Trends for Fixed and Mobile users growth based on statistics data for ICT Indicators

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Recent development of fixed and mobile networks in terms of telecommunication technologies and ideas for evolution to the next generation networks has posed general questions like: are the mobile communications going to replace the fixed lines, at least in the residential market segment; have the fixed networks reached saturation and are they now only loosing subscribers; how the new services requiring more bandwidth are going to be offered technologically.

At the same time in the beginning of the new millennium the vast difference in access to telecommunications in the world remains and even grows deeper. The highly industrialized countries have reached saturation while developing countries and after all LDCs has a long way to go. In some areas very old technological solutions like the analogue switches are still in service in the PSTN.

This presentation tries to give answer on the above questions by looking to the tendencies through the available statistical data and drawing some conclusions on the example of the historical development of the highly industrialised countries, believed to have reached saturation of the basic telecommunication services.

For example the residential subscribers potential of the fixed network in any country could be calculated from the statistics for the population, number of the households or average household size once the trends in the highly industrialized countries are analyzed from the available statistics for average teledensity, teledensity per household and percentage of residential lines .

Another example is the trend of utilization of the fixed and mobile networks from the average customer observed through comparison of data for mean call duration or traffic in eider of them.

Main source of the used statistical data are the world telecommunication/ICT indicators collected regularly by ITU.