



Role of the Internet in the Kyrgyz Republic

PF “Civil Initiative on Internet Policy”
www.internetpolicy.kg

Brief survey

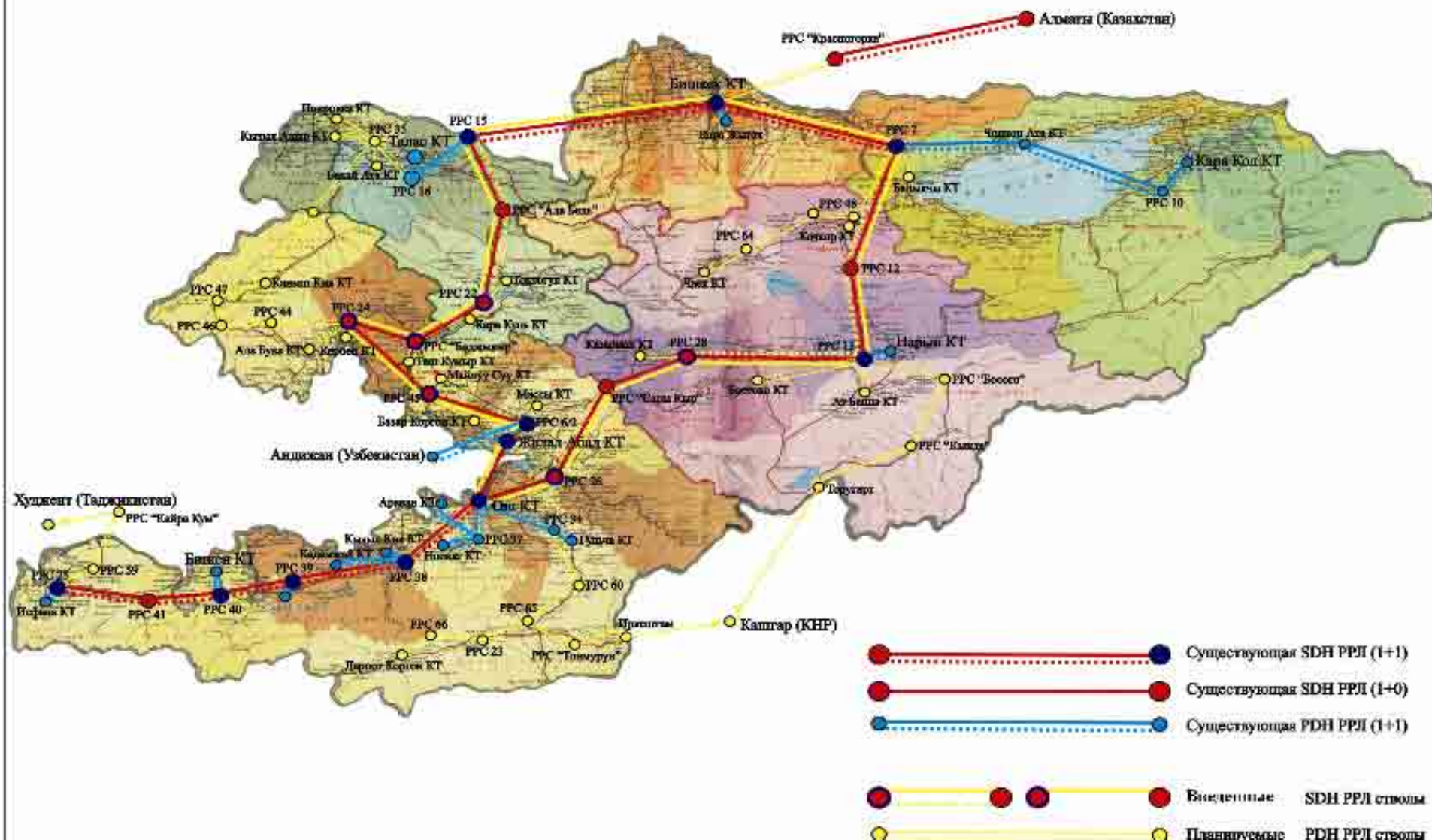


On January 1, 2003, population of the Kyrgyz Republic was 5.1 mln people. Of which 64% resides in rural areas and 36% - in urban areas.

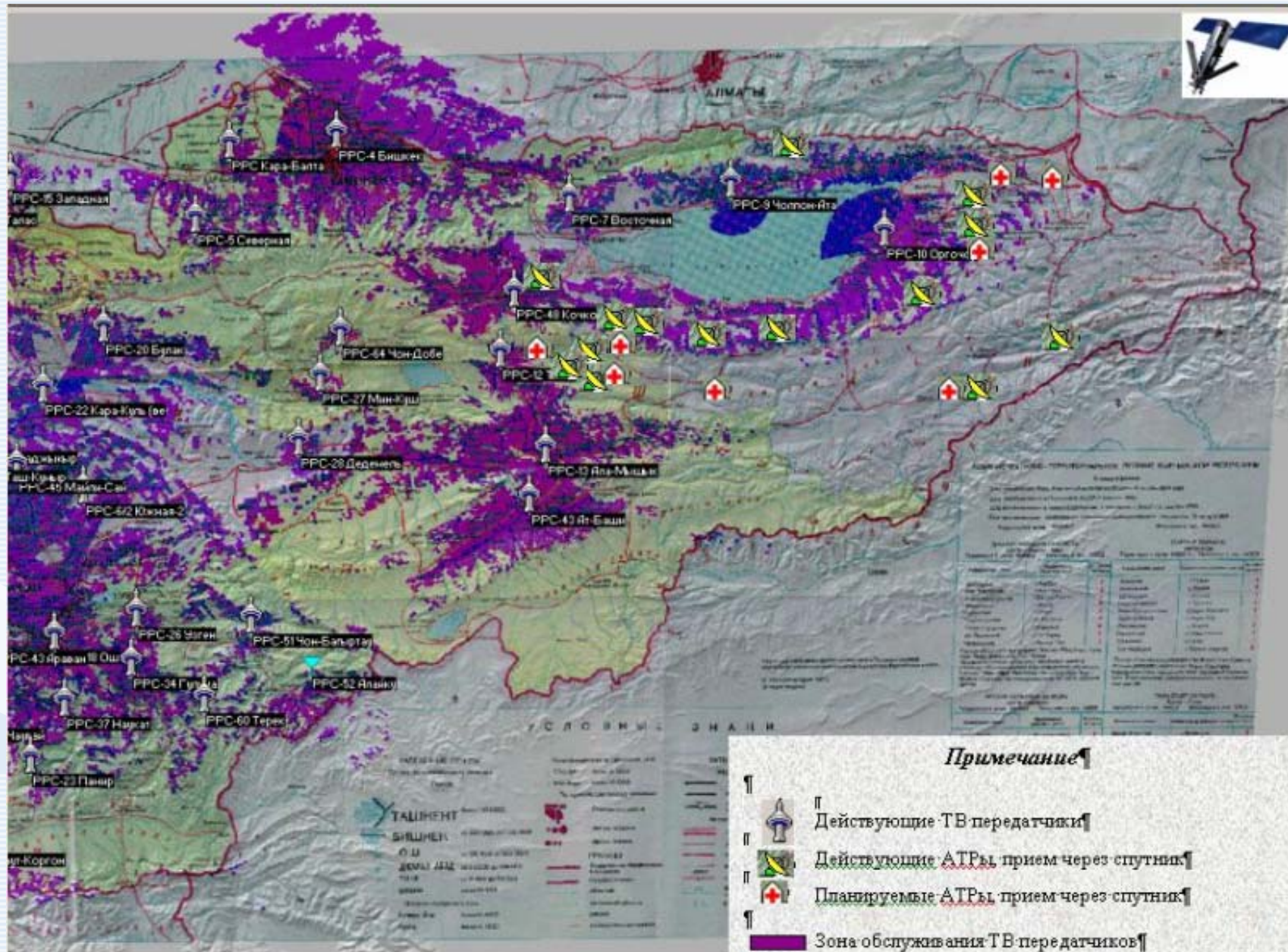
Telephone density during the last 5 years remains 7-8%. Over 530 rural settlements do not have access to communications, that constitutes about 35% of total number of settlements in the country.

Backbone radio-relay network in Kyrgyzstan

Магистральная радиорелейная сеть Кыргызской Республики



TV transmitter coverage zones



Services

- Traditional services (wire telephone lines, mail, telegraphy)
- Mobil communications (mobile telephone, trunk communication, paging)
- Data transmission (Internet)
- Satellite communication

Communications today

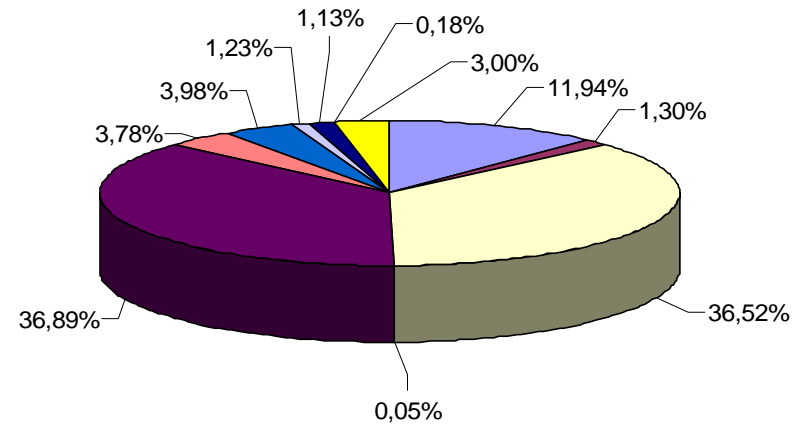
Количество действующих лицензий и операторов связи
Диаграмма 1



Количество операторов осуществляющих деятельность по видам связи
Диаграмма 2



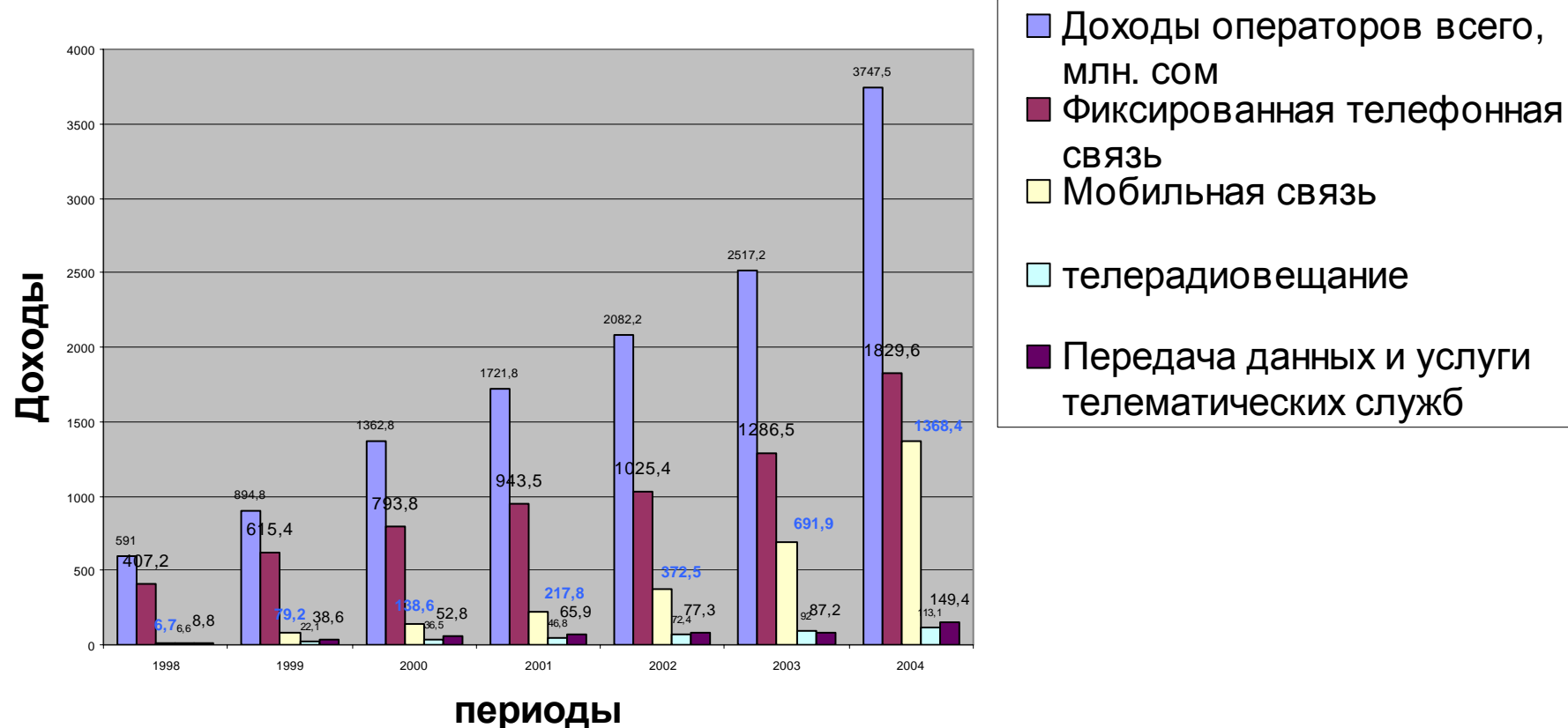
Объем предоставленных услуг по видам связи
Диаграмма 3



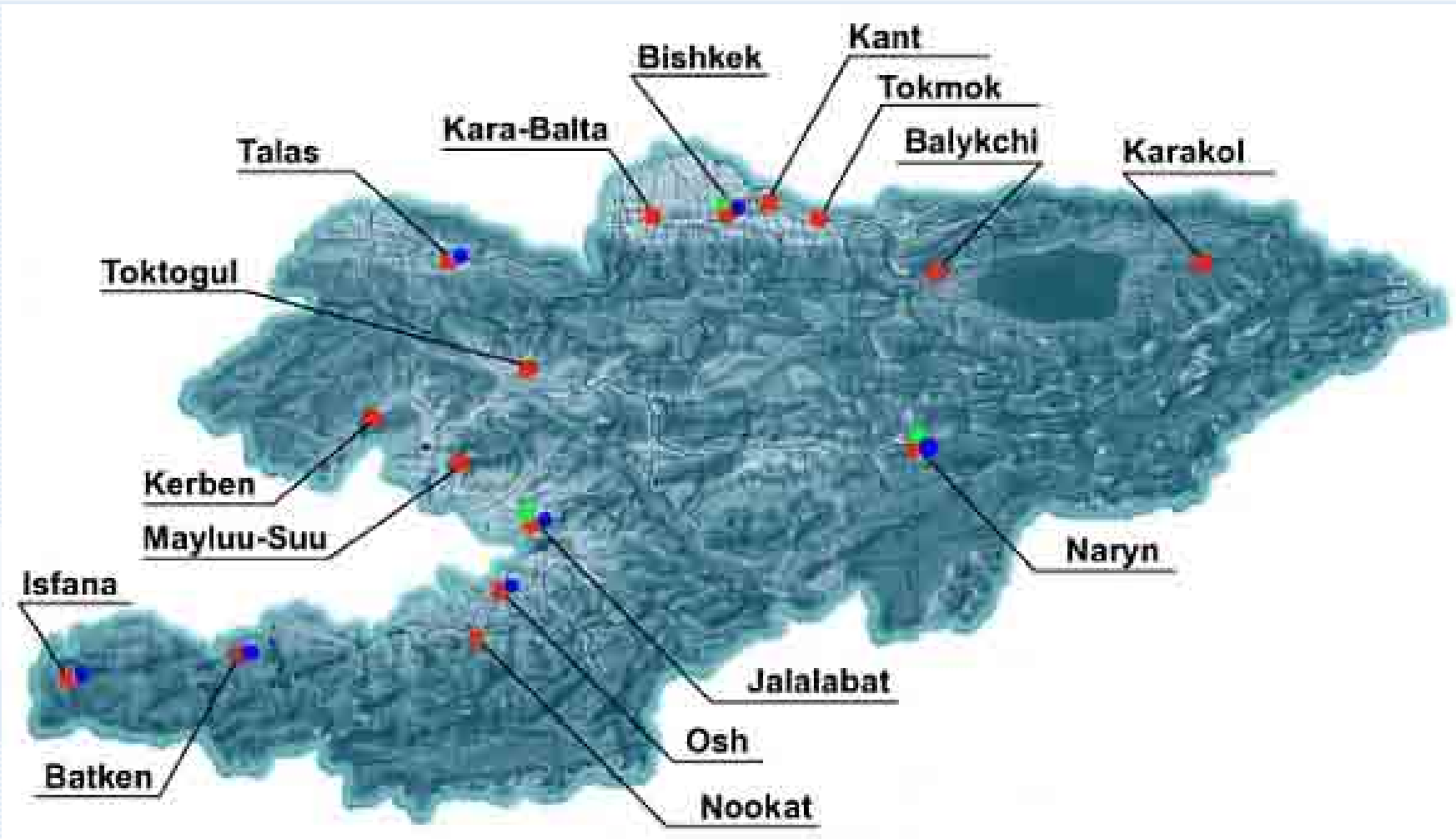
- Местная телефонная связь-11,94%
- Почтовая связь-1,30%
- Сотовая связь-36,52%
- Спутниковая связь-0,05%
- Междугородняя и международная телефонная связь-36,89%
- Другие виды связи-3,78%
- Передача данных и услуги телематических служб-3,98%
- Телеграфная связь-1,23%
- Производство, проектирование и строительно-монтажные работы в области связи-1,13%
- Пейджинговая и транкинговая связь-0,18%
- Телевидение и радиовещание-3,00%

Dynamics of profits of the communication service providers

Динамика изменения доходов операторов, предоставляющих услуги электрической связи



Internet access centers



Internet today

Public information access centers – **over 40**

Internet providers – **over 17**

Internet users – **over 400 000 people.**

Informatization in the state agencies

#	Indicators	Year 2000	Year 2004	Increase dynamics (%)
1	State agencies which have own websites	58%	83%	143
2	Accessibility to the Internet via local networks	10%	61,3 %	613
3	Number of public officers per 1 computer connected to the Internet	28	5	560

Technological progress and democracy development

- Rapid spread of technologies such as the Internet, Cell Phones and desk-top video is having an impact on the democratic process (campaigning, elections)

Elections in Kyrgyzstan

Despite “big money” advertising, virus messaging played its role in the election campaign

What is political role of the Internet?

- “Veracity” - in countries where the mass media is concentrated in hands of elite, or is state controlled (or regulated, the Internet is seen as a medium of record.
- “Social Network Effect” - low penetration is not an obstacle as information is passed via social networks (friend to friend)
- “Small Media” -- Low cost to entry, the threshold to “publish” on the Internet is low, accessible to most
- “Digital Intermodality” -- Material can be moved from digital to paper or video seamlessly, and at low cost. Multimedia can help overcome literacy gap.

... So what does this mean?

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are powerful tool for political communication, and increasingly relevant to the electoral process (and political contests more broadly).

Elections : Since mid 1990s have become a fixture of political campaigning (political websites, chat rooms, SMS messaging)

Resistance : In recent past ICTs have enabled successful non-violent resistance and contestation of fraudulent electoral results (Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine).

But these new means of democratic contestation are under threat ... from what?

The same technology that blocks spam and can filter for unwanted content (such as porn) is being used by governments to “filter” access to a wide range of Internet-based content and services.

- Fact:
- Although decentralized there are significant “choke points” at which controls can be placed on the Internet
 - States are seeking to create informational borders in cyberspace
 - Technical & non-technical mechanisms used to censor and control access to the Internet

Цены

Интерент – 500сум (после 6-600) Игры- 400сум

Печать 100сум Сканирование - 200сум

Мелодии, картинки на сотовые - 500сум

Игры ... минимальная плата 200 сум

Интернет –минималка 100 сум

Штраф за нарушение правил...

Просмотр порно сайтов - 5000сум!

Умышленная порча компьютеров - 20000сум!

Просмотр политических сайтов типа: fergana.ru,
centrasia и прочих категорически запрещается!

Штраф 10000сум!

Администрация клуба.

<http://fishki.net>

The Filtering Matrix

- Filtering targets multiple levels of access:
 - Self-censorship
 - Content Removal
 - Blocking Internet services
 - Geolocation filtering
 - National Intranet
 - Web Filtering

OpenNet Initiative



Advanced Network Research Group
Programme for Security in International Society
Centre for International Studies
University of Cambridge



The Berkman Center for Internet & Society
Harvard Law School
Harvard University



The Citizen Lab
Munk Centre for International Studies
University of Toronto

- Mission: investigate and challenge Internet filtering and surveillance practices
- Internet Filtering
- Monitoring & Surveillance
- Circumvention Technology
- 15 national case studies
- numerous bulletins and advisories

<http://www.opennetinitiative.net/>

“Event based” Filtering

- Belarus: Elections

- During September 2001 presidential election Beltelekom blocked access to the websites of the country's main independent newspapers and human rights groups
- During 2004 Referendum cellphone services were suspended as were ISP services

- Kyrgyzstan Elections

- Spam attacks on opposition web servers, incidences of DDOS against opposition websites, domain hijacking and possible localized filtering.

Thank you!

www.internetpolicy/kg