

Filling in the gaps: COGEU sees Europeans switch over to broadband over TV white spaces

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Anyone who's switched to digital TV is all too familiar with its upsides: more channels, enhanced image quality or interactivity. But there is more to the ongoing analogue-to-digital switchover than meets the (usual TV viewer's) eye. European researchers seized the opportunity to increase broadband coverage by developing ways to improve the use of locally undistributed frequencies. Widely known as TV white spaces (TVWS) or the "digital dividend", the airwaves refer to the 790MHz to 862 MHz spectrum freed up following the switchover from analogue to digital television. Funded under the EU Commission's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development, COGEU (Cognitive radio systems for efficient sharing of TV white spaces in European context) project aims to develop the existing radio technology that ensures an efficient use of frequencies and eventually more broadband access. These efforts come in line with the Digital Agenda for Europe actions: adoption and implementation of a common EU policy for radio spectrum, in the larger context of bringing broadband to all Europeans.

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