

**SOURCE:                    Autorité de Régulation de la Poste et des Télécommunications (ARPT) in Algeria**

On the first area, entitled: Funding mechanisms to foster public and private investment in broadband, defining the policy and regulatory framework, goals and achievements expected

Steps must be taken to foster the creation of public funds for digital inclusion, to be financed by fiscal revenues raised from the activities of telecommunication sector operators and equipment manufacturers and of multimedia content producers.

The voluntary collection of private funds is another possibility, but initiatives of that kind carry less weight in developing countries, where State action is the most common.

Regulators and the public authorities must have a policy vision enabling them to define a long-term strategy in this area. This would make it easier to draw up the regulatory framework needed to translate that vision into reality.

The regulatory framework must be of a kind that promotes free enterprise and must be based on competition.

On the second area, entitled: Investment incentives, coordination with stakeholders, other national entities involved and collaboration at the regional and international levels

Intelligent use of tax revenues in order to draw investment to the sector by introducing tax exemptions, and incentive measures facilitating access to bank loans.

Establishment of coordinating bodies, such as a national broadband or digital inclusion commission or council, encompassing the public authorities, investors and users.

The most must be made of other countries' experience by promoting the exchange of expertise at regional and international level.

Everything must also be done to take advantage of the potential economies of scale of a regional market, which is more attractive from that point of view for large investors (synergy of means).

On the third area, entitled: Stimulating innovation and development of applications and services

Stimulation of innovation presupposes the existence of a fertile breeding ground, which is unimaginable without the development of human potential. A first-class training system must be put in place to provide creative human resources.

Once that system is in place, the next step is to introduce incentive rules and regulations that relax procedures and associate the university and laboratories, by appropriate financial means, in research/development in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

It is, of course, essential to protect intellectual property, as this reassures researchers and inventors.

On the fourth area, entitled: Expanding digital literacy

A prerequisite that must be respected here is access by all to digital terminals (computers, smart phones, etc.). The State must implement policies that deliberately make these tools available at affordable prices, paying adequate compensation to manufacturers making them available to as many people as possible in a resource-sharing setting involving local communities and collective access points such as schools and rural or urban access centres housing a stock of terminal equipment.

Training in the use of such tools is also important. It can be dispensed in schools or at sites offering access. It can also be dispensed by existing associations. The workplace is another natural site for training of this kind.

Thought should be given here to the creation of funding tools for this kind of training, such as public funds financed by the State budget to train everyone in ICTs. The fund would be used *inter alia* to pay the costs incurred by this training effort (teaching equipment and personnel).