

*October 20, 2014*

## New developments on RTSH digitalization process

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The Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration has communicated to public broadcaster RTSH to start preparations for the negotiation of the contract of building multiplexes for RTSH with the company Rohde & Schwarz.

In spring of 2013 the Ministry of Innovation and ICT called for a tender that would result in the building of the transmission network for the public broadcaster RTSH. Two firms were proclaimed the winners through a Ministry order dated June 17. Rohde & Schwarz, one of the firms, opposed the selection procedure for the tender. At the end of August the former Minister of Innovation and ICT annulled the tender procedures. Rohde & Schwarz took the matter to court, challenging the tender procedures, and won the case in the first degree. The Ministry appealed this decision and in June 2014 the Court of Appeals ruled that the case was within the competences of the Administrative Court of Appeals.

Currently the Ministry seems to have decided to withdraw from the case and proclaim Rohde & Schwarz as the winner of the tender instead. This decision has been challenged by the opposition, which has contested the process as illegal and not following proper legal tendering procedures.

According to the public broadcaster, the negotiations on the contract with Rohde & Schwarz should start within October. Among other things, object of this negotiation will also be the number of networks that RTSH has to build. According to the Strategy on Digital Switchover, RTSH is entitled to two networks, but the Ministry and the technical task force meetings have not determined yet on whether RTSH will receive both networks.

In the meantime, the Ministry has established an inter-ministerial task force, with representatives from all ministries concerned with digital switchover, to proceed with the process. However, there have been no public decisions made so far, neither regarding public broadcaster, nor regarding the digital switchover process in general. So far the process has been treated as a

purely technical matter, considering that transparency and public consultations are not priorities in this case.

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*This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Albanian Media Institute and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.*