



effective control over the work of operators, network integrity and security of communications.

During 2017, the quality and availability of mobile broadband data services has been further enhanced, primarily due to the expansion of LTE network coverage by all three mobile operators. The number of users of electronic communications services in Montenegro is steadily increasing in all segments of the market. With 168% Montenegro is one of the countries with the largest penetration in mobile telephony in Europe. The coverage of the population with the signal of mobile networks of 99% can be compared with the most developed countries of Europe. Namely, all three operators emphasize the coverage of the population with the GSM signal of about 99%, while the total coverage of UMTS and LTE networks is above 95%.

The "Digital Dividend" has been successfully realized, resulting in a strong expansion of 4G networks and services, and prerequisites for valorizing the spectrum needed for the development of 5G networks and services are set.

Investments in the networks and services of the new generation in Montenegro, which primarily provide fast Internet access through fixed and wireless technologies, over the past two years have far exceeded the level of investments in previous years. Private investors in the telecommunications market in Montenegro recognize the readiness of Montenegrin society and markets to accept and use new technologies and monitor global trends in digitization.

In the White Book of the Council of Foreign Investors of Montenegro for 2018, the telecommunications and ICT sector has been recognized as the most favorable in terms of the simplicity and effectiveness of operations in the country, which confirms the efforts of the Government of Montenegro



in this field. The best response of investors to such a policy is the announcement of new, multi-million, capital investments this year.

In addition to creating a favorable investment environment, the Government, in cooperation and partnership with all operators and ICT companies, encourages the development of concrete digital solutions that will improve the living and working conditions for citizens and the economy.

The projects are realized in cooperation with the operators of electronic communications, whose implementations in progress or planned, are relating to, 'Smart cities', monitoring systems in the field of agriculture, ecology, communal problems, the project of telemedicine, projects of increasing the digital literacy and safety of children on the Internet, as well as the project of digital networking of day care centers for persons with disabilities.

The Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services at the end of 2016 started implementation of system for mapping of electronic communication infrastructures (telecommunication cable sewage, antenna lines and facilities for the accommodation of electronic communication devices). The Agency plans to have the electronic communications infrastructure mapping system publicly available, because the data that this system has at its disposal can be interesting for other users, processors of spatial planning documents, investors, etc.

The Government will work on legal solutions to reduce the costs of building high-speed networks, eliminate all barriers to digital development, simplify procedures and coordinate all stakeholders in carrying out work on network infrastructure. Ministry of Economy is preparing draft Law on measures to



reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks - Directive 2014/61/EU, which adoption is planned for 2019 year.

In meantime, we will encourage investments and development of networks in suburban and rural areas using the existing infrastructure of energy, as well as utility, railway and other state-owned enterprises. Also, as an example of good business practice, we highlight the cooperation of state-owned energy operators with electronic communications operators. In this way, it significantly reduces costs and shortens the time needed to build a network, and the state doubles the capacity of existing infrastructure through its companies: capacity-building revenues and strongly encourages the construction of telecommunications access networks for the transmission of digital TV signals and high-speed internet throughout the country. As a result of all these measures we expect continuous development of networks and services, reduction of the costs of production of services, which will lead to an increase in the level of use and to lower prices of services, all of which creates the preconditions for further development, modernization and digitization of the economy and society.

Given the increasing number of users of electronic communications services, that electronic communications services operators are almost entirely based on IP platforms, the next logical step in the development of electronic communications networks and services is the implementation of IPv6 protocols. Therefore, it is necessary to prepare a migration plan for the IPv6 protocol in accordance with the standards, decisions and recommendations of the relevant European and international bodies. The Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services has provided funds for migration to IPv6 on which works with the Ministry of Economy.



The digital dimension has become part of the Multi-Year Action Plan, within the framework of the Berlin Process, which will further strengthen efforts to integrate the region into the pan-European digital market and through the Western Balkan six countries (WB6) initiative.

The Government of Montenegro, through the telecommunications regulatory body, Ekip in close collaboration with ITU, has been holding an annual Regional Regulatory Conference since 2013 within the wider context of INFOFEST, the regional festival of ICT Achievements, which attracts participation from Government as well as private sector from the Western Balkans and beyond. This conference is a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices and has led to collaboration in the form of twinning programs, amongst other. In the 2017 edition, a national workshop on the transition from IPV4 to IPV6 was also held.

## Proposals

1. For 2018 to 2021, ITU continues hosting the annual Regional Regulatory Conferences within the INFOFEST context and invite all to participate in the 2018 edition on 1-2 October with them 'Evolving Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Future'
2. In 2019, to facilitate future national actions on the transition from IPV4 to IPV6, ITU considers conducting a study on transition from IPV4 to IPV6 with case studies from the region.
3. In 2019, ITU considers offering assistance to the process of digital transformation in Montenegro.

