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**Development Co-operation Directorate  
Development Assistance Committee**

## **DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics**

### **Purpose code for education and training in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector**

WP-STAT plenary meeting of 4-6 October 2023  
OECD Conference Centre, Paris

This document follows-up the discussion held in the WP-STAT meeting of 30 May-1 June 2023 and proposes the addition of a purpose code for education and training in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector and updates to related CRS purpose codes.

The document is presented for APPROVAL.

If approved, the updates will be included in the CRS code list for the 2024 data collection on 2023 activities.

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# Purpose code for education and training in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector

## 1. Objective

1. At the WP-STAT meeting of 30 May – 1 June 2023, the European Union presented a room document proposing members the addition of a new purpose code for education and training in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)33]. Members reacted positively to the proposal [DCD/DAC/STAT/M(2023)2, paragraph 57] and provided further comments to the Secretariat in writing<sup>1</sup>.

2. This paper takes into account the comments received and proposes for members' APPROVAL i) the addition of a new purpose code in the CRS code list, and ii) a number of small edits to related purpose codes on communications, technology and media to clarify the boundaries of the codes and to update the language. The changes proposed are indicated in paragraph 8 and Table 1 of this document. If approved, the updates will be included in the code list in 2024 and be applied on the collection of 2023 data.

## 2. Context

3. Digital skills are becoming ever more vital for the participation of individuals in the workplace and for everyday economic activities. The growth of the digital economy is expected to continue to increase the demand for ICT specialists, to fill new jobs and opportunities<sup>2</sup>. Development co-operation activities

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://one-communities.oecd.org/community/wpstat-collab/SitePages/purpose-code-for-professional-training-in-ICT,-telecommunications,-and-media.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> See for example IFC & WB, (2018), Demand for Digital Skills in Sub-Saharan Africa. Key Findings from a Five-Country Study: Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Rwanda, available at: <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2018/digital-skills-in-sub-saharan-africa> ; AsDB (2022) Digital Jobs and Digital Skills: A Shifting Landscape in Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/publications/digital-jobs-digital-skills-asia-pacific>; The Future of Work in Africa : Harnessing the Potential of Digital Technologies for All. Africa Development Forum. Washington, DC: World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32124>

support education and training of ICT professionals in the broader context of supporting economic development and skills in this sector, but these activities are not clearly recognisable in the CRS.

4. Currently, members can report IT training activities using CRS purpose code 22040 “Information and Communication Technology (ICT)” which includes “computer hardware and software, internet access; IT training, where the sector cannot be specified”. The wide array of the topics covered under this code prevents to precisely identify the activities aimed at providing education and training in the communication sector.

5. An education and training code for the communications sector could follow the same logic of the sectorial education and training codes that already exist in the CRS nomenclature. Many sectors include these codes, for example: 12181 Medical education/training, 14081 Education and training in water supply and sanitation, 21081 Education and training in transport and storage, 23081 Energy education and training, 24081 Education and training in Banking and Financial Services and many others<sup>3</sup>.

6. The addition of a code specifically dedicated to education and training in the ICT sector would increase transparency on the spending on this sector and could incentivise a better allocation of resources to this crucial sector for economic and social development. A new code on education and training for the ICT sector would fit well in the current structure of the CRS purpose codes taxonomy. Additionally, a series of minor updates to the codes the related to Information, Communication, Technology and Media would be needed to update the language and increase the clarity of the boundaries of each code, simplifying reporting.

### 3. The proposal

7. The proposal aims to better recognise spending on professional training and vocational education for the ICT, telecommunications, and media sectors, as part of the broader communications sector (code 220). The proposed code would explicitly cover all three sub-sectors (ICT, telecommunications, media) of the communications sector. The proposal consists of the following elements:

- The addition of a specific sub-code 22XXX, under CRS category 220 – Communications, for “Education and training in ICT, telecommunications, and media”.
- The removal of the element “IT training” from the description of CRS code 22040.
- The update of the code 15153 on “Media and free flow of information”, to specify that the focus of the code is on content and content creation, particularly for journalists and other professionals that create information (rather than on technology and investments, covered in the 220 sector).
- The update of the code 22030 on “Radio, television, print and media” to also include online media, and to clarify that the coverage of the code is limited to the provision of capital and technology.

**Table 1 - Proposed amendments to purpose codes. See strikethrough for deleted text, bolding for added text/.**

DAC 5 code	Purpose code	Voluntary code	Description	Clarifications / Additional notes on coverage
	15153		Media and free flow of information	Activities that support free and uncensored flow of information on public issues; activities that increase the

<sup>3</sup> The complete code list is available at: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dacandcrscodelists.htm>

				editorial and technical skills and the integrity of the print, <b>and</b> broadcast and <b>online media</b> , e.g. training of journalists, <b>information professionals</b> . Use codes <b>in the 220 sector 22010-22040</b> for provision of equipment and capital assistance to media. <b>Use code 16061 for programmes to strengthen the cultural sector (cinema, music, dance, painting, literature, etc.)</b> .
220			Communications	
	22010		Communications policy and administrative management	Communications sector policy, planning and programmes; institution capacity building and advice; including postal services development; unspecified communications activities.
		22011	Communications policy, planning and administration	
		22012	Postal services	Development and operation of postal services.
		22013	Information services	Provision of information services
	22020		Telecommunications	Telephone networks, telecommunication satellites, earth stations.
	22030		Radio, television, print <b>and online media</b>	Radio and TV links, equipment; newspapers; printing and publishing. <b>Include here the provision of equipment and capital. Information creation (in any media) is recorded under code 15153 (media and free flow of information) while programmes to strengthen the cultural sector (cinema, music, dance, painting, literature, etc.) are recorded under code 16061 (culture and recreation).</b>
	22040		Information and communication technology (ICT)	Computer hardware and software; internet access. <del>IT training. When sector cannot be specified.</del>
	<b>22XXX</b>		<b>Education and training in ICT, telecommunications, and media</b>	<b>Support for technical training for professionals in the sectors of ICT, telecommunications and media; IT training when the sector cannot be specified. Includes training for the development and use of digital technologies in areas such as hardware and software engineering, cybersecurity, data analysis, big data, cloud and network infrastructure, Internet of Things, robotics, cognitive &amp; artificial intelligence, machine-to-machine (M2M) systems, blockchain, 3D printing and similar subjects. Training on content creation (e.g. journalism, knowledge sharing) is reported under the code 15153.</b>

#### 4. Next Steps

8. Members are invited to APPROVE the edits proposed in Table 1 to the CRS purpose codes list. If approved, these edits will be included in the purpose code list for the 2024 data collection on 2023 activities.