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Abstract

The book deals with various aspects of the issue of the Information Society and the Knowledge Economy, and largely combines theory with empirical data and examples from Greece, Europe and elsewhere. It begins by placing Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in a historical context, analyzing the reasons why they are a General Purpose Technology and have led to the emergence of the most recent major techno-economic paradigm and the triggering of an ongoing socio-economic transformation. Chapter 2 seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the processes, the forces driving them, the obstacles and the structural problems associated with the effort to develop the Information Society in Greece. Chapter 3 describes the evolutionary path of mass computing information and communication technologies, as well as current technological trends and forecasts (Cloud Computing, Internet of Things, etc.). Chapter 4 deals with the topic of open technologies in the ICT field, namely Free Software/Open Source Software (FOSS), Open Standards and Open Hardware. Chapter 5 analyzes the concept of eGovernment, describing how it is defined and its main benefits, the methodology for measuring its level of development and the basic

conditions for its realisation. Chapter 6 deals with the concept of the ICT Ecosystem and emphasizes the Greek case, analyzing the characteristics of companies operating in the field, in comparison with the international environment, in order to highlight the Greek specificities. Chapter 7 is devoted to the analysis of the degree of utilization of ICT by the domestic production system, and includes several empirical data and examples. Chapters 8 and 9 deal with the issue of telecommunications and broadband, and in particular describe the role of the public sector in the development of new generation broadband networks (fibre optics) and the main methods available for calculating the cost of telecommunications/broadband services respectively. Chapter 10 analyzes the changes that ICT, and in particular the Internet, have already brought and are expected to bring about at individual and societal level, such as the possibilities they offer in the fields of work, education and health (teleworking, eLearning, eHealth). The final chapter of the book is specifically referred to the role of information technology and the Internet in education and research, and attempts to review IT applications in the field of engineering and

