

IT&C COMPREHENSION IN THE URBAN AND RURAL AREA OF TIMIS COUNTY IN YEAR 2012

A. BĂNEȘ¹, MANUELA-DORA ORBOI¹, T. IANCU¹, ANGELA BOGLUȚ²

¹Banat’s University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agricultural Management, Timișoara, Romania; banes@usab-tm.ro

²Psychological individual Cabinet Angela Bogluț, Timisoara, Romania

Abstract: The present paper is presenting some statistics relating to knowledge in the field of information technology and communication in year 2012. Data presented were taken following the processing of 122 questionnaires from Timis county, urban and rural area. Questionnaires have tried to include a higher sphere on IT & C knowledge of the persons interviewed, from what is known as a simple user of programs considered usual, passing over aspects of knowledge minimum hardware and ending with the e-commerce. The study revealed a basic knowledge that allow writing, technical, calculations, surf the Internet and transmitting/receiving e-mails. In other areas (accounting, databases, CAD etc.), only those who work day by day in that domain, have knowledge about the software. The situation is the same at hardware chapter, where the vast majority of persons interviewed are not interested in this type of knowledge.

Key words: IT&C knowledge, statistics, urban vs. rural.

INTRODUCTION

After almost 23 years of “Romanian” Internet, the information society is on a steady growth path. More than two decades of investment in ICT are bearing fruit, fuelling innovation in ICT areas and transforming the EU into a knowledge-based economy. Since 2005, the ICT sector has become increasingly driven by the expansion in the software market and relatively less by the electronic communication segment. This reflects innovation trends requiring more pervasive software products. Large sales in systems software and eBusiness applications indicate that businesses are adopting new and more mature eBusiness solutions, even if these new investments may still be limited to large companies or early adopters of advanced eBusiness solutions. Users are quickly embracing new services brought about by convergence [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was done on a number of 122 questionnaires (91 in urban area and 31 in rural area). These questionnaires [2] contain a total of 28 questions, each with one or more variations of response. Most of the questions have a single answer, yes or no type, to achieve simple quantification and processing of the results, but there are questions with 3 or more answers and also questions with answers that must be written (figures 1, 2).

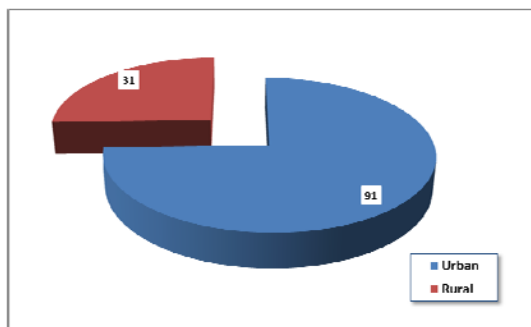


Figure 1. Respondents, urban and rural

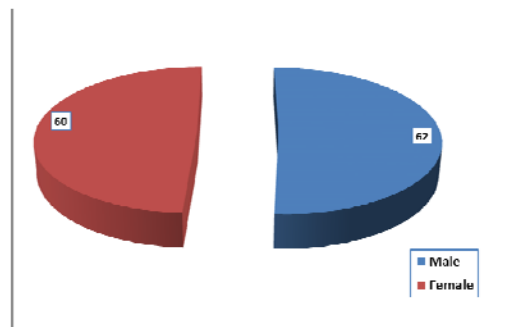


Figure 2. Respondents, male and female

Questions cover a wide area, starting from knowledge of IT & C considered basic, hardware knowledge, Internet and mail use, Internet payments etc. and at the finish those

concerns the respondent such as family income (figure 3).

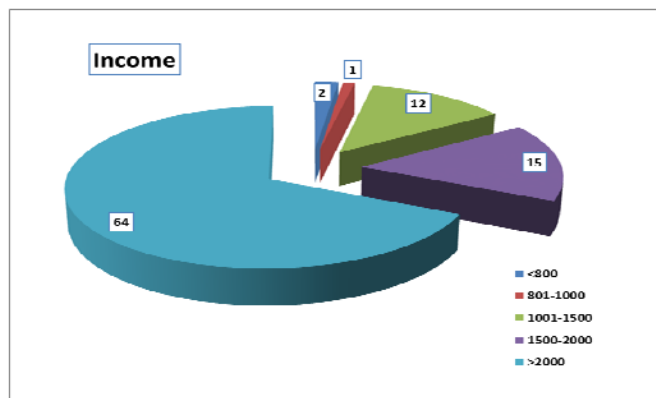


Figure 3. Income of the respondents

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first study was one in which we want to know the so called basic skills of the respondents. In this basic knowledge there are programs from Microsoft Office package, namely MS Word (editing), MS Excel (spreadsheet and graphical representations), MS Access (databases), PowerPoint (presentation) and MS FrontPage (web pages). As seen in Figure 4, the vast majority of respondents have editing (100%), spreadsheet and presentation knowledge, but their number is decreasing drastically to half or below when we refer to databases or CAD.

Another element that has been studied was about surfing the Internet and to know how to transfer and receive e-mail. The situation (Figure 5) reflects a good knowledge of these two elements, in both cases most of the respondents (111 and 110 from 122) having such knowledge.

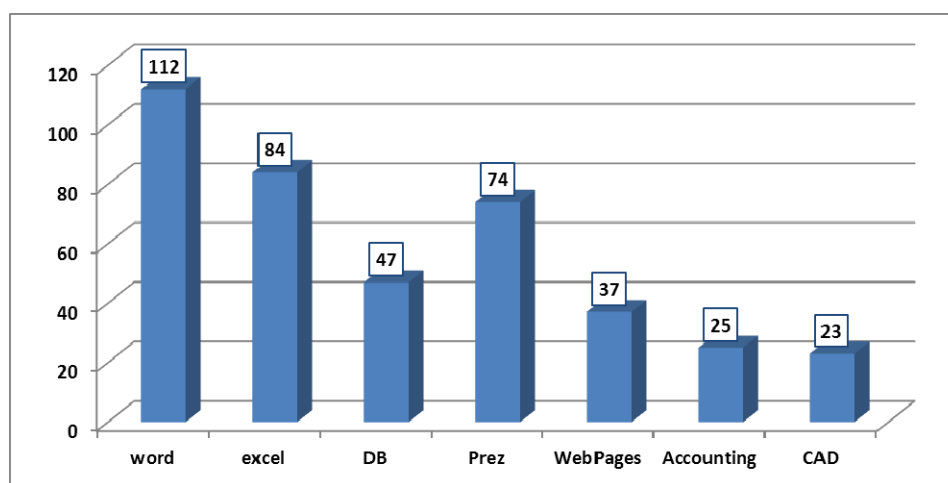


Figure 4. Basic knowledge

Next we tested the knowledge of installing an operating system, and some applications, in terms of software and system, peripherals and network configuration and computing. As expected, the knowledge at these categories is much lower than in past cases.

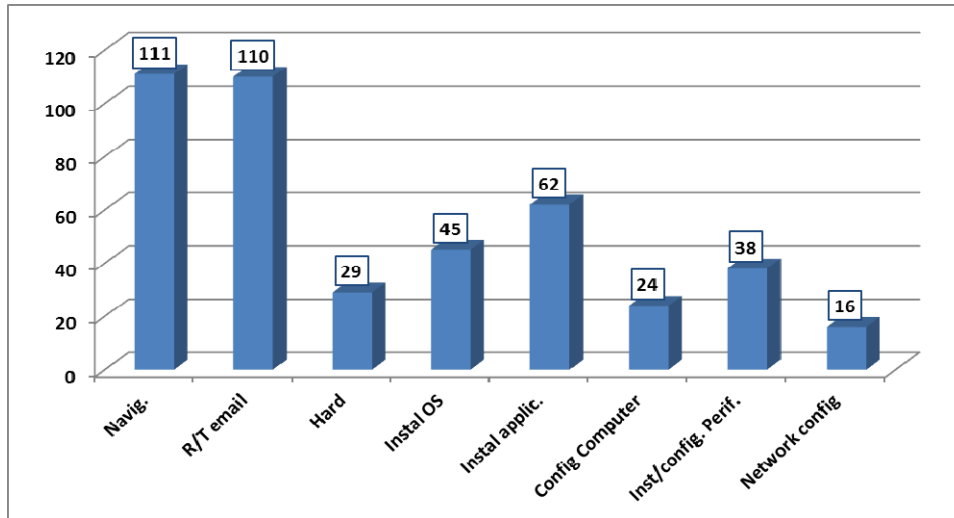


Figure 5. Internet, e-mail, hardware and system configuration knowledge

For example (figure 5), only 45 peoples know to install an operating system and 62 an application. Also, 24 people know how and what to ask for a computer configuration and 16 know how to configure a network.

When referring to legal aspects, more than half of respondents have a licensed operating system (74 of 122), figure 6, which is really pleasing.

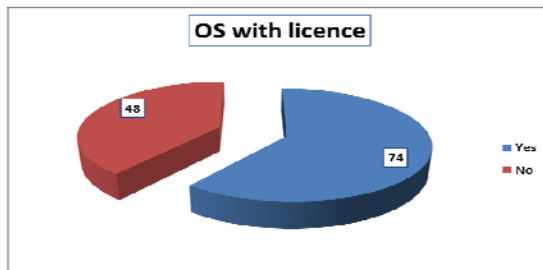


Figure 6. Licensed operating systems

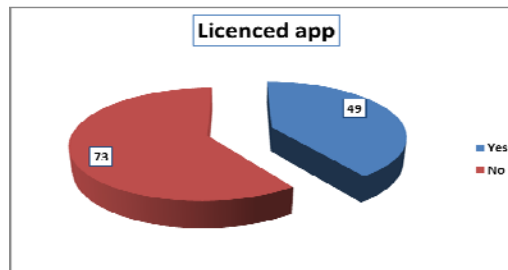


Figure 7. Licensed applications

Not as good is the situation if we refer to installed applications. Here, the vast majority are still using unlicensed applications (73 of 122), figure 7, the main reason being the high cost, followed by finding these applications for free on the Internet.

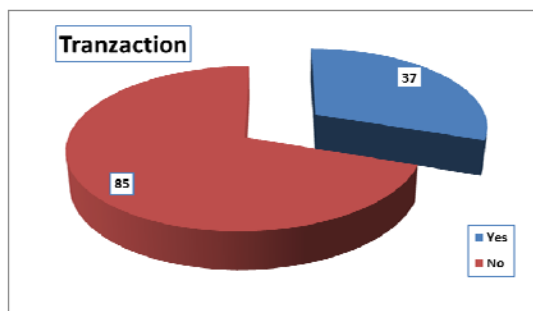


Figure 8. Transactions through Internet

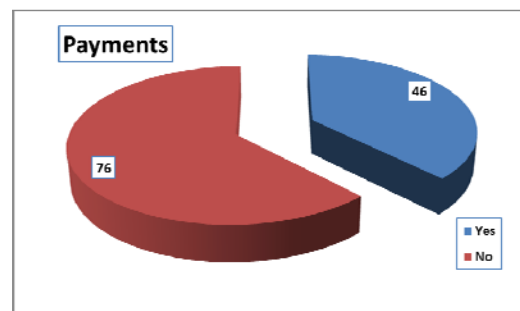


Figure 9. Payments through Internet

Another element that we want to study, concerned the use of the Internet to order products, or for on-line payments. Even if everyone is browsing the internet, even if e-mail is not a problem, more than three quarters of those surveyed do not use online order or

payment facilities (figure 8 and 9).

The main reason that led to this it is, in the opinion of respondents, distrust for this form of order and payment. Those who still have done so, had made payments of invoices, or ordered products with the maximum of 3-400 RON. The conclusion is that those who have made payments or orders, were not hazardous to large sums for the same reasons of distrust.

CONCLUSIONS

The vast majority of respondents, from urban and rural areas, know how to work with a specific application, know how to find information on Internet, or how to work some basic software. The problems appear when we are talking about databases, computer configuration, and e-commerce, and this is not only in rural area (figures 10, 11, 12). The good thing, is that users are interested in using IC&T and are trying to enter in legality regarding the software they use.

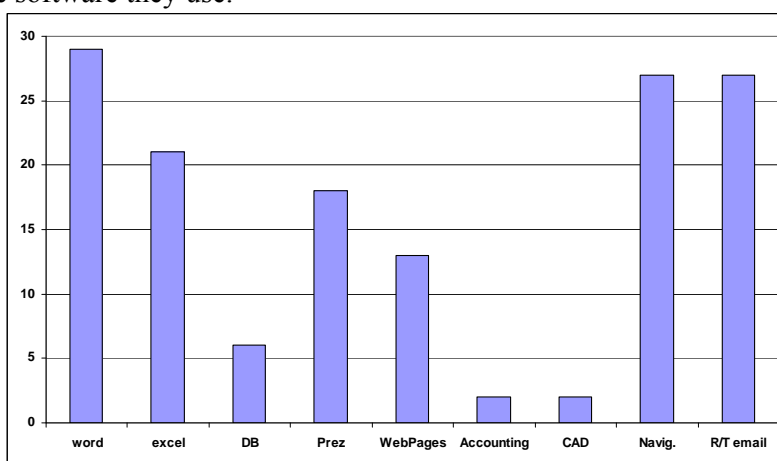


Figure 10. Basic knowledge in the rural area

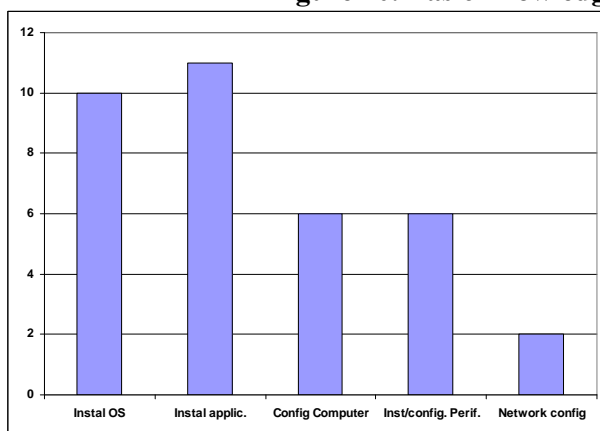


Figure 11. Internet, e-mail, hardware and system configuration knowledge in the rural area

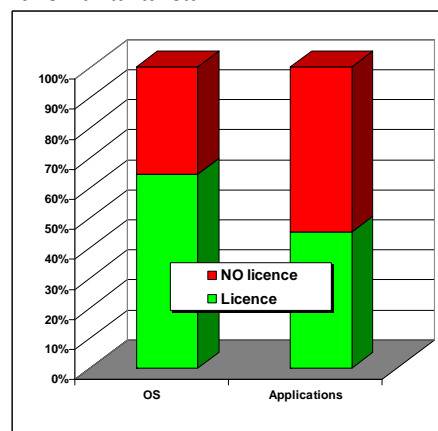


Figure 12. Licensed OS and applications in the rural area

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2. ***, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, ICT Statistics, 11.02.2013.