

# EBU

OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

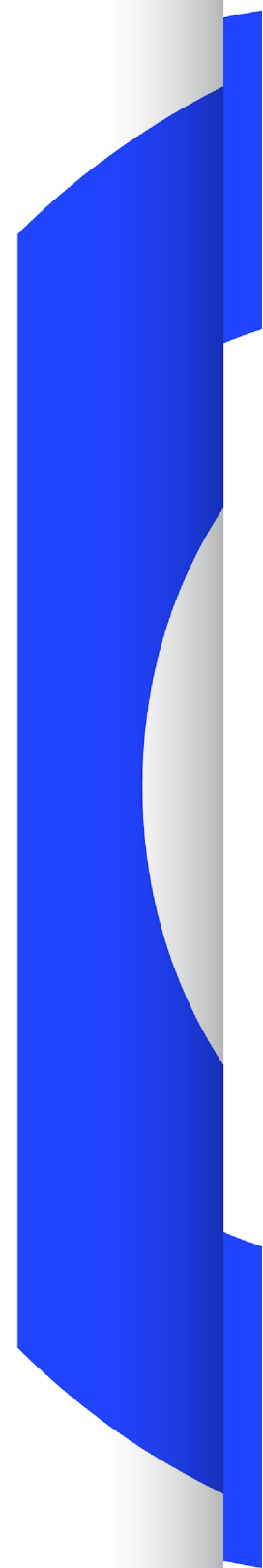
## R 138

# DIGITAL RADIO DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE

Version 2.0

Recommendation  
Source: SP-RADIO

Geneva  
November 2017





## Recommendation for Digital Radio Deployment in Europe

EBU Committee	First Issued	Revised	Re-issued
TC	2013	2017	

**Keywords:** DAB, DAB+, DRM, Digital, RadioDNS, Hybrid

**The EBU, considering that,**

1. Radio is of vital societal and cultural importance throughout Europe;
2. Radio broadcasters vary considerably. Most EBU members are public service broadcasters with a variety of national, international and regional services; there are also private broadcasters of varying sizes, and community broadcasters.
3. Radio services target diverse audiences with a variety of content including over linear and non-linear means;
4. Radio is consumed by the vast majority of Europeans every week;
5. Radio is consumed at home, at work and on the move;
6. Terrestrial broadcast delivery is currently the only free-to-air and cost-effective method for mobile reception by audiences, particularly in cars, incurring no data charges for the listener;
7. Broadband networks are a means of providing radio and additional services to mobile and other broadband-connected devices;
8. In most markets, development of the analogue FM offer to audiences is limited by a lack of available spectrum;
9. Harmonisation of standards ensures digital radio's role as the backbone of content delivery and encourages new services and experiences for audiences across platforms;
10. Digital radio standards that meet the current and future needs of Europe's radio broadcasters are openly specified, and enrich the audience proposition;
11. Digital terrestrial radio has been proven to be energy efficient;
12. Digital terrestrial radio standards are already in use in Europe with different countries at varying stages of deployment;
13. DAB receivers are widely available at reasonable prices.

**Recommends that,**

1. The needs of all radio services in a country be considered when making plans for the digitization of radio, including future linear and non-linear service expansion and the available spectrum;
2. Digital radio broadcasting in VHF Band III, where it is available, be established and DAB+ (ETSI TS 102 563) audio services be used for new services;
3. For countries wishing to deploy digital radio broadcasting in other frequency bands, such as those currently used for analogue radio broadcasting, DRM (ETSI ES 201 980) may also be considered.
4. Digitization be accompanied by the consistent use of additional features to ensure a rich and dynamic radio user experience, including textual and visual programme associated data alongside service and programme information;
5. Additional hybrid services be deployed alongside linear radio services to enable a seamless user experience, using RadioDNS (ETSI TS 103 270), the open solution for Hybrid Radio;
6. Conditions for digital switchover be defined, agreed and publicly communicated within each European country in order to expedite the process;
7. Countries coordinate their timetable for implementation of digital radio, in order to reduce cross-border inconsistencies and foster economic benefits.