Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television in Macedonia

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Agency for Electronic Communications

Regional Seminar on Transition to Digital Terrestrial Television
Broadcasting and Digital Dividend

29-31 January 2014, Budapest, Hungary
ASO Goals

• Full digital broadcast of terrestrial television program services in the Republic of Macedonia on 1 June 2013

• All existing broadcasters at national, regional and local level to move from analog to digital broadcast of their television programming services and

• 790-862 MHz frequency band from 1 December 2013 to begin to be used for providing mobile communications services of the Fourth Generation
Analogue TV channels

513 analogue frequencies
Terrestrial Broadcasters

• National level
  - 3 programs of Public broadcaster (more than half of the assigned frequencies)
  - 4 programs of commercial broadcasters

• Regional level
  - 10 programs of commercial broadcasters in the capitol Skopje

• Local level
  - 46 programs of commercial broadcasters
## GE06

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allotment zone</th>
<th>UHF-DVB-T</th>
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# Frequency Plan for DVB-T

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<th>ALLOTMENT ZONE</th>
<th>DIGI PLUS MULTIMEDIJA</th>
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<tr>
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<td>MUX 1</td>
<td>MUX 2</td>
<td>MUX 3</td>
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<td>D1 CRN VRV/SKOPJE</td>
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- **Pay TV**
  - In 2009 these MUX were awarded through tender procedure to Slovenia Telekom

- **Free to air**
  - In the beginning of 2012 these MUX were awarded to Public Enterprise according to the Law (for public TV services)

- **Free to air**
  - In November 2012 these MUX were awarded through tender procedure (for commercial TV services)
ASO

Analogue switch off at the same time throughout the state: Equal treatment of all viewers, most of the population is covered by a digital signal (simulcast period), speed of process (in one day)

01.06.2013 at 00:00

Key factors for success:

• Participation of all stakeholders in the process: Governmental institutions (Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Agency for electronic communications, Broadcasting Council), Broadcasters, Operators ...

• Coordinator of the process

• Funds to support the process

• Timely and appropriate information to viewers (Promotion campaign)

• Subsidies for equipment for the reception
Was ASO successful?

Number of terrestrial TV broadcasters before ASO:
• 3 national TV channels of Public broadcaster
• 4 national TV channels of commercial broadcasters
• 10 regional TV channels of commercial broadcasters
• 46 local TV channels of commercial broadcasters

Number of terrestrial TV broadcasters after ASO:
• 3 national TV channels of Public broadcaster
• 5 national TV channels of commercial broadcasters
• 26 regional TV channels of commercial broadcasters

➤ 27 local + 2 regional TV channels change platform (cable TV)
➤ 1 regional become national

⇒ No closed broadcasters
Future Challenges

One operator for commercial broadcasters (potential monopoly)

Measures taken:
- Broadcasting market definition and analysis (ongoing)
- Designation of SMP operator and appropriate obligations
- Price regulation

Pending issues:
Assignment of the last MUX
DVB-T2 migration

⇒ Development of the strategy document (by the Media Agency)