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Contribution of Office of Electronic Communications (UKE, Poland)

to the CSTD 2018-19 priority theme on 'The impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development'

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Background information on the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland

The President of the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) is a regulatory authority responsible for telecommunications and postal activities and frequency resources management.

Main tasks of the President of UKE:

- analysis, regulation and monitoring of the telecommunications market,
- management of radio spectrum,
- management of numbering resources,
- control of fulfilling electromagnetic compatibility requirements.

The President of UKE is a legally distinct and independent authority. The President of UKE is appointed by the Sejm with the Senate's consent at the request of the Prime Minister. The term of office is 5 years.

Mission of the President of UKE is to provide citizens with access to modern telecommunications and postal services on a developing market and in a dynamic international environment.

Vision of the President of UKE is to act as an impartial, professional and credible moderator of market developments, working with understanding of societal needs and rules governing the business sector.

1. From the perspective of your country/region what are the key emerging technologies and their current and potential applications that could give an opportunity to solve great societal challenges and achieve the SDGs in your country or region?

Preventing and counteracting the digital illiteracy/exclusion is one of measures to improve the speed of societal and economic development.

The main condition for reducing the number of digitally excluded people is the roll-out of high-speed electronic communications networks and the provision of network services. According to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee digital economy delivers sustainable economic and social benefits based on modern online services and fast internet connections.

Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks contains the following statements:

- The roll-out of high-speed fixed and wireless electronic communications networks across a county requires substantial investments, especially in rural

areas. A significant proportion of these investments is represented by the cost of civil engineering works.

- Limiting some of the cost-intensive civil engineering works would make broadband roll-out more effective.

Mapping and sharing information about the existing infrastructure as a way to reduce telecom investments costs.

The directive also indicates that major part of investments costs can be attributed to inefficiencies in the roll-out process related to the use of existing passive infrastructure (such as ducts, conduits, manholes, cabinets, poles, masts, antenna installations, towers and other supporting constructions), bottlenecks related to coordination of civil works, burdensome administrative permit granting procedures, and bottlenecks concerning in-building deployment of networks, which lead to high financial barriers, in particular in rural areas.

The 20th recital of the directive says that in order to effectively plan the deployment of high-speed electronic communications networks and to ensure the most effective use of existing infrastructures suitable for rolling out electronic communications networks, undertakings providing or authorised to provide public communications networks should be able to have access to minimum information concerning physical infrastructures available in the area of deployment. Such minimum information should make it possible to assess the potential for using existing infrastructure in a specific area, as well as to reduce damage to any existing physical infrastructures. In view of the number of stakeholders involved, and in order to facilitate access to that information, also across sectors and borders, such minimum information should be made available via a single information point. That single information point should allow access to minimum information already available in electronic format subject to limitations to ensure network security and integrity, in particular that of critical infrastructure, or to safeguard legitimate operating and business secrets.

Polish regulatory authority for the telecommunications market – the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) has launched and constantly develops the Single Information Point.

The Information Point on Telecommunications (PIT) was created in order to implement the provisions of Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks, into the Polish law.

Project objectives:

The objective of the project is to allow telecommunications undertakings to access information held by the President of UKE on:

- the formal and legal aspects of telecommunications investments,
- the current status of infrastructure and its location,
- the conditions of access to infrastructure.

PIT presents selected data from K-GESUT, i.e. the National Database of Geodetic Records of Utilities Network run by the Land Surveyor General and from e-services showing data from the district databases of geodetic records of utilities network.

Entrepreneurs can thus check the outline of the existing networks of technical infrastructure and service ducts, which will help them make business decisions, for example regarding the lease of elements of the existing network or service ducts.

In addition, PIT allows for the exchange of information by network operators, including local government units, about their networks or service ducts. This information is made available to other telecommunications undertakings interested in investments in a given area.

Benefits for telecommunications undertakings - quicker access to information about:

- the existing technical infrastructure,
- plans related to infrastructure,
- service ducts,
- rates for the right of way occupation.

Quicker and easier access to data in PIT will optimize the decision-making process regarding the launch of the investment.

2. Can you provide examples of policies/projects/initiatives that promote rapid technological change in your country/region and mitigate their potential negative effects? Are there any of these policies/projects/initiatives directed to women, youth or other groups of the society? How have the policies targeted inequalities? What are the challenges confronted in implementing these projects?

Obtaining data on the existing infrastructure and provided telecommunications services is possible thanks to the Act on supporting the development of telecommunications services and networks. This national law requires an annual inventory of infrastructure and services and implements the provisions of the EU Directive 2014/61/EU, creating a Polish Single Information Point. The knowledge of where the telecommunication infrastructure is located and what service parameters it offers allows for more efficient distribution of public resources in bridging the digital gap. Such actions are implemented within the framework of the Digital Poland Operational Programme, under which funds for the deployment of access networks are directed mainly for rural areas, which are least profitable for telecommunication entrepreneurs and are most at risk of digital exclusion.

3. What are the actions that the international community, including the CSTD, can take to contribute to maximize the benefits and mitigate the risk

associated to rapid technological change? Can you give any success stories in this regard from your country or region?

The international community is recommended to widely promote the idea of developing digital technologies and services available via broadband networks and Internet. Poland (Office of Electronic Communications, UKE) could share know-how and best practice on running the Polish Single Information Point which generates variety of benefits such:

- facilitating investment planning;
- rational use of existing infrastructure;
- achieving social, ecological and economic benefits as a result of reducing the number of separate investments;
- facilitating inter-operator cooperation;
- local/regional governments cooperation;
- the ability to monitor the development of networks and services.

Future extension of the system functionality with analytical elements related to data processing and analysis will allow telecommunication entrepreneurs to make faster, successful business decisions. The integration of the Polish Single Information Point with the reporting system will enable entrepreneurs to transfer data on their telecommunications infrastructure more easily and in a less time-consuming way.

Another example of Polish initiative is a tool that allows consumers to check the availability of broadband services in the place where they live or plan to live. This tool is a searcher for infrastructure and telecommunication services. After entering the address, consumers can check which telecommunication services are offered in the given address point and which maximum parameters are available. Additionally, consumers may submit a demand for services in a given area, which can be downloaded by telecommunications undertakings in the form of a report.

Sharing of good practices allows to provide additional information and knowledge on the opportunities and solutions in technological development. It provides also additional ideas about the further development and application prospects of technological solutions.

4. Could you suggest some contact persons of the nodal agency responsible for policies related to rapid technological change and its impact on sustainable development as well as any experts (from academia, private sector, civil society or government) dealing with projects in this area? We might contact them directly for further inputs or invite some of them as speakers for the CSTD inter-sessional panel and annual session.

Ministry of Digital Affairs

<https://mc.gov.pl/>

Office of Electronic Communications (UKE)

<http://www.uke.gov.pl/>

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5. Do you have any documentation, references, or reports on the specific examples on the priority theme in your country or region?

Polish Single Information Point: <http://pit.uke.gov.pl>

Infrastructure and Service Searcher: <http://wyszukiwarka.uke.gov.pl>