

## **National Regulatory Authority for Communications Initiates the Procedure for Designating Universal Service Providers in Romania**

The National Regulatory Authority for Communications (ANRC) initiated the procedure for designating universal service providers by open tender. The goal of designating universal service providers is to ensure that end users have access to Internet services and are able to initiate and receive local, long distance, and international calls in telecentres. According to Decision no.1074/2004 on the implementation of universal service in the field of electronic communications, the selected providers must install telecentres with at least two computers enabling Internet access, one facsimile machine, and two telephone terminals offering access to the public telephone network at a fixed location. The telecentres will be deployed in 50 localities, selected according to the following criteria: the number of inhabitants, the degree of availability of publicly available telephone services, and the efficiency of implementing such projects.

Providers of public electronic communications networks and providers of publicly available telephone service with a minimum of one year's experience in service provision are eligible to be designated as universal service providers. Universal service providers will be designated for a period of 3 years. Compensation for the net cost of providing such service will be financed from contributions made by providers of public electronic communications networks and publicly available telephony services whose 2003 turnover was equal to or more than EUR 3,000,000.

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Adapted from: National Regulatory Authority for Communications (ANRC)

(Source: <http://www.anrc.ro/en/06octombrie2004.htm> and

[http://www.anrc.ro/en/anunt\\_Telecentre\\_oct2004.htm](http://www.anrc.ro/en/anunt_Telecentre_oct2004.htm)) (6 October 2004)