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ICT usage in enterprises in 2014

Cloud computing services used by one out of every five enterprises in the EU28

Lack of knowledge main reason for not using cloud services

Instead of building their own IT infrastructure, enterprises have the possibility to access computing resources hosted by third parties on the internet. This large pool of computing resources is commonly known as “cloud computing” [1].

As cloud computing services are delivered on-line, enterprises must have internet access, which was the case in 2014 for almost all enterprises [2] with 97% employing 10 persons or more in the **EU28**. Although the share of firms with internet access was very similar across Member States, only a fifth (19%) used cloud computing services in 2014.

Not surprisingly the largest proportion of enterprises in the **EU28** using the cloud was by far recorded in the information & communication sector (45%), followed by the sector covering professional, scientific and technical activities (27%), while the share ranged from 14% to 20% in all other economic sectors.

Enterprises relied on the cloud mainly for e-mail services (66%) and for file storage (53%). Those enterprises using cloud services reported that the risk of a security breach was the main factor limiting a larger use of the cloud. For the remaining 81% not using the cloud, the insufficient knowledge of cloud computing was considered as the main blocking factor.

These data come from a publication [3] by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union, and form part of the results of a survey conducted at the beginning of 2014 on ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) usage in enterprises, with a special focus on the use of cloud computing services.

For those enterprises **[4]** in the **EU** not yet using cloud services, insufficient knowledge was the main factor in 2014 preventing enterprises from using the cloud computing (this reason was invoked by 42% of all enterprises not using the cloud), followed by the risk of a security breach (37%). These two top blocking factors can be found in all economic sectors, except in the information & communication sector and in the professional, scientific & technical activities.

For enterprises in the latter two economic sectors the risk of security breach was reported as the main blocking factor, while reasons linked to uncertainties about law and about the location of data came second among the factors preventing them from using the cloud.

References

[1] Cloud computing is one of the strategic digital technologies considered important enablers for productivity and better services. The European Commission's main innovation policy is the "broad-based innovation strategy for the EU.

> http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/index_en.htm.

[2] The survey covered enterprises with at least 10 persons employed in manufacturing, electricity, gas and steam, water supply, construction, wholesale and retail trades, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities, information and communication, real estate, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative and support activities, repair of computers and communication equipment.

[3] Eurostat, Statistics explained article "Cloud computing - Statistics on the use by enterprises". Available on the Eurostat website:

> http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Cloud_computing_-_statistics_on_the_use_by_enterprises

[4] Small enterprises (10-49 persons), medium (50-249) and large (250 or more).

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