

Telecommunications Policy and Next Generation Networks.

This presentation proceeds from a description of the aims of telecommunications regulation in terms of the realization of social and economic benefits to a review of the trends in the structure of the telecommunications industry (considering the privatization of formerly monopoly telecommunication service providers and the introduction of competition) and associated regulatory policy. It considers the convergence of telecommunications technology and the associated trend towards technology-independent regulatory frameworks for telecommunications, broadcasting and print media. An example will be given of the impact and issues associated with the introduction of IP Telephony services. And finally, the various aspects of NGN regulation will be described as well as some policy options.