

Main trends in communication policy and regulation (OECD Digital Economy Outlook 2015)

The digital economy is based on efficient and reliable communication networks and services that need to be accessed ubiquitously, at competitive prices and at sufficient speeds. Communication policy and regulation are therefore increasingly important for achieving a vibrant digital economy. This chapter examines communication policy and regulatory developments in fixed and mobile networks, paying special attention to the emergence of over-the-top providers of traditional and new services. Policy responses to industry consolidation and the network neutrality debate take a prominent role, as does spectrum policy, international mobile roaming, public funding of communication networks and IPv6 initiatives. In particular, the chapter discusses convergence trends, the emergence of connected televisions and bundles of communication services to ascertain how they can best serve the interests of consumers.

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Knowledge Type: [Thematic report](#) [1]

Other Tag: [telecommunication](#) [2]

[transparency](#) [3]

[value chains](#) [4]

[wireless](#) [5]

[adoption](#) [6]

[digital economy](#) [7]

[fixed broadband](#) [8]

[informal networks](#) [9]

[information and communications technology](#) [10]

[internet](#) [11]

[broadband](#) [12]

[libraries](#) [13]

[business networks](#) [14]

[mitigation technologies](#) [15]

[mixed mode of innovation](#) [16]

[natural resources](#) [17]

[numeracy skills](#) [18]

[policy assessment](#) [19]

[primary products](#) [20]

Parent URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264232440-en> [21]

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[2] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/telecommunication>

[3] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/transparency>

[4] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/value-chains>

[5] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/wireless>

[6] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/adoption>

[7] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/digital-economy>

[8] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/fixed-broadband>

[9] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/informal-networks>

[10] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/information-and-communications-technology>

[11] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/internet>

[12] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/broadband>

[13] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/libraries>

[14] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/business-networks>

[15] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/mitigation-technologies>

[16] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/mixed-mode-innovation>

[17] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/natural-resources>

[18] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/numeracy-skills>

[19] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/policy-assessment>

[20] <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/primary-products>

[21] <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264232440-en>