

GSR18 Consultation – Contribution from Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland

THE OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS ACTIONS TOWARDS ENSURING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND DIGITAL SKILLS IN NEW AREAS

It is observed that digital transformation is sweeping across extending regulatory frontiers beyond ICTs and impacting on all aspects of human daily lives. It causes the need to improve the security and digital skills needed in the new, different areas. This is the reason why regulators should be active in protection and building the digital skills of people not only as consumers but also as citizens. Recognizing that needs the President of UKE is in favor to enlargement the area which is regulated in connection to the topic of digitalization. As well UKE took several actions in the context of dealing with the problems that have already appeared or may appear in the future.

As the impact of the digital transformation is growing, it affects all social groups. UKE, as a national regulator for communications, runs several campaigns dedicated to empower the children and older generation – educational activity of UKE experts helps them to deal with new challenges in the digital world. Digital competencies allow to fully benefit from existing and emerging technologies as well as to deal with security risks.

Implementation of 5G in Poland

Global economies face a new industrial revolution, which will be based on mobile ICT technologies. 5G will be the main tool of a revolution that will change the way we live. Despite the final 5G network and device standards are still in development, there are ongoing preparations to deploy 5G networks in Poland. A multistakeholder agreement on the 5G was signed in 2017 and is addressed to all interested parties: telecommunications operators, economic chambers, providers of telecommunications services, equipment and solutions, research and development institutions, and technical universities and Polish start-ups. It is also important to increase effectiveness of frequency use – development of the implementation scenario, reframing and optimization of frequency resources, making the frequencies available. We also have to work on international regulations in radio spectrum management (includes active participation in the work of ITU)

The 5G standard characterizes by throughput of at least 1 Gb/s, latency lower than 5 ms and more than 100 devices per m². We work on achieving the 5G KPIs for Europe, which are that by 2020 there should be a commercial launch of 5G in one major city in every EU country, finally by 2025 there should be 5G in major cities and transport routes. Another thing are 2025 KPIs for Poland - 1 Gbit/s Internet access for industry. There should at least be 100 Mbit/s for all households in Europe, in both rural and urban areas, with the ability to upgrade to gigabit speeds. The deployment of 5G requires investments, however the new technology will generate revenue streams and will be the key driver for the Internet of Things sector and the Industry 4.0

Capacity building

Every year UKE conducts the Consumer Survey. Individuals and enterprises are asked about their usage of telecommunication services. The popularity of new technologies like IoT/M2M increases rapidly. In 2015 only 1,5% of individuals used IoT/M2M devices in Poland and in 2017 it was almost 11%.

UKE tries to reach all users to build their competences in the digital world. Projects are aimed to develop skills and awareness among the youth and the elderly to build their security and to teach them how to deal with new challenges.

“Coding with UKE”

This campaign run by UKE focused on supporting the development of digital competences among the youth. It contains several subjects, such as coding in SCRATCH language, Smart City Programming, Robotics, 3D Design. From the beginning it achieved concrete and noticeable results. In 2017 there were organized 35 workshops for over 700 pupils. In 2018 it is planned to almost triple this figure. This project is carried out in cooperation with a wide range of entities -not only primary schools, but also private sector and public sector parties.

“I know what I'm signing”

This campaign is to advise people on how to conclude contracts. It is directed especially to the elderly. In 2017, there were over 100 meetings with 8 000 senior participants. Plans for 2018 include 150 meetings for over 10 000 seniors.

“I Click Sensibly”

This campaign is dedicated to specific social group due to the fact that some younger people face the problem how to surf online and use telecommunications devices safely. Another thing is how to deal with online aggression, protect personal data and avoid high bills. This project is directed to children. It is conducted with lessons for primary school pupils. In 2017 about 1 500 lessons were organized for over 41 000 children. For 2018 lessons for another 50 000 children are planned.

Last year UKE adopted a new regulatory strategy. It contains the subject of the protection of consumer interests and within it promoting safe use of electronic communications devices in cyberspace. Moreover, it includes, among the information and education – Development of the Consumer Information Centre and promoting safe use of electronic communications devices in cyberspace.

Bearing in mind the theme of GSR-18 “Regulatory Frontiers”, it is important to underline the growing need for international cooperation. The competencies of regulatory authorities should be also broadened in view of the emerging technologies. In the age of digital transformation we face new challenges. Today the subject of digital regulations not only crosses the borders of countries, but as well different areas of human life. This is the reason why regulators should take proper actions appropriate to the circumstances.