



## **The achieved level of telecommunication development in Belarus creates conditions for the further digitization of the country and the provision of e-services in the whole territory of the republic**

The achieved level of telecommunication development in the Republic of Belarus allows almost to fully satisfy the growing information needs of citizens, businesses and the state, creates conditions for the further digitization of the country and the provision of electronic services throughout the republic. Today, 188 operators provide telecommunication services in the country. In 2019, work was completed to bring a fibre-optic communication line to each apartment of the urban multi-apartment building.

In 2020, the construction of fibre-optic communication lines to settlements with 100 households or more was completed.

According to international studies, the Republic of Belarus ranked second in the ranking of European countries in terms of penetration of fibre-optic communication lines in households as of September 2019 and became the leader in the forecast rating for 2020 with a penetration rate of 68.4%.

According to this indicator, Belarus is 2 times ahead of France, 5 times ahead of Ukraine and more than 10 times ahead of Germany. The availability of fibre-optic connectivity today guarantees subscribers a wide range of the most advanced and high-quality telecommunication services. Let's move on to the numbers. As of April 1, 2021, the number of subscribers of fixed broadband access to the Internet was 3.3 million, IP-TV - 2.3 million. The number of subscribers connected to the multiservice IMS platform was 3.6 million, and those connected using passive technology optical networks - almost 2.8 million.

Cellular communication is also developing. The number of cellular mobile telecommunication subscribers is steadily growing and as of April 1, 2021, already amounted to 11.67 million (penetration rate - 125%, which is in line with global trends). Of these, 64% of subscribers use Internet access services.

Cellular mobile telecommunication services of the second (2G) and third (3G) generations are available to 99.9% of the population in more than 98% of the country's territory. The coverage of cellular mobile telecommunications services using LTE technology is constantly increasing and as of April 1, 2021, it accounts for 92% of the population and 42.8% of the country's territory.

The number of public wireless broadband access points based on Wi-Fi technology is about 1.2 million. All this leads to an increase in the consumption of telecommunication services. So, in 2020 alone, the amount of data consumed by subscribers and users connected to the Internet amounted to 4,855.5 petabytes, and the width of the external access channel increased by 382 Gbps and amounted to 1,933 Gbps.

Belarus was the first among the CIS countries to switch to digital broadcasting back in 2015, and today terrestrial digital television is available to 99.5% of the country's population. The number of subscribers using digital terrestrial television broadcasting services is more than 171 thousand.

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