Regional Workshop for Europe and CIS On Spectrum Management and Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting 5-7 May 2015, Hotel Mercure Buda

Digital Terrestrial Television Transition – Last Minutes Before Analogue Switch Off - Bosnia And Herzegovina Experience

Jasmin MUSOVIC  
Director of Radiomonitoring, IT and Licence Compliance

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Communications Regulatory Agency
OVERVIEW

• In General:
  – RRC-06
  – GE-06 Agreement
  – DTT FORUM
  – Strategy
    • Allocation and Use of Broadcasting Spectrum Resources
    • Selection of Multiplex Operators
    • Selection of Content/Services Providers

• A History
  – Budgeting
  – National Regulatory Body - CRA
  – Role of Stakeholders

• A Complete Failure of Promising Story
BEGINING OF THE PROMISSING STORY

Regional Radiocommunication Conference (RRC-06):
– Geneva, from 15 May 2006 to 16 June 2006,
– Organised by International Telecommunications Union (ITU) at the initiative of the European countries.

• The Law on Communications of BH,
• The Law on the Public Radio-Television System of BH,
• The Telecommunications Sector Policy,
• The Broadcasting Sector Policy,

– August 2008 The Council of Ministers of B&H examined the Final Acts of the Geneva RRC-06,
– September 2008 the BH Presidency took a Decision on ratifying these documents.
– 16 January 2009 - ratified instrument of the final acts of the conference was deposited by the BH Presidency with the ITU Secretary General.
– The acts were published in the Official Gazette of BH - International Contracts, No. 9/08.
GE-06 Agreement

– The GE-06 agreement determined the 17 June 2015 as the end of the transition period.

– European common proposal (ECP) at RC-06 – to complete transitional period until beginning of 2012

– The European Commission has issued a recommendation to the EU Member States that they must fully switch-off analogue broadcasting and switch-over to digital broadcasting no later than the year 2012.

– The authorities of BH have set the deadline for the digitalization to December 2014, according to the Broadcasting Sector Policy.
8 May 2006, the *Digital Terrestrial Television Forum of BH* (the *DTT Forum*) was established by the Council of Ministers of BH.

- DTT Council (whose members are representatives of the Ministry of Communications and Traffic of BH representatives of the Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA),
- Working groups lead by coordinators:
  - WG1 – Regulatory,
  - WG2 – Programme content,
  - WG3 – Technical,
  - WG4 – Promotion,
  - WG5 – Social and economic aspects.
- Secretariat of the DTT Forum

The DTT Forum department initiated its work in June 2007.

The work of the DTT Forum resulted with the issuing of the 74 pages long document titled *Strategy on the digital switch-over within the frequency bands of 174-230MHz and 470-862MHz in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

Prepared by the DTT Forum and adopted by the Council of Ministers, 17 June 2009,
STRATEGY

• The Strategy envisaged the full account of all legal and regulatory, technical, social and public campaign activities. By analyzing the experiences of other countries as well as the situation in BH,

• The Forum reached the following key conclusions regarding the replacement of analogue by the digital broadcasting:
  – ASO in BH set on 1 December 2011 at the latest (later on changed into 1 December 2014)
  – the DVB-T standard with MPEG-4 (H.264/AVC) compression system will be used;
  – the transition period should be as short as possible;
  – interdependent and interrelated phases;
  – a public campaign - a very important activity;
  – Provision of subsidies for the purchase of the DVB-T receivers.
Allocation and use of broadcasting spectrum resources
Selection of MUX operators

MUX operator:
• Running infrastructure
• Primarily transmit and broadcast TV programmes
• Offer other communication services
• Provides adequate coverage

MUX A
• PBS – and exclusive licence to run MUX A

MUX B and C
• Selected through an open and transparent tender process
• Provide adequate capacities to broadcast TV programmes in minimum Standard Definition
• TV programmes defined by the list publicised by CRA
Selection of content/services providers

- Multiplex A is intended for use and broadcasting by the three public broadcasting services (PBSs).

- The TV programs for MUX B and MUX C will be selected on these principles (during the transitional period, until ASO):
  - Current coverage by the analog terrestrial broadcasting is to be sustained as much as possible
  - The rang list of those who have right to populate one of each allotment of the multiplex is the number of covered population within the allotment (calculation base on records of Statistics on population from 1981)
  - The TV station should transit from broadcast station to broadcast service provider and demonstrate readiness for it by itself.
A History

• In April 2010, the CRA issued a *Decision on the terms and conditions for the utilization of Multiplex A (MUX A) by public broadcasting services for terrestrial digital television broadcasting during the transition period*. Further details on its substance are presented *infra: EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE ONE SET OF FREQUENCIES ON NATIONAL LEVEL*.

• On 14 July 2010, the Council of Ministers of BH adopted a *Decision on the adoption of the Project of Digitization of the Microwave Links of Radio, Television Public Services of Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

• The Ministry of Transport and Communications nominated the Expert Commission of the DTT Forum in February 2011.

• The Commission’s activities have commenced only on 13 September 2011.

• On 7 February 2011, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a *Call for tenders for the supply of transmission and broadcasting equipment to be used in the process of digitalization for PBS for the connection of IT centres in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar* (two transmitters for each city).

• The Council of Ministers of BH has therefore prolonged the mandate of the DTT Forum enabling it to draft a complete and detailed action plan on the finalization of the digitalization process.

• On September 15, 2011, the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the Decision related to inclusion of Project of digitalization in the Programme of multiannual capital investments for the period from 2011 – 2014, in the amount of cca. 18,5 mil EUR.
BUDGETING

The resources for relaxation of this project will be ensured from three sources:

• Budget of institutions of BiH in the amount of cca 6 mil EUR

• From accumulated surplus of revenue of Communications Regulatory Agency BiH in the total amount of cca 8 mil EUR

• From resources paid for allocation of licenses for UMTS in the total amount of cca 4,5 mil

• Expected cost of MUX A infrastructure: ~ 20 mil. EUR
• Expected cost of Promotional Campaigne: ~ 1.5 mil. EUR (source is not defined yet)
• Expected cost of subsidies for purchase of digital receivers: 2-4 mil EUR
CRA – REGULATORY BODY

- *Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA)* that was established on 2 March 2001
  - Independent Media Commission
  - Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
- The *Law on Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina* (the Parliamentary Assembly of BH adopted it in September 2003) sets out the following competences of the CRA:
  - the development and promotion of rules in the sectors of telecommunications and broadcasting,
  - the regulation of broadcasting and public telecommunications networks and services,
  - including licensing, tariffing, interconnection, and defining the basic conditions for the provision of common and international communications facilities,
  - the licensing of operators in the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors,
  - the planning, co-ordinating, allocating and assigning the use of the radio frequency spectrum,
  - the implementation of technical and other standards related to quality, and
  - the establishment and maintenance of licence fees.
THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS

Necessary to establish a balance among the stakeholders:

– the users on one hand,
– and the market on the other,

Who are they?

– telecom operators,
– the Corporation of the Public Broadcasting Service of BH (PBS),
– the Association of Electronic Media in BH,
– the representatives of IT,
– the media industry,
– the Chamber of Commerce,
– nongovernmental organizations,
– the professional community
– the citizens of BH
–...
AND NOTHING HAPPENED

• The Action plan has not been accepted
• The Government failed to provide equipment for Public Broadcasting Services
• Public Broadcasting Services cannot find common solution
• CRA has been completely put aside
• All deadlines omitted
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Jasmin MUSOVIC, MScEE
CRA BH
email:jmusovic@rak.ba