Connectivity

The EU's goal is for Europe to be the most connected continent by 2030.

©GettyImages - metamorworks

Staying connected is a vital part of our lives. We all share a desire to keep in contact with one another, no matter how far apart we are. This desire was even stronger during the COVID-19 pandemic, as many of us were kept apart from loved ones for a long time.

Connectivity allows us to reach and connect with others no matter where they are in the world. It puts countless possibilities in the palm of our hands: we can read the latest news whenever and wherever we find convenient, follow online classes, learn skills, and seek advice from professors and professionals no matter how far away they are. And, we can browse online markets to find the most convenient products and services, or offer our own products to customers around the world.

The EU has taken action in a range of areas to improve connectivity. It ended roaming charges, allowing us to take our mobile subscriptions on our travels through the EU at no extra cost. The WiFi4EU initiative funded the setup of free Wi-Fi hotspots in local communities.

The EU also provides funding, develops technical guidance and brings together experts to support public administrations and businesses working to improve network coverage and introduce 5G networks across Europe.

The focus now is on creating a Europe with harmonised rules for connectivity services, so that we can enjoy the same benefits no matter where we are in the EU. EU action also helps to bring more choice to consumers, reduce bills, and set a higher standard of service.

Actions already taken at EU level include:

- introducing the European electronic communications code, which sets clear rules applicable across all of Europe
- supporting wireless networks such as 5G through the radio spectrum policy programme
- ending of roaming charges in the EU, and a price-cap on communications within the EU
- leading global discussions on Internet development and governance

The main goal for connectivity in the Digital Decade is for every European household to have access to high-speed internet coverage by 2025 and gigabit connectivity by 2030.

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

-

Follow the Commission's work on connectivity at @connectivityEU

Latest

NEWS ARTICLE | 20 July 2021
Commission opens in-depth investigation of Irish markets for fixed voice telephony

Today, the European Commission opened an in-depth investigation into the Irish Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)'s analysis of the retail markets for fixed telephony services

and the corresponding wholesale markets in Ireland that was notified on 18 June.

EVENT | 13 July 2021
WiFi4EU online workshop for WiFi Installation Companies

This one-hour online workshop is dedicated to WiFi Installation Companies involved in the WiFi4EU initiative. Its objective is to answer their questions in order to help overcome hurdles and accelerate network deployment. This workshop is an important opportunity in view of the approaching deadline, which risks the loss of municipalities' € 15,000 WiFi4EU vouchers.

EVENT | 22 June 2021 to 23 November 2021
WEBseries for Broadband Competence Offices - Season 6

The sixth season of the European Broadband Competence Offices Network's WEBseries will cover State aid and rural connectivity; 5G Communities under CEF2 Digital; the Recovery and Resilience Facility; the Guide to High-Speed Broadband Investment; an update on the Connecting Europe Facility Digital programme; broadband mapping and State aid; and an ex-post evaluation of the implementation of State aid measures. Registration is open to all members of the BCO Network. The agenda will be communicated to participants directly.

NEWS ARTICLE | 08 July 2021
Digital Alps: Partnering with Broadband Competence Offices to build a digital connectivity roadmap for the Alpine Region

Mountain regions have much to gain from digitalisation and broadband connectivity. There is great potential for Smart Villages, SMEs, and access to online services in healthcare, education and much more. Mountain communities, however, face greater obstacles than most in becoming full participants in the European Union's Digital Decade. Their remoteness, in terms of distance and topography, combined with smaller

populations, make them technically and financially
challenging to reach with broadband
infrastructure.

Browse Improving connectivity and access

Related Content

Dig deeper

Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) improves consistency of EU
telecoms rules.

ICT and standardisation

ICT specifications ensure that products can connect and interoperate with each other, boosting innovation, and keeping ICT markets open and competitive.

Electronic communications laws

The EU's electronic communications policy improves competition, drives innovation, and boosts consumer rights within the European single market.

The Connectivity Toolbox

Advanced networks are one of the most fundamental blocks of the EUs digital transformation and an essential pillar of the recovery. The timely deployment of fibre and 5G networks will offer significant economic opportunities for the years to come, as a crucial asset for European...

EU radio spectrum policy for wireless connections across borders

Enabling seamless wireless connections across borders so we can share media, stay informed and enjoy the latest innovative technologies wherever we are takes coordination and cooperation on radio spectrum. This dynamic and rapidly evolving sector needs a flexible, market...

5G

5G is the critical new generation network technology that will enable innovation and support the digital transformation.

112: EU Emergency number

Need help? 112 is your life-saving number! 112 is the European emergency phone number, available everywhere in the EU, free of charge.

Roaming: connected anywhere in the EU at no extra charge

Europeans can call, message and use mobile data anywhere in the EU without extra costs thanks to the 'Roam like at home' policy.

Intra-EU calls: lower and limited charges for calling other EU countries

Europeans pay lower and limited charges for, Intra-EU calls, or calling other EU countries.

Connected and automated mobility

Connected and Automated Mobility provides a unique opportunity to make our transport systems safer, cleaner, more efficient and more user-friendly.

Satellite broadband

Satellite broadband is available to provide fast internet connectivity throughout every EU country.

Support for Broadband rollout

Increasing broadband network coverage is key for reaching the EU's Gigabit Society objectives. EU businesses, project managers, as well as local and regional authorities can find information on broadband best practices, financing tools, technological and business solutions, as...

Source URL: *https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/connectivity*