

# Broadband regulatory developments in Albania

▶▶ KLARINA ALLUSHI (Board member of AKEP)

Regulatory Conference for Europe  
Next Generation Regulation  
25 and 26 September 2017, Budva, Montenegro



# Policy/strategy and institutional developments

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- The electronic communication sector in Albania is fully liberalized and is regulated by Law No 9918 dated 19.5.2008 “On the electronic communications in the Republic of Albania” (amended). This law is full in line with EU directives of 2002 and 2009 package on electronic communications.
- Over the last years the alignment of the national regulatory framework for electronic communications has undergone rapid growth. Competition in electronic communications market has increased as a result of the government's policies and regulatory measures through regulating termination tariffs, implementation of mobile and fixed number portability, etc.
- AKEP is the regulator body for electronic communication market. AKEP is an independent regulatory body which reports directly to the parliament for its annual activity and for the fulfillment of the regulatory tasks defined by the electronic communication law.

# Key developments

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- Market analysis and regulatory measures,
- Review of MTR,
- Removing restrictions on use of the frequency spectrum,
- Cabling infrastructure,
- Public consultation for DD1
- New law on infrastructure sharing

# Market analysis and regulatory measures

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- Market analysis and regulatory measures
  - market wholesale broadband access,
  - beatstream,
  - market of leased lines.
  
- Market analysis and regulatory measures
  - mobile market.

# Shared use of active and passive infrastructure in the fixed networks

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- In order to promote the joint use of active and passive network infrastructure, AKEP has adopted a series of documents such as LLU market analysis, broadband access (bitstream) and leased lines and the regulation on the joint use of facilities in 2016.
- Some of these regulatory measures began to take effect in 2015, and in 2016 there was an increase in the use of active components (leased lines / capacities) and passive components of fixed network infrastructure.
- During 2016 in the provision of lease capacities significant growth was provided by interconnection lines by about 5 times reaching about 8Gbps from 1.4 Gbps in 2015.
- Positive developments also marked the provision of passive infrastructure such as access to dark fiber, pipes, which increased by 65% and 21% respectively.

# Broadband network

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Following the co-ordination of actions with all stakeholders interested in exchanging information on the electronic communications network, it is worth emphasizing the adoption of the following acts:

- Law no. 120/2016 on the development of high speed electronic communications networks and the provision of right of way,
- Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 851, dated 7.12.2016, which provides for the transfer of data on the extension of the engineering infrastructure network to the municipalities.

# Regulatory measures

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- Regulation No. 22 dated 24.06.2011 “On Technical Requirements for Construction of Urban Infrastructure and cable networks, fiber optics, suburban networks of Electronic Communications” (amended),
- Rules for joint use of facilities and assets of electronic communications networks,
- Regulation No. 26 dated 16.08.2012 for “Content, form and functioning of Electronic Registry of public electronic communications networks in the Republic of Albania ”.

# ATLAS

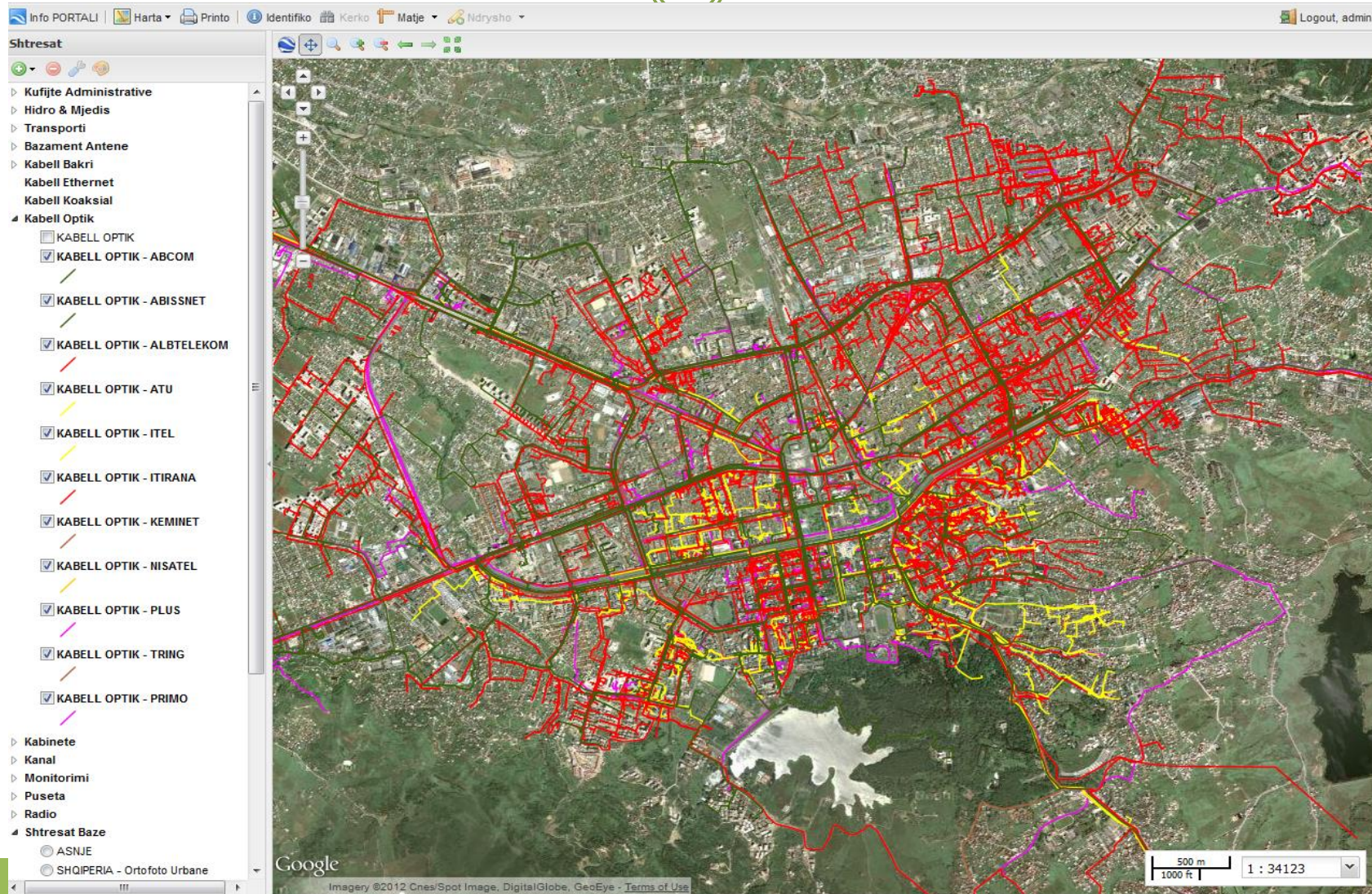
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- Pursuant to the law no. 9918/2008, AKEP has adopted regulations regarding the joint use of facilities and assets of public electronic communications networks and Regulation on the content, form and functioning of the electronic register of public electronic communications networks in the Republic of Albania,
- The electronic register contains information on: public communications networks, electronic communications facilities, data for cableways and radio transmitters. This information is disclosed by the public communications network operators who have online access to the electronic register.
- Access to this electronic register also has other stakeholders interested in data on electronic communications networks such as Municipalities or other administrative units.



# Atlas view: Uraban (Tirana) Optical Fiber and copper networks

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# About the Project, ATLAS

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- Objective of the project has been integration in a Web-Gis system and establishing following systems:
  - Radio frequency transmission systems
  - Communication infrastructure mapping systems
- Integration of all information and establishing mapping infrastructure for electronic communications systems in Web-GIS enables AKEP a fast decision in:
  - managing politics,
  - monitoring,
  - control,
  - reporting,
  - etc.

# Upgrade of the system

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In the framework of the further development of this infrastructure and to increase the level of existing system, it is possible to improve the current system and especially in the penetration of information to the end of the network, performing ad-hoc analyzes, generating regular reports etc.



# Upgrade of the system

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The project consists of:

- Upgrade and maintenance of the Web GIS platform - AKEP Electronic Atlas,
- Technical consultancy for additions to the standard of data format exchanged for electronic communication networks and improvement of the database for optimal management of spatial layers,
- Establish a system for receiving, monitoring and administering the data of electronic communications networks,
- Implementation of an “ad hoc” rule and analysis depending on AKEP requirements,
- Provide professional technical support in data management and GIS consultancy.

# Spectrum policy

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- Regarding the spectrum policy, the electronic communication law defines “the technology neutrality” as the main principle.
- In order to reflect the final acts of World Radio Communication / WRC 2015 and the changes in ECA, during this year the revision of the DCM were reflected.
- The national allocation table is approved by the DCM no 277, dated 29.3.2017.

# Broadband access in rural areas

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- AKEP with decisions Nr.2648, dated 03. 12. 2015 has approved zones with low population density for covering them with broadband services and zones for improving,
- Stakeholders have deposited in AKEP a cooperation agreement for co-investing in low population density zones covering them with broadband services and for improving QoS in other areas,
- Decisions to offer broadband services in such areas have been taken in pursuance of the decision No. 300 of Council of Ministers (removing restrictions on technology and services) and in the framework of actions under “Plan for Universal Service in the field of electronic communications 2013-2016”.

# Rural areas

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# Consumer protection

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- AKEP approved broadband access general terms and conditions for ISP focusing in the QoS,
- AKEP approved the Regulation “On the General Terms of the Subscriber's Contract for the Connection and Access to the Electronic Communications Public Network”,
- AKEP has established the online user complaint system. This system collects and administration the complaints regarding the service quality and reporting of inadequate practices in the service provision through a dedicated phone line, with SMS, e-mail, through the AKEP web-page ([www.akep.al](http://www.akep.al)), etc.



# Market overview

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- During 2016, the electronic communications market has increased regarding the use of mobile networks services and broadband Internet access.
- The broadband access has grown in both its segments:
  - Fixed networks,
  - Mobile networks.

# Market overview (background)

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- Mobile operators significant investment in 3G/4G networks:
  - Coverage: 73/85% of territory/over 90% population
- Albtelecom significant investment in NGN/NGA:
  - 100% of subscribers connected to NGA (MSAN)
- Significant investment in backbone networks in the last 2-3 years
- More effective use of spectrum,
  - focus on the provision of quality services and competitive prices for consumers.

# Access Broadband users in 3G/4G networks

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	Total	Telekom Albania	Vodafone Albania	Albtelecom	Plus Communication
<b>2014</b>	<b>907,975</b>	225,346	550,196	132,433	n/a
<b>2015</b>	<b>1,297,281</b>	375,973	706,880	214,428	n/a
<b>2016</b>	<b>1,686,354</b>	460,221	921,854	231,321	72,958
<b>Yearly change</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	22%	30%	8%	n/a

# Access Broadband users from fixed networks

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	Total	Albtelecom	Abcom	Abissnet	ASC	Nisatel	Other
<b>2014</b>	<b>207,931</b>	82,747	47,480	23,259	28,489	9,882	16,074
<b>2015</b>	<b>242,870</b>	97,597	51,093	24,497	31,357	6,309	32,017
<b>2016</b>	<b>266,379</b>	109,851	52,442	29,497	37,650	7,421	29,518
<b>Yearly change</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	12.6%	2.6%	20.4%	20.1%	17.6%	-7.8%

# Users with access in Integrated Services

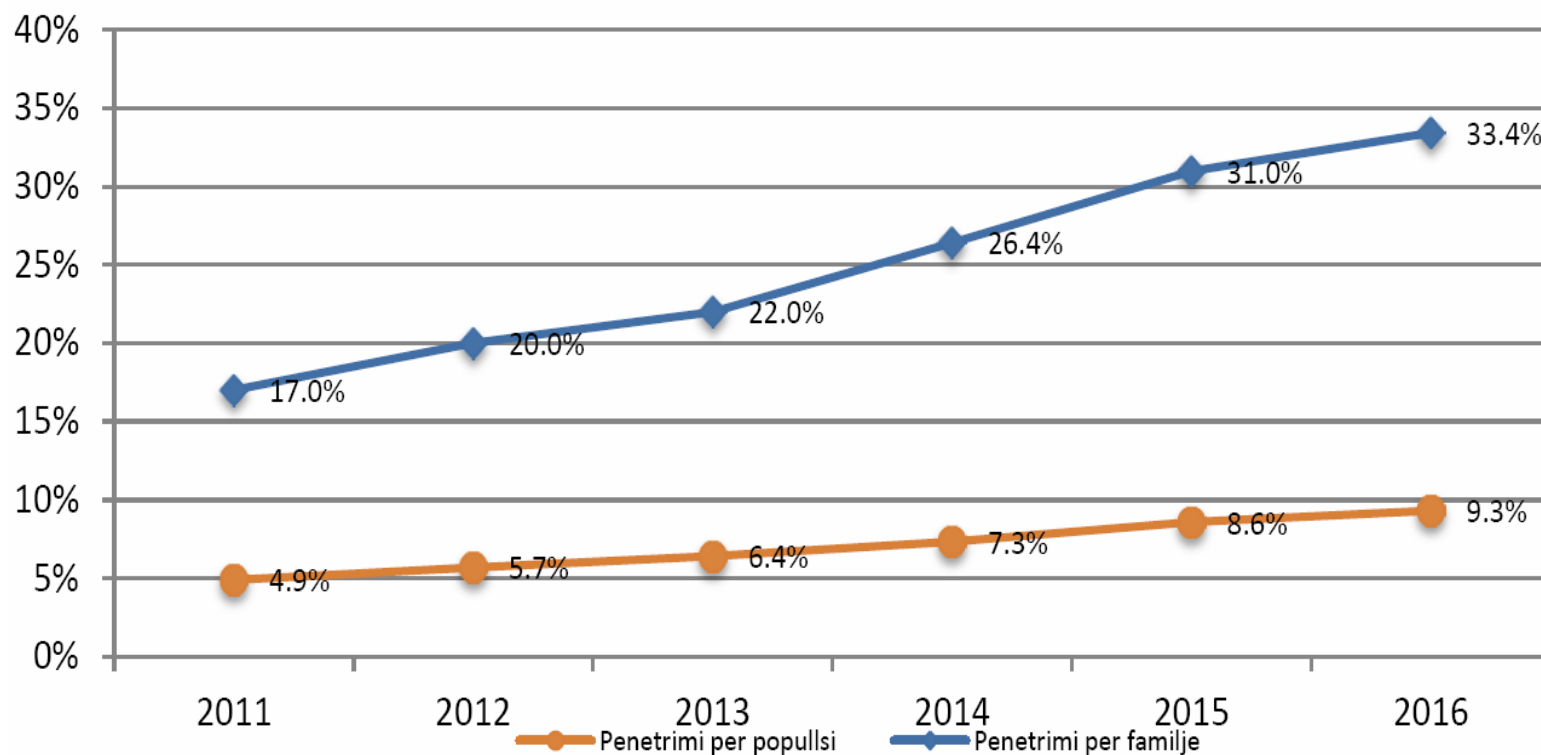
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	Total	Fixed telephony and internet	Triple Play (Telephony, Internet, TV)	Internet and TV
<b>2014</b>	<b>119,230</b>	78,419	24,330	16481
<b>2015</b>	<b>149,833</b>	69,755	71,681	8,397
<b>2016</b>	<b>186,983</b>	76,045	92,932	18,006
<b>Yearly Change</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	9.0%	29.6%	114.4%

# Broadband penetration from fixed networks

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Access Broadband penetration from fixed networks as per population and families (2011-2016).



# Objectives for the near future

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- The coming years for broadband infrastructure,
  - Required coordination with local governments and investors,
  - The procedure as clear and fast in time,
  - Using a single coordinative system standart in collecting information for mapping network infrastructure,
- It is widely recognized that in the future networks will be mostly based on fiber and wireless technologies rather than cooper. Therefore the rules should be technologically neutral in order to support any technological development suitable for broadband provision.
- Strengthening of the AKEP digital platform for local networking infrastructure,
- Cooperation with ITU, two projects, one for the database's upgrade existing infrastructure in cooperation with Slovenian regulator AKOS, and QoS with the Polish regulator, UKE.

# Challenges

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- 790-862 MHz frequency bands for mobile communications.
- Disponibility of 694 - 790 MHz frequency bands for mobile communications until 2020



# Thank you



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[klarina.allushi@akep.al](mailto:klarina.allushi@akep.al)  
[www.akep.al](http://www.akep.al)