

Promoting the development of broadband Internet access at local government

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INTRODUCTION

HAKOM - Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries is a legal entity with public authority within the scope and competence prescribed by the Electronic Communications Act and a special law regulating the field of postal services and the field of railway services

HAKOM – shall be obliged to take all the appropriate measures which are aimed at achieving the regulatory principles and objectives in particular in the following way:

- Encouraging efficient investment into infrastructure and promoting innovation and to allow different cooperation agreements between investors in infrastructure and by ensuring the protection of competition and respecting the principle of non-discrimination
- Protection of competition to the benefit of end-users

(Electronic Communication Act, Article 5.)



Educate local governments

- The NRA carries out activities according to annual work program, which among other things, is aligned with:
 - Action plan of BB Development Strategy in the Republic of Croatia 2014 to 2015.
 - The strategy of development of broadband Internet access is in accordance with the Digital Agenda for Europe 2020
 - Framework national program for the development of broadband infrastructure in areas where there is sufficient interest in the commercial investment (ONP)
 - Programme Competitiveness and cohesion of multi-year financial plan of the EU (2014-2020)





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The main objective and purpose of BB promotion

The main objective of the project: promote the development of infrastructure of broadband telecommunications network to enable faster economic development and increase the competitiveness of all regions in Croatia



The specific objectives of the project :

- encourage the development of broadband networks using existing fibre-optic trunk lines owned by the state, and companies and institutions in majority state ownership
- educate project developers in preparation of project documentation for the implementation of broadband access networks in cities and municipalities
- provide support to cities, municipalities and counties at check-in to apply for funding of state aid funds from the EU structural funds and other sources
- sharing of "best practice"



The main objective and purpose

During training main points are :

- recognizing the importance of increasing the broadband speed for the development of local communities
- information and education, support of local governments on the importance of building infrastructure and promoting the use of broadband, particularly in areas of special state concern
- recognizing the importance of increasing the speed of broadband access to provide better services for public institutions and companies
- recognition and increase the speed of Internet Connectivity with GDP growth
- importance of setting the fibre optic infrastructure to provide broadband service
- achieving the goals of the DAE in Croatia



Basic messages

- provider of broadband internet access to the citizens facilitates everyday life and work
- replacement of the existing infrastructure and building optical network is critical for establishing high-quality broadband services





significantly increase of the Internet speed enables the development of new products and services, which consequently leads to the growth of GDP



Other messages

- it is important that all units of local government well understand the opportunities, challenges and requirements that requires investment in NGN infrastructure
- explain to local governments that construction and reconstruction of broadband infrastructure is not an obligation of operators (unless they have a commercial interest)
- financing models and incentives to invest in broadband infrastructure
- the importance of regional plans and other documentation
- the importance of planning and setting up the introduction of broadband internet connections in the execution of infrastructure works (water, electricity, roads ...)



- the importance of ensuring broadband Internet access services in the areas of public institutions
- show positive examples of those communities that have already taken certain steps in this direction



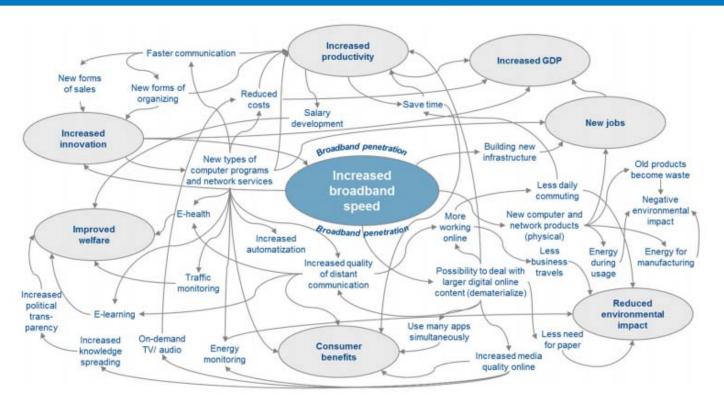
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The usefulness of broadband Internet access

Figure 2: Broadband networks in a web of socio-economic value creation

Socioeconomic Web of Benefits from High Speed Broadband¹⁾



Note: This map is a simplification - in reality there are even more factors and linkages

1) Arthur D. Little study in cooperation with Chalmers University of Technology and Ericsson. Based on advanced econometric analysis of 33 OECD countries with speed intervals of 2 to 20 Mbps

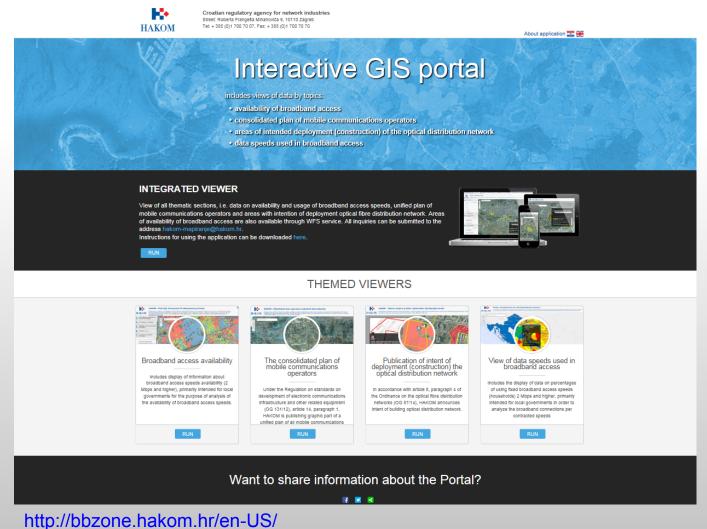
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HAKOM's GIS portal

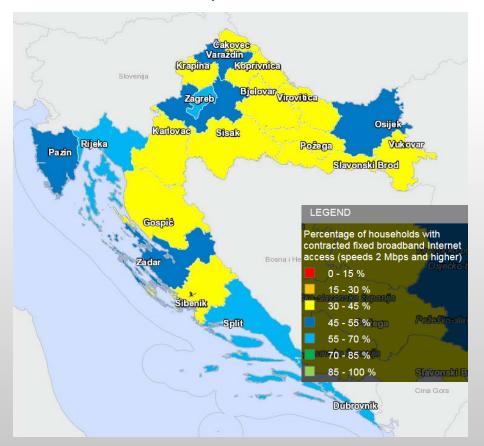


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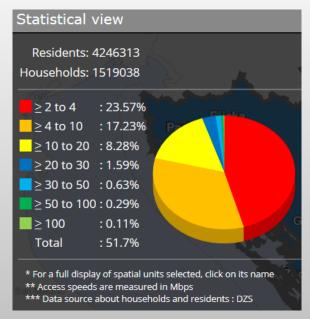
Condition of broadband access in the Republic of Croatia

51,25% of households in the Republic of Croatia have fixed broadband access with ≥ 2 Mbps



^{*} Data source: http://bbzone.hakom.hr/hr-HR/StatistickiPrikaz

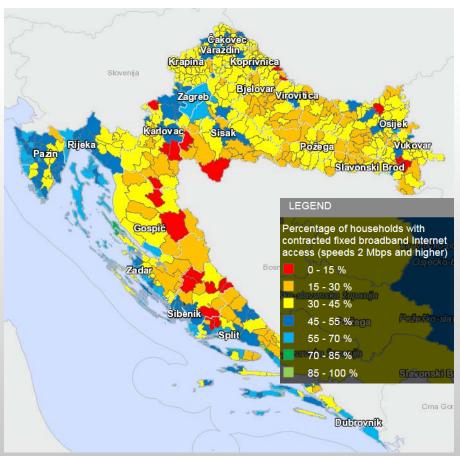
- 78,9% of connected households is using speeds of 2 to 10 Mbps s,
- Only 2% of households in Croatia is using NGA speeds (30 Mbps and more)



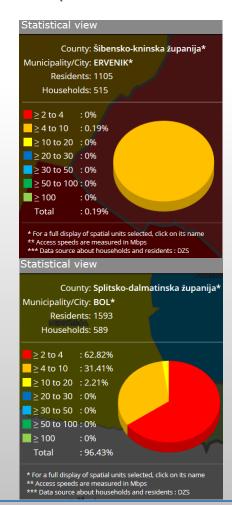


Digital divide

The range of use of 0,19% (Municipality Ervenik) to 96,43% (Bol, island of Brac)



^{*} Data source: http://bbzone.hakom.hr/hr-HR/StatistickiPrikaz





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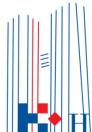
EU funds

In accordance with the Multi-annual financial framework of the EU (EU MFF) for the 2014th to 2020th, the Republic of Croatia is available 10,42 billion €

- Operational Programme
 Competitiveness and cohesion indicative allocation of 6,88 billion €
- Priority Axis 2: Improving the availability and use of ICT indicative allocation of 269 million €



*More on EU funds to : http://www.strukturnifondovi.hr/eu-fondovi



OP Competitiveness and cohesion 2014th-2020th **PO2: Improving access to and use of ICT**

AKOM

- Investment priorities: Strengthening the application of information and communication technologies for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health
- Specific objective: Establishment of integrated interoperable ICT solutions in the public sector with the aim to interconnect and to improve the provision of e-services
- Indicative allocation: 90 million €
- Investment priorities: Expanding the availability of broadband connections and the introduction of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of new technologies and networks for the digital economy
- Objective: Increase broadband NGN coverage in areas without broadband NGN infrastructure and without sufficient commercial interest for investment in NGN broadband infrastructure by the operator on the electronic communications market



Indicative allocation of 179 million €.





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