



# **ICT ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

**Malta, 4 December 2019**

# MONTENEGRO, QUICK FACTS

- Total surface of 13,812 sq km
- Population: 620,029, Households: 192,242 (2011 Census)
- Republican form of government
  - 24 Municipalities
  - (The capital: Podgorica)
  - (The old Royal Capital: Cetinje)
- Average number of household members: 3.2
  - Population density (per sq km): 44.9
- 11% of the total population has difficulties in performing daily activities (chronic disease, disability or old age).
- 5% of the Montenegrin population has difficulties with mobility, 2% with vision, and 1% of persons have hearing difficulties.




# LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The Constitution of Montenegro
  - protection of human rights and freedoms
  - prohibition of discrimination
  - special protection to persons with disabilities.
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities
  - compliance analysis of legislation in Montenegro with this Law and UN Convention
  - recommendation to harmonisation of about 60 laws and regulations



# STRATEGIES

- The Strategy for Integration of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020 (areas for joint actions)
  - European strategy for persons with disabilities 2010-2020
    - ensuring the accessibility of web sites of state institutions
    - promotion of access of persons with disabilities to new ICT technologies
  - The strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities from Discrimination and Promotion of Equality
    - The objective
      - full equality of persons with disabilities in accordance with the principles of the UN Convention, the Constitution and the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities
    - The task
      - harmonization of the legal framework with international standards
      - prevention of violations of the prohibition of discrimination of persons with disabilities
      - monitoring and implementation of the UN Convention
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# REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- The Law on Electronic Media
  - The Agency for Electronic Media (AEM)
  - Status and competencies of AEM
  - Rights, duties and responsibilities of AVM service providers (Radio and TV broadcasters, CATV providers)
  - Status and competencies of AEM
  - Other matters relevant for AVM service provision
- The Law on Electronic Communications
  - The Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP)
  - Activities in the field of EC networks and services
  - Status and competencies of EKIP
  - Procedures for:
    - Operators and EC service providers
    - User rights
    - Provision of Universal Service
    - Use of numbers and radio-frequency spectrum



# AVM AND EC SECTOR

- AVM Sector (Source AEM – [www.ardcg.org](http://www.ardcg.org))
  - National PBS (2 radio and 2 TV programmes)
  - Local public broadcasters (14 radio and 3 TV)
  - 15 commercial TV broadcasters (3 with national DTT coverage)
  - 39 FM broadcasters (5 with national coverage)
  - 2 non-profit FM radio broadcasters (local and regional)
  - Free-to-air DTT available to 92% of population (5TVs and 2 PBS radio programmes)
  - Only about 5% of households use FTA DTT
  - 95 % of households use one of distribution platform (IPTV, DTH, MMDS, CATV-CDS)
- EC sector/broadband (Source EKIP – [www.ekip.me](http://www.ekip.me))
  - The total number of broadband connections : 172,891
  - Access speed in range 30-50 Mbps
  - FTTH/B, VDSL, ADSL, HFC



# ACCESSIBILITY IN THE BROADCASTING

- Only few broadcasters provide minimum possibilities and dedicated programmes for persons with disabilities
  - PBS: first daily news with the support for deaf people (Deaf sign language)
  - Public service broadcasting – digitalisation
- Programmes dedicated to persons with disabilities
  - Programmes of national and local PBs
- The Fund for Support Commercial Radio Broadcasters



# ACTIONS ON ACCESSIBILITY

- The AEM activities
  - to improve the accessibility of contents and their availability
  - to increase the number of contents dealing with issues of importance for the person with disabilities
  - very good cooperation and communication with many organizations and institutions dealing with issues of importance for Persons with Disabilities in Montenegro
  - The analyses of accessibility and contents dedicated to persons with disabilities in the programmes of Montenegrin broadcasters
    - lack of the accessible content in the programmes broadcast
    - the Montenegrin broadcasters did not recognise the existing technological possibilities as a tool to increase accessible contents
  - Workshop: "**Securing Accessibility of ICT/e-Accessibility - WEB and TV/Video**"





# FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- DTT
  - Technological possibilities to produce accessible content
- DAB+
  - New radio contents fully devoted to persons with disabilities
  - Promotion of social inclusion and integration
  - New jobs
- PBS
- New AVM Law
  - Audiovisual Media Service Directive – Directive (EU) 2018/1808
    - Article 7 of the Directive
    - The services and programmes provided by broadcasters, and other service providers, should be made continuously and progressively accessible
    - Creation of accessibility action plans by service providers and their notification to the regulatory authority
    - emergency information, public communications and announcements in the event of natural disaster



# CONCLUSION

- Legislation in Montenegro, current strategies and institutions have recognised the necessity to significantly increase the amount of accessible content in the electronic media programmes
- We are still facing a significant lack of accessible programmes both in terms of quantity and diversity
- We will continue with actions and initiatives in order to promote significance of accessible contents in programmes, and we will try to involve all stakeholders

