



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTER OF STATE FOR INNOVATION AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER IN ALBANIA

Regional Seminar for Europe and CIS on Spectrum Management and
Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting
21 – 23 March 2016, Bucharest

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DSO in Albania

- Albania, despite intensive efforts, couldn't meet the deadline of full transition to digital TV transmissions.
- Intensive efforts to accelerate as much as possible the completion of DSO process.
- The Regulatory Authority (Audiovisual Media Authority) is fully engaged to manage the interferences caused to neighbors.

Albania Audiovisual Landscape (Public & Private TV sector)

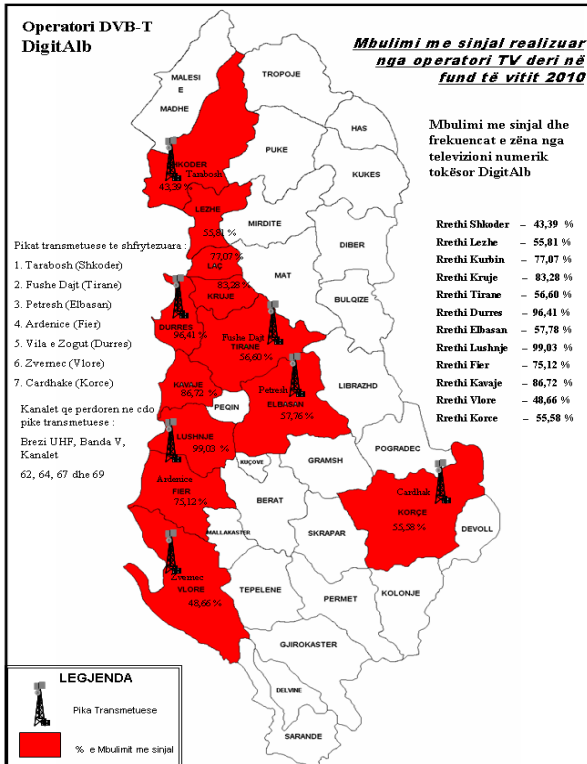
- Public television is run by the RTSH (Albanian Radio-Television) includes:
 - 1 national television network : TVSH (Analogue Terrestrial);
 - 3 regional television networks (Analogue Terrestrial);
- Private television includes:
 - 2 national television networks: Klan TV and Top Channel (Analogue Terrestrial);
 - 70 regional or local television networks (1 town up to 4 districts);
 - 109 cable networks, and;
 - 5 satellite networks (ALSAT, DIGITALB, Supersport, Tring, TV Vision +).

Albania Audiovisual Landscape

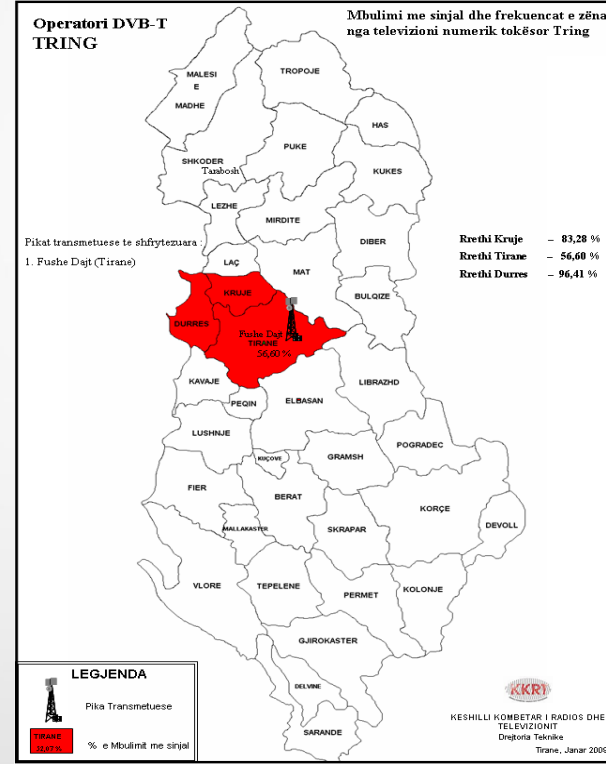
Current Terrestrial Digital Networks

Digital broadcastings a reality since over 8 years in Albania with programs supported either in terrestrial digital networks or in satellite networks.

DIGITALB



TRING



These programs are interesting to a considerable part of the population and they have been tailored to various interests and age-groups.

The public broadcaster, national private operators and a number of local operators are broadcasting simulcast supported by networks of digital broadcasters

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Strategy of transition from analogue to digital broadcasting

Strategy was approved by Council of Ministers Decision Nr. 292, dt 02.05.2012 “On approval of strategy of transition from analogue to digital broadcasting”

Main Objectives

- Digitalization of the terrestrial analogue networks in the Republic of Albania.
- Introducing new media technologies and services (HD-TV, DVBT-H, interactive services, etc.).
- Maintain the market structure so that existing analogue programs that rely on digital platforms to continue to broadcast free-of-air.
- Utilizing the digital dividend for other telecommunications services.

The Immediate Objective

- *Digitization of terrestrial analogue networks of public broadcasters;*
- *Digitization of terrestrial analogue networks of national private operators;*
- *Digitization of terrestrial analogue networks of local private operators;*

GE 06 D Plan for Albania *(Transmission Capacities)*

The Albanian Frequency Plan, approved by the GE06 Agreement, and ratified by the Assembly of Albania, provides the following:

- 7 national coverages with DVB-T (Digital terrestrial television) in UHF band
- 1 national coverage with DVB-T in VHF band
- 2 national coverages with T-DAB (digital radio) in VHF band

In addition to national coverage, the plan also foresees local coverage:

- Tirana sub-allotment with 7 local coverages DVB-T in UHF, 1 coverage in DVB-T VHF and 2 coverages in T-DAB VHF.
- Planning a number of frequencies for local coverage in some areas of Albania

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Strategy of transition from analogue to digital broadcasting

Broadcasting capacity generated by the Albanian digital frequency plan.

Mbulimet	Allotmenti Shkoder	Allotmenti Kukes	Allotmenti Diber	Allotmenti Lezhe	Allotmenti Tirane	Allotmenti Elbasan	Allotmenti Fier	Allotmenti Berat	Allotmenti Korçe	Allotmenti Gjirokastrer	Allotmenti Vlore
	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV	Kanali TV
Mb. 1 Kombetar	9	9	8	9	10	7	10	5	6	8	8
Mb.2 Kombetar	22	26	24	23	21	23	22	24	21	26	23
Mb.3 Kombetar	28	32	25	29	34	33	27	25	27	29	39
Mb. 4 Kombetar	34	36	30	33	39	40	28	30	28	35	43
Mb. 5 Kombetar	41	40	38	43	53	42	29	32	43	37	46
Mb.6 Kombetar	45	42	54	46	57	46	31	36	45	38	57
Mb. 7 Kombetar	51	50	55	66	59	48	35	47	51	44	64
Mb. 8 Kombetar	59	52	60	68	61	49	45	52	55	48	68
Mb. Vendore		56	63			56	51	54	57	50	
Mb. Vendore		65	69			58		61	59	53	
Mb. Vendore						62		65	64	56	
Mb. Vendore						68		66		58	
Mb. Vendore										60	
Mb. Vendore										63	
Mb. Vendore										67	
Mb. Vendore										69	

Lines of the same colour are frequency combination of a national digital network MFN. There is the potential to build a total of eight digital networks with national coverage.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Strategy of transition from analogue to digital broadcasting

To maintain the same market structure with a considerable number of existing broadcasters through using more efficiently the spectrum, reduced in capacity as the need of DD release, the digital networks in Albania is to be based on:

DVB-T2 transmission system:

- Co-existing till the complete transition to DVB-T2.

MPEG-4 compression standards:

- The transition period MPEG2 / MPEG-4 not more than 3 years.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Law “On the audio visual media in the Republic of Albania”

The law nr. 97/2013 “On audio visual media in the Republic of Albania” was approved on March 2013.

1. Final deadline of full transition to digital TV broadcasting is the date **17 June 2015**.
2. The manner of transition, respective institutions, financing and all other issues connected to this process were defined in the strategy of conversion from analogue to digital broadcasting, approved by Council of Ministers.
3. With the entry into force of this law, the issuance of broadcasting licenses for analogue terrestrial television was prohibited.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Models of licensing of digital networks and services in Albania

To fulfil the public mission of the electronic media it was chosen to have an audio visual licensing system based on following types of licenses :

1. Service license for audio visual programmes
2. Audio visual broadcasting license, which consists of:
 - i. Service license for audio visual programmes,
 - ii. Licence to establish and operate a digital television network

The licenses are categorized into:

- a) national – when not less than 80% of the territory is covered with signal;
- b) regional – for coverage of up to four regions which are located in the same geographic stretch; and
- c) local, for coverage of one region.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Digitalization of public broadcaster

- ❖ Public broadcaster (RTSH) creates, exploits and operates national digital network based of the contract stipulated with AMA
- ❖ Public Broadcaster remit is to offer free to air informative, didactic and entertainment programs to the users spread over the country despite their geographic position.
- ❖ Number of “public” programs will be defined after public consultation procedure.
- ❖ Public broadcaster will broadcast, also, conditional access programs.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Licensing digital networks and the programs in the transitional period

Licensing national digital networks and the programs in the transitional period

b) AMA, based on the development of the broadcasting market, determines national historical private operators and existing operators, with experience in digital broadcasting, which will be invited to participate in the selection procedure, for the eligible operator to build a digital network, according to the beauty contest's procedure.

Applicants to participate in the selection procedure must meet the following conditions:

- i) the release of frequencies occupied arbitrarily, if they operate in such conditions , and migrate to frequencies specified in the Digital Plan (GE 06), according to the AMA 's specifications , within a time specified in the license;
- ii) each operator will be licensed for one national digital network standard DVB - T2 with MPEG-4 compression. In the license are set deadlines for the transition to DVB - T2 and MPEG - 4 , but not more than three years from the time of licensing;
- iii) supporting local networks operators for programs as well as facility sharing ensuring equal access , non-discrimination and transparency ;

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Existing analog national programs will continue to be broadcasted free to air even after their transfer on digital platforms.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Licensing digital networks and the programs in the transitional period

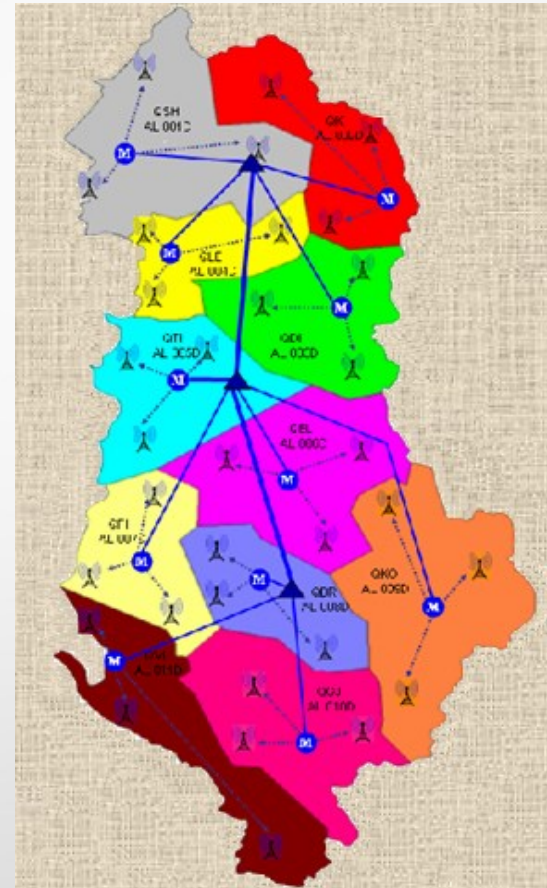
Licensing for local or regional digital networks is done by the following procedure:

all existing analogue local operators have the right to:

- i) seek the support of their programs in digital public television network or other digital networks, licensed under this law;
- ii) jointly apply for a license within a local area planned to be covered by a SFN network, upon the digital frequency plan;
- iii) to take part in the competition organized by the AMA for one local digital network license, under the provisions of this law;

Transfer of the existing local programs into the Public Broadcaster's digital platform

- Local operators will pay a differentiated yearly fee.
- Local operators will connect their studios with the local head end office using their own funds.
- Implementation by “Digital Island” approach.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Licensing digital networks and the programs after the transitional period

After transition period:

- Digital network license is given by an open competition warranting an equal, objective and non discriminatory treatment.
- AMA, with its own initiative or with the request of interested subjects, open the competition process, taking into consideration the frequency plan and the availability of the free frequencies for digital broadcasting.

Digital Dividend

DD1

The frequency band 790-862 MHz currently under the administration of the AMA, occupied by:

1. existing analogue broadcasts,
2. existing digital broadcasting (outside the GE-06 plan),
3. Planned digital assignments (GE-06-D).

DD1 will be fully released upon completion of the digital transition.

DD2

The frequency band 460-790 MHz (UHF channels 61-69), currently fully occupied by analogue and existing digital assignments,

A technical working group on planning the use of the Digital Dividend II was created by the Minister in cooperation with AMA and AKEP.

Digital Dividend

DD1 and DD2 in Frequency Plan of Albania

The release of DD1 and DD2 a major challenge for Albania, since it significantly reduces the capacity frequency resources for digital broadcasting

Nr. rretheshave	Allotment Shkoder	Allotment Kukes	Allotment Diber	Allotment Lezhe	Allotment Tirane	Allotment Elbasan	Allotment Fier	Allotment Berat	Allotment Korçe	Allotment Gjirokaste	Allotment Vlore	Sub.Allotment Tirane
1	9	9	8	9	10	7	10	5	6	8	8	6
2	22	26	24	23	21	23	22	24	21	26	23	26
3	28	32	25	29	34	33	27	25	27	29	39	37
4	34	36	30	33	39	40	28	30	28	35	43	44
5	41	40	38	43	41	42	29	32	43	37	46	50
6	45	42	54	46	53	46	31	36	45	38	57	60
7	51	50	55	66	57	48	35	47	51	44	64	64
8	59	52	60	68	59	49	45	52	55	48	68	67
9		56	63		61	56	51	54	57	50		
10		65	69			58		61	59	53		
11						62		65	64	56		
12						68		66		58		
13										60		
14										63		
15										67		
16										69		

Red color: DD1 frequencies

Blue color: DD2 frequencies

Current status of DSO

- Public Broadcaster is implementing the project of constructing two digital networks. At the end of the project, 95.6 % of population will be covered by digital transmission. Is forecasted this project to be completed within January 2016.
- The digital networks of the RTSH will support the programmes of the existing local analogue broadcasters, thus insuring the digitization of a part of private transmissions and the release of a part of DD band.
- The decision of AMA relating the licensing of the existing operators based on “beauty contest” procedure is currently under the court procedures.
- By the Decision of the Council of the Ministers no. 480/2015, all TV receives to be marked in Albania should meet DVB-T2/MPEG4 and “common interface” standards.
- The Council of the Ministers has approved the decision to subsidize the DVB-T2/MPG4 decoders to all families in need.
- Intensive efforts are being made to switch off all analogue transmission within this year.



Thank You!