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 well as specific guidance on deploying broadband.

©European Union

The EU's broadband strategy

Broadband Europe promotes the Commission's strategy on Connectivity for a European Gigabit Society to connect European citizens and businesses with with very high-capacity networks, which will enable innovative products, services and applications to all citizens and business across the EU.

This vision relies on three main strategic objectives for 2025:

- Gigabit connectivity for all of the main socio-economic drivers,
- uninterrupted 5G coverage for all urban areas and major terrestrial transport paths, and
- access to connectivity offering at least 100 Mbps for all European households.

In addition, the Commission's communication on Shaping Europe's digital future confirms the above 2025 targets and shares a vision of digital society, which is strongly rooted in our common values, and sets three key objectives: technology that works for people, a fair and competitive economy and an open, democratic and sustainable society.

These goals build upon the vision set for 2020: to give every European access to at least 30 Mbps connectivity, to provide half of European households with connectivity rates of 100 Mbps and bring 5G connectivity to at least one major city in each Member State.

Support for broadband rollout

EU businesses, national, regional and local authorities and project managers working on broadband deployment play a key role in reaching the EU's Connectivity objectives. The EU supports network deployment by offering guidance, facilitating sharing of best practices and informing citizens of network availability in their area.

The Broadband good practice database showcases more than 200 successful European broadband projects, some of which are highlighted in the European Broadband Awards. In addition, a lot of information is available to guide policy makers and businesses through investing in broadband development, finding technological solutions, as well as choosing the right business models, financing tools and measures to reduce the costs of broadband deployment.

The Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs) network informs citizens and businesses about broadband developments in their regions and countries, while it brings together experts to discuss and share

technical support for broadband deployment to local and regional authorities.

Rural and remote areas are a particular challenge for attracting investment in broadband networks. The Broadband Handbook for rural and remote areas helps policy makers and broadband project managers to rollout high-speed networks in challenging areas.

Broadband development in EU countries

Map: Broadband in the EU

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

●

@connectivityEU

Latest news

Calais: The Netherlands' first CEBF-funded broadband project

Calais is the first Dutch broadband project funded by the Connecting Europe Broadband Fund (CEBF). The province of Groningen approached CEBF when they recognised their need for additional funding as well as a more strategic partner to reach the most remote areas. The resulting partnership will bring NGA access to over 100,000 inhabitants, combining fibre with a fixed wireless network for the hardest-to-reach areas. In this video, Jan Peter de Groot, Rodin Group CEO, explains that the pandemic made it very clear that people in all areas need to be able to "connect with the whole world".

Guifi.net: Catalonian citizens' broadband initiative reaches 100,000 rural inhabitants

As part of the Catalonian citizens' initiative, Guifi.net, volunteers have helped install over 40,000 nodes, connecting 100,000 rural inhabitants. In this video, Ramon Roca, Guifi.net founder, explains how, since its foundation, the project has driven demand as well as rural development, becoming both a "local ecosystem" and a business model, and growing increasingly affordable as it expands. Driven by volunteers, Guifi.net focuses on building the infrastructure and cooperation between public administrations, local entrepreneurs and ISPs, among others.

Women farmers drive digital transformation in rural areas

With 30% of EU farms being managed by women, these farmers are key in driving the digital transformation of rural areas. As explained by Lotta Folkesson, an arable farmer in northern Sweden, high-speed connectivity is needed to allow the use of cutting edge technology in both agriculture and forestry, as well for everyday management. On top of this, it enables entrepreneurship and allows remote area inhabitants to connect with the wider community. "With good infrastructure, we will have a stronger farming community as well as better conditions to attract more people to rural areas".

Rede Aberta: Spain's first CEBF-funded broadband project

Rede Aberta is the first Spanish broadband project to be funded by the Connecting Europe Broadband Fund (CEBF). To promote economic growth, stop depopulation and rejuvenate the population of rural Galicia, the open access network will bring 10 Gbps symmetrical fibre connectivity to 400,000 homes. In this video, Pere Antentas, Rede Aberta CEO, explains that the project will help the population take advantage of the area's "enormous growth potential" and natural resources. It "will allow the telecommunication networks and services to be at the same level as the ones in the big cities of Europe".

Browse Broadband Europe

Related Content

Big Picture

Connectivity

Today connectivity determines our lives. The Commission is working closely with EU countries, administrations and businesses to bring reliable Internet and innovative connections to everyone across the EU.

Dig deeper

Broadband in EU countries

Find current information on broadband development in each country, as well as national strategies and policies for developing broadband.

Broadband Glossary

This a non-exhaustive list of relevant terms relevant to broadband.

European Broadband Awards: broadband deployment projects

The European Broadband Awards is an event that recognises outstanding broadband deployment projects in Europe and highlights successful infrastructures.

EU rules to reduce cost of high-speed broadband deployment

To make high-speed broadband quickly available, the EU established a set of harmonised measures to lower the cost of rolling out broadband, through the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive.

Broadband project planning

The Broadband planning section, along with the Broadband investment guide aids municipalities and other entities in their planning of successful broadband development projects.

Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs) Network

The European Broadband Competence Offices Network supports EU countries in reaching the Gigabit society objectives and rolling out broadband.

See Also

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...

WiFi4EU

The WiFi4EU initiative promotes free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces including parks, squares, public buildings, libraries, health centres and museums in municipalities throughout Europe.

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.