

Belarus

BELARUS' CHALLENGES IN IXP OPERATION AND PROPOSALS ON ITU ACTIVITIES AIMED TO ADDRESS EXISTING CHALLENGES IN IXP DESIGN, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

I Introduction

A national Internet exchange point (IXP) was designed and installed in Belarus in 2012 with a view of improving infrastructure of data communication network, increasing quality and decreasing costs of data services, as well as of attracting domestic and foreign investments.

The IXP is operated by the National Traffic Exchange Center (NTEC) to ensure interconnection and traffic exchange among users of about 60 service providers of Belarus. NTEC is acting purely in the interest of providers and does not offer services to end-users.

Traffic growth stemming from the steady increase in national content over the past few years led to the annual 1.5-2 times increase of IXP network capacity.

Belarus' experience in installation and operation of the IXP shows that there is a constant need to address the following challenges:

- (1) elaboration and revision of existing policies and legislations concerning the Internet-related issues taking into account ITU resolutions and decisions, as well as WSIS and Connect-2020 targets;
- (2) creating favorable conditions for localization of equipment of global content and service providers;
- (3) tariff policies and infrastructure cost sharing.

II Proposals

1. To recommend to the ITU Secretariat to consolidate all the IXP-related issues submitted by ITU Members-States during the last several years and to conduct a research aimed to address these issues involving relevant Study Groups dealing with IXP subject. Such research should be done in a coordinated manner among the Sectors and the report should be submitted to the CWG-Internet.
 2. To recommend the ITU Secretariat to ensure proper regional coordination between ITU Member-States on tariff policies, legislation, infrastructure development, content localization, cost sharing and other IXP-related issues. Such coordination should be facilitated by ITU Regional and Area offices where possible.
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