

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

*Information and Communication Technologies for  
Attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

Monday 6 May 2019 | Rome, Italy

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/RDF/Regional-Development-Forum.aspx>

### CONTRIBUTION BY MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

**TITLE: BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT**

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**Europe Regional Initiative:** EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

**Year(s) of implementation:** 2019

#### Background

Digital Economy is related with usage of ICT in every sector of the economy and in our daily activities. Development of digital economy is closely related with digital infrastructure, broadband connectivity. Broadband connectivity and ICT access are prominent needs to ensure economic growth and competitiveness and create an investment-friendly environment for the private sector.

Recognizing the role of ICTs in economic and social development, including the development and evolution of world class commerce, education, health, and government administration services, the Government of Albania has identified digital connectivity and broadband infrastructure as a key priority in the strategic documents such as National Strategy for Development and Integration, Digital Agenda Strategy and Economic Reform Program (ERP) 2018-2020.

The National Broadband Plan approved on 2013 and amended on 2015 was prepared with support of ITU. To improve digital connectivity, and promote investment in broadband networks, Albania has approved a new law on development of high speed electronic communications networks which has adopted the recent EU directive 2014/61/EU on cost reduction of broadband networks.

The figures for Internet users and broadband users in Albania are increased yearly by 10-15%, but the fixed broadband penetration remains in low levels compared with other countries in the region. The



mobile broadband is provided based on 4G/LTE networks. Fixed broadband penetration is approximately 40% of households; Mobile penetration is higher than fixed, at around 80%; Albania had planned to review the National Broadband Plan during 2018.

Albania has achieved some progress regarding broadband development. The new law on the development of broadband networks was approved and under implementation. The Digital Dividend 1, frequency band has been released from broadcasters and the licensing procedure for mobile broadband will be open soon. A prefeasibility study on broadband development is done with support of UNDP during 2017, while a fully-fledged feasibility study for broadband development is forecasted to be prepared during 2018. Albania need to review the National Broadband Plan. The existing National broadband was prepared with support of ITU and approved on 2013.

## Proposals

*Proposal 1:* At the RDF 2018, Albania expressed the will cooperate with ITU to host a regional conference on digital connectivity/Broadband Development during 2019. We are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), will organize the Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2019 for Europe (RRS-19-Europe) in Tirana, from 24 to 27 June, in cooperation with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).

*Proposal 2:* Albania asks for ITU support in the process of preparation of new broadband plan. This request was made in 2018 but could not be implemented. The request is re-iterated for 2019 for implementation

