

VI THE PRIVATIZATION PROCESS

The delay in adopting media laws has brought into question the privatization deadlines under the Strategy, as well as switching to the model of project-based financing. There are still no hints as to when the Public Information and Media Law could be adopted. We remind that the Draft Law stipulates that a media publisher, which was directly or indirectly founded by the Republic, autonomous province and local self-government unit, as well as by an institution, enterprise or other legal person entirely or partially in state property, or which is entirely or partially financed from public revenues, shall be privatized by sale of equity according to privatization-related regulations. If the Law is adopted in the current version, privatization (if not already initiated) will have to be launched under an initiative that ought to be submitted within 30 days from the coming into force of the Law. The decision on the privatization method will then be passed by the Privatization Agency, within 90 days from the submission of the initiative. The Draft Law says that, if by December 31, 2014, the state share is not sold or, at least, if the public call for the sale thereof is not called, the privatization procedure shall be suspended, while the media in question will cease to exist and will be deleted from the register. Any further month of delay in the adoption of the Law would actually shorten the deadline by December 31, 2014, making it increasingly less realistic. On the other hand, extending that deadline would entail many other problems, which are also difficult to overcome, making altogether the already difficult and complex reform processes even more complicated.