

Sound advice on purchase of mobile phones

See also sound advice on "Purchase of EDP equipment and Internet access"

Operators:

Be aware of the fact that most likely all tele operators are right when they advertise with better coverage, cheap fares, cheaper phones, better facilities etc. However, the described conditions do not necessarily apply to all the subscribers at all times. In other words, be aware of the application possibilities and speaking pattern.

You should be particularly aware if you live or are staying in areas where it is very undulating or in costal areas with high cliffs against the land. Make reservations for the coverage in the area in which you live or stay.

If possible test the phone. If there is no coverage try with another tele operator.

Research the market and compare prices and services.

Specify your needs. Is the phone to be used for anything else than talking e.g. datatransmission, fax, answer machine, SMS etc.

Only buy the model and services that are needed. Within 6-12 months there are new services and a better model and often at a lower price.

Be aware of possible contractual bindings such as abnormal subscriptions.

Check to see if the phones has SIM lock. If this is the case the phone cannot be used with other SIM cards (Subscriber Identity Module)

Ask the dealer to work out the yearly cost (incl. Batteries, subscription etc.) of the phone, based on the expenses used.

Be aware that prepaid cards (unit cards) see from a rate point of view are more expensive than the rate of normal mobile phones.

Research the operators facilities of customer support (waiting time, mistakes etc.). Ask the dealer to inform about alternative contacts if any problems with the suppliers should arise.

Collect information on types of bill specifications and possible discounts at simultaneous establishment (e.g. mobile phone, regular net, Internet etc)

Be aware the one is not only billed for phone calls made abroad but also calls received.

GSM 1800:

Note that GSM1800 relatively low rates only apply when you are within the GSM1800 operator's field of coverage. When you are outside the GSM1800 operator's coverage full mobile rates are charged.