

EXTENDING THE PUBLIC SPHERE VS. COLONIZATION OF THE CYBERSPACE

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Logical framework

- ④ **Identifying the colonization of the cyber space as a danger for the public sphere**
- ④ **Categorizing the forms of colonization**
- ④ **Defining the cyber exclusion and relating the cyber exclusion to social exclusion**
- ④ **Reconfirming empirically that many regions (case study: SEE-WB) are cyber excluded**

Logical framework (2)

- ⦿ **Looking for causes and broadening the notion of cyber exclusion**
- ⦿ **Leaving an open question on how to exit the magic circle: cyber inclusion to contribute to social inclusion or vice versa?**
- ⦿ **Concluding that extension of the public sphere online is a myth**

Colonization of the cyberspace

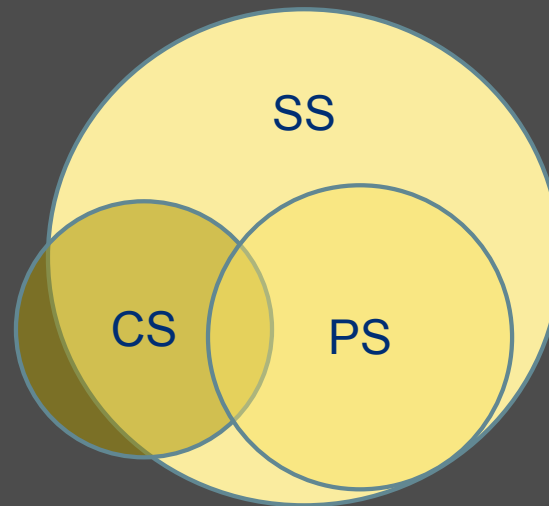
- ⦿ Normative concept: Habermas' ideal public sphere - neutral zone of unobstructed conversation
- ⦿ Traditional threats: suppressed autonomy from the state & economic power
- ⦿ Critical points of the cyber discourse:
 - Ethical-practical values of the participants
 - Commodification of the information
 - Cultural/language dominance
 - Cyber exclusion

Cyber exclusion definition

- ⦿ Information inequality as systematic colonization of social knowledge by the rich nations
- ⦿ Concept evolution:
 - Information gap
 - Knowledge gap
 - Digital divide
 - Cyber exclusion
- ⦿ Digital divide beyond the technical interpretations

Cyber exclusion definition (2)

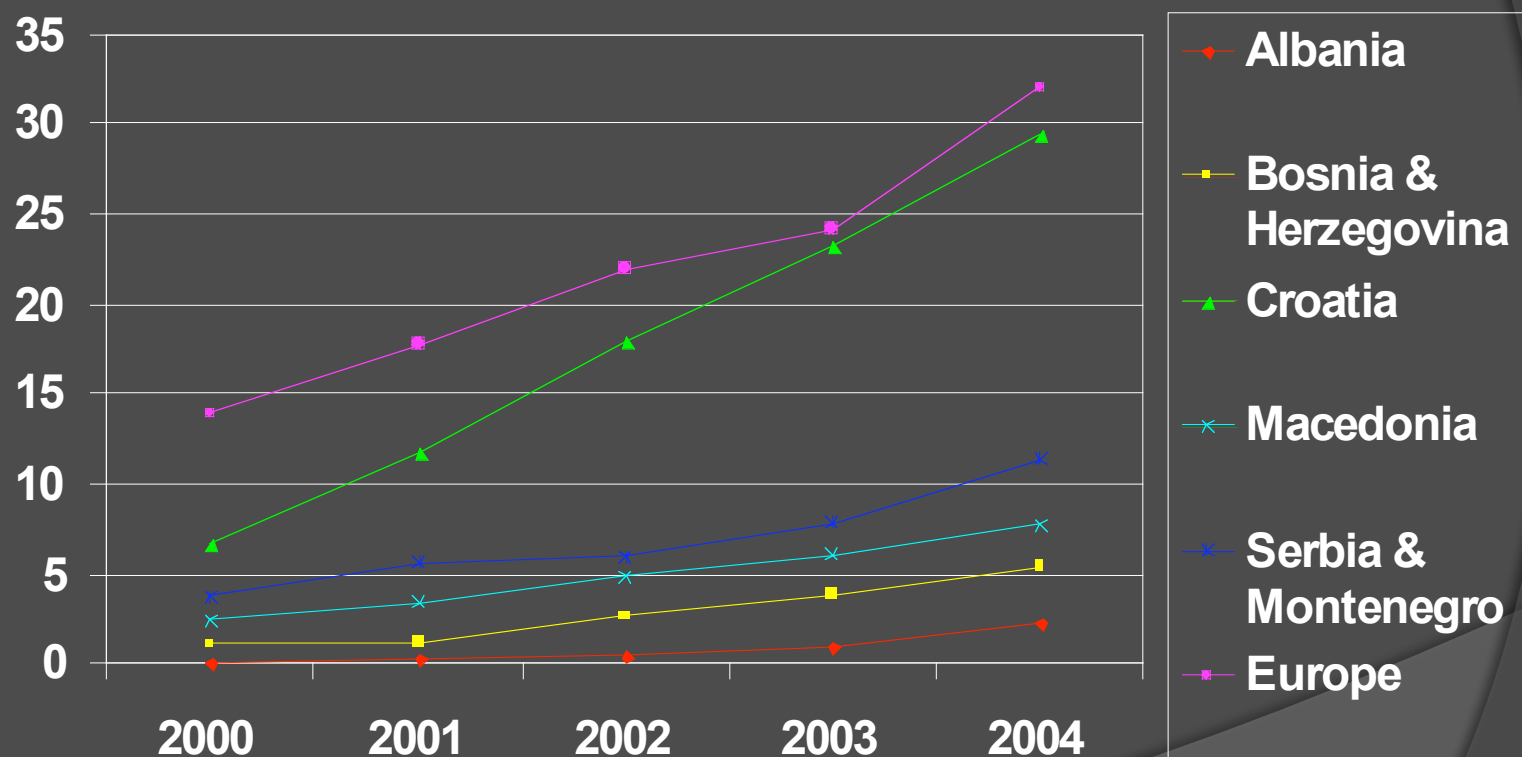
- Cyber space as social space
- Public space as social space
- Cyber exclusion as social/public exclusion



SEE-WB cyber exclusion indicators

- ⦿ External exclusion (re.: European public sphere)
 - Internet users
 - Internet hosts
- ⦿ Internal exclusion (re.: National public spheres)
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Residence

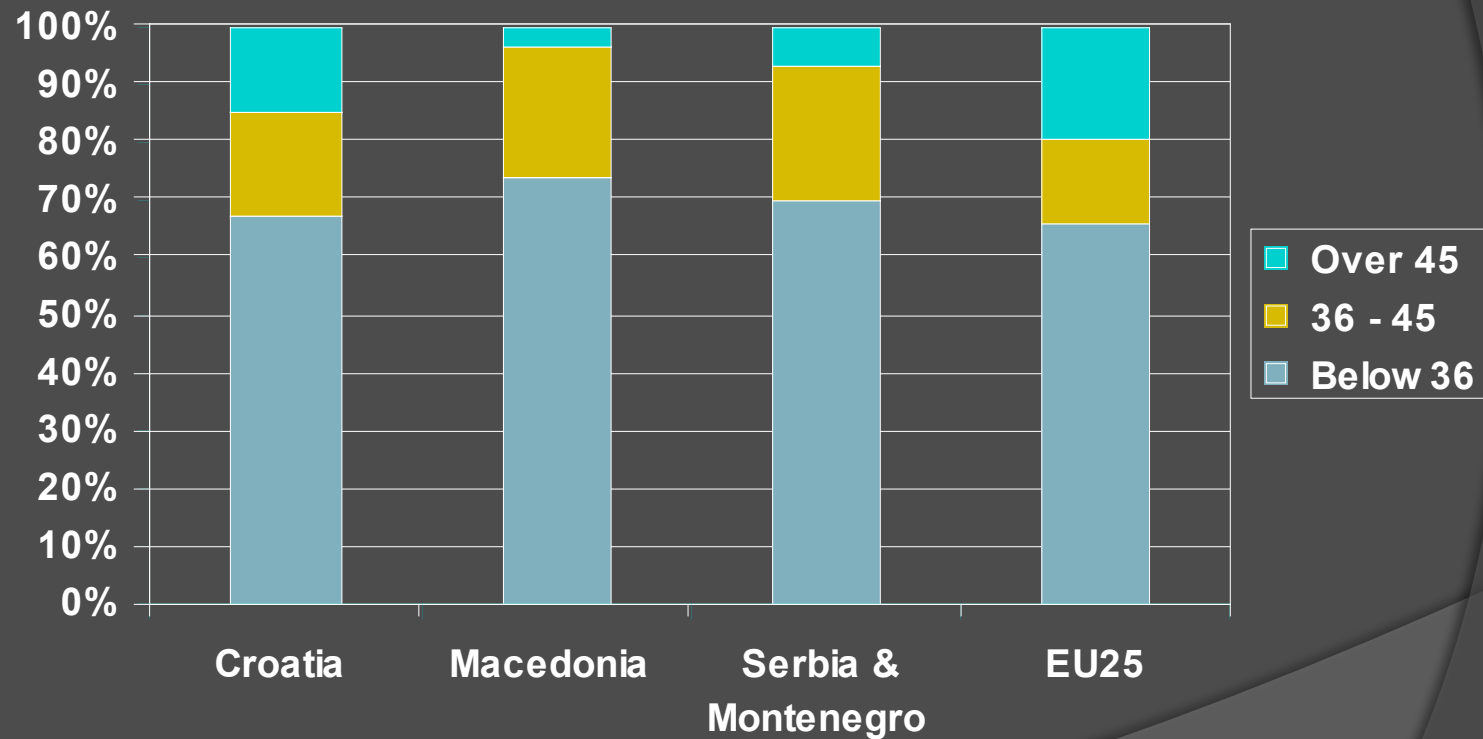
Internet users per 100 inhabitants



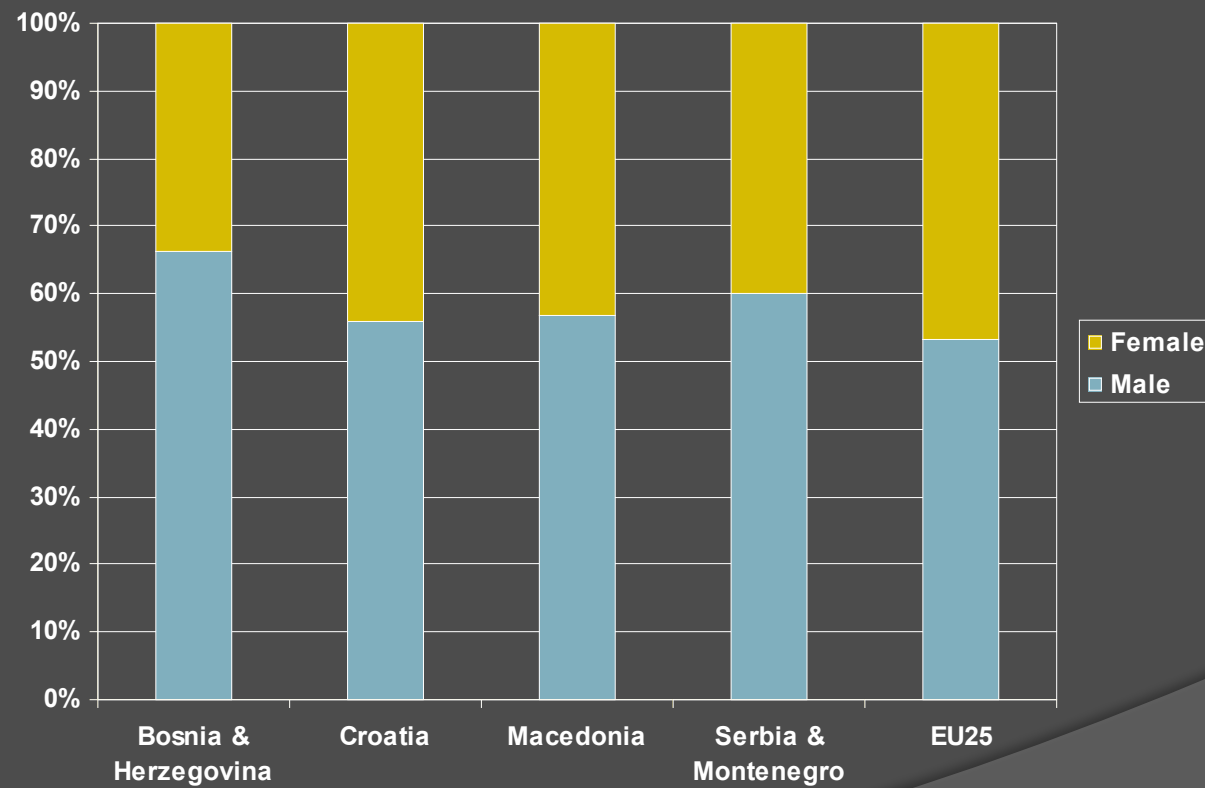
Internet hosts per 10.000 inhabitants



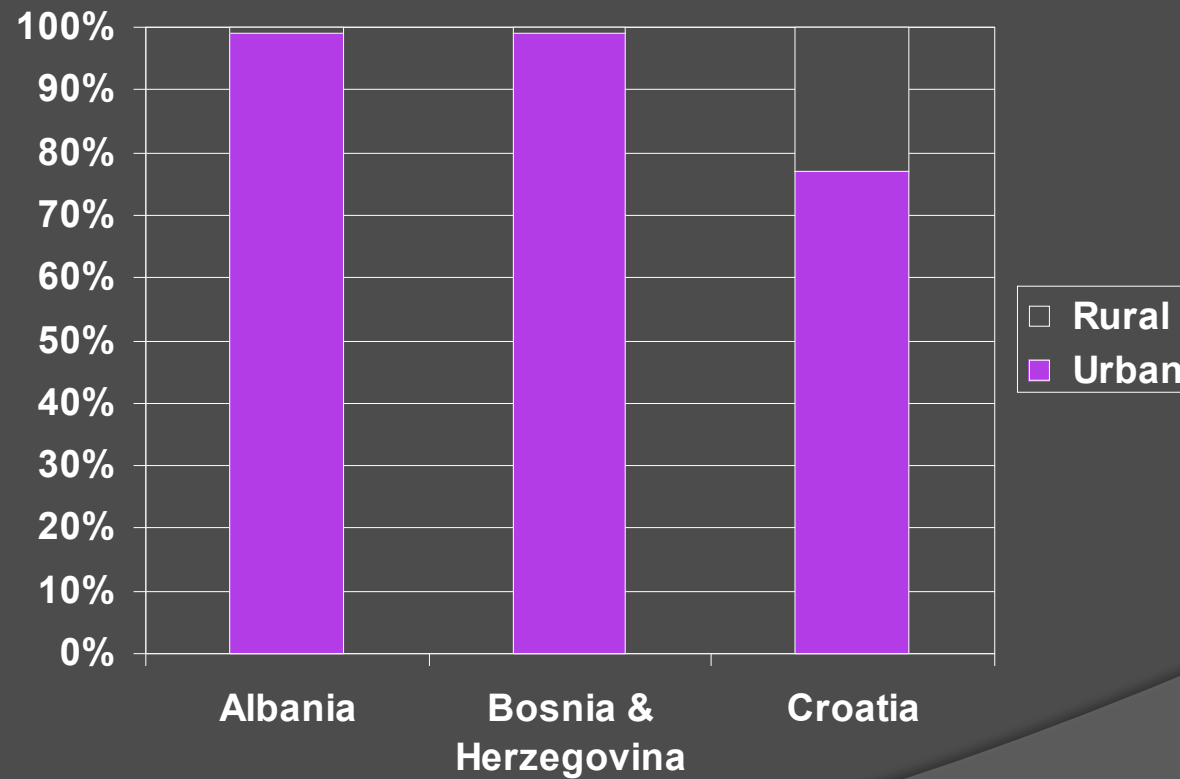
Age distribution of Internet users



Gender distribution of Internet users



Residence distribution of Internet users



Widening the debate

- ⦿ Income as an anchor determinant
- ⦿ Infrastructure
- ⦿ Literacy
 - Computer (technological)
 - Information
 - Contextual (adaptive)
 - Media creativity
 - Social competence
- ⦿ English language

Digital divide's new frontier

- ⦿ Quantitative and qualitative exclusion
- ⦿ Beyond access
 - Processing speed
 - Quality of connection
 - Supporting services
- ⦿ Usage gap
 - Usage patterns
 - Accessible content

Reaching cyber/social inclusion

- Beyond access: basic human right and a precondition for democratic participation, not a goal for itself
- Effective use of information resources as a precondition for overcoming the cumulative marginalisation from production, consumption, social networking and decision-making.
- Social and cyber inclusion as a precondition for equal participation