

# **Contribution from the Regulatory Authority of Hungary, the Communications Authority**

## **Essential Regulatory Principles in Promoting Universal Access to ICTs**

In the course of the ongoing regulatory reform in the infocommunications sector, and considering the impacts and challenges of the accelerating spread of ICT, the following principles are targeted by the Communications Authority of Hungary, in close and common understanding with the Ministry of Informatics and Communications:

- **to extend networks through interconnection**
- **to attract capital to the ICT sector**
- **to explore universal service opportunities for the whole society**
- **to avoid digital divide**

1. **Extension of secure networks and services through interconnection for public use services** (technical regulation)
  - to allow development of technologies and networks to dissolve technology barriers thus furthering interconnection of networks and services
  - to advance personal, physical and information security and reliability (emergency, fraud, terrorism, etc.)
  - to faster responsible handling of information through common regulation of the telecommunications and IT sectors
2. **Maintaining the ICT sector's attraction for capital investments** (market regulation) - - to meet investment demands through:
  - harmonising the interests of the converging ICT sectors
  - facilitating infrastructure based competition to further development of broadband services
  - stimulating competition and introducing cost-harmonised price regulation where needed
  - introducing e-government, e-business and e-learning services, encouraging local governments to build and shape local access demands for the national broadband backbone infrastructure, and to bid for funds thus growing cohesion of less favoured regions
3. **Exploring universal service opportunities** (market analysis)
  - involving operators in technology independent universal service provision
  - modelling and measuring inside- and outside-sector costs and benefits
  - modelling risk reducing impacts of outside sectors (including social benefits)
4. **Analysing long-term impacts of the ICT sector and avoiding digital divide**
  - on the environment and on health (medical risks of existing and future technologies)
  - on society (competitiveness, flexibility and mobility of labour, psychological risks of dropping out of the networked society) to avoid digital divide

The Hungarian regulation has been harmonised with that of the EU, aiming at community goals to build up the "acquis communautaire" in its field.

Budapest, 4 August 2003