

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

Tuesday 26 May 2020 | 11:00 – 15:30 | Remote Meeting

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2020/RDF/Remote.aspx>

CONTRIBUTION BY MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

TITLE: ON SPECTRUM ISSUE - ASSISTANCE ON FREE UP DD2 SPECTRUM

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Europe Regional Initiative: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

- EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management**
- EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
- EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development
- EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
- EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

Year(s) of implementation: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

- 2019
- 2020**
- 2021**

Background [max 300 words]

Digital Economy is related to usage of ICT in every sector of the economy and in our daily activities. Development of digital economy is closely related with digital infrastructure and broadband connectivity. Broadband connectivity and ICT access are prominent needs to ensure economic growth and competitiveness and create an investment-friendly environment for the private sector.

Recognizing the role of ICTs in economic and social development, including the development and evolution of world class commerce, education, health, and government administration services, the Government of Albania has identified digital connectivity and broadband infrastructure as a key priority in the strategic documents such as National Strategy for Development and Integration, Digital Agenda Strategy and Economic Reform Program (ERP) 2019-2021.

With support of ITU was prepared the new National Broadband Plan 2020-2025 which is expected to be approved during 2020. To improve digital connectivity, and promote investment in broadband networks, Albania has approved a new law on development of high speed electronic





communications networks which has adopted the recent EU directive 2014/61/EU on cost reduction of broadband networks.

The figures for Internet users and broadband users in Albania are increased yearly by 10-15%, but the fixed broadband penetration per households achieved 60% by the end of 2019. The mobile broadband is provided based on 4G/LTE networks. Mobile penetration is higher than fixed, at around 62% in 2019;

A prefeasibility study on broadband development is done with support of UNDP during 2017. In addition, during 2019-2020 we working with EU support under WBI to finalize the Feasibility Study and CBA on Broadband Development in Albania which is expected to be completed on June 2020.

Proposal [max 400 words]

Proposal: Regarding the assistance for DD2: - currently this spectrum is used from broadcasters and DD2 channels are distributed in 5/7 networks in different allotments (Albania has 11 allotments based on Ge-06). The assistance is required to find the way how to free DD2 (the migration of frequencies in order to keep the existing number of TV networks). We need technical assistance on Best Practices for technical solutions how to distribute the channels in different allotments, to avoid cross-border interference/coordination process with neighbours as well regulatory measures for a smooth process.

EU has a deadline to free up DD2 for LTE/mobile broadband at latest by 30th of June 2022; Considering the issue of cross border coordinating/commitments in integration process/objectives for broadband development we need to follow the same deadline.

