

Universal Service Broadband Opportunities and Challenges

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The scale of a country's digital divide reflects the condition of its economy. Eastern Europe has traditionally lagged behind its western counterparts. In spite that digital divide extends beyond connectivity, connectivity is a main challenge. Universal service policy plays a crucial role introducing broadband as a US access. This could change behavior of market players in considering broadband solutions for wider areas. The presentation emphasizes broadband opportunities and challenges for countries in transition and also discusses the way how to involve mobile operators in the broadband access for rural areas and what other broadband wireless technologies can be competitive solutions. The case of Serbia is presented.