



Assopriver

Independent Providers Association

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Assoprivider

Proximity Operators

The History

Today, the Association consist of some 245 companies in the Internet Services and Connectivity sector. Its objective is to Encourage the harmonious development of the Internet in Italy.

Assoprovder is an Independent Association of Companies that conduct the activity of Internet Service Provider (ISP) or in any case, an activity related to the development of business projects through the organic use of the Internet network. Established in July 1999, Assoprovder aims to combat the logic of power and division of the great carriers and telephony companies in order to become the most representative association of Italian Service Providers in numerical terms. The Association is legally represented by the President, Engineer Dino Bortolotto. Telephony operators entering into the Internet connectivity market – as a sector in which small- and medium-sized operators are greatly penalised – saw investments in Internet connectivity, resulting in the creation of a local market from scratch and bringing the Internet to Italy.



Territorial Distribution

Established in July 1999, Assoprovder aims to combat the logic of power and division of the great carriers and telephony companies in order to become the most representative association of Italian Service Providers in numerical terms.

The 245 companies associated with Assoprovder are physically distributed throughout Italy and represent some 700,000 customers.

The Association, which today includes about 245 companies in the Internet and connectivity services sector, aims to promote the harmonious development of the Internet in Italy. In particular, Assoprovider aims to contribute to filling the gap that still separates Italy from the most computerised nations and to help the country become a protagonist in the development process of the Internet worldwide.

Ever at the forefront, and with unequivocal demonstrations of such, Assoprovider has defended the rights of the sector by promoting legal action and lodging complaints before the Communications, Antitrust and Advertising Authority, often achieving the just condemnation of the counterparty.

The commitment over the years

Amongst Assoprovider's activities is its presence at the roundtable on the Internet and Minors, for the prevention of crimes involving child pornography on the Internet and the commitment to the liberalisation of the market in Italy, along with the provision of wireless data services (Wi-Fi and the family of 802.xx standards).

Since December 2000, the Association has been affiliated with the national organisation of ConfCommercio whilst Assoprovider Vice-President Matteo Fici forms part of the General Council of ConfCommercio. Dialogue with political and institutional partners aims to restore the right market rules, dealing with Internet governance by liaising with the Italian Naming Authority, ICANN and EuroISPA, with Assoprovider being a permanent member of the "Information Business Forum", of the "Communications Forum" of the Ministry for Economic Development, as well as being officially accredited as an interlocutor for all matters related to the Internet before the Communications Department of the Ministry of Economic Development, the Communications Authority, the Competition and Market (Antitrust) Authority, and the Personal Data Processing Authority.

Assoprovider's Vice-President Gianbattista Frontera was also-Vice President of the Italian Naming Authority, being the national entity that dictates the technical regulations that the Registry of the Country Code TLD.it still applies today in registering domains belonging to the Country Code Top-Level Domain ".it". Currently, the technical rules for registering TLD.it Country Code domains are dictated by the Commission Regulations at the Registry in which a Assoprovider representative has a permanent post.

Assoprovder's activities include its presence at the roundtable on the Internet and Minors, for the prevention of online child pornography crimes along with its commitment to the liberalisation of the Italian market, for the provision of wireless data services (Wi-Fi and the family of 802.xx standards). Assoprovder also promotes the economic activities for its category and encourages the creation of economies of scale and other advantages for its associates. It was within this context that in February 2008, TGLOBAL S.r.l. was created as a company in which Assoprovder holds a 10% shareholding whilst the remaining 90% is owned by 36 companies and individuals belonging to the world of ISPs.

Services for members

Assoprovder is also a **very important and inexhaustible point of aggregation** and exchange of information and experience amongst all members, taking place through participation in twelve mailing lists reserved for members:

Mailing List	Description
AP-MAIN	for institutional discussions
AP-SOCI	for official Board communications
AP-TECH	for technical discussions
AP-COMM	for commercial discussions
AP-LEGAL	on issues related to cloud service offerings
AP-LEGAL-CHAT	for free discussions amongst members on legal issues
AP-WIFI	regarding issues related to the offer of Wireless connectivity
AP-SINFI	for discussions on the National Federated Information System of Infrastructure
AP-NGAN	on matters related to Next Generation Access Network
AP-NORMATIVA	advances on new regulations set to come into force, moderated by a lawyer
AP-FINANCE	on preferential finance opportunities for SMEs, moderated by an expert
AP-CRIPTO	for a BlockChain project in the associative field

The use of these lists is already a case for Italy, allowing daily contact between companies on topics of interest, without the need for transport costs or traditional telecommunications.

The statute and other information regarding Assoprovder are available on official website of the Association at the address: www.assoprovder.it.

On the website www.assoprovder.it, in addition to finding a wealth of other information about the activities of the Association, there is also the online enrolment request form.

AP-LEGAL and AP-NORMATIVA mailing lists

Amongst the services offered to members are the AP-LEGAL and AP-NORMATIVA mailing lists that alone would justify Assoprovder's registration fee. The legal information services provided by Assoprovder cover aspects regarding the executive interpretation of existing consolidated legislation (AP-LEGAL moderated by Attorney Gallotto) and regarding norms *in fieri* or recently approved (AP-NORMATIVA moderated by Prof. Fulvio

Sarzana) and foresee an optional service for a periodic or one-time monitoring of the proper fulfilment of the administrative obligations borne by Italian operators (the Ministry of Economic Development, AGCOM – the Communications Regulatory Authority) and support the associated technical procedures for the allocation of public resources (numbering, Licensed Frequencies, etcetera).

The aforementioned mailing lists represent a number of ways to provide training, information and advice of a technical, commercial and general nature on the Italian Internet sector.

But the Association's services do not end there. The existing agreements between Assoprovder and various national operators, as suppliers of wholesale TLC services, renders participation in the associative activities a continuous source of business for all subscribers.

The milestones

/1999

September:

A mere 2 months after its foundation, Assoprovder was successful in achieving the extension of the agreement entered into between Telecom Italia and AIIP (the Italian Internet Provider Association) to also cover associated companies, to prevent them from being discriminated against in regards to the economic conditions for telephonic interconnection, allowing hundreds of companies to remain in the dial-up connectivity supply market.

/2002

April:

Assoprovder was victorious in managing to have Law no. 59 dated 8th April 2002 passed, as the so-called “**Legge Salvaprovder**” that actually equated Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to Telephony Operators, with the approval of the law being accompanied by two national ISP events that saw participants take to the streets in Montecitorio and gather before the Senate of the Republic.

May:

Assoprovder was part of the delegation sent by the Italian Government to take part in the G8 – High-Tech Crime meeting in Paris.

/2003

April: The Internet & Minors Code

Assoprovder contributes to the launch of the self-regulation Internet & Minors Code.

Assoprovder was amongst the most active and substantial advocates and promoters, advancing the application before all its associates and beyond. The code aims to protect children in approaching the Internet telematics network. The Internet has come to reflect real life and thus it has become necessary to implement filters to defend children who avail of this communication tool.

Assoprovder is part of the national committee for managing and updating this Code.

/2004

March: Blocking of the Urbani Decree

United with other Operator Associations and users, Assoprovder forcefully fought the blocking of the Decree launched by Minister Urbani, which contained rules on the protection of copyrighted content online. If this “Urbani Decree” were to have passed, it would have exposed Italian Internet users to judicial penalties and economic sanctions, even upon normal use of the Internet.

September: change in ADSL operator

Assoprovder managed to have AGCOM launch a technical regulation that reduced the time required to transfer an ADSL Internet user from an old operator to a new operator to a few days.

November: Code of Ethics on Electronic Communications

Assoprovider collaborated with the Privacy Authority in the launch of a Code of Conduct on Electronic Communications, to ensure privacy in the communications of Italian Internet users.

/2005

February:

Assoprovider and all associates who participated in the months-long experimental phase for Certified Email discovered that Presidential Decree no. 68 dated 11th February 2005 contains a constraint never discussed during the trial period which obliges managers of Certified Email addresses to have a minimum share capital of at least 1 million euro.

February:

Assoprovider reported Telecom Italia S.p.A. to the Assoprovider Antitrust, together with certain TLC operators, denouncing the anti-competitive conduct of Telecom Italia S.p.A. to the Antitrust authority. The result was being found guilty of abuse of a predominant position (AGCM A357/2005), unfair competition and predatory practices, with a fine of 168 million euro being issued, then lowered to 130 million euro by the State Council.

August:

As a founding member, Assoprovider was involved in the creation of the VOIPEX consortium, with the objective of the consortium being to protect the neutrality of both transport and services. A battle is being waged for the creation of VOIP numbering (Decade 55) and for interconnection via TCP/IP as well as SS7 with the PSTN telephone network, along with the application of the ENUM protocol that will be sunk by pressure from telephone operators.

October: WIFI Outdoor

Assoprovider achieved the **liberalisation of Internet**

Connectivity offered in Wireless mode (Wi-Fi) even outside of buildings, by having the Italian Government approve the Ministerial Decree of 4th October 2005 (the Landolfi Decree for outdoor Wi-Fi), which amended the Ministerial Decree of 28th May 2003 that permitted the use of Wi-Fi connectivity only within closed areas and in any case, not on public land.

/2006

March:

AGCOM Resolution no. 11/06/CIR established the numbering 55 and sets out on the path towards the technical specification of interconnection with the PSTN telephone network

October: Creation of the TLC sector in the CONSIP

Marketplace

Assoprovider strived to have the online CONSIP Marketplace dedicated to Public Administration purchases also include the TLC/ICT sector, which had not been envisaged prior.

/2007

January: The Regional Environmental Protection Agency and Outdoor Wi-Fi

Assoprovider obtained an official statement from Mr Troisi from the Ministry of Economic Development, who issued a document clarifying that operators operating with an emission power less than or equal to 1 Watt, not having to participate in the process of reducing the emitted power, are not subject to declarations to the ARPA (the Regional Environmental Protection Agency).

March: Elimination of the Telecom Italia fee on ADSL NAKED

Assoprovider obtained a measure from the Italian Government stating that it will wipe out and/or decrease the 10-euro fee that Telecom Italia S.p.A. decided to impose on its competitors on the “ADSL NAKED”.

October: Membership to the EDEN-SPACE Project

Assoprovider joins the EDEN-SPACE project for the realisation of a combined node of awareness, hotline and helpline, presented by the CNR-ISM (the National Research Council with the Institute of Structure of Matter), Telefono Azzurro, Davide.it and the “C. Cattaneo” IPSIA (State Professional Institute for Industry and Crafts) in Rome.

November: Indirect Wi-Fi User Authentication

Assoprovider had the Ministry of Interiors issue an official statement in which the Ministry authorised and clarified the methods for the indirect identification of Wi-Fi Internet users, through an Italian GSM SIM card or via credit card.

/2009

November: Certification of LOG Retention by TGLOBAL

Assoprovider was successful in having the Privacy Data Protection Authority issue a sort of “Certification” for the technical solution proposed by TGLOBAL S.r.l. to resolve the issue of LOG retention for small-/medium-sized ISP enterprises.

/2010

December:

AGCOM published Resolution 668/2010 penalising providers for copyrighted content published by users of the same.

In view of this resolution, Assoprovider launched the initiative “La Notte della Rete” with the aim of having the resolution be withdrawn. All political forces of the parliamentary constitutional arc joined the initiative. See: <https://www.punto-informatico.it/la-notte-della-rete-in-streaming>.

November: Extension of the Asynchronous System Registro.it

Assoprovider obtained a 4-month extension for the elimination of the asynchronous domain.it registration system.

/2011

January: Wi-Fi Access Service Quality

Assoprovider was invited to be part of the Technical Roundtable for measuring the quality of services for accessing the Internet in Wi-Fi mode.

February: Public Consultation for the Protection of Copyright for Digital Content Online

Assoprovider was part of the collaboration between other User and Operator associations before the Public Consultation launched by AGCOM, called upon to regulate the copyright protection of digital content published on the Internet.

March: Public Consultation for the National Broadband Plan

Assoprovider was invited to participate in the Public Consultation launched by INVITALIA, for the National Broadband Internet Plan in Italy.

/2013

June: Cancellation of the Installers License

After years of pressure being placed on the central government, Assoprovider had a win with Article 10 of the “Fare Decree” of June 2013, seeing the **definitive abolition of the notorious Installers License**, referred to in Decree no. 214 dated 23rd May 1992.

July: Requests for Low-Cost TLC Infrastructure

Assoprovider launched its Manifesto containing the requests for realising Low-Cost TLC Infrastructure in Italy.

December: Support for the Umbria Region in TLC matters

Assoprovider collaborated in drafting the text for the law of the Umbria Region on Telecommunications. Law no. 31/2013 remains highly advanced and current, with a text that meets the needs of the public and private.

/2014

February: Assoprovider broke up the TCL oligopoly in Italy

After almost 10 years of battles, which have seen Assoprovider report the anti-competitive state of the Italian TLC market also at a European level, **the Association managed to obtain a reformulation of the contributions established by Annex 10 of Decree 259/2003 (Communications Code)**, with Article 6 of the “Destinazione Italia” decree seeing the TLC market open also to small- and medium- enterprises that have long been pioneers of the TLC sector in Italy.

March:

Assoprovider was part of the Committee for the Development and Protection of the Legal Offering of Digital Works, established within the AGCOM of Naples.

April: an appeal to the Regional Administrative Court of Lazio is won

Assoprovider saw the acceptance of the appeal lodged before the Regional Administrative Court of Lazio against the new Regulation on the Works Covered by Copyright issued by AGCOM in Naples.

August: A position is taken on the use of RLAN frequencies by Italian ISPs

With a Press Release dated 4th August 2014, Assoprovider took a stand regarding the lawfulness of the use of RLAN Frequencies – and especially Frequencies 17 and 24 Gigahtz – by Italian ISPs.

September: Assoprovider was part of consultations on the new PNRF

Assoprovider took part in the dialogue concerning the new PNRF (the National Plan of Frequency Allocation), to highlight the needs of Italian data transmission operators and to ensure that the conditions for non-discrimination, transparency and neutrality amongst all users of the frequency spectrum are met.

December 2014: Assoprovider launched a Manifesto for the development of Italian TLCs

In an open document, proposals were made to the Italian Government, containing 16 measures for Italy at a very low economic cost for the community, to free all entrepreneurial capacities so far blocked by obstructionism, led by those who did not want to face competition from TLC startups led by young and upcoming entrepreneurs.

/2015

2014–2015: Assoprovider participates in the drafting of the Charter of Rights for the Internet

The Charter was inspired by the then-Deputy Prof. Stefano Rodotà, who also wanted Assoprovider to be part of the technical panel composed for drafting the text.

April 2015: Assoprovider collaborates with INFRATEL ITALIA S.p.A.

Assoprovider set off on a path of collaboration with the company INFRATEL ITALIA S.p.A., commissioned by the Italian Government to implement the Next Generation Access Networks (NGAN), the Ultra-Broadband Strategic Plan.

June:

Assoprovider welcomed the initiative of Hon. Pietro Folena, thanks to which, the Government undertook to adopt a measure to reset – or at least to decrease – the 10-euro fee that Telecom Italia S.p.A. imposed on its competitors on the “ADSL NAKED”.

/2016

February:

Being part of the project “Gioco Con il Bullo” in Palermo – in collaboration with the University of Palermo and several high schools – was aimed at preventing the phenomena of cyber bullying, through the diffusion of advanced knowledge of the operation of the Internet amongst the school students.

March:

Assoprovider and ASSINTEL won the appeal to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, obtaining a ruling from the State Council on the Public System of Digital Identity (“SPID”) which, definitively annulled the capital requirements for Identity Provider activities established by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, proclaiming once and for all that the reliability of a company cannot be related to the share capital.

April:

A report was made to the Ministry of Economic Development, ANAC and AGCM regarding unauthorised use of frequencies at 3.6 and 3.8 GHz.

May:

A strategic partnership was enacted between EOF (Enel Open Fibre) and Assoprovider, subject to EOF's creation of a fibre optics network in certain areas of the Italian territory and the activation of clients of the individual Assoprovider Associates on this network.

June:

A communication channel was opened with INFRATEL Italia on the Next Generation Access Networks (NGAN), the Ultra-Broadband Strategic Plan.

June:

Assoprovider was part of the AGCOM panel regarding the update of the so-called "production mix", for application of the price test ex Resolution AGCOM 604/13/CONS.

August:

Assoprovider was victorious before the State Council regarding the thresholds of share capital for the supply of digital services. The government took a step backwards, seeing the capital requirements set by a Prime Ministerial Decree.

October:

Clarification was requested from the Ministry of Economic Development on the authorisation and/or testing at frequency bands of 3.6–3.850 GHz.

October:

Together with GARR (the Italian national computer network for universities and research), as a public consortium that connects National Research Council offices, universities and public schools, Assoprovider launched the initiative "Knowing the Internet", aimed at making public a free basic digital literacy course to reduce the cognitive digital-divide.

November:

Assoprovider advised the AGCM (the Competition and Market Authority) regarding the absence of a Public Cadastre of the frequencies licensed on the point-to-point sections.

/2017

May:

An agreement was signed with the law firm of Attorney Vincenzo Gallotto for the moderation of the AP-list – LEGAL@assoprovider.it.

July:

For the 2017 Annual Meeting, Assoprovider organised the event "APNA17" (www.apna17.it), with "The New Forms of the Digital Divide".

July:

The "**Pioneers of the Network**" award was inaugurated, acknowledging the often-unrecognised daily commitment carried out behind the scenes by people who contribute to the development of Internet network in Italy.

September:

A meeting was held with the Ministry of Economic Development to launch discussions on the redefinition of ministerial contributions towards concessions for use, on point-to-point routes, of the Licensed Frequencies.

October:

The battle began for recognising the Free Modem right, enshrined by European legislation and completely ignored by TLC operators operating in Italy.

November:

Assopvider was a patron of the Internet of Things event held in Rome at the Centro Congressi Auditorium della Tecnica – www.iothingsrome.com.

/2018

February:

A report was presented to the Chamber of Deputies composed of various recommendations to promote the digitisation of the country, titled “5G: an advantage for all only if there is competition”.

February:

The second edition of the Hackathon NDC was organised, held in Palermo at the ITI headquarters on Via Duca della Verdura.

March 2018:

A complaint was filed with the European Commission concerning the contorted nature of the Italian plan for the diffusion of ultra-broadband.

April:

Assopvider and Legacoop signed an agreement for the technologic transfer to community cooperatives in places subject to market failure for the realisation of ultra-broadband networks owned by the citizens.

June:

On the occasion of the 2018 Annual Meeting, Assopvider organised the “APRO18” (www.apro18.it) event in Rome titled “5G: BlockChain – GDPR: The Challenges of Regulation”.

July:

Local Public Authorities were made aware of the need to adapt their management regulations for sub-services and for handling public land in telecommunications.

November:

A half-page ad was taken out in “La Repubblica” newspaper to publicise a press release titled “Providers excluded from changes to the TLC: thousands of jobs at risk. Assopvider raised the alarm as a result of the changes taking place in the wholesale market.”

December:

Economic support was given to the Free Modem Alliance for legal fees related to the “Free Modem” battle.

/2019

March:

Assopvider decided to purchase a 10% stake in the company TGLOBAL S.r.l., bringing its equity share to 20%.

March:

Assopvider asked and was allowed to participate in the open technical roundtable at the Ministry of Economic Development on the theme of Multiservice Cabling, for laying optical fibre.

June:

On the occasion of the 2019 Annual Meeting, Assopvider organised the event “APRO19” (www.apro19.it), which saw a conference titled “Digital Divide: The strength of small Italian Telecommunications Operators in the Country – Past, present and future of the TLC Made in Italy”, held on 28th June 2019.

July:

Assoproviver and the Movimento di Difesa dei Consumatori (MDC - the Consumer Defence Movement) achieved the partial annulment of the AGCOM Regulations on Copyright being enacted by the Council of State. In regards to the contested AGCOM Regulation on Copyright challenged by Assoproviver and MDC, represented by Attorneys Fulvio Sarzana di Sant'Ippolito and Maria Sole Montagna, the Sixth Section of the Council of State accepted two of the reasons articulated as part of the defence of the two Associations, confirming the legitimacy of the Regulation. The Judges negated the Regulation in so far as the same measure provides sanctions for those who do not fulfil the orders of the Authority, despite there being no such sanctions in the primary legislation, hence it is not possible to grant such powers to an independent Administrative Authority, for example, since this activity is reserved to the primary legislator and thus AGCOM has no explicit sanctioning powers established by law in matters of copyright. This means, for example, that the Authority has no sanctioning powers against the providers or owners of the sites nor must the Authority report to the judicial authority regarding the conduct of those who do not comply.

July: the first regional headquarters

Assoproviver entered into a collaboration agreement with ASCOM in Torre del Greco and **opened a representative office at the "Stecca" business incubator in Torre del Greco.**

October:

Assoproviver issued a press release asking the Ministry of Economic Development to reset the financial burdens for TLC operators for renting optical fibre in cabled areas with public money.

/2020**January:**

Assoproviver and AIIP (the Italian Internet Provider Association) won the appeal before the Regional Administrative Court of Lazio, establishing that **Internet users have the right to use an alternative modem** and no longer have to pay for the one provided by their own telephone operator. The Regional Administrative Court of Lazio confirmed Agcom's position reported in Resolution 348/18/CONS, finding operators TIM and Wind-Tre to be in the wrong.

February:

Assoproviver was part of the roundtable organised by BEREC and reserved for European stakeholders on NTP (Free Modem) guidelines.

March:

The Ministry of Economic Development was asked for statistics on the use of frequencies licensed for point-to-point routes. A press release was also issued during full closure due to Covid-19, asking the government to remove "digital obstacles".

March:

Assoproviver and AIIP issued a joint press release titled "The Fixed Network: the 5G that is already there", with almost unlimited capacity, in support of the mobile network.

March:

Assoproviver participated in the permanent technical panel for consultation and discussions with operators, according to the AGCOM Memo of 20th March 2020, with the implementation of Article 82 of the "Cura Italia" Decree and the initial urgent measures on broadband and ultra-broadband services to facilitate and enable "remote working".

April:

Assoprovider launched the “Support Tourism” campaign, focusing on one of the economic sectors most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

April:

In full lockdown due to the Covid-19 emergency, Assoprovider donated the sum of 10,000 euro to the Bergamo Hospital along with a contribution of 3,000 euro to the Municipality of Naples.

October:

OpenTLC (www.opentlc.it) was established with the “paper” masthead registered with the Court of Benevento, Director Nazzareno Orlando and published by Consulservice S.r.l. 18,000 copies of the first issue were printed, sent to all Mayors, Parliamentarians, Regional Councillors, companies registered with the Ministry of Economic Development, IT managers, as well as 2,000 web and IT services companies.

March:

ApodCast was launched on the Spotify channel, with podcasts focusing on the association’s battles – www.apodcast.it.

March:

ApEventiWeb was inaugurated, seeing the first webinar – “The European Code of Electronic Communications” – held at the web location of Assoprovider – www.apeventiweb.it.

March:

In the Assoprovider lexicon, the definition of “**Proximity Operator**” took shape, to identify those operators who “preside” over a territory, with the new definition seeking to highlight the difference between large operators operating from locations geographically far from areas of “Digital Divide” or upon a market collapse.

A Proximity Operator is distinguished by its use of staff who often live a few kilometres away from the “serviced” customers, making light of the OP’s “customer care” with responses in dialect and not hailing from far-off cities or countries.

If adequately supported by the national government, “Proximity Operators” can represent an effective weapon in combatting the “Structural Digital Divide” due to the “Cognitive Digital Divide” that acts as a brake to a real and effective policy to “restart” the rise of the social platform that, as we have seen in the months of remote and smart working, has proved to be solid, accentuating the gaps between citizens and companies operating and living in areas of “Digital Divide”.

The Projects

1

BlockChain

The BlockChain project saw the participation of some 40 companies associated with Assoprovider in a network project for the creation of a cryptocurrency that will initially serve to exchange the “value” of technical/professional tasks within the network to then go on to involve other companies operating in the ICT and TLC sectors in the network and to have these companies use the same cryptocurrency for the inter-exchange of tasks.

2

Voice over IP

The Voice over IP project involves a large group of associates interacting through their telematic infrastructures in order to create, test and make commercially viable a telephony company via the Internet. We are witnessing a race to broadband by Italian companies and experts. VoIP could revolutionise use of the network by the most enterprising users who, by optimising usage, will see the cost of their phone calls significantly lowered.

3

Wireless Fidelity

Wireless Fidelity is proving to be a new and effective broadband route in Italy and around the world. Within Assoprovider, many associates – after conducting extensive experimentation, under the supervision of what was the Ministry of Communications at the time – have started to offer to the market this new connectivity technology, contributing quite significantly to the solution of the so-called “last mile” coverage problem, in order to bring broadband even to those in geographically-disadvantaged areas of the country. More generally, Assoprovider monitors technological and regulatory developments in particular, regarding the use of non-proprietary wireless technologies for data transmission.

4

IOT: LoRaWAN

A platform was developed to share LoRaWAN nodes. LoRaWAN is one of the many protocols advanced to define the superior levels of the network. LoRaWAN is a cloud-based protocol at a Media Access Control (MAC) level but primarily serves as a network-level prototype for managing communications between LPWANs (Low Power Wide Area Networks) and end-node devices as a routing protocol, managed by LoRa Alliance. Version 1.0 of the specific LoRaWAN was released in June 2015.

5

The company TGLOBAL

TGLOBAL is the significant service company owned by and established within Assoprovder, having demonstrated the Association's potential to operate as a business incubator. The company TGLOBAL S.r.l. was founded, with the involvement of 37 companies associated with Assoprovder. Established in February 2008, the aim was to create a company with a size able to face a market that sees the continuous aggregation of small- to medium-sized operators in larger organisms, whilst also being able to attract capital investments for long-term projects, the repercussions of which will in any case benefit all Assoprovder associates.

TGLOBAL S.r.l. currently provides – both to Assoprovder members and to other service companies – certified email, personalised online CMS (Content Management System) platforms and Data Retention services, or the storage of telephone and telematic traffic logs according to the dictates of the Personal Data Protection Authority.

In complete lockdown, TGLOBAL SRL launched two projects in April 2020: TedTrip on experiential tourism, being a unique project working towards the revival of Italian tourism following the crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic and currently at an advanced phase of realisation, as well as a project on sustainable mobility for the city of Palermo – “InfoMobPMO” – in the context of which TGLOBAL S.r.l. has joined forces with the Istituto Tecnico Superiore sulla Mobilità Sostenibile in Palermo.

Several other projects are being developed and activated, designed on the basis of the needs of small- and medium-sized operators of electronic communications services.

Forging of ideas

Over time, Assoprovider has proved to be a dynamic and effervescent reality, a forge of innovative ideas often generated by the daily “short circuit” between the associates on the Association’s mailing lists. These companies consist of people accustomed to seeing a little further afield than others, who manage to bring their innovative deeds to all public and especially private economic fields; companies that, with their technological transfer, generate that flywheel effect that favours new ICT companies and others to use the new technologies to grow and compete.

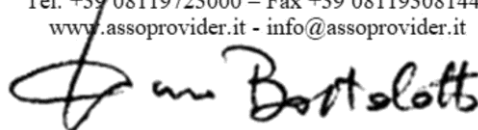
The 250 members represent the most widespread and specialised Italian ICT network. Assoprovider has long been an essential interlocutor for Public Administration organisms, both at a central and peripheral level, starting from the preparatory phases for the construction and issuance of standards and regulations for governing the Italian TLC and ICT sectors.

Rome, 7th April 2021

The President
Engineer Dino Bortolotto

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ASSOPROVIDER

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