

**High Level Session on 'ITU enabling the wireless ecosystem'
WSIS Forum 2017, 12 June 2017, 16h30**

*Mr Piro Xhixho, Chairman, Albania Electronic and Postal Communication Authority (AKEP).
Albania*

**WSIS Forum 2017
Information and Knowledge Societies for SDGs**

Dear Your Excellency, Mr Houlin Zhao, (Secretary-General, ITU)

**Dear Your Excellency, Mr. Malcolm Johnson (Deputy Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union)**

**Dear Your Excellency, Mr. François Rancy (Director of the Radiocommunication
Bureau) (BR)**

**Dear Your Excellency, Mr. Brahima Sanou (Director of the Telecommunication
Development Bureau) (BDT)**

**Dear Your Excellency, Mr. Chaesub Lee (Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau)**

**Dear Your Excellency, Chairman: H.E. Mr. Jean Philbert Nsengimana (Minister of
Youth and ICT) Rwanda**

Dear Your Excellency, Ambassadors

Dear , _____

Dear , _____

Dear participants,

First, I would like to thank ITU for the invitation to have this word on behalf of the Albanian government and I would like to take the opportunity, in the framework of the world summit on the Information Society Forum 2017 to present an overview of the situation and the steps being taken by the Albanian government, towards the development of the wireless network.

During 2016, the electronic communications market has increased in terms of the use of mobile networks services and broadband Internet access.

With the rapid development of information and communication technologies, the globally connected world has become a reality faster than expected, where the IoT and ultra-high speed broadband technologies play a fundamental role in the fields of energy, transportation, health, agriculture, banking, disaster management, public safety and home network.

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, and last year it also initiated the cooperation for a regional broadband development in the Western Balkans.

It is possible to provide 4G services at the same time with other countries, and this was enabled thanks to the policy for accelerating the processes of removing technological constraints on the use of spectrum and the regulatory measures undertaken by the regulatory authority - AKEP.

In the recent years, we have carried out ICT reforms for the state modernization. For this purpose, in the last three years the Government has invested for the first time from the state budget, an amount of about 100 million Euros, at central and local governmental level.

Some of most important results of modernization and reforms in each sector include the field such as:

- Energy sector reform,
- Police, modernization of State Police in the function of transparency for the police we want - body cameras,
- Control over the territory was supported by the modern systems that were established for the first time,
- Modernization in healthcare across the country, which allows us to serve as many citizens as possible.
- Public service reform includes a significant number of online services on the E-Albania portal,

- Reform in education,
- Reform of economic assistance,
- The fight against informality for state building was supported by the development of electronic commerce and electronic payments and the new entirely online tax filing system.

The development of global communications network and communications is a feature of the world economy today.

The main trends of the electronic communications Albanian market in 2016 were:

- Significant increase in the use of broadband access services from mobile networks 3G networks / 4G.
- Significant increase in the number of subscribers to broadband access from fixed and mobile networks.
- Increased use of active infrastructure sharing (bitstream) and passive (pipes) networks.
- The number of subscribers with integrated services in triple play (Telephony, Internet and TV) during 2016 has increased by 25%, compared with 2015.
- The number of domains in 2016 has increased by over 12%, compared with 2015.

With regard to the number of mobile users by the end of 2016, there were increasing by 7.8 % compared to 2015.

In Albania, the three mobile operators have already deployed LTE (4G) networks. That was a good basis to develop mobile networks.

The number of active users (using the last 3 months) of broadband access services from mobile networks (3G / 4G from mobile devices and USB / modem cards) in 2016 represents a 30% increase compared to 2015.

For a more effective usage of spectrum AKEP adopted technological neutrality in the bands 900, 1800 and 2600. The main purpose was to encourage entrepreneurs to invest in new service offering 4G (IMT Advanced) in the electronic communications market.

AKEP has implemented a process with major mobile operators for network signal coverage with GSM / UMTS some remote areas and improve the quality of service offered by UMTS network in some areas with low population density. Each operator agreed to improve service quality in areas identified individual and operators signed a cooperation framework.

Mobile broadband continues to grow rapidly. By the end of 2016, this number has grown by almost 30% more than in 2015; increased use of broadband access from 3G/4G mobile networks in recent years may also be noticed by the increase in the volume of data transmitted to mobile networks. In 2014, the annual growth of data traffic in mobile networks was 148%, and this trend continues in 2015 and 2016, with an annual growth of 103% and 110% respectively. During the period 2013-2016, the volume of Internet access data to mobile networks has increased more than 10 times.

Thus, the periodic measurements carried out, show that the download speed average is:

- By the seaside: UMTS/3G ranges from 4 to 7 Mbps, in LTE/4G ranges from 8 Mbps to 20 Mbps
- In the main cities: UMTS/3G ranges from 6 Mbps to 10 Mbps and LTE/4G ranges from 8.5 to 20 Mbps
- In the main roads: the average speed in UMTS/3G is 3.6 Mbps

which are in line with other European countries.

Web services are provided in a similar manner to mobile hosts as for fixed hosts. Mobile social networking sites are the same that are used through mobile and fixed hosts, Facebook, Twitter, and other social networks, are referred to as mobile social networks when they are used through a mobile device (a smartphone).

We would like to thank ITU for supporting our two Regional Initiatives for the period 2018-2021, for submission to WTDC-17 as follows:

- Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management,
- ICT-centric innovation ecosystems.

The broadband mobile is a big challenge, so let's continue to work together under the leadership of ITU, in order to make the ambition of "The big data for the Big impact" a reality, so as to achieve a sustainable development of our economies.

The Albanian Government is ready to be part of any initiative which requires our contribution at Regional level and beyond, with ITU as the leader of these processes.

Wishing to this Forum a complete success.

Thank you for your attention

