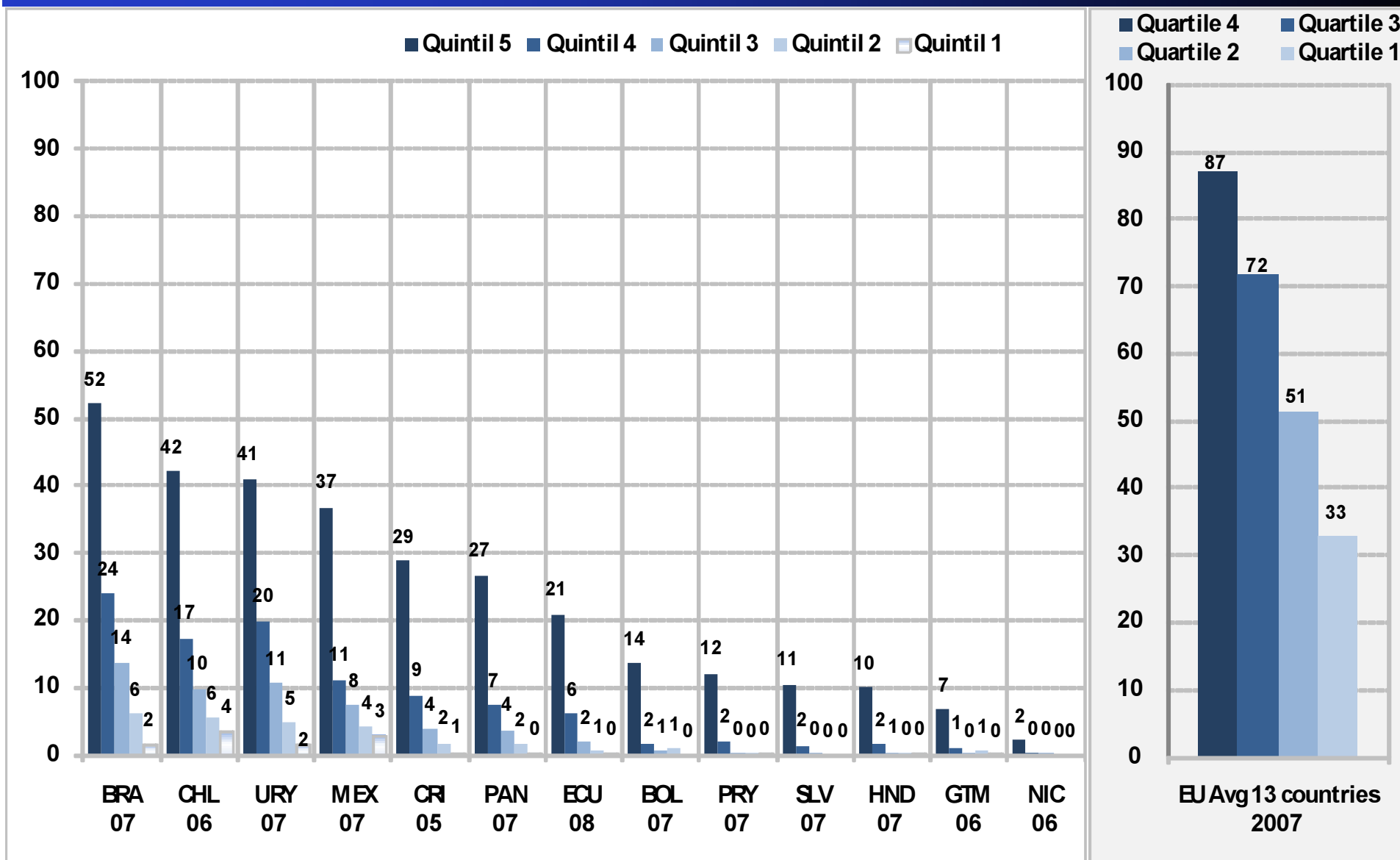


Households with Internet access by zone



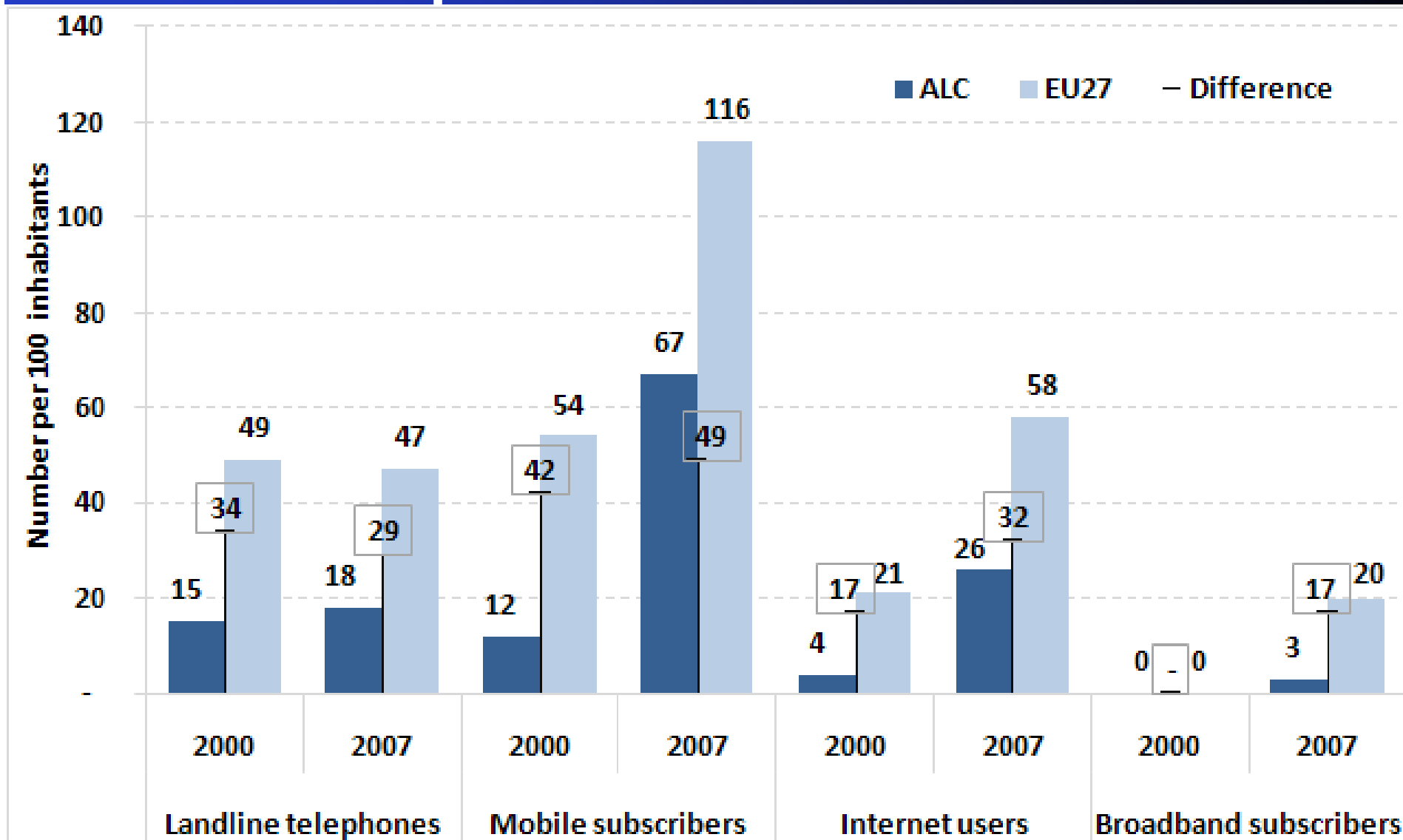
Source: author's elaboration based on the OSILAC - ICT Statistical Information System and Eurostat – Data Explorer

Households with Internet access by income



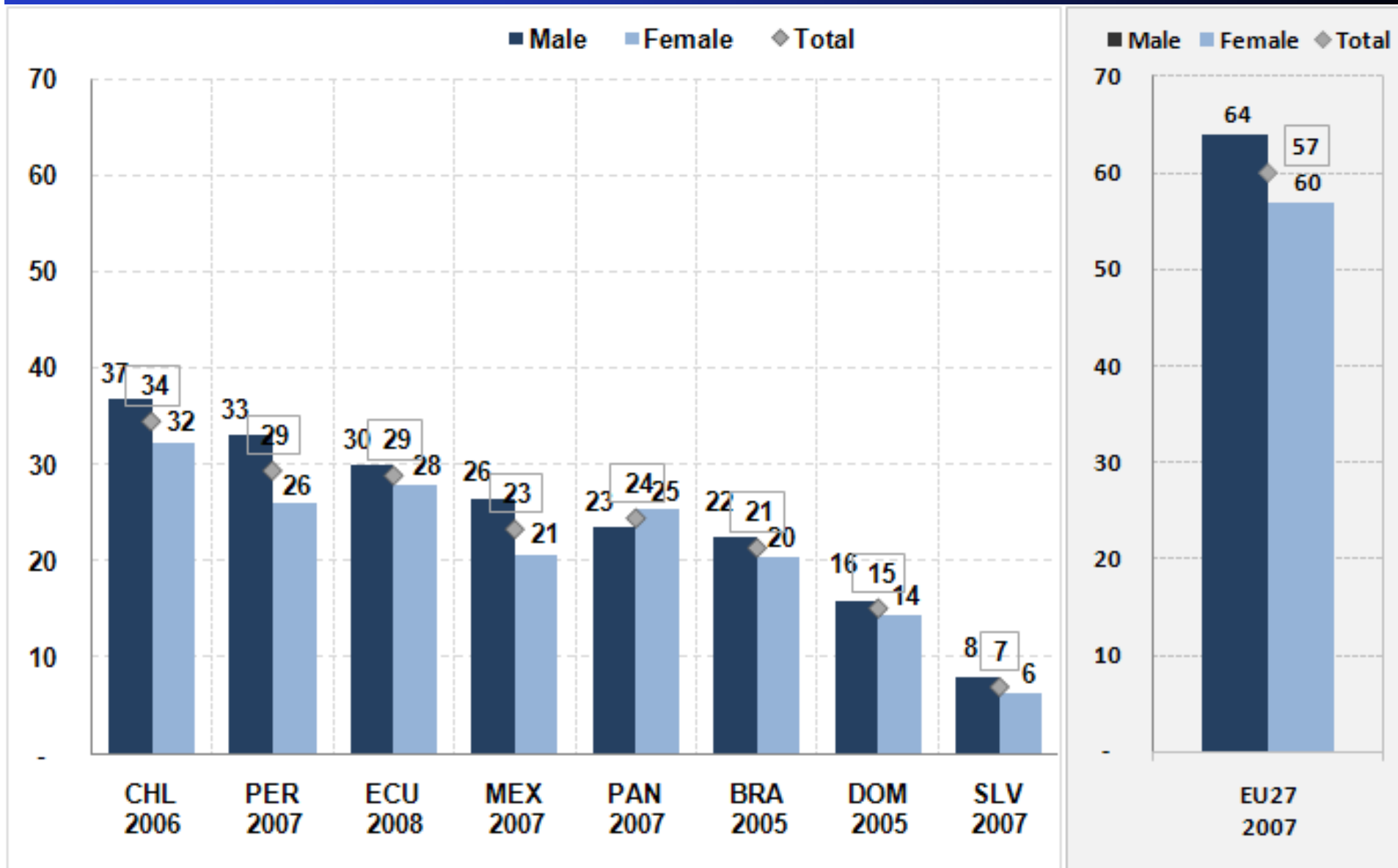
Source: author's elaboration based on the OSILAC - ICT Statistical Information System and Eurostat – Data Explorer

ICT penetration in Latin America and in the European Union - 27



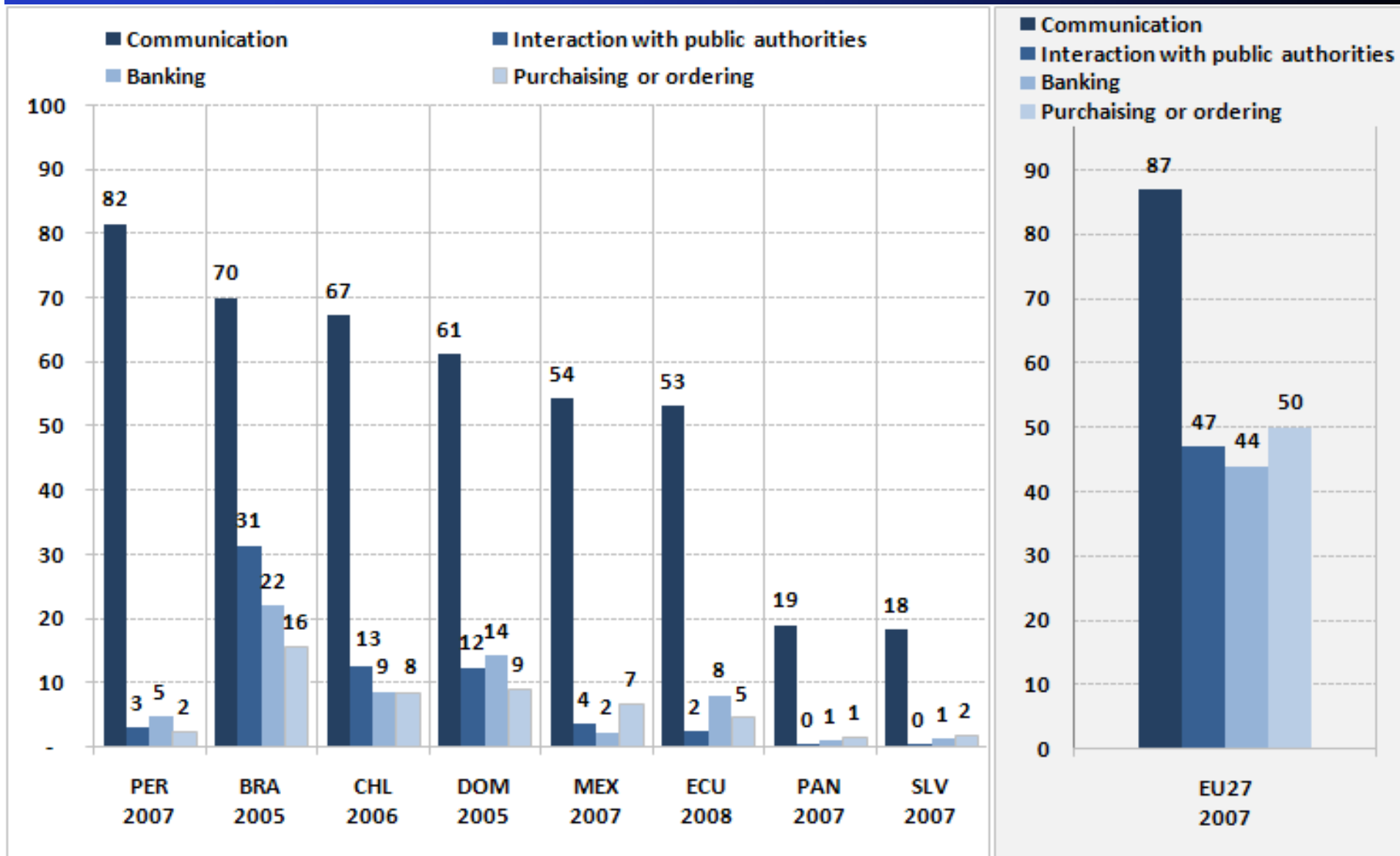
Source: author's elaboration based on the ITU data "World Telecommunications Indicators Database" (2008).

Internet usage by gender



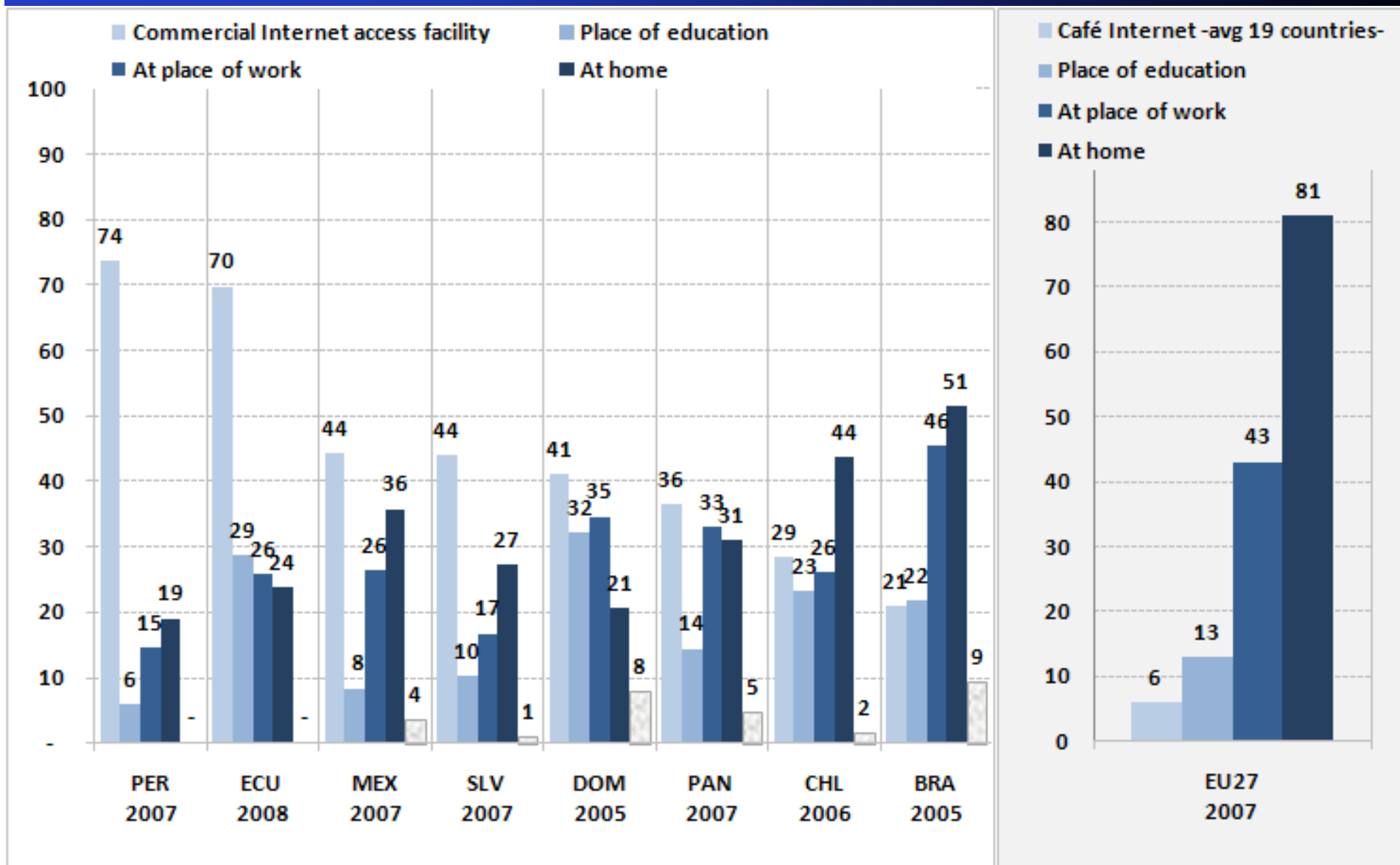
Source: author's elaboration based on the OSILAC - ICT Statistical Information System and Eurostat – Data Explorer

Internet activities undertaken by individuals



Source: author's elaboration based on the OSILAC - ICT Statistical Information System and Eurostat – Data Explorer

Location of individual use of the Internet



Source: author's elaboration based on the OSILAC - ICT Statistical Information System and Eurostat – Data Explorer



IV. Conclusions and final reflections



Conclusions and final reflections



- **With more or less intensity, countries in the region have been incorporating ICT into all aspects of daily life, as a means for political and socio-economic development**
- **Social and economic factors are still determining Internet access in the LAC region, particularly the level of education, income and geographical location (mainly rural or urban)**
- **The gap increases as technology becomes more complex and costly for the user, such as broadband**

Conclusions and final reflections



- **Closing the access gap is a major challenge in public policies related to emerging new technologies**
 - **The region faces a considerable difference in access between the richest segment of the population and the poorest, which could be reduced through various types of policies**
 - **As for the geographical gap, especially with regards to the extremely low levels of access in rural areas, expanding networks, both private and public, is still necessary**
 - **The gap on Internet use is more difficult to close, since it is directly linked to education, income and culture, among others**
-

Conclusions and final reflections



- In most LAC countries, commercial Internet access facilities are the most important locale for Internet use
 - For the poorest quintiles, shared access seems to be the only viable solution to Internet access, especially considering that the value of equipment and connection are still too high in relation to the per-capita-income in the region.
 - Regarding the activities undertaken by individuals in the LAC region, we see that education needs to be prioritized, in order to take the use of the network beyond communication and leisure in favour of more sophisticated activities that could effectively mean better education, job opportunities and quality of life.
-

Conclusions and final reflections



- **Further efforts to produce ICT-access-and-use indicators are therefore essential in order to assess current dynamics and determine the real digital divide and stage of ICT evolution in the countries of the region.**
 - **Analysis of the impact of ICT on different sectors of society is crucial to elaborating accurate policies for the information society. This is especially important for identifying how ICT can accelerate the dissemination of knowledge.**
 - **In this way, tools such as the OSILAC Statistical Information System on ICT are crucial to the development of public policies in the region.**
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Way forward



- **There has been great progress in the region, but much remains to be done**
 - **It is important to keep on discussing the importance of harmonized indicators for the development of public policies and national strategies**
 - **It is necessary to elaborate new ICT indicators (impact, e-government, e-health etc) that allow the monitoring of initiatives like the Plan of Action eLAC2010**
 - **Resources are scarce and financing ICT surveys is not always possible**
 - **Seeking synergies and coordination among and between institutions is the only efficient way to work towards achieving common goals**
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Thanks for your attention



Innovation and ICT Unit
Division of Production, Productivity and Management (DPPM)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

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