

Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau Mr. Sanou,

President of Office of Electronic Communications, Mrs. Gaj,

Representative of European Commission, Mr. Acchioni,

Excellences,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for your invitation to this session, and let me thank the organizers in particular for this excellent initiative – Broadband services and infrastructure mapping is a subject that already affects each and every one of us and I am very pleased to be able to discuss it with you here in Warsaw.

Electronic communication networks are currently at a turning point. Internet is not evenly distributed. Bridging the digital divide is crucial. For that we need new investments, large investments, in order to achieve the objectives of a digital agenda. We need to foster deployment and take up of NGA networks across territory. At the same time it is crucial to reduce the costs wherever is possible. In that context Broadband services and infrastructure mapping is necessary to identify the areas which are eligible to the state aid (so called white areas), or on the other hand to identify already existing physical infrastructures which could be used for deployment of high speed networks and in a such way reduce the costs significantly. Referring to cost reduction, most of you know that each member state until January the 1st had to transpose Directive on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks, and it should be applied by 1st of July this year. Within this directive Infrastructure mapping is one of the pillars (key points).

Currently in Republic of Croatia we are in the process of adoption of laws which will implement this directive and I believe it will be adopted by end of June.

In Croatia, deployment of broadband infrastructure was (and still is) one of our main goals even before we entered European Union. In 2011 HAKOM released Programme for the Development of the Internet and Broadband Internet Access in the Areas of Special State Concern, hilly and mountainous areas and islands" financed from its own budget. Today, Croatia is an EU member state and our national broadband strategy is fully in line with DAE 2020 targets. Also, Croatia will use EU funds for broadband development in white NGA areas. Therefore, in May 2013 HAKOM launched project of mapping availability of infrastructures (networks) enabling broadband access. As a result of that project, we have available online interactive map showing availability of broadband access services of defined speed for each object on post address level. The map is published on HAKOM's web site and it could be used to identify white, grey and black areas. Besides availability, take up rate of broadband access is available as well.

Mapping of physical infrastructures and available space for deploying high speed networks is very challenging than broadband service mapping, because of non- existence of reliable data in digital, GIS, format. In Croatia we started a project with all infrastructure operators aiming to record all Electronic communication infrastructures. By now we have 70-80% of territory recorded.

When talking on Quality of service we believe that only official and certified speed measuring tool may protect subscriber rights. Therefore, in 2012 we published official tool for measuring broadband speed. Results of measurements are used in the process of resolving complaints.

At the end, allow me to conclude by calling upon all government and stakeholders represented here to work together on bringing broadband service in every part of our countries.

Let's make infrastructure mapping successful story.