

RESOLUTION

from the international conference

Approaches to the Digitisation of Audio Broadcasting in V4 Countries

Organisers of the international conference "Approaches to the Digitisation of Audio Broadcasting in V4 Countries", which was held in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, on 18th – 19th February 2015, specifically

- Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications (VÚS), Slovakia
- Czech Metrology Institute (ČMI), the Czech Republic
- Scientific Society for Infocommunications (HTE), Hungary and
- National Institute of Telecommunications (IŁ), Poland

under significant active support of the International Visegrad Fund,

taking into account

- a) the seriousness of conclusions of the conference;
- b) the opinions and responses of majority of participants;

considering

- a) that after successful transition from analogue to digital terrestrial TV broadcasting in the whole Central Europe, the digitisation of audio broadcasting gets to the centre of efforts also in V4 countries;
- b) that V4 countries represent the market with 64.3 mil. inhabitants;
- c) that the process of digitisation may bring benefits for all stakeholders, in particular
 - for the government:
 - more effective utilisation of the frequency spectrum due to the possibility to build Single Frequency Networks (SFN) and to distribute more programme services in one multiplex;
 - for broadcasters and network operators:
 - expansion of media space, i.e. the possibility to increase an offer of audio programme services as well as other data services (e.g. text messages, EPG, Journaline, TMC, TPEG, MOT – Slideshow, WEB);
 - lower distribution costs calculated on a per program than by analogue FM broadcasting;
 - lower powers of transmitters than by analogue FM broadcasting, which has an impact on energy consumption;
 - for the industry (manufacturers and distributors):
 - stimulation of demand for digital receivers, including receivers in cars,
 - for the population (listeners):
 - improved quality of sound, without interference typical for analogue reception (e.g. noise);
 - increased number of programme services;
 - availability of receiving a range of other data services;

- lower exposition of the population to the electromagnetic field (due to lower radiated power from transmitters);
- d) that the process of digitisation brings also a wide range of initial difficulties;
- e) that listeners must be given a proper time to be equipped with digital receivers, resulting in the need of parallel analogue/digital transmission;
- f) that on the other hand the broadcasters and network operators must invest additional money for the new technology as well as for the parallel analogue/digital transmission;
- g) that business models of broadcasters and network operators are one of crucial part of the digitisation;
- h) that the status of digital audio broadcasting in individual V4 countries differs, but no of them have achieved a sufficient coverage of population and no of them declared an analogue switch-off date;
- i) that in some countries some modifications of the legislation are necessary;
- j) that clear strategies are an effective tool for the digitisation process;
- k) that mutual coordination of approaches to the digitisation, incl. time framework, could be beneficial for all countries;

recognising

- a) that no common document on the EU level dealing with the obligation of the member countries to transit to digital audio broadcasting is available;

invite

A. all relevant governmental and parliamentary parties in V4 countries

- a) to encourage public broadcasters / to support their initiatives to go to digital;
- b) to encourage commercial broadcasters to go to digital;
- c) to consider and verify the possibility to support public broadcasters to contribute one national program to a multiplex with public programme services in other V4 countries and to consider the possibility to finance such sharing of services from EU funds;
- d) to create legislative, financial and other conditions to mitigate the transition process;
- e) to harmonise the legislative environment among V4 countries as much as possible;
- f) to coordinate and support information campaigns focused on the population and other stakeholders respectively;

B. industry

- g) to produce and in due time to put on the V4 market multi-standard receivers for all relevant systems in compliance with the EBU Recommendation R138 (FM, T-DAB+, DRM),
- h) to equip all new cars with such receivers in due time.