

innovative services which provide capabilities for easy access to all.

4. Promotion of fair competition in networks and services.
5. Safeguarding the operation of the telecommunications market sector in accordance with the principles of competition.
6. Ensuring provision of Universal Service (US) in the telecommunications and postal services sectors.
7. Optimal utilisation of the radio spectrum and safeguarding of its legitimate use.
8. Ensuring that the telecommunications equipment used meets the appropriate specifications.
9. Effective management of the radio communications environment during the 2004 Olympic Games.
10. Ensuring that the gradual and controlled liberalisation of the postal market takes place in accordance with the principles of competition.
11. Improvement in the quality of the postal services provided.
12. Strengthening of EETT relations with corresponding NRAs abroad, and increasing the participation of EETT in international decision-making bodies.
13. Recognition of EETT as an Independent Authority providing high-quality services.
14. Ensuring the organisational structures and infrastructures that allow EETT to successfully carry out its activities and meet its goals.

In order to pursue the above strategic directions, specific projects were identified and specifications were established for their implementation, which will take place in the course of the next three years.

After the first six months of implementation of the Management Plan, an assessment exercise will be conducted, addressing issues related to progress, the need to redefine projects and the identification of new needs that will have resulted from anticipated changes in the institutional framework and from advances in technology.

5. "Information Society"

The OPIS under the CSF III consists of a series of interventions in various areas of economic and social activity, so that these have a catalytic effect on the development of the Information Society in Greece. Communications are one such area, and constitute one of the key action lines of the Operational Programme (OP).

In the framework of developing its Business Plan for its participation in the OPIS, EETT has identified the following two Strategic Action Lines, whose implementation falls within the targets and goals of the OP:

Strategic Action Line 1: Modernisation of structures and implementation of mechanisms for radio spectrum management

Strategic Action Line 2: Improvement of the effectiveness of EETT's operation

In order to attain the goals of the above Strategic Action Lines, several projects of special importance to EETT have been identified, followed by the development of detailed implementation plans. At the same time, a management and monitoring mechanism was set up for these projects, staffed by EETT personnel.

The above mechanism has been entrusted with the following responsibilities:

- Forwarding for approval for funding of the projects specified in the EETT Business Plan, as well as of other projects that will emerge in the future and that are considered to be compatible with the OPIS goals.
- Ensuring that the projects are awarded and implemented in compliance with the requirements of the OPIS Managing Authority.
- Monitoring of physical and economic progress of projects, and ensuring observance of the

technical, financial and time-related specifications set out in the EETT Business Plan.

- ▶ Meeting the obligations deriving from the CSF III Regulations.

The budget of the projects that have been included under each of the above Strategic Action Lines is the following:

Strategic Action Line 1: 33,211,600 euro

Strategic Action Line 2: 12,424,787 euro

The Business Plan developed by EETT for the projects included in the OPIS was presented in the framework of a Public Consultation, approved and officially submitted to the OPIS Managing Authority. According to the OPIS Programming Document⁹⁵, EETT is implementing projects coming under Measures⁹⁶ 1 and 5 of Action Line⁹⁷ 4 (“Communications”).

The EETT projects under OPIS Measure 4.1. “Development of mechanisms for application of the institutional framework and for strengthening competition” are implemented according to plan, without deviations from the time-schedule of the approved EETT Business Plan.

Regarding Measure 4.1., the following had taken place by 31 December 2002:

- ▶ EETT had submitted Technical Project Forms for inclusion of projects that correspond to 46.3% of the total Business Plan budget.
- ▶ The projects included correspond to 34.11% of the total Business Plan budget.
- ▶ EETT had launched tender procedures for projects that correspond to 39.9% of the total Business Plan budget.

- ▶ EETT had signed contracts that correspond to 11.25% of the Business Plan budget.
- ▶ The payments made corresponded to 3% of the total Business Plan budget.

EETT is already implementing training projects, which will be submitted for inclusion under Measure 4.5. “Training of Human Resources in the Communications Sector”. In addition, EETT has already secured inclusion of the following projects/sub-projects:

- ▶ EETT Management Plan.
- ▶ Postal Market Assessment Studies.
 - Study and Survey of the Postal Market.
 - Measurement of US Quality in the postal sector.
- ▶ EETT Network Infrastructure and Equipment.
 - Procurement of EETT Electronic Equipment.
 - Procurement of EETT Network Equipment.
- ▶ National Spectrum Management and Monitoring System (NSMMS) - Phase A.
 - Technical Project Management Consultant for Phase A of the NSMMS.
 - NSMMS and Monitoring Stations for the Attica and Thessaloniki prefectures.
- ▶ Study on the Review and Determination of the Spectrum Pricing Policy.
- ▶ EETT Organisation Study.

Moreover, during 2002 EETT submitted for inclusion in the OPIS the following projects, the applications for which are currently under review by the OPIS Managing Authority:

1. Study on the Organisation, Planning and Implementation of Voluntary Accreditation of Certification Service Providers (CSPs) and on

⁹⁵ Document concerning the application of the OP strategy and priority action lines, which also contains details at the level of Measures.

⁹⁶ The means through which a priority action line is realised, which also allows funding of actions.

⁹⁷ A strategy priority selected under the CSF or under a specific OP.

other issues pertaining to the Provision of Electronic Signature Certification Services.

2. Organisation and Implementation Study for the Radio Spectrum Department.
3. EETT Integrated Information System (IIS).

Implementation of these projects has already begun, as they are of critical importance for the efficient operation of EETT.

6. International Relations

Progress in the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector is an issue of pan-European significance, extending beyond the narrow confines of national borders of EU member states. Bilateral and other collaborations, as well as uniform application of rules and procedures, are therefore essential prerequisites to the sector's further maturing and growth. In this light, EETT considers the regulatory practices followed by NRAs in other member states to be of particular significance, and participates actively in all European initiatives, as these are formulated every time, in order to meet the global challenges emerging in the sector of electronic communications.

In terms of international activities, 2002 was a particularly productive period for EETT. The increase in its human resources allowed EETT to exercise its responsibilities, including forwarding of information to the European Commission in accordance with Community legislation on telecommunications, cooperating with international bodies and representing Greece in international meetings and organisations, more efficiently.

In terms of European-level representation, EETT was active along two key directions, participating both in official Groups and Committees of the European Commission (or also of other EU agencies/bodies)

and in the Independent Regulators Group (IRG).

Regarding the first direction, EETT followed, and took active part in, the activities of the following official Committees and Groups, established by the European Commission with the purpose of further promoting issues relating to the application of relevant Community legislation:

- COmmunication COmmittee (COCOM).
- Postal Directive Committee.
- Telecommunication Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee (TCAM), concerning application of Directive 1999/5/EC.
- Administrative Cooperation (ADCO) Group.
- Open Network Provision (ONP) Committee.
- Licensing Committee (LICCO).
- Experts' Group on the implementation of the [.eu] Top Level Domain.
- Internet Informal Group (IIG).
- Informal International Affairs Group (IIAG).
- National Administrations and Regulatory Authorities (NARA) Committee.
- Electronic Communication Committee (ECC) - Frequency Management (FM) Working Group and Radio Regulation (RR) Working Group.

In the framework of the application of the new Regulatory Framework concerning electronic communication networks and services, the efforts for consistent application of rules across all member states and for adoption of a uniform approach by NRAs in addressing individual regulatory issues were intensified through the cooperation established between NRAs themselves, as well as between NRAs and the European Commission.

The new Regulatory Framework provides for the establishment of new Committees and Groups, which will advise and assist the European Commission in the consolidation of the internal