Connectivity

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

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.

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Follow the Commission's work on connectivity at @connectivityEU

Latest

EVENT | 31 May 2022
CEF Digital - 5G Communities: Shaping the Next Call

The European Commission would like to invite you to an interactive webinar on 5G Communities: Shaping the Next Call, to be held on 31 May, 10:00 - 11:00 CEST.
EVENT | 16 June 2022
Digitalisation as a chance for rural areas: Rural Pact Conference

The session “Digitalisation as a chance for rural areas” will take place in the frame of the Rural Pact Conference and will highlight new opportunities for improving connectivity in rural and remote areas.

REPORT / STUDY | 19 May 2022
Connectivity toolbox: Member States’ implementation reports

In accordance with the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1307 of 18 September 2020, the Member States reported to the Commission on the progress they have made one year into implementing the 39 best practices of the Connectivity Toolbox.

PRESS RELEASE | 12 May 2022
EU-Japan Summit: strengthening our partnership

Japan is one of the EU's closest allies. This was reaffirmed during the 28th EU-Japan Summit held on Thursday in Tokyo with President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Council Charles Michel and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

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Open Internet

EU rules enshrine the principle of open Internet access: internet traffic shall be treated without discrimination, blocking, throttling or prioritisation.

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

The connectivity toolbox offers guidance for the deployment of fibre and 5G networks. These networks will offer significant economic opportunities.

Radio spectrum: the basis of wireless communications

Wireless communications, via public or private networks, use radio spectrum, i.e. a range of radio waves, to carry information. Such communication can be between people, people and machines or systems (“things” more general) or between things. In this context, radio spectrum is...

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.

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

Support for Broadband rollout

The European Commission is supporting EU businesses, project managers and authorities in increasing network coverage to reach the EU’s Gigabit Society goals.

WiFi4EU

The WiFi4EU initiative promotes free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces...

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