

DIGITAL INEQUALITIES

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Abstract:

The proliferation of digital technologies in most countries brings significant benefits from their use. These so-called digital dividends have a positive impact on economic growth, widening the scope for socio-economic development. However, their unequal distribution across countries makes digital technologies not equally beneficial to all countries and entities, and is gradually deepening the digital divide, resulting in a gap in terms of between-countries income inequalities. These can be afterwards translated into other socio-economic characteristics of the countries. The paper, we evaluate the position of EU countries within the group of 62 world's countries at the digitization level. Using the DEA method, we examine the extent to which the digital maturity of countries translates into the level of their economic maturity. At the same time, we identify potential digital enhancements to bring the country closer to efficiency.

Keywords: digital inequalities, socio-economic development, DEA method, economic growth