

EU funds bring high-speed broadband to rural Lithuanian agri-businesses

85% funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the PRIP2 project's goal was to bring Next Generation Access to agri-businesses in rural areas where there was no connectivity and no commercial interest in providing it. Through 342.6 km of optic fibre infrastructure, PRIP2 provided the 'backbone' necessary to bring service providers to these areas, where they only need to build the 'last mile' connection to end users. These customers – farmer homesteads, food processing companies and other agricultural business centres – then have the choice of operators and services.



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In this video, Chief Specialist of “Plačiajuostis internetas” – the public enterprise established by the Lithuanian government to run such projects – Eglė Misienė explains that the demand for connectivity in these rural areas was so high that the main challenge of the project was to connect as many centres as possible within the budget.

Misienė notes that “This project is special because it is one more step in the minimisation of the digital gap between urban and rural areas”. She emphasises the vital importance of bringing connectivity to rural socio-economic drivers, who require it for many aspects of their daily business.

PRIP2 was a winner in the 2019 European Broadband Awards under the category of ‘cost reduction measures and co-investment’. Read more about this and other award-winning projects in the brochure *Broadband Good Practices from the 2019 European Broadband Awards*, as well as in the project’s factsheet in the European Commission database of good practices in broadband projects.

This video is part of the European Broadband Competence Offices (BCO) Network’s programme promoting awareness of good practices in broadband projects as well as EU broadband funding and policy. The programme includes a series of videos, articles and publications accessible through the BCO Network portal.

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- The status of connectivity in your area: the European Broadband Mapping Portal
- Who to contact about broadband deployment in your Member State or region: BCO Network Directory
- Information on EU funding for broadband (brochure)
- Information on technical assistance for broadband (brochure)
- European Commission vision and policy relating to broadband
- Factsheets on broadband in Member States

Video:

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