

Broadband in Austria

Austria's broadband strategy focuses on the nationwide supply of Gigabit connections by 2030. By the end of 2025, almost nationwide availability of 5G should have been realised.

Summary of broadband development in Austria

Austria's national broadband strategy aims at full coverage of symmetric Gigabit connections throughout the country by 2030. It opts for market-driven network roll-out and intends to confine the use of public funds to where they are absolutely necessary, in particular, for areas with the least chance of benefiting from private sector investments. An important basis for the implementation of the broadband strategy was created with amendments to the Telecommunication Act and a 5G strategy in 2018.

National broadband strategy and policy

Responsible authorities

- Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (Bundesministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie, BMK) is responsible for development of telecommunications policy and legislation, conducting a centralised policy on frequencies, developing state aid programs for broadband roll-out and awarding contracts for the provision of universal services.
- Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (Bundesministerium für Digitalisierung und Wirtschaftsstandort) advances digitalisation and digital transformation in Austria; it is responsible for improving the framework conditions for digital transformation and for coordinating and implementing e-government solutions.
- Broadband Bureau (Breitbandbüro) is part of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT) and acts as a national competence centre for communities, federal states and operators in order to promote the deployment of broadband networks in Austria. It supports federal states in their broadband development, establishes contacts between local authorities and operators and answers questions from the communities.
- Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications RTR (Rundfunk- und Telekom Regulierungs-GmbH) acts as the NRA for regulating the telecommunication market.
- Austrian Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt) focuses on stimulating the information society, Digital Agenda any other ICT measures in Austria.

Main aims for broadband development

Austria's broadband strategy 2030 was adopted in August 2019. It aims at full coverage of symmetric Gigabit connections throughout the country by 2030. In addition to the long-term objective, the 2030 strategy also includes five concrete interim goals:

- Phase 1: Full-coverage of ultra-fast broadband connections (100 Mbps) by the end of 2020
- Phase 2: Market launch of 5G in all capital cities by the end of 2020
- Phase 3: Austria as 5G pilot country until the beginning of 2021
- Phase 4: 5G services on major traffic connections by the end of 2023
- Phase 5: Nationwide Gigabit connections, including nationwide coverage of 5G, by the end of 2025

Austria's 5G Strategy was issued in April 2018 and aims at achieving the rollout of the 5G mobile communications standard with optimised framework conditions, and aims at harnessing the associated opportunities for citizens, the economy, industry and science. In the first phase, first pre-commercial 5G trial installations were implemented by mid-2018. In the second phase, the rollout of 5G in all provincial capitals is planned. A third phase will bring 5G service availability to main traffic routes by the end of 2023 and a nationwide 5G availability by the end of 2025.

Main measures for broadband development

- Broadband mapping: Austria has a transmitter infrastructure mapping (Senderkataster) covering mobile and radio transmitter stations. The broadband bureau established the broadband atlas based on the operators data in the beginning of March 2014. Amendments to the Austrian telecommunication act provide the legal basis for the collection and utilisation of better broadband coverage geodata in order to gain more precise analyses of broadband coverage. The atlas is updated every 6 months. Broadband coverage in Austria has been made transparent through the data collection and the presentation tool RTR Netztest.

National and regional broadband financial instruments

In achieving the targets, Austria has set instruments Breitband Austria 2020, financed by EUR 1 billion from the frequency auction:

- BBA 2020-Access: This funding instrument stimulates investments in the extension of broadband access networks to gradually achieve a substantial improvement in broadband penetration of households and enterprises.
- BBA 2020-Backhaul: The focus of this funding framework is the modernisation of existing backhaul facilities to provide NGA networks with sufficient capacity. Accordingly, it results in renewal of existing networks and the connection of base stations ("backhaul").
- BBA 2020-Empty ducts: This funding programme primarily aims at municipalities where high-speed broadband access is not available. The inclusion of empty pipes during municipal civil engineering work will enable the subsequent supply of broadband and the construction costs will be reduced.
- BBA 2020 Connect: This funding call promotes the fibre optic network connections for schools and small and medium-sized enterprises with a funding volume of EUR 30 million.
- BBA 2020-AT (Austrian Electronic Network): The AT:net funding programme has been re-launched by the Federal Chancellery as part of its initiative Promoting Digital Innovation (Digitale Innovation fördern). This programme promotes the use of innovative services and applications based on broadband.

Data on broadband development and technologies in Austria

For the latest data on broadband coverage, subscriptions and penetrations, coverage of different broadband technologies and costs check the scoreboard reports and the country reports of the Digital

Economy & Society Index (DESI).

Spectrum assignments for wireless broadband

For details on harmonised spectrum assignments consult the European 5G Observatory.

National publications and press documents

English

- Study on National Broadband Plans in the EU-28
- Guide to High-Speed Broadband Investment
- Broadband Connectivity Reports and Analyses
- Mobile and fixed broadband prices in Europe at the end of 2019
- Study on broadband coverage in Europe 2019

German

- Nationale Breitbandstrategie 2030
- Wegweiser für den Ausbau Ihrer Infrastruktur
- Planungsleitfaden Breitband
- Breitband Masterplan des Landes Tirol 2019-2023
- Niederösterreich Breitbandinitiative

Contact information

BCO Austria (national Broadband Competence Office): Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus)

Contact via email

Address: Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Phone: +43 1 71162 658929

Visit the website

Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (Bundesministerium für Digitalisierung und Wirtschaftsstandort)

Contact via email

Address: Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Phone: +43 1 711 00 0

Visit the website

Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (Rundfunk & Telekom Regulierungs-GmbH (RTR))

Contact via email

Address: Mariahilfer Straße 77-79, 1060 Vienna, Austria

Phone: +43 1 58058 0

Visit the website

Related Content

Big Picture

Broadband in EU countries

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

See Also

Broadband in Sweden

Sweden's national broadband plan, adopted in 2016, has the vision of an entirely connected Sweden and has goals for both mobile coverage and for high-speed broadband connections for households and businesses. By 2020, 95% of all households and companies should have access to...

[Broadband in Spain](#)

Digital connectivity and 5G rollout are among the ten strategic priorities of the Spain Digital 2025 Agenda.

[Broadband in Slovenia](#)

Slovenia's broadband aims are in line with the gigabit society targets.

[Broadband in Slovakia](#)

Slovakia has set the long-term objective of achieving access to high-speed internet connection with at least 30 Mbps for all households by the end of 2020.

[Broadband in Romania](#)

Romania's broadband plan focuses on building up a national broadband network as a first step towards achieving the targets set by the Digital Agenda for Europe.

[Broadband in Portugal](#)

Portugal's NGA coverage is slightly below EU average. The Agenda Portugal Digital aims at development of a digital infrastructure that allows citizens to take advantage of the new opportunities

offered by technologies.

Broadband in Poland

Poland's national broadband plan foresees that 100% of households should have access to internet connectivity of at least 30 Mbps by 2020. 50% of households should have internet connectivity of 100 Mbps by 2020.

Broadband in the Netherlands

The Dutch government supports the Gigabit Society targets. All households should have the opportunity to access broadband networks of at least 100 Mbps and a vast majority should be taking advantage of 1 Gbps by 2023. Mobile networks must also be able to access basic services at...

Broadband in Malta

Malta's broadband policy is technology neutral and favours a competitive market environment.

Broadband in Luxembourg

The development of a communication infrastructure with a target of gigabit broadband access throughout the country is one of the priorities in the governmental programme of Luxembourg.

Broadband in Lithuania

Lithuania's Next Generation Internet Access Development Plan focuses on direct state contribution to long-term infrastructure development, supports measures promoting private sector investments and seeks to foster an increase in demand for fast broadband access.

Broadband in Latvia

Broadband facilitates the development of e-services for government, schools, commerce, health and business besides providing high-speed internet to residents, businesses and public administrations in Latvia.

Broadband in Italy

The Italian strategy for next generation access network aims at developing a high-speed access network to maximise the take-up of an infrastructure able to guarantee services of 100 Mbps for at least 85% of households by 2020. Italy adopted a national state aid scheme to support...

Broadband in Ireland

The national broadband plan for Ireland foresees that by 2026 all premises in Ireland will have access to high-speed broadband.

Broadband in Hungary

Hungary's National Digitization Strategy 2021-2030 aims at 95% of households covered by gigabit networks by 2030.

Broadband in Greece

The Greek Digital Transformation Bible 2020-2025 highlights connectivity as one of the five strategic axes and acknowledges the Gigabit Society 2025 targets.

Broadband in Germany

The 2018 coalition agreement of the German Federal Government identifies the priority goal of a nationwide expansion of gigabit networks by 2025. The federal government has also developed a 5G Strategy for Germany.

Broadband in France

The national broadband programme France Très Haut Débit sets out the targets of fast broadband access for all households by 2022 and fibre for all by 2025.

Broadband in Finland

The Finnish authorities go for a competition-driven, fibre-based network roll-out assisted by public funds for underserved areas and advice for local municipalities on how to deploy broadband networks.

Broadband in Estonia

Estonia has established basic broadband coverage throughout the country, and has brought its broadband targets for 2020 in line with those of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

Broadband in Denmark

A number of political initiatives aiming at nation-wide fixed and mobile broadband coverage support Danish broadband goals. The Government works towards making Denmark a digital frontrunner by

creating a foundation for Danish businesses to exploit digital technologies.

Broadband in the Czech Republic

The National Plan for the Development of Very High Capacity Networks, approved in March 2021, defines the strategic approach of the Czech Republic to the construction of VHCN.

Broadband in Cyprus

Cyprus' broadband plan sets strategic objectives for 2016-2020 and is aligned with the Gigabit Society objectives and the 5G Action Plan. It aims at Internet coverage with at least 30 Mbps for all households and businesses by 2020. In order to achieve the 2020 take-up target of...

Broadband in Croatia

Croatia's strategy contains basic principles such as service and technological neutrality, net neutrality and inclusion of broadband internet access among universal services.

Broadband in Bulgaria

The National Broadband Infrastructure Plan for Next Generation Access "Connected Bulgaria" and the Policy in the field of electronic communications have been updated and adopted in August 2020.

Broadband in Belgium

Belgium's broadband strategy is incorporated into a broader policy strategy "Digital Belgium 2015-2020". The aim is to provide speeds of up to 1 Gbps to half of the country by 2020 and to facilitate a proactive 5G roll-out. By lowering costs and reducing administrative burdens...

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