

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have evolved into key enablers across industries while proving to be powerful drivers of enhanced living conditions and opportunities around the globe. ICTs have changed the world dramatically over the last decade or so, and they are bound to continue to do so at an even higher rate as we begin to feel the full effects of the information revolution.

The Global Information Technology Report 2014, the 13th in the series, analyzes the drivers of ICTs and the impacts they can have for competitiveness and well-being. This year the *Report* focuses on the role that big data may play in this process and the conditions that leading organizations will need to adopt in order to fully take advantage of this transformative resource. Over the past 13 years, the *Report* has become the most comprehensive and respected international assessment of the preparedness of economies to leverage the networked economy, providing a unique platform for public-private dialogue on best policies and for determining what actions will further national ICT readiness and innovation potential.

Through the methodological framework of the Networked Readiness Index (NRI), the *Report* measures the extent to which 148 economies, from both the developed and developing worlds, take advantage of ICTs and other new technologies to increase their growth and well-being. The NRI identifies the most relevant factors driving ICT readiness and impacts, providing policymakers, business leaders, and civil society at large with a useful tool for designing national strategies for increased networked readiness and for benchmarking their country's performance against other relevant comparators.

The Global Information Technology Report 2014 features the latest computation and rankings of the NRI and, referring to this year's theme, dives deeper into the rewards and risks that derive from the advent of big data. In addition, the *Report* includes detailed profiles for the 148 economies covered this year together with data tables for each of the 54 indicators used in the computation of the NRI.

The *Report* is the result of a long-lasting collaboration, dating back to 2002, between the World Economic Forum and INSEAD.

Written in a nontechnical language and style, the *Report* appeals to a large audience made up of policymakers, business leaders, academics, and different organizations of civil society. In line with other projects of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness and Benchmarking Network, the *Report* brings together a range of leading academics, experts, and industry leaders.

The full *Report* can be downloaded at www.weforum.org/gitr.